

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS INFLUENCING RECIDIVISM IN KENYA
PRISONS: A CASE STUDY OF RUIRU PRISON, KIAMBU COUNTY**

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**A project thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the conferment of the award of
the Degree of Master of Arts in Governance, Peace and Security in the Department
of Governance, Peace and Conflict Studies and the School of Humanities and Social
Sciences of Africa Nazarene University**

August 2024

DECLARATION

I declare this thesis is my original work with no other than the indicated sources and support. It has not been presented for a degree or any other similar award in any other university.

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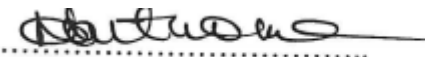
CERTIFICATION

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this project to my loving late wife Irene Mumbi and all staff members of Ruiru Prison for their encouragement and moral support that made this work possible. God bless you all.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I recognize the support that the Almighty God has given me as I undertook the proposal. I also acknowledge the support provided by the following persons. Special acknowledgements are due to two my Supervisors, Dr. Fred Otieno, PhD., and Dr. Simon Muthomi, PhD from whom I learnt the knowledge, advice and insights in the research journey from the start to the end. Additionally, I wish to thank my research assistant, Sahal Abdi who helped me in the development, editing, structuring and correcting of both proposal and the thesis. Finally, I also register my heartfelt gratitude to my employer, Kenya prison service and its leadership, in accepting and approving my request to further my education as well as permitting me to conduct the study in the Ruiru prison.

ABSTRACT

Recidivism is an important indicator that explains how criminal justice fairs in its role of rehabilitation of offenders. As an important criminal concept, and due to the surging overcrowding in prisons with the associated economic cost, it has drawn the attention of both scholars and policy-makers in Kenya. However, the range of rehabilitation programmes designed to that effect failed to achieve the set objectives. With 75% recidivism rate, the country has a reason to review why reoffending is so high. As a consequence, this study mainly sought to examine the socio-economic factors that influenced recidivism in Kenya prisons while using Ruiru prison as a case study. The specific objectives of the study were: to identify the main social economic factors that influenced recidivism among prisoners in Ruiru prison, establish key strategies adopted by the Ruiru prison administration to manage social economic factors which influenced recidivism among prisoners in Ruiru prison, and to examine challenges that hindered management of social economic factors which influenced recidivism among prisoners in Ruiru prison. This study was guided by the general strain theory and used descriptive research design. The target population were 300 inmates who were recidivists, 55 administrative staff and 20 *nyumba kumi* community elders in villages from which the inmates are drawn totaling 375. The sample size was 259. The sampling process involved two stages for both the inmates and staff. Firstly, it was probability sampling. In the second stage, through stratified sampling, inmates and staff were grouped into two strata. From each stratum, respondents were selected through simple probability sampling. For the *nyumba kumi* community elders, they were identified via quota sampling. Questionnaires, interview schedule and focused group discussions were used to collect data from the three categories of respondents respectively. The prison routine procedures such as security regular screening of visitors, regular headcount of inmates among others inconvenienced the research process by spending more time in collection of data but it had no significant limitation that affected the results. As such, a more than 70% access rate was achieved as envisaged by the researcher to give a relevant report. The data was then subjected to descriptive analysis by the help of Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS) and results presented as texts, tables, charts and graphs. Besides, ethical principles were adhered to and clearances sought from the relevant bodies such as relevant school's faculty, NACOSTI and local government authorities. The study found out a direct relationship between social-economic factors of education, social ties, unemployment, and poverty and increased recidivism among inmates in Ruiru prison. The study also recommends enhanced vocational trainings and life skills for the inmates, more tailor- made training for the officers, and a proposal towards a more positive relationship between inmates (during and after release) and communities.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CGP:	Commissioner General of Prison
CSO:	Community Service Order
HRTS:	Human Rights
KPS:	Kenya Prisons
KPSO:	Kenya Prison Standing Orders
NACOSTI:	National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation
NGOs:	Non-Governmental Organizations
SWO:	Social Welfare Officer
UNSMR:	United Nations Standard Minimum Rules

OPERATIONALIZATION OF KEY TERMS

Inmate:	A person, who has been tried, found guilty and sentenced by a court of law and is serving a prison term
<i>Nyumba Kumi</i>	A <i>Swahili</i> term that literally means ten households; but operationally, it is a community policing concept that involves a set of security measures and solutions to crime within a unit of community households who cooperate and work with local security agencies in Kiambu county.
Prison:	An institution for the confinement of persons who have been held in custody by a judicial authority
Prison reform:	This refers to the improvement of the conditions and effectiveness of the prison system for the benefit of both inmates and prison officers
Prison officers	Officers and staff who work with the prisoners on a daily basis and have knowledge of the prison environment and information about the prisoners
Recidivism:	the act of an individual re-offending for subsequent times and being rearrested, tried and imprisoned
Recidivist:	A person who has been convicted by a court of law, imprisoned, released officially, and re-offended and re-arrested and imprisoned again
Rehabilitation:	This is act of placing an inmate in a reform process in the prison to change a criminal behaviour and gain effective relevant skills, training and education thus become law-abiding and self-reliant citizen upon discharge
Socio-economic factors:	These are factors that influence the wellbeing and social life of an ex-prisoner. They include education, economic status and social networks

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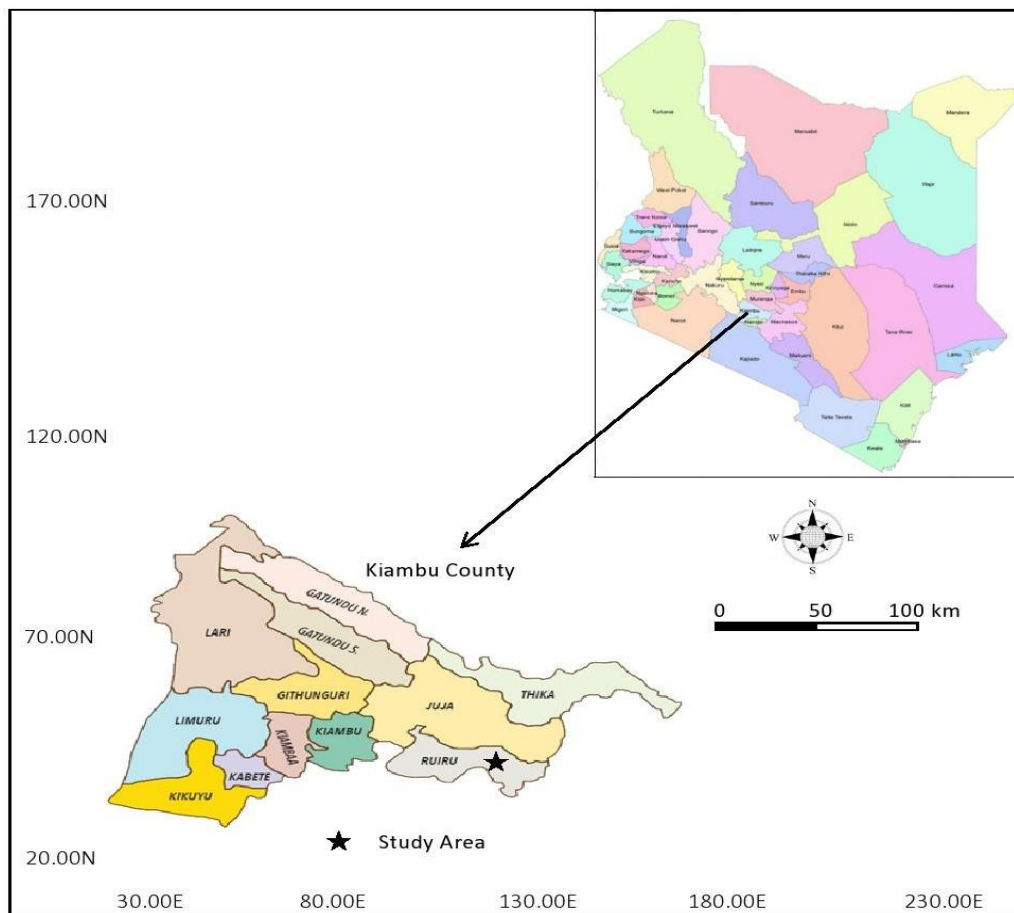


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CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This chapter introduces the study undertaken by specifically highlighting the background to the study, problem statement, and purpose of the study, objectives, research questions, significance, scope, limitations, delimitations assumptions, theoretical framework and the conceptual framework.

1.1 Background to the Study

Recidivism is generally a global concern which entails a person's relapse into criminal behavior (Sikasa, 2015). Managing it can therefore contribute to a population's public safety, especially bearing in mind the associated public health impact of crimes (Yukhnenko, Sridhar, & Fazel, 2020). Recidivism is also an important indicator that determines the effectiveness of a country's criminal justice system. It is however made difficult by several factors including varying operational definition of the concept recidivism between countries, differing reporting mechanisms from country to country, diversity of the samples included in the study and inconsistencies in the follow-up time (Fazel & Wolf, 2015). In fact, a lower rate of recidivism is a good indication of how inmates are rehabilitated while higher rates indicate that the inmates are not rehabilitated properly (McKean & Ransford, 2004). According to a study by United States of America's Bureau of Justice Statistics and conducted on 30 states by Alper, Durose and Markman (2018), showed that 20% of released prisoners commit a new violent offense in the three years following their release.

The global expenditure on prisoners is surging due to their increasing number, with United States of America (USA) alone spending an estimated annual budget of more than 180 billion

dollars. For instance, according to a report by California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) released in 2017, California alone had a recidivism rate of 44.6% over a three-year follow-up period. 20.9% of these were convicted of felonies while the remaining 23.7% had committed misdemeanor offenses. Recidivism rates this high indicate that the prison system has failed to achieve its stated goals of deterrence and rehabilitation (Kyckelhahn, 2015).

A study by Lisner (2021) in the states of Indiana, Ohio and Florida, USA, established that socioeconomic factors such as education, employment, household income have an effect on recidivism rates. This is supported by Adu-Boateng (2019) who posits that elevated socioeconomic status reduces recidivism. On the other hand, United Kingdom's annual expenses on prisoner population double that of persons serving under community sentences (Newton, 2019). In Pakistan, Anwar, Khan, Chaundry, Khan and Sultana (2015) found that neighbourhood locality of the delinquents, unemployment, domestic issues and no or limited education all had a significant effect on re-offending.

Regionally, an increase in recidivism is consistent with the trends in other parts of the world (Durose, Cooper, and Snyder, 2014). However, Rwanda seems to be the only country that has experienced a 22% decrease in recidivism as it is still recovering from the 1994 genocide. The prisoners are therefore treated humanely and the country uses strategies such as perpetrators and victims coming together for reconciliation (Carattini, Holloman & Knickerbocker, 2020). On the other hand, Dube- Mawerewere and Chiborise (2017) noted that the socioeconomic factors associated with Recidivism in Zimbabwe were type of family of origin, interaction with friends outside prison, previous employment experience, family relationships and family

income. In Ethiopia, Tegeng and Abadi (2018) established that poverty, family problems and poor living conditions influenced recidivism rates. In addition, it was indicative that the prisoners that had not received reintegration training and assistance led to increased chances of re-incarceration. In Nigeria, Otu (2015) factors such as familial, discrimination and peer pressure caused criminal recidivism. The study suggested the provision of educational and vocational programs as control strategies for recidivism.

In Kenya, there are 40000 to 50000 inmates with 50% of these being recidivists (Muthoni and Olela, 2022). According to Oruta (2015), socio-economic characteristics such as gender, age, level of education, employment status, and housing increase the likelihood of re-offending. These factors are necessitating the development of effective pre-release programs. Kitaria (2014) on the other hand noted that homelessness was a catalyst for recidivism. The socio-economic factors highly influence reasons for committing crime and most probably reoffending thus change of attitude, behavior and trainings can reduce recidivism (Awilly, 2015).

The mission of Kenya Prison Service (KPS) is to keep offenders in a secure environment in order to rehabilitate, reform, and facilitate the administration of justice in the interests of social reintegration and community safety. The goal of imprisonment has not been achieved as recidivism is evident in Kenyan prisons. With 75% of persons released from prisons re-offending (Oruta, 2016), there was need to comprehensively understand the underlying factors influencing recidivism in Kenya. While the existing studies so far conducted in Kenya about recidivism touched on typology and severity of offenses committed by offenders (Omboto, Chepkonga & Wairire, 2018); and socio-economic with particular focus on demographics,

rehabilitation programs, stigmatization and homelessness among others (Kitaria, 2014), none have investigated its complex link with poverty, education, unemployment and social ties. As such this study, purposefully conducted a detailed investigation on the socio-economic factors that influence recidivism in Kenya with the case study being Ruiru prison in Kiambu County.

The study therefore specifically identifies the main social economic factors that influence recidivism among prisoners in Ruiru prison; identifies key strategies adopted by the Ruiru prison administration to manage socio-economic factors which influence recidivism among prisoners in Ruiru prison, and finally examines challenges that hinder management of social economic factors which influence recidivism among prisoners in Ruiru prison.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Kiambu County which is located next to the principal capital city of the country- Nairobi has its crime rates increasing over the years. Ideally, the penal institutions within the county are regarded as places for rehabilitation and reformation where inmates on release are expected to leave as law abiding citizens for social re-integration. For rehabilitation and reformation to be successful, effective crime aversion systems must deliver factors adding to the extensive number of violations that are submitted by people who have served a term of imprisonment and fizzled, upon their discharge, to reintegrate into the group as decent residents (Adu-Boateng, 2019).

However, the high recidivism rate of 75% witnessed in Kenya generally (Oruta, 2016), is an indication of the ineffectiveness of the rehabilitation and intervention programmes offered in country's correctional facilities. There are of course other factors that influence recidivism, but this study sought to add to the scanty knowledge on recidivism by examining main socio-

economic factors that pertain to Ruiru prison recidivists. As such, other factors were not included in the study. As a consequence, this study examined main socio-economic factors influencing recidivism in Kenya prisons while using Ruiru prison as a case study.

1.3 Research Objectives

1.3.1 General Objective

The overall objective of the study was to examine the socio-economic factors influencing recidivism in Ruiru prison, Kiambu County, Kenya. The Study targeted offenders who, after being released or completing their sentences from January 2019 to December 2024, found their way back to prison.

1.3.2 Specific objectives

The study was based on the following specific questions:

- i. To identify the main social economic factors that influence recidivism among prisoners in Ruiru prison.
- ii. To establish key strategies adopted by the Ruiru prison administration to manage social economic factors which influence recidivism among prisoners in Ruiru prison.
- iii. To examine challenges that hinder management of social economic factors which influence recidivism among prisoners in Ruiru prison.

1.4 Research Questions

The study was based on the following research questions:

- i. What are the main socio-economic factors influencing recidivism among prisoners in

Ruiru prison?

- ii. What are the key strategies adopted by Ruiru prison administration to manage social economic factors that influence recidivism among prisoners in Ruiru prison?
- iii. What are the challenges hindering proper management of social economic factors influencing recidivism among prisoners in Ruiru prison?

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study was conducted in Kiambu County which is one of the neighboring counties to the city, Nairobi. Being a faster growing county and a safe haven for criminals, the county has over years experienced increasing crime rate due to the rapid urbanization and development. While specific crime statistics for Ruiru are limited, Kiambu County, where Ruiru is located, has consistently ranked among the top counties in Kenya for reported crimes. In 2023, Kiambu recorded 9,532 reported cases, an increase from 7,844 in 2022. (The National Crime Research Centre (NCRC). According to the 2025 Economic Survey, Nairobi recorded 9,717 reported crime cases in 2024, up from 5,844 in 2020. The city reached an all-time high of 11,108, Kiambu and Meru followed, accounting for 8.8% and 5.4% of reported crimes, respectively. reported cases in 2023. (SRIC-comparative criminality studies across major towns and cities in Nairobi (SRIC is the Security Research and Information Centre).

There are existing national as well as local frameworks that particularly address correction and rehabilitation of prisoners and hence the expectation of reduced recidivism. This study therefore sought to identify the main social economic factors that influenced recidivism among prisoners in Ruiru prison; establish key strategies adopted by the Ruiru prison administration to manage social economic factors which influenced recidivism among prisoners in Ruiru prison; and examine challenges that hindered management of social economic factors which

influenced recidivism among prisoners in Ruiru prison.

The study outcome will be of benefit to both academia and policy makers. In terms of academia it will add to the hitherto scanty resource of Kenyan literature on offender recidivism, correction and rehabilitation. It will be thus a reference for scholars and future researchers. In addition, the resultant findings and recommendations will inform relevant Kenyan government policy makers and other stakeholders on the best measures to address crime in general and recidivism in particular.

1.6 Scope of the Study

The study was conducted in Ruiru prison, Kiambu County with the main focus on the socio-economic factors influencing recidivism. The study targeted a study population of Ruiru prisoners as the main respondents and prison staff working in the prison. The study was carried out by use of questionnaires, in-depth interview guides and focused group discussions. The main unit of analysis was the recidivists in Ruiru prisons, Kiambu County. The scope did not include offenders who had been placed in other prisons other than Ruiru. The Study targeted offenders who, after being released or completing their sentences from January 2019 to December 2024, found their way back to prison.

1.7 Delimitations of the Study

Delimitation refers to defining of the research boundaries as decided by the researcher (Simon & Goes, 2013). Thus this study was delimited to recidivism as a specific focus of study. Additionally, the main socio-economic factors of influence on recidivism among Ruiru prisoners was the delimitation of the study. Besides, samples were particularly those Prisoners who had committed and convicted for more than one offence on separate instances be it felony or misdemeanor and brought into the custodial sentence. The study excluded any

convictions that did not result in contact with the Ruiru prison, such as fine and unsupervised bonds.

1.8 Limitations of the Study

Limitations are the weakness, restriction or problems in a study that may decrease the general ability of the findings (Sekaran & Bougie, 2013). Prison routine schedules of counting prisoners regularly, inmates visitation, and security searches and screening that were out of the control of the researcher, affected the consistency of interviewing process. Striking a rapport immediately with inmate interviewees was a toll task due to the nature of prison social environment that was characterized by suspicion and confidentiality.

Uncooperative respondents was another challenge as many were unwilling to provide the required information as sought in the questionnaires. Additionally, the researcher had limited access to reference materials especially in cases where classified information was involved. Another limitation was that some of the recidivists had no formal education thus were not able to effectively answer the questionnaire.

Another limitation that the study suffered from was the self-reporting bias. The analysis relies on self-report data, subject to biases such as social desirability bias or inaccurate recall. Participants may not always provide truthful or accurate information about their experiences, leading to potential limitations in the collected data. Various strategies were employed to minimise this bias. This included ensuring participant anonymity and confidentiality to encourage honest responses.

1.9 Assumptions of the Study

The study was based on the assumptions that socio-economic factors influenced recidivism.

Another assumption was that the research instrument used elicited reliable responses and that the research questions were fully understood by the respondents. It was also assumed that the information given by the respondents was unbiased and that the possible solutions that were recommended by this study will solve the problems encountered by the recidivists in Kenya.

CHAPTER TWO LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter reviews past literature in relation to socio economic factors influencing recidivism at global, regional and local levels. The chapter also highlights theories that support the study by explaining their importance in the current study. The knowledge gap which the study seeks to fill after theoretical and empirical review is also highlighted. It generally narrows down by exploring the history, mandate, role and challenges of Kenya.

2.2 Main Social Economic Factors that Influence Recidivism

2.2.1 Education

Education is an important interventional element that helps inmates get rehabilitated. Therefore, with the right education or vocational skills such as tailoring, carpentry, masonry or other professional skills, offenders will become self-reliant and reduces their chances of going back into the prison for subsequent times (Davis, Bozick, Steele, Saunders & Mile, 2013). Duke (2018) carried out a study on education and recidivism in the United States. The study which was a meta-analysis of five studies looked at the effect of education before incarceration on recidivism rates. The study noted that African American men who possessed a high school education or its equivalent would derive more benefits from vocational training than Caucasian and Hispanic/Latino prisoners. The study also found that there was a positive correlation between education and recidivism rates. Another finding from the study was that men who have lower educational attainment rates than women prior to incarceration were more prone to recidivate. The study recommended that correction facilities should offer training programs for

inmates to enhance their education level as this would reduce the recidivism rate upon release (Duke, 2018).

Gammage (2020) explored the link between education and recidivism among juveniles. The study found that students in vocational education had lower recidivism compared to students in general academics. The study also found that adverse childhood experiences had an effect on recidivism rates. The study recommended that education programmes offered should include academic and career technology as this would assist in supporting community reintegration of juveniles. The study also recommended that policy makers should improve and execute education programs to help juveniles develop into positive, independent contributors to the society.

Hall (2015) also carried out a study to find out whether education reduced recidivism. The study which was a time series was carried out between 1995 and 2010. Results revealed that education showed the greatest impact on recidivism. The study therefore suggested that education programmes could be used as a reduction tool for recidivism. Further, (Davis et al., (2013) looked at the relationship between education and incarcerated adults. The study found that receiving education while incarcerated improved the odds of obtaining employment after release and this reduced chances of re-incarceration. The study recommended that correctional facilities should provide cost effective education programmes as they reduced recidivism.

In South Africa, Ntombizanele (2019) carried out a study on effectiveness of transformative education on recidivism rates. The study used convergent mixed methods design and data was collected using a questionnaire and interview guide. The study noted that education changed

behavior, improved literacy levels, equipped offenders with skills, improved self-confidence and transformed offenders into law-abiding productive citizens. The study suggested that correctional facilities should have a budget for correctional education to ensure that inmates gain more education while incarcerated as this would reduce the high rate of recidivism.

In Kenya, Oruta (2015) examined the influence of level of education on recidivism. A questionnaire was utilized to collect data for the study, which was conducted in Shikusa Prisons in Kakamega County, Western Kenya. The findings revealed a statistically significant link between educational attainment and recidivism. In comparison to those who were less or not educated, the study discovered that highly educated people were less likely to recidivate. The study concluded that effective pre-release programs, such as correctional education, were required to lower recidivism rates. The report also proposed that many stakeholders collaborate to create a social service network that connects people to post-release supportive services like education and job training, as these can aid legitimately those who wish to return to their communities after incarceration.

2.2.2 Social Ties

The social environment that individuals are predisposed to determines their behavior for better or for worse depending on their social upbringing early in their lives (La Vigne, Naser, Brooks & Castro, 2005). Therefore, personal experiences and psychological wellbeing of inmates is pegged on the quality of interaction with their family members and friends (Steiner & Wooldredge, 2008). As such, family and community support to inmates in prison and post-prison lives is very important in the re-integration process (Sullivan et. al., 2002). On the other hand, where visitation to inmates is restricted, social ties and networks are weakened, and

hence increasing the chances of recidivism (Cobbina, Huebner, & Berg, 2012).

Wallace, Larson, Somers, Padilla and Mays (2020) investigated the role of relationships, transitions and recidivism. The researchers looked at data from the reentry project for major and violent offenders to see if marriage, being in a relationship, and post-release marital and relationship transitions had an impact on recidivism. The study discovered that the quality of a relationship, not marriage or relationship transition, was linked to a lower risk of re-incarceration. Another conclusion was that being in any type of relationship, including marriage, was linked to a higher risk of re-incarceration. The study recommended that offenders should be encouraged to maintain their social ties as they would be more successful in desisting from criminal behavior.

Similarly, Cochran (2019) carried out a study on inmate social ties, recidivism and prison visitation. The study noted that prison visitations helped inmates maintain or restore social ties and thus improve individual's transitions from prison life back to society. The study also found that those who were visited more were more likely to recidivate after release. The study recommended that the mechanisms in which visitations operate should be reviewed by policymakers as it had an impact on recidivism.

Atkin-Plunk and Armstrong (2018) looked at the link between social ties and recidivism. The quality of an inmate's pre-incarceration contacts was found to be more relevant than visits in reducing the odds of recidivism in the longitudinal study. When the quality of relationships was considered, visiting became insignificant in predicting the likelihood of recidivism, according to the study. A good parental attachment before to incarceration was linked to a lower rate of recidivism, according to the study. The study concluded that social relationships had a major

impact on recidivism. According to the study, offenders should be encouraged to stay with their families, particularly mothers, in order to have a better post- incarceration outcome.

In addition, Mooney and Bala (2018) sought to find out the importance of supporting family connections on reduced re-incarceration. The study found that family connections were important as they offered critical emotional and psychological support and they also helped incarcerated individuals gain practical support that aids successful re-entry in the society. Family ties were also found to reduce the negative effects of parental incarceration on children and to increase public safety, according to the study. According to the report, prisons should remove needless and ineffective barriers to family connections and provide a variety of opportunities for healthy family communication. It was also recommended that prisons should make visitations more accessible and productive as this would reduce re-incarceration.

Rocque, Bierie, Posick and MacKenzie (2013) further investigated the relationship between social bonds and recidivism. The study specifically focused on the magnitude of change in bonds during incarceration. The study which was a survey sampled inmates at the start and end of six months prison terms. Changes in social interactions were found to predict recidivism, but not gains in pro-social ideas. The level of pro-social belief at release was likewise found to be strongly connected to recidivism, although the level of attachment was not. The study suggested that family members should be encouraged to visit their relatives in prison as this would ensure that a social bond was maintained which is crucial to avoid recidivism.

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2.2.3 Employment Opportunities

Employment is an important economic factor that helps an ex-prisoner to desist from recommitting crimes. Prisoners who are released and get employed are highly likely to refrain from re-committing crimes. Further, full time employment tends to show increased time before an ex-prisoner reoffends proving that the more times the individual engages in stable and fulltime employment, the risk of reoffending consequently reduces (Benda, Harm & Toombs, 2005). As a measure, policy makers introduce vocational training programmes in prisons to equip inmates with relevant skills before their discharge to become self-reliant and refrain from re-offending (Tripodi, Kim& Bender, 2010).

Yu (2018) carried out a study to explore the link between employment and recidivism. The study reviewed existing literature and noted that the effect of employment did not apply equally to people of various ages, genders, and backgrounds. Another conclusion was that ex-offenders encountered more challenges in getting work than persons without criminal histories, and that the negative impact was most noticeable for those who were working on a regular basis. The study also discovered that not all types of professions had an impact on recidivism, but those jobs of better quality did. According to the study, employment-oriented initiatives should focus on improving ex-prisoners' technical abilities and knowledge and assisting them in obtaining higher-quality jobs in order to prevent recidivism.

Another study by Schnepel (2017) in Australia sought to find out whether job opportunities reduced recidivism. According to the study, released inmates confront significant difficulties, such as health issues, which limit the impact of employment. It was also discovered that job options for released inmates were limited due to their lack of education and work experience, as well as companies' prejudice to hiring them. As a result, the study indicated that improvements in aggregate labor market conditions are linked to lower crime rates. According to the study, giving companies with information on offender rehabilitation and relief from potential liabilities can help ex-offenders find new jobs.

Valentine and Redcross (2015) investigated the effect of employment and recidivism. The study was two experimental evaluations of transitional jobs programs for recently released prisoners. The data revealed that the initiatives resulted in a significant increase in employment, which was largely due to the transitional jobs themselves. It was also discovered that the programs had little effect on non-program jobs. Another conclusion was that the transitional jobs program reduced recidivism by providing temporary paid work and other services in order to improve participants' job chances while reducing re-incarceration. The study recommended that policy makers should put structures to assist prisoners in getting transitional jobs as this would lower recidivism.

In the Netherlands, Ramakers, Nieuwebeerta, Wilsem and Dirkzwager (2016) assessed the impact of employment characteristics on recidivism risks after release. The 714 respondents in the longitudinal study were asked about the role of employment in ex-prisoners' recidivism patterns. According to the findings, not just any job, but especially stable employment and positions with a higher occupational level, can significantly reduce crime rates among high-risk

offenders. My ex-prisoners had a human capital deficiency, according to the study, which made finding high-quality jobs more difficult. The study recommended that ex-prisoners should be helped to get stable employment as this could reduce re-incarceration.

2.2.4 Poverty

Urban crime is on the rise due to economic disparities characterized by weak governance and inequalities. This is especially experienced in dense urban set ups where national and local government service providers are stretched (Owusu, Wrigley-Asante, Oteng-Ababio, & Owusu (2015). Slums, which sprout due to economic inequalities, become heaven for criminals and by far even overstretch policing efforts. Due to lack of or lower social control, slum neighborhoods create the context that encourages anti-social behaviours. Upon discharge, with no deterrence measures, former prisoners will easily reoffend (UNODC, 2018).

In North America, Struhl (2017) investigated the relationship between poverty and recidivism. The study noted that more than three of every four individuals released from US prisons were re-arrested within five years due to negative effects that incarcerated individuals faced. The study also found that offenders upon release faced complex challenges such as homelessness, unemployment, and trauma and thus difficult in assessing employment led to a high risk of reoffending. The study recommended that policy makers should make choices on reentry programs to support offenders upon release as this would reduce recidivism.

Tegeng and Abadi (2018) looked at poverty as one of the contributing factors to recidivism. The study used mixed research design to find that economic factors such as poverty and poor living conditions contributed to recidivism as they led to people engaging in criminal activities repeatedly. The study also found that the negative attitude of the community towards offenders

which saw them being sidelined even on available job opportunities led to recidivism. Stakeholders and prison centers should provide enough rehabilitation and reintegration services for recidivists, according to the report. It was also suggested that the government provide financial aid to prisoners in order for them to successfully reintegrate into society.

Similarly, Feinberg (2019) investigated the relationship between poverty and recidivism. The study found that the challenges faced by formerly incarcerated individuals were extensive and far reaching including stigmatization which led offenders to return to old habits. Another finding was that growing up in poverty significantly increased the likelihood of incarceration. The study also revealed that poverty was a leading driver of incarceration and incarceration was a leading driver of poverty. The study recommended that community groups and other organizations should help individuals to reintegrate back in the society through donations, financial support and equipping them with skills that will enable them to break the cycle of incarceration.

Morenoff and Harding (2011) explored the relationship between poverty and recidivism. The study which was longitudinal looked at the relationship between returning to a disadvantaged neighborhood contributed to re-incarceration. According to the study, offenders who returned to disadvantaged communities had more negative labor market outcomes, such as less employment and lower income, which led to a return to jail. Ex-offenders should be encouraged to reside in stable areas since they will have a higher chance of finding work, according to the report. It was also suggested that policy makers should have placement of institutional housing for former prisoners to reduce re-incarceration.

2.3 Strategies to Reduce Recidivism

According to Lipsey and Cullen, (2007) tailor-made effective responsive strategic measures, rather than standardized approaches, have shown to reduce recidivism. Get-tough approaches to control crime have generally proven ineffective as inmates whose pre-existing conditions that influenced their offending in the first place are not ordinarily addressed during incarceration. A study by Scuderi, Burger and Swords (2018) examined the implementation strategies to reduce recidivism. The study noted that in order to achieve reductions in recidivism, ideas such as different approaches to funding of services, involvement of whole supply chain and looking beyond the prison were effective.

Another strategy identified was that provision of educational and training programmes to individuals in incarceration as it was very crucial in reducing the chances of reoffending. A meta-analysis conducted by Davis et al., (2013) showed the inmates who participated in correctional education program were 43% less likely to recidivate compared to those who did not participate. The study also found that those with lower level of education portrayed higher risk of reoffending. For instance, those who attended high school level had 30% lesser risk of reoffending compared to non-attendants.

Sikasa (2015) further identified accessing employment opportunities by ex-convicts as another strategy pegged on the effectiveness of in-prison correctional programmes. The study also established a direct relationship between employment opportunities and reduced recidivism. The study noted that equipping inmates with tools, equipment and related skills, and even sometimes the capital, goes a long way in reducing recidivism. Another study by Finn (2009) established that two-thirds of inmates are not employed and lack any form of training prior to

their arrests, while more than 70% of the incarcerated inmates do not have any job prospect in the post-release period.

Since these findings indicated unemployment as a major factor that contributes to crime and imprisonment, there was a need to support inmates to become self-reliant through empowerment programmes before they are discharged. This would facilitate post-release employment opportunities for the offenders (Finn & Willoughby, 2006). In addition, based on studies which have shown that inmates who have and maintain ties with the outer social world are less likely to recidivate than those who have no social ties at all (Atkin-Plunk & Armstrong, 2018); therefore, another strategy identified was the use of enhancing community/family support.

The situations and feelings of inmates during imprisonment have a profound effect on how they fair after they are released from the prison. Their successes in relationships, work and other aspects of life are influenced by their experiences in prison (Steiner & Wooldredge, 2008). Another study noted that if work prospects, family relationships and housing needs are facilitated in advance before their release, the chances of success in the post-release life increase (Morani, et al., 2011).

According to a study by Brunton-Smith and McCarthy, (2016), in the various phases of the prisoner life, that is prior to, during and after prison, treatment providers should consider ways of enhancing prisoner interaction with family, friends and loved ones. This was because prisoner visitation during incarceration was a key human right element as well as a rehabilitation component. The study concluded that inmates who are visited during

imprisonment and maintained quality interaction with their family members desist from engaging in crime again compared to those who lack visitation.

2.3.1 The Risk Principle

This principle states that in the attempt to provide effective treatment services, the service providers should assess the risks posed by the offenders. In other words, the level of treatment service must correspond to the level of risk that emanate from individual offenders. It goes by saying that low-risk offenders will receive minimum intervention while high-risk offender will receive intensive services. This principle constitutes of two parts: the level of treatment and the risk of re-offending (Bonta & Andrews, 2006). The later basically involves proper scientific assessment of the risk of recidivism of an individual. Andrews et al., (2006) contend that development of various dynamic risk assessment tools over the past two decades makes easier to distinguish low-risk offenders from high-risk offenders. The former is about the need to match the treatment service level to the risk level of the individual. It goes thus by saying that as the risk level increases, so do the treatment level needed to reduce the threat, increases (Bonta & Andrews, 2006).

2.3.2 The Need Principle

The need principle calls for the focus on some dynamic factors that influence the criminal behaviour of individuals, and are referred to as criminogenic needs. They are seven, and together with past criminal history, they become eight. Antisocial personality traits, pro- criminal attitudes, social support for crime, substance addiction, family/marital connections, school/work, and pro-societal recreational activities are only a few of them. Unlike static factors such as the past criminal history, criminogenic need factors can change depending on

Socio-economic situations and other supports accorded to offenders (Andrews & Bonta, 2006; Andrews et al., 2006). The principle guides in providing the right corresponding service treatment based on the findings adduced in the assessment process of the inmates (Bonta & Andrews, 2006).

2.3.3 The Responsivity Principle

According to Bonta and Andrews (2003), the responsivity principle aims to change an individual's illegal behaviour. General responsiveness and specialised responsiveness are its two components. Cognitive social learning measures that typically alter behaviour without considering personal traits like gender are the foundation of general responsiveness. Two guiding principles for successful cognitive social learning practices are the relationship principle (establishing a cordial, polite, and cooperative working relationship with the client) and the structuring principle (influencing the direction of change towards the prosocial through appropriate modelling, reinforcement, problem-solving, etc.).

Unlike general responsivity, specific responsivity considers individual traits such sociobiological influences, personality traits, and personal strengths and limitations. Planning for rehabilitation requires careful consideration of this variety of issues. Support Service providers must tailor these factors to the treatment so as achieve effective rehabilitation (Bonta & Andrews, 2006).

2.4 Challenges Impeding the Effective Management of the Social Economic Factors

Rafts of challenges hinder the rehabilitation of inmates in Kenya and around the world as found out by Amanda, (2006). According to Daganzo and Bernardo (2018), people's

perceptions of social events are linked to their socioeconomic level. As a result, lower-class people are more likely than upper-class people to assign the origin of problems to something internal, changeable, and controllable, and something for which they are personally accountable for the solution. According to the findings, persons from lower socioeconomic backgrounds recognize that surviving and thriving needs sensitivity to and management of interpersonal relationships. Individuals should be educated on the necessity of self-control in order to effectively manage their socioeconomic level, according to the study.

Similarly, Braveman, and Gottlieb (2014) noted that the conditions under which people are born, grow, live, work, and age were referred to as social determinants. The study also discovered that socioeconomic factors such as income, wealth, and education were major contributors to a wide range of issues among individuals, particularly in terms of determining their career paths. Another study by Richman (2006) noted that higher rates of dissatisfaction and job related stress observed in workers as a challenge for effective management of socioeconomic factors. The study also revealed that family/work conflict which increased the risk of stress level as another challenge.

2.4.1 Inadequate Resources

Rehabilitation involves empowering prisoners with skills that help them become self-reliant, social networking competencies that help them reintegrate back into after release, and addressing factors that influence offending in the first place. It thus requires use of various resources that include finances, human resource, and equipment among others (Owino et al., 2010).

A study by Omboto (2010) established that the capacity of the service in rehabilitating inmates was hindered by the inadequacy of resources. The study also revealed that this inadequacy of resources manifested in improper training of staff that leading to unprofessionalism, poor housing conditions for staff, inadequate facilities for inmates such buildings hence overcrowding and congestion, poor diet, poor sanitation, lack of clean water and infectious diseases.

Magak (2013) on the other hand noted that the challenges in the management of financial resources in organizations included overspending and under spending, doubling of roles, low salaries, unauthorized levies, inadequate knowledge by the managers and irregular auditing of accounts. The study recommended that those in management positions should be adequately trained on resources management as this had an impact on the performance of organizations.

Another study by Wallace (2019) noted one that the biggest challenges facing correctional facilities funding gaps. This was found to be due to none increase in funding leading to budget cuts. Therefore, as prisons are expensive to build, operate and maintain this led to overcrowding as the management did not have resources to manage the prisons thus compromising staff safety. The study also found that limited funding also affected advancement in technology which could ease operations in the prisons. The study recommended that the government should increase the funding to prisons so as to equip them with necessary resources to run the correctional facilities.

Murage (2011) found that challenges affecting the implementation of prison reforms were poor resources allocation and poor organizational structures. The study also found that inadequate

training for the prison employees affected the management of the correctional facilities. The study recommended that the government and other stakeholders should expand employee's skills through training, recruitment for effective management.

2.4.2 Family Breakdown and Societal Disorganization

A study by Green (2015) which assessed the effect of family breakdown on deviant behavior in the United States found that most delinquents were children abandoned by their parents. Fatherlessness, lack of maternal care, parental conflict and domestic violence, lack of parental discipline, rejection of the kid, parental abuse, and criminal parents were all shown to be features of broken homes that fostered conditions for criminal conduct. The report advised that any policy program aimed at reducing adolescent criminality include a major resurgence of the intact married family as an essential component.

Rector (2010) on the other hand sought to investigate the role of marriage in eliminating child poverty. The study found that the quality of parenting was very crucial in children as parental rejection led to distrust with the result of being defensive and aggressive. The study also found that rejection by family sets the stage for another society tragedy. Another finding from the study was that having criminal parents led to violent youth as they had witnessed conflict and this could lead them to become criminals. The study concluded that children without parental support were more likely to be arrested for juvenile crime and go to jail. The study suggested that families should be encouraged to remain intact as they had a significant effect on the emotional wellbeing of their defendants.

In addition, Makumba (2018) who sought to find out the contribution of family structure on crime among juveniles targeted children in remand homes. The study found that the type and extent of interaction between a child and his family was important for them to desist from crime. The study further revealed that parenting practices during adolescence appeared to act as a buffer preventing delinquent behavior. The study came to the conclusion that family unity had an impact on adolescent crime. The study concluded that it is critical to comprehend the relationship between parents and their children in terms of intimacy and communication, as these factors are closely linked to delinquent behavior.

Boccio and Beaver (2017) explored the influence of family structure on delinquent behavior. The research found a slight, but only transient, link between changes in family structure and delinquency, particularly among adolescents. Respondents with married parents were also less likely to indicate involvement in delinquency, according to the study. According to the findings, family structures may have varying effects on delinquency involvement depending on the child's age, the criminality of the parents, and the nature of sibling connections. Counseling services should be supplied to children when their family structure changes, according to the study, as this may lessen their involvement in crime.

Pratt and Cullen (2005) on the other hand carried out a study on the effect of societal disorganization on crime. According to the data, social disorder is a key predictor of teenage violence and criminality. It was also discovered that social disorder has an impact on a variety of mediating processes that aid in the facilitation of youth violence. When seeking to explain the genesis of teenage criminality, the study advised that practitioners should explore the links between economic disadvantage and social disorganization.

In Latino communities, Cancino, Varano, Schafer and Enriquez (2007) looked into the relationship between social disorganization and incivility. The study examined the effects of concentrated disadvantage, social isolation, and violent crime on citizens' perceptions of incivility by combining data from three different sources. The study discovered that perceived incivility was substantially connected to latino, age, homeownership, felt safety, and quality of life rating at the citizen level. According to the findings, social disorder was linked to incivility in a positive and substantial way. The study concluded that minimizing concentrated disadvantage, which deprives citizens of resources, was necessary to improve quality of life.

2.4.3 Unprofessionalism on the Part of Prison Officers

Lack of integrity hinders the management of the socioeconomic variables that influence recidivism among offenders. Prison officers need to portray values that encourage compliance to the rule of law and honesty among others. Prison officers are viewed as demotivated due to inadequate remuneration, frustrated as a result of harsh work conditions and engage in corruption activities such as bribery with inmates and smuggling of prohibited items including drugs. The officers develop a disregard to the norms of the prison too (Masango, 2008).

Tate, Blagden and Mann (2017) carried out a study on prisoners' perceptions of care and rehabilitation by prison officers. The findings revealed that prison officers lack relevant skills or fail to use rehabilitation skills such as active listening, effective communication skills, pro- social modeling, and reinforcement of new behaviors. The study recommended that prison officers should be trained on professionalism as this would improve their decision making, self-efficacy and self-reflection which were crucial in the rehabilitation process of prisoners.

In the US, Paoline and Lambert (2011) investigated the relationship between professionalism and organizational commitment among jail staff. According to the report, jail staffs work in surroundings with unique characteristics such as criminals' diversity and movement, health difficulties among detainees, congestion, and a lack of training among staff. Staff perceptions of professionalism, detainee control, and administrative support were found to have a substantial impact on organizational commitment, particularly in terms of job satisfaction and stress. The study recommended that jail staff should be trained constantly to ensure that they were fully equipped to handle the job demands. It was also suggested that staff members be encouraged to treat inmates with professionalism, which would result in improved interactions and relationships between staff and detainees.

Further, Russo (2019) examined the workforce issues in corrections and how they affected rehabilitation. According to the study, the prisons industry has a low degree of professionalism, particularly among jail personnel. In comparison to other criminal justice professions, the data found that there was insufficient money for training prison personnel. The report advised that existing competency criteria for various correctional roles be reevaluated or that new ones be created. Another recommendation was for more funding for training of corrections employees and the review of the curriculum so as to ensure they received relevant training.

Matetola (2012) In South Africa, a research was conducted on the professional role of correctional officers in the rehabilitation of prisoners. The study compared the professional status of correctional officers to that of other existing occupations. The findings revealed that the professionalism of correctional officers was influenced by the political environment,

economic environment and the legal environment. The study recommended that correctional officers should be empowered with basic human behavior so as to be able to compete fairly well and operate with less pressure.

Ferdik (2017) explored the link between professional orientations and correctional officer perceptions. Correctional personnel influenced both treatment efficiency and offender behavior, according to the study. The study also discovered that the counseling roles, concern for authority corruption, and punitive orientations all had statistically significant associations with the risk perceptions of workplace injury. The study recommended that correctional officers should be trained on being professional as this would enhance their role in rehabilitation of detainees.

2.5 Summary and Research Gap

The reviewed literature identifies education, social ties, employment, and poverty as major socio-economic determinants of recidivism. Educational and vocational programs improve reintegration outcomes, while strong family and community bonds foster stability post-release. Employment, especially stable and quality jobs is a critical buffer against reoffending, though structural barriers remain. Poverty, particularly in urban and disadvantaged environments, fuels recidivism and must be addressed through targeted policy interventions, support services, and community engagement.

The reviewed literature supports a holistic, evidence-based approach to reducing recidivism. Effective strategies include: Providing education, vocational training, and employment preparation. Maintaining and strengthening family and community ties, and implementing interventions based on the Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) model. The literature highlights three

major challenges that impede the effective management of socioeconomic factors influencing recidivism; inadequate resources, family and societal breakdown, and lack of professionalism.

The causal relationship between socio-economic factors and recidivism in the local context remains under-studied. As such there is need to increase the literature on the same. As a consequence, this study aims at adding to the existing scanty literature on socio-economic influence on recidivism.

2.6 Theoretical and Conceptual Framework of the Study.

A theoretical framework is a framework that can hold or support a research study's hypothesis by introducing and describing the theories that explain why the research topic under investigation occurs (Abend, 2008).

2.6.1 General strain theory (GST)

This study was guided by general strain theory (GST) that was developed by Robert Agnew in 1992. The theory posits that, in the larger society, when some people experience strain, they may respond by committing a crime in order to remove the strain and related emotions (Agnew, 1992, 2006). According to GST, strains are conditions and events disliked by people. They are two categories: Objective and subjective. The former portrays strains hated by most people, while the later refers to those events experienced by persons disliking it. Subjective strains tend to lead to crimes more than objective ones, as they are generally stronger in the perspective of the individual experiencing it.

Agnew (2006) further points out strains come in three forms: losing something of value, being treated in a negative way by others, and not being able to achieve one's goals. Depending on the magnitude of the strain, criminals in general, and recidivists in particular would react to

remove and correct the strains by reoffending. For example, in the case of anger, recidivists are more likely to react with violent crimes, while in the case of envy they may reoffend by stealing. Additionally, individual recidivists might recommit offenses when they are less capable of coping up with the strains, the rewards are more in relation to the costs or/and pro-criminal associations and beliefs are present (Agnew, 2006).

In terms of addressing crime, GST proposes equipping individuals with traits and skills which avoid strains that lead to crimes, proving social support, increasing social control, and finally, reducing exposure to situations that favour the commission of crime. Generally, socio-economic factors that influence recidivism fall within the purview of the key tenets of GST and, as such, this research will be relevantly guided by the same theory.

Although, Agnew's GST is an improved version of earlier strain theory by Merton, 1938, it was however, viewed to be too broad creating unlimited possibilities for what can be termed as a strain or stressor. Additionally, despite being widely accepted in the academics, GST is still relatively new as it is just two-decades old since developed by Agnew in 1992.

2. 6.2 A conceptual framework

A conceptual framework, according to Lee and Roth (2009), is a diagrammatical representation that depicts the link between dependent and independent variables. Figure 2.1 below depicts the conceptual framework that explains the causal relationship between the independent and variables. The independent variables as exemplified by the socio-economic factors of education, social ties, employment opportunities and poverty have a bearing on the dependent variable of recidivism. The indicators of number of prisoners reformed, congestion, and time spent outside after the first release will inform recidivism rate based on the socioeconomic factors of influence.

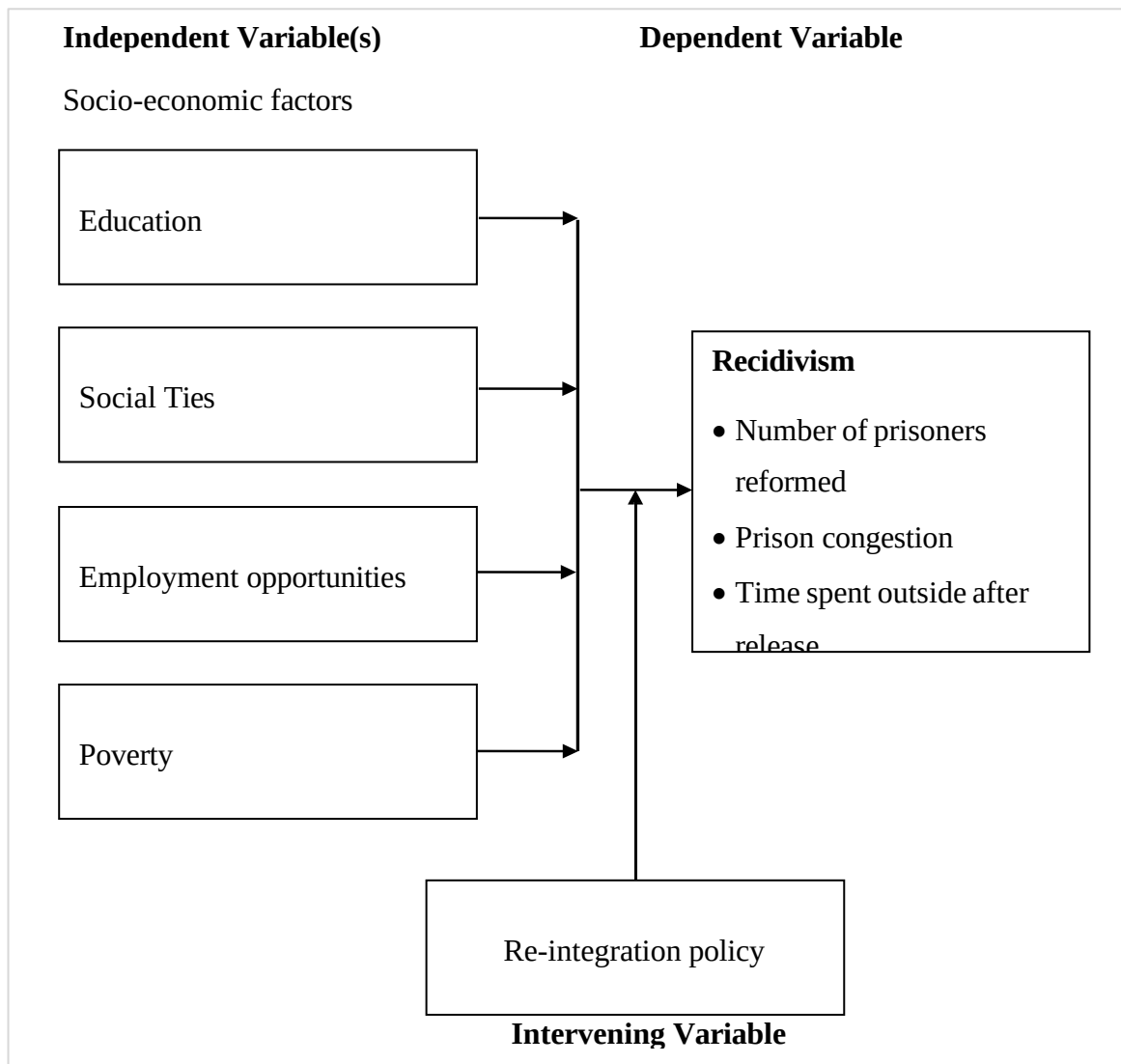


Figure 2. 1: Conceptual Framework depicting relationship between independent variables and dependent variable.

Source: Researcher, 2024

CHAPTER THREE RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter of research methodology described the practices and techniques that were used to collect, process and analyse the data. The chapter contains the research designs, target population, sampling technique, research instruments and procedures, data analysis and presentation.

3.2 Research Design for the study

A research design is a blueprint that lays out the methods and procedures for gathering and interpreting data as explained by Zikmund, (2003). This research was carried out using descriptive research design. The researcher had chosen this research design because it can be used in a wide variety of research methods to investigate one or more variables. The design also enabled the researcher to answer the what, where, when and how questions of the study (McCombes, 2019). Descriptive research design also enabled the researcher to use both quantitative research and qualitative research for descriptive purposes.

Table 3.1: Research Design by Specific Objectives

Objectives	Measurable Variable/ Indicator	Research Design
Identify the main social economic factors that influence recidivism among prisoners in the prison	• Education • Social ties • Employment • Poverty	Descriptive
Establish key strategies adopted by the Ruiru prison administration to assessment manage social economic factors	• Education Programs • Prisoners' needs • Drug/substance abuse • Family/social support	Descriptive
Examine challenges that hinder management of social economic factors which influence recidivism among inmates in the prison	• Inadequate resources • Family breakdown • Social disorganization • Unprofessionalism of prison officers	Descriptive

Source: Researcher, 2024

Table 3.2 shows how the researcher used descriptive research design to explain measurable Indicators in the three specific objectives.

3.3 Research Site

The optimal environment for any study, according to Singleton, Straits and Straits (1993), is one that is easily accessible to the researcher and allows for immediate rapport with the informants. The research was conducted in Ruiru prison. It is situated in Ruiru municipality, Kiambu County, which is about 22 km from Nairobi. The prison is rightly located on the Ruiru-Kiambu town road adjacent to Superfoam factory. The choice of the prison is informed by the reason that no other similar study was conducted in the prison before, and as such, there is need for the study to add to the existing knowledge gap in recidivism.

3.4 Administrative boundaries of the study site

Kiambu County that spans over 2449.2 km² (945.6 sq mi) is comprised of 12 sub-counties that include Gatundu North, Gatundu South, Githunguri, Juja, Kabete, Kiambaa, Kiambu, Kikuyu, Lari, Limuru, Ndeiya, Ruiru, Githurai, Thika West and Thika East. These sub-counties are further divided into divisions, locations and sub-locations that are meant to facilitate easy administration and equitable distribution of government resources and services. Ruiru sub-county, where our study was conducted, has one division, one location and 3 sub-locations (GoK, 2020).

3.5 Population Distribution in the Study Area

According to the 2019 Kenya population and housing census (KPHC), Kiambu had a total population of 2, 417,735 which was projected to have risen to 2, 602, 250; 2,754, 140; and 2, 854, 954 by the years of 2022, 2025 and 2027 respectively. Out of the 2, 417,735 persons in 2019 KPHC, 1, 187, 146 were males, 1, 230, 454 were females and 135 were intersex. Of these

figure in the whole county, majority (78%) are youth.

With an area of 201.1 km², Ruiru sub-county had a population of 371, 111 by 2019. It was projected to have risen to 399, 402; 422, 722 and 438, 222 by 2022, 2025 and 2027 respectively (GoK, 2020).

3.6 Study Population

The target population, according to Lavkaras (2008), is the full collection of units for which survey data will be utilized to form inferences. In this study, the population of interest were 300 recidivists, 55 administrative staff working in Ruiru prison and 20 *nyumba kumi* elders from the community whom the inmates are drawn. The 20 *nyumba kumi* elders were drawn from twenty villages/estates, each representing a village/ an estate from where the inmates are drawn.

3. 7: Distribution of Target Population

Table 3.1: Distribution of Target Population

Category	Number
Prison administrative officers	55
Recidivists	300
Community <i>nyumba kumi</i> elders	20
Total	375

Source: Ruiru Prison (2024)

3.8 Sampling Method and Sample Size

Based on the available time, resources and the nature of the prison security setup and other unforeseen situations, the researcher envisaged a coverage rate of not less than 70% of the entire total target population which was 375. The sample size was 259 (70%) which comprised

of 39 administrative staff, 210 recivists and 20 *nyumba kumi* community elders from the village.

In this study, a representative sample was selected from the sum total of recidivists (prisoners) and administrative staff working in Ruiru Prison. The researcher used stratified sampling since the population was not homogenous. The researcher grouped the respondents into two strata consisting of administrative staff and the recidivists (drug related offenders, offenders against property, and offenders against persons, corruption and robbery). Stratification was deemed appropriate for selecting a representative sample because it ensured that every recidivist and administrative employee working in Ruiru prison had an equal chance to be selected to be part of the study sample.

The use of stratification sampling method as a way of selecting a representative sample is echoed by Kothari (2010) who states that, the purpose of stratified sampling is to get the right mix of people from different groupings. The researcher sampled the respondents in each of the stratum through simple random sampling method. This is a sort of probability sampling in which every individual in the population has an equal chance of being chosen (Zikmund, 2003). This technique ensured that each respondent in the strata had an equal chance of being selected to take part in the study. Moreover, for triangulation purposes, through quota sampling, *nyumba kumi* community elders from the village where the recidivists come from were engaged through focused group discussions.

Table 3.3: Sample Distribution

Category	Target Population	Formula	Sample
Prison Administrative Staff	55	70% (55)	39
Recidivists	300	70% (300)	210
<i>Nyumba kumi</i> community elders	20	2 FDGs (Each 10 participants)	20
Total	375		259

Source: Researcher, 2024

3.9 Data Collection

3.9.1 Data Collection Instruments

According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), questionnaires are often used to acquire vital information about the population since each item is designed to answer a specific study purpose, topic, or hypothesis. The researcher employed questionnaires to physically collect data from the literate recidivists and prison officers. In the case of illiterate inmates, interview schedules were administered. By use of quota sampling, focused group discussions (FDGs) were used to collect information from two groups of *nyumba kumi* community elders, each comprising of 10 elders.

The questionnaire was sub-divided into various sections based on the study variables. Part one sought to collect data on the demographic characteristics of the respondents while part two had questions on socioeconomic factors. Part three had questions on strategies to reduce recidivism while part four had questions on challenges impeding effective management of socioeconomic factors. On the interview guide, part one had questions on the demographic characteristics of the respondents while part two had questions on socioeconomic factors. Part three had questions on strategies to reduce recidivism while part four questions were on challenges impeding effective management of socioeconomic factors.

These tools in data collection covered all the information that the researcher was interested in obtaining from the subjects. The researcher used these tools to solstice information related to the problem from the respondents. The methods helped the researcher to collect countable information as they standardized the type of data collected and the procedures used in collecting the data. This aimed at ensuring that the researcher got authentic information that was not biased in any way and was easily analyzed.

Table 3.4: Summary of Study Population, Sampling Methods, Sample Size and Data Collection Tools for Ruiru Prison

Study Population Unit	Sampling Method	Sample size	Data collection tool	Appendix Number
Recidivists	Probabilistic	300	Questionnaires	I
Prison Administrative officers	Probabilistic	55	Interview guide	II
2 FDGs (Each 10 participants)	Quota	20	FGD Guide	III

Source: Researcher, 2024

3.9.2 Pilot Testing of Research Instruments

The pilot test sample of 30 respondents was drawn from Thika GK main prison which had similar characteristics as Ruiru prison. The methodologies used to pre-test the questionnaire was the same as those used during the study itself. The researcher designed, reviewed and updated the questionnaire till saturation was achieved.

3.10 Research Validity and Reliability

Validity is defined as the process of arriving at the proper conclusion based on data gathered from an evaluation (Bryman, 2012). The amount to which study findings accurately represent what is actually happening in a scenario is referred to as validity. The construct, criteria, and content validity of the research instruments employed were determined. A checklist was used to determine the content validity. This established whether the variables, research questions, and objectives in the questionnaire have been captured by the study. A further consultation on the research instruments was done through advice from the supervisors to determine the construct, criteria and content validity. This was done in respect to the objectives, research questions and variables of the study. The recommendations given after the review by the supervisors who are experts in the study area were then be incorporated to validate the research instruments.

Bryman, (2012) defines reliability as the consistency of a concept's measure or the consistency of the scores acquired. The responses acquired during the research instrument piloting ensured the reliability of the research instrument. Internal consistency was achieved by developing the research variables in the context of main research objectives.

3.11 Data processing, Analysis and Presentation

The practice of systematically applying statistical and/or logical approaches to explain and demonstrate, condense and recap, and assess data is known as data analysis (Akhtar, 2016). After collecting, coding, recording, cleaning and organizing, the data was subjected to descriptive analysis. Orodho (2005) observes that the main characteristics of a data in a study are described using descriptive statistics. They give quick summaries of the sample and the metrics. Descriptive statistics are combined with simple graphic analysis to create the foundation of almost any quantitative data analysis (Ahuja, 2010). Using measures of central tendency, descriptive statistics was used to describe the features of the population sampled. The data collected, after being coded, was subjected to analysis by help of SPSS and the results presented as texts, tables, graphs and charts.

3.12 Legal and Ethical Considerations

Ethics refers to the principles or rules of conduct that govern what is considered ethical or permissible in a given profession (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). Clearances were sought from the relevant authorities such the national commission for science, technology and innovation (NACOSTI), School of Humanities and Social Sciences of Africa Nazarene University and local government authorities and the prison administration. After explaining the nature and goal of the study, the researcher also obtained consent from all participants. The respondents were assured of the principle of confidentiality and privacy of information gathered was be strictly adhered to and protected with the utmost care.

Courtesy, respect, honesty and integrity was ensured at all times to all the participants and the absolute rights of free will to divulge information by the subjects was at not tampered or

interfered with. The desire and decision by any respondent to withdraw or pull out at any time and stage of the research or study was also granted as the sole discretion of whether to continue solely remained at the participants' judgment.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents and discusses demographic results obtained from the respondents as well as the first objective which was to identify the main social economic factors that influence recidivism among prisoners in Ruiru prison. This chapter presents and discusses demographic results obtained from the respondents as well as the objectives which were to identify the main social economic factors that influence recidivism, establish strategies that have been adopted by various stakeholders to manage social economic factors which influence recidivism and to assess the challenges that impede effective management of social economic factors which influence recidivism among prisoners in Ruiru prison.

4.2 Demographic features of the respondents

The demographic features mainly focused on the age, education level among others as discussed below. However, the facility being a male prison, the variable gender factor was not included in the questionnaire as the presumption of all the inmates being male gender was considered. Gender differences in recidivism rates have been a topic of considerable interest. While men are generally more likely to engage in criminal behaviour, the recidivism rates between genders vary depending on offence type and other factors (Richner et al., 2022; Olson et al., 2016; Silvertsson, 2016).

4.2.1 Age of the Recidivist Respondents

The recidivists were requested to indicate their age and the data obtained in this respect were analyzed statistically and the results are summarized in Figure 4.1 below.

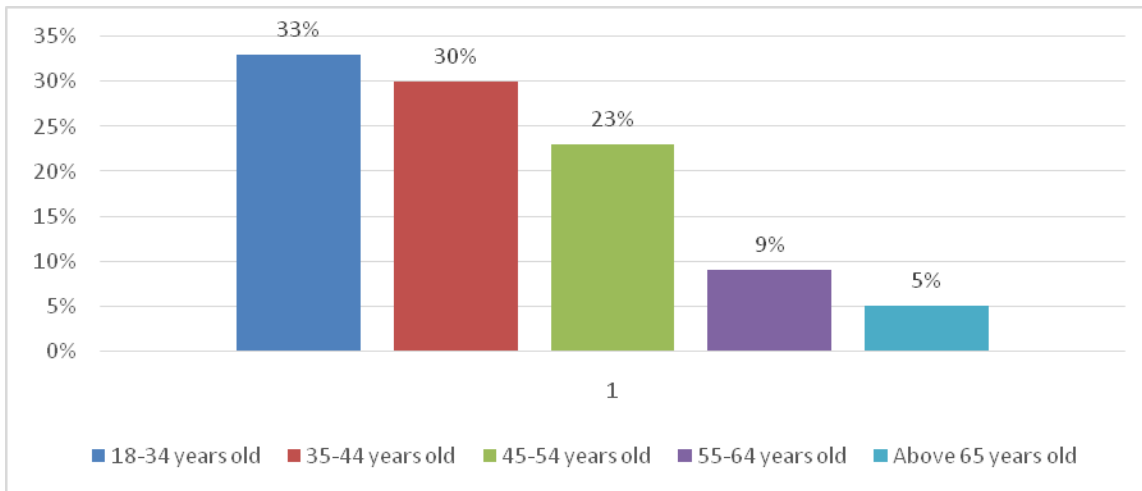


Figure 4. 1: Age of the Respondents

Source: Field data, 2024

From the study, most of the recidivist respondents (33%) indicated that they were of the age group between 18-34 years while 30% of the respondents indicated that they were aged between 35-44 years. In addition, 23% of the respondents indicated that they were in the age group between 45-54 years while 9% indicated that they were between 55-64 years old. Finally, the remaining 5% indicated that they were above 65 years old. Hence this point to the predisposition of the youth bracket of 18-34 years to crime especially if coupled with other risk factors of unemployment, poverty and lack of social ties compared to other age groups.

4.2.2 Highest Level of Education of the Recidivists

The researcher was interested in the highest level of education of the recidivists and Figure 4.2 shows the statistically analyzed results.

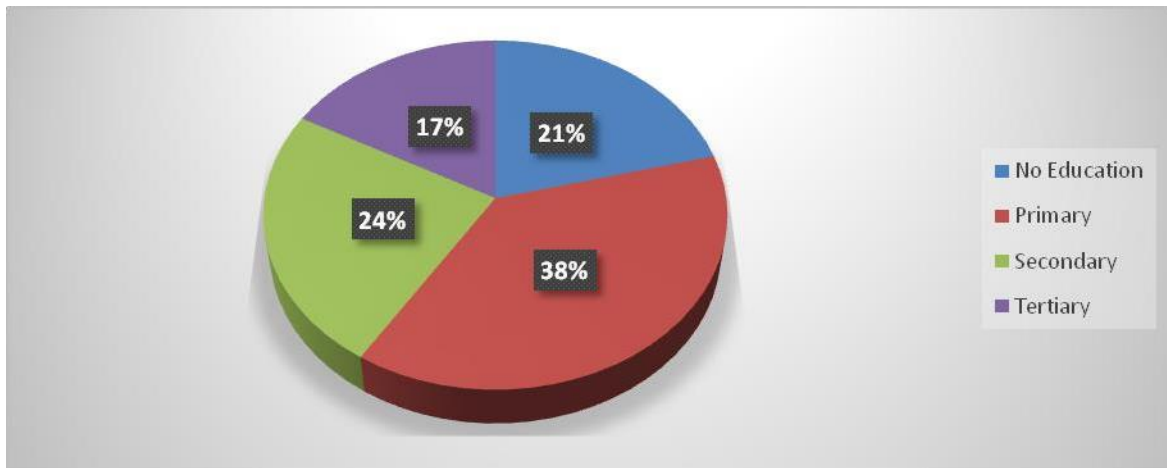


Figure 4.2: Level of Education of Respondents
Source: Research Data, 2024

Figure 4.2 shows that majority of the recidivist respondents (38%) indicated that their highest level of education of primary while 24% of the respondents indicated that their highest level of education was secondary. Further, 21% of the respondents indicated that they had no education background while the remaining 17% of the respondents indicated that their highest level of education was tertiary. As depicted from the figure, lack of education might predispose and even increase the risk to crime and recidivism especially if coupled with other risk factors such as unemployment, poverty and lack of social ties.

4.2.3 Marital Status of the Recidivists

This study sought to find out the marital status of the recidivists and the results are presented in Figure 4.3.

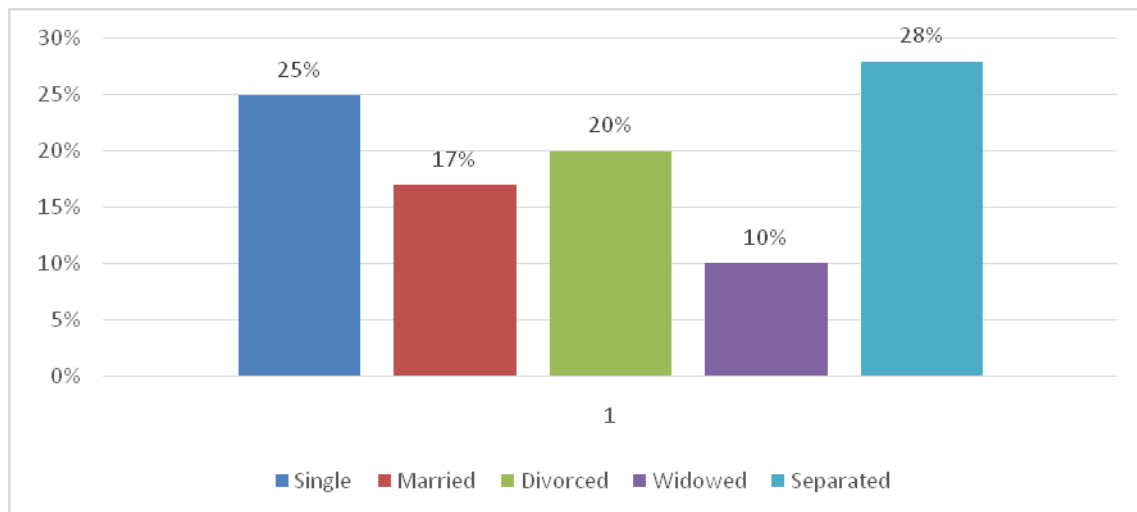


Figure 4. 3: Marital Status of the Respondents

Source: Research Data, 2024

Figure 4.3 shows that majority of the recidivist respondents (28%) indicated that they were separated while 25% indicated that they were single. 20% of the respondents indicated that they were divorced while 17% indicated that they were married. Finally, 10% of the respondents indicated that they were widowed. From the results, majority of the recidivists are single or separated thus pointing to the assumption that lack of stable relationship might increase the risk to crime in the presence of other risk factors.

4.2.4 Length of Time Spend in Prison

The researcher was interested in finding out how long the recidivists had been in prison. The results from the statistically analyzed data are presented in Figure 4.4.

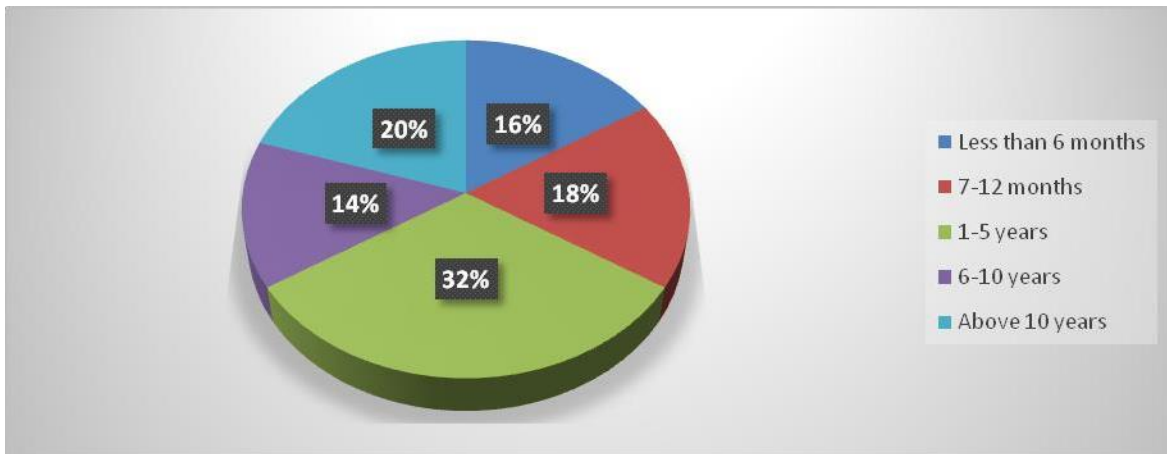


Figure 4. 4 Length of Time Spent In Prison

Source: Research Data

Figure 4.4 shows that most of the respondents (32%) indicated that they have been in prison between 1-5 years while 20% indicated that they have been in prison for over 10 years. In addition, 18% of the respondents indicated that they have been in prison for between 7-12 months while 16% of the respondents indicated that they have been in prison for less than 6 months. 14% of the respondents on the other hand indicated that they have been in prison for between 6-10 years. Majority of the recidivists have had a stay period of 5 years and below. This might point to the ineffectiveness of the rehabilitation programs that are projected to contribute to behavior change and thus reduces recidivism.

4.2.5 Number of Times Recidivists have been brought back to Prison

This study sought to find out from the recidivists how many times they had been brought back to prison and the results from the analyzed data are presented in Figure 4.5.

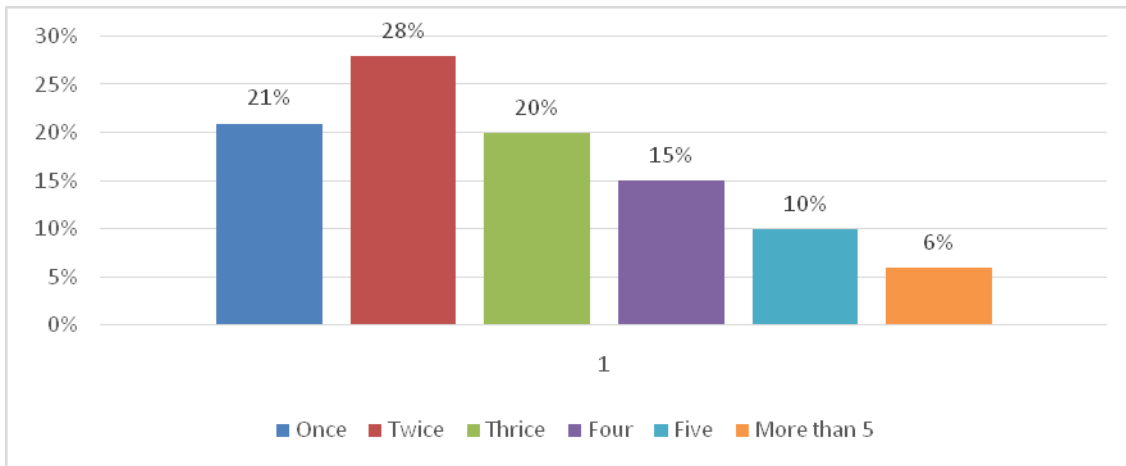


Figure 4.5: Number of Times Recidivists have been brought back to Prison

Source: Research data, 2024

Figure 4.5 shows that majority of the recidivist respondents (28%) indicated that they had been brought back to prison twice while 21% indicated that they had been brought back to prison once. 20% of the respondents indicated that they had been brought back to prison thrice while 15% indicated that they had been brought back to prison four times. In addition, 10% of the respondents indicated that they had been brought back to prison five times while the remaining 6% indicated that they had been brought back to prison more than five times. Reoffending and being brought in to the prison for two or more times indicate the ineffectiveness of the rehabilitation plans within the prison.

4.2.6 Offense that brought the Recidivists into Prison

The researcher was interested to find out the offense that brought the recidivists into prison and the results are presented in Figure 4.6.

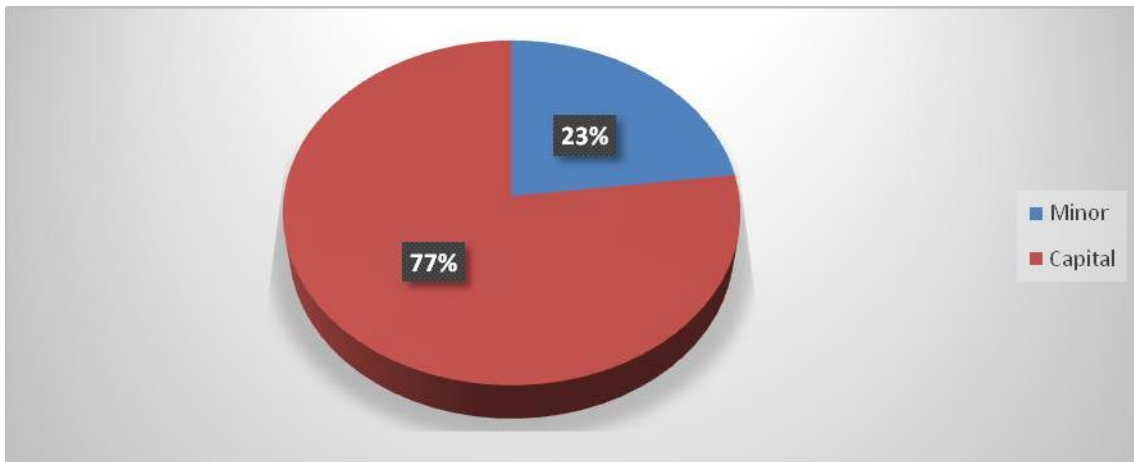


Figure 4.6: Offense that brought the Recidivists into Prison

Source: Research data, 2024

Figure 4.6 shows that most of the respondents (77%) indicated that the offense that brought them back into prison was capital while the remaining 23% indicated that the offense that brought them back into prison was minor.

4.2.7 Minor Offenses that brought the Recidivists back into Prison

As a follow up on the offense that brought the recidivists back into prison, the researcher was interested to know minor offense that brought them back into prison and the results are presented in Figure 4.7 below.

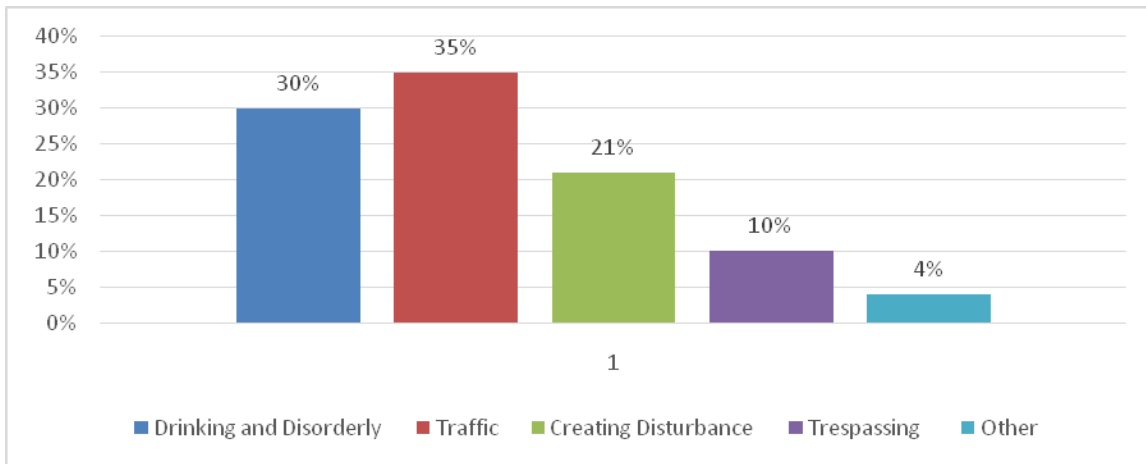


Figure 4.7: Minor Offense that brought the Recidivists back into Prison

Source: Research data, 2024

Figure 4.7 shows that majority of the recidivist respondents (35%) indicated that the minor offense that brought them back into prison was traffic offenses while 30% indicated that the minor offense that brought them back into prison was being drunk and disorderly. 21% of the respondents on the other hand indicated that the minor offense that brought them back into prison was creating disturbance while 10% indicated that it was because of trespassing. Finally, 4% of the respondents indicated that other minor offenses had brought them back into prison.

4.2.8 Capital Offense that brought the Recidivists back into Prison

As a follow up on the offense that brought the recidivists back into prison, the researcher was interested to know which the capital offense was and the results are presented in Figure 4.8 below.

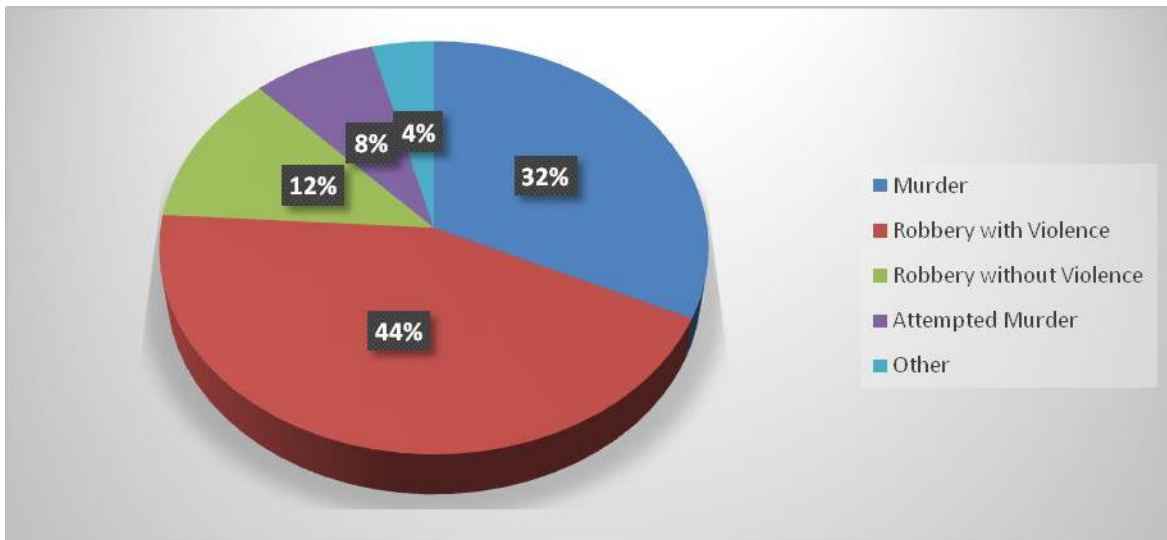


Figure 4. 8: Capital Offense that brought the Recidivists back into Prison

Source: Research data, 2024

Figure 4.8 shows that most of the recidivist respondents (44%) indicated that the capital offense that brought them back into prison was robbery with violence while 32% of the respondents indicated that the capital offense that brought them back into prison was murder. 12% of the respondents indicated that the capital offense that brought them back into prison was robbery without violence while 8% of the respondents indicated that the capital offense that brought them back into prison was attempted murder. Finally, 4% of the respondents indicated that other capital offenses had brought them back into prison. Robbery with violence as the leading offence might point to the lack of or inadequacy of socio-economic skills or training on the part of the offenders. This, to some extent point to a missed objective (s) of rehabilitation programs in the prison.

4.2.9 Recidivists Work Experience

This study also sought to find out whether the recidivists had any work experience and the results are presented in Figure 4.9.

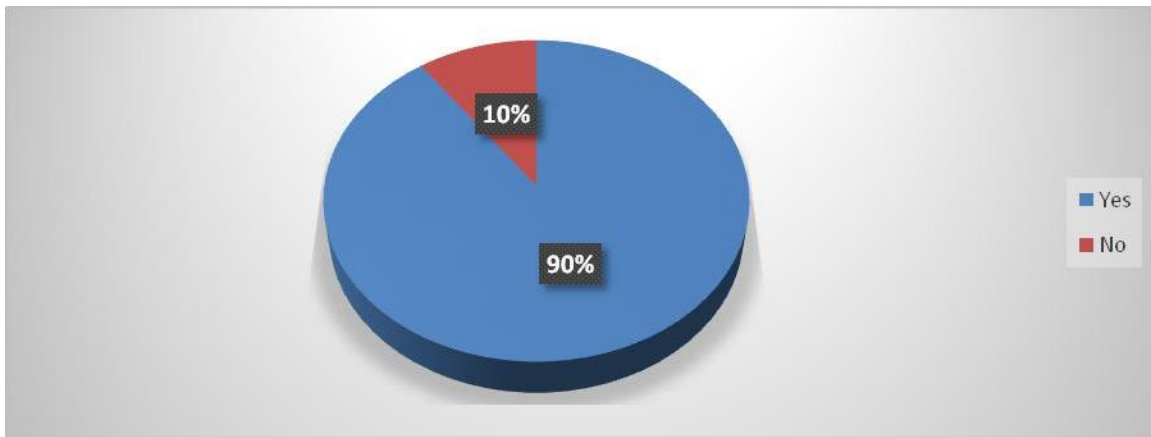


Figure 4.9: Recidivists' Work Experience
Source: Research data, 2024

Figure 4.9 shows that majority of the recidivist respondents (90%) agreed that they have work experience while the remaining 10% indicated that they did not have any work experience.

4.2.10 Recidivists' Work Experience Sector

The researcher sought to establish the sector in which the recidivists with work experience had worked in and the statistically analyzed results are presented in Figure 4.10.

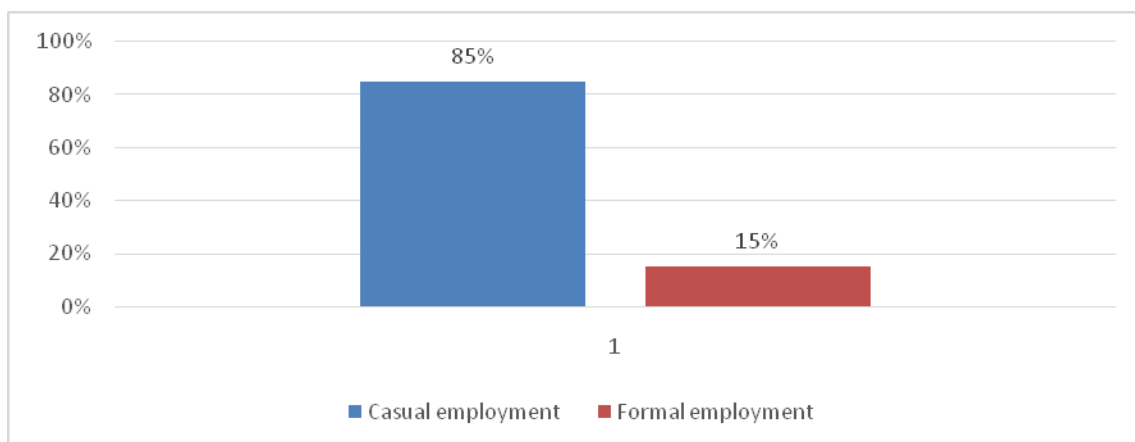


Figure 4.10: Recidivists' Work Experience Sector
Source: Research data, 2024

Figure 4.10 shows that most of the recidivist respondents (85%) indicated that they had worked in casual employment while the remaining 15% indicated that they had worked in formal employment. The short unemployment stints between unstable casual employments might be might push one to offend and reoffend.

4.3 The Link between Education, Social Ties, Employment Opportunities and Poverty and Recidivism

This study sought to determine the link between education, social ties, employment opportunities and poverty and recidivism among prisoners in Ruiru prison. The data was statistically analyzed and the results are presented in Table 4.1 below.

Table 4.1: The Link between Education, Social Ties, Employment Opportunities and Poverty and Recidivism

Items	Mean	Std. Dev
Education		
Having no education increases chances of re-Offending	4.15	1.078
Being a school dropout leads to re-offending	3.90	0.864
Having technical/professional skills reduces the chance of going back to prison	4.27	0.608
Education programs offered in prison empower me to be more productive after serving my sentence	3.85	1.037
Social Ties		
Being visited while in prison encourages me not to reoffend	3.79	0.995
The quality of relationship with my family encourages me not to reoffend	3.77	0.993
Being in a serious relationship with my spouse/romantic partner encourages me not to reoffend	3.65	1.036
The quality of relationship with my friends and peers encourages me not to reoffend	3.20	1.339
Employment Opportunities		
Having a job before being imprisoned encourages me not to reoffend	3.88	0.987
Getting a high quality job after serving my sentence encouraged me not to reoffend	3.44	1.026
Transitional jobs offered by the prison management encourage me not to reoffend	3.20	1.121
Having technical skills to start my business encourages me not to reoffend	3.35	1.066
Poverty		
Lack of financial support leads to ex-prisoners reoffending	3.76	0.995
Being homeless leads to ex-prisoners reoffending	3.84	0.992
Living in an informal settlement leads to ex-prisoners reoffending	3.76	1.046
Unemployment after serving a prison sentence leads to ex-prisoners reoffending	3.87	1.061
Composite Mean	3.73	0.015

Source: Research data, 2024

Table 4.1 shows that the respondents, with a mean=4.15 and standard deviation=1.078 agreed that having no education increases chances of re-offending while the respondents with a mean=3.90 and standard deviation=0.864 agreed that being a school dropout leads to re-offending. The respondents with a mean=4.27 and standard deviation=0.608 further agreed that having technical/professional skills reduces the chance of going back to prison while the respondents with a mean=3.85 and standard deviation=1.037 agreed that education programs offered in prison empower them to be more productive after serving my sentence.

In addition, the recidivist respondents with a mean=3.78 and standard deviation=0.995 agreed that being visited while in prison encourages them not to reoffend while the respondents with a mean=3.77 and standard deviation=0.993 agreed that the quality of relationship with their family encourages them not to reoffend. The respondents with a mean=3.65 and standard deviation=1.036 agreed that being in a serious relationship with their spouse/romantic partner encourages them not to reoffend while the respondents with a mean=3.20 and standard deviation=1.339 agreed that the quality of relationship with their friends and peers encourages them not to reoffend.

The respondents with a mean=3.88 and standard deviation=0.987 agreed that having a job before being imprisoned encourages them not to reoffend while the respondents with a mean=3.44 and standard deviation=1.026 agreed that getting a high quality job after serving their sentence encouraged them not to reoffend. Further, the respondents with a mean=3.20 and standard deviation=1.121 agreed that transitional jobs offered by the prison management encourage them not to reoffend while the respondents with a mean=3.35 and standard

Deviation =1.066 agreed that having technical skills to start their business encourages them not to reoffend.

In addition, the respondents with a mean=3.76 and standard deviation=0.995 agreed that lack of financial support leads to ex-prisoners reoffending while the respondents with a mean=3.84 and standard deviation=0.992 agreed that being homeless leads to ex-prisoners reoffending. The respondents with a mean=3.76 and standard deviation=1.046 agreed that living in an informal settlement leads to ex-prisoners reoffending while the respondents with a mean=3.87 and standard deviation=1.061 agreed that unemployment after serving a prison sentence leads to ex-prisoners reoffending.

The overall mean of 3.78 and standard deviation of 0.015 indicated that the respondents were in agreement that the socio economic factors of education, social ties, employment opportunities and poverty influence recidivism among prisoners in Ruiru Prison.

4.3.1 Educational Programs for the Prisoners

The researcher sought to find out from the administrative staff which educational programs had been put in place for the prisoners at Ruiru Prison. The respondents indicated that prison had vocational training where the prisoners were trained on skills such as carpentry, masonry and tailoring. The respondents also indicated that professional training was also available to the prisoners where they were able to gain skills such as computer studies, counseling and religious studies. The prisoners who had not completed their basic primary and secondary education also had a chance to complete their studies while in prison.

4.3.2 Visiting of Prisoners by Relatives and Friends in Prison

The researcher also requested the administrative staff to indicate how often the re-offenders were visited by relatives and friends while in the prison. The results are presented in Figure 4.11.

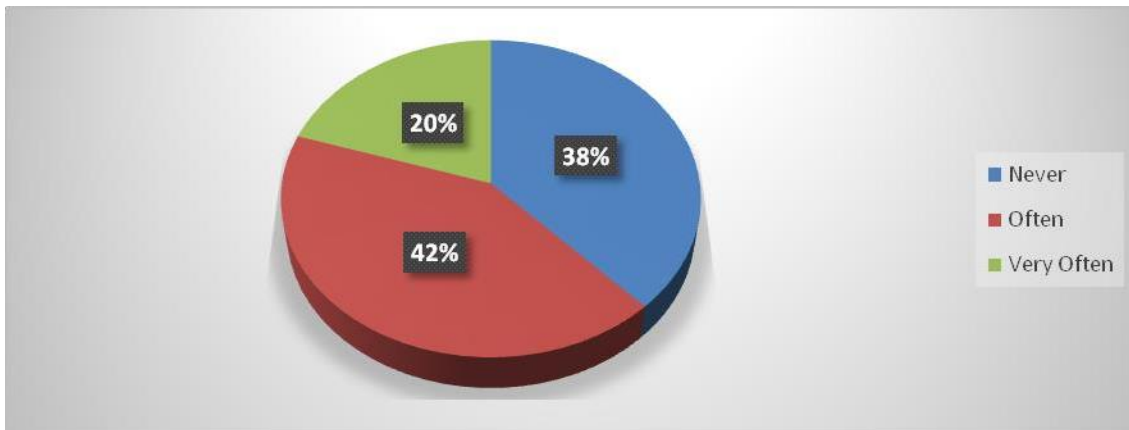


Figure 4.12: Visiting of Recidivists by Relatives and Friends

Source: Research data, 2024

Figure 4.11 shows that majority of the administrative staff respondents 42% indicated that the re-offenders were visited by relatives and friends while in prison often while 38% indicated that the re-offenders were never visited by relatives and friends while in prison. Further, 20% of the administrative staff respondents indicated that the re-offenders were visited by relatives and friends while in prison very often.

4.3.3 Facilitation of Post-Release Employment Opportunities for the Prisoners

The researcher sought to find out from the administrative staff how they facilitate post-release employment opportunities for the prisoners. The majority of respondents (95%) indicated that this was not being done at the moment but it was hoped that with the training the prisoners obtained in prison they would be able to get employed or start their own businesses. Thus, it can be deduced that, with no post-release employment or networking plans, recidivism is

inevitable.

4.3.4 Enhancement of Family Support of Family and Community for the Prisoners

The researcher was also interested in finding out how the administrative staff enhanced family support of family and community for the prisoners. The majority of respondents (85%) indicated that they made the visitations by relatives and friends more accessible. The respondents further indicated that they had allocated adequate time during visitations for the prisoners to interact with their family and friends. In addition, community members who requested to carry out social responsibility activities in the prison were allowed to as this showed the prisoners that the community supported them and was willing to accommodate them after serving their sentences.

4.3.5 Education of Reoffenders in Prison

This study sought to find out from the community/family members from whom the recidivists come from, on whether the re-offenders were educated while in prison. The results from the statistically analyzed results are presented in Figure 4.12.

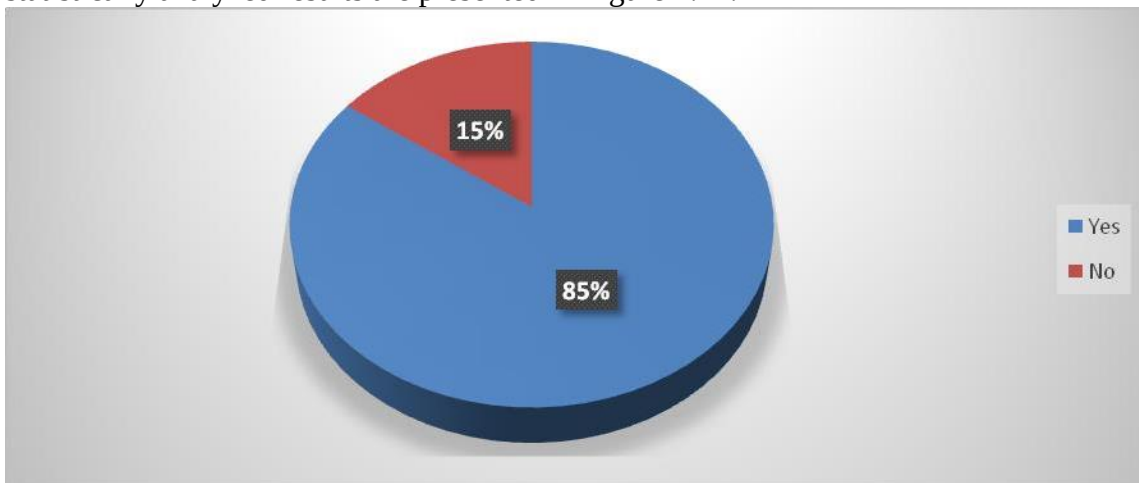


Figure 4. 13: Education of Reoffenders in Prison

Source: Research data, 2024

Figure 4.12 shows that majority of the family members respondents (85%) agreed that the re-offenders got educated during their stay in prison while the remaining 15% indicated that they were not educated while in prison.

4.3.6 Encouragement of Community Members to Offer Employment Opportunities to the Prisoners after they are released

This research was interested in finding out whether the community elders encouraged the members of the community to offer employment opportunities to the prisoners after their release. The results are presented in Figure 4.13.

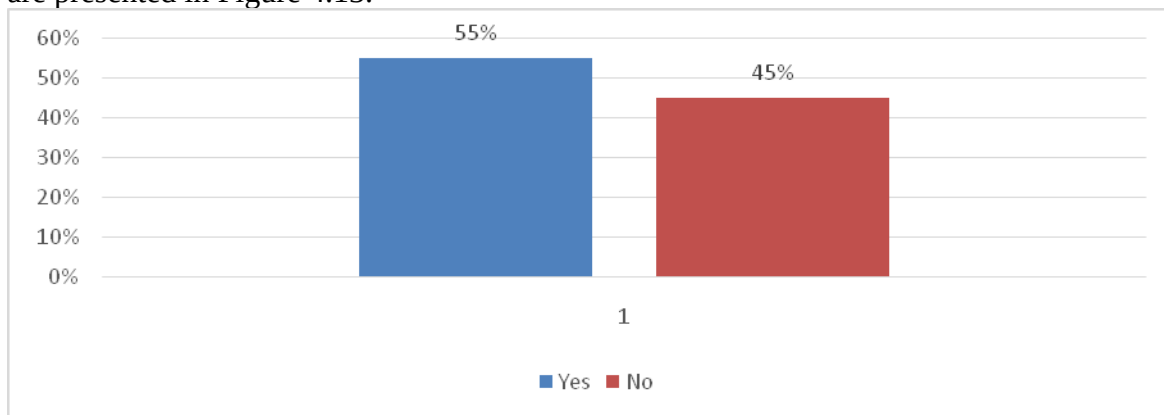


Figure 4. 13: Encouragement to Offer Employment Opportunities to Recidivists
Source: Research data, 2024

Figure 4.13 shows that 55% of the community elders agreed that they encouraged the members of the community to offer employment opportunities to the prisoners after their release while the remaining 45% indicated that they did not encourage the members of the community to offer employment opportunities to the prisoners after their release.

4.3.7 Enhancement of Family Support of Family and Community for the Prisoners after Release

The researcher sought to find out from the community elders how they enhanced support of family and community for the prisoners after release. The respondents indicated that they encouraged family members to accept the ex-prisoners back into the family and offer them

food and shelter. The respondents also indicated that they encouraged community members to offer job opportunities to the recidivists so that they can be able to put their lives back in order. In addition, the respondents indicated that they encouraged family members to open businesses for them or give them start-up capital so that they are able to provide for their needs and feel accepted in the community.

4.4 Strategies Adopted by Ruiru Prison Administration to Manage Social Economic Factors Which Influence Recidivism

This study also sought to establish strategies employed by Ruiru prison administration to manage the social economic factors which influence recidivism among inmates in the prison.

Table 4.2: Strategies Adopted by Ruiru Prison Administration to Manage Social Economic Factors Which Influence Recidivism

Items	Mean	Std. Dev
The prison assesses the needs of the prisoners so as to address them accordingly	3.72	1.062
The prison management provides effective rehabilitation/corrective education	4.37	0.627
The prison management is able to maximize the offender's ability to learn from rehabilitation	4.27	0.611
The prison management considers the prisoner's strength when designing rehabilitation programs	4.13	0.798
The prison management provides treatment to prisoners for substance abuse, family relationships and social support	3.92	0.915
The prison management facilitates post-release employment opportunities for offenders	2.39	1.136
The prison management enhances community/family support and other social ties	2.57	1.065
The prison management encourages the prisoners to actively take part in the rehabilitation programs	3.99	0.993
Composite Mean	3.67	0.901

Source: Research data, 2024

Table 4.2 shows that the respondents, with a mean=3.72 and standard deviation=1.062 agreed that the prison assesses the needs of the prisoners so as to address them accordingly while the

respondents with a mean=4.37 and standard deviation=0.627 agreed that the prison management provides effective rehabilitation/corrective education. The respondents with a mean=4.27 and standard deviation=0.611 further agreed that the prison management was able to maximize the offender's ability to learn from rehabilitation while the respondents with a mean=4.13 and standard deviation=0.798 agreed that the prison management considers the prisoner's strength when designing rehabilitation programs. Further, the respondents with a mean=3.92 and standard deviation=0.915 agreed that the prison management provides treatment to prisoners for substance abuse, family relationships and social support while the respondents with a mean=2.39 and standard deviation 1.136 disagreed that the prison management facilitates post-release employment opportunities for offenders. The respondents with a mean=2.57 and standard deviation=1.065 disagreed that the prison management enhances community/family support and other social ties while the respondents with a mean=3.99 and standard deviation=0.993 agreed that the prison management encourages the prisoners to actively take part in the rehabilitation programs.

A composite mean of 3.67 and a standard deviation of 0.901 was an indication that the stakeholders had adopted various strategies to address the socio-economic challenges faced by recidivists. However, the strategies adopted for post-release employment opportunities and social integration with the community seemed to be inadequate.

4.4.1 Strategies Prison Staff Use to Address the Socio-economic Challenges Faced by Recidivists

This study sought to find out from the administrative staff the strategies/measures the prison staff use to address the socio-economic challenges faced by the recidivists. The respondents indicated that they encouraged the recidivists to attend educational programs so as to get equipped with

skills they could use after serving their sentences. The respondents also indicated that they allowed organizations and members of the community to carry out corporate social responsibility activities in prisons so that they can encourage the prisoners to remain positive and at times give them basic tools for training and toiletries to improve their personal hygiene while in prison. The respondents also indicated that they allowed relatives and friends to visit those in prison and gave them adequate time to socialize as this would show that they are cared for and would be accepted back after serving their sentence.

4.4.2 Rehabilitation Programs Offered in Prison

The researcher was also interested to find out from the administrative staff the rehabilitation programs they offered in Ruiru prison for the prisoners. The respondents indicated that they offered both mandatory and optional activities. The mandatory activities comprised of leather work, tailoring, hairdressing, carpentry and masonry while the optional activities comprised on sports, hobbies and motivational schemes. The respondents indicated that the rehabilitation programs were meant to equip the prisoners with new technologies, management of resources and new skills which they could apply after being released from prison.

4.4.3 Effectiveness of the Rehabilitation Programs offered in Ruiru Prison

This study sought to find out how effective the rehabilitation programs offered in the prison were. Figure 4.14 shows the results.

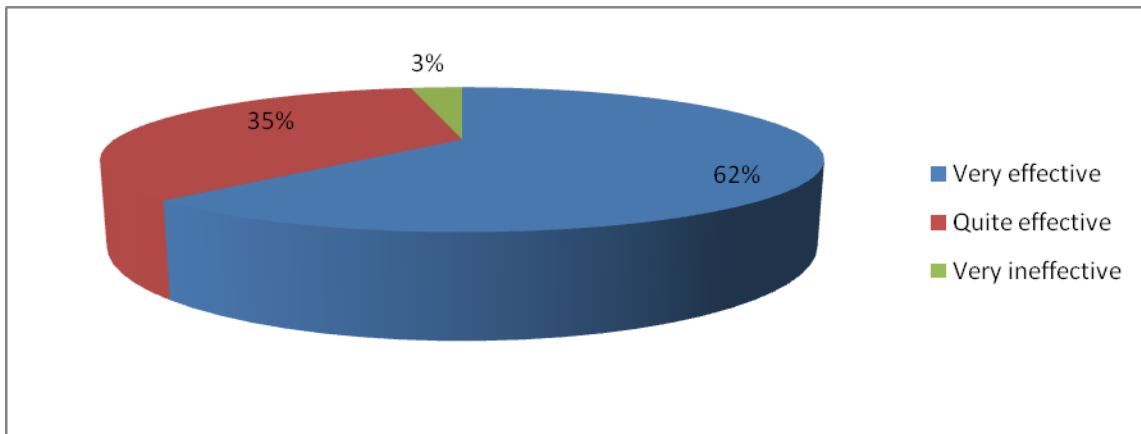


Figure 4.14: Effectiveness of the Rehabilitation Programs offered in Ruiru Prison

Source: Research data, 2024

Figure 4.14 shows that majority of the administrative staff indicated that the rehabilitation programs such as vocational training, spiritual, guidance/counseling, recreational as well as professional training activities offered in Ruiru Prison were very effective in inculcating self-reliance in post-release life situations. Thirty-five (35%) indicated that the rehabilitation programs were quite effective. Finally, 3% of the respondents indicated that the rehabilitation programs offered in Ruiru Prison were very ineffective.

4.5 Challenges that hinder management of social economic factors which influence recidivism among prisoners in Ruiru prison

This study also examined the challenges that impede effective management of social economic factors which influence recidivism among prisoners in Ruiru prison.

Table 4.3: Challenges that hinder management of social economic factors which influence recidivism among prisoners in Ruiru prison

Items	Mean	Std. Dev
Inadequate resources impedes effective management of socioeconomic factors	3.97	0.810
Familial breakdown impedes effective management of socioeconomic factors	4.23	0.778
Social disorganization impedes effective management of socioeconomic factors	3.15	0.936
Unprofessionalism of prison officers impedes effective management of socioeconomic factors	3.77	0.929
Composite Mean	3.78	0.863

Table 4.3 shows that the respondents with a mean=3.97 and standard deviation=0.810 agreed that inadequate resources impedes effective management of socioeconomic factors while the respondents with a mean=4.23 and standard deviation=0.778 agreed that familial breakdown impedes effective management of socioeconomic factors. In addition, the respondents with a mean=3.15 and standard deviation=0.936 agreed that social disorganization impedes effective management of socioeconomic factors while the respondents with a mean=3.77 and a standard deviation=0.929 agreed that unprofessionalism of prison officers impedes effective management of socioeconomic factors.

A composite mean of 3.78 and a standard deviation of 0.863 showed that challenges such as inadequate resources, family breakdown, social disorganization and unprofessionalism affected the effective management of the social economic factors.

The researcher sought to find out the challenges faced by the prison staff in the management of social economic factors that influence recidivism. The administrative staff indicated that they were facing challenges such as work overload due to lack of adequate personnel in the prison. The respondents also indicated that they were facing a challenge of lack of financial resources for the rehabilitation program which affected the overall results. Further, the respondents indicated that they faced a challenge of lack of tools and machines that were required for the implementation of the rehabilitation programs for the recidivists.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

After presenting findings and their discussion in chapter four, this chapter focuses on discussing those findings in relation to other scholarly work and also summarizing those findings. This chapter also provides the conclusions and recommendations based on the findings. Finally, the chapter outlines policy recommendations and suggestions for further study.

5.2 Discussions

5.2.1 To determine the link between educations, social ties, employment opportunities, and poverty and recidivism among prisoners in Ruiru prison.

The findings showed that majority of the recidivist respondents (38%) indicated that their highest level of education of primary while 21% of the respondents indicated that they had no education background. A study by Davis et al., (2013) found that those with lower level of education portrayed higher risk of reoffending. The findings also showed that the respondents, with a mean=4.15 and standard deviation=1.078 agreed that having no education increases chances of re-offending while the respondents with a mean=3.90 and standard deviation=0.864 agreed that being a school dropout leads to re-offending. The findings are supported by Duke (2018) who noted that men who have lower educational attainment rates prior to incarceration were more prone to recidivate.

The respondents with a mean=4.27 and standard deviation=0.608 further agreed that having technical/professional skills reduces the chance of going back to prison while the respondent

with a mean=3.85 and standard deviation=1.037 agreed that education programs offered in prison empower them to be more productive after serving my sentence. The administrative staff respondents indicated that prison had vocational training where the prisoners were trained on skills such as carpentry, masonry and tailoring. The findings are in tandem with those of Davis et al., (2013) who noted that with the right education or vocational skills such as tailoring, carpentry, masonry or other professional skills, offenders will become self-reliant and reduces their chances of going back into the prison for subsequent times. The respondents also indicated that professional training was also available to the prisoners where they were able to gain skills such as computer studies, counseling and religious studies. The prisoners who had not completed their basic primary and secondary education also had a chance to complete their studies while in prison. Ntombizanele (2019) noted that education changed behavior, improved literacy levels, equipped offenders with skills, improved self-confidence and transformed offenders into law-abiding productive citizens.

In addition, majority of the Nyumba Kumi community elders' respondents (85%) agreed that the reoffenders in the community had been educated while in prison while the remaining 15% indicated that the reoffenders in the community had not been educated while in prison. The findings conform to those of Gammage (2020) who found that education programmes offered should include academic and career technology as this would assist in supporting community reintegration.

The findings on social ties showed that majority of the recidivist respondents (28%) indicated that they were separated while 25% indicated that they were single. Wallace, *et. al.*, (2020) posited that offenders should be encouraged to maintain their social ties as they would be more

successful in desisting from criminal behavior. In addition, the recidivist respondents with a mean=3.78 and standard deviation=0.995 agreed that being visited while in prison encourages them not to reoffend while the respondents with a mean=3.77 and standard deviation=0.993 agreed that the quality of relationship with their family encourages them not to reoffend. These findings are supported by Sullivan *et. al.*, (2002) who established that family and community support to inmates in prison and post-prison lives is very important in the re-integration process.

The respondents with a mean=3.65 and standard deviation=1.036 agreed that being in a serious relationship with their spouse/romantic partner encourages them not to reoffend while the respondents with a mean=3.20 and standard deviation=1.339 agreed that the quality of relationship with their friends and peers encourages them not to reoffend. The findings are similar with those of Mooney and Bala (2018) who found that family connections were important as they offered critical emotional and psychological support and they also helped incarcerated individuals gain practical support that aids successful re-entry in the society. In addition, majority of the administrative staff respondents 42% indicated that the reoffenders were visited by relatives and friends while in prison often. The respondents indicated that they made the visitations by relatives and friends more accessible. This is in line with Mooney and Bala (2018) who suggested that prisons should make visitations more accessible and productive as this would reduce re-incarceration.

The administrative staff respondents further indicated that they had allocated adequate time during visitations for the prisoners to interact with their family and friends. In addition

Community members who requested to carry out social responsibility activities in the prison were allowed to as this showed the prisoners that the community supported them and was willing to accommodate them after serving their sentences. The respondents indicated that they encouraged family members to accept the ex-prisoners back into the family and offer them food and shelter. The respondents also indicated that they encouraged community members to offer job opportunities to the recidivists so that they can be able to put their lives back in order. In addition, the respondents indicated that they encouraged family members to open businesses for them or give them start-up capital so that they are able to provide for their needs and feel accepted in the community. The findings are supported by Atkin-Plunk and Armstrong (2018) who established that offenders should be encouraged to stay with their families in order to have a better post-incarceration outcome.

The findings on employment opportunities showed that majority of the recidivist respondents (90%) agreed that they have work experience while the remaining 10% indicated that they did not have any work experience. In addition, most of the recidivist respondents (85%) indicated that they had worked in casual employment while the remaining 15% indicated that they had worked in formal employment. A study by Benda *et al.*, (2005) found that full time employment tends to show increased time before an ex-prisoner reoffends proving that the more times the individual engages in stable and fulltime employment, the risk of reoffending consequently reduces.

The recidivist respondents with a mean=3.88 and standard deviation=0.987 agreed that having a job before being imprisoned encourages them not to reoffend while the respondents with a mean=3.44 and standard deviation=1.026 agreed that getting a high quality job after serving

their sentence encouraged them not to reoffend. The findings are in tandem with those of Ramakers, *et al.*, (2016) who established that stable employment and positions with a higher occupational level, can significantly reduce crime rates among high-risk offenders. Further, the respondents with a mean=3.20 and standard deviation=1.121 agreed that transitional jobs offered by the prison management encourage them not to reoffend while the respondents with a mean=3.35 and standard deviation=1.066 agreed that having technical skills to start their business encourages them not to reoffend. According to Valentine and Redcross (2015) transitional jobs program reduced recidivism by providing temporary paid work and other services in order to improve participants' job chances while reducing re-incarceration.

The administrative staff respondents indicated that there were no transitional job programs at the moment but it was hoped that with the training the prisoners obtained in prison they would be able to get employed or start their own businesses. As noted by Ramakers, *et al.*, (2016) ex-prisoners should be helped to get stable employment as this could reduce re-incarceration. Further, 55% of the *Nyumba Kumi* elders agreed that they encouraged the members of the community to offer employment opportunities to the prisoners after their release while the remaining 45% indicated that they did not encourage the members of the community to offer employment opportunities to the prisoners after their release. The findings are supported by Yu (2018) who posited that ex-prisoners' should be assisted in obtaining higher-quality jobs in order to prevent recidivism.

The findings on poverty showed that the recidivist respondents with a mean=3.76 and standard deviation=0.995 agreed that lack of financial support leads to ex-prisoners reoffending while the respondents with a mean=3.84 and standard deviation=0.992 agreed that being homeless

leads to ex-prisoners reoffending. The findings are supported by Tegeng and Abadi (2018) who found that factors such as poverty and poor living conditions contributed to recidivism as they led to people engaging in criminal activities repeatedly. The respondents with a mean=3.76 and standard deviation=1.046 agreed that living in an informal settlement leads to ex-prisoners reoffending. According to Morenoff and Harding (2011) offenders who returned to disadvantaged communities had more negative labor market outcomes, such as less employment and lower income, which led to a return to jail. The respondents with a mean=3.87 and standard deviation=1.061 agreed that unemployment after serving a prison sentence leads to ex-prisoners reoffending. A study by Feinberg (2019) revealed that poverty was a leading driver of incarceration and incarceration was a leading driver of poverty.

5.2.2 To establish strategies that have been adopted by various stakeholders to manage socio-economic factors which influence recidivism among prisoners in Ruiru prison

The findings showed that the recidivist respondents, with a mean=3.72 and standard deviation =1.062 agreed that the prison assesses the needs of the prisoners so as to address them accordingly while the respondents with a mean=4.37 and standard deviation=0.627 agreed that the prison management provides effective rehabilitation/corrective education. The findings are in line with those of Davis et al., (2013) who noted that inmates who participated in correctional education program were 43% less likely to recidivate compared to those who did not participate. The respondents with a mean=4.27 and standard deviation=0.611 further agreed that the prison management was able to maximize the offender's ability to learn from rehabilitation while the respondents with a mean=4.13 and standard deviation=0.798 agreed that the prison management considers the prisoner's strength when designing rehabilitation programs. Finn &Willoughby, (2006) posited that there was a need to support inmates to

become self-reliant through empowerment programmes before they are discharged. This would facilitate post-release employment opportunities for the offenders.

Further, the respondents with a mean=3.92 and standard deviation=0.915 agreed that the prison management provides treatment to prisoners for substance abuse, family relationships and social support while the respondents with a mean=2.39 and standard deviation 1.136 disagreed that the prison management facilitates post-release employment opportunities for offenders. The respondents with a mean=2.57 and standard deviation=1.065 disagreed that the prison management enhances community/family support and other social ties while the respondents with a mean=3.99 and standard deviation=0.993 agreed that the prison management encourages the prisoners to actively take part in the rehabilitation programs. The findings are supported by Oruta (2015) who proposed that many stakeholders should collaborate to create a social service network that connects people to post-release supportive services like education and job training, as these can aid legitimately those who wish to return to their communities after incarceration

In addition, the administrative staff respondents indicated that they encouraged the recidivists to attend educational programs so as to get equipped with skills they could use after serving their sentences. The respondents also indicated that they allowed organizations and members of the community to carry out corporate social responsibility activities in prisons so that they can encourage the prisoners to remain positive and at times give them basic tools for training and toiletries to improve their personal hygiene while in prison. The respondents also indicated that they allowed relatives and friends to visit those in prison and gave them adequate time to socialize as this would show that they are cared for and would be accepted back after serving

their sentence. This is in line with Feinberg (2019) whose study suggested that community groups and other organizations should help individuals to reintegrate back in the society through donations, financial support and equipping them with skills that will enable them to break the cycle of incarceration.

Further, the administrative staff indicated that they offered both mandatory and optional activities. The mandatory activities comprised of leather work, tailoring, hairdressing, carpentry and masonry while the optional activities comprised on sports, hobbies and motivational schemes. The respondents indicated that the rehabilitation programs were meant to equip the prisoners with new technologies, management of resources and new skills which they could apply after being released from prison. The administrative staff also indicated that the rehabilitation programs offered in Ruiru Prison were very effective. As noted by Oruta (2015) effective pre-release programs, such as correctional education, were required to lower recidivism rates.

5.2.3 To assess the challenges that impede effective management of social economic factors which influence recidivism among prisoners in Ruiru prison

The findings showed that the recidivist respondents with a mean=3.97 and standard deviation=0.810 agreed that inadequate resources impedes effective management of socioeconomic factors. This conforms to the findings by Tegeng and Abadi (2018) who noted that lack of adequate financial aid to prison affected the successful reintegration into society. The respondents with a mean=4.23 and standard deviation=0.778 agreed that familial breakdown impedes effective management of socioeconomic factors.

In addition, the respondents with a mean=3.15 and standard deviation=0.936 agreed that social disorganization impedes effective management of socioeconomic factors. As noted by Pratt and Cullen (2005) social disorder is a key predictor of criminality. In addition, the respondents with a mean=3.77 and a standard deviation=0.929 agreed that unprofessionalism of prison officers impedes effective management of socioeconomic factors. The findings are supported by Tate *et al.*, (2017) who found that prison officers lack relevant skills or fail to use rehabilitation skills.

The administrative staff on the other hand indicated that they were facing challenges such as work overload due to lack of adequate personnel in the prison. The respondents also indicated that they were facing a challenge of lack of financial resources for the rehabilitation program which affected the overall results. A study by Omboto (2010) established that the capacity of the service in rehabilitating inmates was hindered by the inadequacy of resources. The study also revealed that this inadequacy of resources manifested in improper training of staff that leading to unprofessionalism. Further, the respondents indicated that they faced a challenge of lack of tools and machines that were required for the implementation of the rehabilitation programs for the recidivists. A study by Sikasa (2015) noted that equipping prisons with tools, equipment and capital goes a long way in reducing recidivism.

5.3 Summary of Main Findings

On education, the findings showed that the recidivists had acquired low levels of education while others had not education background. The recidivists were in agreement that having no education increases chances of re-offending and that being a school dropout leads to re-offending. In addition, the recidivists agreed that having technical/professional skills reduces

the chance of going back to prison and that education programs offered in prison empower them to be more productive after serving my sentence. The administrative staff indicated that prison had vocational training where the prisoners were trained on skills such as carpentry, masonry and tailoring. This was confirmed by the *Nyumba Kumi* respondents who agreed that the reoffenders in the community had been educated while in prison.

On social ties, most of the recidivist respondents indicated that they were separated while others indicated that they were single. In addition, the recidivist agreed that being visited while in prison encouraged them not to reoffend and that the quality of relationship with their family encourages them not to reoffend. Further, the recidivists were in agreement that being in a serious relationship with their spouse/romantic partner encouraged them not to reoffend while the quality of relationship with their friends and peers was also crucial in discouraging them not to reoffend. On the other hand, the administrative staff respondents indicated that the reoffenders were visited by relatives and friends while in prison often while some reoffenders were never visited by relatives and friends while in prison. The administrative staff indicated that they made the visitations by relatives and friends more accessible and that they allocated adequate time during visitations.

In addition, community members who requested to carry out social responsibility activities in the prison were allowed to as this showed the prisoners that the community supported them and was willing to accommodate them after serving their sentences. The *nyumba kumi* elders on their part indicated that they encouraged family members to accept the ex-prisoners back into the family and offer them food and shelter. They also encouraged community members to offer job opportunities to the recidivists so that they can be able to put their lives back in order. In

addition, the *nyumba kumi* elders indicated that they encouraged family members to open businesses for them or give them start-up capital so that they are able to provide for their needs and feel accepted in the community.

On employment opportunities, the recidivists were in agreement that they had work experience mostly in casual employment. The recidivists also agreed that having a job before being imprisoned encourages them not to reoffend and that getting a high quality job after serving their sentence encouraged them not to reoffend. Further, the recidivists were in agreement that transitional jobs offered by the prison management and being equipped with technical skills encouraged them not to reoffend. The administrative staff pointed out they did not have were not linking recidivists to jobs after serving their time. On the other hand, the Nyumba Kumi elders agreed that they encouraged the members of the community to offer employment opportunities to the prisoners after their release.

On poverty, the recidivists agreed that lack of financial support and being homeless leads to ex-prisoners reoffending. The recidivists were also in agreement that living in an informal settlement and being unemployed after serving a prison sentence leads to ex-prisoners reoffending.

The second objective of this study was to establish strategies that have been adopted by various stakeholders to manage social economic factors which influence recidivism among prisoners in Ruiru prison. The recidivists were in agreement that the prison assesses the needs of the prisoners so as to address them accordingly and that the prison management provides effective rehabilitation/corrective education. The recidivists further agreed that the prison management

was able to maximize the offender's ability to learn from rehabilitation and they considered the prisoner's strength when designing rehabilitation programs.

In addition, the recidivists agreed that the prison management provides treatment to prisoners for substance abuse, family relationships and social support but the management did not facilitates post-release employment opportunities for offenders. The recidivists also disagreed that the prison management enhances community/family support and other social ties but they encouraged the prisoners to actively take part in the rehabilitation programs. The administrative staff indicated that they encouraged the recidivists to attend educational programs so as to get equipped with skills they could use after serving their sentences. The staff also allowed organizations and members of the community to carry out corporate social responsibility activities in prisons so that they can encourage the prisoners to remain positive and at times give them basic tools for training and toiletries to improve their personal hygiene while in prison. The administrative staff also allowed relatives and friends to visit those in prison and gave them adequate time to socialize.

In addition, the administrative staff indicated that they offered both mandatory and optional activities under the rehabilitation programs to equip the prisoners with new technologies, management of resources and new skills which they could apply after being released from prison. The administrative staff noted that the rehabilitation programs offered in Ruiru Prison were very effective.

The third objective of this study was to assess the challenges that impede effective management of social economic factors which influence recidivism among prisoners in Ruiru

prison. The recidivists were in agreement that inadequate resources, familial breakdown social disorganization and unprofessionalism impede effective management of socioeconomic factors. On the other hand, the administrative staff indicated that they were facing challenges such as work overload due to lack of adequate personnel in the prison, lack of financial resources for the rehabilitation program and lack of tools and machines that were required for the implementation of the rehabilitation programs for the recidivists.

5.4 Conclusion

The study concludes that the social economic factors – education, social ties, employment opportunities and poverty influenced recidivism among prisoners in Ruiru Prison but having technical/professional skills reduces that chance. It is also shows that the quality of relationship with their family encourages them not to reoffend especially regular visits by family and friends. This study further revealed that encouraging community members to offer job opportunities to the recidivists after serving their term and also offering them accommodation, food and shelter enables them to put their lives back in order. The prison management not linking recidivists to jobs after serving their time may lead to the re-incarceration and also lack of financial support, being homeless, being unemployed and living in an informal settlement can lead to reoffending.

This study found out that effective rehabilitation programs which offer both mandatory and optional activities are provided by the prison management in an attempt to maximize the Offender's ability to learn. It is also concluded that there are no post-release employment opportunities offered to offenders by the prison management or family support. The study further concludes that the prison management allows community members and corporate organizations to offer their support to the prisoners such as basic tools for training.

The challenges facing effective management of social economic factors are inadequate resources, familial breakdown social disorganization, work overload due to lack of adequate personnel in the prison, lack of financial resources for the rehabilitation program and lack of tools and machines that were required for the implementation of the rehabilitation programs for the recidivists.

5.5 Recommendations

The study recommends the following:

- The government should introduce more academic programs in prisons and also offer training to the prison officers to equip them with the necessary skills to offer the training.
- Community leaders should encourage family members and members in their communities to have a positive attitude towards ex-prisoners as quality relationships are important in keeping them out of prison.
- Community members should offer job opportunities to the recidivists after serving their term instead of sidelining them.
- The government should partner with other stakeholders and provide a link that will enable the recidivists get transitional jobs upon release from prison.
- The government should formulate policy to put in place shelters to house ex-

Prisoners before they become stable as this will encourage provision of their basic needs before they can take care of themselves.

- The prison management should continue offering the mandatory and optional activities in their rehabilitation programs as this will equip the recidivists with adequate skills which they can use post-release.
- The government should partner with corporate organizations so as to offer qualified ex-prisoners opportunities of employment in their organizations.
- Families of ex-prisoners should be encouraged to offer social support to them and also fund their businesses upon release so that they become independent.
- The government should allocate adequate financial resources to prisons so that they are able to effectively manage the rehabilitation programs.
- The government should recruit more prison officers so as to make the workload manageable.
- The government should equip the rehabilitation centres in prisons with enough tools and machines which are required to implement the rehabilitation programs for the recidivists.

5.6 Areas of Further Research

This study only focused on four social economic factors – education, social ties, employment opportunities and poverty. It is recommended that further research can focus on other social economic factors to compare the results. This study only focused on recidivists. It is therefore recommended that further research can focus on how social economic factors influence all prisoners. This study was carried out in Ruiru prison which only accommodates male

Prisoners. Therefore, it is recommended that a comparative study be carried out between male prisoners and female prisoners to compare the results.

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APPENDICES

Appendix I: Questionnaire for Prisoners

Dear Respondent,

I am an M.A student at Africa Nazarene University. I am required to conduct a research work. The title of this research is Socioeconomic Factors Influencing Recidivism in Kenya Prisons: A Case Study of Ruiru Prison. I would be so grateful if you spend a few minutes of your time to complete this questionnaire. I assure you that any information collected will be used strictly for academic purposes and will be confidential as they will only be used in the academic research. Thank you for your assistance.

Section A: Demographic information

Please tick () where appropriate

1. Gender:

Female []

Male []

2. Age group:

18-34 []

35-44 []

45-54 []

55-64 []

Above 65 []

3. What is your highest level of education?

No education []

Primary []

Secondary []

Tertiary []

4. What is your marital status?

Single []

Married []

Divorced []

Widowed []

Separated []

5. How long have you been in the prison?

Less than 6 months	☐	7-12 months	☐
1-5 years	☐	6-10 years	☐
Above 10 years	☐		

6. How many times have you been brought back to prison?

Once	☐	Twice	☐
Thrice	☐	Fourth	☐
Five	☐	More than five times	☐

7. What is the offense that brought you into this prison?

Minor	☐	Capital	☐
-------	--------------------------	---------	--------------------------

8. If Minor, which minor offense?

Drinking & Disorderly	☐	Traffic	☐
Creating disturbance	☐	Trespassing	☐
Other			

9. If capital, which capital offense?

Murder	☐	Robbery with violence	☐
Robbery without violence	☐	Attempted murder	☐
Other	☐		

10. Do you have any work experience?

Yes	☐	No	☐
-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------

11. If yes to 10 above, please tick the appropriate sectors

Casual employment	☐	Formal employment	☐
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Section B: Socio-economic Factors

This section contains items to determine the social economic factors which influence recidivism among prisoners in Ruiru prison. Please rate the following statement on a scale of 1-5, where 1= Strongly Disagree, 2= Disagree, 3= Neutral, 4= Agree and 5= Strongly Agree.

No.	Statement	1	2	3	4	5
Education						
1	Having no education increases chances of re-offending					
2	Being a school dropout leads to re-offending					
3	Having technical/professional skills reduces the chance of going back to prison					
4	Education programs offered in prison empower me to be more productive after service my sentence					
Social Ties						
1	Being visited while in prison encourages me not to reoffend					
2	The quality of relationship with my family encourages me not to reoffend					
3	Being in a serious relationship with my spouse/romantic partner encourages me not to reoffend					
4	The quality of relationship with my friends and peers encourages me not to reoffend					
Employment Opportunities						
1	Having a job before being imprisoned encourages me not to reoffend					
2	Getting a high quality job after serving my sentence encouraged me not to reoffend					
3	Transitional jobs offered by the prison management encourage me not to reoffend					
4	Having technical skills to start my business encourages me not to reoffend					
Poverty						
1	Lack of financial support leads to ex-prisoners reoffending					
2	Being homeless leads to ex-prisoners reoffending					

3	Living in an informal settlement leads to ex-prisoners reoffending					
4	Unemployment after serving a prison sentence leads to ex-prisoners reoffending					

C: Strategies to Reduce Recidivism

This section contains items to establish strategies that have been adopted by various stakeholders to manage social economic factors which influence recidivism among prisoners in Ruiru prison. Please rate the following statement on a scale of 1-5, where 1= Strongly Disagree, 2= Disagree, 3= Neutral, 4= Agree and 5= Strongly Agree.

	Strategies	1	2	3	4	5
1	The prison assesses the needs of the prisoners so as to address them accordingly					
2	The prison management provides effective rehabilitation /corrective education					
3	The prison management is able to maximize the offender's ability to learn from rehabilitation					
4	The prison management considers the prisoner's strength when designing rehabilitation programs					
5	The prison management provides treatment to prisoners for substance abuse, family relationships and social support					
6	The prison management facilitates post-release employment opportunities for offenders					
7	The prison management enhances community/family support and other social ties					
8	The prison management encourages the prisoners to actively take part in the rehabilitation programs					

D: Challenges that Impede Effective Management of Socioeconomic Factors

This section contains items to assess the challenges that impede effective management of social economic factors which influence recidivism among prisoners in Ruiru prison. Please rate the following statement on a scale of 1-5, where 1= Strongly Disagree, 2= Disagree, 3= Neutral, 4= Agree and 5= Strongly Agree.

	Challenges	1	2	3	4	5
1	Inadequate resources impedes effective management of socioeconomic factors					
2	Familial breakdown impedes effective management of socioeconomic factors					
3	Society disorganization impedes effective management of socioeconomic factors					
4	Unprofessionalism of prison officers impedes effective management of socioeconomic factors					

E: Recidivism

This section contains items on recidivism at Ruiru Prison. Please rate the following statement on a scale of 1-5, where 1= Strongly Disagree, 2= Disagree, 3= Neutral, 4= Agree and 5= Strongly Agree.

	Recidivism	1	2	3	4	5
1	The number of prisoners reformed at Ruiru prison has increased					
2	There is no prison congestion at Ruiru prison due to a reduction in the number of repeat offenders					
3	The time spent outside by prisoners after release has increased					
4	Socioeconomic factors have influenced recidivism in Ruiru prison					

Appendix II: Interview Schedule for the Prison Administrative Staff

Section A: Demographic information

1. Gender:

Female []

Male []

2. Age group:

18-34 []

35-44 []

45-54 []

55-64 []

Above 65 []

3. What is your highest level of education?

No education []

Primary []

Secondary []

Tertiary []

Section B: Socioeconomic Factors

1. Which educational programs do you have in place for the prisoners?

2. How often are the re-offenders visited by relatives and friends while in the prison?

Never ☐

Often ☐

Very often ☐

3. How do you facilitate post-release employment opportunities for the prisoners?

4. How do you enhance family support of family and community for the prisoners?

Section C: Strategies to Reduce Recidivism

1. What are the measures/strategies prison staff use to address the socio-economic challenges faced by the recidivists?

2. As a department, what are the rehabilitation programmes you offer to prisoners in this prison?

3. How effective are the rehabilitation programmes offered in this prison?

Very effective ☐

Quite effective ☐

Very ineffective ☐

Section D: Challenges faced by the prisons staff and the strategies used to manage the socioeconomic factors that influence recidivism

5. What are the challenges you encounter when rehabilitating inmates in this prison?

6. What are the factors contributing to prisoners coming back to prison time and again?

Appendix III: Focused Group Discussions for elders from the community whom inmates are drawn.

- 1. As *nyumba kumi* elders, what are the factors contributing youth in your community(s) to engage in crime?
.....
.....
.....
- 2. What are the measures you take to ensure that youth here don't engage in crime?
.....
.....
.....
- 3. Did the inmates receive education while in prison?
Yes ☐ No ☐
- 4. Do you encourage or help prisoners get employment opportunities after release?
Yes ☐ No ☐
- 5. In what ways do you encourage family/or community members to support prisoners after release?

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

Appendix IV: Map of Study Area

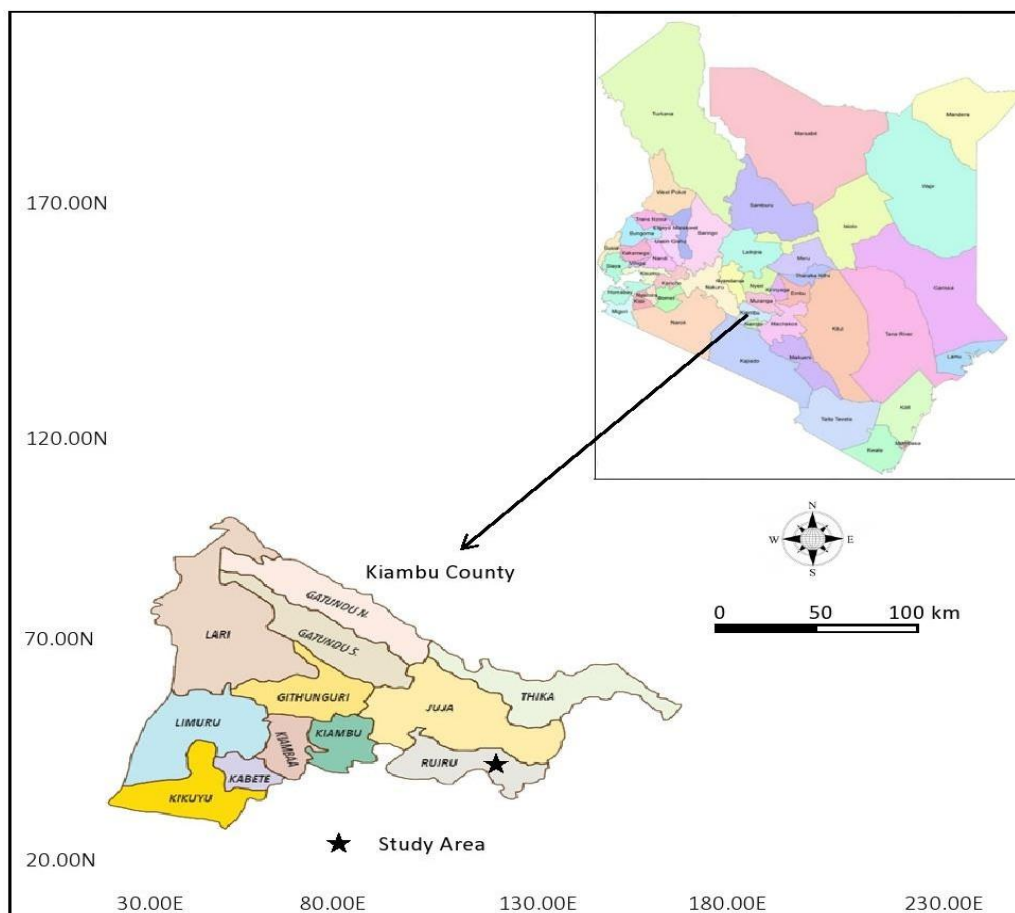


Figure: Map of Kiambu County (Study Area)

Source: Researcher (2023)

Appendix V: African Nazarene University Approval Letter



AFRICA NAZARENE
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23rd April 2024

RE: TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Amos Ithara Kaibiria (19M03DMGP059) is a bonafide student at Africa Nazarene University. He has finished his course work and has defended his thesis proposal entitled: -

"Socio-Economic Factors Influencing and Recidivism in Kenya Prisons: Case Study of Ruiru Prison, Kiambu County".

Any assistance accorded to him to facilitate data collection and finish his thesis is highly welcomed.

Prof. Rodney Reed
Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic & Student Affairs

Appendix VI: Research Permit by NACOSTI

 REPUBLIC OF KENYA	 NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION
Ref No: 738728	Date of Issue: 05/June/2024
RESEARCH LICENSE	
	
This is to Certify that Mr.. Ithara Amos Kaibiria of Africa Nazarene University, has been licensed to conduct research as per the provision of the Science, Technology and Innovation Act, 2013 (Rev.2014) in Kiambu on the topic: Socio-Economic Factors Influencing Recidivism in Kenya Prisons: A Case Study of Ruiru Prison, Kiambu County for the period ending : 05/June/2025.	
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THE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION ACT, 2013 (Rev. 2014)
Legal Notice No. 108: The Science, Technology and Innovation (Research Licensing) Regulations, 2014

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1. The License is granted subject to provisions of the Constitution of Kenya, the Science, Technology and Innovation Act, and other relevant laws, policies and regulations. Accordingly, the licensee shall adhere to such procedures, standards, code of ethics and guidelines as may be prescribed by regulations made under the Act, or prescribed by provisions of International treaties of which Kenya is a signatory to
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 - i. Endanger national security
 - ii. Adversely affect the lives of Kenyans
 - iii. Be in contravention of Kenya's international obligations including Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN).
 - iv. Result in exploitation of intellectual property rights of communities in Kenya
 - v. Adversely affect the environment
 - vi. Adversely affect the rights of communities
 - vii. Endanger public safety and national cohesion
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14. The Commission shall have powers to acquire from any person the right in, or to, any scientific innovation, invention or patent of strategic importance to the country.
15. Relevant Institutional Scientific and Ethical Review Committee shall monitor and evaluate the research periodically, and make a report of its findings to the Commission for necessary action.

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