

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC DETERMINANTS OF YOUTH DRIVEN CRIMINAL
ACTIVITIES IN KENYA: A STUDY OF LAMU WEST-SUB COUNTY**

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**A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements For the Degree of
Master of Science in Governance, Peace and Security Studies in the Department
of Governance, Peace and Conflict Studies, School of Humanities and Social
Sciences of Africa Nazarene University**

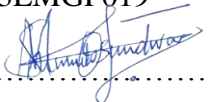
June 2021

DECLARATION

I declare that this document and the thesis it describes are my original work and that they have not been presented in any other university for academic work.


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DEDICATION

I dedicate this research work to my mother Irene Akinyi and family members; Promise Latoya, Nikita Shukran, and Gabriel Legend for their endured aid before and during this research work.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I give thanks to the mighty God for giving me adequate time and power to undertake this process. My exclusive gratefulness also goes to my supervisors; Dr. Sylvia Tuikong, Dr. Joyce Mokamba for their well-timed help for the duration of this process. Special appreciation additionally goes to my family members; my children Promise Latoya, Nikita Shukran, and Gabriel Legend. To my loving mother Irene Akinyi, brothers; Omar Shiundu and Haroun Shiundu for the massive support. I would like to recognize the Africa Nazarene fraternity too for creating an enabling atmosphere for learning. Additionally, to my fellow workmates and friends for their patience and endurance during the entire study period.

ABSTRACT

The relationship between crime and socioeconomic indicators varies by region and by country. In Kenya, socioeconomic indicators of youth crime are meagerly studied; however, some studies focus solely on economic indicators of crime, leaving out the deterrent variable. The aim of this study was to discover the socioeconomic determinants of youth-driven criminal activity in Lamu County, Kenya. The study's goals were to: assess the socioeconomic factors that motivate youth participation in criminal activities in Lamu West Sub-County, Lamu County, Kenya; determine the nature of youth-driven criminal activities motivated by socioeconomic factors in Lamu West Sub-County, Lamu County, Kenya; examine the socioeconomic strategies adopted by the local community that contribute to the reduction of youth-driven criminal activities in Lamu West Sub-County, Lamu County, Kenya and; determine whether the existing legal and policy framework is supporting reduction of youth driven criminal activities within Lamu West Sub-County, Kenya. The differential association theory, frustration-aggression theory, and Maslow's needs theory were used in the research. Local community members (Nyumba Kumi members), chiefs/sub-chiefs, security forces/top police personnel, business people, youth leaders, and members of criminal groups were among the 605 respondents in this descriptive research design. A total of 181 people were polled for the study. Local residents, businesspeople, and youth leaders were also sampled using a stratified random sampling technique. Snowball sampling was used to sample members of criminal gangs, while purposive sampling was used to sample security personnel/top police officers, and area chiefs/sub-chiefs. Questionnaires and main informant interviews were used to collect data from the area. To pretest the questionnaire, a pilot test was conducted with 10% of the respondents in Kilifi Sub-County. For subsequent descriptive analytics, quantitative data was sorted, cleaned, coded, and analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 23 and presented using maps, statistics, tables, frequencies, and percentages. Thematic research was used to interpret qualitative data by implementing narratives that related to the study objectives. In the Lamu West Sub-County, the results revealed a strong and positive association between socio-economic factors ($r=0.924$, $p<0.05$) and youth involvement in illegal activities. In the sub-county, there was a strong and important link between these measures and youth-related crimes ($r=0.878$, $p<0.05$). Finally, government policies in Lamu West Sub-County that encourage youth to participate in illegal activities had a positive association with a youth-driven crime in the study area ($r=0.694$, $p<0.05$). The policies and initiatives should be put in place by security agencies to improve security. The department for youth should put in place strategies such as establishment of youth development, promotion of technical vocational education training, and enhancing access to government procurement and finance facilities. Peer pressure should be dealt with through the requisite psychosocial support interventions by the department for youth and non-governmental organizations. The Government of Lamu County should also put in place measures aimed at spurring economic growth in Lamu West-County through infrastructure development among other interventions. Funding should be availed to support community awareness-raising campaigns to rein in on radicalization practices and behaviors. Youth leaders should also be trained on how to support their colleagues to shun criminal behaviors.

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OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF TERMS

- Crime:** Refers to an action that constitutes an offense and is liable to be punished by the court of law (Chatterjee & Ronneberg, 2017). In this study, this refers to acts like rape, robbery, and burglary among others which are harmful and infringements to both human rights and common law.
- Criminal Activities:** Refers to acts committed in breach of law where the result of conviction by a court is severe punishment such as imprisonment (Sana 2014). In this study, this refers to engagement in acts like rape, robbery, and burglary among others.
- Criminal Beliefs:** Criminal beliefs are ideas that propose that it is allowed to be delinquent (Hawkins, 2011). In this study, this refers to engagement in criminal activities due to emotional factors and family factors.
- Poverty:** Refers to a person's livelihood in households as below 60 percent of contemporary median income (Skarohamar, 2009). This refers to a general lack of sufficient material resources
- Social Economic Determinants:** Refers to social and economic factors that lead to delinquency. The social ones are single parenthood, age, sex, social class, school achievement, family relationships, environment, emotional stability, relationship with other delinquents, and personal aspirations. The economic factors are the financial income of the father, mother, or both (Buonanno, 2003).

Youth: Refers to a period in life which often means the time between childhood and adulthood (Verrinder, 2013). In this study, this refers to persons aged between 16 and 45 years.

Youth-Driven Criminal Activities: criminal offenses committed by youth. The most frequent arrests among youth are for minor crimes against property, vandalism, drug dealing, disorderly conduct, and obstruction of justice (Puzzanchera et al., 2010).

ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

ACLED:	Armed Conflict Location and Event Data
AfDB:	African Development Bank
ANU:	Africa Nazarene University
CRC:	Convention on the Rights of children
CVE:	Countering Violent Extremism
ESCW	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
ESYT:	Edinburgh Study of Youth Transition and Crime
GDP:	Gross Domestic Product
IILS:	International Institute for Labour Studies
ILO:	ILO International Labour Organization
IMF:	International Monetary Fund
IPOA:	The Independent Policing Oversight Authority
KYCT:	Kamiti Youth and Correction Training
NACOSTI:	National Commission of Science, Technology and Innovation
SPSS:	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
NCRC:	National Crime Research Centre
UNICEF:	United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund
UNODC:	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
USA:	United States of America

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the background of the study on socio-economic determinants of crime and the nature of youth-driven criminal activities. The chapter further presents the statement of the problem, objectives, and research questions. The hypothesis, significance of the study, the scope of the study, delimitations, limitations, assumptions, theoretical framework, and conceptual framework are also included in this chapter.

1.2 Background of the Study

Different images dominate contemporary thoughts on the existence of youth in society, each concentrating on a particular social position assigned to youth. The portrayal of youth as victims of adult society, which is characterized by the belief that youth are vulnerable and in need of adult security, is at the end of the spectrum. This assertion is supported by a body of evidence documenting youth victimization due to physical, sexual, or emotional violence (Zelizer, 1985). The portrayal of youth as a threat to adult society, which is characterized by the belief that youth are unsafe and in need of adult supervision, is at the opposite end of the youth-in-society spectrum. Public outcries against youth involvement in political rallies and criminal gangs have been used to portray youth as a challenge to existing political, educational, and moral norms. The persistence of this picture in the community is further shown by the degree to which adult attitudes and social policies are reflected towards youth. The youth as learners of adult society represents the intermediate role, which is defined by the belief that youth are incomplete and need adult guidance. In this perspective, the youth is

understood from their potential as future leaders as they drive innovation and creativity around the world as well as contributing immensely in a variety of social settings, including politics and community service (UNODC, 2013). Although it is important to avoid associating youth with criminality, various studies worldwide have revealed them as vulnerable to law-breaking since they form the highest population among the total population of most countries while also a risk factor especially when social-economic conditions are not suitable (UNDP, 2013).

Crime is the result of a variety of social, economic, cultural, and family factors. It is important to comprehend the nature and origins of crime among the youths to deter it. Because of differences in social and cultural characteristics, the causes of crime differ from country to country. Historically, the youth in Britain first demonstrated their criminal proclivity in delinquent crowds that clustered in manufacturing towns. The initial documentation of youth in Europe, thus, describes an extremely problematic urban category, law-breaking and a nuisance to public order (De Boeck & Honwana, 2005). As society struggle with the problem of insecurity, there is a growing concern that the proportion of crimes committed by young people is increasing in terms of frequency and severity.

Between 1997 and 2010 globally, youth crime increased by 180 percent (UNDC & World Bank, 2011). In the last decade, both the United Kingdom and Canada have seen substantial increases in youth delinquency (UNDP, 2017). According to UNDP (2013), illegal activities among young people in Uruguay increased by 180 percent between 1997 and 2010, with young people aged 13 to 17 accounting for 15% of all offenses, 26% of homicides, and 40% of all robberies in the region (Munyo, 2013, p.7). In South Africa, De Kock et al. (2015), observed that between April 2013 and March 2014, approximately 88.7%, 45.6 percent, and 31.2 percent of the total number of

murders, assaults, and thefts of personal property were registered, while available data in Nigeria revealed high youth participation in criminal activities. For example, from 2006 to 2008, 49.8% of convicts aged 16-35 increased to 92.5 percent, and from 2005 to 2009, 16,925 robbery suspects were arrested by law enforcement (Olukayode, 2016, 39).

The most common types of crimes perpetrated by the youth include armed robbery, homicides, rape, car theft, prostitution, burglary, fraud, bribery and corruption, food and drug alteration, gambling, smuggling, human trafficking, kidnapping, drug trafficking, and money laundering. Latin America and Africa had the highest rates of robbery and assault, according to a series of Crime and Victim Surveys conducted in more than 75 cities between 2000 and 2015. Africa ranks first in the number of registered crimes and had the highest rates of armed robbery and attack at 13% and 9% respectively (UNODC, 2010). In Kenya, youth criminal activities are on the increase. According to a UN Habitat survey on Youth and Crime in Nairobi, young people in conflict with the law are most commonly arrested for robbery (45 percent), assault (23 percent), drug abuse (10 percent), mugging (10 percent), and manslaughter (7 percent). Guns, pangas (machetes), and knives were often used in the commission of these crimes. The majority of these crimes were committed with the intent of obtaining money (UN Habitat, 2011).

This may indicate either the country's failure to have legal means for its young people to fulfill their needs, financial responsibilities or the emergence of a "criminal youth culture." This massive rise in the incidence of youth crime and social adversity has sparked a heated debate on how to address the issue considering that the youth are the backbone of society.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

The relationship between crime and socioeconomic indicators varies by region and by country. In Kenya, socioeconomic indicators of youth crime are meagerly studied; however, some studies focus solely on economic indicators of crime, leaving out the deterrent variable. The youth are responsible for approximately 57 percent of crimes reported to the police in Kenya (IEAYC, 2011; Omboto, 2013). According to NCIC (2017), the number of criminal gangs led by youth is also on the rise in the country. Furthermore, media reports have documented an increase in youth-initiated crime and violence across Kenya's 47 counties. The rise in youth crime across the country is causing widespread concern among the general public and security agencies in particular.

The high rate of youth crime in Kenya has a great impact on economic development and social welfare. It contributes to increased government spending on hospitals, particularly for those wounded, and police, while the detention, maiming, or death results in a loss of income. It discourages both domestic and foreign investment. And if this pattern continues, the country's progress toward achieving its development goals will undoubtedly be at risk. Deterrent efforts to contain youth crime are either inadequate or non-existent (Lim et al., 2010). Police and security forces have been accused of encouraging the emergence of gangs and vigilante groups in slums and deprived urban areas (Muggah & Delfrotte, 2017). High poverty levels, unemployment, and drug abuse have been cited as the possible causes leading youth to engage in crime (Anasi, 2010). However, the government has implemented several policies and programs aimed at addressing the problems that the youth faces to stem the vice. The National Youth Empowerment Strategic Plan 2016-2021, for example, establishes a legal policy structure for government-youth collaboration at both the national and

county levels. The Free Primary Education (FPE), Free Maternal Healthcare Program, Uwezo Fund, Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF), and the creation of the National Youth Service are among the other initiatives (NYS). Despite the above-mentioned strong initiatives and programs, the problem of youth crime remains largely unsolved.

This research was sparked by the convergence of the above evidence. This study aims to determine the socio-economic determinants of youth-driven criminal activity with an emphasis on Lamu West Sub-County in Kenya.

1.4 Purpose of the Study

This study aimed to identify and illustrate the determinants of youth-driven criminal activity. It provides a systematic and rational argument that explains what factors contribute to youth crime and why as well as the strategies used to tackle it.

1.5 Objectives of the Study

1.5.1 General Objective

The general objective of this study was to assess socio-economic determinants of youth-driven criminal activities in Lamu West Sub-County, Lamu County, Kenya.

1.5.2 Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of this study were to;

1. Assess the socio-economic factors that motivate youth participation in criminal activities in Lamu West Sub-County, Lamu County, Kenya
2. Find out the nature of youth-driven criminal activities motivated by socio-economic factors in Lamu West Sub-County, Lamu County, Kenya.

3. Examine the socioeconomic strategies adopted by the local community that contribute to the reduction of youth-driven criminal activities in Lamu West Sub-County, Lamu County, Kenya
4. Determine whether the existing legal and policy framework is supporting the reduction of youth-driven criminal activities within Lamu West Sub-County, Kenya.

1.6 Research Questions

The study sought to answer the following research questions;

1. In which ways do socio-economic factors motivate youth participation in criminal activities in Lamu West Sub-County, Lamu County, Kenya?
2. How are youth-driven criminal activities in Lamu West Sub-County, Lamu County, Kenya, affected by socioeconomic factors?
3. How do strategies adopted by the local community contribute to reduction of youth-driven criminal activities in Lamu West Sub County, Lamu County, Kenya?
4. Does the existing legal and policy framework support reduction of youth-driven criminal activities within Lamu West Sub-County, Kenya?

1.7 Significance of the Study

Significance of the study refers to the value the research would add to the wider learning environment after the study has been carried out (Kamau et al., 2014).

The costs and consequences of crime differ depending on who you are in Kenya. Due to the sensitivity of the problem, youth crime prevention programs must devise novel approaches to resolving this duality. As part of the key pillar in the Millennium

Development Goals and Kenya's Vision 2030, the government is putting in place actions to reduce crime in the country. As the government has signed deals and passed laws to deal with juvenile criminals, youth-driven criminal activity has come under scrutiny. This study could help the County government figure out what triggers youth-driven criminal activity in Lamu West Sub-County and establish policies and strategies to reduce crime. The study will assist members of the local community in better understanding some of the issues that young people face, as well as how the community as a whole can assist and improve security in their environment. The study will also be useful for potential academic referencing and testing in the field of security management. Finally, the results and information gained from the study would be useful in laying the groundwork for future policy and crime mapping.

1.8 Scope of the Study

The scope of the study, according to Pavan and Kulkarni (2014), describes the limits or boundaries within which the analysis was performed. The study was restricted to the wards of Amu Mkomani, Shella, Hindi, Mkunumbi, Hongwe, Bahari, Faza, and Witu in Lamu West Sub-County. The factors to be investigated were those that stemmed from the youth's home environments and their behavior. The respondents included the members of the local community, chiefs/sub-chiefs, security forces, criminal gang members, business people, and youth leaders. This investigation aimed to learn more about the socioeconomic factors that influence youth crime in Lamu West Sub-County.

1.9 Delimitations of the Study

Delimitation is a study function that is handled by the researcher and may have an impact on the test results (Kamau et al., 2014). The study did not interview the entire population of Lamu-West Sub-County, but rather only male and female youth, their representatives, and government officials. Other scholars' determinants of youth-driven illegal activity were not included in the study's analysis of literature. The research was confined to Lamu West-Sub County, and the findings do not represent the socioeconomic determinants of youth-driven criminal activity across Kenya.

1.10 Limitations of the Study

This refers to factors that make research impossible or difficult, according to Bell, Bryman, and Harley (2018). Because of the suspicious nature of deviant teens, they may be reluctant to reveal all specifics about their antisocial conduct to strangers for fear of negative consequences. The respondents were given data collection permits from NACOSTI and the county government, as well as an approval letter, assuring them that the study results would be used solely for educational purposes. The residents' integrity is questioned due to the study's existence. To counteract this, the researcher explained to the locals why getting reliable data from this study is beneficial to them. Due to the sensitivity of some information owing to the proximity of criminal activity in the region, the researcher had difficulty obtaining some information from the respondents; therefore, a clarification that the research was only for educational purposes and confidentiality was given. Poor road infrastructure could make data collection difficult, particularly in wet weather. To resolve this, the researcher collected data in dry weather and enlisted the aid of research assistants from the local area.

1.11 Assumptions of the Study

According to Baron (2008), these are constraints that the researcher is aware may affect the analysis but does not attempt to monitor. This research was based on three assumptions: that financial variables influence crime in Lamu West Sub-County, that respondents would complete and return the questionnaires on time, and that the data collection methodology used was accurate and accurately quantified the intended boundaries.

1.12 Theoretical Framework

This study was anchored on Social Learning Theory, Differential Association Theory, Frustration-Aggression theory, and Maslow's need theory

1.12.1 Social Learning Theory

According to Bandura (1977), people are not born with the capability to operate violently; instead, they acquire from life experiences. The theory depicts that the mental or physical attributes of an individual being able to make a person change his/her behavior to turn violent, though to activate the person's aggression will only depend on factors in the society. Specific forms of violent behaviors will depend on the rate with which it is expressed, the state in which it is exhibited, and the exact targets chosen for attack are greatly determined by social learning. The social learning process is dependent on the family unit, environmental familiarity, and mass media. The learning process which operates in the perspective of social structure, interaction, and situation produces behavior which complies and opposing (Eckes & Trautner, 2012). People learn what confirms or deviates from the societal norms while unlawful behavior in people is learned and modified through a conforming behavior. The difference here is

said to be confined to the content, course, and effect of the cultured deeds (Eckes & Trautner, 2012).

There exist factors that contribute to criminal behaviors by individual persons in the society: examples of criminal behaviors people involve in or copy are as a result of verbal abuse, which is an aggressive skill learned from observing others. In this study, the theory of social learning is important to the society in crime-prone areas as it provides a responsibility to practice some form of option in what they learn from the surroundings. Social learning theory holds that the learning process of different behaviors is similar the only distinction is the course of the learning process. Depending on their age and the people they relate with, young people are capable of finding out from their knowhow in life. Their actions possibly were strongly influenced by issues within their surroundings. Social learning theory is relevant to the current study as it analyzes the causes of criminal activities such as the one in the study. However, the theory fails to extensively explain the types of criminal activities, which necessitates the second theory. Social learning theory may not be effective to this study, in as much as criminal behavior is learned and does not clearly show how other factors influence youth-driven criminal activities. The theory does not also show whether learning a criminal behavior is specific to the youth or other age groups in the society.

1.12.2 Differential Association Theory

Differential Association hypothesis was created by Sutherland (1949) to clarify why criminals submitted demonstrations of unusual conduct. The hypothesis depends on the social condition environmental factors, individuals, and the qualities they gain from notable individuals in their social condition. It additionally sees the demonstrations of criminals as procured deeds and that surprising conduct is associated

with the absence of restriction. In differential association hypothesis, where definitions good for the legitimate framework are more than definitions troublesome to the lawful framework, at that point, one has low opportunities to be delinquent. According to Sutherland (1947) actions of a person are controlled and shaped by other individuals or groups they relate with. Through interaction/communication, people acquire values, attitudes, techniques, and motives for illicit behavior. These interactions formulate the individuals to know societal norms and values. It is then believed that if a person can learn what is acceptable in society, he can as well learn what is considered unacceptable. When the equalization of meanings for law-breaking supplants those for integrity, the differential association hypothesis predicts that a person will choose the criminal path. This proclivity would be bolstered if social association made complex individuals in a person's life more available. The differential association hypothesis guideline summarizes nine main points, which include: Illegal activity is discovered; Criminal behavior is discovered by encounters with a number of individuals. The mechanism of learning criminal activity takes place in small groups of people. The learning process for criminal behavior involves strategies for carrying out the wrongdoing (which can be exceedingly complicated or easy depending on the situation) as well as the basic bearing of thought processes, drives, justifications, and viewpoints. The optimistic direction of points and drives can be deduced from the interpretations of legal codes such as fortunate or unfortunate.

The other argument is that a person's violating conduct is a product of certain meanings favoring law-breaking over definitions that are adverse to law-breaking. In addition, the frequency, length, priority, and strength of differential associations can differ. Learning illegal activity involves participating in criminal and non-criminal patterns, which entails all of the processes involved in every other form of learning.

Although lawful conduct is an expression of common needs and values, unlawful behavior is an expression of the same needs and values; thus, it cannot be clarified by those needs and values. The importance of differential association theory in this analysis is the frequency and strength of interaction. The length of time a person is subjected to a particular meaning and the point at which the relationship began are also important factors in understanding criminal behavior in crime-affected societies. Learning illegal activities is identical to learning any other form of activity, with the only difference being the learning process's path. This hypothesis is relevant to the current study since it considers various contexts in which illegal acts can be learned. Individuals' actions are affected and conditioned by the people they interact with, according to the differential association theory. However, the theory fails to account for personality characteristics that can influence an individual's susceptibility to these environmental factors.

1.12.3 Frustration-Aggression theory

In 1939, Dollard, Doob, Miller, Mowrer, and Sears proposed the frustration-aggression theory (F-A). The original formulation of the frustration-aggression hypothesis claimed that “the occurrence of aggressive behavior always presupposes the presence of frustration and, conversely, that the existence of frustration always leads to some kind of aggression.” (Dollard et al., 1939). What's interesting about this concept is that, unlike in everyday language, frustration is described as "an interference with the occurrence of an instigated goal-response" rather than an emotional experience (Dollard et al., 1939, p. 7).

This hypothesis proved to be extremely influential. For more than three decades, the F-A hypothesis has influenced the majority of scientific studies on human aggression in

one way or another (Zillmann, 1979). However, even more significantly, the aggressive views that it entails seeming to have been generally embraced and accepted; they have become commonplace.

On the other hand, frustration is described as an occurrence rather than an emotional state. The advantage of characterizing anger by measurable qualities of events or environmental attributes, according to others, is that it enables empirical description and testing of its causal effects, such as those on violence, rather than relying on subjective self-reported introspection. This fundamental, although counterintuitive, the finding is important because it is inferred in later modifications and reformulations of the frustration-aggression hypothesis.

Internal processes, such as the attribution of anger, were now considered important for understanding the frustration-aggression relation, in addition to environmental factors. The degree to which frustrations are viewed as subjective, which is thought to be an indicator of the likelihood and severity of possible violent reactions, is one factor that plays a role in this (Pastore, 1952). Several studies have supported the idea that attribution and the feeling of arbitrariness matter in the sense of anger and violence (Zillmann & Cantor, 1976).

Aggression is a significant concern of youths' psychological issues. This is a severe type of maladjustment characterized by recurring symptoms of aggressive and destructive behavior. Adolescents and youths who are aggressive are at odds with all levels of authority, including teachers, classmates, and society as a whole. They struggle in school and are unresponsive to the demands of nature and the people around them as they mature. Except in formalized events such as athletic contests, aggressiveness tends to be accepted in subtle, sophisticated forms but frowned upon in blatant, primitive, physical forms that define children's behavior.

This hypothesis is relevant to the current study since it demonstrates how frustration and aggression result in violent people. Individuals' actions are affected and conditioned by the environment and the internal processes, according to the frustration-aggression theory. These personal and environmental characteristic influences the behavior of an individual as they grow up leading to violent behavior as exhibited by violent criminal gangs.

1.12.4 Maslow's Need Theory

Maslow's (1943) theory has two key points that apply to framing gang activity risk factors. To begin, he claims that all humans have a hierarchy of essential needs that must be fulfilled for positive outcomes to be achieved. Physiological, protection, affection, and esteem are among these requirements. Second, he believes that virtually all motivation stems from the desire to meet these basic needs. Only after all of these basic needs are met can a person begin to achieve self-actualization, or the desire to be the best version of himself or herself (Maslow, 1943). If one's basic needs aren't met, he or she would be compelled to meet them by whatever means possible, regardless of the consequences (Maslow, 1943). Therefore, individuals who do not have their basic needs met by their families and environments may seek out gang membership as a way to fulfill them.

Individuals yearn to meet their physiological needs in whatever way they can when they are not fulfilled (Maslow, 1943). Food insecurity and unstable housing, as well as gang involvement, have all been linked to poverty (Pyrooz & Sweeten, 2015; Tapia, 2011). Although money might not be a physiological need, hunger and housing (e.g., protection from the elements and weather) are linked to gang membership, with food insecurity and unstable housing predicting participation (Carlson, Andrews, &

Bickel 1999; Voisin, King, Diclemente, & Carry, 2014). Maslow's (1943) theory would suggest a causal relationship between these variables in which individuals are using gangs as a source of income to meet their physiological needs of food and shelter.

In addition to money, gangs may provide members with guns and a sense of safety in numbers, or the knowledge that they have people who will fight alongside them if necessary (Decker & Van Winkle, 1996). Such provisions can assist young people in addressing their safety concerns. Youth living in areas plagued by gangs and crime are more likely to join (Li et al., 2002), which may be attributable to a desire for protection. To put it another way, youth who are exposed to violence may believe that their safety is in jeopardy and that they lack the resources to defend themselves as well as a community of peers to fight alongside them. As a result, they can turn to gang membership to meet these needs (Merrin, Hong, & Espelage, 2015).

A lack of parental support, for example, is directly linked to gang membership within families (Lenzi et al., 2015). Pyrooz and Sweeten (2015) discovered that much gang-involved youths came from single-parent families, with the mother serving as the primary caregiver. Since the single parent is the family's sole source of income, he or she may have less time to spend with the child. Low family involvement, poor communication, and low parental supervision have all been identified as risk factors for gang involvement (Voisin, et al., 2014).

This theory is relevant to the study as it explains the motivating factors that would lead the youth into joining gangs to carry out the crime. Individuals are more likely to join a gang if their basic needs are not met when viewed through this hierarchy. Physiological needs such as hunger, for example, can be fulfilled by the drug-dealing part of gang membership by supplying money from sales.

1.13 Conceptual Framework

According to Kothari (2004), these are a series of ideas that demonstrate the relationship between the independent and dependent variables (the results). The analysis heading, aims, study methodology, and literature review are all shown in the diagram. The conceptual structure of the analysis is depicted in Figure 1-1, which demonstrates the relationship between the independent and dependent variables. The demographic variables of age, gender, level of training, and job status of the youth under investigation are assumed to affect their involvement in misconduct. The majority of violations are committed by youth in Lamu West Sub-County, and these wrongdoings, as well as those not considered in the inquiry, are investigated.

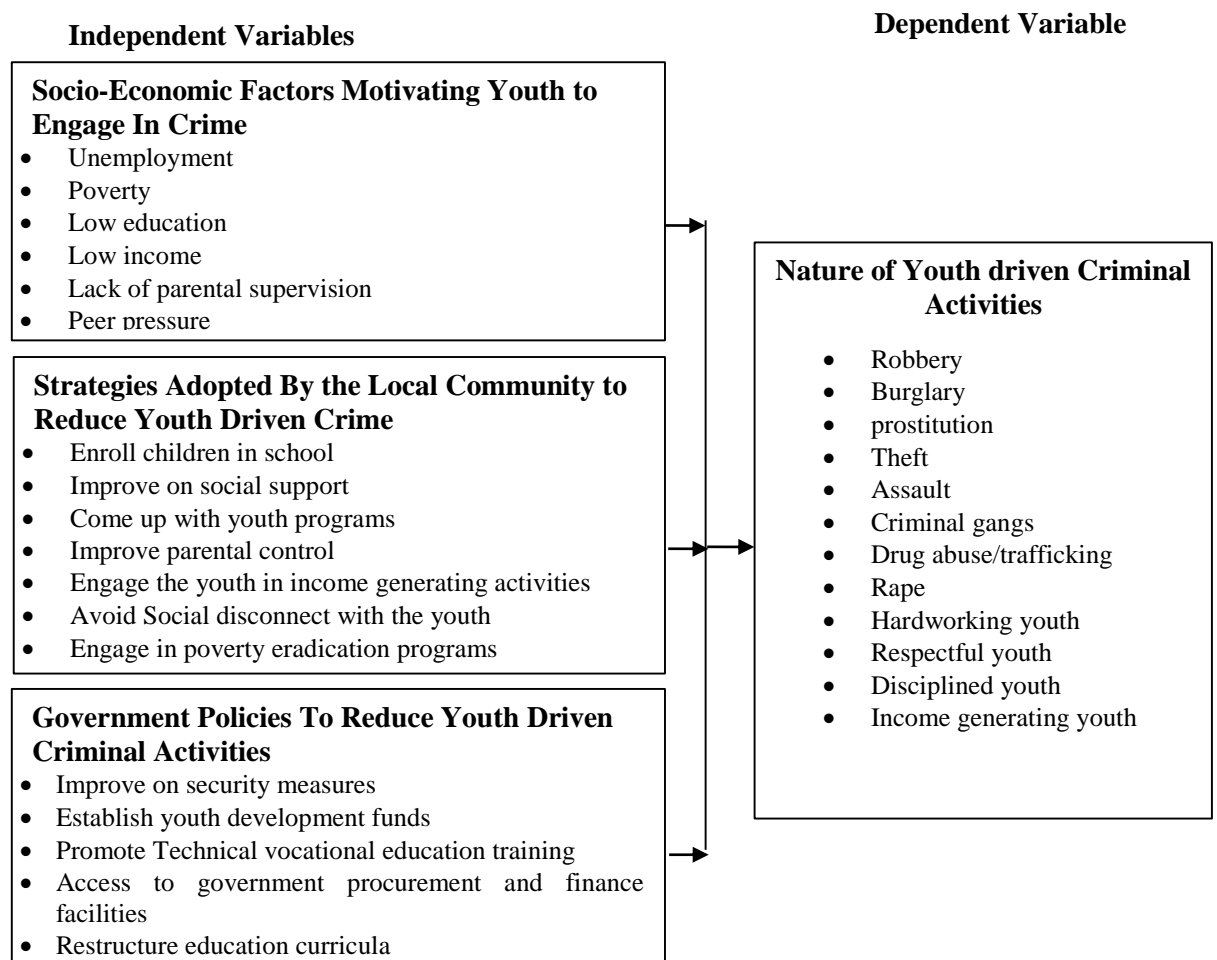


Figure 1.1: Conceptual Framework

Source, Researcher (2020)

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter reviews literature concerning the study objectives and then identifies the research gaps in the study. In this chapter theoretical and empirical literature reviews were covered. The theoretical review underlines the relevant theories for the study, whereas the empirical review sums up what the other scholars have written on criminal activities amongst the youth, based on the study objectives. The chapter ends with identified research gaps.

2.2 Empirical Literature Review

2.3.1 Social Economic Factors that Drive Youth Participation in Criminal Activities

The presence of criminal gangs and vigilante groups in urban areas has exacerbated crime rates and law enforcement agencies' ineffectiveness in dealing with criminal elements (Wairagu, Kamenji, & Singo, 2014). In Trinidad and Tobago, youth join criminal gangs for company, protection, and financial gain (UNDP report, 2014). The desire for financial gain and notoriety has been a major motivator for young people to join criminal gangs (World Bank, 2014). These gangs form as a result of youth unemployment, poverty, the prevalence of gangs in the neighborhood, and youth-committed crimes (Rizzo, 2013). According to Hawkins (2011), the lack of a source of income for the parents /guardians has been described as the most significant barrier for young people to access education. Poverty has a detrimental effect on people's wellbeing and development, as well as their ability to work productively (ILO & ILS 2013).

According to a Mercy Corps (2013) study, idle youth with no way to make a living provides a ready pool of recruits for terrorist groups like al-Shabaab. As a result, unemployed teenagers are more likely to engage in criminal activity and other risky behaviors. In Latin America, for example, legal activities pay poorly, motivating young people to participate in illegal activities with higher financial returns (Munyo, 2013). Peer pressure has also been linked to negative personality traits and association (Cauffman, 2009; Thornberry, 2013). However, in the case of persistent crimes, it is impossible to pinpoint a single cause that is linked to gang affiliation.

Inflation and economic recession have continued to plague developing countries. As a result, the emergence of religious and political thoughts has exacerbated the situation, causing people to engage in illegal activity (World Bank, 2012). According to a study conducted by IPOA (2014), inequitable resource distribution accelerated population growth, and a high rate of poverty as a result of youth unemployment have all contributed to a rise in the number of illegal group activities in Kenya. Nonetheless, urban teenagers join gangs to protect their neighborhoods and as a stress-coping mechanism due to a lack of employment opportunities. In the slums, gangs work productively and without fear of retaliation, sometimes engaging in illegal activities (Sana, 2014). Furthermore, some gang members work as militia leaders for ideological groups in the region, recruiting more young people to promote violence and compromise the law (Sana, 2014).

Even though young people in cities profit from savagery in political matters, there is no evidence to suggest that young unemployed and jobless people are vulnerable to radicalization. Although youth associated with radicalized groups like the MRC or Al-Shabaab may be or require work, research shows that this is not a driving

factor in their decision to join. Perhaps faith, underestimation, and a sense of social inequity drive their decision to radical groups (Botha, 2014; Muteti, 2016; African Development Bank (AfDB), 2015). According to Caspi (2015), gang membership is linked to low self-esteem, criminal activity, selfish behavior, and aggression. Youths' decisions are influenced by their self-esteem. Low self-esteem can lead a person to join gangs or seek their approval to feel like he or she is in the right place. A person with high self-esteem, on the other hand, has a strong sense of self and direction and therefore does not seek such approval. If someone is active in criminal gangs and decides to quit, they will need a high level of self-esteem to endure the gang's pressure (Dukes, Martinez, & Stein, 2012).

Due to peer pressure and impulsivity, adolescents often indulge in gang membership, aggressiveness, and antisocial behavior (Esbensen & Huizinga, 2015). Gangsters seem to control their conduct by defusing the negative consequences of their actions, and, most distressingly, they are unconcerned about their violent behavior (Esbensen et al., 2011; Esbensen et al., 2014). According to Sampson (2012), severe destitution, racial confinement, and hurried social change, in which a high rate of private versatility, particularly in districts losing populations or characterized by expanded progressions of individuals into communities, disrupt trust and social relations. Peer pressure, realism, lack of parental control, unemployment, sedate maltreatment, and the absence of (positive) good examples are all factors that lead to extreme adolescent antisocial behavior in the Eastern Caribbean (UNICEF, 2012).

According to Hans (2011), being unemployed for more than six months raises your chances of committing a violent crime by 2% and your chances of committing a robbery by 33%. When society's aspirations for individuals and improved methods for achieving them are restricted, such as the young joblessness rate of 46.5 percent in

2011, people will aspire to achieve them by illegal means, according to Ajaegbu, (2012) cited in Oluyakode (2016, p.39), in Nigeria. When people are out of work for an extended period, their feelings of disappointment grow deeper, and they are more likely to turn to illicit means to meet their basic needs.

Illegal drugs, gang violence, broken homes, poverty, and a lack of education led to high offending among young people in other countries, such as St Lucia. In addition, low-wage employment and underpayment forced people to supplement their income by illegal means such as robbery (UNDP, 2013, p.8). Poverty, according to Pridemore (2013), is the most consistent indicator of area killings in the United States. Increased feminism in West Africa, especially Nigeria, linked poverty among young women to unemployment, encouraging prostitution as an illegitimate means of survival in some cities (Alabi, 2014, p.310).

In Kenya, the majority of juvenile criminal behavior is linked to drug abuse, with peer pressure playing a significant role (Omboto, 2013). According to Erickson (2011), drug abuse has influenced youth criminal behavior across the country. Dependence on drug abuse, such as opiates, depletes an individual's virtues, lowering his or her character and leading to the formation of negative thoughts in the brain.

Maria Szczepaniec (2011) discovered that the extent of criminality can be clarified by looking at how the enjoyment and rewards of illegal behavior influence the decision to commit a crime. Although the economic theory of crime states that a person's ability to commit a crime is dictated by the benefits gained from it. The socio-economic factors lead to the assumption that the socio-economic domain of human life is related. There are some correlations between crime rates and social activity, as well as economic and human willingness to commit crimes. Nonetheless, a thorough investigation is still needed in this regard.

In crime prevention strategies, origin dependencies should be focused on forms of violence that target whole populations rather than just individuals. Preventive policies will seek to reduce economic and social disparity by balancing income levels and encouraging socio-economic growth. In light of the above, one of the driving factors that drive the youth into illegal activities is a lack of awareness of the relationship between youth deviant attitudes, guidance, and societal acceptance (Klaus, 2013).

2.3.2 Nature of Youth-Driven Criminal Activities

For a long time, researchers have tried to differentiate between various types of wrongdoings. According to Gimode, (2011), wrongdoing can be both blatant and subtle. It is divided into two categories: criminal and civil offenses (Ndikaru, 2011). As a result, this blatant misconduct is therefore classified as criminal. Stealing open assets and documenting false data, as well as covert wrongdoing that is effectively perceived and causes physical or mental damage to others, fall into this category.

Although the law forbids a broad variety of wrongdoing, it does provide for exceptions in some cases of harassment or criminal behavior. In South Africa, for example, there are fewer real property-related misdemeanors, such as minor theft, as well as other wrongdoings such as misrepresentation, debasement, incest, and crimes against girls (Schönteich & Louw, 2015). However, in most jurisdictions, the law is firm on all criminal activities.

A minority of young people, according to Rodgers (2005), cited in McLean Hilker and Fraser (2009, p.23), participate in criminal activity to collect funds. They're often tied to illegal activities such as drug exchanges, furnished packs, and other nefarious dealings. In African countries, theft, defilement, customer misrepresentation,

rape, capturing, and property-related misdemeanors such as vehicle seizure, robbery of domesticated animals, and thievery are all too common (UNODC, 2010). However, the type and severity of violence vary depending on the location. For example, in some countries, lethal viciousness was a major problem, while in others, murder rates are generally low, but property-related misconduct has increased dramatically (UNDP, 2013).

According to Eze (2012, cited in Onwuka, 2015, p.392), prostitution, burglary, robbery, and violations of women's rights were among the social violations committed mainly by youths in Nigeria. Young people, according to Cramer (2015, p.1), are more exposed to armed violence, criminal gangs, drug trafficking, joining radical gangs, extremist ideologies, and other illegitimate activities than older generations. For example, political brutality in Zimbabwe is closely related to the recruitment of young people by ideological organizations to join criminal and volunteer army groups for political purposes (Mude, 2014). They've even been accused of torturing, frightening, and murdering ordinary people.

In times of monetary stress, fierce property-related misconduct occurs as well as homicide and auto theft (UNODC, 2014, p.4). Weapons were more often used in property crimes than in violent assaults. Two-thirds of all reported cases in Africa involved armed robbery (Mapunda, 2010). However, globally, almost all crimes committed by juveniles under the age of 18 were minor offenses such as small-scale robberies and violent crimes (Marcus & Gavrilovic, 2010). For example, robberies were less common in Malawi, with only 31 cases (or 0.5 percent) (Pelser, Burton, & Gondwe, 2014).

2.3.3 Strategies Adopted by the Local Community that Contribute to Reduction of Youth-Driven Criminal Activities

The right actions for a significant reduction in crime rates and successful prevention have become a major concern for every nation. Illegal acts are introduced through a variety of structures inherent in our society (Dritsakis & Gkanas, 2017). It is important for African countries to continually improve their efforts to combat crime. This is because the possibility of heinous crime has huge ramifications for Africa's progress, administration, and stability (Livingstone, 2013).

To address the issue of urban violent crime, UN member states have taken three approaches: voluntary interventions, punitive measures, and compliance-oriented measures (Muggah & Del Frate, 2017). Voluntary initiatives are aimed at the strengthening of local capacities and the stigmatization of seemingly bad or deviant behavior. On the other hand, the use of physically enforced searches and seizures is referred to as coercive steps. It entails more resources being allocated to the police force to combat the persistence of violent crime. However, there are limitations in terms of the police-to-public ratio and available resources. These interventions, however, are only effective in the short term and may not be long-term solutions to the rise in violent crime (Moser, 2014). In Kenya, for example, the police-to-population ratio has decreased over the last 15 years. In 1991, the ratio was 1 to 711; 10 years later, it was 1 to 875; and in 2010, it was 1 to 1150. Kenya has to hire 3999 recruits every year for a decade to meet international police population requirements, according to the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (2006). Compliance-focused initiatives aim to improve regulations and programs to promote deterrence. In Uganda, for example, authorities responded to juvenile delinquency by amending their juvenile justice systems to be compliant with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and

other relevant instruments (Kakama, 2009). This included incorporating elements of restorative justice and a stronger focus on the child's well-being into the "natural" justice system. In conclusion. As a result, the main lessons learned are that combinations of all three strategies are most effective and should be grounded in evidence. Also, they should be undertaken jointly with strong partnerships between the state and civil society institutions (Moser, 2014).

Fighting crime is not exclusively the responsibility of the government in Durban, South Africa; citizens must also step up and play a part in the war against criminals (Peer, 2018). Similarly, in Malawi, the government worked closely with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and donors to promote the use of law enforcement, security forces, and incarceration for children and youth as little as possible. Deterrence, diversion, non-custodial, and restorative justice are examples of community-based strategies that have been promoted as the best means of dealing with young people who have run afoul of the law (Penal Reform International, 2010).

The Kenyan government has adopted community policing as a means to prevent and detect violence, uphold law and order, and prosecute criminals (van der Spuy & Röntsch, 2008). The national government launched the Nyumba Kumi initiative in October 2013 to enable Kenyans to get to know their neighbors and help identify criminals hiding among them. It was also to root out criminals who were hiding among the general population. Since its introduction, police and security agents have credited the program with thwarting major crimes, apprehending repeat criminals, and strengthening public safety in areas where it has been implemented. The Nyumba Kumi project is credited with raising the alarm and providing law enforcement with leads, for the security raids in Lamu that resulted in the arrest of 30 drug traffickers. However, kidnappings involving minors, disappearances, and alleged extrajudicial killings have

strained ties between the police and the community thereby putting to question the collaboration between the security agents and Lamu residents in combating crime (Kitiyo, 2017).

2.3.4 Government Policies That Contribute to Reduction of Youth-Driven Criminal Activities

According to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2178 (2014), there is a connection between violent extremism and terrorism; therefore, efforts should be made to prevent radicalization, recruitment, and mobilization of individuals into terror groups. To combat violent extremism, Kenya launched the National Counter Violence Extremism (CVE) Strategy. The plan outlined nine pillars that should be followed in the fight against radicalization and violent extremism. Psychosocial, educational, political, and security issues, as well as faith-based and ideological training and capacity building, are among them. The Lamu County CVE plan adheres to the National Strategy while still considering the needs of the community.

Three essential security priorities are needed for an effective response to national insecurity (Ablong, 2012). These include the creation, development, and implementation of adequate security policies, measures, activities, and institutions; the creation of a convenient security environment both locally and globally through international security integration and cooperation with other states; and the creation of a secure and economically progressive society.

At the county level, local strategy formulation is utilized to bring real change in the society. The key goals include: advancing democracy, encourage unity by appreciating diversity, provide protection for all citizens and their investments, ensure equal distribution of national and regional resources, and promote the decentralization

of State organs' jobs and administrations from Nairobi to counties; and upgrading regulating rules and political power decentralization (Constitution of Kenya, 2010).

However, defense, and interior security, was not completely devolved; it remained under the command of the national government, which is responsible for managing security problems in the country through the Ministry of internal security. The Ministry's duties have changed over time, and its roles have been restructured to resolve new issues, such as youth crime in Lamu County. The Ministry is currently responsible for the organization, growth, and defense of eight provinces, 287 districts, 476 divisions, 2,516 locations, and 6,841 sub-areas, as well as other authoritative offices reporting to line Ministries. The Ministry focuses on two broad areas: internal security, which includes law enforcement, immigration, and privacy. At the county and sub-county levels, the national government's position is successful in fostering cooperation. Its security operations are funneled down from the county commissioners to the chiefs through the administration police.

According to Elman (2008), the strategic response process is vital to all organizations' long-term viability because it allows them to adapt to their changing environment. The technique is also applicable to all levels of management and organizations. Procedures that are extremely dissected in terms of congruity are typically more secure, and new working techniques can emerge to help smooth out activities. When forming coalitions with outside organizations or securing stages, possibility arranging can be beneficial. Possibility preparation can also be a part of an organization's quality cycle (Wohlforth, 2010).

2.4 Summary of Review of Literature and Research Gap

According to the literature discussed in section 2.3, criminal activities are deemed irregular or antisocial and that are abnormal, differ from common practice, and do not fit with society's desires. Criminal behavior is directly linked to the factual approach to dealing with positive abnormality, which is based on the belief that variations in individual behavior will in general fall through a conventional circulation bend. Unlawful conduct is unsatisfactory as it is antisocial, in that it upsets individuals from working adequately with others as parts of society. Bad child-rearing, peer pressure, a lack of trust, childish acts, and hostility are all determinants of youth-driven crime, according to the investigation. Poor parental supervision, parental dismissal, and parent-kid relationship are among the most reliable markers of children's criminal behavior. Researchers have also claimed that a lack of self-confidence and antisocial attitudes have contributed to the rise in gang membership (Dukes, Martine, & Stein, 2012).

In terms of community participation in criminal activity prevention, it was discovered that in the past, communities, especially in Africa, have used brute force to arrest those accused of criminal activity for retribution, which in most cases resulted in mob justice. More compliance-oriented initiatives, such as voluntary interventions to improve local capacity and stigmatization of seemingly poor or deviant actions, have also been implemented. It is, after all, the government's duty to safeguard the general public. The study found that an effective response to national insecurity necessitates specific security objectives. The creation, growth, and implementation of appropriate policies, measures, activities, and institutions are the three stated goals. It's worth remembering that county security is under the jurisdiction of the national government,

while county governments have more control over their security. Unlawful acts performed by young people all over the world have been extensively researched.

Since various environments create varying degrees of influence factors, the ability to establish effective strategies to combat illegal behavior among young people is hindered by the need to carefully identify, explain, and examine their determinants. There is a knowledge gap regarding the socio-economic determinants of youth-driven crimes in Kenya, especially in Lamu West-Sub County, since many of the current investigations into criminal operations among the young have been done in other countries. As a result, this investigation aims to fill in the gaps in our understanding by uncovering new information about what motivates young people to commit crimes in Lamu-West Sub-County.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction to Research Methodology

This chapter describes the various methodologies which the researcher would applied in collecting data, procedures that were employed, techniques, analysis, and presentation of the data collected. The chapter therefore, is divided into the following segments; research design, study size, research site, target population, sampling procedures, and sample size. In addition, validity and reliability of the instruments, data processing, and analysis as well as ethical considerations are explained in detail.

3.2 Research Design

Kamau et al. (2014) posit that a research design is the blueprint, plan, or system that manages the execution of a study. This study embraced the exploratory research design. The choice was informed by the designs' flexibility in asking questions and analysis of responses and enhanced data collection without manipulation of research variables or respondents to assess the determinants of youth-driven criminal activities within Lamu West Sub- County.

3.3 Research Site

The analysis took place in Lamu West Sub-County in Lamu (Appendix vii). Lamu County is one of Kenya's beachfront regions and is situated on the country's northern coast. Kilifi County borders the county on the southwest, Garissa County on the north, the Republic of Somalia on the upper east, and the Indian Ocean on the south. Between 1° 40' and 2° 30' south latitude, and 40° 15' and 40° 38' south longitude, it can be found. More than 65 islands make up the Lamu Archipelago, which covers a total

land area of 6,273.1 km². The sea mass area is 308 kilometers long and the coastline is 130 kilometers long. (Lamu County Website, 2019).

Lamu West and Lamu East are the constituencies within Lamu County. Lamu West includes the divisions of Amu Mkomani, Shela, Hindi, Mkunumbi, Hongwe, Bahari, and Witu, while Lamu East includes the divisions of Faza, Basuba, and Kiunga. The County is divided into ten wards, 23 areas, and 38 sub-areas. Forests cover 11.5 percent of the total land surface area, with 428 km² (or 64 percent) of the total forest cover being gazetted and thus protected from commercial exploitation. Witu is covered by 382 km² of mangrove trees and 46 km² of forest. The sub-uninhabited county's areas occupy 280 km². Lingi forest, Boni forest, and the Lake Kenyatta safeguard zone are included (Lamu County website, 2019).

There are various economic activities in Lamu West Sub-County. Fisheries, tourism, livestock processing, mining, and quarrying are among them. In urban areas, there is still a lot of trade going on. Unfortunately, issues such as a shortage of property, food insecurity, high population growth, and immigration into the sub-county have restricted the socioeconomic activities that are accessible (Lamu County Website, 2019). In addition, the county faces a lack of social services such as a good road network, educational facilities, healthcare facilities, and clean piped water.

3.4 Target Population

According to Creswell et al. (2017), the target population is described as the total collection of individuals with some common traits to whom the researcher needs to generalize the study's findings. It also refers to all of the study's variables, including any participant of a real or hypothetical group of individuals, events, or objects to which the researcher wishes to extrapolate the findings.

The participants in this study were 178 members of the local population, 14 security officers, and 25 members of criminal organizations. According to the Kenya National Crime Research Centre, (2018) five (5) criminal groups have been identified in Lamu County: Charo Shutu, Tia Nazi, Kay Bombo, Al Shabaab, and Mombasa Republican Council. The exact number of members of the criminal organizations is unknown, so the researcher used the snowball method to find the targeted individuals through informants. In addition, the research focused on the 41 Sub- County's youth leaders from registered youth groups and associations, 210 business people, and 14 chiefs/sub-chiefs. This resulted in a total target population of 605 individuals (Lamu County Government, 2019).

The researcher used the snowball approach to find the targeted individuals by informants since the exact number of members of the criminal groups was uncertain. In addition, the study targeted the 41 youth leaders from registered youth organizations, 210 business people, and 14 chiefs/sub-chiefs from Lamu West Sub-County. This yielded a total target population of 605 people (Lamu County Government, 2019).

Table 3.1: Target Population

Respondent	Target population
Local Community members (Nyumba-Kumi members)	178
Chiefs/Sub-Chiefs	14
Security Personnel/ Top Police Officers	137
Businesspersons	210
Youth Group Leaders	41
Members of criminal groups	25
Total	605

Source: Lamu County Government (2019), Kenya National Crime Research Centre (2018)

3.5 Determination of Study Sample

This section describes the sampling method that was used in the study and the study sample size.

3.5.1 Sampling Procedures

A sampling scheme is a method of selecting a few members of a population to represent the entire population (Wangombe, 2013). The main feature of sampling in research is to select a subset of the population that shares the same features as the entire population. According to Bell et al. (2018), sampling is a method of selecting a number of men and women or items from a positive population that, when chosen, will have all of the complete representative elements in the group bearing all of the complete representative attributes.

Businesspeople, local community members, security officers/top police personnel, chiefs/sub-chiefs, criminal group members, and youth leaders in the sub-county were among the six groups that were identified. As a result, a stratified sampling approach was used in this analysis, allowing the researcher to focus on specific groups within the target population (Bryman & Harley, 2018). Purposive sampling was used by the researcher to sample security personnel, senior police officers, and Chiefs/Sub-chiefs. Since it is appropriate for a demanding setting due to mistrust and skepticism, the snowballing method was used to sample members of the criminal grouping (Wangombe, 2013).

3.5.2 Study Sample Size

Study sample measurement is influenced by the populace character, the extent of variables, nature of the analysis, shape of sampling, accessibility of monetary assets

as well as sample sizes used in related research (Kothari, 2004). The 10%-30% sampling method was utilized to come up with pattern dimensions for the nearby neighborhood members, chiefs/sub-chiefs, security personnel/top police personnel, business persons, youth leaders, and criminal group members (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). Using this method, the sampling frame provided a sample size of 181 for the study (Table 3.2: Sampling Frame).

Table 3.2: Sampling Frame

Respondent	Target population	Proportion	Sample size
Nyumba-Kumi Members	178	30%	53
Chiefs/Sub-Chiefs	14	30%	4
Security personnel /Top police officers	137	30%	41
Business persons	210	30%	63
Youth leaders	41	30%	12
Members of criminal groups	25	30%	8
Total	605		181

Source: Lamu County Government (2019), Kenya National Crime Research Centre (2018)

3.6 Data Collection Tools/Instruments

Kombo et al. (2006) define data collection as the gathering of particular information aimed at giving or disproving some facts. The researcher used self-administered questionnaires and interview to acquire data. The questionnaires were delivered by way of hand to the respondents by way of research assistants. The assistants waited for the participants to fill the questionnaires and pick them. The interviews targeting security personnel/top police officers and sub-chiefs were

conducted by the principal researcher in various stations. The security personnel/top police officers and Chiefs/Sub-Chiefs were identified through purposive sampling while criminal group members were identified through snowball sampling.

3.6.1 Development of Instruments

The importance of choosing the right research instrument, according to Creswell et al. (2017), is to have significant records concerning participant's perceptions and perspectives of unique phenomena. To collect data from respondents, this study used questionnaires and an interview guide. The researcher created two sets of questionnaires for use in this study: the first (Appendix II) was used to collect information from youth, business people, security personnel's and Nyumba-kumi participants, while the second (Appendix III) was used to collect information from criminals in the community.

3.6.2 Pilot Testing of Research Instruments

To pretest the questionnaire, the pilot was conducted with 10% of the respondents in the Kilifi Sub-County. Kilifi Sub-County was chosen for piloting because it is close to the study region and shares many of the same characteristics. To increase the instrument's efficiency, the inefficiencies were corrected. A pilot test is used to verify data collection instruments to identify any flaws in the instrumentation design before using the sample instruments. Transparency was improved when the instrument's ambiguity to the respondents was identified.

3.6.3 Instrument Reliability

Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) define reliability as a measure of the magnitude to which a research instrument brings steady results following repeated testing. Reliability was ensured via standardization of the conditions via which the study was conducted in order to decide the soundness, accuracy, clarity and suitability of the research devices. A Cronbach alpha coefficient was used to test for the internal consistency of the instruments. A reliability coefficient of 0.70 or more, if established would be deemed ideal for the study.

3.6.4 Instrument Validity

Instrument validity refers to the degree of accurateness and significance to which data collection instrument measures what it is intended to be measure, and is very necessary for making sure sound dimension of the data gathered (Kothari, 2004). The researcher ascertains the validity of the instrument through conducting face validity. To ensure validity, the researcher used a universally accepted sampling methodology with emphasis on desirable sampling for balanced illustration and fantastic information administration techniques for validity to prevail. This is to make sure that it includes precise questions also in regular format and only legitimate responses are adapted to measure what the researcher is supposed to. The researcher additionally consulted experts especially the university supervisors to make certain the units are applicable before the data collection method begins.

3.7 Data Processing and Analysis

Kombo et al. (2006) define data processing as the application of statistical techniques with the help of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 23

software to analyze data. The techniques include a series of actions or steps performed on data to verify, organize, transform, integrate, and extract data in an appropriate output form for subsequent use. Data Analysis involved actions and methods performed on data that helped to describe facts, detect patterns, develop explanations, and test hypotheses. To make the presentation easier, the collected statistics were reviewed for completeness, coded, and entered on the facts master sheet. Qualitative data from interviews and open-ended questions were analyzed thematically using content analysis. To arrive at relevant conclusions and recommendations, discussions of the field record outcomes were completed. The Statistical Package for Social Scientists was used to analyze quantitative data (SPSS). Each descriptive and inferential data was given a statistical measure. Frequencies and percentages were used to perform descriptive research. To test the hypothesis and, as a result, increase the relationships between study variables, correlation analysis was done.

3.8 Legal and Ethical Considerations

Ethics in research refers to agreements made between the researcher and the respondents on the conduct of the study. Kuzel (2016) posited that ethical issues are grouped into five main categories comprising confidentiality, informed consent, right to privacy, protection from danger as well as honesty. A legal and ethical consideration involves inquiring about appropriate approvals and obeying the rules laid down by the authorities in the research field. The study ensured that all the contributors who participated in the study had their identities stored confidentially, concealed, and pseudo names were used.

The researcher got an introduction letter from Africa Nazarene University (ANU) postgraduate board which was submitted to the respondents asking for their

consent to take part in the study. The researcher additionally made sure that the respondents had the right to pull out from the study at any time and that they were not coerced to take part in the study. To make certain that ethical consideration was maintained, the researcher also sought consent from the National Council of Science, Technology, and Innovation (NACOSTI) in Nairobi, Kenya. This was to enable the researcher to research according to ethical standards set up by NACOSTI.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

The purpose of the study was to find out socio-economic determinants of youth-driven criminal activities in Lamu West Sub-County, Lamu County, Kenya. The objectives of the study were to assess the socio-economic factors that motivate youth participation in criminal activities; find out the nature of youth-driven criminal activities; examine the strategies adopted by the local community that contribute to the reduction of youth-driven criminal activities and identify government policies that contribute to the reduction of youth-driven criminal activities in Lamu West Sub-County, Lamu County, Kenya. This chapter presents an analysis of the responses from the questionnaires and interviews.

4.2 Presentation of Findings

This section starts with a presentation of the response rate. This is followed by the demographic characteristics of the respondents.

4.2.1 Response Rate

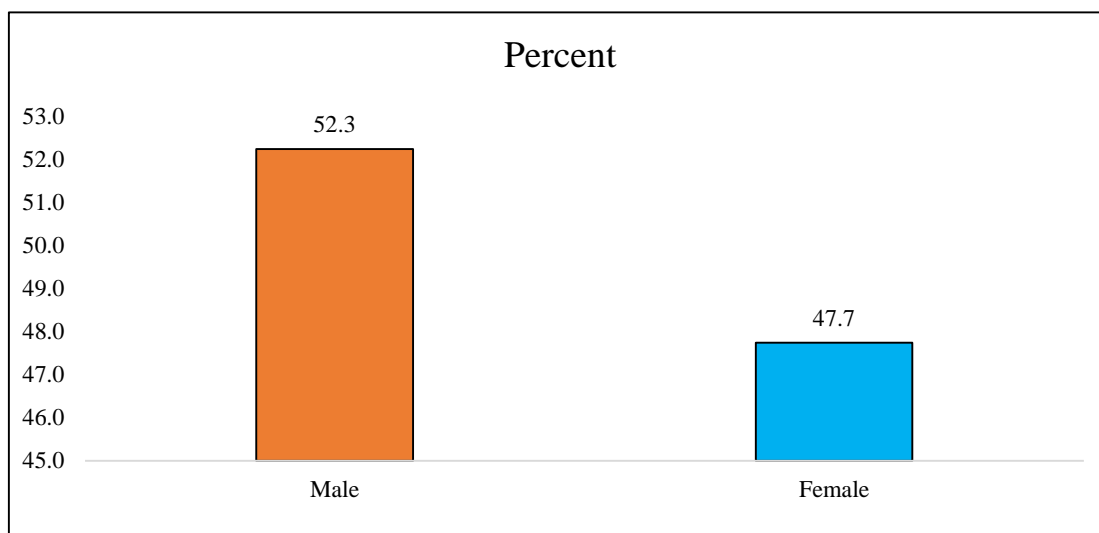
The survey had a total of 181 participants. 111 of them completed the questionnaire, and 47 were interviewed. The questionnaire response rate was 86.7 percent, while the interview response rate was 87.3 percent. The response rate is shown in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1: Response Rate

	Questionnaire Respondents Youth Leaders, Business Persons, Nyumba- Kumi Members		Key Informants (Chiefs/Sub-Chiefs Security Personnel/Top Police Personnel/Criminal groups Members)		Total	
Response	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Responded	111	86.7	47	88.7	158	87.3
Non-Responded	17	13.3	6	11.3	23	12.7
Total	128	100.0	53	100.0	181	100.0

4.2.2 Gender of Respondents

When asked to indicate their gender. The findings obtained show that most of the respondents were males (52.3%) while females were (47.7%). This shows that both genders were well represented in the study as shown in Figure 4.1.

**Figure 4.1: Gender of Respondents**

4.2.3 Age of Respondents

The respondents were asked to indicate their ages. The majority were aged between 26 and 30 years at 42.3%. These were followed by those aged 16 to 25 years at 29.7%. The others were aged 31 to 35 years at 16.2%, 36-50 years (7.2%), and 50 years and above (4.5%). These findings show that the respondents came from various

age groups. They could thus understand the age differences in participation in crime as well as the role of socio-economic factors in engagement to such crime. These findings are presented in Figure 4.2.

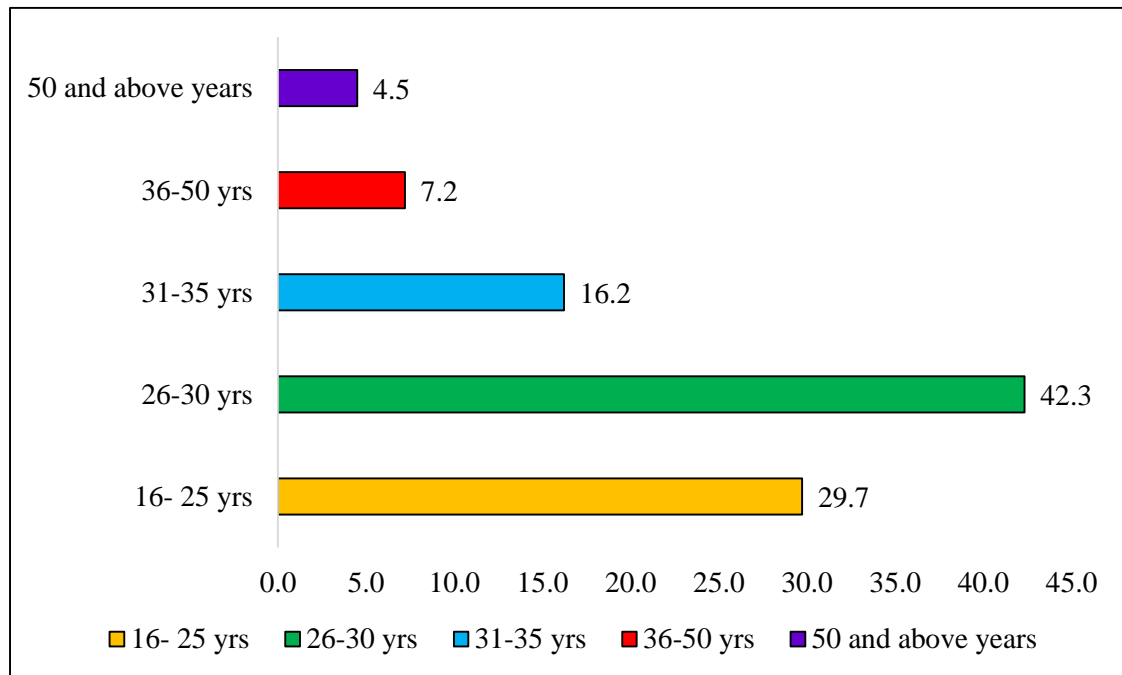


Figure 4.2: Age Groups of Respondents

4.2.4 Highest Education Level of Respondents

When asked about their highest levels of education, most of the respondents pointed out that they had a secondary school level of education (34.2%). This was followed by those with college-level education (30.6%). Those with university-level education and primary level education followed at 18.9% and 16.2% respectively. This is indicative of the fact that the respondents had sufficient education levels to make significant contributions to the subject under investigation. They could also be engaged in various economic activities in the study area and could understand crime dynamics and their effects in various economic sectors in the sub-county. These findings are presented in Figure 4.3.

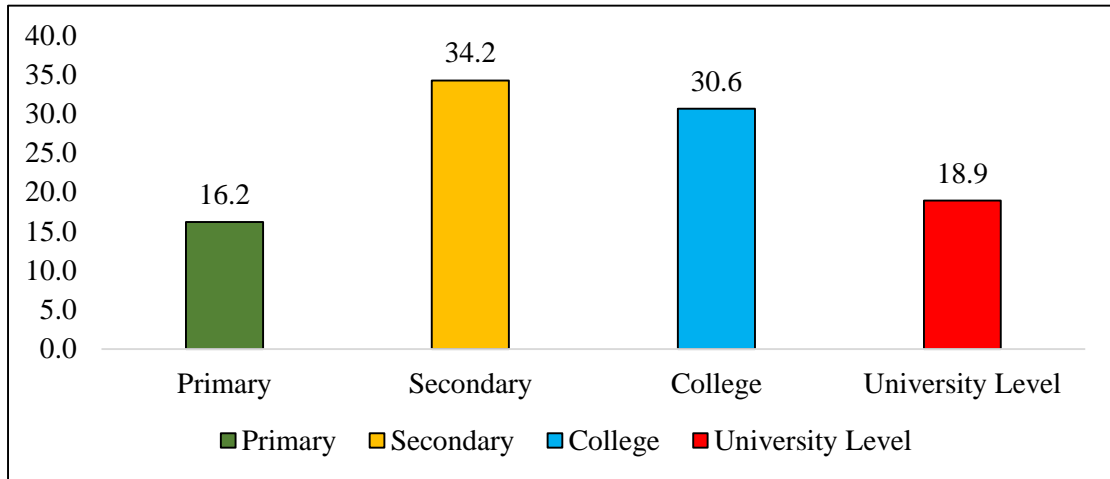


Figure 4.3: Education Level of Respondents

4.2.5 Duration Living in the Study Area

When asked to indicate the duration they had been living in the study area, more than a third of the respondents (36.9%) pointed out that they had lived for more than 11 years. While more than a quarter (29.7%) had lived in the area for 7 to 10 years, those who had lived for 2 to 6 years and below 2 years followed at 21.6% and 11.7% respectively. This shows that most of the respondents had lived in the study area long enough to make significant contributions to the study subject. Also, migration within the study area could enhance their understanding of crime dynamics in the sub-county.

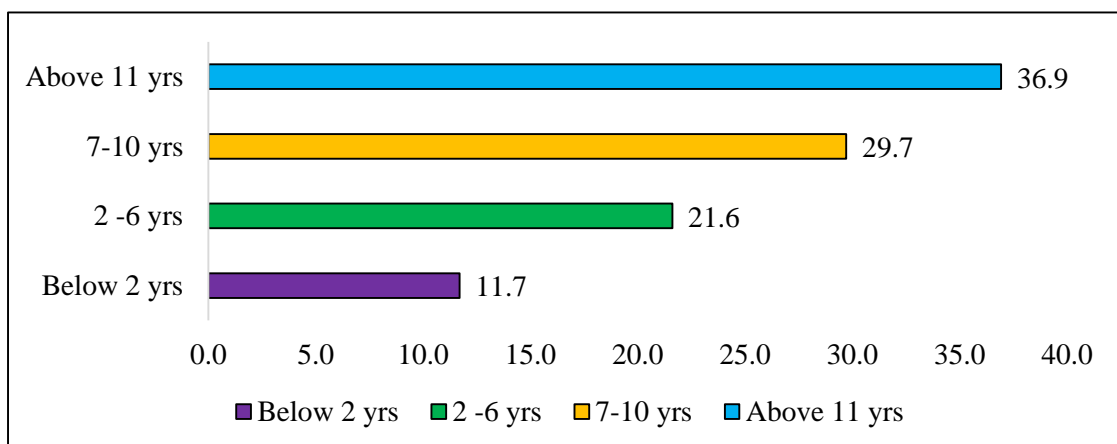


Figure 4.4: Duration Living in the Study Area

4.2.6 If Respondents Lived with Parents

The respondents were asked to indicate if they lived with their parents. Close to three quarters of the respondents pointed out that they did not live with their parents (73.9%). Only (26.1%) lived with their parents. This shows most of the respondents lived on their own and could give independent responses. Figure 4.5 presents these findings

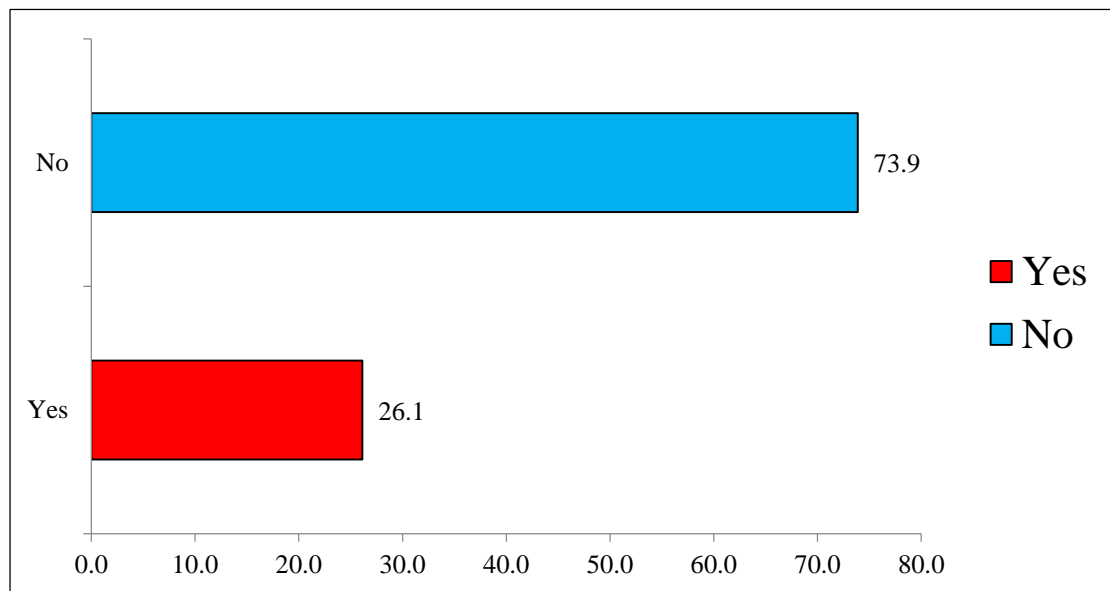


Figure 4.5: If Respondents Lived with Parents

4.2.7 Respondent's Main Source of Livelihood

The respondents were asked to identify their primary source of income. More than half of the respondents (51.4%) were self-employed, according to the results. Those who were working came in second with 29.7%, followed by those who were unemployed with 18.9%. This reflects the fact that, as seen in Figure 4.6, the majority of respondents work in the informal sector.

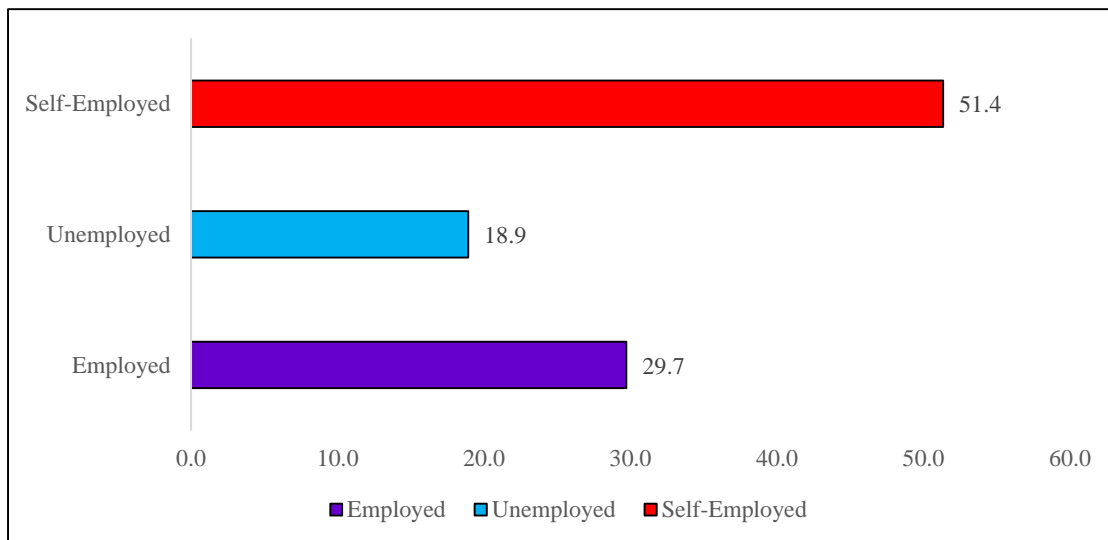


Figure 4.6: Respondent's Main Source of Livelihood

4.3 Findings and Analysis

This section presents the findings of the study. This was done in line with the study objectives. This section presents an analysis of the responses from the questionnaires and interviews.

4.3.1 Socio-Economic Factors Motivating Youth Participation in Criminal Activities in Lamu West Sub-County

The specific objectives of the study were to assess the socio-economic factors that motivate youth participation in criminal activities in Lamu West Sub-County. To begin with, the respondents were asked to rate selected statements regarding the reasons for youth engagement in criminal activities in Lamu West Sub-County. This was on a scale of 1-5 where: 1 - Strongly Agree, 2 - Agree, 3 - Indecisive, 4 - Disagree, 5 - Strongly Disagree. The most important reasons were pointed out to be unemployment, poverty, and peer pressure (WM=2). They were indecisive on a low income (WM=3) and saw lack of parental supervision and low education as not being important

(WM=4). This shows that the most important reasons for engagement in crime were poverty, unemployment, and peer pressure. These findings are presented in Table 4.2

Table 4.2: Reasons for Engagement in Crime by the Youth

Reason	1	2	3	4	5	WM
Unemployment	71	11	3	11	15	2
Poverty	62	11	4	11	23	2
Low education	11	14	14	21	51	4
Low income	36	12	11	11	41	3
Lack of parental supervision	0	0	5	49	57	4
Peer pressure	76	6	4	7	18	2

The respondents were asked to point out why they thought the youth joined criminal groups in the area. They were asked to rate selected reasons on a scale of 1-5 where: 1 - Strongly Agree, 2 - Agree, 3 - Indecisive, 4 – Disagree, 5 - Strongly Disagree. The youth pointed out that the most important reasons for joining criminal groups were radicalization, low police surveillance, and religion (WM=2). They were indecisive on marginalization, corruption and, weak governance (WM=3). They did not see political gains and social injustice as being important reasons (WM=2). It is thus evident that the most important reasons for joining criminal groups were religion, radicalization, and lack of sufficient surveillance by security agencies.

Table 4.3: Reasons for Joining Criminal Groups

Reason for Joining	1	2	3	4	5	Total	WM
Political gains	11	12	16	33	39	111	4
Religion	54	34	5	9	9	111	2
Social injustice	8	15	8	22	58	111	4
Low police surveillance	78	11	5	9	8	111	2
Marginalization	21	11	12	33	34	111	3
Corruption	12	19	19	34	27	111	3
Radicalization	55	12	11	18	15	111	2
Weak governance	21	11	18	19	42	111	3

Criminal group members were asked to point out the reasons why youth engaged in criminal gangs in this area. Several responses were availed. This included unemployment, lack of education, radicalization, and peer pressure (wanting to belong). In some instances, crime was motivated by low income and lack of adequate economic activities in the area. In this regard, one of the respondents said:

“There were many motivators of crime. Peer pressure and gang memberships were one of the reasons pushing the youth to crime. In other instances, the youth were radicalized in local places of worship and often took to assault and other terror-related activities.” [Respondent D9, September 29, 2020, Lamu West Sub-County].

Regarding armed robbery, one of the respondents said:

“There are instances of gun-related violence and robbery due to easy access of weapons from Somalia. Some of these gangs were hired out among criminals and were used to carry out the crime in different areas.” [Respondent D15, October 1, 2020, Lamu West Sub-County].

The criminal group members were also asked to point out the times when criminal activities were most rampant in the area. Most of them said that it was during holidays and the high tourist season. Most of the crimes were committed at night. When asked to point out how long it took to access youth development funds by the youths in the area, most of the respondents said that it took at least a month. Some said that it was hard to access those funds especially if one was not closely connected to the local politicians. In this regard, one of the respondents said:

“Getting access to youth empowerment programs was difficult especially if one was not connected to the local politicians. Some of the youth are even not aware of where to obtain these funds. This means that when others were benefiting from the funds; they were left out. It was thus hard for some of the neediest youth to benefit from these programs.” [Respondent D8, September 29, 2020, Lamu West Sub-County].

The respondents were further asked to point out the main sources of livelihood among the youth in the study area. The findings show that the main source of livelihood

was self-employment at 52.3% followed by employment at 27.9%. Close to a fifth (19.8%) said that they were unemployed. This means that they did not have significant sources of income.

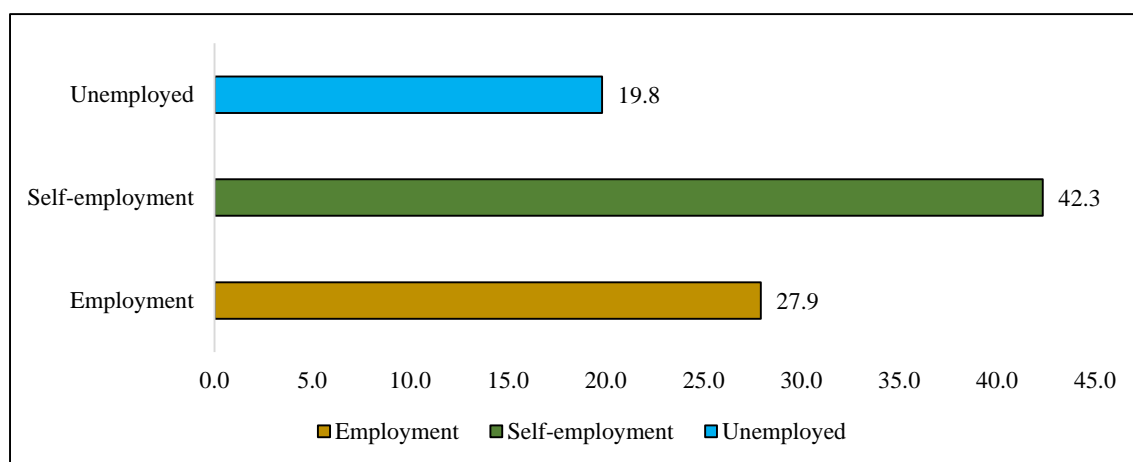


Figure 4.7: Main Sources of Income

The Security Personnel, Top Police Personnel, Chiefs/Assistant Chiefs were asked to point the socio-economic factors motivating youth participation in criminal activities in Lamu West Sub County. They said that lack of sustainable income was a major driving force to getting engaged in criminal activities. Young people who did not have sources of income were easy to recruit into criminal gangs and radicalize. This can be ascertained by one of the respondents who said:

“Criminal behavior was resultant from radicalizing influences from the environment. Poorer youth were more likely to be recruited by terrorist cells. This pushed numerous youth to join terrorist groups such as Al-Shabaab. Also, lack of sustainable income was an important driving force for youth engagement in criminal behaviors.” [Respondent D14, October 27, 2020, Lamu West Sub-County].

4.3.2 Nature of Youth-Driven Criminal Activities in Lamu West Sub-County

The second objective of the study was to find out the nature of youth-driven criminal activities motivated by socio-economic factors in Lamu West Sub-County.

Data was collected using questionnaires and interviews. To begin with, the respondents were asked to state the nature of the crime that youth are involved in Lamu West Sub-County from a range of crimes listed in the questionnaire. They were asked to rate on a scale of 1 to 5 where: 1 = Not at All, 2 = Rarely, 3 = Sometimes, 4 = Very Often, 5 = Always. The findings are represented in Table 4.2.

Table 4.4: Nature of Crime

Nature of crime	1	2	3	4	5	Weighted Mean
Burglary	0	0	12	45	54	5
Rape	11	67	21	10	2	2
Gangs and Vigilantisms	0	0	10	34	67	5
Armed robbery	0	1	11	54	45	5
Robbery	2	3	11	38	57	5
Pick-pocketing	0	18	11	34	48	4
Assaults	1	1	12	41	56	5
Radicalization	0	0	9	39	63	5
Other (Murder)	2	2	54	42	11	4

Weighted means (WM) were used to indicate the level to which the respondents agreed to selected crimes were practiced in Lamu West Sub-County. The respondents indicated that the main crimes that were always committed (WM=5) were burglary, gangs, and vigilantisms, armed robbery, assaults, and radicalization. Murder and pick-pocketing were very often carried out (WM=4). However, rape was rarely reported (WM=2). This shows that there were several crimes undertaken in the sub-county.

The respondents were asked to point out how the crime was carried out. The majority pointed out that crime was mostly carried out by the use of objects (60%). This was followed by the use of weapons (28%) and by the use of hands (12%). This shows that blunt objects and weapons were the main items used to carry out the crime in the study area as indicated in Figure 4.8.

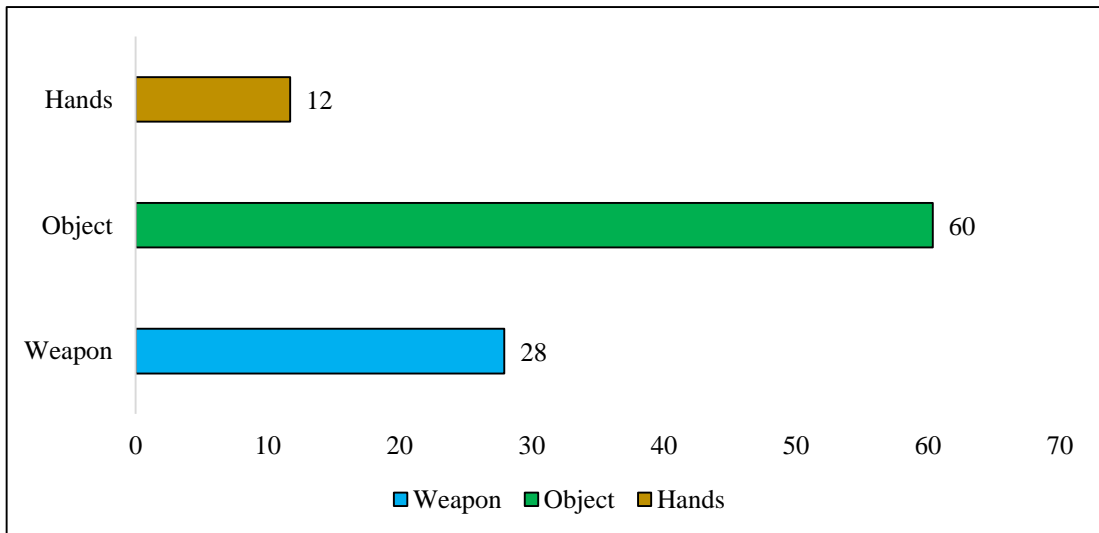


Figure 4.8: Ways in which Crime was Carried out

The respondents were asked to point out the time at which the criminal activities were mostly committed in Lamu West Sub County. More than half of the respondents said that crime was mostly carried out at night (56%). This was followed by those who said that crime could be carried out at any time and those who said that it was carried out during the day at 34% and 10% respectively. This shows that most criminal activities were carried out under cover of darkness as shown in Figure 4.

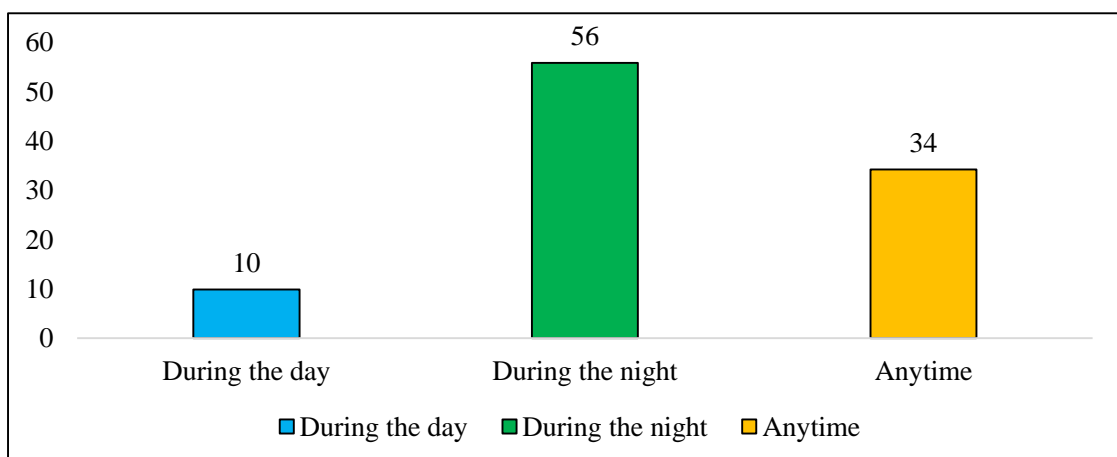


Figure 4.9: Time when Criminal Activities were Carried out

The respondents were asked to indicate the period when criminal activities occurred most in the area by indicating the three most common periods. The percentage score for each period was assessed. The majority pointed out that criminal activity happened mostly after security officers left (98%). Another 88% pointed out that it took place during high tourist seasons. Another 78% said that it took place during the school holidays. The least common periods were during drought (40%) and during the low tourist season (28%). This shows that the presence of security, high tourist populations, and school holidays were highly correlated with the level of crime in the study area as presented in Figure 4.10.

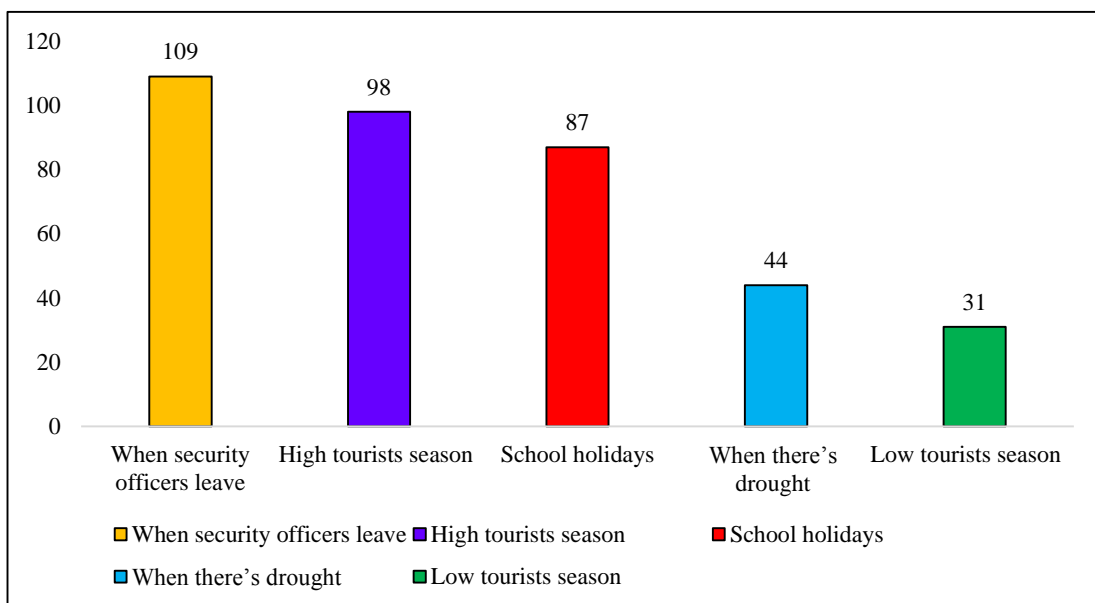


Figure 4.10: Period when Criminal Activities Occurred in the Area

Lastly, the respondents were asked to rate criminal activities in the area. The findings show that crime was rated high by more than half of the respondents (60%). It can thus be deduced that crime is a major challenge facing the inhabitants of Lamu West Sub-County. These findings are presented in Figure 4.11.

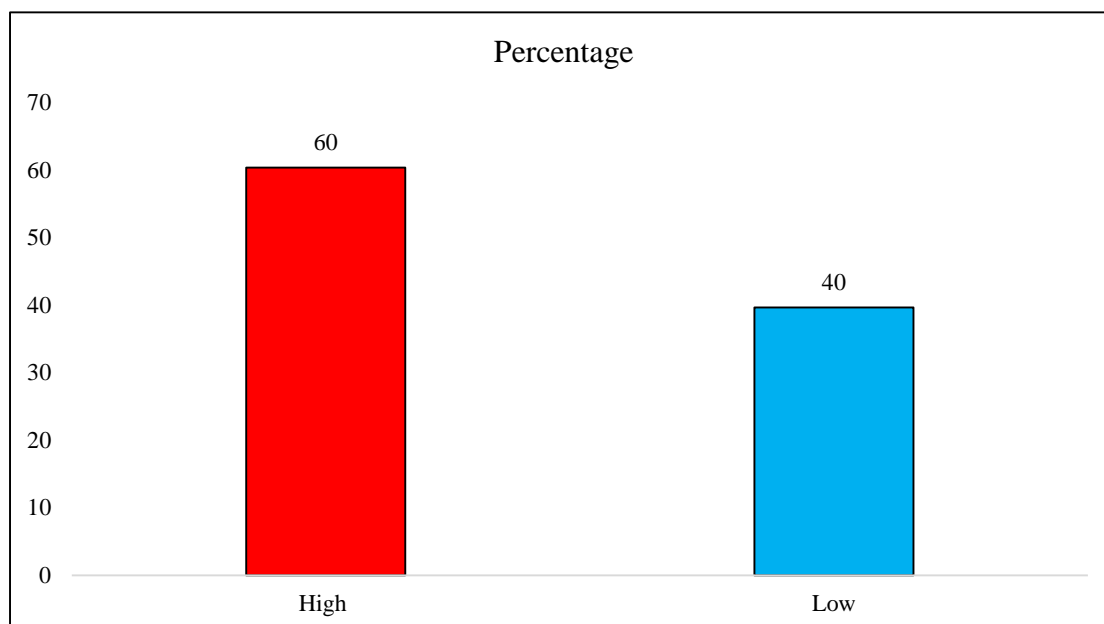


Figure 4.11: Level of Criminal Activities in the Area

The security personnel, top police personnel as well as chiefs /assistant chiefs were asked to point out the key types of youth-driven criminal activities within Lamu West Sub County. The responses show that the most important forms of crimes included armed robbery, pick-pocketing and petty theft, assault, terrorism-related activities, drug trafficking as well as involvement in gang-related activities. This can be attested in the words of some of the respondents who said:

“Indeed, there are many crimes that the youth get involved in. These include drug trafficking and involvement in violent gangs. Cases of assault, rape, burglary, murder /homicide and, carjacking had also been on the rise.” [Respondent D1, September 22, 2020, Lamu West Sub-County].

In corroboration of these findings, a sub-chief said:

“There are instances of mugging and pick-pocketing especially in urban areas. Robbery with violence is also commonly reported. As a result, dark alleys in urban areas and some deserted paths in rural areas had become safe haven for criminal groups.”[Respondent D4, September 23, 2020, Lamu West Sub-County].

Regarding the challenges related to drug trafficking and radicalization, one of the respondents said:

“There are rampant cases of drug trafficking, especially around tourist attraction sites. Cases of radicalization and terrorism-related crimes are also common among a segment of the population. Financial rewards were one of the strategies used to lure the youth by terrorist organizations.” [Respondent D6, September 24, 2020, Lamu West Sub-County].

4.3.3 Strategies Adopted by the Local Community that Contribute to Reduction of Youth-Driven Criminal Activities within Lamu West Sub-County

The study sought to examine the strategies adopted by the local community that contribute to the reduction of youth-driven criminal activities in Lamu West Sub-County, Lamu County, Kenya. Data was collected using questionnaires and interviews. To begin with, the respondents were asked to point out what they thought the local community members should adopt in the effort to reduce criminal activities by the youth in Lamu West Sub-County. They were asked to rate selected strategies on a scale of 1-5 where 1 - Strongly Agree, 2 - Agree, 3 - Indecisive, 4 – Disagree, 5 - Strongly Disagree.

Table 4.5: Strategies Adopted by the Local Community That Contribute To Reduce Youth-Driven Criminal Activities within Lamu West Sub-County

Strategy	1	2	3	4	5	Total	WM
Enroll children in school	56	44	6	3	2	111	2
Improve on social support	54	34	5	9	9	111	2
Come up with youth programs	8	15	8	22	58	111	4
Improve parental control	78	11	5	9	8	111	2
Engage the youth in income generating activities	21	11	12	33	34	111	3
Avoid Social disconnect with the youth	12	19	19	34	27	111	3
Engage in poverty eradication programs	55	12	11	18	15	111	2

The respondents were also asked to point out the strategies that the local community adapted to reduce youth crime in Lamu West Sub County. They pointed out that community policing initiatives such as the Nyumba-Kumi Initiative was largely practiced. There was also an effort to strengthen security in grassroots areas by creating

community awareness and raising campaigns on how to identify radicalization practices and behaviors. Everyone was involved in these efforts and initiatives with village elders and local leaders driving the security agenda.

The criminal group members were asked to point out what they considered the local community should do in the effort to reduce youth-driven criminal activities in Lamu West Sub-County. They pointed out that the most important efforts were enrolling their children in school as well as ensuring proper guidance of the youth at home. The government should also come up with programs for empowering the youth through training and funding. Instituting income-generating activities for the youth was also seen as an important intervention. This can be attested by the word of one of the participants who said:

“If the youth are trained by the government and non-governmental organizations on how to start small businesses and other income-generating activities, their tendency to commit the crime can be reduced. Some of the viable short courses that could be offered to the youth include entrepreneurship, bookkeeping, writing proposals, and marketing among others.” [Respondent D33, October 6, 2020, Lamu West Sub-County].

In the same light, another respondent said:

“Government empowerment programs such as Uwezo Fund should strongly support the youth to enhance their income generation capacities through funding and training. This can be done by increasing the number of funds allocated to these programs as well as the targeted number of beneficiaries each financial year.” [Respondent D21, October 4, 2020, Lamu West Sub-County].

The security personnel, top police personnel as well as chiefs and assistant chiefs were asked to indicate the part that the local community had played in reducing youth crime. They pointed out that the local community collaborated with security agencies in reporting criminal activities. Through the Nyumba-Kumi initiative, most of the local community members were actively involved in vigilance activities in the study area. In this light, one of the respondents said:

“The community played important roles by reporting criminal-related activities involving the youth. This was a departure from the past when it was hard to keep an eye on all criminal-related activities in a particular area. By reporting all potential and actual crimes, the contribution of the community in reining in on crime had been enhanced.” [Respondent D15, October 1, 2020, Lamu West Sub-County].

Some community members also played important roles in starting projects that the youth participated in keeping them busy and earning some income. This can be attested by the words of one of the respondents who said:

“Some community members played important roles by employing the youth in their projects such as building projects; earning them some income. However, these were not many and large groups of the youth remained largely unemployed. However, whenever community members managed to offer some training to the youth; their propensity to take to crime was greatly reduced.” [Respondent D17, October 2, 2020, Lamu West Sub-County].

When asked to indicate the level of citizens’ participation in the effort to try curbing youth-driven criminal activities in Lamu West Sub-County, the respondents said the involvement was high. There was close cooperation between citizens and security agencies in reducing criminal-related activities. In this regard, one of the respondents said:

“There is high level of citizen participation in identifying security risks and vulnerabilities and proffering solutions to these risks. However, the synchronization of the efforts by different citizens was not meticulously undertaken; challenging their efficacy.” [Respondent D16, October 2, 2020, Lamu West Sub-County].

4.3.4 Government Policies That Contribute to Reduction of Youth Driven Criminal Activities within Lamu West Sub-County

The last objective of the study was to find out whether the existing legal and policy framework is supporting the reduction of youth-driven criminal activities within Lamu West Sub-County, Kenya. To begin with, the respondents were asked to rank selected initiatives that the government had come up with in the effort to curb youth-

driven criminal activities. The findings show that the most important initiative was to improve security according to 91% of the respondents. This was followed by the establishment of a youth development fund according to 88.5% of the respondents. The next important initiatives were promoting technical vocational education training (54.9%) and enhancing access to government procurement and finance facilities (45.9%). The least important initiative was restructuring education curricula with only 18.9% pointing it out.

Table 4.6: Initiatives used by Government to Improve on Security

Strategies	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
Improve on security measures	111	91.0	1
Establish youth development funds	108	88.5	2
Promote Technical vocational education training	67	54.9	3
Access to government procurement and finance facilities	56	45.9	4
Restructure education curricula	23	18.9	5

When asked if they thought that the youth in the area were aware of government procurement and finance facilities, most of them answered in the affirmative. However, the vast majority had not benefitted from government procurement activities and some had not obtained any government funds. In this regard, government procurement and finance facilities had not played significant roles in checking crime in the study area.

The respondents were also asked to point out the duration it took to implement government initiatives to curb youth-driven criminal activities. Almost half of them (49.5%) said that it took at least 1 year. This was followed by more than a quarter who said that it took more than a year at 25.2%. These findings show that government projects took long periods to implement which could affect their effectiveness in reining in on crime among the youth.

Table 4.7: Duration Taken to Implement Initiatives to Curb Crime by the Government

Duration	Frequency	Percent
3 months	3	2.7
6 months	25	22.5
1 year	55	49.5
More than a year	28	25.2
Total	111	100.0

When asked if the initiatives by the government to curb youth-driven criminal activities were beneficial to the youth, the respondents answered in the affirmative. In some cases, capacity-building programs opened the eyes of the youth to see opportunities that were not open to them before. This changed their behaviors and made them more effective in their work. By increasing income-generating capacities, the initiatives by the government made some of the turns away from criminal activities.

The respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with the following statements on eradication of criminal activities amongst the youth within Lamu West Sub-County. This was done on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 – strongly agree, 2 – agree, 3 – indecisive, 4 – disagree, 5 – strongly disagree. The respondents strongly agreed (WM=1) that the government made effort to curb youth-driven criminal activities; youth empowerment programs; dismantle criminal gangs and; improve citizens' participation in decision making. The respondents went to agree (WM=4) that arresting drug traffickers. However, the respondents were indecisive (neutral) to the fact that the government engaged youth leaders to curb youth-driven criminal activities. This shows that the most important measures used to rein in on crime were government initiatives; undertaking youth empowerment programs, dismantling criminal gangs, and improving citizen participation in decision-making processes.

Table 4.8: Methods for Eradicating Criminal Activities amongst the Youth

Statement	1	2	3	4	5	WM
Government effort to curb youth driven criminal activities	78	22	6	3	2	1
Youth empowerment programs	77	24	5	4	1	1
Arrest drug traffickers	79	13	8	8	3	2
Dismantle criminal gangs	88	14	1	7	1	1
Improve citizens participation in decision making	87	11	9	2	2	1
Engage the youth leaders	27	22	18	11	33	3

The criminal groups were asked to point out the initiatives that the government had come up with in the effort to curb youth driven criminal activities. They pointed out that the most important initiatives were the creation of employment and capacity-building initiatives. The government also availed financial facilities to rein in on the crime. When asked to point out the persons engaged in community policing to reduce criminal activities amongst the youth within the area, the respondents said that the persons most involved were the youth, community leaders as well as chiefs/sub-chiefs. In this regard, one of the respondents said that *“The most common persons involved in the security-related issues were the youth, community and chiefs/sub-chiefs* [Respondent D17, October 2, 2020, Lamu West Sub-County].

The criminal group members were asked to indicate the measures used in the eradication of criminal activities amidst the youth within Lamu West Sub-County. They pointed that the most important government measures to curb youth-driven criminal activities were establishing youth empowerment programs. Others involved arresting drug traffickers, dismantling criminal gangs, improving citizen’s participation in decision making, and engaging the youth leaders. This can be attested by the findings of one of the respondents who said:

“There are numerous strategies used in curbing crime in the study area such as empowerment programs, community policing, and dismantling criminal gangs among others. However, the efficacy of some of these strategies was challenged

by lack of sufficient resources among other challenges.” [Respondent D42, October 6, 2020, Lamu West Sub-County].

The security personnel, top police personnel, chiefs, and assistant chiefs were asked to indicate the efforts that the government had set in place to compact youth crime. They posited that the government used methods such as the Nyumbi-Kumi initiative, youth empowerment programs, and anti-radicalization programs. This was pivotal in reducing the challenges at grassroots areas that promoted the propensity of the youth to take to crime. In this light, one of the respondents said:

“The government put in place several measures aimed at combating crime in the study area. These included socioeconomic empowerment through funds such as Uwezo Fund and Kazi Mtaani (work at grassroots areas) for empowering the youth.” [Respondent D33, October 5, 2020, Lamu West Sub-County].

4.4. Pearson Correlation

Pearson correlation was carried out to find out the relationship between youth-driven criminal activities (dependent variable) and the independent variables as follows: Socioeconomic Factors ($r=0.924$, $p<0.05$; strategies adopted by the local community, $r=0.878$, $p<0.05$ and government policies, $r=0.694$, $p<0.05$). As such, all the independent variables had significant relationships with the dependent variable. In this regard, it is evident that the variables under investigation influenced youth-driven criminal activities in the study area to various extents.

Table 4.9: Pearson Correlation

Correlations					
		Nature of Crime	Socio-economic Factors	Strategies Adopted by the Local Community	Government Policies
Youth driven Criminal Activities	Pearson Correlation	1	.924**	.878**	.694**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.000	.000
	N	112	112	112	112

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

In this chapter, a discussion of the findings, a summary of the main findings, a conclusion, as well as recommendations are presented.

5.2 Discussions

This section presents a discussion of the findings. This is done in line with the objectives of the study. The findings are also analyzed in line with findings from other studies. The study targeted 181 respondents. These included 53 community members (Nyumba Kumi), 4 chiefs/sub-chiefs, 41 security personnel/ top police personnel, 63 business persons, 12 youth leaders, and 8 criminal groups. Out of these, 111 responded to the questionnaire. At the same time, 47 key informants were interviewed. This makes an overall response rate of 158 out of 181 (87.3%). General information about the Youth Leaders, Business Persons and, Nyumba Kumi Members was sought. This included gender, Age Bracket, level of education, time lived in the area, person respondents live with and, source of livelihood. When asked to indicate their gender. The findings obtained show that most of the respondents were males (52.3%) while females (47.7%). This shows that both genders were well represented in the study.

The respondents were asked to indicate their ages. The majority were aged between 26 and 30 years at 42.3%. These were followed by those aged 16 to 25 years at 29.7%. The others were aged 31 to 35 years at 16.2%, 36-50 years (7.2%), and 50 years and above (4.5%). These findings show that the respondents came from various age groups. They could thus understand the age differences in participation in crime as well as the role of socio-economic factors in engagement to such crime.

When asked about their highest levels of education, most of the respondents pointed out that they had a secondary school level of education (34.2%). This was followed by college-level education (30.6%) and those with university-level education at 18.9%. The least had primary level education at 16.2%. This is indicative of the fact that the respondents had sufficient education qualifications to understand the subject under investigation. They could also be engaged in various economic activities in the study area and could understand crime dynamics and their effects in various economic sectors in the sub-county.

When asked to indicate the duration they had been living in the study area, more than a third of the respondents (36.9%) pointed out that they had lived for more than 11 years. These were followed by more than a quarter (29.7%) that had lived for 7 to 10 years. The least had lived for 2 to 6 years and below 2 years at 21.6% and 11.7% respectively. This shows that the respondents had lived in the study area long enough to make significant contributions to the study subject. The migration of some of them within the study area could also enhance their understanding of crime dynamics in the sub-county.

The respondents were asked to indicate if they lived with their parents. Close to three-quarters of the respondents pointed out that they did not live with their parents (73.9%). Only 26.1% lived with their parents. This shows most of the respondents lived on their own and could give independent responses.

The respondents were asked to indicate their main source of income. The findings show that more than half of the respondents (51.4%) were self-employed. These were followed by those who were employed at 29.7%. The least was unemployed at 18.9%. This is indicative of the fact that most of the respondents had some form of income.

5.2.1 Socio-Economic Factors Motivating Youth Participation in Criminal Activities in Lamu West Sub-County

The first objective of the study was to assess the socio-economic factors that motivate youth participation in criminal activities in Lamu West Sub-County. To begin with, the respondents were asked to rate selected reasons why youth engaged in criminal activities in Sub County. The most important reasons were pointed out to be unemployment, poverty, and peer pressure (WM=2). They were indecisive on a low income (WM=3) and saw lack of parental supervision and low education as not being important (WM=4). This shows that the most important reasons for engagement in crime were poverty (Muggah & Delfrotte, 2017), unemployment (Kilishi et al., 2014), and peer pressure as posited by Esbensen and Weerman (2015) who points out that youths also engage in gang membership, aggressiveness and antisocial behavior due to peer pressure and impulsivity.

The respondents were asked to point out why they thought the youth joined criminal groups in the area. The youth pointed out that the most important reasons for joining criminal groups were radicalization, low police surveillance, and religion (WM=2). They were indecisive on marginalization, corruption and, weak governance (WM=3). They did not see political gains and social injustice as being important reasons (WM=2). It is thus evident that the most important reasons for joining criminal groups were religion, radicalization (UN Security Council 2178, 2014), and lack of sufficient surveillance by security agencies (Muggah & Delfrotte, 2017). The respondents were further asked to point out the main sources of livelihood among the youth in the study area. The findings show that the main source of livelihood was self-employment at 52.3% followed by employment at 27.9%. Close to a fifth (19.8%) said

that unemployment was rampant. This could contribute to increases in crime (Kilishi et al., 2014).

Criminal group members were asked to point out the reasons why youth engaged in criminal gangs in this area. Several responses were availed. These included unemployment (Kilishi et al., 2014), lack of education, radicalization (Muggah & Delfrotte, 2017), and peer pressure (wanting to belong). In some instances, crime was motivated by low income and lack of adequate economic activities in the area. The criminal group members were also asked to point out the times when criminal activities were most rampant in the area. Most of them said that it was during holidays and the high tourist season. Most of the crimes were committed at night. When asked to point out how long it took to access youth development funds by the youths in the area, most of the respondents said that it took at least a month. Some said that it was hard to access those funds especially if one was not closely connected to the local politicians. The Security Personnel/Top Police Personnel, Chiefs /Assistant Chiefs were asked to point the Socio-economic factors motivating youth participation in criminal activities in Lamu West Sub County. They said that lack of sustainable income was a major driving force to getting engaged in criminal activities. Young people who did not have sources of income were easy to recruit into criminal gangs and radicalize. This was in line with Farrall and Jennings (2012) who also identified income as an important factor contributing to crime.

5.2.2 Nature of Youth-Driven Criminal Activities in Lamu West Sub-County

The second objective of the study was to find out the nature of youth-driven criminal activities motivated by socio-economic factors in Lamu West Sub-County. Data was collected using questionnaires and interview schedules. To begin with, the

respondents were asked to state the natures of crime that youth are involved in in Lamu West Sub-County. Weighted means (WM) were used to indicate the level to which the respondents agreed to selected crimes were practiced in Lamu West Sub-County. The respondents indicated that the main crimes that were always committed (WM=5) were burglary, gangs and vigilantisms, armed robbery, robbery, assaults, and radicalization. Murder and pick-pocketing were very often carried out (WM=4). However, rape was rarely undertaken (WM=2). This shows that there were several crimes undertaken in the sub-county. These findings agree with a report by UNODC (2010) that shows that Africa scores highly on cases of crime reported.

The respondents were asked to point out ways in which crime was carried out. The majority pointed out that crime was mostly carried out by the use of objects (60%). This was followed by the use of weapons (28%). The least method in which crime was carried out was by use of hands (12%). This shows that blunt objects and weapons were the main items used to carry out the crime in the study area. These findings are in line with those of Successive Crime and Victim Surveys (2015) which shows that 13 percent of all robberies and 9 percent of assaults and threats globally are carried out with weapons. However, the former study differs from this current study in that it shows that weapons were used in less than 20% of all attacks.

The respondents were asked to point out the time at which the criminal activities were mostly committed in Lamu West Sub County. More than half of the respondents said that crime was mostly carried out at night (56%). This was followed by those who said that crime could be carried out at any time (34%). The least opined that it was carried out on day (10%). This shows that most criminal activities were carried out under the cover of darkness.

The respondents were asked to indicate the period when criminal activities occurred most in the area by indicating the three most common periods. The percentage score for each period was assessed. The majority pointed out that criminal activities most happened when security officers left (98%). Another 88% pointed out that it took place during high tourist seasons. Another 78% said that it took place during the school holidays. The least common periods were during drought (40%) and the low tourist season (28%). This shows that the presence of security, high tourist populations, and school holidays were highly correlated with the level of crime in the study area. These findings are in line with a former study by Muggah and Delfrotte that shows that the laxity of police forces and security personnel has also led to the emergent of gangs and vigilante groups in the veil of providing security to the inhabitants of slum and poorer urban areas (Muggah & Delfrotte, 2017).

Lastly, the respondents were asked to rate criminal activities in the area. The findings show that crime was rated high by more than half of the respondents (60%). It can thus be deduced that crime was a major challenge facing the inhabitants of Lamu West Sub-County. The security personnel/top police personnel, as well as chiefs /assistant chiefs, were asked to point out the key types of youth-driven criminal activities within Lamu West Sub County. The responses show that the most important forms of crimes included armed robbery, pickpocketing and petty theft, assault, terrorism-related activities, drug trafficking as well as involvement in gang-related activities. This is in line with the report by UNODC (2010) that identified these as challenges in African countries.

5.2.3 Strategies Adopted by the Local Community That Contribute to Reduction of Youth-Driven Criminal Activities within Lamu West Sub-County

The study sought to examine the strategies adopted by the local community that contribute to the reduction of youth-driven criminal activities in Lamu West Sub-County, Lamu County, Kenya. Data was collected using questionnaires and interviews. The respondents were also asked to point out the strategies that the local community adapted to reduce youth crime in Lamu West Sub County. They pointed out that community policing initiatives such as the Nyumba-Kumi Initiative was largely practiced which could rein in on crime (Kitiyo, 2017). There was also an effort to strengthen security in grassroots areas by community awareness-raising campaigns on how to identify radicalization practices and behaviors. Everyone was involved in these efforts and initiatives with village elders and local leaders driving the security agenda.

The criminal group members were asked to point out what they considered the local community should do in the effort to reduce youth-driven criminal activities in Lamu West Sub-County. They pointed out that the most important efforts were enrolling their children in school as well ensuring proper guidance of the youth at home which could check increases in crime (UN ESCWA, 2014). The government should also come up with programs for empowering the youth through training and funding. Instituting income-generating activities for the youth was also seen as an important intervention which agrees with the UNDP report (2014).

The security personnel, top police personnel as well as chiefs and assistant chiefs were asked to indicate the part that the local community had played in reducing youth crime. They pointed out that the local community collaborated with security agencies in reporting criminal activities. Through the Nyumba-Kumi initiative, most of the local community members were actively involved in vigilance activities in the study

area (Kitiyo, 2017). Some community members also played important roles in starting projects that the youth participated in; keeping them busy and earning some income as pointed out by Kitiyo (2017). When asked to indicate the level of citizens' participation in the effort to try curbing youth-driven criminal activities in Lamu West Sub-County, the respondents said the involvement was high. There was close cooperation between citizens and security agencies in all criminal-related activities.

5.2.4 Government Policies That Contribute to Reduction of Youth-Driven Criminal Activities within Lamu West Sub-County

The last objective of the study was to find out whether the existing legal and policy framework is supporting the reduction of youth-driven criminal activities within Lamu West Sub-County, Kenya. To begin with, the respondents were asked to rank selected initiatives that the government had come up with in the effort to curb youth-driven criminal activities. The findings show that the most important initiative was to improve on security according to 91% of the respondents which agrees with Kamau et al., (2014) who agreed. This was followed by the establishment of a youth development fund according to 88.5% of the respondents. The next important initiative was promoting technical vocational education training (54.9%) as posited by UN Security Council 2178 (2014) and enhancing access to government procurement and finance facilities (45.9%). The least important initiative was restructuring education curricula with only 18.9% pointing it out.

When asked if the initiatives by the government to curb youth-driven criminal activities were beneficial to the youth, the respondents answered in the affirmative. In some cases, capacity-building programs opened the eyes of the youth to see opportunities that were not open to them before. This changed their behaviors and made

them more effective in their work. By increasing income-generating capacities (Klaus, 2013), the initiatives by the government made some of the turns away from criminal activities.

The respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with the following statements on eradication of criminal activities amongst the youth within Lamu West Sub-County. The respondents strongly agreed (WM=1) on the government effort to curb youth-driven criminal activities; youth empowerment programs; dismantle criminal gangs and; improve citizens' participation in decision making. The respondents went to agree (WM=4) that arresting drug traffickers. However, the respondents were indecisive (neutral) to the fact that the government engaged youth leaders to curb youth-driven criminal activities. This shows that the most important measures used to rein in on crime were government criminal mitigation activities, undertaking youth empowerment programs, dismantling criminal gangs (Penal Reform International, 2010), and improving citizen participation in decision-making processes.

The criminal groups were asked to point out the initiatives that the government had come up with in the effort to curb youth-driven criminal activities. They pointed out that the most important initiatives were the creation of employment and capacity building initiatives which corroborates the findings of Schilling et al. (2012). The government also availed financial facilities to rein in on the crime. When asked to point out the persons engaged in community policing to reduce criminal activities amongst the youth within the area (van der Spuy & Röntschi, 2008), the respondents said that the persons most involved were the youth, community leaders as well as chiefs/sub-chiefs.

The criminal group members were asked to indicate the measures used in the eradication of criminal activities amidst the youth within Lamu West Sub-County. They pointed that the most important government measures to curb youth-driven criminal

activities and, youth empowerment programs in line with the findings of Schilling et al. (2012). Others involved arresting drug traffickers as pointed out by Kitiyo (2017), dismantling criminal gangs, improving citizen's participation in decision making, and engaging the youth leaders.

The security personnel, top police personnel, chiefs, and assistant chiefs were asked to indicate the efforts that the government had set in place to compact youth crime. They posited that the government used methods such as Nyumbi Kumi Initiative (Kitiyo, 2017), youth empowerment programs, and anti-radicalization programs. This was pivotal in reducing the challenges at grassroots areas that promoted the propensity of the youth to take to crime.

5.3 Summary of Main Findings

The first objective of the study was to assess the socio-economic factors that motivate youth participation in criminal activities in Lamu West Sub-County. To begin with, the respondents were asked to rate selected reasons why youth engaged in criminal activities in Sub County. The most important reasons were pointed out to be unemployment, poverty, and peer pressure. They were indecisive on low income and saw lack of parental supervision and low education as not being important. This shows that the most important reasons for engagement in crime were poverty, unemployment, and peer pressure.

The most important reasons for joining criminal groups were religion, radicalization, and lack of sufficient surveillance by security agencies. The findings show that the main source of livelihood was self-employment followed by employment. Unemployment was also common; leading to increases in crime.

Criminal group members were asked to point out the reasons why youth engaged in criminal gangs in this area. Several responses were availed. This included unemployment, lack of education, radicalization, and peer pressure (wanting to belong). In some instances, crime was motivated by low income and lack of adequate economic activities in the area. The criminal group members were also asked to point out the times when criminal activities were most rampant in the area. Most of them said that it was during holidays and the high tourist season. Most of the crimes were committed at night. When asked to point out how long it took to access youth development funds by the youths in the area, most of the respondents said that it took at least a month. Some that it was hard to access those funds especially if one was not closely connected to the local politicians. The Security Personnel/Top Police Personnel, Chiefs /Assistant Chiefs were asked to point the Socio-economic factors motivating youth participation in criminal activities in Lamu West Sub County. They said that lack of sustainable income was a major driving force to getting engaged in criminal activities. Young people who did not have sources of income were easy to recruit into criminal gangs and radicalize.

The study sought to examine the strategies adopted by the local community that contribute to youth-driven criminal activities in Lamu West Sub-County, Lamu County, Kenya. It was evident that community policing initiatives such as the Nyumba-Kumi Initiative were largely practiced which could rein in on the crime. There was also an effort to strengthen security in grassroots areas by community awareness-raising campaigns on how to identify radicalization practices and behaviors. Everyone was involved in these efforts and initiatives with village elders and local leaders driving the security agenda. The local community should do in an effort to reduce youth-driven criminal activities in Lamu West Sub-County. The most important efforts were

enrolling their children in school as well ensuring proper guidance of the youth at home which could check increases in crime. Furthermore, the government should also come up with programs for empowering the youth through training and funding. Instituting income-generating activities for the youth was also seen as an important intervention.

The second objective of the study was to find out the nature of youth-driven criminal activities motivated by socio-economic factors in Lamu West Sub-County, Lamu County, Kenya. The respondents indicated that the main crimes that were always committed were burglary, gangs, and vigilantism, armed robbery, robbery, assaults, and radicalization. Murder and pick-pocketing were very often carried out. However, rape was rarely undertaken. This shows that there were several crimes undertaken in the sub-county.

The majority pointed out that crime was mostly carried out by the use of objects. This was followed by the use of weapons. The least method in which crime was carried out was by use of hands. This shows that blunt objects and weapons were the main items used to carry out the crime in the study area. The respondents were asked to point out the time at which the criminal activities were mostly committed in Lamu West Sub County. More than half of the respondents said that crime was mostly carried out at night.

The majority pointed out that criminal activities most happened when security officers left, during high tourist seasons as well as during school holidays. This shows that the presence of security, high tourist populations, and school holidays was highly correlated with the level of crime in the study area. The crime was rated high by more than half of the respondents. It can thus be deduced that crime was a major challenge facing the inhabitants of Lamu West Sub-County. The important forms of crimes

included armed robbery, pickpocketing and petty theft, assault, terrorism-related activities, drug trafficking as well as involvement in gang-related activities.

The study sought to examine the strategies adopted by the local community that contribute to a reduction of youth-driven criminal activities in Lamu West Sub-County, Lamu County, Kenya. The main strategies identified were community policing initiatives such as the Nyumba-Kumi Initiative and strengthening security in grassroots areas by community awareness-raising campaigns on how to identify radicalization practices and behaviors. Everyone was involved in these efforts and initiatives with village elders and local leaders driving the security agenda. Other important interventions used were enrolling their children in school as well ensuring proper guidance of the youth at home. There was also a need to for starting projects that the youth could participate in to keeping them busy and earning some income. There was also need for close cooperation between citizens and security agencies.

The last objective of the study was to find out whether the existing legal and policy framework is supporting reduction of youth-driven criminal activities within Lamu West Sub-County. Their findings show that the most important initiative was to improve security. This was followed by the establishment of youth development. The next important initiative was promoting technical vocational education training and enhancing access to government procurement and finance facilities. The least important initiative was restructuring education curricula. In some cases, capacity-building programs opened the eyes of the youth to see opportunity. Also, the initiatives by the government made some of the turns away from criminal activities.

Regarding the eradication of crimes among the youth, the most important measures were government criminal mitigation activities, undertaking youth empowerment programs, dismantling criminal gangs and improving citizen

participation in decision-making processes. Regarding the initiatives that the government had come up with in the effort to curb youth-driven criminal activities, the most important initiatives were the creation of employment and capacity-building initiatives. The government also availed financial facilities to rein in on the crime. When asked to point out the persons engaged in community policing to reduce criminal activities amongst the youth within the area, the respondents said that the persons most involved were the youth, community leaders as well as chiefs/sub-chiefs.

The most important measures of the government effort to curb youth-driven criminal activities is youth empowerment programs. Others involved arresting drug traffickers, dismantling criminal gangs, improving citizen's participation in decision making and engaging the youth leaders. The government also used the Nyumbi-Kumi Initiative, youth empowerment programs, and anti-radicalization programs. This was pivotal in reducing the challenges at grassroots areas that promoted the propensity of the youth to take to crime.

5.4 Conclusion

This section presents what the conclusion of the study findings in line with the study objectives. Regarding the socio-economic factors motivating youth participation in criminal activities in Lamu West Sub-County, the findings found significant and positive correlation between Socioeconomic Factors ($r=0.924$, $p<0.05$) and participation in criminal activities. The youth were motivated by unemployment, peer pressure and lack of adequate economic activities in the area to take to crime.

Furthermore, various strategies were adopted by the local community to reduce youth-driven criminal activities within Lamu west sub-county. There was a positive and significant correlation between these interventions and youth driven crimes in the sub-

county ($r=0.878$, $p<0.05$). The main strategies used were community policing initiatives such as the Nyumba-Kumi Initiative, strengthening security in grassroots areas through community awareness-raising campaigns on how to identify radicalization practices and behaviors. In this regard, everyone was involved in these efforts and initiatives with village elders and local leaders driving the security agenda.

Lastly, government policies put in place to try to curb youth-driven criminal activities in Lamu West Sub-County had positive correlation with youth driven crime in the study area ($r=0.694$, $p<0.05$). The policies and initiatives put in place by the government included improvement on security, establishment of youth development fund, promotion of technical vocational education training and enhancing access to government procurement and finance facilities. By undertaking capacity-building programs, the youth were able to have their eyes opened to see opportunities that were not open to them before. This changed their behaviors and made them more effective in their work. The government also engaged youth leaders in curbing youth-driven criminal activities. It also took part in dismantling criminal gangs and improving citizen participation in decision-making processes. Other measures were arresting drug traffickers.

5.5 Recommendations

Looking at the outcomes of this study, the discussions, and conclusions made, the study makes the following recommendations.

5.5.1 Socio-Economic Factors Motivating Youth Participation in Criminal Activities in Lamu West Sub-County

The department for youth should put in place measures aimed at reducing unemployment in the area through enhanced access to government empowerment programs such as Uwezo Fund. Peer pressure should also be dealt with through the requisite psychosocial support interventions. The County Government of Lamu should also put in place measures aimed at spurring economic growth in Lamu West-County through infrastructure development among other interventions.

5.5.2 Nature of Youth-Driven Criminal Activities Motivated by Socio-Economic Factors in Lamu West Sub-County, Lamu County, Kenya

There should be tailor-made strategies for dealing with specific criminal activities undertaken by the youth in the study area by security agencies. In this regard, the strategies put in place to deal with petty crimes should not be the same as strategies for dealing with major crimes such as participation in terrorist activities, murder, rape, and armed robbery among others. Some of these major crimes need long-term solutions such as de-radicalization, education, and targeted training by the department for youth in both national and county governments, non-governmental organizations and religious organizations. The youth who participate in these crimes should also be provided with sufficient funding to make them more productive and dissuade from engaging in further crime by government empowerment programs such as Uwezo Fund and Youth Enterprise Fund among others.

5.5.3 Socioeconomic Strategies Adopted by the Local Community Contributing To Reduction of Youth-Driven Criminal Activities within Lamu West Sub-County

At the community level, there should be strong efforts aimed at buttressing the Nyumba-Kumi initiative. This can be done by the financing of local village estate leaders to reduce youth-driven criminal activities within Lamu west sub-county. Funding should be availed by the national and Lamu County governments to support community awareness-raising campaigns to rein in on radicalization practices and behaviors. Youth leaders should also be trained on how to support their colleagues to shun criminal behaviors by through programmes initiated by government and non-governmental organizations.

5.5.4 Support by the Existing Legal and Policy Framework in the Reduction of Youth Driven Criminal Activities within Lamu West Sub-County

The national government should increase funding for security services. It should also deploy enough personnel in the study area. Furthermore, the national government through the department for youth should increase funding and accessibility of youth empowerment programs such as Uwezo Fund and Youth Enterprise Fund among others. The department for youth should also strengthen technical vocational education training by funding vocational schools at grassroots levels. Capacity building initiatives should also be undertaken by departments for youth in both national and county governments, non-governmental organizations as well as religious organizations to provide alternative routes to income generation among the youth.

5.6 Areas of Further Research

The study sought to find out socio economic determinants of youth driven criminal activities in Lamu West Sub-County, Lamu County, Kenya. There is a need for comparative studies in other surrounding counties that face similar security challenges due to their close proximity to Somalia. A study purely related on terrorism related criminal activities in Lamu West Sub-County is also recommended.

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APPENDICES

Appendix I: Introduction Letter

MAGDALEN SHIUNDU OSUNDWA
Africa Nazarene University,
P.O. Box 53067-00200
Nairobi, Kenya

Dear Respondent,

My name is Magdalen Shiundu Osundwa, a student at Africa Nazarene University - Nairobi campus, Kenya. I am pursuing Masters' Degree of Science in Governance, Peace & Security. I am working on my research proposal titled '**The Socio-Economic Determinants of Youth Driven Criminal Activities in Lamu West Sub-County**' taking an initiative for data collection in the vicinity as it is a requirement for partial achievement of the course. This requirement has introduced on me to contact you as one of the respondents in the study.

This research is clearly scholarly and will no longer be used at all for any different intention. The solutions you will provide will be vital to my academic study. Please fill in the questionnaire given to the first-class of your grasp following the guidelines given after every object and return your performed questionnaire to the researcher. Your participation and co-operation are very vital in this research and even though you are no longer below any accountability to be involved. The research will be assessed and approved by using Africa Nazarene University.

Thank you for your co-operation

Yours sincerely,

Magdalen Shiundu Osundwa

Appendix II: Research Questionnaire

For Youth Leaders, Business Persons, Nyumba Kumi Members

Demographic

1. Please tick your gender
Male { } Female { }
2. Age Bracket 16-25 years { } 26-30 years { } 31-35 years { } 41-50 years { } 50 and above { }
3. If yes, please tick the highest level of education you have attained?
Primary { } Secondary { } College { } University Level { }
4. For what period have you lived in this area?
Below 2 years { } 2-6 year { } 7-10 year { } above 11 years { }
5. Do you live with your parents? Yes { } No { } Other; (explain).....
6. What is your Main source of livelihood? Employed { } Unemployed { } Self-employed { } Other; explain -----

SECTION I: Information on nature of crime

7. What are the natures of crime that youth are involved into in Lamu West Sub-County? Please, rank the various crimes on the following scale? (1 = Not at All, 2 = Rarely, 3 = Sometimes, 4 = Very Often, 5 = Always)

Nature of crime	1	2	3	4	5
Burglary					
Rape					
Gangs and Vigilantisms					
Armed robbery					
Robbery					
Pick-pocketing					
Assaults					
Radicalization					
Other (Murder)					

8. How is the crime in Lamu West Sub County carried out? By use of? Please, rank the various items used on the following scale? Weapon [] Object [] Hand []

9. According to you, at what time are the criminal activities mostly committed in Lamu West Sub County?

During the day [] During the night [] Any time (Explain) []

10. Please, rank the most frequent incidences of crime in the area? (1 = Least Frequent, 2 = Less Frequent, 3 = Neutral, 4 = Frequent, 5 = Very Frequent)

Nature of crime	1	2	3	4	5
Burglary					
Assaults					
Gangs and Vigilantisms					
Armed robbery					
Pick-pocketing					
Other (specify)					

11. Do you have any comments on the nature of crime youths are involved in? If yes, please indicate

.....

12. According to you, during what period do criminal activities occur most in the area (tick 3 most important causes) (√)

School holidays { } When there's drought { } High tourists season { }
 Low tourists season { } When security officers leave { }

13. What is the rate of criminal activities in the area?

High { } low { } Any other comment (Specify).....

SECTION II: Socio-Economic Factors Motivating Youth Participation in Criminal Activities in Lamu West Sub-County

14. According to you, what do you think are the reasons why youth engage in criminal activities in Lamu West Sub County? Rate the following reasons on a scale of 1-5 where: 1 - Strongly Agree, 2 - Agree, 3 - Indecisive, 4 – Disagree, 5 - Strongly Disagree

Nature of crime	1	2	3	4	5
Unemployment					
Poverty					
Low education					
Low income					
Lack of parental supervision					
Peer pressure					

15. What do you think are the reasons why youth join criminal groups in the area? Rate on a scale of 1-5 where: 1 - Strongly Agree, 2 - Agree, 3 - Indecisive, 4 – Disagree, 5 – Strongly Disagree.

Nature of crime	1	2	3	4	5
(i) Political gains					
(ii) Religion					
(iii) Social injustice					
(iv) Low police surveillance					
(v) Marginalization					
(vi) Corruption					
(vii) Radicalization					
(viii) Weak governance					

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

.....

17. According to you, what is the main source of livelihood among the youth in the area?

Employment { } Self-employment { } Unemployed { } Other; Specify.....

SECTION III: Strategies Adopted by the local community that Contribute to Reduction of Youth Driven Criminal Activities within Lamu West Sub-County

18. According to you, what do you think the local community members should adopt in the effort to reduce criminal activities by the youth in Lamu West Sub-County? Rate the following strategies on a scale of 1-5. Where 1 - Strongly Agree, 2 - Agree, 3 - Indecisive, 4 – Disagree, 5 - Strongly Disagree.

Strategy	1	2	3	4	5
(i) Enroll children in school					
(ii) Improve on social support					
(iii) Come up with youth programs					
(iv) Improve parental control					
(v) Engage the youth in income generating activities					
(vi) Avoid Social disconnect with the youth					
(vii) Engage in poverty eradication programs					

19. What strategies have the local community adapted to reduce youth crime in Lamu West Sub County?

20. Who are involved in this efforts and initiatives?

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

SECTION V: Government Policies that drive Youth to Criminal Activities in Lamu West Sub-County

22. According to you, what initiatives have the government come up with in the effort to curb youth driven criminal activities? Tick whichever applicable.

- (i) Improve on security measures { }
- (ii) Access to government procurement and finance facilities { }
- (iii) Establish youth development funds { }
- (iv) Restructure education curricula { }
- (v) Promote Technical vocational education training { }

Others, (Specify).....

23. According to you, do you think the youth in the area are aware of government procurement and finance facilities? If yes, please indicate

24. How long does it take to implement government initiatives to curb youth driven criminal activities?

3 months { } 6 months { } 1 year { }

Other, (Specify).....

25. Are the initiatives by the government to curb youth driven criminal activities beneficial to the youth? If yes, please indicate

26. Explain any other comments that are important for the study.

27. What is your level of agreement with the following statements on eradication of criminal activities amongst the youth within Lamu West Sub-County? The scale: Where 1 - Strongly Agree, 2 - Agree, 3 - Indecisive, 4 – Disagree, 5 - Strongly Disagree

Statement	1	2	3	4	5
Government effort to curb youth driven criminal activities					
Youth empowerment programs					
Arrest drug traffickers					
Dismantle criminal gangs					
Improve citizens participation in decision making					
Engage the youth leaders					

Appendix III: Interview Schedule

For criminal group members

1. What do you think are the reasons why youth engage in criminal gangs in this area?
2. What are the kinds of criminal activities do the youth in Lamu West Sub-County engage in?
3. According to you, what do you consider the local community members should do in the effort to reduce youth driven criminal activities in Lamu West Sub-County?
4. Who are involved in this efforts and initiatives?
5. According to you, what initiatives have the government come up with in the effort to curb youth driven criminal activities?
6. According to you, who are engaged in community policing to reduce criminal activities amongst the youth within the area?

**Appendix IV: Interview Guide for Security Personnel/Top Police Personnel,
Chiefs /Assistant Chiefs**

- What are the key types of youth driven criminal activities within Lamu West Sub County?
- What are the Socio-economic factors motivating youth participation in criminal activities in Lamu West Sub County?
- What efforts have the government set in place in order to compact youth crime?
- What part has the local community played in reducing youth crime?
- What is the level of citizens' participation in the effort to try curbing youth driven criminal activities in Lamu West Sub-County?
- Any other comments that we may not have discussed that in your opinion are important for this research?

Appendix V: University Research Letter



AFRICA NAZARENE
UNIVERSITY

13th August, 2020

RE: TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Osundwa Magdalene Shiundu (15J03EMGP019) is a bonafide student at Africa Nazarene University. She has finished her course work and has defended her thesis proposal entitled: - *“Determinants of Youth Driven Criminal Activities in Kenya: A Case Study of Lamu West – Sub County”*.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Rodney Reed'.

Prof. Rodney Reed.

DVC, Academic & Student Affairs

Appendix VI: Research Authorization Letter



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND CO-ORDINATION OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

Telegrams: "DISTRICTER", Lamu West
 Telephone: Lamu 633511
 Fax: 042-4633511
 Email: lamucounty12@yahoo.com
 When replying please quote:

COUNTY COMMISSIONER,
 LAMU COUNTY,
 P.O. BOX 41 – 80500,
LAMU.

REF.NO: ADM 15/3 VOL .V/121

DATE: 5th November, 2020

Deputy County Commissioner,
Lamu West Sub-County.

RE: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION.
MAGDALINE SHIUNDU OSUNDWA

The above named and holder of national ID card No. **22530486** is a student from **AFRICA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY**. She has been authorized by the Commission for Science Technology and Innovation to carry out research on "*The socio-economic determinants of youth driven criminal activities in Lamu west Sub County*" for the period ending 21st October 2021.

The purpose of this letter is therefore to introduce her to you and request you to offer her any necessary assistance.

Thank you.

(S.I. MACHARIA)
 COUNTY COMMISSIONER
LAMU COUNTY.

Copy To:-
 -Magdaline Shiundu Osundwa

-County Education Director,
Lamu County.

Appendix VII: Research Permit

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

Ref No: 465696

Date of Issue: 21/October/2020

RESEARCH LICENSE



This is to Certify that Ms. Magdalen Shiundu Osundwa of Africa Nazarene University, has been licensed to conduct research in Lamu on the topic: THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DETERMINANTS OF YOUTH DRIVEN CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES IN KENYA: A CASE STUDY OF LAMU WEST-SUB COUNTY for the period ending : 21/October/2021.

License No: NACOSTI/P/20/7204

Applicant Identification Number: 465696

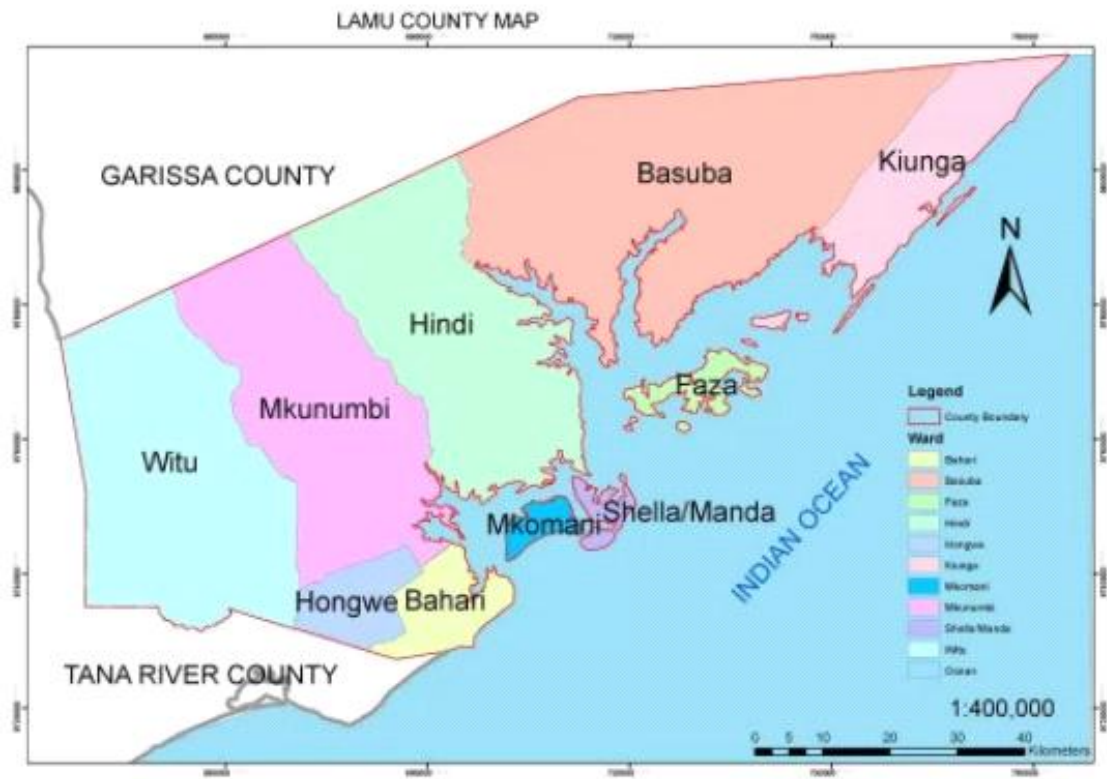
Director General
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

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Appendix VIII: Map of the Study Area



Source: Lamu County Records (2019)