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## **JUVENILE CRIME MITIGATION MEASURES AND SECURITY MANAGEMENT IN KAMITI MAXIMUM PRISON**

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### **ABSTRACT**

**Statement of the Problem:** There is a rising concern of juvenile crime in Kenya, with significant impacts on security management and societal development.

**Purpose of the Study:** This study examined the effects of juvenile crime mitigation measures on security management in Kamiti, Nairobi County.

**Research Methodology:** The study employed a descriptive survey research design, guided by strain theory and sub-cultural theory. From a target population of 293 children, 169 respondents were selected through simple random sampling. Data collection utilized questionnaires and interview guides, with a preliminary study conducted at Kisumu juvenile detention center. The analysis combined quantitative methods (descriptive and inferential statistics) and qualitative thematic analysis of interview responses.

**Results:** The study revealed significant positive effects of three factors on security management: Psychosocial support ( $\beta = 0.444$ ,  $p = 0.000$ ), Supportive activities ( $\beta = 0.284$ ,  $p = 0.000$ ), Training ( $\beta = 0.162$ ,  $p = 0.001$ ) and Education showed a positive but insignificant influence ( $\beta = 0.040$ ,  $p = 0.465$ ).

**Conclusion:** Remand homes effectively promote a sense of belonging and safety for juveniles through comprehensive programming, including academic, vocational, and life skills training. The combination of sports activities, emotional support, and officer guidance creates a positive environment that fosters hope and rehabilitation.

**Recommendations:** Remand homes should strengthen their psychosocial support systems for juvenile rehabilitation. Facilities should enhance their educational and vocational training programs. The Kenyan government should increase support to remand homes to help achieve these objectives.

**Keywords:** *Juvenile Crime, Mitigation Measures, Security Management, Kamiti, Maximum Prison*

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## INTRODUCTION

The management of a country's security is determined by how citizens follow existing laws and regulations, as well as the punitive measures that the government imposes on those who break the law. Law-abiding citizens help the government carry out its programs and agenda effectively. On the other hand, citizens who violate the law endanger society. Children make up a significant proportion of those who break the law. These children are managed through the juvenile justice system (Oliphant, 2023). Juvenile crime is a major global security concern, with juvenile involvement in criminal activities increasing year after year, particularly in developing countries where laws are frequently inadequate (Crosby, 2017). Over the last decade, there have been discussions about the factors that lead some children to commit crimes (Chege et al., 2019). Scholars have proposed various theories to address this issue. Key stakeholders in juvenile crime data collection include child welfare agencies, juvenile courts, schools, and mental health clinics (Ahmad et al., 2021). Social and economic status, school withdrawal, and family stressors all have an impact on juvenile delinquency, revealing a complex web of influences (Garbarino & Plantz, 2017).

Juvenile crime is rooted in various aspects of social construction, including social behaviour and interpersonal relationships. Several factors influence juveniles' decision to engage in delinquent behaviour. Juvenile crime is primarily linked to economic, political, and societal conditions that vary by country and region. It frequently occurs when families struggle to meet the changing job market demands, rapid societal transformations, and the need for girls' education. Unemployment, school dropout rates, and a lack of parental guidance are also contributing factors (Crosby 2017). Juvenile crime prevention measures are thus critical in security management. In many developing countries, anti-crime programs are underfunded or non-existent (Siddharth & Dekal, 2020). While developed countries have devised strategies to combat juvenile delinquency, these initiatives frequently fall short of addressing the current situation. Currently, the main challenges in juvenile delinquency programs revolve around the lack of effective measures and robust social work aimed at both potential offenders and victims (Kaznazcheev, 2021).

Wa Teresia (2021) emphasizes that juvenile crime has received significant attention in sociological research due to its negative effects on both children and society as a whole. Okello (2019) observes that juvenile crime and recidivism are increasing in Kenya. A significant proportion of adult

offenders began their criminal activities as juveniles, emphasizing the importance of addressing this problem. The alarming rate at which juveniles reoffend in Kenya emphasizes the importance of understanding the underlying causes. The government has established rehabilitation institutions to help child offenders and prevent recidivism. However, despite the obvious increase in juvenile crime and recidivism, there has been little research on this phenomenon in Kenyan correctional institutions. Mwanza (2020) notes that overcrowding in confinement facilities such as juvenile remand homes and rehabilitation institutions indicates a high number of delinquent cases. Based on the information provided, it is clear that youth crime is a significant problem in Kenya. The rising trend of juvenile delinquency in the country supports the impact of a number of factors, which can act independently or in tandem to fuel this phenomenon. The study sought to answer the following question: What are the strategies for reducing juvenile crime and improving security management at the Nairobi Children's Remand Home, Kenya?

### **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

Juvenile crime remains a major challenge in Kenyan security management. Ideally, children should be involved in education and other productive activities that will prepare them to be responsible adults in the future. As part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the country expects these children to become leaders and contribute to the nation's developing economy. Children should therefore not engage in criminal behaviour. This is not the case in Kenya. Juvenile crime is becoming increasingly prevalent in the country. According to a National Crime Research Centre report, youth and juveniles committed 57% of all crimes reported in 2019. The public has also expressed concern about the widespread criminal activity of juveniles in the country. According to Chege et al. (2019), Mathare Sub-County in Nairobi County is one of Kenya's most dangerous areas, with a wide range of criminal activities. Young people's illicit behaviour has social, economic, and developmental consequences. If this pattern continues, the government's Vision 2030 and the achievement of the SDGs will remain a pipe dream for the country.

### **OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY**

The general objective of this study was to examine the effects of juvenile crime mitigation measures on security management in Kamiti Maximum Prison, Kenya.

## **Specific Objectives**

The specific objectives were to;

- i. Evaluate the effect of psychosocial support on security management in Kamiti Maximum Prison, Kenya
- ii. Assess the effect of education on security management in Kamiti Maximum Prison, Kenya
- iii. Analyse the effect of training on security management in Kamiti Maximum Prison, Kenya
- iv. Investigate the effect of supportive activities on security management in Kamiti Maximum Prison, Kenya

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **THEORETICAL LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **The Strain Theory**

According to Robert Merton's strain theory, which was put forth in 1939, material strains brought on by the discrepancy between expected and actual resources are what lead to crime. Social pressures push people to pursue impossible objectives, which causes them to engage in abnormal behaviours that are detrimental to both society and themselves. Fundamentally, strain theory states that people who are under stress may respond by engaging in delinquent behaviour. Although it is more recent, Agnew's general strain theory has a lot of empirical backing. The removal of goals that are highly valued is highlighted by traditional strain theory, which also emphasises the impact of not having access to basic necessities, family support, employment opportunities, and opportunities for personal growth (Oliphant, 2023). Increased criminal activity is correlated with the documented lack of opportunities. Due to unequal socioeconomic opportunities and distribution of educational resources, juvenile offenders frequently defy social norms and struggle to live up to the high expectations placed on them. As a result of the overwhelming demands of society, they might turn to deviant means in order to succeed. However, because strain theory focusses primarily on individual responses, it ignores gender inequality and white-collar crime. Notwithstanding these drawbacks, strain theory is essential for comprehending the elements that drive juvenile criminality, especially with regard to psychosocial support and how it affects security management in Nairobi County's Kamiti.

## **The Sub Cultural Theory**

The sub cultural theory was propounded by theorists including Anderson, Cloward, Miller, Ohlin and Cohen, who asserted that young individuals commit crimes as a way of conforming to societal values and norms. Specifically, it focuses on those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds who aspire to attain the same goods and services as their more privileged peers. However, these aspirations often clash with the realities they face: educational failures and limited job opportunities (Kaufman, 2019). This frustration can lead them to turn to criminal activities as an alternative means to achieve their desires, as their chances for legitimate success are constrained by their low economic status. The theory explains the responsibility of providing educational support and training in reducing juvenile crime. It highlights the immense pressure they feel to be considered successful in the eyes of society. In their quest to conform to these expectations, they may resort to criminal activities, which are generally deemed unacceptable by society. The theory provides a framework for understanding the link between education and training and criminal behavior among juveniles. It sheds light on how the environment and social conditions can drive young individuals towards delinquency as they seek to bridge the gap between their limited chances and their aspirations for achieving them through legal means.

## **EMPIRICAL LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Psychosocial Support and Security Management**

There are more juvenile crime cases than ever before (Oliphant, 2023). Children are engaging in all sorts of crime in the society. The juvenile delinquents' number in correctional facilities is evidence to juvenile delinquency (Kaznazcheev, 2021). Some of the reasons for the juvenile delinquency are absentee parents and poor parenting skills. Families perform a crucial function in the lives of children. They spend a lot of time together. Thus, they should be at the forefront of guiding children of good actions to prevent delinquency. In a study by Eroğlu and Demiröz (2020) in Turkey, the provision of psychosocial support with a foundation in social work values was explored through interviews with 16 children who had benefitted from such care. The study found that the children desired their voices to be heard and considered in decision-making processes. They expressed a need for their own agency and involvement in shaping the support they received. Further, the study highlighted the pivotal role of psychosocial support in their social lives,

emphasizing its controlling function in helping them navigate challenging situations. While many children offered positive evaluations of the usefulness of psychosocial support services, they also raised critical points. Some children voiced concerns and criticisms about the services they received. This underlines the importance of continuously improving and tailoring these support services to the unique needs and expectations of the children they are designed to assist. The study emphasizes the significance of an inclusive, child-centric method to psychosocial support within child protection policies.

In South Africa, Kandala (2018) highlights that juvenile crime is a major social issue in the country. Repeat offences by the juveniles is also on the rise. The study identified family background, community conditions and lack of support as contributing to juvenile delinquency. The study proposes social economic empowerment of the youth for example in job creation, education provision and skills sharing as part of the ways to prevent juvenile crime. Juvenile delinquency is becoming a more urgent issue for sociologists globally because it could signal a rise in crime among our growing population. A minor, usually younger than 17 years old, is not subject to regular criminal prosecution. The rise in juvenile delinquency cases underscores the need for timely intervention, as the situation may escalate if left unaddressed. It can be viewed as a manifestation of social maladjustment in individuals dealing with challenging circumstances.

Wa Teresia (2021) conducted a descriptive research study on Juvenile Delinquency and Crime in Nairobi. The study involved a sample of 200 participants aged 18-45 years, selected through a straightforward simple random sampling process. The study employed a questionnaire distributed among the participants, with some participants receiving and responding to digital questionnaires via the platform of Survey Monkey, which allowed them to answer and access the questions by use of smartphones. The data collected was subsequently subjected to analysis using descriptive statistical methods and the results were showed in a tabular format. Findings showed that juvenile delinquency was high in Nairobi. The death penalty was once a possible punishment for certain crimes, but it is currently illegal in Kenya. The government instead places a strong emphasis on rehabilitating young offenders.

## **Educational Support and Security Management**

In Malaysia, Ahmad et al. (2021) explain that education plays an important role in juvenile crime mitigation measures towards security management. They note that students who get punished due to various offences are more susceptible to anti-social behaviour. Thus, prevention of juvenile crime is more important than punishing the offenders. There is need for adequacy in the legal and regulatory framework to deal with juvenile delinquency. Secondly, viable crime prevention measures should be encouraged, instead of punishing offences or crime. This will better enhance security and prevent anti-social behaviour by children. In the same breadth, Shong, et al. (2019) observed that there exists an association between poverty and juvenile crime. The authors advocated for the close investigation of the social cultural and economic backgrounds of juvenile offenders. The study noted that extreme deprivation contributes to juvenile delinquency.

Crawford et al. (2018) investigated the intricate interactions involving young individuals who transitioned out of foster care without achieving legal permanency. The objective of the research was to pinpoint the potential factors, both risky and protective, linked to this susceptible group. The study uncovered important information about the reasons why these young people get involved in criminal activities. Several common correlates of criminal activity, including gender, a history of previous delinquency, mental health issues, and placement instability during their foster care period, were found to significantly heighten the odds of these individuals being adjudicated for felonies or engaging in criminal activities. Importantly, the research also highlighted a potential protective factor access to education and training vouchers. Youth who could avail themselves of these resources had lower odds of experiencing felony adjudications. This suggests that targeted support in the form of education and vocational training can be a crucial mitigating factor, helping to reduce the likelihood of young adults aging out of promote care without legal permanency becoming involved in serious criminal activities. These findings emphasize the importance of comprehensive support systems for such vulnerable individuals, which can have a significant effect on their trajectories.

Mwihomeke and Jally (2022) evaluated how well rehabilitation programs worked to reduce juvenile delinquency in Kakamega's prisons. The social learning theory principle, which highlights how a person's behaviour is influenced by their social surroundings, governed the study. 335

respondents' quantitative data was descriptively analysed and displayed using tables and figures. Purposive sampling was one of several sampling strategies used in the study. According to the study, the juvenile offenders' rehabilitation process included formal education programs, counselling, and vocational training. Nevertheless, it was noted that the rehabilitation initiatives did not produce the desired results. The effectiveness of these rehabilitation programs was hampered by a number of factors, such as the physical and human environment of the institutions and the lack of aftercare provisions. In summary, the study's findings showed that rather than bringing about constructive changes, the current rehabilitation programs had the opposite effect on young offenders.

### **Training Security Management**

Juvenile crime and the issue of juvenile recidivism pose significant challenges for societies worldwide. The fact that many adult offenders can trace their criminal behaviours back to their juvenile years highlights the critical need to address this problem early on. Understanding the root causes of juvenile crime and recidivism is essential for implementing effective prevention and intervention strategies (Roth & Pierce, 2019). Kaznazcheev (2021) examined the effect of physical training on juvenile offenders and how involving in physical activities, including structured exercises, could influence their behavior and contribute to their rehabilitation. The research underscored the significance of proper physical education for minors as a potent tool in curbing and preventing criminal behavior. Encouraging adolescents to participate in active sports is seen as a pressing need, as it plays a pivotal role in instilling values related to physical fitness and reshaping the approach to promoting physical education and sports. This, in turn, is aimed at reducing juvenile delinquency. The study highlights the potential of physical training not only in improving the physical well-being of juvenile convicts but also in fostering positive behavioral changes.

Okello (2019) performed research to explore the impact of socio-demographic elements on recidivism among juveniles in rehabilitation institutions situated in Kiambu and Kirinyaga. The author's primary goal was to determine the impact of correctional facility environment on juvenile recidivism. The study utilized a descriptive survey research design, inspired by Robert Merton's strain theory. The study involved 60 correctional staff members and 333 juvenile recidivists as the target population. Data collection methods included focus group discussions, document analysis,

questionnaires and in-depth interviews and the subsequent analysis adopted descriptive statistics. To ensure the research instruments' content validity and reliability, using the test-retest method with a reliability index of 0.8, a pilot study was conducted while experts contributed to evaluating the validity of the content of the instruments.

### **Supportive Activities and Security Management**

In India, Siddharth and Dekal (2020) assert that juvenile crime is a serious crime that has far reaching consequences to the children and the society at large. Juvenile crime is on the rise globally, with more and more youths being actively involved in criminal activities. There is therefore, urgent need to combat juvenile crime, to enhance security. The Indian legal system has created laws to mitigate these rising cases of juvenile crime. Observation homes and shelter homes have been started to mitigate juvenile crime. The authors explain that, it is better to prevent juvenile crime than to deal with its consequences. Thus, all efforts should be made to avert juvenile crime in our society.

Juvenile delinquency is recognized as a prevailing threat to both property and life in contemporary society. Given the nature of offenses committed by young individuals, concerns about the future of teenagers in Nigeria have grown among parents, administrators, sponsors, and supporters. Peter and Asian (2022) examined the influence of juvenile delinquency based on the family structure in Rivers State. The research aimed to elucidate how two-parent families and single-parent families influence juvenile delinquency, as well as exploring potential societal approaches to mitigating the challenges associated with this issue in Rivers State. To address these objectives, the authors employed the Broken Home Theory, initially developed by Wilkinson Kelly in 1969. Secondary data served as the primary source of information, with content analysis utilized for the subsequent analysis. The research revealed a significant link between juvenile delinquency and family structure, with findings indicating that children from broken homes or single -parent were more likely to involve in criminal practices than those from conflict-free households in Rivers State.

Mwanza (2020) explored how family factors influence the emergence of juvenile delinquency. The research utilized a qualitative case study methodology that was backed by a purposive sampling method. The sample size encompassed 60 respondents, consisting of 2 administrators, 30 parents, 24 pupils and 4 teachers. Thematic analysis was utilized and the information was

subsequently displayed through direct quotations. The research findings provided insight into the connection between youth crime and familial influences. It was clear that family conflict and family attachment played important roles as risk factors for delinquent behavior. Moreover, the study emphasized the idea that not all children traverse the same route to delinquency. Various combinations of life experiences can lead to diverse manifestations of delinquent behavior (Okello, 2019). The study called for interventions involving various social institutions, including government child welfare departments and religious organizations.

## **METHODOLOGY**

Research design is a systematic approach employed by scientists for conducting investigations (Abutabenjeh & Jaradat, 2018). This study utilized a descriptive survey design, focusing on observing study variables in their natural state without modifications. Population refers to the total count of individuals with comparable traits in a particular area (Adam, 2020). This study centered around the youth at the Youth Correctional Training Centre (YCTC) and Kamae Girls Bostal institution. To determine the sample size ( $n$ ) when the population size ( $N$ ) is known, the Yamane (1967) formula was used. This yielded a sample of 169. The study employed simple random sampling to select children from each institution in proportion to their respective populations. Structured questionnaires were provided to the selected children for the research. An interview guide as used to collect data from the Kenya Prisons Officers. The first step involved setting up interviews with the Kenya Prisons Officers at least 14 days before the scheduled interview. The participants were informed about the goals of the study. The plan was for every interview to take around 45 minutes and aim to collect thorough information from the participants, as stated by Oben in 2021. The interviews were taped and recorded to be reviewed and analyzed at a later time (Al-Yateem, 2012). Data was cleaned, encoded and structured to identify irregularities and assign numerical values for further analysis using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences. Quantitative data analysis included frequency, mean and percentages calculations and inferential and descriptive statistics. A multiple regression model was adopted. Qualitative data was thematically analysed.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

The qualitative findings from the prison officers' interviews revealed comprehensive insights into the rehabilitation programs at the remand home. Officers consistently emphasized the importance of psychosocial support, with multiple officers noting that counseling sessions provided juveniles a safe space to process trauma and emotions. This emotional support, combined with educational programs and recreational activities, helped juveniles develop social skills and a sense of normalcy. The officers stressed that when juveniles felt heard and supported, they were less likely to engage in disruptive behavior, which significantly improved facility security and created a more stable environment.

The officers also highlighted the effectiveness of their diverse activity programs and training initiatives. They described offering basic literacy and numeracy classes alongside vocational training in skills like carpentry, tailoring, and computer basics. Sports and recreational programs were cited as particularly valuable for channeling juveniles' energy constructively while teaching teamwork and discipline. Officers noted that these structured activities, combined with life skills training and mentorship programs, helped juveniles understand the consequences of their actions and develop positive behaviors. Importantly, they observed that when juveniles were engaged in meaningful activities promoting personal growth, there were fewer incidents of violence or unrest, which directly enhanced security management within the facility.

### **Correlation Analysis**

Correlation is a statistical method that examines the strength and direction of the relationship between two variables. The correlation coefficient can vary from +1 to -1 depending on the degree of the relationship. Pearson correlation analysis was conducted and findings were displayed in Table 1.

**Table 1: Correlation analysis**

Variables		Security management
Security management	Pearson Correlation	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	
Psychosocial support	Pearson Correlation	.745**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.000
Educational support	Pearson Correlation	.539**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.000
Training	Pearson Correlation	.595**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.000
Supportive activities	Pearson Correlation	.676**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.000

The results of this research show a connection between psychosocial assistance, schooling, instruction, and supportive programs for juvenile delinquency and security measures at Nairobi Children's Remand Home. The significance of these relationships is determined by p-values. As a result, a p-value less than 0.05 is considered significant, while values greater than 0.05 are deemed insignificant. The study found a significant positive relationship ( $r=0.745$ ,  $p=0.000$ ) between psychosocial support and youth crime in the context of security management. The findings indicate a moderate positive correlation between education and juvenile crime in relation to security management ( $r=0.539$ ,  $p=0.000$ ). The findings revealed a moderately positive relationship between education and youth criminal activity in relation to security supervision ( $r=0.595$ ,  $p=0.000$ ). The findings revealed a significant positive relationship ( $r=0.676$ ,  $p=0.000$ ) between activities that provide support and juvenile criminal behaviour in relation to security administration.

### **Linear Regression Model**

The study employed multiple regression analysis to examine how psychosocial support, educational support, training, and supportive activities influenced security management at Kamiti Maximum Prison.

**Table 2: Regression Analysis**

<b>Model Summary</b>					
<b>R</b>	<b>R Square</b>	<b>Adjusted R Square</b>	<b>Std. Error of the Estimate</b>	<b>Durbin-Watson</b>	
.817a	0.668	0.66	0.14649	1.754	
<b>ANOVA</b>					
	<b>Sum of Squares</b>	<b>df</b>	<b>Mean Square</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Sig.</b>
Regression	6.741	4	1.685	78.53	
Residual	3.347	156	0.021	6	.000b
Total	10.088	160			
<b>Coefficients</b>					
	<b>Unstandardized Coefficients</b>	<b>Std. Error</b>	<b>Standardized Coefficients</b>	<b>t</b>	<b>Sig.</b>
(Constant)	0.234	0.234		1.001	0.319
psychosocial support	0.444	0.068	0.45	6.561	0.000
educational support	0.04	0.054	0.045	0.733	0.465
training	0.162	0.049	0.191	3.322	0.001
supportive activities	0.284	0.061	0.288	4.673	0.000

The regression model explained 66.8% of the variance in security management ( $R^2 = 0.668$ ), with a strong correlation coefficient of 0.817 indicating robust relationships between variables. The model's validity was confirmed by ANOVA results showing statistical significance ( $p = 0.000$ ) and an F-value (78.536) exceeding the critical value (2.436). The regression coefficients revealed that psychosocial support had the strongest positive influence on security management ( $\beta = 0.444$ ,  $p = 0.000$ ), followed by supportive activities ( $\beta = 0.284$ ,  $p = 0.000$ ). These findings demonstrate that both psychosocial interventions and structured supportive activities significantly enhance security management within the facility. The substantial impact of psychosocial support aligns with previous research by Eroğlu and Demiröz (2020), who found that comprehensive psychosocial services help juveniles navigate challenging situations and contribute to a more stable institutional environment. Similarly, the positive effect of supportive activities corroborates Martin and Davis's (2022) findings on the crucial role of structured support systems in juvenile rehabilitation.

## CONCLUSIONS

Remand homes foster a sense of belonging in juveniles, enhancing their overall safety and hope. The homes foster a connection with society and demonstrate community efficacy through their activities. Remand homes offer juveniles theoretical skills, academic programs, and adequate teaching support. They also make sure that the academic curriculum is followed. Remand homes provide a variety of vocational and life skills training opportunities, including differentiated job prospects and practical knowledge. Moral teachings are also part of the training program. Juveniles participate in sports and games, receive emotional support from remand home officers, and attend guidance and counselling sessions. The homes organise religious groups and involve the youth in community volunteering activities.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The study recommends that remand homes prioritize psychosocial support and integrate educational programs with additional supportive measures. The government, through the state department of correctional services, should expand training programs, provide necessary resources, and invest in staff development opportunities. Furthermore, remand homes should strengthen community connections and regularly update their rehabilitation programs. Future research should examine these interventions across multiple facilities and explore additional factors beyond the current model's 66.8% explanation of security management variations. More extensive qualitative research could also provide deeper insights into youth experiences within these facilities.

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