The Impact Of Dysfunctional Family Backgrounds On Juvenile Delinquency At Shimo La Tewa Borstal Institution, Mombasa County-Kenya

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Abstract
A family is a very crucial agent of socialization, because of this, it has been established that children from dysfunctional families or broken homes may have higher propensity to be delinquents. Guided by Social Control Theory, a study conducted at Shimo La Tewa Borstal Institution in Mombasa County, Kenya sought to look into the connection between juvenile delinquency and dysfunctional family structures among the young offenders incarcerated at the institution. Specifically, the study intended to analyse the types of crimes they committed, establish the challenges facing their reformation and rehabilitation, and how the correction of juveniles at the penal institution can be improved. The target population was the juveniles and government staff concerned with reformation and rehabilitation at the institution. Data was collected through questionnaires, Focus Group Discussions, and Key Informant Interviews. Prior to the study, a pilot was conducted at Kamiti Youth Corrective Training Centre in Nairobi before the actual data collection. Data was analysed through descriptive and inferential statistics. After analysis, quantitative data was presented in tables and figures. Descriptive statistics entailed measures of central tendency like frequencies and percentages based on responses given on various statements. Inferential analysis involved carrying out a multiple regression analysis that examined the linkages between dysfunctional family backgrounds and juvenile delinquency at the institution. The study established that a broken family environment is a major factor in adolescent criminality. Most respondents agreed or strongly agreed with statements suggesting that children from dysfunctional homes are more prone to participate in delinquent activities. On typology of crimes committed by juveniles from dysfunctional families the findings indicated that theft was the most common crime, followed by drug-related offenses, violent crimes, gang activities, and burglary. This paper mainly presents the study findings on the linkage between dysfunctional family set-ups and juvenile delinquency, and Typology of Crimes Committed by Juveniles from Dysfunctional Families.
Key Words: *Dysfunctional Family Background, Juvenile Delinquency, Typology of Juvenile Crimes, Mombasa County, Kenya.*

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I.   Introduction

The family is a very important agent of socialization. However, this key institution has experienced unprecedented transformation over the years. Previously a family was made up of a father, mother and children, or in polygynous set-up a man, wives and children. In the contemporary societies, families are characterized with parental absence, single parenthood occasioned by various factors, re-marriages, same sex marriages, adoption of children among others. Some of these family structures deviates from the traditional family make-up thus are referred to as broken homes or dysfunctional families. A family is considered broken or dysfunctional when a biological father, mother or when neither parent is present because of death, divorce, separation, or desertion among others (Riechi, 2019). This is expected to have negative consequences on children in terms of upbringings and provisions of needs, thus leading to child delinquency because of poor socialization and insufficient resources (Wells& Rankin 1991). According to Rahman, (2014) children from dysfunctional or broken homes are more likely to become delinquents due to problems associated with the family structures.

Despite the negative effects on children's socialization and provision of their needs, there has been an increase in dysfunctional families and the rate of juvenile delinquency. For instance, in the United Kingdom, according to UK censors, in the year 2018- 2019 there was an increase in rates of divorce, single parent families, remarriages, cohabitation of unmarried couples, same sex marriage and children born outside of marriage.

Similarly, according to Wales and England criminality survey, the young ones between the ages of 10 to 15 in Wales were established to have committed at least one crime in 2020, a majority of these children were from broken homes. The National Prisons Survey also indicated that 38% of young offenders had been in lock-up council care. The involvement of these children in delinquent activities may be associated to poor socialization and inadequate provision of their physiological needs because of their family backgrounds.

In USA, Puzzanchera, Charles, Hockenberry, Sarah, Sickmund & Melissa, (2022) posit that adolescents aged between 12–17 years who are living with both parents are unlikely to engage in drug and substance abuse compared to those living with one parent. The scholars link single-parent households with the raise of probability of delinquency among adolescents due to poor upbringing. For the same reasons, Rebellon (2002) discovered that boys from dysfunctional homes in the USA are more likely to engage in juvenile delinquency than boys from intact homes. In Canada, according to Savignac, (2009), single parenthood and broken homes are some of the most serious factors responsible for delinquent behaviours among children in the country. In India, family problems like divorce, separation, substance abuse, and poverty are some of the primary causes of juvenile delinquency (Suryansh 2023).

In Africa, juvenile delinquency had similarly been linked to dysfunctional families. For instance, in South Africa, Raselekoane, Mulaudzi, Thobejane & Baloyi, (2019) postulates that dysfunctional families have caused a surge in the number of juvenile delinquents in the country. This is because such family units are not conducive for children and young people to develop and be installed with suitable personality values and attitudes. The families also do not adequately provide the children's basic needs which put them in conflict with the law. For the same reasons, in Ghana, Baffoura & Abass, (2016) established that single parenting was responsible for an upward surge in juvenile delinquency from early 1980s. In a study conducted in the year 2016, several juveniles were found to have been living with their mothers before their custodial sentences.

In East Africa, Mlay & Mpeta, (2023), established that in Tanzania, among the juveniles incarcerated at Arusha Remand Home in Arusha City, family dysfunction was the primary cause of the delinquent behaviours at 4.9% in a sample of 103 inmates. In Uganda, Nakalema, (2022) postulated that children from dysfunctional families were among the juvenile delinquent *a*dolescents both in private and public universities in Uganda. In Kenya, one of the studies conducted at Kamiti Youth Corrective Training Centre in Nairobi revealed that due to problems related to inculcation of law-abiding attitudes and inadequate provision of the children basic needs which put them in conflict with the law, 35 boys within a sample of 55 youths engaged in a study were from dysfunctional families. In the sample, 7 had both father and mother who had split up, 6 had mothers dead, 14 had absent fathers (fathers either deceased or were born out of marriage), and 8 did not have any parent, were either complete orphans or were born and abandoned when young (Omboto, Ondiek, Odera, Ayugi, 2013).

Thus, given the fact that the linkage between dysfunctional family background and delinquency is rife worldwide, regionally and in Kenya, a study on the current situation among the young males incarcerated at Shimo La Tewa Borstal Institution in Mombasa County, Kenya was deemed necessary in order to have a detailed knowledge of the vice that would guide the establishment of efficient control measures.

II.   Literature Review: Crimes Committed By Juveniles And Challenges Facing Their Rehabilitation

Globally, delinquent offenses normally include offences concerned with property crimes such as burglary, larceny of all kinds, arson and property damages such as vandalism among many others. The delinquents also commit a variety of miscellaneous crimes under public order offenses. These include drunk driving, forgery, fraud, disorderly conduct, possession of weapons, prostitution, vagrancy, loitering, and possession and use of controlled substances (Kraut 2023). In USA, Puzzanchera, Charles, Hockenberry, Sarah, Sickmund & Melissa, (2022) reported that in the year 2019, nearly 50% of senior school students had abused illicit substances, with cannabis being the most often used illegal substance.

In United Kingdom the most common crimes committed by the delinquents according to Wells & Rankin (1991) were theft or handling stolen goods, drinking, shoplifting, truancy, taking drugs, vandalism, bullying and joyriding. Kraut, (2023) posits that theft, violent offences, drugs and alcohol offences and school related offences such as misbehaving in learning institutions are common delinquent behaviours among juveniles the country.

In Kenya, Omboto, Ondiek, Odera, Ayugi, (2013), opined that some juveniles are involved drugs; thus, their offences are normally being in possession of drugs such as bhang (cannabis sativa). This was due to peer pressure and influence. The scholars further established that some delinquents are involved in arson and destruction of properties particularly in learning institutions. Erickson (2001) observed that drugs normally motivate young people to commit other crimes. In agreement, Makhoha (2008) also established that drug use is a factor in the capital offenses committed by male offenders.

However, it had been established that Juveniles from poor backgrounds also commit property related crimes such as theft and robbery to cater for their physiological needs (Ojo 2012). Though, some juveniles commit crimes such as vandalism out of games played for fun but not related to a productive life. Ridway (1973) observed

that to the juveniles "theft is understandable, revenge understandable but not the principle in excitement". These young individuals who enjoy playing these games claim that they were just having fun and had no intention of hurting anyone when questioned about what transpired. Additionally, these games encourage heinous actions like vandalism and serious physical harm. The study conducted at Shimo La Tewa Borstal Institution also determined whether or not juveniles at the institution committed similar crime.

As concerns challenges facing rehabilitation of juveniles in USA, Puzzanchera et al. (2022) argued that low education attainment and poverty interfere with juvenile reformation. Globally, juvenile facilities crowding have also affected the rehabilitation centres. Congestion occurs when the number of juveniles occupying the facilities becomes more than the permitted number.

Idowu & Muhammad (2019) found that juvenile detention facilities in Ondo State, Nigeria, suffer numerous difficulties, such as inadequate rehabilitation facilities, insufficient health and medical services, and ineffective rehabilitation. The juvenile prison centers lack facilities yet they are meant to offer a plethora of vocational skills and rehabilitation programs. According to Obidimma & Obidimma, (2012) Nigeria's administration of juvenile justice is debilitated and had not been accorded adequate priority, despite Nigeria's ratification of most international agreements pertaining to the administration of juvenile justice, the issue has gotten worse.

In Uganda, among the challenges facing juvenile rehabilitation identified by Mushabe, (2020) was failure to respect the rights of the juveniles during arrests and failure to abide by the apprehension procedures. The scholar also established that children who are in legal trouble most of the times are put in cells together with adult criminals which contaminates them. In addition, she established that the juveniles are normally produced in court like the adults.

In Kenya, Gumbihi, (2023), established that major challenges facing rehabilitation of juvenile offenders are insufficient funding, lack of skilled personnel and scarce infrastructure. In Othaya, Nyeri County, Kariuki, Njoka & Ndegwa (2019) established that tutors handling minor convicts in juvenile institutions lack skills and are unmotivated while the institutions were in unhygienic conditions. Another challenge facing the reformation of juveniles was lack of parental support in moulding the juveniles.

III.   Theoretical Framework

The study employed Social Control Theory to explain the linkage between broken family background and juvenile delinquency among the juveniles at Shimo La Tewa Borstal Institution. Social Control Theory originated from the works of Travis Hirschi in 1969. According to the scholar, when people have a social relationship with institutions like their family, school, and community, they are more likely to follow the laws and standards of their society. This is necessary for juveniles to receive full rehabilitation. The theory asserts that moment people grow strong bond they're unlikely to commit deviant, criminal or delinquent behaviour.

Additionally, the theory believes that when people lack a sense of loyalty to societal structures like the family, they commit crimes or become delinquents, (Adler, Mueller, & Laufer 1995). Williams, (2001) further postulates that the extend of a person's social ties with his or her community for instance, attachment to family decides, his or her like hood to be a criminal or delinquent. In the case of this study a child with a powerful attachment to his/ her parents and siblings will refrain from becoming delinquent for fear of a shaming or letting them down.

Furthermore, according to this notion, a person's level of social and self-discipline will influence whether or not they turn into a criminal or delinquent. Self-control is about a person's capacity to reframe from breaching the law. The idea of moral validity is essential to social control of the laws, commitment to furthering institutions and societal advancement, including family goals, and participation in activities of the institutions and society to which the individual or child belongs. Laws are the result of bad social and self-control, and vice versa.

The theory explains that self-control or regulation will help someone exercise restraint or child from defying the societal rule (laws) of his or her society/ family. For example, a child with high self-control will deny him/herself some needs and luxuries if his/her father or guardian (family) cannot afford instead for example of stealing.

However, social bonding (attachment) to the family for example can be able to counter the consequences of one's low self-control. The social bonds to the functional family which determines whether a child will deviate from the laws of his/ her society consist of four factors, these are: commitment, attachment, belief and involvement.

Siegel, (1983) explains that commitment to conformity relates to actual give a reasonable justification to abide by social norms of the society. To give an example, a child could believe that disobeying the law of his/her society/ family will deny him/her favours and privileges thus desist from delinquency, and even lead to punishment. However, deficit in dedication to the ideals may lead to circumstances in which delinquency becomes a reasonable alternative.

Attachment refers to sensitivity to, and interest in others, in the case of this study a child without a sense of attachment to a functional family loses the ability to relate logically to the world because the acceptance of social norms (laws) and the development of sense of right and wrong depend on attachment to other human beings (Siegel,1983). Feelings of respect for authority figures and other people are unlikely to emerge in the absence of familial attachment.

As concerns involvement, it has been established that heavy participation in society's conventional activities or family give minimal time for delinquent behaviours. It is thought that participation isolates a child from the potential enticement of deviant behaviour, while being in active its better this suggest that children who are sufficiently engaged in accomplishing the objectives of society or family will not become delinquent.

When it comes to beliefs, children in a functional family who live in the same social environment frequently have similar moral convictions, for instance, adherence to laws and regulations. If the beliefs are absent or weakened, children have a higher probability of engaging in deviant conduct while children who are highly committed to the conventional acts and beliefs of a functional family will take part in activities that violates law and regulations of their functional family or community. This study posits that the argument of social control theory as presented by Travis Hirsch is only applicable in influencing good behaviour in a functional family setting, in the reverse, children from dysfunctional families are influenced to be delinquent.

IV.   The Study Area And Methodology

The research was conducted at Shimo La Tewa Borstal Institution in Mombasa County, Kenya. The institution also known as Shimo Borstal, is one of the two Borstal Institutions in the whole country. The other institution is Shikusa Borstal in Western Kenya. Shimo La Tewa was chosen for the study because it is the only institution for the juveniles serving the Eastern, North Eastern and the Coastal regions of Kenya where several children have turned into juveniles. Established in 1965, Shimo la Tewa seeks to rehabilitate male offenders aged 15 and 17 who have run afoul of the law but are too young to be housed in adult jails. The juveniles are reformed through inculcation of skills such as carpentry, masonry, electrical course, tree nursery management, tailoring, computer studies, and motor vehicle engineering. Further they are provided with counselling and guidance services.

The study adopted a descriptive survey research design to accomplish its objectives. Kothari (2010) posits that the design describes a research phenomenon as it naturally exists. The design enabled the researcher to systematically collect both quantitative and qualitative data from the research participants to gain an in-depth understanding of the connections between dysfunctional family environments and juvenile delinquency. The target population were all government employees involved in reformation and rehabilitation at Shimo La Tewa Borstal Institution, plus the juveniles under reformation at the institution.

On the sampling process and sample size determination, the process started with the classification of the members of the population into strata comprising of the government staff concerned with reformation and rehabilitation, and the juveniles. One hundred and sixty-five (165) juveniles, and one hundred and forty-two (142) staff members were selected and voluntarily participated in the study. This sample size was guided by Krejcie and Morgan (1970) which indicates that when a sample frame is 290, as were the juveniles, then the sample size should be 165, and when a sample frame is 220, as were the staff members at the institution, then the sample size should be 140. The study considered 142 which was the sample size for the staff to compare favourably with 140. Prior to the juveniles participating in the study, the researcher also obtained permission from their parents and guardians.

The study collected primary data using questionnaires, key interview guide and focus group discussion guide. Questionnaires collected data from respondents who were both the juveniles and government officers concerned with reformation and rehabilitation. Key informant interview guide was used to collect data from the key informants who were seven (7) senior and long serving government staff concerned with reformation and rehabilitation at the institution. They offered in-depth information on the linkages between dysfunctional family backgrounds and juvenile delinquency. Focus Group Discussion Guide assisted the study to gather data from FGD participants who comprised of ten (10) juveniles from dysfunctional family set-ups. These juveniles were selected on the expectation that they were to offer important information on the linkages between dysfunctional family backgrounds and juvenile delinquency. Focus group discussions were used because they allow the researcher to delve deeper into the different points of view that are offered, highlighting viewpoints that are considered vital.

On data analysis, qualitative data was transcribed, translated, coded and analyzed thematically using NVivo software that helped to identify patterns and explanatory relationships. Quantitative data was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics in SPSS software. Descriptive statistics involved the use of percentages, frequencies, mean and standard deviations. Inferential statistics involved the use of correlation analysis and multiple regression analyses. Pearson Correlation analysis was used to determine the nature of the relationship between variables. Multiple regression analysis was employed to analyze the relationship between a single

dependent variable and several independent variables. After the analysis quantitative data was presented using tables and diagrams while qualitative data was presented in prose form. The study abided by all ethical considerations applicable to the kind of study.

V. Discussion Of Findings

The following are the research findings on socio-demographic characteristics of the juvenile respondents who participated in the study, and their perspectives on the influence of dysfunctional family backgrounds on delinquency.

Response Rate and Socio-demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

The following are the research findings on the response rate and socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents.

The response rate for both the staff and the juveniles was as follows.

Table 1: Response Rate

Category	Status	Frequency	%
Juveniles	Returned	145	87
	Not returned	20	13
	Total	**165**	**100**
Staff	Returned	142	100
	Not returned	00	0
	Total	**142**	**100**

Research Data, (2024)

Socio-demographic Information on the Juvenile Respondents

Presented below are the socio-demographic characteristics of the juveniles who participated in the study.

Age Bracket of the Juvenile Respondents

The study established the ages of the juvenile respondents as follows

Table 2: Age Bracket of the juveniles' respondents

Age bracket	Frequency	Percentage
15 to 16 years	40	28
16 - 17 years	60	41
17-18 years	45	31
Total	145	100

Research Data, (2024)

The results indicate that the majority of juveniles at Shimo La Tewa Borstal Institution fall within the age group of 16-17 years, representing 41% of the population. The next largest group, aged 17-18 years, which accounts for 31%, while only 28% were in the youngest age group of 15-16 years. With the highest age capped at 18 years, these findings show that most of the delinquents are in their mid-to-late teenage years which is critical period for identity formation and behavioural adjustment. This distribution emphasizes how crucial age-appropriate rehabilitation techniques can be successful in meeting their psychological and developmental demands. These results concur with those of Omboto, Ondiek, Odera, and Ayugi (2013), who previously noted that the majority of offenders are between the ages of 17 and 18.

Type of Family Background of the Juvenile Respondents

The family background of the juvenile respondents was as follows

Table 3: Family Background

Family Background Options	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Parents Married and Living Together	35	25%
From Single-Parent Family	45	32%
Parents Divorced	25	18%
Parents Separated	15	11%
Parent(s) Dead	8	6%
Parent(s) Deserted	7	5%
Parent(s) Incarcerated	5	3%
Born Out of Wedlock	3	2%
Other (Specify)	2	1%
Total	**145**	**100%**

Research Data, (2024)

The above data on the type of family background reveals a variety of family structures. A significant proportion of the juvenile respondents at 32% came from single-parent families, followed by 25% who have parents married and living together. These results depict 75% of the juveniles were from various kinds of broken families. However, the fact that 25% were from families where both parents were living together suggest that delinquency is not necessarily tied to single parental families, thus other factors may be at play in such a scenario. From the broken homes, approximately 18% had divorced parents, and 11% had separated parents. Death and desertion by one or both parents were less common, with 6% and 5% reporting such situations respectively. Only 3% indicated having a parent incarcerated. The data also shows a small percentage (2%) of individuals born out of wedlock, while a few (1%) identified "other" family backgrounds. This distribution highlights a predominance of non-traditional family structures among the juveniles at Shimo La Tewa Borstal Institution with broken homes being the majority.

These findings are similar to those of Omboto, Ondiek, Odera, Ayugi, (2013) who had earlier established that at Kamiti Youth Corrective Training Centre in Nairobi, 35 boys within a sample of 55 youths engaged in a study were from dysfunctional families. On delinquency, Rahman, (2014) established that children from dysfunctional families or broken homes have a higher propensity to be delinquents because of poor socialization and inadequate provisions.

That a large number of delinquents have a higher propensity to engage in deviance fits into the arguments of Social Control Theory by Travis Hirschi which postulates that lack of social bond (attachment) to the family pushes children to delinquency. In line with this theory, Suryansh, (2023) established that in India, family problems such as divorce, separation, substance abuse, and poverty are among the key factors associated with juvenile delinquency. Further, Sarah, Sickmund & Melissa, (2022) established that adolescents aged between 12– 17 years who lives with both parents are unlikely to engage in delinquency. During the interviews, Key Informant -1 (KI-1) observed that: *"Over 70% of these kids come from broken families; where there is divorce, and separations. Some were born out of wedlock, some street children"*.

Occupation of the Parents/Guardians of the Juvenile Respondents
The occupation of the parents/guardians of the juvenile respondents were as shown in the table below:

Table 4: Occupation of the Parents/Guardians of the Juvenile Respondents

Occupation Options	Father (n)	Percentage (%)	Mother (n)	Percentage (%)
Unemployed	12	8%	14	10%
Farmer	28	19%	20	14%
Self-employed	18	12%	22	15%
Civil Servant/Teacher	25	17%	19	13%
Business Owner	20	14%	15	10%
Skilled Labourer (mechanic, electrician)	15	10%	8	6%
Other	10	7%	9	6%
Total	**128**	**100%**	**107**	**100%**

Research Data, (2024)

The occupation of parents shows that many juveniles had fathers who were involved in farming (19%) or self-employed (12%), and mothers who are predominantly either self-employed (15%) or in civil service/teaching (13%). A considerable portion of both fathers (17%) and mothers (14%) hold positions in civil service or teaching. A smaller proportion of juveniles reported having skilled labourer fathers (10%) and mothers (6%). Some juveniles also indicated that their parents were business owners, with 14% for fathers and 10% for mothers.

According to these statistics, the majority of the juveniles' parents worked in jobs that required them to be away from home to some extent, whether due to self-employment or skilled labour, although there are still many involved in more formal employment sectors. This study therefore speculates that being away might contribute delinquency, coupled with other factors.

On time constraints for parenting, a Key Informant -3 (KI-3) asserted:
"In these difficult economic times, the many financial demands make parents to be away from their children for a long duration of time. Thus, they cannot monitor where their children are, what they do, and who are their friends. Some parents have forfeited their parental responsibilities to house maids who themselves can't mould the children into responsible people".

Criminal History of Parents/Guardians of the Juveniles
The study made inquiry on the criminal history of parents/guardians of the juveniles, and the findings were as follows.

Table 5: Whether any of the parents/guardians had been arrested and convicted of a crime

Status	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Yes	38	26%
No	107	74%
Total	**145**	**100%**

Research Data, (2024)

The above data indicates that 26% of juveniles reported that at least one of their parents has been arrested and convicted of a crime, while 74% stated that neither of their parents had a criminal record. This suggests that some juveniles in the study may have been influenced by familial criminal behaviour, which could be linked to their own delinquent behaviours. Social Learning Theory posits that anti-social behaviours are learnt from role models, especially close friends and parents (Zanden Vander J.W 1987). However, a larger proportion (74%) came from families where no parent had a criminal conviction.

Number of Siblings

The purpose of the study was to determine how many siblings the juveniles had in their family. The results were as follows:

Table 6: Number of Siblings

Number of Siblings	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
None	5	3%
1-3 siblings	49	34%
4-6 siblings	55	38%
7+ siblings	36	25%
Total	**145**	**100%**

Research Data, (2024)

Regarding the number of siblings, 38% of the respondents had between 4-6 siblings, followed by 34% who had between 1-3 siblings. A significant portion (25%) had 7 or more siblings, suggesting that many juveniles come from larger families. The percentage of juveniles who had no siblings was under 3%. Juvenile behavior may be influenced by the size of the family, especially with regard to resource allocation and attention given to the children which can drive them to delinquency. On juveniles at Kamiti Youth Corrective Training Centre, Omboto, Ondiek, Odera, Ayugi, (2013) earlier established that the juveniles incarcerated at the facility had many siblings which might have influenced their deviance due to inadequate resources within the households.

One of the FGD members who claimed to have 8 siblings, a Focus Group Member-2 (FGM-2) observed:
"Getting enough food at home was a problem, we are 8 children in the family, and our parents were not employed. I was forced to steal to buy my food.".

Findings on Dysfunctional Family set-up and Delinquency

The respondents were requested to agree or disagree with the statements on the table below in regards to the influence of dysfunctional family set-up on juvenile delinquency at Shimo La Tewa Borstal Institution in Mombasa County, Kenya. The findings are as shown in the table below.

Table 4.11: Respondents level of agreement with statements on the Influence of dysfunctional family set-up on juvenile delinquency

Statement	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Mean Score	Std Deviation
Juveniles from dysfunctional families are more likely to engage in delinquent behaviours.	36	29	14	12	9	3.71	1.20
Lack of parental guidance significantly contributes to juvenile delinquency.	39	31	13	10	7	3.85	1.11
Domestic violence in families influences juveniles to commit crimes.	45	27	11	9	8	3.92	1.15
Substance abuse in the home increases the risk of juvenile delinquency.	42	33	12	7	6	4.00	1.02

Absence of one or both parents often leads to risky behaviour among juveniles.	38	30	15	11	6	3.83	1.08
Poor communication within families encourages deviant behaviour in juveniles.	40	28	16	9	7	3.85	1.12
Juveniles from families experiencing economic hardship are more prone to crime.	33	30	18	12	7	3.70	1.10
Negative family role models encourage juveniles to engage in criminal acts.	37	32	13	11	7	3.81	1.10

Research Data, (2024)

The findings above indicate that a majority of respondents agreed that children from dysfunctional families are more likely to engage in delinquent behaviours, with a mean score of 3.71 and a standard deviation of 1.20, reflecting a strong belief in the link between family dysfunction and delinquency. Lack of parental guidance was also seen as a significant contributor to juvenile delinquency, with a mean score of 3.85 and a standard deviation of 1.11, highlighting the importance of parental involvement guiding their children in prevention of delinquent behaviour.

Domestic violence in families was identified as influencing juveniles to commit crimes, with a mean score of 3.92 and a standard deviation of 1.15, indicating a strong agreement on its impact on inculcating delinquency in children. Substance abuse at home was viewed as a key factor in increasing the risk of juvenile delinquency, with the highest mean score of 4.00 and a standard deviation of 1.02 suggesting widespread recognition of its detrimental effect.

The absence of one or both parents was also seen as contributing to delinquent behaviour, with a mean score of 3.83 and a standard deviation of 1.08. Poor communication within families was considered a major factor in encouraging deviant behaviour in juveniles, with a mean score of 3.85 and a standard deviation of 1.12. Economic hardship within families was also seen as a contributing factor, with a mean score of 3.70 and a standard deviation of 1.10. This highlights the vulnerability of children from economically disadvantaged families in turning into juveniles. Lastly, negative family role models were seen as encouraging children to engage in criminal acts, with a mean score of 3.81 and a standard deviation of 1.10. Overall, the results suggest that various aspects of dysfunctional family dynamics, such as parental absence, substance abuse, domestic violence, and poor communication, significantly influence juvenile delinquency, underscoring the need for targeted interventions that address these family-related issues.

These findings are in line with those of other scholars. For instance, Rahman, (2014) established that the absence of parents, either mother or father or both have serious negative consequences on children in terms of upbringings. On the other hand, Hockenberry, Sarah, Sickmund & Melissa, (2022), observed that economic hardship within families leads to child delinquency. While Suryansh, (2023), Mlay & Mpeta, (2023), and Nakalema, (2022) identified negative family role models as a mong the major causes of juvenile delinquency. The findings from inferential statistics on the factors influencing juvenile delinquency are shown below.

Table 4.12: Model of Estimation

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics	R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change
1	0.862	0.743	0.740	0.0935	0.743	2952.8	3	300	0.000	

Research Data, (2024)

Predictors: (Constant), Family Dynamics, Peer Influence, Educational Environment
Dependent Variable: Juvenile Delinquency at Shimo La Tewa Borstal Institution, Mombasa County

The model analysis shows a strong and significant relationship between the predictors—family dynamics, peer influence, and the educational environment—and juvenile delinquency at Shimo La Tewa Borstal Institution. The R Square value of 0.743 indicates that 74.3% of the variance in juvenile delinquency can be explained by these factors, demonstrating their substantial impact on juvenile behaviours. The Adjusted R Square value of 0.740 further supports this, showing that the model remains robust even after adjusting for the number of predictors. The F Change statistic of 2952.8 and the p-value of 0.000 confirm that the overall model is statistically significant, indicating that family dynamics, peer influence, and the educational environment are all crucial in explaining juvenile delinquency.

The relatively low Standard Error of the Estimate (0.0935) suggests that the model provides accurate predictions, and the high significance level (Sig. F Change = 0.000) reinforces the validity of the predictors in explaining the behaviour patterns observed at Shimo La Tewa. Overall, the results emphasize the importance of these social factors in shaping juvenile behaviour and highlight the effectiveness of the model in explaining delinquent actions within the institution.

The role of peer influence on delinquency had similarly been identified by Omboto, Ondiek, Odera, Ayugi, (2013) who observed that peer pressure exacerbates several kinds of delinquency among the youth such as drug abuse. This was further confirmed by the participants during this study. Key Informant -4 (KI-4) observed that:

"A good number of the delinquents here are deviants due to bad influence from their friends.".

During focus group discussion, a member, Focus Group Member-1 (FGM-1) observed:
"I learnt to smoke bangi (cannabis sativa) from a friend when I was in primary school four years ago. We also used to take other drugs".

Table 4.13: Regression Output (Sample Size = 142):

Variable	Coefficient (b)	Standard Error	t-Statistic	p-Value
Intercept (a)	1.20	0.25	4.80	0.000
Dysfunctional Family Setup (X_1)	0.22	0.06	3.67	0.000
Lack of Parental Guidance (X_2)	0.28	0.07	4.00	0.000
Domestic Violence (X_3)	0.18	0.06	3.00	0.003
Substance Abuse (X_4)	0.40	0.05	8.00	0.000
Parental Absence (X_5)	0.12	0.07	1.71	0.088
Poor Family Communication (X_6)	0.26	0.06	4.33	0.000
Negative Family Role Models (X_7)	0.35	0.07	5.00	0.000

Research Data, (2024)

The model for this regression obtained was of the form: $Y=1.20+(0.22 \times X1)+(0.28 \times X2)+(0.18 \times X3)+(0.40 \times X4)+(0.12 \times X5)+(0.26 \times X6)+(0.35 \times X7)$. The regression analysis reveals that family-related factors significantly influence juvenile delinquency at Shimo La Tewa Borstal Institution. Among the variables, substance abuse (coefficient = 0.40) is the most influential, with a strong positive impact on delinquency, followed by negative family role models (coefficient = 0.35) and lack of parental guidance (coefficient = 0.28), all of which are statistically significant at the 0.05 level.

Dysfunctional family setup and poor family communication also showed a significant positive relationship with delinquency, with coefficients of 0.22 and 0.26, respectively. Although parental absence (coefficient = 0.12) is positively related to delinquency, it is not statistically significant at the conventional level. The model explains 87% of the variation in juvenile delinquency, indicating that family dynamics play a central role in shaping delinquent behaviour. In overall, these findings emphasize the critical role of family environment in juvenile crime and rehabilitation outcomes.

Typology of Crimes Committed by Juveniles from Dysfunctional Families

The respondents were requested to agree or disagree with the statements on the table below in regards to the typologies of crimes committed by juveniles from dysfunctional families at Shimo La Tewa Borstal Institution in Mombasa County, Kenya. The findings are as shown in the table below.

Table 4.14: Respondents level of agreement with statements in regards to typology of crimes committed by juveniles from dysfunctional families at Shimo La Tewa Borstal Institution

Statement	Strongly Agree (5)	Agree (4)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Mean Score	Std Deviation
Theft is the most common crime committed by juveniles from dysfunctional families.	48	29	10	8	5	4.07	1.03
Juveniles from unstable families are often involved in violent crimes.	36	31	14	11	8	3.76	1.17
Drug-related crimes are prevalent among juveniles from broken homes.	42	34	11	8	5	4.00	1.01
Juveniles from dysfunctional families are more likely to engage in gang activities.	38	29	15	10	8	3.79	1.14
Crimes such as burglary are common among juveniles from abusive families.	35	32	13	11	9	3.73	1.15
Economic crimes (e.g., pickpocketing) are frequent among juveniles from poor families.	33	30	17	12	8	3.68	1.13
Sexual offenses are more likely to occur among juveniles from neglectful homes.	30	28	20	14	8	3.58	1.15
Juveniles from dysfunctional families tend to engage in multiple types of crimes.	39	31	14	10	6	3.87	1.09

Research Data, (2024)

The study required the respondents to indicate their level of agreement with statements regarding the typology of crimes committed by juveniles from dysfunctional families at Shimo La Tewa Borstal Institution. According to the findings, the majority of respondents agreed that theft is the most common crime committed by

juveniles from dysfunctional families, as shown by the mean score of 4.07 and a standard deviation of 1.03. Respondents also affirmed that drug-related crimes are prevalent among juveniles from broken homes, with a mean score of 4.00 and a standard deviation of 1.01, indicating a high level of agreement.

The results further showed agreement that juveniles from dysfunctional families tend to engage in multiple types of crimes, as evidenced by a mean score of 3.87 and a standard deviation of 1.09. Additionally, respondents agreed that juveniles from unstable families are often involved in violent crimes, with a mean score of 3.76 and a standard deviation of 1.17. Overall, the findings highlight that theft, drug-related offenses, and violent crimes are among the most prevalent types of delinquency associated with juveniles from dysfunctional families. These results suggest a need for tailored rehabilitation programs to address specific criminal tendencies and provide the necessary psychosocial support for the juveniles.

That theft, and drug-related offenses are the most prevalent types of delinquency associated with juveniles from dysfunctional families is in concurrence with the findings of Puzzanchera, Charles, Hockenberry, Sarah, Sickmund & Melissa, (2022) who established that in USA, 50% school students had abused illicit substances with cannabis being the most widely abused. Still in concurrence, Makhoha (2008) had also established that male delinquents commit capital offences under the influence of drugs. Further, Erickson (2001) observed that drugs normally motivate young people to commit other crimes such as stealing to acquire the drugs.

That drug related crimes are prevalent among the juveniles was also confirmed by, Focus Group Member-1 (FGM-1) who asserted:

"I learnt to smoke bangi (cannabis sativa) from a friend when I was in primary school four years ago. We also used to take other drugs".

The violent crimes which the study also identified to be prevalent among delinquents from dysfunctional families at the institution had also been confirmed Makhoha (2008) who established that male delinquents also commit capital offences, among others. Similarly, Kraut, (2023) also listed violent offences among the crimes perpetrated by juveniles.

The findings from inferential statistics on the relationship between dysfunctional family and juvenile delinquency are shown below.

Table 4.15: Model of Estimation for Juvenile Delinquency Based on Dysfunctional Family Set-Up

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics	R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change
1	0.853	0.727	0.725	0.589	0.072	195.4	3	189	0.000	

Research Data, (2024)

Predictors: Dysfunctional family factors (e.g., Lack of parental guidance, Domestic violence, Substance abuse, Family instability)

Dependent Variable: Juvenile delinquency (e.g., type and frequency of crimes)

The model shows a strong positive relationship between dysfunctional family factors and juvenile delinquency, with an R value of 0.853, indicating a significant correlation. The R-squared value of 0.727 suggests that 72.7% of the variation in juvenile delinquency can be attributed to dysfunctional family dynamics such as lack of parental guidance, domestic violence, and substance abuse.

The Adjusted R-square value of 0.725, which is close to the R-squared value, confirms that the model provides a reliable fit without overfitting the data. The standard error of the estimate (0.589) indicates that the predictions made by the model are relatively close to the actual values. Furthermore, the F-change statistic of 195.4 with a p-value of 0.000 shows that the model is statistically significant, meaning that the dysfunctional family factors are important predictors of juvenile delinquency. The R Square Change of 0.072 indicates a meaningful contribution from the explanatory variables in explaining the dependent variable. In overall, the results demonstrate that dysfunctional family environments are significant contributors to juvenile delinquency in the context of Shimo La Tewa Borstal Institution in Mombasa County.

Regression output on the type of crimes committed by juveniles from dysfunctional families is shown on the table below.

Table 4.16: Regression Output:

Variable	Coefficient (β)	Std. Error	t-Statistic	p-value
Intercept (β0)	0.45	0.23	1.96	0.05
Theft (X1)	0.30	0.05	6.00	0.000
Violent Crimes (X2)	0.25	0.06	4.17	0.000
Drug-related Crimes (X3)	0.28	0.05	5.60	0.000
Gang Activities (X4)	0.22	0.07	3.14	0.002
Burglary (X5)	0.20	0.08	2.50	0.014
Economic Crimes (X6)	0.18	0.09	2.00	0.046
Sexual Offenses (X7)	0.12	0.10	1.20	0.232

R-squared	0.85	-	-	
F-statistic	75.56	-	-	0.000

Research Data, (2024)

The regression equation obtained was of the form $Y=1.50+(0.45X_1) +(0.38X_2) +(0.40X_3) +(0.42X_4) +(0.33X_5) +(0.29X_6) +(0.36X_7)$. The regression analysis indicates that juveniles from dysfunctional families are more likely to engage in certain types of crimes, with theft, violent crimes, and drug-related crimes showing the strongest associations. The positive and statistically significant coefficients for theft (0.30), violent crimes (0.25), and drug-related crimes (0.28) suggest that as these crimes increase, so does the likelihood of engaging in other criminal behaviours. Additionally, gang activities and burglary also demonstrate significant relationships with juvenile crime, with coefficients of 0.22 and 0.20, respectively. Economic crimes, while significant, have a slightly weaker impact with a coefficient of 0.18. Sexual offenses, however, did not show a statistically significant relationship. The model's high R-squared value of 0.85 implies that the independent variables account for 85% of the variance in juvenile crime types, underscoring the strong influence of family dysfunction on criminal behaviour among juveniles. The overall model is statistically significant, indicating that family-related factors contribute significantly to juvenile delinquency.

VI. Conclusions And Recommendations

The study's findings validate the close connection between dysfunctional family dynamics and juvenile misbehavior. Children who grow up in homes that are unstable, abusive, or inattentive are more prone to be delinquent. This connection highlights the crucial role that a family play in shaping children's behaviour and the potential for rehabilitation of juveniles.

In terms of the typology of crimes committed, it is evident from the findings that juveniles from dysfunctional families tend to engage in a range of offenses with theft and drug-related crimes being most prevalent. Their high involvement in violent crimes and gang-related activities also points to the lack of positive socialization and supervision at home, further compounding the challenges juveniles face in the communities.

For reduction of rates of delinquency in the country and enhancement of reformation and rehabilitation of juveniles at Shimo La Tewa Borstal Institution and other rehabilitation centres for better societal reintegration and reduced recidivism rates, the study recommended strengthening of the family institution and increased involvement of families in juvenile rehabilitation. Early intervention programs targeting families at-risk are also essential. These programs should provide counselling, parenting classes, and resources to help families avoid dysfunctionality.

Given the high prevalence of theft, drug-related crimes, and gang involvement among juveniles from dysfunctional families, it is recommended that rehabilitation programs be tailored to address the specific issues that propel the juveniles to commit these crimes such as poverty. Further, counselling, services should also be offered to the delinquents on the dangers of drug abuse.

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