

INFLUENCE OF THE FAMILY SYSTEM ON MALE JUVENILE DELINQUENCY:
A CASE OF KAMITI YOUTH CORRECTION AND TRAINING CENTER
KIAMBU COUNTY - KENYA

EVANS ONSANDO

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DECLARATION

This dissertation is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other University or for any other award.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Evans Onsando (PMFT/10703/0/18)

This dissertation is submitted for examination with our approval as University Supervisors.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Prof. Margaret K. Mwenje, PhD
Supervisor

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Dr. Perminus Githui, PhD
Supervisor

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DEDICATION

To my family members, church leaders and all the parents out there who have been given the privilege of being called father or mother.

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Abstract

Youth are the greatest national asset that needs to be nurtured to enable them exploit their full potential. However, the rising cases of delinquent behavior among youth have brought the nurturing role of parents into sharp focus. The purpose of this study was to establish the influence of two key features of the family system on male juvenile delinquency at the Kamiti Youth Correction and Training Center (KYCTC) within Kiambu County, with a view to establishing appropriate interventions that will minimize delinquency. The key features of the family system of interest to the study were the parenting styles deployed by the parent and the family structure in which the child is nurtured. To achieve this goal, the study had four objectives namely; establishing parenting styles associated with juvenile delinquency at KYCTC, the relationship between family structure and juvenile delinquency, the impact of parenting style and family structure on juvenile delinquency and appropriate parental and familial intervention measures that can reduce juvenile delinquency. The study was guided by Baumrind's parenting styles theory and Family Systems theory. The study used purposive sampling method and simple random technique to select a sample of 68 males aged between 15 and 18 from a target population of 120 delinquents at the KYCTC. The study used the *ex post facto* design. In this design data was collected through interviews, focus group discussions (FGD) and self-administered questionnaire. Quantitative data collected through questionnaires was analyzed through descriptive statistics with the help of SPSS version 25.0 and qualitative data collected through in-depth interviews and focus group discussions was analyzed through thematic analysis. The finding of the study indicated that, authoritarian parenting style (42%) and permissive parenting style (29.4%) posed the greatest danger to the development of juvenile delinquency. On the other hand, authoritative parenting style (8.8%) posed the least danger to the development of juvenile delinquency. The family structure that was found to be ideal was the two parents' family structure. Presentation of data was done through tables, graphs and thematic descriptions of respondent's statements. The findings point to the critical role the family system plays in the development or prevention of juvenile delinquency. Family-centric interventions, strengthening of the parenting role, coordination with other key influencers including teachers, Government Departments such as the Children's Department and the Kenya Prison Services, Rehabilitation Centers run by religious organizations and government rehabilitation programs such as KYCTC, can make a difference if each plays their critical role.

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ABREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

COVID-19:	Coronavirus Disease of 2019
ERB:	Ethics Review Board
FBI:	Federal Bureau of Statistics
FGD:	Focus Group Discussions
FST:	Family Systems Theory
KNBS:	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
KYCTC:	Kamiti Youth Correction and Training Center
NACOSTI:	National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation
NCAJ:	National Council on the Administration of Justice
PSDQ:	Parenting Styles Dimensions Questionnaire
SPSS:	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
USA:	United States of America
UN:	United Nations
UNICEF:	United Nations Children's Fund
YOIS:	Youth Offenders Industrial School

OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF TERMS

Delinquency:	This is a description of a variety of forms of antisocial behavior consisting of illegal actions, in terms of violation of rules and criminal offenses.
Family System:	Refers to a specific patterns of functioning including parenting style, family structure, and relationship patterns whose stability is conditioned by the interaction of the different parts within the system.
Family Structure:	Denotes the composition and membership of the family that includes, single parent family, two biological parent families, cohabitation, blended family and a foster family.
Intervention:	Denotes deliberate steps taken to reduce juvenile delinquency
Juvenile:	Means a child who is under the age of 18 years, and who is in conflict with the law and is confined in a correctional institution.
Juvenile Delinquency:	Refers to acts of criminal behavior by a person under the age of 18 years.
Parenting Styles:	These are specific behaviors and practices that parents deploy during their interaction with their children and the creation of an emotional environment as they raise their children

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Introduction

Juvenile delinquency is a subject of grave concern to the society as a whole, because it involves the youthful population in any given country. Sociology based theories of juvenile delinquency link the phenomenon to micro and macro social environment, social structures and the learning process the young people are exposed to.

Though different people have attributed juvenile delinquency to multiple factors, the family system plays a pivotal part in the shaping of behavior of children as they transit to adulthood. The family system is viewed as the key relationship context where individual character qualities and resultant forms of conduct are incubated and maintained. . It is in this system that interactional patterns inadvertently attracts, maintains, and perpetuates both delinquent and positive behavioral outcomes.

It is noteworthy that the family system is continually interacting with both micro and macro environmental features that contribute to the development of juvenile delinquency. The study focused on two key aspects of the family system; namely parenting styles and the family structure due to their likely influence in the development of juvenile delinquency.

Understanding the risks posed by the parenting styles and the family structure, which are key components of the family system, is critical in the formulation of effective remedial measures against juvenile delinquency. The study aimed at establishing the influence of these key features of the family system on the development of juvenile delinquency.

The family structure has gone through major transitions in the last three decades. Many parts of the world are experiencing increased rates of divorce, early pregnancies, and single-parenthood by choice or death of a spouse, cohabitation and getting into another marriage, which have culminated into formulation of new family structures. Various studies have established the existence of a relationship between the family structure and children's behavioural outcomes. Wallman (2010) supports the position that stability of the family structure or lack of it has a direct link to the development of delinquent behavior among children. This phenomenon has not been adequately studied in Africa and Kenya in particular where family dynamics are different compared to the western world where studies in this area have been done (Leiber & Featherstone, 2009).

This study is imperative because it shines the spotlight on the subtle role played by the parenting style and family structure, in the development of juvenile delinquency. These are critical components of the family system. This will also add to the existing body of literature that traces juvenile delinquency to the family system.

This chapter provides the foundation blocks that guided the entire study. The chapter encompasses the background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives, assumptions, justification, and significance of the study, scope, limitations/delimitations and the summary of the chapter.

Background of the Study

A family system is viewed as a systemic whole that is essentially interdependent and is continuously engaged in circular causal processes that are reciprocal, shaping relationships, family patterns and interconnected reactions that jointly form contextual factors that affect all members of the system (Bonnell et. al., 2016).

A family system weaves into its fabric the concepts of attachment, parenting style, development of adolescent identity, marital and parental relationships, family economic status, education, culture extended family dynamics and family structure. These different parts of the family system directly affects the conduct of the members of the family system. Though different part of the system have their fair share of influence among members of the family system, this study focused on the influence of parenting style and family structure which are considered to have far more influence on the development of juvenile delinquency (Smetana, 2017).

Juvenile delinquency is considered to be among the most distressful problems among minors under the age of 18 years, which threatens positive development of moral, academic and social aspects of their lives. Elliott, Huizinga and Menard (2012), cite delinquent behavior to include disobedience to parents, drug and alcohol abuse, stealing, destruction of property and rape. There are varying views on the attributions of delinquent outcomes, but there is general consensus that it is largely manifested within the referred age bracket (adolescent years). In most jurisdictions, this is an age group that is still under the care of parents or responsible adults.

According to developmental psychologists, this is a period marked by high risk behavior and deviance among adolescents. Giedd (2015) calls adolescence as a period of confusion and transitions because it is a period where the adolescents face physiological, psychological, emotional, social, and cognitive evolutions in their life (puberty, relationships, school, abilities), and a complex mix of the adolescents trying to establish their position as individuals, in relation to their parents and the peer group. This developmental transition pushes them to fight for more space and independence from their

parents. Because of their quest for independence, they are more mobile and more in touch with their peers, a situation that is devoid of direct physical parental control. In these circumstances, adolescents' conduct is based on the previously inculcated moral and behavioral code. At this stage there is serious need for adjustments in the family system including parents stepping up their control and creation of a home environment that will respond to the developmental challenges the adolescent is facing. The current predicament, points to a trend where parents, who head the basic family system are constantly accused of failure to play their role of control and nurture leading to the increased cases of delinquency among adolescents.

Delinquency is currently viewed as a social disease that cannot be treated effectively without first discovering its real causes. Shoemaker (2010) describes delinquency as a variety of forms of antisocial behaviour consisting of illegal actions, in terms of violation of rules and criminal offenses, involving adolescents under the age of 18. On the other hand, Muhamad (2007) gives delinquency a broader perspective by describing delinquents as children who are in conflict with societal norms and rules. Mental health practitioners view delinquency as a pattern of maladaptive conduct that can be ascribed to the parenting responsibilities. In cases where the child is exposed to negative influences such as abuse, lack of affection and attention, the negative influences may first manifest in the child in the form of rudeness and lying, and may later degenerate to grave criminal undertakings, such as aggressive behaviour and theft (Kariuki, 2014).

Conversely, a juvenile can be defined as a child who is yet to reach a specific age, at which he, like an adult can be held liable for criminal acts, meaning that they are under the care of their parents. Bartollas (2014) defines juvenile delinquency as acts that violate

personal code as outlined by the government with authority in a given jurisdiction by a minor. However, juvenile delinquency is deemed as such when the act would be deemed a violation of the law if committed by an adult, the person charged is below the age outlined in law and the case is prosecuted in a Juvenile court.

Different countries define a juvenile differently. In United States each state determines the age of juveniles in their respective jurisdictions since each state has its own age criteria. However, based on the 1976 Standards and Goals, majority of 52 states concur that any person with a maximum age of 21 committing delinquency can be considered a juvenile (Puzzanchera et al. 2018).

Kenya's Children's Act (2001) defines a juvenile as a child who has not attained 18 years, and who is in conflict with the law and is confined in a correctional institution. The age bracket is critical because any person below the age of 18 years is not considered an adult and therefore under the care of his parents or guardians. This is the reason why one cannot be issued with the national identity card because they are legally considered to be children.

In view of the outlined definitions, the underlying issue is the antisocial behavior that children develop and manifest in different social arenas. The society assigns the responsibility of inculcating socially desired behavior in families with the parents as the first respondents to this responsibility. Therefore, the prevalence of delinquent behavior has been attributed to parents' failure to properly nurture their children, thereby predisposing them to delinquent behavior that ultimately undermines the security of society as a whole. Bongaarts, Mensch and Blanc (2017) argue that failure to come up with timely parental and familial intervention could snowball to undesirable juvenile behavior with great

implications ranging from self-injury, substance abuse, apprehension, and in extreme cases death, thus affecting both the parent and the teen. It is the considered view of the study, that adequate research in this area is required with a view to establishing the nexus between parenting activities and family dynamics and their influence on the development of juvenile delinquency. This will be for the formulation of effective intervention measures. However, there has been little focus in this area especially in developing countries, a concern that this study sought to address.

Though the cited scholars vary in their definition, there is consensus that delinquents are within a specific age bracket (13 – 18) and are engaged in antisocial behaviors that raises social concerns among parents, social workers and society at large. In view of the definitions of juvenile and delinquency that have been described above, this study describes Juvenile delinquency as acts of criminal conduct by a child under the age of 18 years. Juvenile delinquents are therefore, adolescents who break the law or engage in behavior that violates the social norms. These children are under the age of 18 years and are considered to be delinquent because they manifest behavior that attracts legal penalties for adults.

There is growing concern over the rising cases of delinquent behaviour among youth throughout the world. These concerns are well founded since youth carry the future prospects of any country.

A UN youth report (2003) painted a grim picture of juvenile delinquency in the world, indicating that in Western Europe, arrests and prosecution of juvenile delinquents and under-age offenders rose by 50 per cent between 1980s and the late 1990s. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which is an affiliate of the United Nations, indicates

that approximately over one million world's children are held in different prison facilities for delinquent behaviour (Bochenek, 2016).

Conversely, in Eastern Europe juvenile delinquency has increased by more than 30 per cent. Most of the crimes committed by minors were associated with drug abuse and excessive alcohol use. A similar picture is painted for Malaysia where delinquency shot up by 50.24% in 2010 (23,642 compared to 2009 (Alpatanni, 2015).

A study conducted in the United States in 2016 established that 50,000 teenage offenders were imprisoned in either residential or secure care facilities yearly (Puzzanchera et al. 2018). These numbers are alarming considering that the future of these juveniles is uncertain, with the possibility of the youth graduating to be hard core criminals who will cause havoc in society. An earlier study by Puzzanchera, (2018) that examined Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) statistics on juvenile offenders established the following trend; 76% in 2008, 78% in 2009 and 2010, 77% in 2011, 77% in 2012, 78% in 2013 and 2014. According to the same survey, US security officers arrested 1.6 million young offenders in 2010, most of whom were involved in robbery, larceny-theft, substance abuse violations, and disorderly conduct. Seventy three percent of those arrested were between the ages of 16 and 17. Despite the fact that these are results from a different country, the pattern paints a negative image that is reflected in other countries and needs to be reversed.

Another study that sampled 12,505 participants in the US found out that youth involvement in delinquency was remarkably high making it a serious social problem for society. One of the findings of the study was that juvenile delinquency was influenced by parent-child relationship (Gault-Sherman, 2017).

In India, a study that took three months on cross-sectional Government based institutions including Government Juvenile homes of Hyderabad, Telangana found out that 77.5% of delinquents held in their facilities were males while 22.5% were females. The statistics confirm that males are far much more exposed to delinquent acts than females (Crime in India, 2012). This informs the reason why the focus of the study was on males, whose global and local records indicate that they are the majority held in juvenile facilities. According to figures from Karachi's Youthful Offender Industrial School (YOIS), 85 teenagers were arrested per month in 2011 for crimes such as robbery, murder, car theft, pick pocketing, and sodomy (Hasni, 2011).

The findings of self-report studies showed that the vast majority of those who engage in violence are males aged 16 to 19 years, who acted in groups, pointed out by a periodical report in Germany approved by the Federal Ministries of Interior and Justice (Germany Federal Ministry Report, 2001). The above statistics tend to confirm the long-held argument that males have a higher likelihood to commit offenses compared to females (Griffin et al., 2000). It is for this reason that this study was focused on male juveniles.

A study in Nigeria that targeted secondary school children established that lack of parental monitoring led to the increase of anti-social behaviors among the teenagers, besides exposing them to way-ward peers, who ultimately influence them to engage in anti-social behavior (Okorodudu, 2010).

A study conducted by The UN Habitat on Youth and Crime in Nairobi noted that 45% of young people were arrested on the grounds of theft, 23% assault, 10% drug possession, 10% mugging and 7% manslaughter. The arrested youth used crude weapons such as machetes, knives and guns (UN Habitat, 2011). Conversely, data from the

Children's Department in Kenya revealed that the number of child offenders rose from 483 in 2006 to 927 in 2010. On the other hand, Kenyan daily newspapers have published articles indicating a significant increase in the cases of school arson in 2016 (*Daily Nation*, 2016). The above statistics raise questions on the adequacy of the nurturing role of youth, which is a primary responsibility of parents.

Records at the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), of 2015 indicate that 109,629 people were sentenced and imprisoned in different correctional facilities in 2014. Among the prisoners, those below 18 years were 2570 in 2013 and 3455 in 2014. An audit report by the National Council on the Administration of Justice (NCAJ) of 2015 revealed that most children offenders were found guilty of property offences, sexual offences, assaults, arson and drug offences among others. In the report that covered the period between 2013 and 2014, most of the juvenile inmates were pupils of between class six (6) and eight (8).

The escalation of cases of male juvenile delinquency is an appropriate feedback of sorts that indicates that the male child could sink further into antisocial behavioral practices if appropriate intervention measures focusing on parenting styles in the context of family structure is not accorded due consideration (Carr, 2016). Focusing on parenting styles in the context of family structure will enrich our knowledge on how nurturing and the home environment jointly contribute to juvenile delinquency.

Youth are the greatest national asset that needs to be nurtured to enable them to exploit their full potential. Though the function of nurturing morally upright children is shared among different institutions such as schools, churches, extended family and the neighborhood, the primary responsibility lies with the parents. Moitra and Mukherjee

(2012) affirm that parents play a critical role in inculcating the moral code in a teenager's life through nurturing, provision of basic needs, communication and constant inculcation of societal norms. They further argue that parenting styles dispensed in a stable family structure caters for the child's overall development encompassing the physical, emotional, psychological and social needs, which is foundational in the development of normal and all-rounded children. This implies that on one part, parents play the most critical role of modeling and inculcation of values to children from the formative years and on the other part, the family structure plays a substantial role in the creation of a conducive environment for nurture. Other critical variables within the family structure that impinge on the overall outcomes of the child other than the parenting styles include cohesion, abuse, and presence or absence of one parent. Based on this perspective, parenting styles and the family structure can ideally be defined as the basic context in which the conduct of children is shaped and maintained. This context (family system) provides a template that eventually guides children in their future interaction with the larger society. The study therefore, considered the contribution of parenting styles and family structure in the development or deterrence of juvenile delinquency as significant.

Parents bear the greatest responsibility of molding and influencing the future behavior of their children. George (2014) posits that the process of shaping the behavior of a child begins through a call-response system between an infant and the caregiver (parent). The cyclic process of how a parent responds to the needs of the child also referred to as 'the call-response system' is critical in the formation of an attachment bond between the parent and child. He further posits that the style of attachment is determined through a continuous interaction of how the parent responds to calls or cues by the child. When a child cries, this

is a call and when the parent carries the crying child and probably feeds the child, this is a response, which is a cycle that gradually crystalizes an attachment relationship. This continuous interaction between the parents and the child is also affected by the happenings in the family structure in form of modes of communication and other interaction habits that are observed by the child as well as the availability of other resources that include, psychological, emotional and socio economic resources. These simple interactions aggregate a character model in a child that will endure through the adult life.

Pettit et.al. (2001) identify the family structure and the relationships adolescents have with parents as two main factors influence the development of juvenile delinquency. He further stresses that adolescents of all ages are brought up in diverse structures of family including single, married, and cohabiting structures. These family structures in which children are nurtured have major effects on their moral development.

Johnson (2013) posits that children are born helpless and totally dependent on their parents for nurture and care until such a time that they are self-sustaining. Based on these arguments, the co-relationship between parenting practices and the family structure jointly play a cardinal role of inculcating values and a belief system in children that will influence their moral behavior. The process of shaping the behavior of a child begins and continues through interactions between the child and the parent within the confines of a family structure that may vary from a two biological-parent structure to a single-parent structure. This process progressively inculcates beliefs and values that ultimately influence the child's future behavior (Johnson, 2013).

This places the parenting style and the family structure at the center of the child's future behavior. This implies that when parents fail to effectively perform their role of

guidance, care, and discipline they stand the risk of exposing their children to juvenile delinquency thus putting the whole society at risk. Azoro (2010) contends that the relationship between parenting styles and family structure appear to moderate the behavior of the child including juvenile delinquency. However, there is scarcity of empirical studies that examine the ramifications of both parenting styles and family structure on the emergence juvenile delinquency in the family system and society at large. This study sought to address this gap.

Michael and Ben-Zur (2007) point out that appropriate parenting, that includes features such as open and frequent dialogue, involvement in children's activities, monitoring and applying appropriate disciplinary measures, may ultimately moderate the risk of the adolescent falling into delinquent behavior besides mitigating other psychological challenges such as frustration, anger, and emotional storms. It therefore follows that parents need to employ models of parenting that convey a clear and consistent expectation of behavior that is also sensitive to the needs of the adolescents. The parenting style adopted by parents will definitely be associated with the child's behavioral outcomes. While some parenting styles are likely to expose children to the risk of delinquent behavior, others prepare the children to be law abiding citizens.

Parenting style can be understood in the context of parental attitudes, values and behaviors that parents deploy as they interact with their child, which directly or indirectly influences their cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development (Tunde-Ayinmode & Adegunloye, 2011). Among the numerous family dynamics that might influence a child's and adolescent development, parenting styles have been identified as critical (Akanksha & Mamta, 2013).

Notably, parenting takes place within a family structure that impact heavily on the psychology of the adolescent. The family structure co-relates well with the parental interaction patterns to nurture children who will fit in society. Hoeve et. al. (2009) postulates that children exposed to different family structures normally experience changing levels of supervision, engagement with parents, monitoring, and attachment bond with their parents. The traditional family structure was composed of a father, mother and children. This family structure guaranteed the children a balanced form of care, with fathers offering proper sanctions, discipline and a ready role model for sons, while the mothers provided the softer skills of respect, meekness, service and role modeling daughters.

However, the world is experiencing increased rates of divorce, early pregnancies, single-parenthood by choice or death of a spouse, cohabitation and remarriage, which have led to the emergence of new family structures, which directly impact on parenting practices. These changes have resulted to family instability and consequent reduction parental involvement, which is a pathway to adverse effects on the development of a child's character and the likelihood of children developing delinquent tendencies. This phenomenon has received insufficient attention in Africa especially Kenya, where family dynamics differ from those in the Western world, where studies on the relationship between parenting styles and child behavioral outcomes have been conducted.

When compared to other family forms, a two-biological parent family structure has appropriate levels of parental monitoring, supervision, engagement, and attachment, which protects the children in the system against development of delinquency (Kierkus & Hewitt, 2009). A number of studies on the other hand, have discovered that criminal activity is more closely related to weak family relationships than to the family structure. They cited

parenting style, self-control and supervision as appropriate buffers that protect children from delinquency (Meldrum, Connolly, Flexon, & Guerette, 2016). Despite the availability of this knowledge, there is little focus on research on parenting strategies within different family structures. This was the focus of the study.

From a systemic perspective, parenting styles are not exhibited in a vacuum but in a family system. Therefore, parenting styles have a lot to do with the family structure where the interaction and communications take place. The parenting role is the responsibility of a father and/or a mother in the relation with the child, which forms the ‘primary triad’ that forms the basic family structure. In the last twenty years or so, the family structure has been changing thereby impinging on the parenting styles employed in different structures such as single parent families, two-parent families, blended families and co-habiting families among others.

The systems family theory, posits that human beings belong to systems such as family, clan, culture, and society where the participants are intricately linked to one another (Minuchin, 1974). Minuchin, who is credited with the creation of the structural family therapy, points out that the family structure that is ideally supposed to be hierarchical, is stable when the parent-child relations are cordial with clearly marked control measures of behavior, with parents ensuring that the family power lies with the parent(s) who have the responsibility of nurturing.

This therefore implies that action of one member of the family system influences and is also influenced through the actions of other members in the system. This means that an individual member’s actions cannot be understood without considering the entire system in which he/she belongs. The argument proposes that actions and behavior cannot be fully

understood unless one considers the parenting structure (family structure) that maintains, reinforces, or weakens the effectiveness of the parenting style adopted. Despite this understanding, there are limited studies seeking to establish how parenting practices deployed in a family system influences juvenile delinquency.

Coste (2015) posits that parenting styles are a strong predictor of a child's future outcomes. He describes how important the role of parents is in the molding and shaping the behavior of children. Coste argues that juvenile delinquency is directly associated with the behavior parents adopt when they interact with their children. Behaviors such as showing affection, responding to the needs of a child, and caring tendencies attract positive outcomes while behaviors such as abuse and strict enforcement of rules without responding to the needs of a child attract negative outcomes such as rebellion, aggressive behavior and disorder.

The responsiveness and demandingness domains are used to categorize parenting styles in the parenting styles theory. According to Baumrind (1966), responsiveness is the ratio in which parents are in synch, acquiescent and respectful of their children's demands and needs, fostering self-assertion and autonomy. Baumrind further asserts that responsiveness can be calculated by the degree of reciprocity, comfort and communication shown by parents while interacting with their children. As such, parents who reward good behavior with high levels of affection and open communication are considered to be highly sensitive.

Expectations, corrective efforts, monitoring and the ability to challenge a disruptive child are all examples of demandingness. Simons, Simons, and Wallace (2004), demandingness can be assessed using well-defined control methods, direct confrontation

and parental discipline patterns, conflict and monitoring which are considered demanding, while parents who exhibit lower levels of confrontations, sporadic discipline, and monitoring are considered non-demanding.

Based on these two domains, Baumrind came up with three parenting styles namely: authoritarian, authoritative, and permissive styles. The theory links each parenting style with specific patterns of child behavior implying that whatever styles a parent adopts has specific consequences manifested in the behavior of children.

Authoritative parents were marked by high responsiveness and high demandingness; while those who use authoritarian style exhibit low responsiveness and high demandingness in their interaction with their children, permissive style, is marked by high responsiveness and low demandingness. Each of this parenting style attracts different outcomes among the children. There is general consensus that authoritative parenting style produces children who are morally up right with a positive self-concept (Trinkner, Cohn, Rebellon, & Van Gundy, 2012). Notably, there is far less research on the collective effect of parenting styles and family structure on the development of delinquent behavior among minors. This is the gap that this study sought to fill.

Problem Statement

Juvenile delinquency remains a major challenge for several countries because the future of every country is pegged on the morality of the future generations. Statistics of juvenile delinquency are worrying. Juveniles go through rehabilitation in institutions like KYCTC and later repeat the same delinquent acts because they rejoin a family system which is unstable on the basis of parenting practices and family structure thus pushing them back to delinquent behavior.

Carr (2016) postulates that juvenile delinquency, is a feedback of sorts that indicates that the family system from which the delinquent comes from is dysfunctional. Studies in this area have also indicated that parenting practices may also be determined by the type of family structure for example two-biological parents' family structure may adopt different parenting practices compared to cohabitation or blended family structure. Based on this perspective, parenting styles and the family structure provide the nurturing context that is foundational in the development of a child's moral code (Ngale, 2009). Therefore, to fully understand juvenile delinquency, an understanding of how this basic ecology jointly influences delinquency is required.

Parents play a critical role in the nurture of children and youth in society. The general anticipation of society is that parents do their most noble duty of inculcating values and a belief system that is in line with social norms and the laws governing social interactions (Cummings et al., 2015). When children and youth indulge in socially unacceptable behavior such as stealing, bullying, raping, arson, drug and substance abuse, gang activity, assault and homicide, the parental role of provision of a moral compass to the child, is brought into question.

Moitra and Mukherjee (2012) point out that the family system plays a critical role in shaping the moral behavior of children through their daily interaction within their various family systems. The changing gender roles have significantly undermined the supervision role of parents, which has provided an avenue for teenagers to be introduced to delinquent activities through peer relations. The emerging trend where both parents are engaged in gainful employment, leaves a big gap of absence that is filled by third parties (house helps, relatives, and friends) who do not exercise effective supervision.

The parenting role falls within the province of parents and should not be ceded to other people unless it is unavoidable. It is important to underscore the fact that parenting styles are practiced within the framework of a family structure. So far, very few empirical studies have investigated the influence of the family system's concepts of parenting styles and family structure on male juvenile delinquency in Kenya's institutions. Most of the studies so far conducted that have linked delinquency to aspects such as poverty, education, neighbourhood, peer group, familial and parental factors have been done in the western world. The findings of this study have some similarities with studies conducted in other countries despite the fact that the Kenyan/African setting is different from the west.

Therefore, the problem that underpinned this study was that although the effect of family system is significant in the shaping children's behavior, few studies have been undertaken in developing countries like Kenya to understand how this basic ecology influences juvenile delinquency. This study therefore, sought to address this gap by studying the influence of the family system on male juvenile delinquency at the KYCTC.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to examine the influence of two aspects of the family system; namely parenting styles and family structure on male juvenile delinquency at the Kamiti Youth Correction and Training Center (KYCTC) within Kiambu County, with a view to recommending intervention measures that will reduce juvenile delinquency that is related to parenting styles and family structure.

Objectives

1. To establish parenting styles associated with juvenile delinquency at KYCTC
2. To examine the relationship between family structure and juvenile delinquency

3. To assess the combined effect of parenting styles and family structure on juvenile delinquency
4. To propose appropriate parental and familial intervention measures that can reduce juvenile delinquency

Research Questions

1. Which parenting styles are associated with juvenile delinquency at the KYCTC?
2. What is the relationship between family structure and juvenile delinquency at the KYCTC?
3. What is the impact of parenting style and family structure on juvenile delinquency at the KYCTC?
4. Which are the most appropriate parental and familial intervention measures that can reduce juvenile delinquency?

Assumptions of the Study

The main assumptions of the present study are that the parenting style adopted by the parent influences the development of juvenile delinquency, the family structure that a child is brought up in contributes to the emergence of juvenile delinquency, that the combined effect of parenting style and family structure influences the development of juvenile delinquency and that familial and parenting intervention measures can reduce the cases of juvenile delinquency. However, Juvenile delinquency is not only related to the family system in which the delinquent comes from but several other variables such as poverty, level of education, neighborhood and peer group influences contribute to juvenile delinquency. This study therefore, only addressed a portion of the variables.

Justification of the Study

Juvenile delinquency is a matter that should generate interest among parents and the society in general. There is a high possibility of Juveniles graduating to being hardcore criminals if a sustainable solution is not found. The future of any country depends on the investment made on its youthful population. Failure to fully appreciate the importance of raising morally upright young people is tantamount to undermining the very existence of the country. Parents have a major role to play in guiding their children through adoptions of the right parenting practices.

The question of parenting styles is critical because through these styles the life of a child is socialized with the effects manifested throughout the life of a child as they grow and transition to adulthood. Parents inculcate values and a belief system that shapes the child's interaction with the world from the 'cradle to the grave'. If the component of parenting is not adequately addressed, then the children will constantly be in trouble with the law besides their inability to exploit their full potential in life. Therefore, the findings of this study will inform the development of a homegrown multidimensional intervention program that takes the Kenyan parenting context into account as a strategy to mitigate juvenile delinquency.

Significance of the Study

A clear demonstration of the critical role parenting styles plays in the raising of children and their consequence on delinquency is something that should interest all leaders in the social strata. The current study introduces a perspective that can inform government policy on how to deal with delinquent behavior while focusing on parenting styles. Equally,

families will also have an opportunity to re-evaluate themselves in terms of their contribution to juvenile delinquency.

This study will also ignite a debate among trainers in religious based organizations or mainstream education sector with a view to organizing for training their congregants on the important role parenting styles play in influencing the behavior of youths.

Government departments such as the Children's Department, Rehabilitation Centers run by religious organizations and government rehabilitation programs such as KYCTC will benefit from this study since they will know the importance of including the delinquents' parents/families in their intervention programs.

Scope of the Study

This research was done among juveniles aged between 15 and 18 years at the KYCTC that is situated within Kiambu County. KYCTC is within the Kamiti maximum prison. The study focused on the influence of parenting styles in the framework of family structure on male juvenile delinquents.

This location was preferred because it is an appropriate catchment area that provides the study with respondents of the right age bracket and who had already been convicted, and therefore they could provide the information this study was looking for.

Limitations/Delimitations of the Study

A key limitation to the study was the fact that the respondents were held in a controlled area and were serving short sentences. This fact was likely to inhibit their openness in the presence of prison personnel. To delimit this challenge, the respondents were assured of their safety and encouraged to engage freely without fear of being labeled by prison warders and other inmates.

There was a challenge of the honesty of the respondents when responding to questionnaires or in the focus group discussions. Deliberate efforts were made to make the respondents feel safe and secure when responding to the questions and they were assured of confidentiality.

Conversely, the fact that some of the respondents were not able to understand English because they either forced to stop their education or never had an opportunity to go to school. To delimit this challenge, research assistants were engaged to translate the questions to Kiswahili.

Another major limitation was on the question of the findings of the study being generalized or replicated if done in other parts of the country due to the fact that the present study was only targeting male respondents which means that variables that are specific to females were not catered for. The face to face interviews with professionals in this field proved to be of great assistance in drawing conclusions in the study.

Summary of the Chapter

Juvenile delinquency is a global problem. Governments have commissioned research to find answers to the growing problem. It is the view of this study that the delinquency cannot be effectively handled without considering the family system that produces the delinquent. These minors come from a system that knowingly or unknowingly bred a delinquent and could be maintaining the current behavior.

In the studies cited, there was a converging point around the critical role parenting plays in the general socialization of children and youth and the long term effects of such socializations. There is concern that the unprecedented cases of juvenile delinquency could be linked to the fact that children are growing without proper guidance from their parents.

Many societies view nurturing as the primary responsibility of parents who have apparently abdicated their responsibility to other parties including relatives, care givers and older siblings. The major role played by the parenting style and family structure in the emergence of juvenile delinquency cannot be understated.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

Introduction

In this chapter, the study reviewed what other scholars presented about juvenile delinquency through the lenses of parenting styles and family systems theories. The chapter also addressed the theoretical and conceptual frameworks and the research gap.

Literature Review

Juvenile Delinquency

Delinquency has emerged to be a widespread problem that transpires in various societies. It manifests itself in many negative conducts including sexual violations, drug use, killing, stealing, raping, robbing, attacking, pickpocketing, snatching, and arson (DeLisi, Angton, Behnken, & Kusow, 2015). Among teenagers, delinquent activities are an avenue to show power and courage, a proof of solidarity with friends, and an expression of a sense of belongingness to other teenagers involved in delinquency (Semenza, 2018). Santrock, (2011) posits that a juvenile delinquent is a person under the age of 18 years who violates socially accepted norms or is engaged in conduct that is against the law.

Juvenile delinquency is an endless social problem (Heynen et. al, 2018). It can be defined as an irregular social behavioural disorder prevalent in children or adolescents who repeatedly commit crime. Ogundele (2018) explained that juvenile delinquents usually demonstrate mental disorders and abnormal behaviours, which lead to post-traumatic stress disorder or bipolar disorder. Consequently, partial conduct disorder may emerge due to their delinquent behaviours. Experts have come up with numerous theories to explain the cause

of these problems, which have a significant effect towards the development of precautionary measures against delinquency.

Hoeve et al., (2009) identify the marks of a delinquent teenager to include disobedience to parents, leaving home, abandoning school, defiance of parents and teachers' rules, careless attitude, and a tendency to indulge in acts that can cause injuries to the wellbeing of others and self. They further propose that parent's life style, teaching and practices directly influences the life of the children. This is a clear indication that the parenting role that encompasses offering adequate education, discipline, training, guidance and positive family interactions occupy imperative position in the overall growth of children.

Zara & Farrington (2016) asserts that the formative years of child are crucial in the shaping of their conduct for the rest of their lives. Previous studies in this area lend credence to fact that juvenile delinquency leads to chronic offending if not contained. They further argue that once a teenager is ensnared in the violation of social norms, they are likely to continue in the path that is marked by abandoning school, deficiency of critical job market skills, and a lack of other interpersonal skills that prevent one against delinquent activities. A sure sign of this phenomenon is the high number of repeat offenders among teenagers.

The US National Center for Juvenile offenders (2014) observed that global crime rate has been on the upward trajectory year by year especially juvenile delinquency that undermines their future. A lot of research is being conducted world over in this area of study because of its significance to the future of the states and general security situation. According to records filed by the US National Centre for Juvenile Justice 2014, more

juvenile offenders were arrested compared to adults in as far as criminal records are concerned. This is therefore the reason behind the need for more research to establish the causes of increased juvenile crime.

Muchai, and Jefferson (2012) posit that there is an escalation of the number of teenagers involved in crime in Kenya, who are sent correctional and rehabilitation centers. Equally the rate of recidivism is high probably because the intervention measures are not adequate enough to deter teenagers from juvenile delinquency.

Another study in the US revealed that annually, approximately 630,000 young offenders are set free from federal and state prisons (Carson, 2018). Among those set free from correctional service institutions, 44% of them end up being rearrested during their first year of release from prison while 80% of them are rearrested within a period of ten years. Equally, chronic offenders who have the highest number of arrests are linked to anti-social tendencies going back to age 14 (Zara & Farrington, 2016). This bracket of offenders not only threaten security and safety of the community at large but also place a heavy burden on their victims and those that pay taxes, thus burdening society with weighty financial and human cost. Going by the records of the Justice Policy Institute (2014), the estimate cost of confining a teenager totals \$407.58 per day, or \$148,767 per year. In view of the above, developing preventive strategies against juvenile delinquency is a more desirable option.

Supporters of interactional theory asserts that development of juvenile delinquency behaviors leads to a number of harmful influences on teenagers and children and the mutual relationship with their parents. They posit that juvenile delinquency (a) weakens the connection between parents and their children since the teenagers must hide their delinquent activities from their parents (b) serves to maintain a bond with their peers who have

solidified their social bond with friends (c) they undermine the zeal to pursue education on one line and creates an avenue for manifesting maladaptive school age behavior that appears attractive and (d) Provides a convenient excuse to perpetuate delinquency (Hoeve et al., 2011).

The social learning theory by Bandura indicates that humans, including children, learn by copying things that they observe around them (Heves, 2017). In this regard, children will imitate delinquent behaviours, such as abusing drugs and violence, if their parents show their parent performing such behavior, without realizing the behavior imitated is wrong. This problem further escalates due to the weakness of family structure in this era, subsequently, more children would experience unpleasant situation in their formative years, which has been associated with criminal behavior when they are older. The study shows that children brought up by single parents have higher tendencies for engaging in crimes as they tend to lack parental love, care and guidance. This could be caused by the lack of attention given to the children since the parents also need to take on the role of the sole breadwinner and parent to their children. Thus, it could be assumed that the weakness of the family structure largely contributes to higher number of juvenile delinquency cases in recent years. According to social bond theory is juvenile delinquency can be viewed in terms of issues such as commitment to relationship, involvement, attachment, and belief system. When the emotional relationship with parental figures is undermined, teenagers tend to believe that they have the freedom to do whatever they want including delinquent acts (Hirschi, 2017).

Studies in China and Canada found out that delinquent playmates also influenced delinquency in the negative sense (Wang, 2015). The problem behavior theory posits that

the three main systems that influence behavior problems in teenagers include personality system (motivational structure, belief system, and self-control levels), outer context (distant structure and close structure), and behavior system (problem behavior, healthy behavior, appropriate behavior). Within the systems, there are various factors that can be grouped into risk factors and protective factors for problem behavior among adolescents. The combination of risk and protective factors can explain behavior problems such as delinquency. Protective factors in this theory can act as buffers from the effects of exposure to risk factors. Jessor and Turbin (2014) suggest the need for further studies to investigate protective factors and other risk factors in adolescent' behavior problems.

A classical criminological theory suggested that when positive ties between society and individuals are compromised, in relation to parental emotional bonds, delinquency is more likely to develop. Though other factors such as loyalty to conventional goals, participation in accepted activities, and belief in the law have been singled out as crucial factors in prevention of delinquency, the emotional bond and attachment to parents have been found to be a critical indicator of anti-social behavior especially among teenage females charged with serious crimes. Therefore, Parent-child connections have been observed to be better predictors of future delinquent activities than other social indicators, such as income or family type (Collishaw et al., 2011).

Equally, Chingtham, 2015 views delinquency as a type of conduct or violation or derailment from the accepted societal norms or basic standards of conduct in a given locality. These are types of undertaken by teenagers that would ordinarily attract legal punishments in the interest of the public if done by adults.

Previous studies have discovered that male teenagers are more likely to develop juvenile delinquency at the levels of violent and illicit crimes including property crimes, murder, rape, and many more. (Siegel & Welsh, 2014). Glueck and Glueck, (2013) in their study determined family influence as one of the main causes related to children being delinquent. Considering the impact of juvenile delinquency on the lives of the delinquents and general security, it was vital to study with a view to assessing the influence of the family system variables as an underlying cause of this behavior.

In as far as juvenile delinquency is concerned, there is growing general consensus that boys are at a higher risk of committing more delinquent acts than girls. There are several avenues through which teenagers develop juvenile delinquency key among them being, the type of parenting children experience and attachment to parents, which have been determined to be significant determinants of delinquency for both boys and girls.

A teenager is deemed as delinquent only when it necessitates application of legal steps in order to manage the antisocial behavior. Chowdhury and Fahim (2019) posit that children's failure to manifest expected societal standards and regulations of behavior is referred to as juvenile delinquency.

A study on the development of juvenile delinquency at Cambridge in London, discovered that the main predictors of juvenile delinquency are family disturbances and a high levels of disagreements in families. This is indicative of the changing family structure and altered parenting styles that directly influences the development of Juvenile delinquency. Parents in such scenarios fail to deploy positive parenting, parental cordiality, parental direction and guidance a situation that exposes the children to influences from

peers who ultimately introduce them to juvenile delinquency related to abuse of addictive substances, violation of the law, and other anti-social conducts (Aston 2015).

In juvenile delinquency studies, family processes have been commonly emphasized as of highest importance in influencing the development of juvenile delinquency, because the family system is the basic home environment within which children are nurtured and modeled into particular behavioral patterns (Brezina & Agnew, 2015). A research done by Coley et.al (2008), assessed the association of four characteristics to the development of juvenile delinquency, including parental warmth, behavior control, psychological control, and disagreements between youth and their parents. The study established a relationship between delinquency and structure of a family, parental warmth and income of family.

Teenagers who are deemed delinquent are generally categorized as those who show significant departure from societal norms and are therefore labeled as socially deviant. They have the propensity to infringe accepted social norms and values, which threatens the maintenance of harmony in the society. While the focus of many studies has been on the waywardness of the teenagers, the contribution by the parenting styles and the family structure has not been given the required prominence yet these two variables are key enabling factors when it comes to the development of juvenile delinquency.

Studies assert that unless causes of delinquency are well-known and singled out, the problem of juvenile delinquency cannot be adequately addressed. The pertinent question that has been of interest to this study is the role played by parents and the family structure. Juvenile delinquency evokes very strong emotions because of its potential to ruin the life of a teenager through the negative tag that comes with being identified as a social misfit. There is consensus that the problem of juvenile delinquency is critical and needs urgent attention.

Parenting styles and Delinquency

Parenting style is a key component of the family system that has a direct influence on the development of juvenile delinquency. The parenting practices adopted by the parent contributes to the development of either positive or negative adolescents' outcomes (Smetana & Ahmad, 2018). Parenting style is one of the most crucial socialization factors alongside other factors such as educational institutions and religious organizations that can positively influence a teenager from being impulsive to being a law-abiding citizen. The development of emotional bonds like secure attachment to the primary caregiver (parent), secure attachment to the school the child attends and family stability have been found to mitigate against lack of self-control and anti-social behaviour. When the attachment of the child to the parent diminishes due to harmful parenting style, the existing emotional bond between them suffers. The failing emotional bonding between the parent and children becomes a pathway for engagement in juvenile delinquency (Cicerali & Cicerali, 2018).

Parental attachment encompasses features such as friendship and fondness, regard for child's feelings, and dialogue between parent and child. Some schools of thought also include features such as the quantity or quality of interaction and level of supervision. While it is expected that secure parent-child attachment will generally play a key role in youth delinquency, the focus of this study was on parenting styles and family structure that also attracts parental attachment.

Baumrind (1966) defines parenting as a multifactorial function encompassing many particular activities operating together while progressively influencing the behavior of children. It is safe to conclude that development of juvenile delinquency is majorly related to parenting styles. As cited by scholars above, juvenile delinquency is a violation of the

law perpetrated by a person below the age of 18. The violation of the law can lead to incarceration in detention centers, or correctional centers. Tompsett and Toro (2010) observe that the development of juvenile delinquency is attributed to many factors lead by parenting style.

Parenting styles have been subjected to extensive research in recent years and have been associated with child outcomes and parental characteristics. Parenting styles can be broadly viewed as specific behaviors that parents deploy during their interaction with their children and the emotional environment created by parents as they raise their children (Okorodudu, 2010). Therefore, in the study, parenting was defined as practices and styles used by parents in the socialization of the children/youth. This socialization gradually shapes the moral behavior of the children that is ultimately manifested in the interaction with others in the society.

There is growing consensus leaning towards the place of parenting style in the development of juvenile delinquency. Brook et al, (2014) argues that teenagers can be led to anti-social behavior when their parents fail to show them intimacy, guide them, be interested in their affairs, failure to establish a secure attachment relationship, continually showing anger and blaming attitude in the interaction with children. It is therefore not far-fetched to conclude that there exists a substantial connection between the parental styles and a teenager's involvement in delinquent behavior. In other words, lack of positive parental interactions with children leads to development of juvenile delinquency, primarily in male juveniles.

Brezine and Agnew (2015) assert that parenting powerfully influences the future behavior of children. Adoption of an appropriate parenting style exerts a powerful influence

on children's conduct and future moral compass. Equally, reduced parental monitoring, parental warmth and support increases chances of children developing juvenile delinquency. This supports the concept of reciprocal relationship which asserts that a weak parent-child bond increases the possibility of development of juvenile delinquency based on the weakened attachment bond(Thornberry, 2003). Based on this body of scholarship, Thornberry argues the reciprocal relationship between parenting and children's behavior is encapsulated in the type of parenting style that influences the general direction children take.

This study evaluates the influence of parenting practices that are categorized as parenting styles on the development of juvenile delinquency alongside the family structure that in concert with the parenting style deployed. Parenting styles manifest various qualities the parents exhibit as they interact with their children. Domains such as control, supervision and warmth and love to their children are critical for the determination of the type of parenting style adopted by a parent.

Parents directly or indirectly influence the conduct and general growth of children's and teenagers' societal skills. Parenting style is one of the most frequently used interactional practices in the control and socialization of children (Baumrind, 1991). Parenting style originally encompassed two important features of parenting: responsiveness and demandingness (Maccoby and Martin, 1983). Variation of these domains of parenting helps to determine the model of parenting practices used by particular parents in the socialization of children. Parenting style has been widely used to predict a child's well-being in the areas of social aptitude, psychological development, academic performance, and delinquent behavior.

Parents take a substantial part in molding and shaping the conduct of children. Baumrind (1966, 1968) came up with three parenting prototypes that describe patterns of parental interactions that include parental control and child socialization. Coste (2015) cites the work of Baumrind, in identifying three parenting styles on the basis of parental demandingness and responsiveness domains. He argues that juvenile delinquency is directly associated with the conduct parents espouse when they interact with their children.

Baumrind (1971) is widely cited for studying parental practices at home and how they influence children over a period of time asserted that parental features of being warm, nurturing, and supportive while raising children is referred to as responsiveness. As important as responsiveness is in the parenting practices, aspects that deal with supervision, monitoring, and disciplining children by setting rules and consequences is called demandingness.

Authoritarian parents interact with their children on the basis of rigid standards, and uphold high levels of power while restraining the independence of their teenage children attracting contempt from them. Authoritative parenting style espouses reasonable parental supervision, monitoring, discipline and a balance between the teenagers' autonomy and parental authority creating a sense of equilibrium that takes into consideration the needs of both parties. Permissive parenting style are experienced by their children as parents who offer freedom, uses if at all, non-punitive supervision and control measures to maintain discipline, and often does not allocate any responsibilities to their children. Permissive parents are viewed as ideal by the children because of limited restrictions not knowing the adverse effects of this style. Neglectful parenting is about parents who do not seem to be

bothered about the needs of the child. The children decide what they want and where they want to go and for how long without any restrictions.

Authoritative parenting has been linked to effects such as desirable academic accomplishments, positive self-worth, and an impressive degree of self-confidence with minimal likelihood of bullying and other delinquent behaviors. Authoritarian parenting is on the other hand associated with depressive symptoms and rebellion against parents because of rules and strict disciplinary environment.

Conversely, permissive parenting style is linked to youth who turn out to be bullies, manipulators and defiant because they are used to getting whatever they want from their parents. Though not directly linked to Baumrind, a fourth classification called uninvolved or neglectful parents style is linked to low levels of academic achievement, aggressive, disruptive and non-cooperative behavior that often manifests impulsive tendencies, such as depression and suicide ideation because there was no parental guidance to them (Church et al., 2015).

Many parents are apparently ignorant of the fact that their strict tendencies may turn out to be counterproductive and are pushing the children away from them to peers, which inadvertently exposes them to delinquency. This study sought to frame the parenting practices into parenting styles that affect the development of juvenile delinquency.

The parenting relationship is therefore, the launch pad and the lenses through which, children/adolescents view the world. This is the first learning institution where the belief system and values are formed. Parents therefore, bear the greatest responsibility of molding and influencing the future behavior of their children through the parenting style they adopt. It is critical to conceive the fact that children are born helpless and totally dependent on

their parents for nurture and care until such a time that they are self-sustaining (Johnson, 2013).

Parents play the important role of laying the foundation on which children anchor as they begin to develop and solidify their belief system. This framework is ingrained through nurture that is based on continued observation and interactions that children have with their parents (Bandura, 1971). Scalici and Schulz (2014) point out that continued interactions between parents, other family members and children from the formative years influences the child's worldview. Parental influences are deemed to be strongest during childhood compared to when the child grows older. Therefore, inadequate parental supervision is one of the major causes leading to the development of delinquent behavior. The transfer of values from parents to children starts at a young age and can have long-term consequences for individual's future as well as socialization for future generations. As a result, the belief system embraced by the child as they mature into adulthood is determined by the use of a more attentive parenting style.

The main aspects of conflict resolution, dialogue, affective responsiveness, and affective engagement in family interaction defined by Altan-Aytun et al. (2013) may be used to conceptually and empirically relate parenting styles or patterns of behaviour. The authors further assert that the above factors influence family functioning.

Other studies have confirmed that the quality parent-child relationship is a major influencer of the development of the child's future belief system or morality (Kochanska *et al.* 2005). The style of parenting can influence the general development of the child in three ways; first, the parents model societal norms as they relate with the child hence influences the child to adopt to the standards, second, the child is taught how to regulate their emotions

which assists the child in relating with others and complying with rules and regulations and third the child will learn the principle of give and take due to the reciprocal relationship exhibited in a secure attachment relationship. (Grusec & Davidov, 2010). The influential role that parents play during their interaction with their children was a subject of interest in the study since these interactions have a direct bearing on delinquency of the child.

Gauvain, Perez, and Beebe (2013) contend that parenting style is directly linked to children's emotional growth, through responsiveness to children's feelings, their own manifestation of affect and the overall emotional environment captured in the child-parent relationship. Similarly, family functioning and relationship patterns can reveal a lot about a parent's overall parenting style.

Baumrind (1996) and Steinberg (2001) point out that there is a convergence of evidence from longitudinal studies that confirm that parenting styles account for about 30 percent of youth delinquency and in cases where other variables are leading to delinquency, authoritative parenting style may mediate the effects.

Authoritative parenting style offers guidance and direction in a balanced way. The level of demandingness and responsiveness in this style is higher meaning that parents welcome open communication and encourage a strong relationship (Piko & Balazs, 2012). Hoskins (2014) also affirms that authoritative parenting exhibits more support towards children. The parents engage in a give-and-take kind of conversation, explains the rationale behind existing rules and regulations. Authoritative parenting is closely linked to positive adolescent outcomes such as assertive and self-reliant behavior. In other words, authoritative parenting style inculcates positive attributes including compliance with social norms among adolescents.

Authoritative parents are considered the ideal models for effective child social development and education because the parents offer a balanced menu of affection and support on one hand and constructive/flexible disciplinary arrangement on the other (Trinkner, Cohn, Rebellon, & Van Gundy, 2012). The importance of striking a balance between warmth and boundaries is a challenge to many parents. Manifestation of warmth and boundaries are important domains in the current study since they determine the kind of parenting style adopted by the parent.

Georgiou, Ioannou and Stavrinides (2017) conducted studies on authoritative parents and established that they deployed a balanced form of demandingness and responsiveness through effective communication with their children, liberally praised their children and readily disciplined their children when they violated boundaries. They associated authoritative parenting with a healthy self-esteem, satisfactory academic accomplishments and self-efficacy and lower likelihood of delinquent behavior. Authoritative parenting has been identified as one of the key protective measures against delinquency. Hoskins (2014) argues that families that have cultivated a strong parental relationship with their children normally succeed to minimize the risk of delinquency in their children when they become adolescents. He attributes this to the fact that the established bond with the family tends to obligate them to care more about their parents' expectations thereby deterring them from delinquent behavior.

This study sought to explore how parenting style based on responsiveness and demandingness determines the development of juvenile delinquency. Baumrind (2012) underscores the fact that authoritative parents manifest appropriate levels of understanding and affection on one hand and are readily prepared to express their disappointment and

challenge children when necessary, demonstrating that authoritative parenting deploys a broad spectrum of positive emotions.

Authoritarian style parenting is identified through its posture of low response to the child's requirements and placing high demands on children leading to general discontent and withdrawn child behavior. The parents deploying this style are known to stress issues such as strict adherence to the rules and thus demand to be obeyed without question. They prefer to govern and achieve compliance through the use of force, prohibition, and punishment. This style of parenting has been with an assortment of psychological effects in children, including depressive symptoms (King, Vjdourek & Meranos, 2016). Low levels of engagement and confidence are linked to this parenting style when it comes to their children. They always lack open contact with their children and exert tight control over them. Authoritarian parenting is inherently harsh, punitive, and based on the belief that a child should always follow the rules.

Nijhof and Engels (2007), associate authoritarian parenting to lower levels of ability and self-confidence. Authoritarian parents display very rigid discipline, minimal flexibility, and demands for adherence of rules and regulations in the family set up. The parents are very controlling on one hand and not receptive to the child's needs or requests (Laurson & Collins, 2009; Trinkner et al., 2012). This parenting style inhibits the child's personal development and independence. In their bid to assert their freedom, the child is more likely to rebel by resorting to delinquent activities. Baumrind (2013) summarizes her description of authoritarian parenting as marked by less warmth than authoritative parents, rejecting and psychologically controlling. Authoritarian parents have a propensity to require strict compliance and are often punitive and forceful in order to maintain an absolute standard of

conduct. They emphasize parental authority punctuated by coercion and domineering tendencies. This parenting style has been linked to less than ideal child outcomes, according to research.

The use of this kind of parenting style exerts a lot of pressure on youth to a point that they cannot easily communicate their issues with parents, consequently drifting to peers for support and comfort. The drifting of the child from the parents care to peers may turn out to be a precursor for juvenile delinquency.

Permissive style of parenting is characterized with high responsiveness to the needs and wants of a child and low demands in as far as adherence to rules are concerned. Parents using the permissive style are normally very supportive, easily make time for their children, and are generally lenient. Whereas, these attributes manifest high responsiveness, they often fail to establish boundaries and when they do, they do not enforce them (Trinkner et al., 2012). Permissive parents are widely viewed as adoring, non-punitive and accepting since they set limited regulations and boundaries for conduct, thus stressing freedom much more than taking responsibility. Children from permissive parents normally score inadequate school grades and are more likely to be engaged in bullying of others (Calafat, 2014).

Youths with permissive parents have problems adjusting to societal realities. When parents fail to monitor, control and even punish children for deviant behavior or disobedience, the effect on the youth is impulsive behavior that degenerates to juvenile delinquency. Church et al. (2015) aver that children, who grow up with lack or lax family rules, parental monitoring and no curfew expectations, are at a greater risk to engage in high levels of delinquency. Such children manifest low self-control and low self-reliance.

Permissive people, Baumrind (2012), foster psychological autonomy, are accepting, and have a lack of behavioral control. They are usually affirming and make few demands on the child's actions. They try to avoid coercive or collision behaviors as much as possible, believing that being indulgent and encouraging children to make their own laws and choices is the best way to raise children. Below average achievement (Baumrind, 1971), loss self-control (Maccoby & Martin, 1983), and lower autonomy have all been linked to this parenting style.

This parenting style leads to youth who have problems living or working in environments where there are strict rules. They will therefore find themselves in trouble with the law or regulations of organizations frequently. This will therefore, affect their self-esteem. Therefore, the present study will seek to identify parenting styles that will positively influence the development of youth and prevent them from indulging in juvenile delinquency.

The rejecting/neglecting parenting style, scores low on both responsiveness and demandingness yielding children who are indecisive and care free. Neglectful parenting exposes youth to lack adult supervision making them to parent themselves thus assuming parental role to younger siblings. The parents in essence disconnect themselves emotionally from their children, and provide no boundaries to the children at all. Other studies have classified neglectful parenting as a critical enabler to the children in access to weapons, drugs, rape, prostitution, pornography and violent gang activity.

Calafat (2014) describes neglectful parents as those who offer little or no supervision, do not set boundaries and show little or no affection and support. The study revealed that minors of neglectful parents perform poorly academically, are aggressive,

uncooperative, disruptive and prone to psychological disorders such as depression and suicide ideation. Among all parenting styles, this one portends the greatest risk to youths getting involved in delinquency (Hoeve et al., 2011). Some parents may continue abdicating their role in pursuit for other things which directly pushes the children to delinquency.

Baumrind (2013) describes neglectful parents as rejecting and lax behavioral control. They minimize parenting effort and time while manifesting indifferent tendencies and often ignore the needs of the children.

Among the four parenting styles, there is general consensus that authoritative parents are considered the ideal models for effective child social development and education because the parents offer a balanced menu of love, care, affection and support on one hand and constructive/flexible boundaries and disciplinary arrangement on the other. This bidirectional approach that involves response to the youth's need and reasonable rules governing the youth's conduct engenders self-control and minimizes the risk of minors being involved in delinquent behavior (Trinkner, Cohn, Rebellon, & Van Gundy, 2012).

Conversely, permissive and neglectful parenting styles have been identified to pose the greatest risk for development of juvenile delinquency. Due to the inability of parents practicing permissive parenting to effectively supervise their children and their excess levels of conceding to the child's demands, their children manifest levels of delinquent behavior (Baumrind, 1991). Minors from permissive family systems are prone to school misconduct, substance use, and are faced with interpersonal challenges among their peers. Notably, the children also have low self-esteem. (Martínez, & Garcia, 2007).

Equally, neglectful/uninvolved parenting style, which is marked by failure to engage in structure or control of the children and a lack of a strong attachment bond in the parent-

child dyad creates a favourable environment for externalizing behaviors of children (Garcia, Serra, Garcia, Martinez, & Cruise, 2019). Martínez, and García (2007) have linked uninvolved parenting style to delinquent acts among them rape, theft, vandalism and assault. Other studies established that adolescents from neglectful families drank alcohol and abused other substances almost twice as much as their peers from other parenting styles families (Garcia, Serra, Garcia, Martinez, & Cruise, 2019).

Tompsett and Toro (2010) assert that the possibility of sliding into criminal behaviour among adolescents is linked to parenting style. They specify authoritarian parental style particularly as influential in developing delinquent behavior among adolescents.

A study by Prinzie et al. (2009) found out that teenagers who are nurtured with warmth, love and reward strategies and sanctions characteristic of authoritative parenting bring up children who mostly exhibit better emotion regulation skills, promote positive development and better self-control and maintain emotional closeness. On the other hand, parents who tend to apply psychological control in their parenting role, normally end up raising teenagers who manifest low social competence, low self-esteem, externalizing behaviors, high levels of depression, and anxiety. Prevention of juvenile delinquency may require techniques that involve opening avenues for autonomy which makes allowances for children to explore and develop their own views of their immediate environment and the world at large. This process gradually internalizes rules and moral compass in the teenager's life. These models of parenting style influences the behavior of the children either towards delinquency or against delinquency. Discovery of this influence together with the part played by the family structure was of interest to the study.

Authoritative parenting style has been associated with minimal levels of externalizing and internalizing maladaptive conduct and higher levels of pro-social conduct among teenagers and children. In the event that both parents apply authoritative parenting style, positive aspects are reinforced (Karmakar, 2017).

Adolescents with parents who have a predictable pattern of interaction turn out to be pro-social compared to those whose parents manifest an unpredictable international pattern. When parents are weak in their guidance, supervision and positive parent–child interactions, they expose their children to delinquent tendencies (Waller et al., 2013). Equally a study by Hoeve et al. (2011) observed that there were lower rates of delinquencies even in situations where there was only one authoritative parenting while the other parent is practicing a different parenting style. Similarly research has shown that authoritarian and permissive parenting styles are predictors of antisocial behaviors and low self-compassion and emotional intelligence (Zareian et al., 2017).

Metzler, et al. (1994) observe that adequate control and monitoring have been identified as key moderators of delinquent peer influences on children's thus acting as a buffer against delinquent behaviors (Pettit et al., 1999). Equally Azoro (2010) has observed that children from stable two-parent families are at a lower risk of developing delinquency compared to children from divorced families that pose a higher risk of indulging in delinquent acts. Jekayinfa (2007) has argued that divorce is positively associated with misbehavior through its effects on parental misbehavior.

Good parenting, gravitates around continuous dialogue, regular interaction, supervision and inculcation of related skills, and enhancing adaptive coping skills, which ultimately equips teenagers with skills to avoid the possibility of involvement in deviant

behavior. These features also enable teenagers to deal with frustration, control anger, and apply other self-management strategies. During adolescence teenagers tend to fight for their independence. However, social and environmental concepts emphasize that the influence of parents, peers, teachers, community and culture on risk-taking during this period is still strong. Parents remain influential because the teenagers remain reliant upon them and other significant adults (Giedd, 2015).

The continuous interaction between the child and the parent, ultimately develops a child's personality and shaped the child's worldview. Among the numerous family life aspects, parental rejection, appears to be the most powerful predictor of juvenile delinquency (Azoro, 2010). The critical point here is that the child interprets the parent's lack of interest in them and failure to spend quality time with them as rejection. Though rehabilitation centers for delinquents can bring a positive change in the lives of delinquents, the involvement of parents who form the delinquent's microsystem may make a key difference and reduce recidivism, It is apparent from previous studies that children raised in accepting, affectionate, and supportive environments, are likely to become more responsible adults who can be morally upright and self-driven (Mary, 2016).

A considerable number of sociological and psychological studies on the influence of parenting styles on children's outcomes, have concluded that the psychological development of children is dependent on effective parenting balances features of demandingness and responsiveness (Brezine & Agnew, 2015). Demandingness is described as the parents' aptitude to monitor, discipline and confront the child who violates the rules. On the other hand, responsiveness is described as how parents deliberately fosters the child's independence and confidence through supporting them and meeting their needs.

Proactive parental involvement in the lives of their children in the formative ages through deployment of a more responsive parenting style can prevent the development of juvenile delinquency. The presence of parents will assist the parents to keep a check on emotional problems, adjustment issues, and learning difficulties, ultimately minimizing development of juvenile delinquency. Even in cases where the children have become delinquent, the parents need to accept their responsibility and diligently work for the social welfare of juvenile delinquents paying keen interest in important issues regarding peer pressure and involvement in risky behavior.

Though it is assumed that poor parenting leads to development of juvenile delinquency, another school of thought attributes juvenile delinquency to the notion among teenagers that they have the freedom to either choose crime or not. Therefore, the lack of parental structure exposes teenagers to the possibility of viewing crime as a viable option when emotionally charged (Gottfredson & Hirschi, 2014). Based on control theory, risk factors risk factors such as parental disagreements, parental criminal behavior, poor parental supervision, inconsistent and harsh discipline, and individual level factors of youth impulsivity, and risk-taking behaviors are precursors for the development of delinquency.

Coley et al., 2008 discovered that parenting styles and juvenile delinquency tend to affect one another, in that positive parenting practices may prevent children from developing delinquency while negative parenting practices may lead to juvenile delinquency. Equally, parent-child interactions can either be negative or positive based on their actions when the children become delinquent and how they respond to the delinquent activities of their children.

The changing gender roles have significantly undermined the supervision role of parents, which has provided an avenue for teenagers to be introduced to delinquent activities through peer relations. The emerging trend where both parents are engaged in gainful employment, leaves a big gap of absence that is filled by third parties (house helps, relatives, and friends) who do not exercise effective supervision. The parent's role of supervision is critical for nurture and guidance of children (Patoari, 2020). Whereas, involvement in gainful activities by parents is also important, a balance of lifestyle that will provide quality time for children may reduce the development of delinquency among teenagers. The presence of the parents in the lives of their children may imply proper monitoring and supervision of children with the net effect of reduced juvenile delinquency.

Based on the cited literature, parenting style is an integral part of the socialization of a child. Most parenting practices are learnt through observation and modeling of older parents. Some of the practices adopted are to blame for the rising cases of juvenile delinquency. There is strong need for a shift of the practices to styles that positively influence children.

Family Structure

The family is considered to be the first and the foundational sociological unit in which children are nurtured and socialized. It is the closest setting where the child experiences affection, rejection, love, and the picture of the world and the society that the child must adapt to. All interactional patterns and various activities within this context are factors that shape their first impulses and reactions. Various scholars have come up with different definitions of family because of the different variations of family based on their size and components. Families accomplish diverse things for their members (Gordon, 2003).

The primary responsibility of parents is to steer children through different stages of their development. Child development encompasses physical aspects, social, intellectual, and emotional, with the family being the base upon which this development is built on. The family structure plays a central role in molding a child through provision of security and developing their values and skills. This underscores the importance of this study (Mary, 2016). Among the greatest needs of children in order for them to blossom developmentally is a stable relationship between their mother and father leading to adequate preparation for opportunities and challenges in life. This preparation is done in a context where parenting styles and the family structure interact to influence the child's moral development.

Parental conflict especially divorce has been linked to the development of juvenile delinquency and is therefore, a key parent-related risk factor that predisposes children and teenagers to criminal activities (Akinyi, 2015). What essentially pushes the children to delinquency is the emotional distress that emerges from parental conflict that denies them the nurturing component of the parent. The transition in the family structure from a two-parent structure to a single-parent family structure often leads to reduction of economic sources of livelihood because only one bread winner has been left to fend for the family. Discovered that fathers who live in separate households with their spouses tend to have limited time with their children. A family structure that enjoys the presence of both parents has is beneficial for overall development and is a buffer against development of juvenile delinquency.

According to Amato (2000) disruption of the family structure proffers maladaptive pattern, such as the shifting of children to different schools, economic hardships and disruption of the social structure. Such changes have been discovered to occasion emotional

disturbance, increase poverty and depression, directly undermining effective parenting practices that in turn lead to anti-social behavior.

Hearne (2015) posits that neglectful parents are mostly emotionally disengaged from their children and virtually have no time for supervision, mostly intentionally avoid them not having demands in as far as their behavior is concerned, mostly failing to attend important events for their children including school events. They are often preoccupied with many other things. The study discovered that most juvenile offenders hailed from family structures where the parents were uninvolved in important affairs of their children. The study concluded that approximately two thirds of offenders came from families where children viewed their parents as uninterested in them, while only one third came from families where children viewed the parent as interested in them.

Children and teenagers are dependent on their family structures to meet their basic needs, ranging from clothing, shelter and food, besides the family engendering a sense of physical security for the children (Gennetian, Nina. & Pamela, 2010). The family is also a source of emotional security that may not be found anywhere else, making it possible for children in the family to thrive in terms confidence levels and expression. Guaranteeing children a stable home environment also engenders feelings of being secure, and the confidence that they will eat, drink, bathe, and sleep at certain times without being disturbed (de Mello, et al., 2014). Security for children is an important ingredient for the development of the children's skills and talents, physical growth, cognitive development and emotional development. Security is also builds trust between children and family members. When children perceive that those around them can trust them, they in effect feel more comfortable and secure.

The family plays a significant part in instilling societal norms and values within children and teenagers (Mwenda, 2012). This also imprints the moral code that includes an understanding of right and wrong, fairness, respect, responsibility, and compassion. The learning avenues for the children are through observing and matching their parents' conduct, and being taught by the parents.

Children begin learning cognitive, emotional, interactional and language skills from the time they are born (Tillyer, Ray & Hinton, 2018). These skills are acquired gradually over a period of time and are critical as they shape the child and improve their capacity to fulfill their full potential. Failure to develop emotional skills could lead to development of juvenile delinquency (Bradshaw, 1988).

Unpredicted family changeovers, conflicts and distress have been identified as key influencers of children's behaviour for a short and long period of time. Coupled with ineffective parenting styles and parent-child relationship issues and, family structures can have an enduring negative effect on overall child development that could ultimately lead to the development of juvenile delinquency. Based on this fact, this study established the nexus between family structure and development of juvenile delinquency.

Family Structure and Delinquency

In this study, an intact or stable family structure is described as a family in which children live with their biological parents who are actively involved in parental roles such as provision of financial support, security, and emotional support. Previous studies in this area have established the existence of relationships between family structure and juvenile delinquency. The studies confirmed that minors from stable family structures (two biological parents) were less likely to be lured into delinquent tendencies and are more

emotionally stable compared to their counterparts from unstable family structures such as single-parenting or co-habiting arrangements (McLanahan, Tach, & Schneider, 2013). This can be attributed to the presence, guidance and discipline offered by a structure that has both parents involved in parenting practices.

Murry, William, and Salekin (2006) conducted a study of 442 delinquents in a borstal institution to determine the relationship between family structure and juvenile delinquency. They noted that 53 percent of the respondents came from single-parent families. More youth offenders came from other family settings than the two-parent family home according to the study's results.

When there is a change in the family structure from the traditional structure, a situation that Nourollah et.al. (2015) call broken family structure, mostly women and the children in that family system become more vulnerable lose their respect in society. This situation prepares the ground for the children to turn to anti-social behavior because of the significant disruption of their family ecosystem.

Alnasir and Al-Falaji, (2016) note that parental conflict is a precursor of disruption of the family structure which ends up pushing the teenagers in the family to juvenile delinquency. Due to various social, economic and cultural reasons behind marital conflicts, husband and wife are in most cases engrossed in their fights leading to neglect of children thus exposing them to juvenile delinquency. The conflicts deny the children the necessary attention of their parents who now are preoccupied in their fights leaving the children frustrated and depressed. This situation provides an avenue for the children to seek solace from their peers since the family structure has been disrupted.

Most researchers among them Prestin-Latham, (2013) have concluded that the crucial cause of delinquency is difficulties in family system, which leads to behavioral difficulties among teenagers. There is growing consensus that the family environment plays a key role in the development of delinquent behavior in teenagers. It has been noted that children from a divorced family structure are vulnerable towards becoming delinquent. Therefore the transition from a two-parent family structure has relationship with adolescent delinquent behavior. He further argues that delinquency rate among children from divorced families is higher compared to those from two-parent families no matter the age when divorce happened.

Apel and Kaukinen (2008) cite the US scenario where a trend of cohabitation is on the rise leading to children living mostly with single-parent (who cohabitates with non-biological parents) exposing the children to a greater risk of developing delinquent behavior.

Similarly, other studies have concurred with these findings and have also observed that there is significant influence of parental nurture, strengthening of emotional bond and involvement in adolescent's violent behavior than the type of family structure. They further argue that dissolution of marriages is not directly associated with the appearance of delinquency but the way a family is formed and cohabitation are linked to delinquent activities among adolescents. Other critical familial issues such as attachment with parents and variation in family time effects, attachment and detachment with parents and peers by a teenager has a direct impact on delinquent behavior of adolescents (Wampler & Downs, 2010).

A study conducted by Nisar et al. (2015), discovered that male delinquents aged 16-18 were at a greater risk of being involved in crime compared to those below 16 years. They further discovered that those who lived in two-parent family structure had lower levels of being involved in juvenile crimes as compared to those who live in unstable family structure.

Violence within the family structure that is closely related to authoritarian parenting style has been related positively with juvenile delinquency. In his study, Sarantakos (1997) discovered that violence meted against children and between parents in the presence of their children, can negatively push children towards juvenile delinquency. In the study, 78% of the offenders were brought up in families where child abuse and physical violence was common, while 22% of teenage offenders were nurtured in non-violent homes. Based on this study, non-offenders are likely to emerge from non-violent homes.

When parents are constantly involved in violence and later divorce, the negative consequence will be felt by children in the family structure (Alnasir & Al-falaji, 2016). In cases of such parental conflict children tend to view themselves negatively because of the parental conflict, culminating into feelings of guilt, shame and low self-esteem. The conflict between parents has the potential to decrease the quality of parenting, weakening the emotional bond between the child and the parents. The consequence of weakened bond is compromised self-control that ultimately exposes children to delinquency.

The results of the aforementioned studies are consistent with those of Demuth and Brown (2004), who found that teenagers who live in a family system that involves both biological parents have a lower risk of behavioral problems than those who live in other types of families. Aside from family structure, there was a correlation between adolescent

delinquency and non-traditional family structure that was related to age, socioeconomic status, gender, ethnicity, family size and location of the residence.

Another predicament that has a direct bearing on the development of juvenile delinquency is continued changes of the family structure a child lives in. When a family structure is altered or suddenly becomes dysfunctional because one of the parents is absent or in cases where abuse is prevalent, serious disorders in the development of an individual can emerge thus constituting a risk for addiction to substance/drug abuse and crime (Wallman, 2010). The home environment is the most important sociological unit where lessons about interaction are learnt. It is the ideal place to teach children lessons about love and the first contact experienced with the world. The child's worldview begins to be shaped within the family unit (Shek, 2016).

Prestin-Latham, (2013) posits that cases of delinquency are higher in children of divorced parents despite the age when divorce happened. Another interesting trend cited in the study is the rising cases of cohabitation among children raised by single parents who introduce their partners to their children and demanding that their children accept them as their parents despite the fact that the children still cherish a relationship with their biological parents. This predicament is confusing to the children who may opt to rebel against the remaining biological parent and the introduced 'parent'.

A report from Eurostat (2016) established that in Western Europe and US a good number of children grow up in a single-parent family, meaning that they grow up in a family where only one biological parent present. The study established that the percentage of single-parent families ranges between 15 and 27%. Growing up in a single-parent family may be as a result of parental divorce or separation, from parental decease, or from being

born to a single parent. The cause of single parenthood notwithstanding, the impact on the nurturing component to the children is critical. The main areas that are directly involved and may influence development of juvenile delinquency are the parenting style adopted and the altered family structure. These components that were the subject of the study established a positive relationship when it comes to juvenile delinquency.

Fisher (2013) posits that several relational issues that may lead children towards turning to anti-social behavior are mainly family influences, bad neighborhood, economic background, and deviant peer association. Disturbances and anti-social behavior, manifested by children is as a result of the values inculcated by parents. The disruption of the emotional bond between the child and the parent becomes an important pathway to hostility or antisocial aggression,

Provision of the basic needs of a child without due regard for the home environment is contributing to the increasing number of juvenile delinquency. Parenting practices are closely related to the environment or context of parenting which is best conceptualized within the framework of the family structure. Consideration of these parenting practices within the framework of family structure is what this study explored.

A case study on juvenile offenders at Adyala Jail, located in Rawalpindi, established that the key causes of juvenile delinquency were parental neglect and poverty (Khursheed & Urooj, 2012). Another study in Punjab province's Bahawlpur and Faisalbad juvenile jails and borstals identified nagging tendencies of parents, especially the father, parental disputes, media and a dysfunctional family climate (Mahmood & Cheema, 2004).

Miller and Fagan, (2014) posit that children living in dysfunctional families where there is low or poor supervision, parental abuse, and disrupted home environment are at a

higher risk for becoming delinquent because of lack of control and right modeling from parents. Related studies have revealed that when families are separated and do not connect, children/adolescents often drift towards other supporting systems especially peer groups for support because they cannot get the necessary support from their parents. This prepares the ground for the adolescents to gravitate towards groups or gangs that are inclined towards socially unacceptable behavior (Godinet & Vakalahi, (2009). Supervision, parental abuse and disrupted home environment are key factors that can influence the behavior of a child. The three elements can be viewed as both parenting and structural matters that have a direct impact on a child's delinquency.

On the other hand, various studies have established that delinquent behavior is more linked to poor family relationships compared to the family structure. They cited parenting style, self-control and supervision as appropriate buffers that protect children from delinquency (Meldrum, Connolly, Flexon, & Guerette, 2016). This argument lends credence to the view that co-parenting of separated couples can result into favorable outcomes among adolescents, probably because the interaction of both parents conveys a message of normalcy and provides an opportunity for both parents to establish a bond and instill values to the child.

One of the factors that influence delinquency among youth is the family structure that a child is exposed to and the kind of family relationships that have been developed within the structure. Disruptions and transitions in the structure from a two-biological structure to co-habiting parents structure and then to a single parent structure, confounds the children who may interpret the disruptions as rejection and abandonment, forcing them to establish attachment bonds with peers. (Leiber, Mack, & Featherstone, 2009). Establishing

a bond with peers deprives the child necessary guidance and care from more mature people like parents directly exposing them to higher risk of falling into delinquent behavior (Jekayinfa, 2007).

Kierkus, Johnson and Hewitt (2010), argue that the family structure in the United States has enormously evolved over the years, becoming different by the day. They further contend that children and youth are more likely to be bred in different types of homes, that are at times transient, with the structure changing from single to married, and later cohabitation and single again. These transitions in the family structure in the event of a divorce or a separation and later coupling again continuously changes the home environment and is ultimately detrimental to the overall development and wellbeing of the adolescent basically because it is difficult to develop a secure attachment with the parents. This leaves the minors with the option of turning to peers for direction and guidance (Wallman, 2010). If the minors turn to peers who are inclined towards antisocial behavior for direction and guidance the minor may easily be exposed to antisocial behavior.

Alpatanni (2015) asserted that the family's functional state influences whether a child will eventually lean towards delinquent tendencies. Factors that bear more influence include: styles of parenting, behavior of other siblings, poverty, inadequate educational level and, untimely separation of the child from their parents at a young age. It is now widely agreed that a child is socialized through numerous observations and interactions both positive and negative in the family system. Parents are therefore, obligated to create a conducive home environment that will positively influence the behavior of children through adoption of appropriate parenting practices and providing a stable family structure for children to thrive.

Ngale (2009) posits that the family structure forms the foundation blocks of human society. Therefore, the children's outcomes depend on the interactions in this basic unit. He further observed that children faced with rejection from parents, children who witness or experience abuse, or who are not properly guided are at a greater risk of falling into delinquent behavior. Similarly, Sharma (2012) points out that most delinquents had a history conflicted relationships within their family systems. He further contends that in the formative years of a child, the home environment, the interactional patterns and the attachment bond play a critical role. He cited parental conflict, abuse and poor living conditions as key determinants of delinquent behavior in future. Many parents are apparently ignorant of the implications of their behavior before children. Failure to spend quality time with children, physically and emotionally abusing children progressively push children to delinquent behavior.

Hoeve (2009) posits that nontraditional families exposes children to a greater risk to a variety of delinquent outcomes compared to traditional married households. When children are exposed to different family structures, the level of supervision and monitoring from parents is inconsistent thus making them vulnerable to engaging in juvenile delinquency.

Another study conducted by Laursen (2005) to determine if different family structures present different levels of conflicts between parents and adolescents, established that adolescents from single and blended family structures reported more disagreements compared to adolescents from a stable family structure. The study made an interesting conclusion that the exposure of adolescents to delinquency was due to limited discipline, supervision and monitoring of the adolescent, factors that mesh well with parenting

practices and family structure the child belongs to. On the other hand, the traditional two-biological parents' family structure provides a conducive environment for support, involvement, and monitoring for an adolescent.

The findings of Laursen's study are confirmed by an earlier research by Demuth and Brown (2004) that studied the effects of specific family structures on juvenile delinquency and found out that single-parenthood is a major contributor to juvenile delinquency but also established that, single-father headed households had significantly higher rates of delinquency compared to single-mother headed families. The study also established that children from blended and cohabiting families were likely to exhibit a range of behavioral problems compared to those from two-parent families. Other studies have established that single parent families, especially, mother-only families raise children who are likely to turn delinquent compared to two parent families because of the assumption that a father's presence helps to stabilize the male children who are at greater risk of engaging in delinquent behavior. Two-parent family structure provides greater opportunity for enhanced supervision and monitoring of children while single parent structure increases the likelihood of delinquency because of lack of adequate supervision and monitoring (Kimani, 2010). This leads to the hypothesis that family structure may influence the development of juvenile delinquency. This was therefore an area of interest for this study.

Dufur et al. (2013) stress that though the scope of social support group may be wide, the key social support group emanates from family relationships. Though adolescents will from time to time engage in conduct that helps them differentiate themselves from their families of origin, they actually devote much of their time in the family structure besides depending on their parents for both physical and emotional support. A supportive family

structure is created through deliberate development of enduring bonds between parents and their children, covering critical areas including spending quality time with children, monitoring their activities while keeping tabs on the kind of groups they are interacting with. The family structure is more than the sum of different components within the family system (Dafur et.al. 2013). The family structure encompassed continued investment in the life of the children through positive relations that deliberately creates enduring connections that ultimately inculcate morals in the children. These connections ultimately prevents the children from developing delinquency.

The family structure is the ideal context in which children experience affection, companionship, and encouragement. The strength of the relationship between parents and their children may determine whether a child develops anti-social behavior or not. Warm, supportive, affectionate and considerate home environment are likely to influence teenagers to adhere to rules and regulations and be socially amiable thus lending credence to the concept that a positive family environment leads to positive outcomes among children. On the other hand, a lack of parental affection, support, and hostility, rejection, may lead to feelings of emotional deprivation among teenagers undermining their social development (Apel & Kaukinen, 2008).

Family studies have indicated that family cohesion has an influence on development of juvenile delinquency (Dafur, et.al, 2019). A study by Sarantakos discovered that 73% of the respondents were juveniles from families with low cohesion levels, while 27% of the juveniles came from families with adequate cohesion levels. Similarly 91% of non-offenders were from high-cohesion families, and only 9% of non-offenders were from low-cohesion families.

The family structure plays a central role in the shaping of a child's overall development. Child development encompasses social, intellectual, emotional, and physical aspects, with the family system being the foundation upon which all kinds of socialization is done. Inculcating of norms and values in children is a responsibility bestowed on the family system (Azoro, 2010) The parenting practices that include continuous interactions influence how the children define what is respect, fairness, compassion, right, wrong, and responsibility . The main learning point during childhood is through observation and emulation of their parents. Thus, children learn both the significance of the inculcated values. This process has an influence on whether the child develops delinquency or not.

Bochenek (2016) notes that the relationship between juvenile delinquency and non-traditional family structure has been studied under the context of gender, age, family size, socioeconomic status, race, and place of residence. He asserts that most of these studies that have targeted adolescents aged between 12 and 17 years, have consistently found an association between family structure, size and age and juvenile delinquency.

Based on the studies so far reviewed in this area, it is apparent that the family system is a major contributor to patterns of antisocial behavior in youth. Variables such as ineffective parental discipline, lack of parental involvement, constant changes in the home environment, abuse and, feelings of rejection from family gradually move the youth to delinquent behavior. However, the studies so far done have not been able to clearly articulate how the interdependent nature of parenting style and family structure collectively play a causal role in the development of juvenile delinquency. Focusing on the delinquent alone without investigating the context of parenting may undermine creation of adequate interventions.

Combined Effects of Parenting Styles and Family Structure on Juvenile Delinquency

Parenting styles and family structure may have a comorbid relationship that jointly influence juvenile delinquency. Whereas, family structure may at times be caused by circumstances that are beyond the control of parents such as death of a father/mother, it is apparent that a combined effect of parenting styles and family structure may have a bearing on the development of the moral compass of the child.

One of the findings of a study conducted by Gault-Sherman (2017) was that juvenile delinquency was influenced by the quality of parent-child relationship, coupled with parental practices in the family unit including imposition of strict rules, failure to monitor adherence of the rules and failure to address the needs of a child, leaving him/her with feelings of rejection. These findings concur with Bowlby's (1988) position that a positive parent-child relationship serves as one of the key protective measures against delinquency. According to Bowlby, a positive relationship is achieved through the establishment of a secure attachment, which is realized through parents responding to the needs of a child and ensuring that the family environment is conducive for the child to grow and thrive. The elements of responsiveness and family environment, point to the combined effect that parenting style and family structure may have on development of juvenile behavior. This link was of great significance to the study.

A study by Pinquart (2017) revealed that parent-child attachment acts as a buffer that protects the minors from involvement in delinquency. He however adds that attachment should be augmented with parental control including supervision and discipline, for it to effectively forestall the development of delinquent behavior. The study also found out that cordial relations with parents and clear boundaries were directly associated with

adolescents' low involvement in delinquent behavior. To the contrary, delinquency was linked to lack of parental supervision, poverty and peer pressure (Ebuhi & Omogbemi, 2011). The above arguments point to the critical role jointly played by parenting style and family structure in the development of morally upright or antisocial behavior among children and youth. Some studies have established that juvenile delinquency is linked to the kind of home in which a child is brought up. Family dysfunction is viewed as a predictor of future criminal activities, because the dysfunctions undermine the parent's ability to control and provide adequate nurture to children. It is believed that the weakened family bonds have the potential of predisposing children to acts of delinquency (Okorodudu, 2010).

Bernasco et al. (2013) cited social learning theory in his explanation of the phenomenon where insecurely attached adolescents who were mostly away from home while connected with their peers were mostly involved in offending behaviors. This scenario introduces unstructured socialization (involvement with peers who violate societal norms) which was found to be associated with delinquency.

A study conducted by Vogel and South (2016) in America concluded that a combination of parenting styles, family structure and the neighborhood in which a child is raised has an impact on the moral behavior adopted by the youth. Adolescents raised in highly conflictual home environment and with parents involved in antisocial behavior were found to be more susceptible to involvement in delinquent behavior. However, this did not imply that youth coming from better localities could not be influenced to be involved in delinquent behavior, the study indicated that youth from poor neighborhoods are at a higher risk of becoming delinquent (Odgers et al., 2015). These findings herald the importance of

considering the combined effect of family structure and parenting styles on juvenile delinquency.

Andrew et. al. (2008) established that there was a relationship between parenting styles, family structure and the family's financial stability that directly affects the parents care and attention to children, which exposes them to delinquency. A study by the US National Centre for Juvenile Justice (2014) indicated that 22% juveniles who were imprisoned in year 2010 were from families that lived below poverty level. Another study conducted in Canada by Wong (2011), identified poverty levels in families as the main factor that precipitates divorce, single-parenthood, and re-marriage, which later leads to criminal activities among adolescents who turn to peers to fill the void left by the parents and the family structure.

Nisar et al. (2015) study concluded that inadequate income in the family unit degenerates to an unstable family structure and failure of parents to offer quality care to their children because of pursuit for income generating activities indirectly exposing the children to juvenile delinquency. This conclusion is corroborated by another study in the United States that found out that in 39% single-parents belong to poor families, directly contributing to juvenile delinquency. Another longitudinal study done with adolescents established that juvenile delinquency was remarkably high in families and neighborhoods facing poverty (Hay et al., 2007).

These studies therefore, confirm that low income is a critical predictor of juvenile delinquency among adolescents. The poverty levels cited in this literature directly affects the parenting style and family structure, since the parents devote most of their time looking

for jobs at the expense of their parenting role and maintenance of the family structure's stability.

McLeod (2016) cites proponents of social learning theory including Bandura and Skinner, in his argument that children and youth learn life lessons from their parents through the parenting style adopted and the family unit's interactions due to the time the parents spend together with their children. He further argues that within the context teenage criminal behaviour, reinforcement and punishment administered by parents through rewards and sanctions play a significant part. If the parent's presence is therefore punctuated by long periods of absence, then the component of reinforcement and punishment that influences behavior suffers. This signifies the important role played by the combined aspects of parenting styles and family structure in the development of juvenile delinquency.

Another study conducted on the subject of juvenile delinquency based its arguments on the social learning theory, concluding that children not only learn from their parents but also from their immediate environment. The family structure provides the immediate environment for the child. When children interact with their family, unstructured socialization continues and if the parents are anti-social or violent, there is a high likelihood of juvenile delinquency mushrooming (Bernasco et al. 2013).

Another study by Pinquart (2017) revealed that correct parenting practices act as a buffer that protects the minors from involvement in delinquency. He however adds that the existence of parental control including supervision and discipline, are necessary in order to effectively forestall the development of delinquent behavior. The study also found out that cordial relations with parents and clear boundaries were directly associated with adolescents' low involvement in negative externalizing behavior. Therefore, to realize

optimum results among youth, balanced parenting that is marked by good communication, responsiveness, and lack of abuse is recommended (Rettew, 2015).

Alegre, Benson's and Pérez-Escoda's (2014) associated maternal warmth with emotional security, which leads to low levels of emotional and behavioral disturbances (internalizing and externalizing problems). On the other hand, lack of parental warmth could lead to antisocial behavior such as disobedience to parents, violence, theft, rape, stealing and other violation behaviors (Kakihara, Tilton-Weaver, Kerr, & Stattin, 2010). For children, parental warmth is viewed as a reward system that motivates them to engage in positive behavior in order to impress the parents (Rettew, 2015). This simply proves the important role played by the parenting practices and family structure in prevention of juvenile delinquency.

Studies conducted by Malik and Shirazi, (2010) established that family factors, such as unstable family structure, parental negligence and inappropriate attention towards children expose them to higher risk of delinquency. Other critical variables linking delinquency to the parenting environment are parental conflicts, abusive attitude of parents and parental criminal history (Demuth & Brown, 2004). Similarly, a study by Silpasuwan et al. (2011) in Thailand, concluded that instability of the family structure directly affects parenting style through issues such as financial stability and parenting further manifesting itself in poor performance in school precipitating juvenile behavior. Since poor performance directly shrinks opportunities for meaningful employment, the limited options for gainful employment expose juveniles to delinquency.

A case study on juvenile offenders held in Adyala Jail, in Pakistan indicated that the main causes of teenage criminal activities were family neglect and dearth (Khursheed &

Urooj, 2012). Neglect of youth implies that there is limited guidance, direction and discipline from parents which is consonant with neglectful parenting style that directly exposes the child to other influences because there is no guidance from parents. A related study conducted in Bahawalpur and Faisalabad juvenile jail and borstal institutions identified nagging attitude of fathers, parental conflicts, media and the local environment as causes of juvenile delinquency (Nisar et al. (2015). These findings are particularly relevant, since this study sought to establish the role parenting and the family structure plays in the development of delinquency among children.

A longitudinal study with children aged between five and twenty one years conducted by Lansford et al. (2007) in United States, attributed the development of delinquent acts to cases of physical abuse within the family structure, meted on children by parents. The study observed that children who had been physically abused in first five years were at a higher risk of abusing others. Parental interaction that is interpreted by the child as rejection or abuse gradually builds resentment which is later manifested as aggression.

Empirical studies conducted in Canada associated parental mistreatment of children with many negative outcomes, including bullying, substance abuse, externalizing problems, internalizing problems, gang involvement, peer rejection and low academic performance (Helfritz & Stanford, 2006). The findings of the study confirm the key role played by the parenting styles in the development of juvenile delinquency. Apparently, antisocial behavior such as bullying and substance abuse could be a result of parents abdicating their role of modeling and guiding their children, thus exposing them to delinquency.

Studies have established strong links of delinquency among juveniles to lack of closeness, guidance, parental interest, lack of parental attachment, anger and blaming. In

view of the above arguments, this study hypothesizes that parental involvement and warm interaction reduces the risk of violence, primarily in male juveniles (Brook et al, 2014).

Other than the factors cited above, there are other factors classified as parental personal attributes that also have a significant role in the development of delinquent behaviors. Chesney-Lind and Shelden, (2014) cite parental attitudes towards socialization activities such as education, failure in school and past traumatic events as closely associated with the development of juvenile delinquency. Similarly, a longitudinal study by Lansford et al. (2007) with children aged between five and 21 linked the development of criminal acts to authoritarian tendencies of parents such as physical abuse that indirectly modeled the children to aggressive behavior. The study observed that those who had been exposed to physical abuse in first five years of their life had higher probability for committing criminal activities.

Richards, Bacon-Shone, and Rao (2018) observes that a caring and stable family structure though important, needs to be propped by standard child care practices. The importance critical child care and its association with how children turn out later in life in the aspects of emotional management skills and cognitive capability, which are essential for a prosocial lifestyle, have been established through many studies. Parents and families that belong to the lowest social strata, in contrast, are mostly less educated and have lower literacy levels comparing with those from more advantaged families. Further studies observe that parents from the lowest socioeconomic status, spend less time and effort on their children because they spend most of their time fending for the family or seeking for gainful employment to the detriment of their children. This therefore, implies that quality time spent on interaction with children varies across families of different socioeconomic

status. This variations are projected in the overall performance of children with families from low socioeconomic social ladder turning out to be ill-equipped in terms of language development, cognitive ability, and readiness for school when they reach school age

Equally, Temple, White and Reynolds (2010) in their study noted that the quality of child care starting from birth goes a long way in preventing future development of juvenile delinquency. Gradual relational changes during the formative stages may lead to bigger differences when it comes to the areas of future employment opportunities, in school performance, and other prosocial skills. Programs that target preschool education, such as through Child-Parent Centers, have been proved to be a cost-effective strategy for crime prevention.

The family system during child's formative years plays a significant part in molding the child's future conduct. Children who are brought up in a nurturing and caring family, enabling them to form secure relationships with parents, end up being equipped with healthy emotional management and other prosocial skills, regulating their relationships for the rest of their life. On the other hand, youths raised in unstable, abusive family systems tend to have poor problem-solving skills and behavioral problems (Dodge, Dishion & Lansford, 2006). Studies have shown that, delinquents with the history of an abusive childhood such as, physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, and emotional, physical neglect, turn out to be difficult to rehabilitate and are more likely to fall back to criminal activities. (Baglivio, et al., 2014).

In cases of parental conflict, more often mothers, are usually the only person a child depends on. Owing to the level of dependency of the child on the mother, it would be equally detrimental if such a relationship is disrupted. Negative outcomes of children have

been associated with parental depression which in turn influences development of delinquency because of the absence of the parent who is nursing his or her own problem. Conversely, the negative ramifications of severe parenting and indifferent parenting practices have also been observed among teenagers (Wolford, Cooper, & McWey, 2019).

Children who were raised by their parents in ways that did not show affection and care, tend to be marked by problems in establishing and maintaining a stable, non-violent relationships with other people and the rule of law. The widely held concept that children learn disorderly conduct through continuous observation of anti-social conduct of their parents is fully justified. This is augmented by the influence of siblings, especially peers who have been deemed to be juvenile offenders on the other children in the family system.

The last two decades have seen major changes in the family structure where parenting styles are employed. Effective parenting has been affected by decreasing rates of marriage and increasing rates of divorce, and rising numbers of single parent households. These changes coupled with parents ceding their responsibilities of parenting to teachers and house helps has had a positive correlation with juvenile delinquency (Bongaarts, Mensch and Blanc, 2017).

Juvenile delinquency is a manifestation of a problematic childhood in the context of the family system. How a teenager turns out whether particular acts or conducts depends on various factors. Juvenile delinquency is conceptualized as a child trying to act like a grown up.

Unpredicted family transitions or disruptions, conflicts and distress can directly influence child outcomes, both in the short and long run. Coupled with ineffective parenting and parental relationship issues, family structures and relationships can have lasting

negative effects on child development that could lead to delinquent behavior later in life (Carlson and Corcoran, 2001).

Juvenile delinquency is therefore a result of diverse factors. However, the familial factors and parenting practices tend to play a relational role that can either minimize or lead to the development of delinquency among juveniles. Exposure to factors such as high levels of domestic violence, physical punishment, disruption of the family structure and parental substance abuse can be mitigated by positive parental practices and a strong parent-child relationship.

Familial and Parental Interventions for Juvenile Delinquency

Parents and families at large, have immense influence on the development of value systems among children born within the family system. The socialization responsibility that falls on the shoulders of parents and other family members who interact with the children on a daily basis directly and indirectly determine how the child talks to other people, whether or not they will respect other people's property and whether they will respect societal norms. The family represents the first contact the children have with authority, since the parents assume positions of authority.

Cho (2019), conducted longitudinal studies in Korea and discovered that maternal influences play a significant role in the psychological and behavioral growth of children. Features of maladaptive parenting practices including aggression, rejection, and psychological abuse expose children to a higher risk of delinquency, while a combination of positive family setting and friendly parenting characteristics expressed by responsiveness, comfort, and consistent discipline serve as protective factors. The integration of the aspects of the environment including the structure of the families and parental practices were key

areas in this study that contributed to the development of Juvenile delinquency. This study explored the link between the familial/parenting and juvenile delinquency with a view to proposing interventions that take the variables into account.

A study by Miller and Fagan (2014) established that parental training programs had the potential of improving the parents' ability to monitor their children and set clear boundaries, rules and expectations for behavior. The study further established that sensitization on consistency, discipline, and appropriate use of rewards and punishments, could positively influence the behavior of adolescents. The findings of the cited studies, point to the important role parenting style plays in the shaping of the moral behavior of a child.

Heneggeler (1989) posits that even in families where there is some level of violence, resistance to delinquency is possible. He cited a study on a successful diversion trial for inner-city juvenile offenders and their families that used the family ecological approach. The approach took a multifaceted approach to behaviour issues, focusing on the aspects of individual deficits such as improper child and family relationships, dysfunctional transactions with extra family networks such as peer group interactions, and problem-solving skills. Treatment resulted in warmer and more affectionate parent-child relationships, according to observation. As a result, parents reported fewer conduct issues, immature attitudes and associations with delinquents in their children.

In contrast, Akers (2009) based on Bandura's social learning theories, interventions that consider parent-child relationship are more likely to be effective because children learn positive and negative behaviors through continued interaction with others, including parents, who are especially important in influencing children's prosocial and antisocial

behaviour. Akers's study concluded that parents who either support deviant behaviour or neglect to correct or punish their children's antisocial actions are more likely to have their children involved in delinquent behaviour. This also implies that parents can reinforce good behavior through adoption of an attitude against lawlessness. This study also sought to establish whether inclusion of a parent's attitude will influence attitude against lawlessness.

Studies conducted by Malik and Shirazi, (2010) found out that family factors, such as parental negligence and inappropriate attention towards children expose them to higher risk of delinquency. Other critical variables linking delinquency to the parenting environment are parental conflicts, abusive attitude of parents and parental criminal history (Demuth & Brown, 2004). Silpasuwan et al. (2011) study concluded that parental low income and low educational levels disrupts the home environment, further manifesting itself in poor performance in school precipitating juvenile behavior.

Talib, Abdullah, and Mansor (2011) describe the family of a child as a socio-cultural-economic arrangement that has a direct significant influence on the behavior of the children, and the development of their characters. Therefore, the impact of negative parenting practices can lead children towards undesirable effects that will eventually push them to maladaptive behavioral conduct.

Other than focusing on familial and parental interventions, collaborating with different professionals, social workers will be able to practice multi-context intervention and assessment of their clients, specifically from a preventive, rehabilitative and development approaches. As social workers may lack the competency to single-handedly solve teenagers' challenges, profession-integration could be an appropriate avenue to fuse professional information from different fields to the advantage of the teenager. This integration will

facilitate provision of holistic services to the delinquents. (Gherardi & Whittlesey-Jerome, 2018).

Undoubtedly, the integrated approach could bring a lot of assistance to the delinquents, such as access to various a services as well as flexible and economical use of resources available. Hence, delinquents or teenagers stand to benefit more from different services offered in concert. Other than being holistic, the integrated approach is more comprehensive (Ife, 2019).

One probable tactic that can be deployed against development of juvenile delinquency among young people is deliberately increasing social capital. Social capital is about development of a social network that can help transfer pro-social norms that reduces the threat of negative energy and other negative behaviors. Social capital important for teenagers encompasses their families, neighborhoods, school community, church community, and other sources go a long way in protecting children against delinquent activities (Dufur et al. 2019).

Muchai, and Jefferson (2012) posit that the number of juvenile delinquents in Kenya, that go to correctional and rehabilitation for crimes is on the increase. Equally the rate of recidivism is high probably because the intervention measures are not adequate enough to deter teenagers from juvenile delinquency. Griffin, 2010 asserts that arrest rates escalated in 2010 at 9,443 per 100,000 teenagers aged 10 years to 17yrs and dropped by one-third in 2008 (to 6,318 per 100,000). However, there are changes in the numbers with an increment of juveniles in custody at the rate of 60 percent (2008 – 2012) from 6,318 to 13,108 per 100,000. The spread of juvenile delinquency across counties ranks Nairobi County as the highest compared to other counties.

Van der Pol et al. (2018) propose that institution of an integrated intervention across multiple domains, may positive results in as far as delinquency cases are concerned. In this model, professionals from different fields including therapists have to work comprehensively and regularly with the teenagers, their family, and the larger system (e.g., juvenile courts, school teachers, neighborhood).

Hurley, Yousafzai, and Lopez-Boo (2016) propose that adopting preventive strategies may bring about, positive results compared to reactive strategies adopted by correctional services in different jurisdictions. Crucial about this argument is the fact that children at early ages are more amenable to change. Equally, research has also established the significance of the first five years in determining the rest of the child's life. Negative factors that are currently counterproductive but could be considered in the preventive strategies include punitive parenting practices or abuse, lack of adequate nutrition, and insufficient learning opportunities critical during the developing stage, which jointly lead to irretrievable problems that the carries for the rest of his or her life. At the age of 13 or 14 children begin to manifest anti-social behavior that would have been prevented had parents and society adopted a prevention strategy early in life.

Agnew (2006) uses the family stress theory to demonstrate that parent/child conflict and child maltreatment that causes family strain is likely to culminate to youth deviance. The negative experiences naturally attract strong negative emotions such as anger, fear, shame, guilt anxiety, and even depression among children forcing them to turn to substance use, aggression, or other forms of delinquency in an attempt to alleviate these feelings. A deliberate, decision to minimize the strain in the family by reducing conflict with youths would go a long way in mitigating juvenile delinquency.

It is challenging to come up with effective preventive programs against juvenile delinquency without first appreciating the reasons behind the involvement in criminal activity by juveniles. Different approaches have been used to explain this phenomenon of teenage crime and violence in an attempt to find the root cause of juvenile delinquency. To criminologists, juvenile delinquency involves all public wrongs committed by young people between the ages of 12 and 20.

On the other hand, sociologists give it a broader view, proposing that it encompasses many diverse violations of legal and societal norms and regulations, ranging from minor offences to serious crimes, committed by juveniles. Also categorized as juvenile delinquent acts are status offences, that links the offence to the age status of an offender; where a particular action or behaviour is considered a violation of the law only if it is committed by a juvenile (good examples of such offences are truancy and running away). Sociologists also associate delinquency to the social environment, which encompasses the home, family, neighbourhood, peers and many other variables that jointly or separately influence character development (Bartollas, 2014).

The family system is the principal and greatest institution that is required to inculcate moral principles in the children. It can be classified as the foremost learning institution upon which other values are instilled. For the physical, mental and moral development of a child the role of family is most important. Miles, et.al. (2015) assert that parents and the family structure exert significant influence on children since they are not only the best teachers but also proffer necessary protection features against juvenile delinquency.

The idea of preventive intervention measures has been gaining currency in recent years. The supporters argue that instead of waiting, Intervention programs should shift from being reactionary to the preventive model. There is clear evidence supporting the prevention approach since it is more effective and cost effective than reactive approaches (Reynolds et al., 2017). One important intervention program that is likely to combat juvenile delinquency are interventions that involve the family system. In as far as time is concerned, childhood and adolescence stages are most critical in a person's life. Physiological, cognitive capabilities, and emotional develop are important during these formative years. Bonding and attachment are formed and strengthened through parent-child interaction and with other family members. Experiences acquired during these periods, either good or bad, imprint long lasting impressions on the child for the rest of their lives. Physical health of mother and child, family environments/parenting styles, and a child's pre-school cognitive behavior development, have been identified as the most important family life factors for the development of children.

The Family system's contribution to society cannot be underrated. It offers many important services that have a direct impact on the society. The impact of the family system can be felt in the spheres of nurturing, socialization, preserving the family grouping, protection of vulnerable members, provision of physical and emotional security to the children, economic support, and provision of basic necessities (Mwangangi, 2019).

A proper functioning of the family system can be viewed through the prism of parenting styles and family structure which provide the basic ecology of nurturing. This basic ecology may be a key determinant in the development of juvenile delinquency yet little emphasis has been given to this area.

A study by Fisher (2013) linked juvenile delinquency to difficult circumstances within the family system. Teenagers who for several reasons—including breakdown of the family, parental alcoholism, overcrowding, poverty, abusive in the home, diseases, or the death of parents, lack of housing and other basic necessities expose teenagers to the risk of developing juvenile delinquency. Generally, the prevailing efforts calculated to combat teenage crime that does not include systematic action and the absence of task-oriented and effective social work with both offenders and victims, whether real or potential, cannot effectively respond to current challenges.

From the reviewed literature, it is clear that an integrated approach that pays keen attention to familial and parental factors such parents' modeling positive behavior; child supervision, affective bonds with youth and effective discipline could be critical interventions against delinquency.

Theoretical Framework

This study was guided by Baumrind's parenting styles theory and family systems theory. Baumrind's parenting styles theory is one of the most elaborate theories that is credited for categorization of parenting practices with predicted outcomes on children and youth. On the other hand, family systems theory (FST) clearly articulates the place of relationships in the family structure that directly influences the behavior of members of the family system.

Parenting Styles Theory

This theory is based on three studies carried out in the 1960s and 1970s by Diana Baumrind. In the studies she selected different samples of pre-school children who exhibited different behaviors, with the help of teachers and psychologists. The behaviors

that Baumrind was interested in were: (1) Assertive, self-reliant, self-controlled, buoyant, and affiliative, (2) discontented, withdrawn, and distrustful and (3) little self-control or self-reliance and retreat from novelty (Baumrind, 1967)

Through laboratory observations, home observations and parent interviews, the studies identified three parenting styles that were related to patterns of child behavior. Baumrind used two dimensions in the categorization of parenting styles. The dimensions were created using relational patterns of high and low values from the responsiveness (warmth) and demandingness (control) dimensions of parenting. According to Maccoby and Martin (1983), the authoritative style (characterized by high levels of both responsiveness and demandingness) was linked to assertive, self-reliant child behaviour, the authoritarian style (low responsiveness and high demandingness) was linked to discontented and withdrawn child behavior, and the permissive style (characterized by high responsiveness and low demandingness) was linked to difficulties in conforming with rules and order. From further studies, there emerged another parenting style called neglectful that is distinguished by both low responsiveness and demandingness. Children who were born of neglectful parents exhibit aggressive, disruptive and non-cooperative behavior.

She points out that responsiveness can be measured in terms of the level of reciprocity, warmth and communication exhibited by parents as they interact with adolescents. Based on this argument, parents who show high levels of rewarding good conduct, affection and open communication are considered to be highly responsive.

Expectations, corrective efforts, monitoring, and the ability to challenge a disruptive child are all examples of demandingness. Simons, Simons, and Wallace (2004), demandingness can be assessed using 'well-defined control strategies, direct confrontation

and parental discipline pattern'. According to this claim, parents who engage in more conflict, supervision, and discipline are categorized as challenging, while parents who engage in less confrontation, inconsistent discipline, and monitoring are described as not demanding.

Later studies by Cherry (2015) came up with four imperative domains of parenting out of Baumrind's two domains (responsiveness and demandingness) to include: communication styles, nurturance and warmth, expectations of adulthood and control, and disciplinary strategies. These domains were used to develop four parenting styles: authoritative, authoritarian, permissive and neglectful style. Baumrind, (2013) broadened the dimension of responsiveness to also include parental acceptance, attunement to the child's needs, support, and warmth. These domains were used in this study as well.

On the other hand, Baumrind described demandingness as control measures or manifestation of family authority. However, Baumrind (2012) argued that the dimension of demandingness must be viewed as qualitatively different when considering different parenting styles and these differences must be clarified. Demandingness deployed by authoritative parents is referred to as confrontive control, which is marked by firm and direct power assertion, also referred to as behavioral control. This type of demandingness has been associated with positive outcomes for children. Confrontive behavioral control is considerate and reasonable. Conversely, demandingness deployed by authoritarian parents is called coercive control, which is marked by damaging mode of power display that is invasive, cruel, and vindictive and has been related to negative child behaviour. Authoritarian parents exercise psychological control as opposed to psychological autonomy. This control undermines a child's sense of being due to its overly controlling nature. It is

also marked by coercion, manipulation, conditional regard, and disrespect (Baumrind, 2013).

Generally, this theory views parenting as an interactional pattern adopted by a parent in the care, raising, and education of a child. Key to this pattern is the attachment and caregiving systems that are normally activated simultaneously as the parents continuously interacts with their children in the process of meeting their physical, emotional and psychological needs (Baumrind, 1966).

In as far as this theory is concerned, there is a high likelihood of delinquency in cases where a minor's emotional bond with significant others especially parents is weak or diminished. In the absence of this bond, the child is more vulnerable to establish alternative bonds to fill the void and is therefore more inclined to adopt unconventional norm that will put the child at cross fires with the law (Godinet & Vakalahi, 2009).

A number of studies have attempted to create a connection between parenting styles and various aspects of child outcomes, and the theory of parenting styles has been the topic of many of them. The majority of the studies have linked authoritative parenting to positive developmental outcomes such as emotional maturity, adaptive coping habits, and life satisfaction. Baumrind (2012) asserts that authoritative parenting is the best model since it emphasizes acceptance and behavioral regulation while minimizing psychological control. In a way that encourages child autonomy. Authoritative parents are thought to be reasonable, warm, motivating and controlling. Equally, Maccoby and Martin (1983) describe parents who use this model as parents who set clear rules and are reasonable when enforcing them, they encourage open communication, support their children's independence, and express love and affection. Authoritative parenting style has been

distinguished as the optimal parenting style and is associated with positive aspects including self-reliance, social responsibility and adjustment (Baumrind, 2013; Maccoby & Martin, 1983).

Authoritative parenting is generally viewed as a model that engenders positive parent-child attachments which ultimately results in lower levels of delinquency among teenagers. The outcomes are even better when attachments to both parents are strong, compared to when attachment bond is strong to only one parent.

On the other hand, authoritarian parenting style was determined to lead to undesirable academic accomplishments and mood related mental challenges such as depressive symptoms while permissive and neglectful styles of parenting are associated with aggression, low self-esteem and poor self-control (Low, Snyder & Short, 2012).

Hoskins (2014), distinguished parenting styles terming permissive parents as those characterized by low levels of demandingness and high level of responsiveness, while neglecting parents are neither responsive nor demanding. They tend to be more assenting toward the, actions and desires of children while at times seeking their opinion in matters related to the family. They also avoid engaging in behavioral control, setting rules and regulations. Based on this school of thought, it can be argued that permissive parents actually allow their teenagers to actively make behavioural decisions without reference to them.

The inability to adequately monitor and control children's behavior, and punish deviant behavior among permissive parents, leads to maladaptive behaviour, further increasing the risk of delinquency.

On their part, neglectful parents often expose their children to lack of adult supervision because they tend to leave their children alone for long periods of time. They at times leave their children under the care of other people who may not be suitable to guide the children. Neglectful parents are mostly detached emotionally from their children, are unresponsive to their children's needs and often fail to notice development of negative tendencies like accessibility to illicit drugs, weapons, and pornographic materials. Of all parenting styles, neglectful parents are considered to pose the greatest risk of exposing children to delinquency.

Parenting styles theory is deemed appropriate for the current study since it provides the major domains that will be used in the measurement of the types of parenting styles used in the nurture of the delinquents. The styles can also be easily associated with children's outcomes that make them susceptible to juvenile delinquency. These features make the theory appropriate for the study. However, the theory does not cater for the family structure that is an important variable for the present study.

Family Systems Theory

This theory owes its origin to the interdisciplinary field of systems theory, or cybernetics. The relationship between parts is the subject of systems theory. Human bodies for example are made up of more than just organs. Since the organs work together as a system, it reflects the concept of interdependence. Individual's level of health is determined by how the body is structured and function together (Bertalanffy, 1950). Bertalanffy conceptualized a theory that would leverage on varied disciplines that would come up with laws and principles that would be used in many systems. He perceived that this theory would be a basis for understanding system characteristics such as wholeness,

differentiation, order, equifinality, progression and among others. These concepts mesh well with the current study since juvenile delinquency can be viewed from the perspective of family dynamics that involve the attempt of the juvenile trying to differentiate themselves while the family wants to work as one interdependent system.

According to systems theory, the behavior of a system can only be understood when the individual of the system elements and their relationships are considered, Families may also be categorized as systems of people who interact with others in similar systems. This implies that any individual experience needs to be seen as an interpersonal activity and not an intrapersonal event (Vetere & Dallos, 2003). Any type of the family can therefore be described as a system characterized by specific patterns of functioning including parenting style, family structure, and relationship patterns whose stability is conditioned by the interaction of the different parts within the system (Carter, 1988).

Family systems theory, views the family as an ordered unit that is composed of interdependent components, such as, a spousal subsystem and a parent–child subsystem. The two subsystems are related and affect each other. In essence, what happens between married couples affects their children. (Cummings et al., 2015). Family systems theory, postulates that families function as both integrated and differentiated whole, where relationships are banded into subsystems, such as spousal subsystems, parent–child subsystem, and sibling subsystems (Xia et al., 2018).

Kwok et.al (2015) illustrate how different subsystems in the family system influence each other citing marital subsystem’s disagreements having spillover effects on the parent–child subsystem causing conflict and unpredictability that damages parent–child relationship. Therefore, when dealing with juvenile delinquency, it is important to consider

critical aspects of the family system that shaped the delinquent including parenting styles and the structure of the family system that nurtured the delinquent. Family systems often have open boundary, allowing interaction of internal and external environments, which in turn affects each family member and all subsystems. Studies support the hypothesis that subsystems within the family are interdependent to the extent that negative effects from one subsystem can result to spillover effects on other subsystems. The net-effect is that, the negativity in the family system can result in youth delinquency (Xia et al., 2018).

From the family systems theory (FST) perspective, the family is considered the primary context where the members of the system relate with each other precipitating the development of individual character traits and patterns of behavior. Therefore, FST practitioners attribute outcomes of an individual to manifestations of sequences of family interaction. A strongly held perspective of family systems theoretical approaches is that a relationship exists between the identified patient's symptom(s) and the total family interaction. The family systems approach asserts that keen interest must be paid in the repeating interactions that connect delinquent behavior of one person with the interaction patterns of other people within the family system.

Proponents of the FST view the family as the first and most important socialization points in society. The family unit is the first environment a child interacts with thus influencing the way the child pictures the world and the society. The child begins to adapt to various activities in their direct environment (family system) through the progressive shaping of their first reflexes and reactions directly influenced by the parenting practices and other happenings within the family structure. (Blaim, 1986)

FST intentionally moved away from the definition of causality in lineal terms and instead adopted a circular conception of causality that defines a problem in terms of reciprocal actions among family members unconsciously shaping behavior of each member. Minuchin (1974), who is a key proponent of family systems therapy, argues that the main goal of family systems therapy is to alter maladaptive patterns of interaction that maintain the problem behavior in the system, allowing for a different and non- problematic behavior to develop. In his emphasis Minuchin asserts that the shift from a lineal causal to a circular conception of causality in essence connects the problem behavior of one person with the surrounding behavior of the other family members. This change of focus shifts the thinking from what motivates behavior to the impact of one member's behavior on the subsequent behavior of others. FST stresses the importance of monitoring observable arrangement of recurring interaction that ultimately produces a self-perpetuating pattern that maintains a particular behavior.

Family systems of any nature, whether they are a single parent families, heterosexual families with children, homosexual families with adopted children or blended families, the bottom line is that each member belongs to a family system that in its interaction sends out and receives communication.

The family system can therefore be termed as a special social group that is essential for appropriate development of the child. In cases where there are problems in the family system undesired interactional patterns are witnessed which gradually snowballs to serious conditions in the development of members of the system and ultimately becomes a risk factor which is favorable for social maladjustment, addiction to substances and other delinquent activities among teenagers in the system.

Another supporter of FST, Bowen (1978), claims that treating individual members of a family system does not always result in long-term improvement. He claims that unless family dynamics are altered, the person will rarely improve. Negative traits, he claims, frequently appear as traits of the next generation if they are left unchanged in a family. Specific behaviours and perceptions are examined in the light of other aspects of a system in FST. This suggests that the source of any problem can be located in a variety of locations in a system, implying that meaningful progress is accomplished through the system's spiraling feedback effect.

On the basis of FST, juvenile delinquency should be viewed from a larger contextual perspective that puts the family system at the center of any remedial measures. It is the family system that produced and maintained the delinquent and it is to the same system the delinquent goes back to after serving jail term. Any rehabilitation must then employ a systemic approach for long lasting change. The FST that focuses on the structure of the family and the interactions between different components of the structure including relational issues between parents and children in the structure will inform the present study.

In a modernist systems perspective, the family can be described as a system comprising specific structure, relationship patterns and patterns of functioning whose stability is conditioned by different reactions over time (Minuchin, 1974). In other words, the family system is constantly involved in mutual interactions and activities attracting reciprocal actions among members of the family system. Family systems form other systems called subsystems that accomplish the basic functions of a family system. The subsystems within the family system may pit children on one side and parents subsystem on the other. The parents and children subsystems interact and simultaneously are determined

by both its participants, as well as other family members and interactions in other subsystems. This position clarifies that there is a constant reciprocal relationship that shapes the behaviour of the members of the family based on the interactional patterns.

Talib, Abdullah, and Mansor (2011) posit that the family system is to a child a socio-economic-cultural organization that significantly influences their behavior and development of their character. Therefore, parents cannot afford to be ignorant or indifferent in the nurturing component lest the parents expose their children to desirable effects that ultimately leads to the development of juvenile delinquency.

In family systems where children are exposed to unfavorable upbringing, such as very rigid controls, unattainable requirements made by parents and strict disciplinary measures, the children especially teenagers in the system tend to inhibit their ambitions as they develop to adulthood pushing them to adopt hostile and malicious tendencies as a coping mechanism. The upbringing tendencies makes the children vulnerable to developing juvenile delinquency. Farrington further argues that the way a family system functions directly influences its members' decision on whether to enter the criminal path or not. He cites key factors that influence the decision towards delinquent act to include: styles of parenting, siblings showing abnormal behaviour, poverty, transitions in the family structure, inadequate educational methods and, untimely departure of a parent or parents from the family set up when the children are between 8 and 10 years. Hoeve, et.al. (2009) assert that children learn specific behavioral activities during an early stage through a process observations and interactions in the family system. It is also stressed that the development of child's personality which tends towards the wrong direction is linked to weak emotional bonds and disturbed relationship between the parent and child.

The family system bears a significant role in shaping and structuring of child's personality. This implies that various cases of disturbances and deviations within the family in terms of its functioning find their outcomes in child's conduct, and expression of their attitudes as they interact with other people. The weakening of the emotional bond (attachment) between the child and the parent very often is a source of hostility or antisocial activities (Carr, 2016).

Family systems, from time to time go through situations that expose them to a variety of disturbances and crises occasioning tension among family members. The changes at times reflect disturbances linked to the natural developmental changes and expected life events. All changes in the family system are an attempt to come up with a balance. Signs of delinquency among teenagers in the family system are often related to the destabilization of relationships between parents and children in the family system threatening emotional ties, interpersonal communication and the adherence to rules governing interactions within the family system. Conflicts within the family system can lead to transitions effectively altering the structure of the family. This may attract two responses, namely the family system discovers new resources to handle their challenge or the family is broken, exposing the members especially children and adolescents to delinquent activities.

A Family system that is dysfunctional essentially has a limited capacity to perform its functions adequately and is unable to undertake their responsibilities towards individual members of that family system and to effectively deal other pressures and emerging situations (Carr, 2016). Though disturbances in the family system may range from partial impairment to critical impairment, complete dysfunction is marked by the systems inability to complete its tasks providing an avenue for the development of juvenile delinquency

among the children and teenagers in the system. The system with partial dysfunction may face challenges in performing some tasks but the family members are able to stick together.

Family systems that are functional are able to constantly face developmental changes in an adaptive manner which prevents the members from falling into delinquent tendencies. Changes and transformations of within the family structure leads to interactional, interfamily and identity of the family, confusing children and teenagers in the system. A family whose structure appears unable to run effectively as a unit, degenerates to a dysfunctional system. Delinquent acts in families are often linked to rules, the system of power and the family hierarchy, as well as the level of dysfunction in the family (Hirschi, 2017).

A family system with an unstable structure is also marked by internal conflicts which interfere with the nurturing component of the children within the family leading to formation of maladaptive interactions that expose the children to juvenile delinquency. Owing to the persistent conflicts, boundaries governing the conduct of children become vague or overly rigid, which serves as a precursor for the formation of anti-social behavior.

Family systems where parents are mostly uninvolved, tend to mark either too rigid boundaries expressing their insensitivity or too flexible boundaries which either distorts or makes communication between parents and children. On the other hand, family systems that are mostly disengaged tend to undermine its ability to manifest mutual care, affection, and understanding. The family only intervenes and shows care, support, and interest only in life-threatening or extremely difficult conditions. Disengaged family systems may achieve a high levels of autonomy among members to the detriment of a sense of belonging and loyalty to the members of the family system.

Family systems theory posits that family systems where power and control belong to the children exemplified in their unquestionable decisions from parents, or in cases where parents are dependent on children in meeting their own basic needs or making decisions, ultimately deprive the children crucial opportunities to learn lessons of responsibility and self-control. This scenario may expose the children to juvenile delinquency (Minuchin, 1974).

In problematic family systems where interactions between family members are involved in conflict or disturbed, rules of engagement and relationships are shaped. The rules unconsciously exercise control over family interactions, mostly not permitting the family to operate optimally.

Summary of the Theoretical Framework

Parenting styles theory was appropriate for this study since it provided the major domains that were used in the measurement of the types of parenting styles that were used in the nurture of the delinquents. The level of demandingness and responsiveness (low/high) during interactions with the juveniles clearly demonstrated and identified the type of parenting style used in the raising of the juvenile. Consequently the parenting styles were easily co-related to juvenile delinquency. These features made the theory appropriate for the study.

On the other hand, Family Systems Theory (FST), views the family as the first and most important socialization points in society. The main component of the FST that was used in the study is the family structure in terms of single, two-biological parents, co-habitation, blended family structure, and polygamous unions. The family unit provides the structure in which the parenting is done and it is within this structure that gradually a child

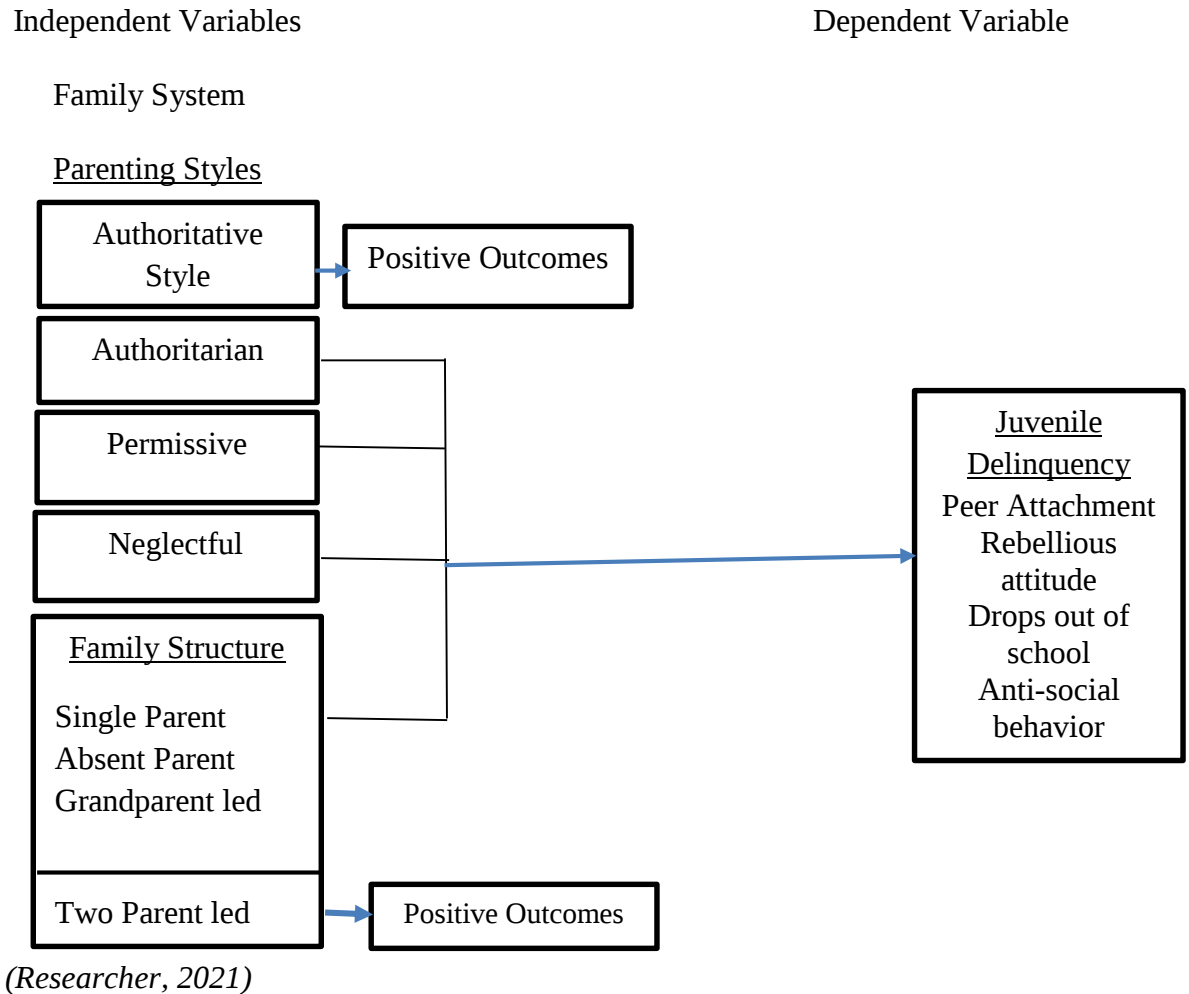
is influenced to develop pictures about self, others and the world. The child begins to adapt to various activities in their direct environment (family system) through the progressive shaping of their first reflexes and reactions directly influenced by the parenting practices and other happenings within the family structure. The two theories worked collectively to establish the influence of parenting styles within the framework of family structure on male juvenile delinquents.

Conceptual Framework:

In this study, the conceptual framework manifested the possible influence the family system has on the development of juvenile delinquency on the other. The family system is the independent variables. The family system plays a causal relationship on Juvenile delinquency, which is the dependent variable. The key independent variables of the family system of interest to the study were parenting styles based on Baumrind's theory and the family structure based on the family systems theory. The two independent variables determine the outcomes of the dependent variable (juvenile delinquency).

There is always a possibility that a juvenile may be exposed to a negative family system that includes poor parenting practices and a dysfunctional family structure but does not turn out to be delinquent because of intervening factors such as religion, education, neighbourhood, societal control and belief system among others. In this scenario the independent variables are mitigated by the intervening variables forestalling development of delinquency. The conceptualization is illustrated in Figure 2.1.

Fig. 2.1 Conceptual Framework:



Research Gap

Juvenile delinquency remains a major challenge for many countries because the future of countries is pegged on the morality of the future generations. Statistics of juvenile delinquency are worrying. The juveniles, who go through rehabilitation in institutions like KYCTC, later repeat the same delinquent acts because they rejoin a home environment where the parenting practices and family structure pushes them back to delinquent behavior.

Though many of the cited studies have attributed juvenile delinquency to family factors among other factors such as poverty, peer pressure, abuse and low academic levels,

limited studies have been done on the influence of parenting styles and family structure on the development of juvenile delinquency. It is interesting that the findings of the cited studies are largely replicated in this study considering that the cultural norms of the Kenyan society largely lean towards hierarchical and patriarchal family set-up that presupposes that the parent's authority should be unchallenged, which fits the authoritarian parenting style.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Introduction

Research methodology signifies the techniques used to acquire and analyze data to generate new knowledge (Petty, Thomas & Stew, 2012). A methodology gives the general direction that governs gathering of information that will ultimately address the research questions and proffer solutions to the problems under investigation (Malhotra & Bjirks, 2007).

The main interest of this study was to establish the influence of the family system on juvenile delinquency. Since the family system encompasses a variety of issues including culture, traditions, social status, economic activities of parents, extended family dynamics, parenting style and family structure, the study zeroed in on the influence of parenting styles and family structure on the development of male juvenile delinquency. This chapter therefore, encompasses the methodology for the study that covers the following areas: the research design, the study population, sample and sampling method, types of data, data collection method, instrument pre-testing, reliability and validity, data analysis plan and ethical considerations.

Study's Philosophical Worldview

Creswell (2008) defines a philosophical worldview as a paradigm that outlines the reason behind a researcher's decision to choose a specific research design. He further describes a worldviews as a universal philosophical direction about the world and the model of research that a researcher brings to a study.

Creswell identified four worldviews commonly adopted by researchers namely, postpositivist worldview that is related to the methodical way research has always been done and is sometimes called the scientific method, another worldview is the social constructivist worldview that mostly takes the form of qualitative research and relies on the respondents' views of the subject under research. This paradigm takes factors in its study, respondent's life and experiences in order to apprehend the background of the respondents. The third paradigm is referred to as participatory worldview that falls within the qualitative research category but could also be consistent with quantitative study. This paradigm generally deals with social issues and allows respondents to participate as collaborators in the research. Creswell refers to the fourth paradigm as the pragmatist worldview that gravitates around situations, actions, and consequences rather than preceding conditions. This worldview focuses on research problems and draws from different approaches as long as they meet their needs and purposes instead of focusing on methods. Pragmatists often lean towards mixed methods research that draws from both quantitative and qualitative assumptions in their research endeavours.

Cooksey and McDonald (2011) assert that a research design is made up of the philosophical worldviews, the strategies of inquiry, and the research methods. The four elements that comprise a paradigm are the epistemology, ontology, methodology and axiology.

This study aligns itself with the social constructivist worldview that relies on the respondents views on the objectives of the study (Creswell, 2008). The family system and juvenile delinquency are variables that relate to people's life and experiences that can only be understood through the eyes of the respondents.

Studies in this field tend to conclude that juvenile delinquency may strongly be influenced by parenting styles and the family structure (Carr, 2016), which are independent variables of the study. Considering the fact that the study required interaction with juvenile offenders in order to understand their familial and parental interactions, the researcher was compelled to interact with them at the KYCTC. The fact that the respondents were at the time of the study held at a government controlled correctional institution, it is generally considered that the teenagers were deemed delinquent. This in itself was a measure of delinquency, which in this study is the dependent variable. However, for the study to identify the influence of the two independent variables namely parenting styles and family structure on development of delinquency, the views of the juveniles were sought through questionnaires, interviews and focus group discussions.

A retrospective design was appropriate for the study because the role of the researcher was to trace the history of the phenomenon (juvenile delinquency) in order to find out the main cause of the event. Ex post facto design fits the study based on its approach of studying the cause of an event that has already occurred. This posture limits the researcher's direct control over the variables limiting manipulation (Creswell, 2008).

Creswell (2014) describes ex post facto design as a causal-comparative study that is a non-experimental quantitative design in which a comparison is made between two groups or more. The comparison is done in regard to the cause described as the independent variable, which has already occurred. Along the same argument, Jongbo (2014) corroborates with the idea that the two groups in the study normally differ on independent variable.

In this study, the teenagers participating in the study have already been found to be delinquent and are held in a correctional facility, and on the other hand the parenting style and family structure have already had their effect on the development of juvenile delinquency.

Equally the current study was done as a case, implying that an in-depth analysis of the juveniles, parents and the family structure was done. Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) elaborate that case studies offer a researcher an opportunity to conduct an intensive study of a phenomenon, but it gives subjective information rather than objective. According to Woodside, (2010) case study is a study that emphasizes on understanding, describing, predicting, and proposing intervention measures in the area of study. These are factors that were considered in this chapter. Cases provide insights about a phenomena but may have a challenge generalizing beyond the knowledge. A case is bounded by time and activity besides being an intensive investigation of a particular represented unit.

Trochim *et al.*, 2015, asserts that case studies offer greater insights on how and why certain things appear the way they are through exploration of how the causal relationship occurs. The researchers collect detailed information using a variety of data collection procedures and tools over a sustained period of time. Therefore this study was aimed at determining the influence of parenting style and the family structure on the development of juvenile delinquency.

The combination of ex post facto and the case technique offered the study an advantage of gathering quantitative and qualitative data that led to detailed conclusions touching on the key aspects of the family system that influence the development of juvenile delinquency.

Research Design

Creswell (2014) describes a research design as the general plan that links the conceptual research problems to the relevant and achievable empirical study. It provides detailed direction for procedures in a research. The procedure adopted by the researcher is systemic in nature outlining the various steps before data is collection and analysis begins in order to lend credibility to the study. In other words the purpose for a research design is to convert a research problem into data for analysis in order to come up with relevant answers to questions under inquiry at a minimum cost. Simply put, a research design is a plan, structure and strategy of investigation that is agreed upon with an aim of finding solutions to research questions. In line with this,

Jongbo (2014) posits that it is risky for a researcher to proceed to the stage of data collection without first appreciating all research components and the kind of data required to answer the research questions. Any conclusions drawn such a haphazard approach may be weak and unconvincing, undermining the realization of the study's objective. The study's design must outline the strategy for interpreting the analyzed data in order to come up with credible findings and conclusions from the research culminating to the researcher making recommendations or inferences based on the study.

Kothari (2010) defines a research design as a conceptual structure that guides a study. The study adopted the *ex post facto* design using both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods. This design is appropriate because it helps to investigate possible causes of an existing condition or state of affairs and searching back in time what could have contributed to the condition. This design is non- experimental but adopts several aspects of an experiment since it deals with separation of groups and the analysis of data. It

is appropriate in making comparisons between individuals who belong to different groups but have identical backgrounds. In this study the identical background of respondents is that they are all delinquent. However, in this design, the researcher does not have control over the independent variable. In the study the independent variables drawn from the family system were the parenting styles adopted by the parents of the juveniles and the family structure that they belong to. These variables were beyond the control of the researcher.

The target population were juveniles below the age of 18 years held at the KYCTC. A sample of 68 juveniles was drawn from a population of 220 using random sampling method for the study.

In the study, the focus was on how the family system influences the development of juvenile delinquency. The ex post facto design was considered appropriate for the current study since the respondents are all held in a correctional facility due to their involvement in delinquent activities. The independent variables that have an effect on juvenile delinquency are parenting styles and family structure.

The study focused on male juveniles involved in antisocial behavior under the custody of the Kenya prison warders. The independent variables were outside the researcher's control thus appropriate to study their influence on the dependent variable.

Area of Study

The study was conducted at the Kamiti Youth Correction and Training Center (KYCTC), which is located in Kiambu County – Kenya. The center was established in 1990 with a view to rehabilitating youth between 17 and 21 years, who were deemed unruly and defiant to authority through a program called 'Short-Sharp-Shock-Sentence' (4(S)). However, the above age bracket was reviewed and the center currently holds juveniles

between 12 and 21 years in their remand and prison facility in Kamiti. This correctional center has a capacity of 300 male delinquents admitted from all parts of the country.

KYCTC is the only youth correctional center for male juvenile delinquents under the Prison Services in the country, which justifies why the site was chosen for this study.

This location was preferred because it is an appropriate catchment area that provides the study with respondents of the right age bracket and who have already been convicted meant that they could provide the information this study was looking for.

Target Population

Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) posit that population stands for the total group of individuals who are of interest to a specific study. Creswell (2013) asserts that determination of the population is a key step before considering other aspects of research. When considering the population for the study, characteristics of the target population need to be considered.

The target population of the study was divided into two categories, the first being juveniles aged between 15 and 18 years held at the KYCTC in Kiambu County and the second category was made up of prison officials, religious leaders and psychological support staff attached to KYCTC. The targeted population and age bracket was relevant to the study since they are all convicted of juvenile delinquency related offences and therefore have the relevant information that was required for the study to meet its objectives.

KYCTC normally holds between 220 and 300 juveniles at any time according to Prison Authorities. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic the number had been reduced to about 120. In order to enhance the quality of information, the study also targeted at least

28 professionals, who often spend most of the time with juveniles held in the facility. Their interaction with the juveniles gives them information that was relevant to this study.

Sample Size

Defining of the sample size is a critical exercise in the research process and is directly linked to the statistical formula for computation of the sample size and planning (Wang, 2015). Sandelowski (1996) observes that samples in qualitative research are ordinarily smaller in order to allow for in-depth case analysis that is central to this type of study. Equally qualitative samples mostly prefer purposive sampling, meaning that the sample is mostly selected based on its capacity to provide rich and pertinent information about the situation under study. Sandelowski further recommended that qualitative sample sizes should be governed by the simple rule that the sample should be large enough to provide critical data that fosters in-depth understanding of the study and small enough but not locking out crucial information. Morse (2000) posits that fewer participants are needed in qualitative studies provided that researchers take into account factors, such as the nature of topic, the scope of study, the quality of data, and the study design.

Gergen and Thorogood (2015) point out that most qualitative researchers are unlikely to gain different information after interviewing about 20 people, who belong to the same category of respondents. They assert that in studies where interviews are involved, between 50 and 60 respondents are sufficient.

Considering that the total population of Juveniles held at the KYCTC during the study was 120. The sample size for the study was based on a criterion outlined by Mugenda and Mugenda, (2012), who argue that when the study population does not exceed 10, 000, a

sample size of between 10 and 30% is a good representation of the target population. The current study targeted a sample of 68 juveniles who made up 56% of the population.

Sampling Technique

The study used both probability and non-probability sampling techniques in choosing the participants of the study. On non-probability techniques, the study used purposive sampling method since this guaranteed relevant information from males held at KYCTC aged between 15 and 18 years. After identification of the population that had the requisite qualifications, probability (simple random sampling) technique was used to select a sample of 68 (56%) males aged between 15 and 18 from the target population. A lottery was conducted where 68 pieces of paper previously numbered were picked by chance by those who were included in the sample. Twenty eight (28) officials who form part of the support system for the delinquents were also sampled. This number was about 20% of prison officers and accredited professionals attached to the facility. The selection of 28 prison warders/professionals was also purposive with prison warders forming 36.7% of the sample and other professionals (religious leaders, social workers and therapists) sharing the remaining 18(64%) slots as follows; four teachers, five religious leaders, two counselors, five administrators and two social workers. The prison administration was consulted in order to identify the specific officers who were constantly involved in the program.

Types of Data

The study used both primary and secondary data. Primary data was largely observational in nature and was generated during interviews and Focus Group Discussions (FGD) and summarized in form of field notes, audio recording and transcripts. This was used together with data that was obtained through questionnaires that were filled by the

respondents. On the other hand, secondary data was obtained through perusal of documents relevant to the study including prison records at KYCTC on the general trends of juvenile delinquency and recidivism, reports filed by the Justice system on juvenile delinquency, different pieces of legislation including the Children's Act and police records on juvenile delinquency.

Data Collection Method

Both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods were employed in the study. Qualitative data collection methods for the study was through face to face interviews that were conducted with professionals who interact with the juveniles. On the other hand, qualitative data was collected through observation during interactions with the respondents in the eight focus groups. Quantitative data was collected through questionnaires that were completed by the sample. The use of both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods ensured that the study got relevant information that facilitated relevant conclusions.

Data Collection Tools

In order to collect data sufficient for the study, the following data collection tools were used: questionnaires, interview schedule and unstructured interview guides. These tools were used to collect relevant information in relation to the objectives of the study. The study also used secondary sources of information including prison records, and departmental reports on the subject to gain further insights on juvenile delinquency in Kenya.

All the tools for the study were written in English. In cases where the respondents did not understand English, a translator among the prison officials was sought to assist the respondents.

Questionnaires: This tool was considered appropriate for the study since it gave respondents necessary anonymity, which in turn encouraged open responses to sensitive items. In addition, it afforded the researcher the advantage of quick data collection, making it cost and time effective. Questionnaires are suitable because they are relatively unobtrusive, minimize researcher/respondents' interaction and is an inexpensive method for data collection for this study.

The questionnaires were administered to the respondents in the sample with the help of research assistants within the prison administration. The questionnaire had three parts covering, general demographics, family structure/environment of parenting and parenting styles. The integration of items covering different objectives into one questionnaire was aimed at avoiding a situation where the respondents had to fill several questionnaires which could be cumbersome. The questionnaire was based on a four-item likert scale covering 1 = "completely agree" to 4 = "completely disagree." The responses were summed up to produce a score for the measure. The questionnaire was a modification of the 'Parenting Styles Dimensions Questionnaire (PSDQ) developed by Robinson et al. (2001). The assessment was done using 20 items in four point likert scale ranging from Completely Agree (CA -1), Agree (A - 2), Disagree (D - 3) and Completely Disagree (CA - 4). The questionnaire had 20 statements that identify three parenting styles based on Baumrind's parenting styles. The statements measured two critical dimensions of Baumrind's parenting styles namely, demandingness and responsiveness. Responsiveness was measured in terms

of the level of reciprocity, warmth and communication exhibited by parents as they interacted with adolescents while demandingness was measured in terms of well-defined monitoring techniques, direct confrontation and discipline patterns utilized by parents.

Authoritative parenting was measured using the following questions: My parents always explains the reason for rules at home; My parents always asks for my opinion about some decisions; I am often praised for good things that I do; and My parents encourage me to talk about my troubles. The statements that measured authoritarian parenting were: My parents scold and criticize me for poor performance; I was often punished and denied privileges like watching TV/playing when I misbehaved; My parents yell at me when I misbehave; I have been slapped for misbehaving; My parents tell me I have to obey because they are the parent; When we disagreed with my parents they forced us to conform to what they thought was right; and We were not allowed to question any decision the parent had made.

The following statements were used to measure permissive parenting style: I was constantly threatened with punishment but was not punished; I always got what I wanted when I instituted and demanded; My parents did not have time for me; I was never disciplined when found with mistakes; My parents used to spoil me with goodies; I was allowed to decide most of the things for myself; and I was always allowed to attend late night parties.

Table 3.1 shows the statements in the PSDQ that were modified to develop the questionnaire used for the study.

Parenting Styles and Dimensions Questionnaire (PDSQ) Statements.

S/no.	STATEMENT	SCALE
1.	I explain the consequences of the child's behavior.	AUTHORITATIVE

2.	I help my child to understand the impact of behavior by encouraging my child to talk about the consequences of his/her own actions	AUTHORITATIVE
3.	I show respect for my child's opinions by encouraging my child to express them.	AUTHORITATIVE
4.	I encourage my child to talk about his/her troubles.	AUTHORITATIVE
5.	I give my child reasons why rules should be obeyed.	AUTHORITATIVE
6.	I emphasize the reasons for rules.	AUTHORITATIVE
7.	I explain to my child how we feel about the child's good and bad behavior.	AUTHORITATIVE
8.	I give praise when my child is good.	AUTHORITATIVE
9.	I encourage my child to freely express him/herself even when disagreeing with parents	AUTHORITATIVE
10.	I give comfort and understanding when my child is upset.	AUTHORITATIVE
11.	I have warm and intimate times together with my child	AUTHORITATIVE
12.	I allow my child to give input into family rules.	AUTHORITATIVE
13.	I am responsive to my child's feelings and needs	AUTHORITATIVE
14.	I take my child's desires into account before asking the child to do something.	AUTHORITATIVE
15.	I take into account my child's preferences in making plans for the Family	AUTHORITATIVE
16.	I grab my child when being disobedient.	AUTHORITARIAN
17.	I explode in anger towards my child.	AUTHORITARIAN
18.	I use physical punishment as a way of disciplining my child.	AUTHORITARIAN
19.	I spank when my child is disobedient	AUTHORITARIAN
20.	I yell or shout when my child misbehaves.	AUTHORITARIAN
21.	I scold and criticize to make my child improve.	AUTHORITARIAN
22.	I scold or criticize when my child's behavior doesn't meet my expectations	AUTHORITARIAN
	I slap my child when the child misbehaves.	AUTHORITARIAN

23.	When my child asks why he/she has to conform, I state, "Because I said so," or "I am the parent and I want you to	AUTHORITARIAN
24.	I threaten my child with punishment more often than actually giving it.	AUTHORITARIAN
25.	I state punishments to my child and do not actually do them.	PERMISSIVE
26.	I use threats as punishment with little or no justification.	PERMISSIVE
	I find it difficult to discipline my child.	
27.	I spoil my child.	PERMISSIVE
28.	I give into my child when the child causes a commotion about something.	PERMISSIVE
29.		PERMISSIVE
30.	I punish by taking privileges away from my child with little if any explanations.	PERMISSIVE
31.	I punish by putting my child off somewhere alone with little if any explanation.	AUTHORITARIAN
32.		AUTHORITARIAN

Focus Group Discussions: The tool was applicable to the study and was appropriate for collecting qualitative data. The FGDs offered an in-depth discussion on thematic areas of the study that would not be available through surveys. The tool targeted six groups of eight respondents each with the researcher being the moderator. The discussions sought to establish the respondent's perceptions attitudes, beliefs, opinion or ideas. During the discussions, the participants were encouraged to give their opinions on matters raised during the focus group discussions and even comment on what other respondents say if they are relevant to their family system.

Interview schedule: This involved face-to-face interviews with experts in different fields, who regularly interacted with the delinquents from time to time at the KYCTC. The experts included: Church leaders, Social workers, Psychologists, Counselors, Marriage and

Family Therapists, Training Staff at KYCTC and Prison Wardens. The officer in-charge of the facility was instrumental in the identification of the above professional. Each professional was given a 30minutes session. The purpose of the interviews was to get expert opinion on the appropriate familial intervention measures that can mitigate juvenile delinquency.

Their contributions were written verbatim and were recorded for accuracy of the responses. The goal of the face to face interviews was to capture the experiences, beliefs, interpretations and attitude of the respondents on the thematic areas of the study. The interviews were conducted at the KYCTC.

Reliability and Validity

Reliability can be described as the degree to which a measuring procedure gives similar outcomes in cases where it is repeated to different respondents (Kumar, 2005). On their part, Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) argue that the validity of an instrument depends on the relevance of the content selected and included in the questionnaire to the variables being investigated.

On the other hand, validity is related to whether the contents of the questionnaire or interview schedule are actually measuring the correct concept (Kothari, 2008). Reliability analysis is meant to determine the degree to which measurements are repeated or consistent (Drost, 2011).

The instruments' reliability and validity is satisfactory, since the same instruments have been used internationally in the testing measurement of parenting styles. The Parenting Styles Dimensions Questionnaire (PSDQ) that was used in the current study is internationally recognized as a measurement for parenting styles. In addition to the fact that

this is the standard test, the instruments were pre-tested with other respondents before they were used on the targeted sample. Equally, the instruments were presented to the research supervisors who are both accomplished researchers for consistency and relevance checking.

Pilot Study

The process of pretesting data collection tools is critical in order to minimize errors during the main research (Bound, Brown, & Mathiowetz, 2001). This procedure is important in addressing issues linked to measurement scales such as representativeness of items for constructs, clearness of questions, questionnaire layout, precision of instructions and specificity of items (Netemeyer, Bearden, & Sharma, 2003),

Following the contextualization of the questionnaire to include aspects of family structure, a pilot study was carried out among youth aged between 15 and 18 years old at the Kirigiti Rehabilitation Center. The pilot study enabled the researcher to estimate the amount of time it would take to complete a questionnaire. The pilot study was helpful to the research because it enabled the researcher to identify possible problem areas and flaws in the research instruments and protocol before launching the full study (Kraemer et. al., 2006) the pilot study included a total of 20 participants. Among the participants in the pilot study 25% (5) were professionals. The respondents indicated the time they took filling the questionnaire and identified the questions they found difficult to comprehend.

Data Analysis Plan

Trochim (2000), points out that researchers must screen collected data for accuracy in order to identify errors in the completed questionnaires. The following questions were asked during the screening exercise: Are the responses marked clearly, did the respondents answer all the questions and do the questionnaires have all relevant contextual information.

In line with Braun and Clarke (2016) assertions, qualitative data was classified in themes.

Since the data collected from the field was disorganized, the questionnaires were checked for completeness and consistency. Due to the fact that the study used both qualitative and quantitative methods, data analysis took both methods into consideration. Quantitative data collected through questionnaires was sorted, classified, coded and entered and analyzed with the help of SPSS version 25.0. Quantitative data was categorized and coded in order to generate frequencies and percentages. The percentages and frequencies were presented in form of tables, bar graphs and pie charts that facilitated drawing of connections and conclusions. On the other hand, qualitative data was analyzed using thematic descriptions. Analysis was done based on a pre-defined framework derived from the research questions. This process was preceded by a thorough review of the in-depth interviews and focus group discussions that led to data transcription, coding, sorting and categorization. The spoken word, continuity and inconsistencies of opinions, frequency and strength of remarks, their specificity, as well as emerging themes and trends, all received special attention. This process facilitated drawing of conclusions.

Ethical Considerations

A clearance and forwarding letter was sought from the Pan Africa Christian University's graduate school for facilitation of a clearance letter from the Ethical Review Board (ERB) and a research permit from the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) accompanied by an official letter to Kamiti Youth Correction and Training Center (KYCTC) for authorization to collect data from the juvenile facility under the Kenya Correctional Services Department. Since age of my target population was between 15 and 18 years, an informed consent was sought from the prison administration.

This was considered appropriate since it was not possible to trace individual parents considering that the juveniles were under the custody of prison services and not the parents at the time data was collected from them.

Before embarking on the study, the respondents were informed in details the goal of the study and that it was for academic purposes so that they could make a decision on whether to participate or not. All the respondents were assured of anonymity, which implied that their identities were not to be revealed. Furthermore, they were informed that any information given during the study would be treated confidentially so that it cannot be traced to an individual respondent. The participants were also informed that participation in the study was voluntary and that one was at liberty to opt out of the study at any point. In the event the respondents became emotional during the interviews, they were referred to the prison administration for psycho-support.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Introduction

This chapter comprise presentation of results, data analysis, interpretation of the findings and discussions. It also gives an overview of the demographics of the sample used in the study. The study focused on establishing the influence of two aspects of the family system namely: parenting styles and family structure on male juvenile delinquency at the Kamiti Youth Correction and Training Center (KYCTC).

The specific objectives that guided the study were; to identify parenting styles associated with juvenile delinquency at the KYCTC, to establish the relationship between family structure and juvenile delinquency at the KYCTC, to assess the combined effect of parenting style and family structure on juvenile delinquency at the KYCTC and to propose appropriate parental and familial intervention measures that can minimize juvenile delinquency.

Demographics of the Sample

The sample for the study comprised 96 respondents who were divided into two categories. The first category consisted of 68 juveniles held at the KYCTC and the second category encompassed of 28 professionals, who included four teachers, five clergy, two counselors, five administrators, two social workers and ten wardens all of whom have regular contact with the juveniles at the facility. The professionals were instrumental in coming up with findings for research objective number four that deals with appropriate parental and familial intervention measures calculated to reduce juvenile delinquency. The

first group that comprised juveniles was used to address the first three objectives of the study.

Group one – Juveniles

Age Distribution

The juveniles who participated in the study were between 15 and 18 years. Table 4.1 provides a summary.

Table 4.1 Age Distribution

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	18 years	4	5.6	5.9	5.9
	17 years	36	50.0	52.9	58.8
	16 years	18	25.0	26.5	85.3
	15 years	10	13.9	14.7	100.0
	Total	68	94.4	100.0	

From Table 4.1 it is clear that juveniles aged 17 years were the majority at KYCTC numbering 36 (52%) of all juveniles who participated in the study. They were followed by 16 year old who were 18 (25%) and then those aged 15 years were 10 (13%). Juveniles who had just turned 18 years were 4 (5%). The age bracket of the juveniles in this study would ideally be at different stages of education in primary and secondary schools.

Level of Education

The juvenile's level of education ranged from secondary dropout to those who did not have a chance to go to school at all and in this study they are referred to as uneducated. Figure 4.1 provides the summary.

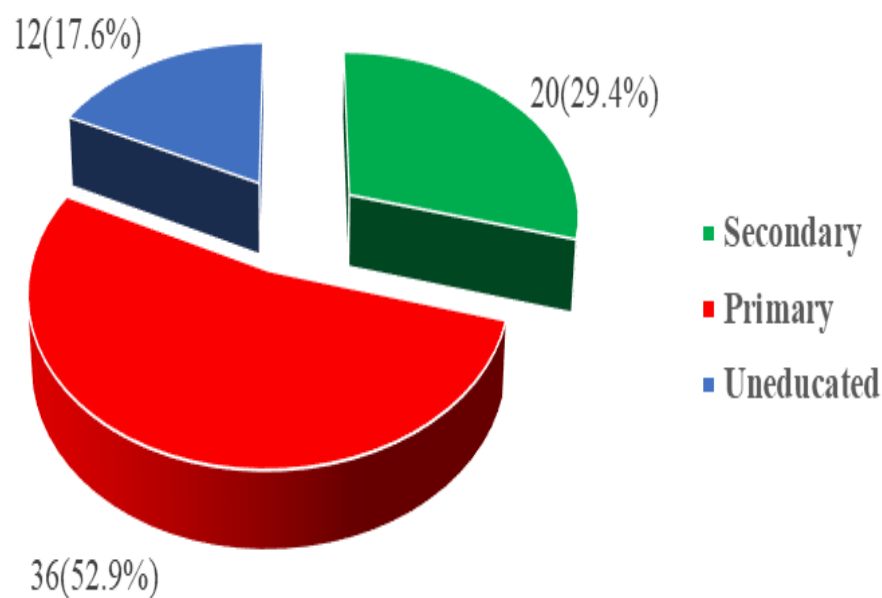


Figure 4.1 Juveniles' Education Levels

Figure 4.1 paints a clear picture of the education level of the juvenile respondents with 36(53%) of the participants having left school at the basic level (primary), and 20 (29%) of them dropping out at the secondary level. The study also established that 12 (17%) had not had a chance to go to school at all. The respondents in the last group were unable to read and write. These figures are alarming since Kenya offers free primary and free day secondary education in public institutions. Failure by the parents to motivate children to acquire education is a precursor for delinquent behavior.

Crimes Committed

At the age of between 15 and 18, the juveniles had been arrested and charged with different criminal activities. Table 4.2 provides a summary.

Table 4.2 Crimes Committed by Juveniles

Crime	Frequency	Percentage
Robbery without violence	12	17.2
Rape	7	10.2
Assault	11	16.2
Defilement	10	15.4
Drugs	14	20.5
Stealing	14	20.5
Totals	68	100

From the Table 4.2 it is clear that the juveniles were already involved in serious criminal activities that would attract stiffer penalties had they been convicted as adults. Out of all the juvenile respondents, 14(20.5%) were arrested over drug related crimes, 14(20.5%) were arrested over stealing, 10(15.4%) defilement, 11(16.2%) assault, 7(10.2%) rape and 12(17.2%) robbery with violence. Crimes such as robbery, rape and defilement are capital offences that carry either lifetime or long term sentences if one is convicted as an adult. Rehabilitation of juveniles is therefore critical to forestall graduation of the juveniles into fully fledged adult criminals who may otherwise spend most of their life in prison.

Group two – Professionals

The respondents in this group were professionals who offer different services to the juveniles. The work of these professionals was complementary and were often involved in meetings to share their different perspectives about the progress of the juveniles. Table 4.3 provides a summary.

Table 4.3 Professional Respondents

Professional	Frequency	Percentage
Social Worker	2	7.1
Administrators	5	18
Religious Leaders	5	18
Counsellors	2	7.1
Teachers	4	14.1
Warders	10	35.7
Totals	28	100

Table 4.3 displays professionals who participated in the study. A majority of the professionals in the study; 21(75%) were employees of the Kenya Prisons Service, and therefore, subscribe to the rules and regulations of the institution. The remaining 7(25%) were religious leaders and counselors authorized to work with the juveniles in the institution. Among the professionals who participated in the study, Warders were 10(35%), Teachers were 4(14%), Religious leaders were 5(18%), Administrators were 5(18%), Counsellors were 2(7%) and social workers were 2(7%). The diversity of professionals was meant to rehabilitate the juveniles before they rejoin the society. However, failure to co-opt the family system in the rehabilitation efforts could serve to undermine these efforts. The fact that they juveniles rejoin the same family system upon their release is something worth revisiting.

Parenting Styles Associated with Juvenile Delinquency

The first objective of the study sought to identify parenting styles associated with juvenile delinquency at the KYCTC. The parenting styles were measured using a modified version of the Parenting Styles Dimensions Questionnaire (PSDQ). The assessment was done using 20 items in four point Likert scale ranging from Completely Agree (CA -1),

Agree (A - 2), Disagree (D - 3) and Completely Disagree (CA - 4). The questionnaire had 20 statements that identifies four parenting styles based on Baumrind's parenting styles. The statements measured two critical dimensions of Baumrind's parenting styles namely, demandingness and responsiveness. Baumrind points out that responsiveness can be measured in terms of the level of reciprocity, warmth and communication exhibited by parents as they interact with adolescents. Based on this argument, parents who show high levels of rewarding good conduct, affection and open communication are considered to be highly responsive. Baumrind (2013) summarizes responsiveness as parental acceptance, support, warmth, and attunement to the child's needs.

Demandingness, on the other hand, can be assessed using well-defined control methods, direct confrontation, and parental discipline patterns. According to this claim, parents who exhibit higher levels of discipline patterns, conflict and monitoring are considered demanding while parents who exhibit lower levels of confrontation, inconsistent discipline, and monitoring are considered non-demanding. Baumrind (2012) summarizes demandingness as parental control or parental power assertion. However, there are two types of demandingness: behavioural management, which is linked to positive outcomes, and coercive control, which manifests intrusive, harsh and punitive authority assertion and is often linked to negative outcomes for children (Baumrind, 2012).

In their interaction with children, authoritative parents showed high responsiveness and high demandingness (behavioural control), while authoritarian parents showed low responsiveness and high demandingness (coercive control), and permissive parents showed high responsiveness and low demandingness.

Statements on authoritative parenting styles were numbers 6, 5, 13 and 20, statements on Authoritarian style were numbers 1, 7, 8, 14, 16, 17 and 18, statements on permissive parenting style were numbers 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 19 and 15.

The findings of this study indicated that all parenting styles have representation in KYCTC. However, particular parenting styles are more likely to push juveniles to delinquency. Among the four parenting styles under consideration, authoritative parenting style was found to have the least number of delinquents compared to other styles.

The summaries of each parenting style are thus as follows:

Authoritative

Authoritative parenting is marked by a balance of high responsiveness and demandingness. The scale that was used in this parenting style was based on the dimensions of warmth, reasoning, democratic participation, and good natured/easy going (Robinson et al., 1995). These dimensions were measured using question numbers 6, 5, 13 and 20. The statements depict levels of responsiveness that is mostly exhibited by authoritative parents who also erect boundaries around their children and explain the reason for the boundaries. Table 4.4 provides the summary.

Table 4.4 Authoritative Parenting Style

Statement	CA (1)	A (2)	D (3)	CD (4)	n
1. Explanation of rules given	9(13.2%)	5(7.4%)	16(23.5%)	38(55.9%)	68(100%)
2. I was encouraged to give opinions	10(14.7%)	8(11.8%)	16(23.5%)	34(50.0%)	68(100%)
3. I am praised for good things I do	6(8.8%)	3(4.4%)	27(39.7%)	32(47.1%)	68(100%)

4. My parents encourage me to talk about my troubles	12(17.6%)	5(7.4%)	13(19.1%)	38(55.9%)	68(100%)
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As demonstrated in Table 4.4 the statements that were used to measure authoritative parenting style in the questionnaire were four. The statements are the hallmarks of authoritative parenting. To all the four questions an average of 9(13%) of the juveniles held at KYCTC completely agreed with the statements indicating that their parents practiced authoritative parenting. Closely related are 5(7%) respondents who also agreed with the statements, perhaps indicating that their parents showed some attributes of authoritative parenting. These findings imply that 54(79.4%) of the parents whose children are held at KYCTC practiced other parenting styles other than authoritative parenting style.

Studies have categorized authoritative parenting style as a model that produces the right balance of friendliness and care, while at the same time adopting a constructive and considerate discipline. Key features of authoritative parenting are open to bidirectional communication and flexible rules. Two authoritative parents are better placed to provide the strongest buffer against delinquency. However, even one authoritative parent is able to offer some protection against delinquency (Simons & Conger, 2007).

The current study is in agreement with studies conducted by Georgiou, Ioannou and Stavrinides (2017) that concluded that authoritative parents deployed a balanced form of demandingness and responsiveness through effective communication with their children, liberally praised their children and readily disciplined their children when they violated boundaries. They associated authoritative parenting with a healthy self-esteem, high levels of academic achievement and self-efficacy and lower likelihood of delinquent behavior.

This study confirms findings by Simons and Conger (2007) who concluded that authoritative parents are open to bidirectional communication and teach children self-control and high self-esteem. The mix of positive parental attributes developed through being responsive to children's needs was linked to low levels of problem behaviors in children. They assert that two authoritative parents are better placed to offer the strongest buffer against delinquency, but even one authoritative parent is able to offer some protection besides fostering a secure parent-child attachment.

Several studies have found these findings consistent with the propositions that authoritative parenting is meaningfully and negatively related to juvenile delinquency. Steinberg and his colleagues in a study of 1355 juvenile offenders, observed that respondents who described their parents as authoritative were less likely to manifest externalizing problems compared to those exposed to different types of parenting style.

Positive parent-child attachments that are mostly related to authoritative parenting style ultimately produces lower levels of juvenile delinquency, more especially when the parent-child attachment bond is strong with both parents. If the level of attachment between child and parent is insecure, the teenager will no longer care about their parents' reactions, and is more likely to commit delinquent acts because nobody is holding them to account besides entertaining the thought that he/she has nothing to lose.

Authoritarian Parenting Style

This parenting style is characterized by increased demands and limited responsiveness (warmth and attention to the child's needs). Authoritarian parenting is marked by rigid disciplinary measures, and demand unquestionable obedience from their children. They are highly controlling with less accessibility to their children. Parents who

are very strict hinder their children's personal growth and independence. As authoritarian parents exert their forceful tendencies, children tend to resist rigid controls on their freedom, becoming more rebellious by turning to delinquency. Authoritarian parenting styles was associated with negative outcomes for youths. The dimensions of verbal aggression, corporal punishment and disciplinary tactics, and directiveness were used to create a scale to quantify authoritarian parenting style (Robinson et al., 1995). Statements that measured Authoritarian Parenting Style in the questionnaire were numbers 1, 7, 8, 14, 16, 17 and 18. Table 4.5 provides a summary.

Table 4.5 Authoritarian Parenting Style

Statement	CA (1)	A (2)	D (3)	CD (4)	n
1. My parents scold and criticize me	34(50.0%)	11(16.2%)	17(25.0%)	6(8.8%)	68(100%)
2. I have been beaten for misbehaving	34(50.0%)	17(25.0%)	13(19.1%)	4(5.9%)	68(100%)
3. Was often punished and denied privileges	29(42.6%)	11(16.2%)	25(36.8%)	3(4.4%)	68(100%)
4. My parents yell at me when I misbehave	30(44.1%)	7(10.3%)	8(11.8%)	23(33.8%)	68(100%)
5. I am forced to obey because they are the parents	45(66.2%)	7(10.3%)	6(8.8%)	10(14.7%)	68(100%)
6. We were not allowed to question our parent's decision	42(61.8%)	10(14.7%)	6(8.8%)	10(14.7%)	68(100%)
7. When we disagreed, our parents forced us to conform	34(50.0%)	17(25.0%)	13(19.1%)	4(5.9%)	68(100%)

Table 4.5 displays seven statements that indicate high demandingness that is a key feature for authoritarian parenting style. Among all the respondents, an average of 35(52%)

completely agreed with the statements indicating that their parents practiced authoritarian parenting style. Closely linked to this group were 11(16.1%) of the respondents who concurred with the statements. The respondents agreed to the statement that they were required to obey anything their parents said without question, failure to which they received serious beating.

Authoritarian parents manifest high expectations for conformity and compliance to rules and directions but do not entertain questions about their decisions, unlike the authoritative parent (Guyer et al., 2015). Authoritarian parenting style deploy low response to the child's requirements while placing high demands on children leading to general discontent and withdrawn child behavior (King, Vidourek and Merianos, 2016). These parents demand obedience without question leading to the child feeling suffocated thus pushing them to seek more accommodating environments that turn out to be peers who do not have proper guidance. The posture taken by authoritarian parents, engender resentment and severs the attachment bond.

This findings concur with a study by Collishaw et al. (2011) who posits that youths no longer care about their parents' reactions, in cases where attachment between child and parent is weak thereby exposing them to delinquent conduct due to thoughts that nobody cares for them. The care-free attitude emanating from lack of strong attachment will be reflected in form of lack of respect towards other authority figures such as teachers, older relatives, church leaders and even local government officials. Parent-child connections are therefore, better predictors of future delinquency than were other social indicators, such as income or family type.

Authoritarian parenting style principally plays an influential part in the development of delinquent behavior among teenagers that ultimately effects maladaptive patterns (Kerr, Stattin & Ozdemir, 2012). Therefore, it may be right to assert that paying little or no interest in parenting styles has a negative ramification on children in terms of their psychological and behavior context.

The authoritarian parents are known through their tendency to appraise, shape and control the attitudes and behavior of their children according to prescribed standards of conduct that are absolute. Children under this parenting style are supposed to strictly follow strict rules defined by their parents. Failure to comply with the rules attracted punished. Cherry (2015) observes that authoritarian parents usually fail to explore the reasoning underpinning the rules with their children, which breeds resentment.

Apparently, the emphasis of authoritarian parents on strict adherence of rules, regulations and obedience without explanation in an environment that is unwelcoming coupled with a display of little engagement and untrustworthy tendencies to their children is counter-productive. The tendency to stifle open communication and suffocation of their children with strict demands is repulsive to children and teenagers who opt to seek a sense of acceptance and belonging in the wrong areas such as peers who are involved in delinquent activities.

Equally it is widely believed that parents who use the authoritarian style are mostly punitive, forceful, and is of the opinion that a child should adhere to work in accordance to ethics and should be obedient. In this parenting style, parents often lean towards the traditional family structure made up of two biological parents and children. This implies that they limit the child's autonomy through many demands and rules. The posture of this

parenting style which is allied to the traditional family structure, heightens the notion that a child ought to adhere to parent's orders without question therefore, it can be assumed that authoritarian parenting style lays more emphasis on rules that are considered as solid. The study also concurs with Nijhof and Engels (2007), observe that authoritarian parenting style is associated with lower level of ability and self-confidence that undermines managing skills among teenagers thus undermining their children's ability to explore his/her potential and social interactions, eventually leading to the child's dependence on parental guidance and direction. This gives the study insights on why 52% of the respondents associated their parents with authoritarian parenting style in the Correction Facility. Therefore, the overly strict nature of authoritarian parenting, tends to inhibit individual development and independence of children in the family structure. This pushes the children to resist the controls on freedom, and thereby more likely to manifest their resistance by turning to delinquent activities.

Permissive Parenting Style

This parenting style is linked to parents who are who mostly meet the needs of to their children, which denotes that they highly responsive to needs of their children but they do not put boundaries around their activities. Permissive parents are considered to be highly helpful, welcoming, and lenient but they will often fail to erect reasonable boundaries for their children and when they do, they rarely enforce the rules. Teenagers who are brought up by permissive parents, have challenges adjusting to the society compared to their counterparts who view their fathers as authoritarian or authoritative. In this study, permissive style was measured using the dimensions of low self-confidence, ignoring misbehavior, and lack of follow through (Robinson et al., 1995).

Statements that measured this parenting style in the questionnaire were numbers 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 15 and 19. Table 4.6 provides a summary.

Table 4.6 Permissive Parenting Style

Statement	CA (1)	A (2)	D (3)	CD (4)	n
1. Constantly threatened but not punished	25(36.8%)	11(16.2%)	15(22.1%)	17(25.0%)	68(100%)
2. Parents did not have time for me	34(50.0%)	17(25.0%)	13(19.1%)	4(5.9%)	68(100%)
3. I always got what I wanted when I insisted	20(29.4%)	20(29.4%)	13(19.1%)	15(22.1%)	68(100%)
4. Never disciplined when found in mistakes	34(50.0%)	14(20.6%)	17(25.0%)	3(4.4%)	68(100%)
5. My parents spoil me with goodies	22(32.4%)	4(5.9%)	18(26.5%)	24(35.3%)	68(100%)
6. I was allowed to decide most things for my self	20(29.4%)	12(17.6%)	17(25.0%)	19(27.9%)	68(100%)
7. I was always allowed to attend late night parties	20(29.4%)	20(29.4%)	13(19.1%)	15(22.1%)	68(100%)

The statements in Table 4.6 were used to measure permissive parenting style. The respondents who completely agreed with the statements were averagely 25(36.7%) and those who agreed with the statements were 14(20.5%). This clearly indicates that their parents used permissive parenting style in their nurture. This meant that the juveniles could get whatever they wanted from their parents with little insistence and some level of manipulation. This is characteristic of permissive parenting that generally allows their children to have their way to avoid confrontations with them.

Permissive parenting style is marked by accepting, affirmative and non-punitive tendencies toward their children's impulses, actions and desires. These parents are popular

among children because they tend to have a higher level of responsiveness, meaning that they respond to the needs of their children but offer little or no boundaries leaving the children to mark the boundaries themselves.

A study by Guyer et al., (2015) found out that parents who practice permissive parenting style are normally described as indulgent or lenient, nurturing and accepting with low levels of control. Conversely, minors from permissive family systems are prone to school misconduct, substance use, and are faced with interpersonal challenges among their peers. Notably, the children also have low self-esteem. (Martínez, & Garcia, 2007).

Parenting Styles Distribution at KYCTC

Considering the results on the different parenting styles, Table 4.7 provides the summary.

Table 4.7 Summary of Parenting Styles

S/No Parenting					
	Style	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
1.	Authoritarian	29	42.6%	42.6%	42.6%
2.	Authoritative	6	8.8%	8.8%	8.8%
3.	Permissive	20	29.4%	29.4%	29.4%
4.	Undifferentiated	13	19.1%	19.1%	99.9%
	Total	68	99.9%	99.9%	

A critical evaluation of the summary of the distribution on Table 4.7, shows that 29 (42.6%) of the respondents at KYCTC had parents who use authoritarian parenting style while 20 (29%) of the respondents had permissive parents. In this study, 6(8.8%) respondents indicated that their parents practiced authoritative parenting. This is an indication that out of the three parenting styles, authoritative parenting style poses the least

danger to the development of delinquent behavior among juveniles. On the other hand, 13 (19.1%) were undifferentiated because of their apparent uncertainty when responding to the statements which made it difficult to properly classify the parenting style. This position is cited by Baumrind (2013), where the respondents do not give specific responses because their parents did not fit one category of the responses provided in the questionnaire forcing them to provide two responses to one question. These findings are in line with other studies that established authoritative parenting style is distinguished by its child-centered approach that is punctuated with high expectations of compliance to parental rules and directions, open dialogue about the rules and behaviours (Guyer et al., 2015).

The results of this objective are in agreement with similar studies conducted by Trinkner, Cohn, Rebellon, and Van Gundy (2012) which, concluded that authoritative parenting is closely linked to positive adolescent outcomes such as assertive and self-reliant behavior, inculcation of positive attributes including compliance with social norms among adolescents. It is therefore safe to conclude that authoritative parenting style is the ideal model for effective child social development and education because the parents offer a balanced menu of affection and support on one hand and constructive/flexible disciplinary arrangement on the other.

There is consensus in the west that caring and manifestation of warmth exhibited to children in the process of nurture, directly influences the children's psychological state (Baumrind, 1991). Children brought under authoritative parenting style tend turn out to have better coping abilities and relational skills that have a lesser psychological distress level during adolescence. The opposite is the likely outcome when the parents practice authoritarian parenting style which manifests low responsiveness and uncompromising

demands of control and discipline which adolescents perceive as punitive leading to rebellious behavior.

Though the cultural context has been used to explain variation of parenting styles based on promotion of different values in different cultures, the outcomes seem to defy the cultural context (Garcia, 2015). Authoritarian and authoritative parenting styles seem to attract the same outcomes in the study defying the cultural context argument. Though in the Kenyan context, the family system is predominantly patriarchal and hierarchical, espousing authoritarian tendencies, the findings of the study indicated that this style exposes children to delinquency if not moderated by responsiveness to the needs of the child. Parents need to balance the demands for obedience and compliance with instructions, with approachability, sensitivity, love, reciprocal dialogue, care, and explanations for decisions and actions.

Similarly, the findings tend to agree with Hoeve et al., (2011) who examined previous studies on varied outcomes related to different parenting styles on teenagers' behavior and concluded that authoritative parenting decreased the possibility and quantity of juvenile delinquency. Related studies discovered a correlation between juvenile delinquency and authoritarian, permissive, and neglectful parenting styles. They equally identified a positive association between authoritarian parenting style and delinquent tendencies among juveniles.

Based on findings of objective one, authoritative parenting style seem to reinforce the development of adaptive behaviors while permissive and authoritarian parenting styles appear to proffer risk factors for the development of maladaptive and antisocial behaviors.

Equally, the findings indicated that respondents who had parents using authoritative parenting style seem to positively adjust in many aspects such as harmony and respect for

others. Conversely, authoritarian parenting style was negatively correlated with positive tendencies such as harmony with other people and respect for social norms.

Focus Group Discussion

During the focus group discussions interesting remarks were made that clearly indicated the parenting style adopted by the parents or guardians. Some of the statements made are as follows:

“I joined a group of teenagers who taught me how to steal. I often left home early in the morning pretending that I was going to school just to team up with the teenagers. I remember not coming home for two days and my parent did not ask me where I was after returning home with some stolen items”.

This remark paints a picture of a parent who abdicates his/her role of guiding a child. The child is gradually subjected to the influence of peers who turn out to be a moral compass for the child because the parents are virtually absent for the child. The void created by the absent parent is filled by peers who introduce the child to delinquency. This statement bears the hallmarks of a permissive parent who does not bother to sanction or punish the child while allowing the child to make most of the decisions themselves. This posture is dangerous to the children.

Another juvenile narrated his experience at home:

“My mother often came home, angry and blamed me for the disorganization in the house and would mercilessly beat me up and deny me food that evening. She was often moody and constantly in arguments with the neighbours. I felt like a prisoner in that home. Any requests I made were responded to in terms of scolds and blows. I had no choice but to run away from home”.

This response was shared by five out of the six focus groups. The physical and verbal abuse of the teenagers only serves to build resentment in their lives. The tendency to physically punish a child without explanation are marks of authoritarian parenting which

eventually pushes the child away from the parent. This explains why most of the juveniles had parents who were authoritarian in their parenting model which pushes the children away from the parents to delinquency. The assertion is an indication that the parenting style and family structure can influence juvenile delinquency.

Another juvenile said that:

“I never felt understood by my parents, they did not even have time for me. I suffered silently. My teacher had severally asked me to go to school with my parent over my poor performance but they were both busy. I was ultimately told not to go back to school without my parents. I remained at home for two weeks, during which my parents did not even ask why I was not going to school. I was introduced to bhang by older boys during that period and later dropped out of school”.

This statement also demonstrates ‘don’t care’ attitude exhibited by parents who spend most of the time fending for their children instead of investing in their lives. The absence of the parents directly pushes them to groups that will inspire a sense of belonging and care. This is again a case of parents who are low on supervision and guidance. The domain of demandingness is lacking in this model, which makes the child to run their own lives without the input of the parents.

Another respondent said:

“Though my father and mother lived with us, I hardly had a chance to see my father. He used to come home late in the night while drunk. During those episodes, he would pick a fight with my mother over food and later beat us together with my mother. I hated him for that and decided to run away from home to my grandmother’s place. My grandmother was better since she never quarreled us”.

This statement indicated the possibility of the family structure being the ideal (two parent structure) but the members do not function as a family. The parents are too busy to nurture open communication and even know what the children are going through. This explains the dynamic of being in a structure but the parenting practices are faulty which

leads to delinquency. It is not possible to balance your responsiveness and demandingness if parents are not present.

Another juvenile revealed that:

“We never knew what our parents did for a living. They would come home in different times of the night and go straight to bed. They never looked at our school diary. At times our father would disappear for months and later re-emerge. We were complete strangers with our father since he never played with us or give us and form of guidance”.

This is a case of parents who display low responsiveness and low demandingness which can be classified as neglectful and yet they live in the same house. The children in this situation manage their own lives and end up in problems. Supervision and guidance from parents is lacking thus pushing them to delinquency.

From the responses it is clear that most parents failed to monitor and supervise their children indirectly pushing them to the hands of peers who are also inexperienced. Another key feature that manifested itself is the tendency of parents becoming abusive to their children through assaulting them. Other parents did not take time to do their roles of providing for the basic needs for their children. The remarks are indicative of the type of parenting style adopted by the parents. Common types among the juveniles at KYCTC are authoritarian marked by many sanctions without providing for the needs of the juvenile and permissive style identified by parents allowing their teenagers to make their own decision without referring to them and failure to follow up on important issues such as school progress.

The findings are similar to those of Tompsett and Toro (2010), who observed that the danger of adolescents becoming delinquent is mostly linked to parenting style. Because of the style's non-responsive approach, they identified authoritarian parental style as

particularly influential in the emergence of criminal activities among adolescents. The parents deploying this style are known to stress issues such as strict adherence to the rules and thus demand to be obeyed without explanation. They prefer to govern and achieve compliance through the use of force, prohibition, and punishment. This style of parenting has been linked to a variety of negative mental health effects in children, including depressive symptoms (King, Vidourek & Merianos, 2016).

The findings on authoritative parenting style are confirmed by results of a study conducted by Hoskins (2014) who concluded that authoritative parenting exhibits more support towards children and offers guidance and direction in a rational manner. The level of demandingness and responsiveness in this style is higher meaning that parents welcome open communication and encourage a strong relationship (Piko & Balazs, 2012). Equally, authoritative parents are considered the ideal models for effective child social development and education because the parents offer a balanced menu of affection and support on one hand and constructive/flexible disciplinary arrangement on the other (Trinkner, Cohn, Rebellon, & Van Gundy, 2012).

The findings are also concur with a study conducted by Calafat (2014) that classified permissive parenting as a critical enabler to the children in the access to weapons, drugs, rape, prostitution, pornography and violent gang activity. The same study describes permissive parents as those who offer little or no supervision, do not set boundaries and show little or no affection and support. The study revealed that minors of permissive parents perform poorly academically, are aggressive, uncooperative, disruptive and prone to emotional problems such as depression and suicide ideation (Hoeve et al., 2011).

Church et al. (2015) agree with these previous findings stressing that children, who grow up with lack or lax family rules, parental monitoring and no curfew expectations, are at a greater risk to be engaged in high levels of delinquency. Such children manifest low self-control and low self-reliance. This parenting style leads to youth who have problems living or working in environments where there are strict rules. They therefore find themselves in trouble with the law or regulations of organizations frequently. This will thus, affect their self-esteem.

Family Structure and Juvenile Delinquency

The second objective of the study sought to establish the relationship between the family structure and juvenile delinquency at KYCTC. The research question for this objective required respondents to identify the kind of family structure they belonged to before they were arrested. For purposes of clarity the questionnaire identified four types of family structure for identification. The four family models in the survey were: two-parent family structure, single parent family structure, grandparent/relative structure and absent parents' structure. Conversely, the respondents were asked to identify the parent they lived with during the time of their arrest. Figure 4.2 provides a summary of the family structure.

Table 4.8 Relationship between Family Structure and Juvenile Delinquency

Family Structure	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
1. Two Parents	8	11.8%	11.8%	11.8%
2. Single Parent	21	30.9%	30.9%	42.6%
3. Grand/Relative	16	23.5%	23.5%	66.2%
4. Absent Parent	23	33.8%	33.8%	100.0%
Total	68	100.0%	100.0%	

From the findings, it can be discerned that 23(33.8%) of the juveniles came from families where parents were virtually absent pushing the juveniles to make their own decisions and probably filling the absence of their parents with peers who ultimately became their moral compass. Another big group came from single parents at 21(30.9%) followed by grandparent led families at 16(23.5%). Two parent families were the least represented with 8(11.8%) respondents. This simply illustrates that the family structure contributes to the development of delinquency probably due to levels of supervision and guidance in different structures.

Absent parents exhibit tendencies of permissive parenting that is marked by parents who are generally unavailable to supervise and control the behavior of their children, indirectly pushing them to delinquency. These findings clearly also demonstrates that children brought up in a single parent family structure are more at risk to develop juvenile delinquency. This could be attributed to the parents' absence due to economic activities and the tendency to ventilate their problems on the children which ultimately pushes them away from home. These findings concur with those of McLanahan, Tach and Schneider (2013), who established that minors from stable family structures (two biological parents) were less likely to be involved in anti-social behavior compared to their counter parts from unstable family structure such as single-parent or cohabitation arrangements.

The study was further interested in the parent the juveniles were actually living with during the time of their arrest. Figure 4.3 is a summary of the findings.

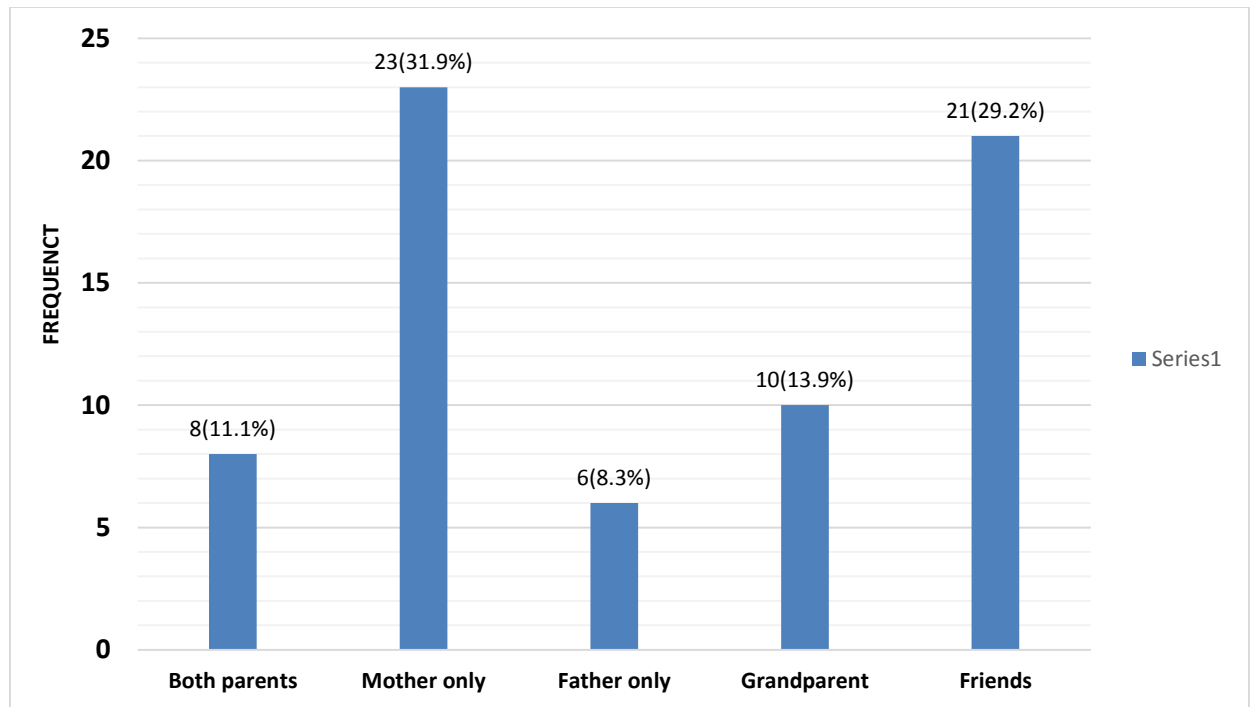


Figure 4.2 Who were you living with at the time of your arrest?

Figure 4.3 illustrates that 23(31.9%) of the juveniles were arrested while they stayed with their mothers while 6(8.3%) were living with their fathers. Another interesting finding is that 21(29.2%) of the juveniles at KYCTC were arrested while living with their friends and 10(13.9%) lived with their grandparents. Among all the respondents, 8(11.1%) were arrested when they were living with both parents. This results indicate that mothers bear the brunt of caring for their children in the event the family structure transits from two parent family to single parent structure. Apparently, lack of adequate supervision and guidance in a single parent (father/mother only) exposes the juveniles to development of delinquent behavior.

Previous studies in this area have established the existence of relationships between family structure and juvenile delinquency. The studies confirmed that minors from stable

family structures (two biological parents) were unlikely to participate in antisocial behavior, and are more emotionally stable compared to their counterparts from unstable family structures such as single-parenting or co-habiting arrangements (McLanahan, Tach, & Schneider, 2013). This can be attributed to the presence, guidance and discipline offered by a structure that has both parents involved in parenting practices.

The findings on this objective also confirmed that minors from stable family structures (two biological parents) were unlikely to be involved in delinquent behavior, and are more emotionally stable compared to their counterparts from unstable family structures such as single-parenting or grandparent led families. These findings concur with a study conducted by McLanahan, Tach, and Schneider (2013) who found that children brought up in a stable two-biological parent's family model are less likely to be involved in juvenile delinquency.

The results are supported by a survey conducted by Murry, William, and Salekin (2006) on the impact of family structure on juvenile delinquency, which noted that 53 percent of delinquents in borstal institutions came from single-parent families. More youth offenders come from other family settings than the two-parent family home, according to the study's results.

The findings also confirm Miller and Fagan's (2014) study that established that children living in dysfunctional families where there is low or poor supervision, parental abuse, and disrupted home environment are at a higher risk of becoming delinquent because of lack of control and right modeling from parents. Related studies have revealed that when families are separated and do not connect, children/adolescents often drift towards other supporting systems especially peer groups for support because they cannot get the necessary

support from their parents. This prepares the ground for the adolescents to gravitate towards groups or gangs that are inclined towards socially unacceptable behavior (Godinet & Vakalahi, (2009).

Another interesting phenomenon that was established by the findings, is the situation where children are neither bred by their father nor mother for different reasons thereby ceding the responsibility of nurturing to grandparents or relatives. In such a scenario the children are not a priority to the relatives or grandparents who have their own areas of focus in life. This structure is therefore inadequate because it does not offer proper safeguards around the child. The grandparents will either be indulgent which is related to permissive parenting style or be authoritarian which will push the child to alternative areas of influence that may lead to delinquency. This underscores the importance of two-parent family structure as the most ideal structure for nurture.

The findings of this study concur with an earlier research by Demuth and Brown (2004) that studied the ramifications of specific family structures on teenage delinquency and found out that single-parenthood contributes substantially to the development of juvenile delinquency but also established that, single-father headed households had significantly higher rates of delinquency compared to single-mother headed families. The study also noted that children from blended and cohabiting families were likely to exhibit a range of behavioral problems compared to those from two-parent families. Other studies have established that single parent families, especially, mother-only families raise children who are likely to turn delinquent compared to two parent families because of the assumption that a father's presence helps to stabilize the male children who are at greater risk of engaging in delinquent behavior.

The findings of this study demonstrates that a two-parent family structure is more preferable since it provides greater opportunity for enhanced supervision and monitoring of children while single parent structure is prone to development of delinquency because of lack of adequate supervision and monitoring. However, it is important to point out that it is possible for a single parent structure to produce socially upright children if the parenting practices remain responsive to the demands of the child. This position is in agreement with a study by Meldrum, Connolly and Guerette (2016), who observed that delinquent behavior may also be linked to poor family relationships that undermine buffers such as self-control and supervision of children. Most parents are ignorant of this fact, which can otherwise turn the tide of juvenile delinquency.

Combined Effect of Parenting Style and Family Structure on Juvenile Delinquency

The third objective explored the combined effect of parenting styles and family structure on development of juvenile delinquency. In this objective, the study undertook to establish how both parenting style and family structure jointly led to delinquency among juveniles held at KYCTC. To address this objective the study sought to identify which combination of parenting style and family structures that pose the greatest and least danger in the development of juvenile delinquency. A chart illustrating the relationship was analyzed and presented. Figure 4.4 illustrates the summary of the results.

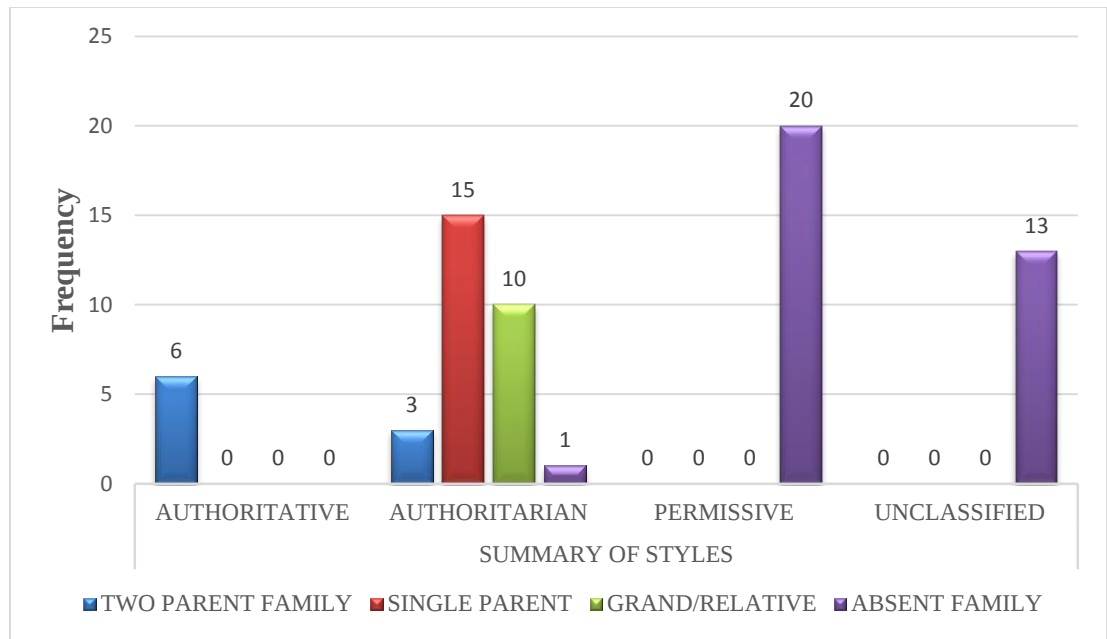


Figure 4.3 Combined effect of parenting style and family structure

Figure 4.4 clearly indicates that absent family structure with a score of 20 (33.3%) is positively associated with permissive parenting style, meaning that by default they are adopting a permissive parenting style that exposes the children to groups/peers who can influence them to be delinquent. On the other hand, single parent and grandparent family structures are associated with authoritarian parenting style at a score of 15 (22%) and 10(14.7%) respectively. The two family structures tend to impose rules and demand obedience without question, making the children under their care feeling suffocated with the rules pushing them to seek freedom with either their friends or groups that guarantee them a sense of freedom and belonging.

Finally the two parent family structure is associated with authoritative parenting style with a score of 6(8.8%). This combination is the least represented at KYCTC, indicating that it is the most ideal combination. Also under the two parent structure is a

score of 3(4.4%) representing a two parent structure that uses authoritarian tendencies as the parenting style. This phenomenon is not unique since authoritative parenting is high in both demandingness and responsiveness.

Therefore, a two-parent family structure appears to be the most stable structure compared to other structures. These findings are similar to a study by Gault-Sherman (2017) who found out that juvenile delinquency was influenced by the quality of parent-child relationship, coupled with parental practices in the family unit including imposition of strict rules, failure to monitor adherence of the rules and failure to address the needs of a child, leaving him/her with feelings of rejection. On this objective it is clear that a combination of an unstable family structure and authoritarian or permissive parenting style is a high risk factor that exposes children to juvenile delinquency. Parental presence and guidance that includes erection of boundaries and punishment where possible acts as a deterrent measure against juvenile delinquency. A two-parent structure coupled with authoritative parenting style will go a long way in the prevention of juvenile delinquency according to these findings.

The findings of this study agree with a study conducted by Vogel and South (2016) in the United States, which found that a combination of parenting styles, family structure and the neighborhood in which a child is raised has an impact on the moral behavior adopted by the youth. Adolescents raised in highly conflictual home environment and with parents involved in antisocial behavior were found to be more susceptible to involvement in delinquent behavior. However, this does not imply that youth coming from better localities cannot be influenced to be involved in delinquent behavior, the study indicated that youth from poor neighborhoods are at a higher risk of becoming delinquent (Odgers et al., 2015).

These findings herald the importance of considering the combined effect of family structure and parenting styles in the development of juvenile delinquency as argued the current study.

The findings on this objective confirms those by Pinquart (2017) who argues that correct parenting practices act as a buffer that protects the minors from involvement in delinquency. He however adds that the existence of parental control including supervision and discipline, are necessary in order to effectively forestall the development of delinquent behavior. The study also found out that cordial relations with parents and clear boundaries were directly associated with adolescents' low involvement in negative externalizing behavior. The family structure and the parenting practices adopted by parents are therefore, critical factors that can determine the development of juvenile delinquency.

Appropriate Parental and Familial Intervention Measures

The fourth objective sought to find out from a cross-section of professional, appropriate parental and familial intervention measures that can reduce juvenile delinquency. To answer the above question, the study sought suggestions from a cross-section of professionals who regularly interact with juveniles at KYCTC. Professionals who participated in the study were social workers, administrators, religious leaders, counsellors, teachers and wardens. The professional had the advantage of interacting with the juveniles one on one thereby accessing personal information from the juveniles. The professionals were required to identify appropriate intervention measures based on the privileged information they had about the juveniles in the course to their interactions. Figure 4.5 summarizes interventions proposed by the professionals:

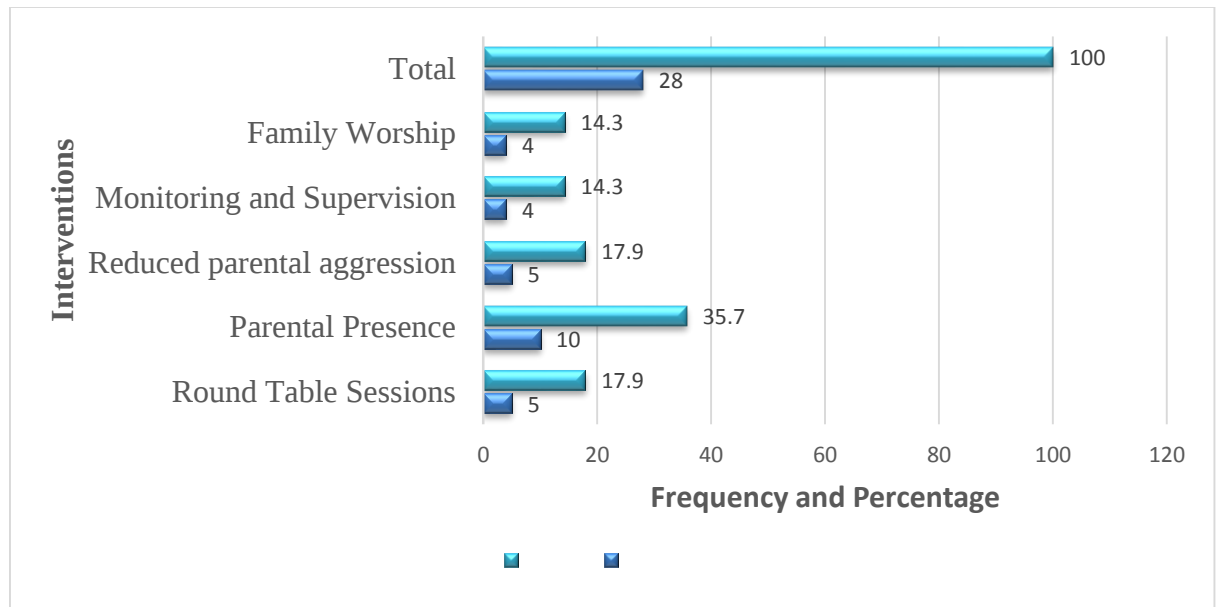


Figure 4.4 Parental and familial intervention measures

Based on the responses in Figure 4.4, 35% of the professionals felt that parental presence was critical for stemming the tide against juvenile delinquency. Parental presence means spending quality time with the juveniles, during which the parents can offer guidance and show care for the children which in turn would enhanced parent-child attachment.

Reduced aggression (17.9%) and round table family sessions (17.9) were also rated highly as intervention measures. Reduced aggression would create an environment of care and some level of freedom to share what the young person is going through. Round table family sessions on the other hand were viewed as avenues for ventilation and teaching forums where values would be inculcated. This would also provide an avenue for teaching life skills to the juveniles.

At 14% were proposals for parents and families deploy supervision and monitoring of children at all times and introduction of family worship. Juvenile delinquency was attributed to lack or inadequate supervision of children, leaving them to depend on their

peers for guidance and support. On the other hand, family worship was viewed as an avenue for moral grounding for the juveniles. Religion was viewed as healthy and a positive rule of life that can effectively reduce juvenile delinquency.

The results are similar to those of Cho (2019) who performed longitudinal studies in Korea and discovered that maternal factors plays a substantial part in the psychosocial and behavioural growth of children. Undesirable parental behaviours such as rejection, aggression and psychological abuse serve danger signs, while a combination of an acceptable family atmosphere and favourable parenting features expressed by responsiveness, comfort, and consistent discipline serve as protective factors. The integration of the aspects of the environment including the structure of the families and parental practices are key areas in this study that are contributors of juvenile delinquency.

The finding also tend to agree with the position held by Miller and Fagan (2014) who established that parental training programs had the potential of improving the parents' ability to monitor their children and set clear boundaries, rules and expectations for behavior. The study further established that sensitization on consistency, discipline, and appropriate use of rewards and punishments, could positively influence the behavior of adolescents. The findings of the cited studies, point to the important role parenting style plays in the shaping of the moral behavior of a child.

These findings concur with those of Malik and Shirazi, (2010) who underscore family factors, such as parental negligence and inappropriate attention towards children as clearly demonstrated in the findings of this study, portend a higher risk of development of delinquency among teenagers. Other critical variables of great importance cited in the

findings that have a link to the parenting environment are parental conflicts, abusive attitude of parents and parental criminal history.

During the interview, one of the professionals painted the picture of juvenile delinquency as follows:

For every 50 juveniles who are released from the center, 10 of them who represent 20% are re-arrested. *“If only the juveniles would get a reliable family support system, then the number of juvenile would reduce tremendously”*.

“Some of the juveniles held in this facility do not know how to read and write and have no connection with their parents because the parents were too busy for them. Upon completion of their sentences we will release them to the streets or the same families that are not interested in them”.

Family dysfunctions remain an important enabler in the development of juvenile delinquency in Kenya. Parent’s busy life denies the minor of a chance to be nurtured, loved and cared for.

The above statements coming from professionals who regularly interact with the juveniles paints a picture of a family system that has failed in its socialization responsibility. Parents and families are apparently too busy for their children.

From the findings of this study, it is clear that an integrated approach that pays keen attention to familial and parental factors such parents modeling positive behavior; child supervision, affective bonds with youth and effective discipline could be critical interventions against delinquency.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, IMPLICATIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

This chapter covers a summary of findings, implications, conclusions, recommendations and areas for further research. The information in this chapter relies on the findings in chapter four. The purpose of the study was to establish the influence of aspects of the family system on the development of juvenile delinquency at KYCTC.

The summary of the findings are organized based on the objectives of the study namely; to identify parenting styles associated with juvenile delinquency at the KYCTC, to assess the relationship between family structure and juvenile delinquency at the KYCTC, to explore the combined effect of parenting style and family structure on juvenile delinquency at the KYCTC and to propose appropriate parental and familial intervention measures that can reduce juvenile delinquency.

Summary of Findings

Parenting Styles Associated with Juvenile Delinquency

The first objective of the study was to identify parenting styles associated with juvenile delinquency. The findings of the current study established that authoritarian parenting style was more common among parents whose children end up developing juvenile delinquency with 42.9%(29) followed by permissive parenting style with 29.4%(20) clearly demonstrating that these styles are more prone to breeding delinquents. On the other hand authoritative parenting styles appeared to pose the least risk to development of juvenile delinquency at 6(8.8%).

The findings on this objective have clearly established an association between parenting styles and the development of juvenile delinquency. The style of parenting can influence the general development of the child in three ways; first, the parents model societal norms as they relate with the child hence influences the child to adopt to the standards, second, the child is taught how to regulate their emotions which assists the child in relating with others and complying with rules and regulations and third the child will learn the principle of give and take due to the reciprocal relationship exhibited in a secure attachment relationship. (Grusec & Davidov, 2010).

This study confirms that effective parenting style could reduce exposure of adolescents to risky conduct that could lead to juvenile delinquency. It has been observed that authoritative parenting style is an ideal model that inhibits juvenile delinquency.

These findings tend to disagree with the notion that authoritative parenting produces positive results in Europe and not Asia and Africa where the dominant parenting practice is authoritarian. On the contrary, authoritarian parenting tends to be the main contributor to the development of juvenile delinquency. This position is supported by a study by Smetana and Ahmad (2018) who noted that authoritarian parenting (yelling, shaming, corporal punishment) predisposes an adolescence to embrace delinquency across cultures.

Family Structure and Juvenile Delinquency

The second objective of this study was meant to establish the relationship between family structure and juvenile delinquency. The findings on this objective established that 33.6% (23) of the juveniles came from families where parents were virtually absent pushing the juveniles to make their own decisions and probably filling the absence of their parents with peers who ultimately became their moral compass. Another big group came from

single parents at 30.9% (21) followed by grandparent led families at 23.5% (16). Two-parent families were the least represented with 8(11.8%) respondents.

This illustrates that the family structure contributes to the development of delinquency probably due to levels of supervision and guidance in different structures. The findings projected that juveniles living in absent parent family structure that is to say, parents exist but are mostly away from their families either working or doing other things that deny them the opportunity to interact with their children thus exposing their children to delinquency through development of toxic relationships with peers. Another group was associated with single-parent structure that impacted on the juveniles in two ways. The first being that the parents turned out to be authoritarian making life at home unbearable and second being that they were busy fending for the family leaving them with very little time with their children indirectly exposing them to the wrong influence. The tendency to place a lot of demands on the child makes them view the home as the most unlikely place to find peace and freedom thus pushing them to seek other places where they can experience the peace and freedom other than the home. The most likely alternative is the streets where they will progressively be introduced to drugs and delinquency.

Combined Effect of Parenting Style and Family Structure on Juvenile Delinquency

The third objective sought to find out the combined effect of both parenting style and family structure on juvenile delinquency. The findings on this objective revealed that absent parents family structure was positively associated with permissive parenting style with 20 (33.3%) of the respondents identifying it as the most prevalent model in their homes. On the other hand, the findings on this objective indicated that single parent and grandparent family structure were largely associated with both authoritarian and permissive

parenting style at the rate of 15 (22%) and 10 (14.7%) respectively. In as far as the two parent family structure is concerned, 6(8.8%) were associated with authoritative parenting style and traces of authoritarian because of the high demandingness and responsiveness exhibited by authoritative parenting style.

The combination of family structure and parenting style form a powerful alliance to either buffer or accelerate the development of juvenile delinquency. A mixture of authoritarian or permissive parenting styles with the absent parent family structure can be a predictor of juvenile delinquency. Moreover, a two parent family structure combined with authoritative parenting style can be a buffer against development of juvenile delinquency. Therefore, the family structure and parenting style jointly contribute to the development or prevention of juvenile delinquency.

Parental and Familial Intervention Measures Meant to Reduce Delinquency

The fourth objective sought to seek familial and parental interventions to reduce juvenile delinquency. The findings on this objective revealed that 35% of the professional respondents, felt that parental presence was critical in reversing juvenile delinquency. Parental presence means spending quality time with the juveniles, during which the parents can offer guidance and show care for the children which in turn would enhance parent-child attachment. It may be difficult to influence a teenager without a secure attachment. On the other hand, parental absence for whatever reason, undermines development of a secure attachment. This position is supported by Cambron et. al. (2019) who point out that cordial communication between parents and children and intentional involvement of parents in the affairs of their children's serves to create and strengthen emotional bonds and development of commitment to norms, ultimately reducing chances of delinquent behavior.

Other identified parental and familial intervention measures are reduced aggression (17.9%) and round table family sessions (17.9%). Reduced aggression would create an environment of care and some level of freedom to share what the young person is going through. Round table family sessions on the other hand were viewed as avenues for ventilation and teaching forums where values would be inculcated. This would also provide an avenue for teaching life skills to the juveniles. This is in agreement with Vanassche et. al. (2014) who stress that family relations and connections that manifest love, affection, consistency, negotiated discipline and open communication are buffers against juvenile delinquency. Kiriakidis (2010) also came up with similar findings, stressing that severe discipline, inadequate supervision, lack of clear instructions and continuous engagement, may lead to the development of juvenile delinquency. He further contends that when parents are very controlling, the adolescents deliberately decide to rebel.

Also critical for reduction of delinquency according to the professionals were sustained supervision and monitoring of children at all times and introduction of family worship that were rated at 14% in the study.

The idea of supervision and monitoring are a component of demandingness on the part of responsible parents who draw boundaries for their teenagers in order to protect them from falling into negative. This domain is necessary for development since the teenagers are in a developmental stage where they want independence yet they are not experienced to face situations that can expose them to delinquency.

Conclusions

This study focused on two aspects of the family system that significantly influence the development of juvenile delinquency. The findings have to a larger extent been able to address the issues raised by the research questions of this study.

The family system plays occupies a pivotal position in the development of a child's personality. Parenting practices and the family structure can positively influence a child or destroy a child. This means that maladaptive or adaptive behavior can be influenced by the family system. Dysfunctional family could be punctuated by, insufficient family cohesiveness, domestic violence, child abuse, neglect parental inability to express warmth, affection and love towards children. Also important were rigid and non-democratic child rearing practices and lack of adequate supervision of their children. Families that mostly manifest rigid and non-democratic child rearing practices and limited warmth lead to development of unhealthy personalities, shatter confidence and inculcate insecurities to their children. This implies that teenagers with problematic families are negatively influenced to manifest their lack of control, through vices such as aggression, frustration and violation of rules and regulations.

Technological advancement in the world and pursuit for livelihood has weakened the parent-child relationship bond. Time spent with children in the family structure has reduced tremendously leading to a situation where children are either spending much time watching television and playing computer games or spending the time outside with peers who influence and model their behavior. Parental presence is critical since the key responsibility of parents is to nurture their children through establishment of enduring emotional bonds that will lead to development of positive behavioural patterns. By

engendering a sense of belonging to the children, giving them their due attention, teaching children skills, and rewarding them for good behavior, goes a long way in preventing them against delinquency.

In this era it is important for parents to constantly monitor their children's interaction with programs they are exposed to through technological gadgets accessible to them. Some programs that carry toxic content such as violent dramas, movies, and other explicit programs not appropriate for their age directly influences their behavioural patterns.

Based on the findings of this study, it is clear that the family system has a big influence in the development of delinquency among teenagers. As cited in this study, a child at the point of birth is helpless and completely dependent on the parent for nurture. The question of how the children turnout when they mature, is squarely in the province of parents and society. The study has established that authoritative parenting style which is marked by warmth and care on one side and supervision and monitoring on the other is the most appropriate style that acts as a buffer that would ultimately prevent the children from slipping into juvenile delinquency.

When children become teenagers or adolescents, control and supervision of parents is imperative. This is especially important because during this phase of their life they need guidance as they struggle with dependence, independence and freedom. Parents have to carefully deploy a balance of warmth, care, affection, supervision, control and discipline. Parents can borrow from the attributes of authoritative parents that engender bidirectional communication that strengthens parent-child attachment and friendship.

Changes in the family system including broken homes, divorce, single parenting, broken relationships, non-cohesive families, weakened social bonds are key variables that

influence the development of juvenile delinquency. Parental neglect has a strong relation with development of juvenile delinquency and recidivism. When parents fail to monitor and mentor their children coupled with their continuous absence at home, the children will most likely get involved with peer groups that will influence them negatively, which is a sure pathway to juvenile delinquency. The responsibility of parental control during childhood especially during teenage years is vital and binding. It is during the teenage years that the significant relationship for the teens shifts from parents to peers reducing the parents influence on the children. During this age, parents need to carefully balance responsiveness and demandingness characteristic of authoritative parenting style.

Though adolescence is a period when the children want some independence, complete freedom on one hand and complete neglect on the other are precursors for development of juvenile delinquency. It has now been proven that children living in antisocial families, where factors such as poor parental supervision, parental conflict, and disrupted family environments are prevalent, the children in those circumstances are more likely to be exposed to delinquency because their parents continuously socialize them that way through their words and/or actions.

Most teenagers value peer approval and this may be particularly applicable for teenagers experiencing unfavorable conditions within their family structures including weakened attachment bonds to their role models or other family members such as parents and teachers. Some studies in this area, have reported that lack of self-control which was observed among juveniles whose parents practiced the wrong style. Equally, there are emerging proposals calling for family-based prevention programs that target change at the family and parental level.

This study established that children learn aggression, through continuous exposure to maladaptive patterns within the family system, from peer groups, school and mass media. Parenting skills, which are understood as interactional practices of appropriate and inappropriate educational methods have the greatest sway when it comes to socialization.

The study also discovered that parents of delinquent teenagers do not have the capability to watch over their children, are deficient in positive aspects such as encouragement and rewarding positive actions, and are unable to provide for their children's needs. The parents instead frequently react in a way that is unclear to their children leaving them confused and feeling uncared for and rejected. The parents also do not have the capacity to adequately respond to emerging issues, compounded by their lack of conflict resolution skills, inability to create clear rules of engagement with their child and inconsistent discipline, which in effect expose their children to juvenile delinquency.

It is of great importance to understand the significance of the family systems of children and teenagers who manifest delinquent behaviour with a view to enhancing the efficacy of remedial and educational interventions alongside therapeutic processes of rehabilitation.

From a systemic perspective, all humans belong and are produced by the family system. It therefore matters what kind of family structure is used in the nurture of children. The study has demonstrated that a two-parent family structure had the least number of delinquents in KYCTC. However, there are several factors that determine the type of the structure that are beyond the control of the parents such as death or even irreconcilable differences between spouses, singleness by choice and other transitions that alter the family structure such as economic activities requiring frequent travel pushing parents to transfer

the care of children from biological parent(s) to relatives or grandparents. In such cases parental qualities, familial and societal interventions can mitigate the threat of delinquency among teenagers.

Appropriate nurturing practices is a noble call and a primary responsibility of parents. Parenting practices and the family structure under which the child is reared imprints values and a belief system that will largely determine their future life-style. Parents, through the interaction with children, assist them to develop certain positive life attitudes, which are difficult to change or suppress when the child is fully developed.

Parents through their conscious or unconscious negative conduct and nature of interaction with their children gradually model a template of behaviour in their children. Child development encompasses emotional, intellectual, social and physical aspects that must be nurtured and brought out through the family system, which is the fulcrum upon which overall development occurs. The basic ecology of family system that brings together the components of parenting and family structure play a significant part in molding a child by providing security and developing their values, skills and inculcation of a moral code that ultimately defines their perspective when it comes to choices of criminal nature.

Recommendations

In order to achieve positive and optimum results in changing juvenile delinquents through programs in correctional facilities, the focus needs to not only be on the delinquent but also to the entire family and societal systems. The recommendations take into account the vital role played by different actors such as social welfare institutions, NGOs, probation and expert assistance in the field of environmental support, psychotherapy and psychiatry can jointly play in order to mitigate the cases of juvenile delinquency.

The concept of a multisectoral approach against juvenile delinquency is critical because risk factors often tend to overlap with each other, making it a challenge to fully appreciate the magnitude of the problem. Because of the overlapping nature of risk factors, a joint approach encompassing the justice system, the juvenile, family, peer, correctional services, educational facilities, children's department and community may consider working in concert for the realization of better results (Slattery & Meyers, 2014)

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations if implemented and sustained would probably make a positive impact on the problem of juvenile delinquency.

1. The link between children outcomes and family structure needs to be emphasized during public forums including church functions and any other gathering where parents are involved such as open days in schools and family gatherings. This will go a long way in as far as reduction of juvenile delinquency is concerned.
2. Remedial measures need to target second-order change. This involves changing structures and systems for sustained reduction of juvenile delinquency. This model will target remedial measures that will involve the family system in the interventions. The change should target changes in the family such as the family changing their interactional patterns that will reflect warmth, trust building activities and care of the children. This will make families as centers of positive influence where a balanced menu of responsiveness and demandingness is served.
3. Parental training programs need to be mounted with a view to enhancing parents' ability to monitor their children's activities, reinforcement of good behavior, clearly state rules and expectations for behavior. Other than this posture, the parents need to be trained on how to

build stronger emotional bonds with children and adequately respond to their needs. This will restore parental power which has been ceded to other teenagers or even relatives in the passage of time.

4. At the individual level, to prevent teenagers from falling into bad company, it is recommended that they be offered assertive trainings to assist them make decisions that are good and appropriate for themselves. Assertiveness empowers the teenager to say 'no' to antisocial behavior and to have the strength to walk away from a group that has negative influence.

5. At the community level, local communities should be encouraged to be actively involved in stemming delinquency in their local areas through initiatives such as mentorship programs and sensitization programs highlighting the negative effects of delinquency.

6. Sensitization of the spirit of Africa's collectivity way of life, that vests the responsibility of raising children on the larger family system that assists parents to supervise and monitor children when they are not in the home family environment. Signs of delinquency can be traced in open areas, play grounds, in public transport vehicles, in churches, schools and social gathering where responsible adults look the other way because the teenagers are not their biological children. This attitude is a subtle enabling societal posture that expose teenagers to delinquency. This tide can be stopped if adults would borrow from the rich African heritage that places the responsibility of nurture on the shoulders of the entire society.

7. A deliberate collaboration between school and family will go a long way in detection and interdiction of juvenile delinquency. The role of the school should not be limited to impartation of knowledge but also inculcation of morals in conjunction with the family or

guardians. Teenagers spend most of the time in school compared to the home environment. Collaboration between school and the teenager's family may detect and deal with the development of delinquency early enough. Establishment of policy supported structure of engagement between the school teachers and family would assist in identification of pupils who fail to go to school without the knowledge of the parents.

8. Other than focusing of familial and parental interventions, collaborating with different professionals, social workers will be able to practice multi-context intervention and assessment of their clients, specifically from a preventive, rehabilitative and development approaches. As social workers may lack the competency to single-handedly solve teenagers' challenges. Profession-integration could be an appropriate avenue to fuse professional information from different fields to the advantage of the teenager. This integration will facilitate provision of holistic services to the delinquents.

9. For a long time, intervention programs in public and private institutions have only targeted the juvenile who is already involved in criminal activities. This approach tends to have a limited impact because it picks only one component of the system. There may be need to adopt family-based programs that take a multidimensional approach bringing together all players and coming up with a common plan of action with an input from all players. Institutions involved in rehabilitation and corrective measures may need to involve the family system in its intervention programs to foster a more comprehensive approach.

10. The government should come up with policies that would compel parents to attend forums that are related to their children's activities such as school events and other forums organized by the government. The attendance of parents will provide an avenue of

strengthening the attachment bond between parents and children other than fostering strong working relations with teachers.

Implications

Theoretical

The study lends credence to the assumptions postulated by the parenting styles theory that depicts authoritative parenting style as the most ideal parenting style. However, the fact that authoritative parenting style was linked to two-parent family structure that had some appearance of delinquency, calls for further investigations.

The impact of the family system on the development of juvenile delinquency simply solidifies the theoretical underpinnings of family systems theory that stresses that we are all products of a system and the interaction the members of the system contribute to the outcomes.

Policy Issues

Though pieces of legislations such as the Children's Act and the penal code meant to deter teenagers from falling into delinquency exist, juvenile delinquency continues to affect our teenagers. Policies that will take a multi-sectorial approach with the family system at the center, may proffer long lasting remedial measures that could reduce the current rates (20%) of recidivism.

Proposed Further Studies

The current study focused on male juvenile delinquency. It would be interesting to conduct a study that will draw its sample from both males and female respondents and probably offer some comparison with the results of this study.

Since this study was a case of one juvenile facility, a further study in other juvenile facilities is recommended before the results of the current study are generalized. Though one can assume that if the same variables are tested on other juveniles the results may be the same, it would be interesting to actually do another study.

Though the parenting style is used as a measure in determining the development of delinquency, the contribution of gender in influencing the parenting style has not been given a lot of attention. (Bulanda & Majumdar, 2011). This argument is critical because it is possible that the parenting style adopted by the parent could also be influenced by the gender of both the parent and the child. It is possible for male parents to be softer or harder when it comes to erection of boundaries against their male or female children. Gender roles in some cultures are particularly strong in families which directly influence how parents relate with their children. On the other hand, changing gender roles is apparently tilting parental practices depending on economic activities of the parents especially the father who for a long time has been understood to be the breadwinner of the family. Interestingly, fathers in two-biological parent families still spend less time with their daughters than with their sons (Montgomery et al., 2016).

This development is critical for the study because there is a real possibility that parenting styles can vary by gender within the same family structure, parenting styles may also vary based on the gender of the parent, with mothers being generally more nurturing toward their children than fathers.

This therefore, underscores the importance of this study based on the fact that the family composition is continuously evolving directly influencing parenting practices that have a direct influence on the development of juvenile delinquency. This will also add to

the small body of literature on the influence of the family system on the development of juvenile delinquency. This study further defines the connection of parenting style to development of juvenile delinquency.

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APPENDIX I

PARENTING STYLE/FAMILY STRUCTURE QUESTIONNAIRE

The purpose of this study is to examine the influence of parenting styles in the framework of family structure on Juvenile Delinquency. The questionnaire asks about your personal details, family structure and parenting style. All information filled in this questionnaire will be confidential and will never be linked to you. Try as much as possible to answer every item in the questionnaire. Thank you for your cooperation.

Part 1: Bio Data

1. Name: _____

2. Birth Date: _____ / _____ / _____ Age: _____

3. Your level of Education

Primary ☐ Secondary ☐ College ☐ University ☐ Uneducated ☐

4. Which offence were you convicted for

5. What in your opinion led you to anti-social behavior?

Part 2: Family Structure

1. What is your parent's marital status (*mark ☐ the one that describes your family structure*)

- a. Married (biological father and mother) ☐
- b. Single parent (never married) ☐
- c. Divorced ☐
- d. Separated ☐
- e. Single parent (death of one parent) ☐
- f. Step-father/mother ☐
- g. Cohabitation ☐

2. Before your arrest, who were you living with (mark ☐ the one that describes your family structure)

- a. Mother only ☐
- b. Father only ☐
- c. Mother and Father ☐
- d. Grandmother/father ☐
- e. Relatives ☐
- f. Step parent ☐
- g. Friends ☐

3. Who is the person in your life who is most like a father to you?

- a. Biological Father ☐
- b. Adoptive Father ☐
- c. Step Father ☐
- d. Grandfather ☐
- e. Brother ☐
- f. Friend to a parent ☐
- g. Uncle ☐

4. Who is the person in your life who is most like a mother to you?

- a. Biological Mother ☐
- b. Adoptive Mother ☐
- c. Step Mother ☐
- d. Grandmother ☐
- e. Sister ☐
- f. Friend to a Mother ☐
- g. Aunt ☐

5. Are your parents married to each other?

Yes ☐

No ☐

6. If your mother /father are not married, please indicate the situation in your family

- a. They were divorced ☐

- b. They are separated ☐
- c. My biological Mother died ☐
- d. My biological Father died ☐
- e. They were never married ☐
- f. I do not know my biological parent ☐
- g. Aunt ☐

7. How many brothers and sisters do you have?

Brothers _____

Sisters _____

8. Considering your siblings, were you the

- 1st born ☐
- 2nd born ☐
- 3rd born ☐
- Other ☐
- Last born ☐

9. Do have brothers/sisters who do not live with you?

Yes ☐

No ☐

10. How often did you see your parent (s) before your arrest?

- a. Every day ☐
- b. Sometimes in a week ☐
- c. Once in a week ☐
- d. Sometimes in a month ☐
- e. Sometimes in a year ☐

Part 3: Parenting Styles

The following items describe statements about your interaction with your parents. Indicate your agreement with the following statements Circling your response using the scale as described below:

	4	3	2	1	
	Completely Disagree (CD)	Disagree (D)	Agree (A)	Completely Agree (CA)	
					CA A D CD
1. My parent scolded and criticized me for poor performance					1 2 3 4
2. My parent did not have time for me and my siblings					1 2 3 4
3. I was constantly threatened with punishment but was not					1 2 3 4
4. I always got what I wanted when insisted and demanded					1 2 3 4
5. My parent always asked for my opinion about some decisions					1 2 3 4
6. My parents always explained the reason for rules in the home					1 2 3 4
7. I was often punished and denied privileges like watching TV/Playing					1 2 3 4
8. My parents yell at me when I misbehave					1 2 3 4
9. I am never disciplined even when found in mistakes					1 2 3 4
10. My parents spoil me with goodies					1 2 3 4
11. My parents did not care about what I did					1 2 3 4
12. My parent(s) never checked my report form from school					1 2 3 4
13. I am praised for good things that I did					1 2 3 4
14. I have been slapped for misbehaving					1 2 3 4
15. I was always allowed to attend late night parties with friends					1 2 3 4
16. My parents told me I have to obey because they are the parent					1 2 3 4

17. When I disagreed with my parents, they forced me to conform to what he thought was right	1	2	3	4
18. I was not allowed to question any decision the parent had made.	1	2	3	4
19. I was allowed to decide most things for myself with no direction	1	2	3	4
20. My parent encouraged me to talk about my trouble	1	2	3	4

Parenting Styles and Dimensions Questionnaire (PDSQ) Statements.

S/no.	STATEMENT	SCALE
1.	I explain the consequences of the child's behavior.	AUTHORITATIVE
2.	I help my child to understand the impact of behavior by encouraging my child to talk about the consequences of his/her own actions	AUTHORITATIVE
3.	I show respect for my child's opinions by encouraging my child to express them.	AUTHORITATIVE
4.	I encourage my child to talk about his/her troubles.	AUTHORITATIVE
5.	I give my child reasons why rules should be obeyed.	AUTHORITATIVE
6.	I emphasize the reasons for rules.	AUTHORITATIVE
7.	I explain to my child how we feel about the child's good and bad behavior.	AUTHORITATIVE
8.	I give praise when my child is good.	AUTHORITATIVE
9.	I encourage my child to freely express him/herself even when disagreeing with parents	AUTHORITATIVE
10.	I give comfort and understanding when my child is upset.	AUTHORITATIVE
11.	I have warm and intimate times together with my child	AUTHORITATIVE
12.	I allow my child to give input into family rules.	AUTHORITATIVE
13.	I am responsive to my child's feelings and needs	AUTHORITATIVE
14.	I take my child's desires into account before asking the child to do something.	AUTHORITATIVE
15.	I take into account my child's preferences in making plans for the Family	AUTHORITATIVE
16.	I grab my child when being disobedient.	AUTHORITARIAN
17.	I explode in anger towards my child.	AUTHORITARIAN
18.	I use physical punishment as a way of disciplining my child.	AUTHORITARIAN
19.	I spank when my child is disobedient	AUTHORITARIAN
20.	I yell or shout when my child misbehaves.	AUTHORITARIAN

21.	I scold and criticize to make my child improve.	AUTHORITARIAN
22.	I scold or criticize when my child's behavior doesn't meet my expectations	AUTHORITARIAN
23.	I slap my child when the child misbehaves.	AUTHORITARIAN
24.	When my child asks why he/she has to conform, I state, "Because I said so," or "I am the parent and I want you to	AUTHORITARIAN
25.	I threaten my child with punishment more often than actually giving it.	PERMISSIVE
26.	I state punishments to my child and do not actually do them.	PERMISSIVE
	I use threats as punishment with little or no justification.	
27.	I find it difficult to discipline my child.	PERMISSIVE
28.	I spoil my child.	PERMISSIVE
29.	I give into my child when the child causes a commotion about something.	PERMISSIVE
30.	I punish by taking privileges away from my child with little if any explanations.	PERMISSIVE
31.	I punish by putting my child off somewhere alone with little if any explanation.	AUTHORITARIAN
32.		AUTHORITARIAN

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. Who did you stay with before your coming to this home?
2. What crime did you commit that led to your imprisonment?
3. What restrictions did your parent impose on you while at home?
4. How free were you to discuss matters of interest with your parents?
5. What class were you before arrest and being brought here?
6. How often did your parents come to your school?
7. How did your parent react to your performance at school?
8. If there is one thing you would wish to change in your home what would that be?

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR PROFESSIONALS

Instructions:

This interview schedule is part of a study on the influence of parenting styles in the framework of family structure on male juvenile delinquency. Participation is voluntary and any opinions raised will be treated in confidence.

1. NAME: _____
2. PROFESSION: _____
3. INSTITUTION: _____
4. In your current occupation do you interact with teenagers and parents? YES/NO
5. In your opinion, what are the main causes of juvenile delinquency

6. In your opinion, which intervention measures are appropriate in combating juvenile delinquency

7. Propose parental and familial interventions that can prevent teenagers from delinquent behavior

VERDICT: APPROVAL WITH COMMENTS
Daystar University Ethics Review Board



Our Ref: **DU-ERB/29/01/2021/000485**

Date: 29th January 2021

To: Evans Orsando

Dear Evans,

RE: INFLUENCE OF THE FAMILY SYSTEM ON MALE JUVENILE DELINQUENCY: A CASE OF KAMITI YOUTH CORRECTION AND TRAINING CENTER KIAMBU COUNTY - KENYA

Reference is made to your ERB application reference no. 140121-01 dated 14th January 2021 in which you requested for ethical approval of your proposal by Daystar University Ethics Review Board.

We are pleased to inform you that ethical review has been done and the verdict is to revise to the satisfaction of your Supervisors and Head of Department before proceeding to the next stage. As guidance, ensure that the attached comments are addressed. Please be advised that it is an offence to proceed to collect data without addressing the concerns of Ethics Review board. Your application approval number is **DU-ERB-000485**. The approval period for the research is between *29th January 2021 to 28th January 2022* after which the ethical approval lapses. Should you wish to continue with the research after the lapse you will be required to apply for an extension from DU-ERB at half the review charges.

This approval is subject to compliance with the following requirements;

- i. Only approved documents including (informed consents, study instruments, MTA) will be used.
- ii. All changes including (amendments, deviations, and violations) are submitted for review and approval by Daystar University Ethics Review Board.
- iii. Death and life-threatening problems and serious adverse events or unexpected adverse events whether related or unrelated to the study must be reported to Daystar University Ethics Review Board within 72 hours of notification.
- iv. Any changes anticipated or otherwise that may increase the risks or affected safety or welfare of study participants and others or affect the integrity of the research must be reported to Daystar University Ethics Review Board within 72 hours.
- v. Clearance for export of biological specimens must be obtained from relevant institutions.
- vi. Submission of a request for renewal of approval at least 60 days prior to expiry of the approval period. Attach a comprehensive progress report to support the renewal.
- vii. Submission of a signed one-page executive summary report and a closure report within 90 days upon completion of the study to Daystar University Ethics Review Board via email [duerb@daystar.ac.ke].

Prior to commencing your study, you will be expected to obtain a research license from National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) <https://oris.nacosti.go.ke> and other clearances needed.

Yours sincerely,


Sr. Prof. A. L. Lando PhD
Chair, Daystar University Ethics Review Board



Encl. Review Report

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND COORDINATION OF NATIONAL
GOVERNMENT
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

KENYA PRISONS SERVICE

Telegrams: "COMPRISONS" Nairobi
Telephone: +254 02 2722900-6
E-mail: Commissioner.prisons@gmail.com
When replying please quote



PRISONS HEADQUARTERS
P.O.BOX 30175-00100
NAIROBI.

PRIS 1/112 VOL.XIV/18

Date: 10th February, 2021

Ref:

Mr. Onsando Evans
REG.NO. PMFT/10703/0/18
PO BOX 56875 00200
NAIROBI.

RE: AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT ACADEMIC RESEARCH.

We acknowledge receipt of your letter requesting approval to conduct an academic research at Kamiti Youth Collective Training Centre (YCTC) titled Marriage and Family Therapy. This is therefore to inform you that your request has been approved. Your research should run between 11th February, 2021 to 19th February, 2021.

You are expected to adhere to Prisons rules and regulations during your research period. The laid down ministry of health covid-19 protocols must be strictly adhered to during the research period. You are also required to provide the prisons Headquarters with a copy of your research findings at the end of your research.

By copy of this letter, Superintendent in Charge of the aforementioned Station is hereby instructed to accord you all the necessary assistance.

KENNEDY A. ALUBA, MBS, ndc (K) SACGP/A
FOR: COMMISSIONER GENERAL OF PRISONS

CC

1. Superintendent in Charge Kamiti Youth Collective Training Centre.
2. Regional prisons Commander Nairobi.

INFORMED CONSENT FORM

I am requesting for the participation of Juveniles held at Kamiti Youth Correction and Training Center in a Research project whose details are appended below. Please read the following information about the project.

Title of Project: INFLUENCE OF THE FAMILY SYSTEM ON MALE JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Purpose of The Project: The purpose of this study is to establish the influence of parenting styles within the framework of family structure on male juvenile delinquency at the Kamiti Youth Correction and Training Center (KYCTC) within Kiambu County, with a view to recommending establishment of intervention measures that will reduce juvenile delinquency that is related to parenting styles and family structure.

What Participants Will Do: Participants will be expected to fill questionnaires and participate in Focus Group Discussions.

Time Required For Participation: Completing Questionnaires will require atleast 10 minutes and each Focus Group Discussion will take 30 minutes.

Risks: There are no envisaged risks in the study

Benefits: People who participate in this study may have a better understanding on the connection between juvenile delinquency and parenting style. This will enhance their knowledge base.

Confidentiality: All information taken from the study will be coded to protect each subject's name. No names or other identifying information will be used when discussing or reporting data. The investigator(s) will safely keep all files and data collected in a secured locked cabinet in the principal investigators office. Once the data has been fully analyzed it will be destroyed.

Voluntary Participation: Participation in this study is completely voluntary. If you decide not to participate there will not be any negative consequences. Please be aware that if you decide to participate, you may stop participating at any time and you may decide not to answer any specific question.

By signing this form I am attesting that I have read and understood the information above and I freely give my consent/assent to participate or permission for juveniles to participate.

Name of authorizing Officer: LILIAN JANE LUKOTE

Date Reviewed & Signed: 16/02/2021 

Name of Researcher: EVANS ONCANDO

Signature: 



REPUBLIC OF KENYA



NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

Ref No. 305752

Date of Issue: 04/February/2021

RESEARCH LICENSE



This is to Certify that Mr. EVANS ONSANDO ONSANDO of Pan Africa Christian University, has been licensed to conduct research in Kiambu on the topic: **INFLUENCE OF THE FAMILY SYSTEM ON MALE JUVENILE DELINQUENCY: A CASE OF KAMITI YOUTH CORRECTION AND TRAINING CENTER KIAMBU, KENYA** for the period ending : 04/February/2022.

License No: NACOSTI/P/21/8932

305752

Applicant Identification Number

Director General
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY &
INNOVATION

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