



NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY ®
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**CAUSES OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY: CASES FROM RAMOTSHANA
CORRECTIONAL SERVICES IN RUSTENBURG, NORTH WEST PROVINCE.**

**A MINI-DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR MASTER'S DEGREE IN SOCIOLOGY**

BY

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NOVEMBER 2012

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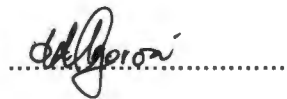
ABSTRACT

This study is about the causes of juvenile delinquency leading to the incarceration of juveniles in the Ramotshana Correctional Services in Rustenburg, North West province. The aim of the study is to determine the causes of juvenile delinquency among youths, its effects and to suggest possible initiatives that can help reduce recidivism among youths.

Qualitative and quantitative research techniques are used. The sample comprises of juveniles from the Ramotshana Correctional Services in Rustenburg, North West province. The primary data collection instrument is the self-administered questionnaires. Data to be collected from respondents reveals that there is a wide range of factors that contribute to juvenile delinquency. These include; lack of parental guidance, peer pressure and poverty. The study suggests possible solutions to the problem such as implementing workshops in schools. Finally, the study concludes that there should be more awareness campaigns in communities and churches to help reduce the rate of juvenile delinquency in Ramotshana Correctional Services in Rustenburg, North West province.

DECLARATION

I declare that the mini-dissertation for the Masters' Degree in Sociology at the North West University (Mafikeng Campus) hereby submitted, has not previously been submitted by me for a degree at this institution or any other institution, that it is my own work and that all material contained herein has been acknowledged.

.....

Obakeng Annah Mogorosi

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Firstly, I would like to thank God for all the blessings and life He has given me.

Secondly, I would like to thank my family for their encouragement and supporting me to further my studies.

I would also like to thank the following for helping me to be able to put this mini-dissertation together: Dr. Nokwanda Ncala and Mr. Michael Mojaki.

I would also like to thank my colleagues for helping me out during difficult encounters.

Lastly, I would like to thank Mrs Modimokwane and the juvenile offenders from Ramotshana Correctional Services in Rustenburg for helping me with the data collection process.

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CHAPTER ONE

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE OF THE STUDY

This chapter presents the introductory aspects of the study comprising of the rationale and statement of the research problem, aims and objectives, significance, delimitations, definitions, methodology and organization of the dissertation.



There is an increasing level of juvenile delinquency not only in South Africa but also in other parts of the world. Crime has become a serious social problem in the country. Common delinquent acts by juveniles include such petty crimes as robbery, burglary and shoplifting. Delinquent behaviour is rarely creative, frequently self-destructive, and mostly mundane and still a minority pastime of adolescence as a whole (Emler & Reicher 1995). Even if it is over represented or occasionally distorted in certain scientific literature or researches, there is no denying that serious forms of delinquencies occur. Early in adolescence, in the ages between eleven and twelve years old, the incidence of delinquent acts increases sharply.

There are many cases of recidivism amongst South African juveniles where young people are imprisoned and shortly after their release, are re-imprisoned for the same kind of offences or new ones, sometimes even for worse offences. This is an indication that there are no rehabilitative programmes that 'really' succeeded in rendering positive and sustainable influences on the lives of young ex-prisoners. Other juveniles often return to prison due to breaking the parole or correctional supervision conditions. Recidivism is commonly associated with people from socially excluded backgrounds. Social exclusion is a result of the combination of

linked problems such as unemployment, discrimination, low income, family background, and other social disadvantages.

Since the introduction of the 1993 Constitution, the constitutional court made various decisions, one example being the abolition of the death penalty. It can be deduced that the justice system regarding prisoners was starting to be more humane. The finalisation of the Bill of Rights took place in 1998. The Bill of Rights can be regarded as the natural law of South Africa against which all other laws must be measured and interpreted. This is where we are today.

1.2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The principle focus of this study is on the causes of juvenile delinquency. Researchers have identified several important insights into adolescence and problematic forms of behaviour. High risk youths often experience multiple difficulties. They are frequently socialized in economically stressed families and communities (Bartollas, 2003:07).

Domestic violence is commonly viewed as a contributory factor in juvenile delinquency. It is only in recent years that researchers recognize the developmental impact that violence has on children who are not directly abused themselves, but who witness abusive behaviour between their parents. The primary victims are therefore not the only ones at risk because the impact of parental violence can also influence the child's development and can impact on their behavioural, cognitive, psychological and emotional functioning.

According to Lentswe (2005) children who witness violence in their homes may exhibit the same psychological symptoms as primary victims. These symptoms may include sleeping and feeding problems in infants, stranger anxiety and regressive behaviours in pre-school children, aggressive and regressive behaviours in school going children, and delinquency problems

in adolescents. A child's exposure to abuse is the leading risk factor and predictor for men abusing women in their later life. Other problems include difficulty with anger management, temperament and antisocial activity behaviour. These children are often unable to empathize with other people's feelings. They therefore are unable to examine situations from another child's perspective. Their lack of empathy and understanding can result in delinquency in adolescents.

Children who lack parental guidance are also prone to juvenile delinquency because they are left all by themselves with no adult person to monitor their behaviour or guide them. They often end up misusing the money sent to them by parents. In some cases they often buy drugs and alcohol, and this almost inevitably leads to juvenile crime. Some of the juveniles in South Africa do not have enough money to carry on with their studies after passing grade twelve, so they end up passing time in the streets without jobs. A certain percentage of the young offenders are usually re-incarcerated after their second offence and they land back in jail to serve a further sentence. This implies that they could not find their feet back in society once they have been released and it signifies failure on the part of the correctional authorities to effectively rehabilitate the young offenders successfully. Recidivism is a complicated phenomenon which is not easy to deal with as the correctional institutions often have no control over the circumstances outside the prison walls affecting the young offender during the re-integration process. Crime statistics in South Africa indicates a higher occurrence to juvenile delinquency among older adolescents and adults of 18 and 25 years of age (Lentswe, 2005:06).

1.3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The principal aim of the study is to determine the causes of juvenile delinquency and solutions to the problem.

1.3.1. OBJECTIVES

- To determine the causes of juvenile delinquency.
- To assess the roles of the government in addressing the problem.
- To propose possible solutions to the phenomenon.

1.4. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

1.4.1. RELEVANCE TO SOCIETY

It is hoped that the study will help to create awareness amongst teenagers and the youth in general about the negative impact of juvenile delinquency, not only on delinquents but also on their families and their communities at large. The study will also be useful in providing the youth, parents and other sectors of society with knowledge about the programs implemented by the South African government. The findings may also assist authorities at local police stations and correctional services to come up with strategies and policies that ensure that juvenile delinquency is reduced.

It is hoped that this study will make a sociological contribution in identifying the influential factors that give rise to the problem of youth imprisonment. This will help to establish preventative measures that the community can take in socialising the youth not to reconnect with crime after their imprisonment.

1.4.2. RELEVANCE TO EXISTING RESEARCH

The majority of juvenile delinquents lack family support, motivation and self-esteem. This assumption or hypothesis still needs to be researched and clarified. Therefore it is hoped that the findings of this study will add new knowledge to ongoing research in this area of study.

1.5. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

Regarding the delimitations of the study, focus will be on the small sample of juvenile delinquents and a key institutional respondent. Due to time constraints, the study is limited to the Ramotshana prison.

1.6. DEFINITIONS OF KEY CONCEPTS

- Adolescence is often thought of as a period of storm and stresses in which teenagers experience a great emotional turmoil and become rebellious. This is often attributed to the biological changes that occur in adolescence which are believed to give rise to the increased emotionality, conflict and defiance (Louw & Edward 2008:05).
- Crime is an act that violates a law for which a penalty (usually a fine, jail time or probation) is set by the state (Tshiwula, 1998:13).
- Delinquency is described as offences committed by young persons (Tshiwula, 1998:3).
- Delinquency- it is one of the problem behaviours with which low risk adolescents become involved from time to time (Bartollas 2003:08).
- Delinquency suggests a wide range of behaviours, from socially unacceptable acts performed early in childhood that parents describe as 'naughty' and sociologists describe as deviant behaviour, and psychologists refer to as 'acting out' to violent and destructive, illegal behaviours (Tshiwula, 1998:4).
- Juvenile Delinquency- It is defined as an act committed by a minor that violates the penal code of the government with authority over the area in which the act occurs and a is the phenomena of deviant behaviour and serious crime committed by young people (Bartollas 2003:08).

- Juvenile is any person under the age of eighteen who persistently or habitually refuses to obey the reasonable and proper orders of his parents, guardian or school authorities, who from any cause is in danger of leading an idle, dissolute or immoral life, is within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court which may adjudge such a person to be a ward of the court (Sanders, 1981:5).
- Juvenile offender is a juvenile who has by chance or on occasion committed an offence but has as yet revealed no criminal tendencies.
- Recidivism is being arrested and returned to the criminal justice system or to prison for additional crimes subsequent to prior arrest and or imprisonment (Tshiwula, 1998:13). It is also seen as falling back to crime after methods of deterrence, retribution or correction has been applied (Reicher 1994:385). A recidivist is a person who is convicted of the repetition of criminal behaviour, which is of a serious nature, after he/she was previously convicted and subjected to judicial intervention in his/her personal circumstances in order to punish him/her, to make him/her refrain from further criminal conduct and to prevent further crime (Prinsloo 1996:41).
- Youth refers to anyone between the ages of fifteen and thirty five years (Statistics South Africa, 2009).

1.7. ORGANIZATION OF THE DISSERTATION

THE DISSERTATION IS ORGANISED IN TERMS OF THE FOLLOWING CHAPTERS:

- Chapter one provides the background to the study, aims and objectives, significance, limitations and definition of concepts.
- Chapter two discusses the literature related to the research problem.
- Chapter three provides an overview of relevant theories.

- Chapter four covers the methodology used to arrive at certain important findings and where the primary data collection instruments and rationale for its preferences are discussed.
- Chapter five provides data analysis, where data obtained from the population under study is presented and discussed.
- Chapter six provides general conclusions reached in this study, followed by recommendations for practical applications of certain findings and for further research into specific issues which could not be covered in this study.



CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter provides an overview of relevant literature in terms of the introduction, causes of juvenile delinquency and preventative measures. These aspects will be applied in the data analyses of this research study.

2.1. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Juvenile delinquency involves all types of activities committed by youth of all backgrounds. Juveniles can commit criminal acts and these crimes are called status offences, because they apply only to the status of the youth. Illegal acts that are committed by youth under the age of eighteen are called delinquent behaviour. Juvenile crimes have been existing for the past hundreds of years (Shoemaker 1996:3).

Juvenile crime is troubling, but is not intractable. Juveniles as a group, are responsible for a small percentage of arrests as compared to adults, and the typical juvenile is far more likely to be the victim than the perpetrator of a violent crime. Nevertheless, a number of juveniles victimize one another. Juveniles are most likely to have a variety of youthful behaviours considered inappropriate, such as petty theft, aggressive behaviour, vandalism or drug abuse (Bartol 2002:28).

Bartol (2002:37) states that only a small percentage of the juvenile population engages in serious delinquent behaviour. Some of the repetitive juvenile offenders escape detention and this tends to be high on recidivism.

Escalating crime, violence and conflict at school have brought the issue of youth culpability for violence and crime to the fore. When children engage

in crime and violence, it is society as a whole that must take responsibility for both the victims and the perpetrators. Throughout the world, young people are confronted with violence and criminal behaviour, but the South African case is particularly severe. Young people need to be socialised how to avoid becoming victims, how to protect their communities from crime, and how to cope with being victimized. They also need to be educated in alternatives to criminal behaviour (Gray, 1999:1).

The youth of South Africa are its future leaders. But many youngsters will not live to fulfil this role. In South Africa, homicides are the leading cause of death for males between 15 and 21 years. Not only are the youth victims of gun violence, they are also mostly the perpetrators. The availability of guns in South Africa, coupled with poverty, social injustice, substance abuse, family instability and the impulsiveness of youth leads to a situation where guns are used for a crime, settling arguments and proving one's status. The more children are exposed to acts of violence, the more likely they are to start practicing acts of violence.

Dysfunctional families also provide the circumstances for young ex-offenders to relapse to a life of crime. A complicating factor in the occurrence of re-offending is the fact that the juvenile offender often has to go back to the same community and family circumstances where he was before his incarceration. The way the community will treat him or her will then neutralise all possible positive effects the rehabilitation programmes in the correctional centre may have had on him/her. A valid concern is that a pattern of re-offending starting at such youthful age may be the onset of a life-long pattern of crime.

Victimization is a prevalent and life threatening social problem faced by our society. It is only in recent years that researchers have recognised the developmental impact that violence has on children who are not directly abused, but who witness abusive behaviour between their parents. The primary victims are therefore not the only ones at risk

because the impact of parental violence can also influence the child development and can impact on their behavioural, cognitive, sociological, psychological and emotional functioning.

Adolescence is said to be a challenge and sometimes a difficult stage of life. It is a period of change. The changes are physical, sexual, cognitive and psychological. Social demands also change during these times. In the process of meeting these demands, they must also develop a sense of identity. In Erikson's eight stages of development, the fifth stage is where the adolescents have to know who they really are. This is the stage where society and mostly the family puts pressure on the adolescents. They are faced with challenges and choices to make, such as the role to commit themselves at home and in society. Erikson terms this challenge as the identity crisis. It is within this search that the adolescent has to come to terms with his/her self-esteem and the relationship between self-esteem and delinquency (Tshiwula, 1998:41).

The fact that the word reformatory is used is an acknowledgement that the institution has an educational and a custodial function to play. In the reformatories for white boys, there was a programme of instruction in the trade such as building, carpentry and metal work. For coloured boys there was trade instruction but many of them worked on the land of the historical estate. In the reformatory for African boys, all of them worked on the lands of the farm known as Diepkloof, just outside Johannesburg (Paton 1993:7).

The rationale for this was that there was a theory that the land exercised some mystical therapeutic influence on juvenile offenders. This theory continued to be upheld, even when more than ninety percent of juvenile offenders placed on the land ran away from it to get back to the lights and sounds of the cities (Paton 1993:8).

A couple of years ago, crime in South Africa used to be a problem associated with black areas and their inhabitants. This has changed and

crime has now moved to all levels of South African society, challenging society to find new ways of combating it (Tshiwula 1998:1).

The most immediate and disturbing of society's many problems is the high rate of violent crime which has accompanied the transition to democracy in 1994. This must be seen in context, however, and is by no means a new phenomenon in South Africa. In the black townships, there has been a high rate of violent crimes for decades (since the 1970s). Unfortunately, too many want-to-be criminals are impelled to criminal conduct with the notion that there is a good chance for them to escape detention and punishment.

The causes are multiple and in most instances, widespread racial and gender discrimination, illiteracy and attitudes to education, availability of guns, unemployment and mistrust of government, policing and other public institutions combine to create environments conducive to crime.

Sonnekus (1992:59) suggests that juvenile delinquency implies a behavioural pattern that deviates from expected behaviour. There is a difference between juvenile delinquency and juvenile crime which implies a felony or index offence.

Index offences refer to acts such as robbery, aggravated offences, assault, rape and homicide, with age having no bearing. Felony includes running away, drinking under age, sexual promiscuity and being generally uncontrollable (Dryfoos, 1990:29).

This suggests that the incidence of certain forms of juvenile crime and misconduct can relate to the juvenile's specific phase of development. It is important to note that certain forms of juvenile misconduct, such as status offences, are not illegal in South Africa. According to Tshiwula, (1998:5).The following are considered status offences in the country:

- Absence from school;
- Drinking;

- Running away;
- Wasting;
- Being in danger of immoral conduct;
- Being beyond reasonable control; and
- Persistent.

In the United States, juveniles are brought to account for status offences. The question is whether South African juveniles enter the criminal justice system after a period of prolonged status offences. Dryfoos (1990:29) provides an answer to the above question by stating that almost every child in his or her life has at one time or another committed such acts. But this does not make them delinquents.

In South Africa, it seems that the concept of juvenile offender has a special connection with the criminal law definition of crime, since the courts in South Africa have the sole power to declare someone a criminal (Tshiwula 1998:5).

For some youths, the juvenile phase lasts only a few years. The majority of youths who engage in delinquency grow out of it. They mature and move on with their lives. However, there are those who take a leap into official records and get stuck there, and have difficulties moving on with their lives (Tshiwula 1998:11).

There are delinquents younger than twelve years of age and it goes without saying that there are criminals at the age of sixteen. The latest case that supports this is the case of seven young school boys that were allegedly arrested for gang raping a mentally challenged girl and videotaped themselves (Sowetan Live :2012). This is the reflection of the degeneration of moral values amongst the youth. In addition, this also highlights the significant role of peer pressure in delinquency.

There are speculations about how everyone is at least an occasional law breaker. Opportunity, temptation and the social tradition of one's peer

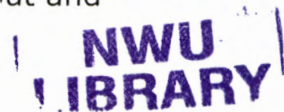
group are the important causes and this has nothing to do with individual weakness and wickedness. The different social classes may differ in their favourite forms of dishonesty, depending upon their circumstances and opportunities.

Delinquents are different from the rest of their age groups. They are seen as the mal-adjusted individuals who by virtue of their damaged personalities, fail to learn civilized standards of behaviour and are liable to persistent trouble with the law. Their deficiencies indicate a need for help such as attitudinal reorientation, social and psychological treatment for their emotional disturbances.

Juvenile delinquency can also be placed within the wider context of adolescent behaviours. The adolescents who are most likely to become delinquents are high risk youth who are involved in multiple problem behaviours. Some of these problems the juveniles find themselves in are teenage pregnancy and fatherhood, drug use, school dropout and delinquency (Bartollas, 2003:25).

There is a difference in the levels of crimes or mal-adaptive behaviour caused by male or female juveniles. Official arrests statistics and self-report studies show that adolescents are involved in less serious delinquent acts than are adolescent males. Adolescent males are more likely to be arrested for possession of stolen goods, vandalism, weapon offences and assaults (Bartollas, 2003:47). In contrast, adolescent females are more likely to be arrested for running away from home and prostitution. It is legal for arresting the runaways from home and this account for nearly one-fifth of all female arrests.

Some researchers found out that most of these juvenile delinquents come from a norm-less families or torn environmental backgrounds. Watson, (2004), states that it is normally boys from broken homes, poor homes, those with unhealthy mothers, those born illegitimate who were more likely to become juvenile delinquents.



The table1 below shows crime rates in Rustenburg.

Crime in Rustenburg (NW) for April to March 2008/2009 - 2009/2010

Crime Category	April 2008 to March 2009	April 2009 to March 2010
Total Sexual Crimes	397	347
Attempted murder	62	77
Common assault	1 450	1 138
Common robbery	504	480
Malicious damage to property	832	935
Burglary at non-residential premises	531	658
Burglary at residential premises	1 824	1 885
Illegal possession of firearms and ammunition	38	34
Drug-related crime	541	807
Commercial crime	1408	1412
Shoplifting	868	646
Robbery at residential premises	157	138
Robbery at non-residential premises	153	111
Culpable homicide	97	91
Public violence	2	7
Crimen injuria	345	265

Source: Crime Research and Statistics - South African Police Service for April to March 2008/2009 - 2009/2010

The comparison between 2008 and 2010 indicates that certain crime rates have decreased in 2010 whereas others have increased. Crimes that increased were the drug-related crime, followed by burglary at residential

premises. Common assault declines in the crime rates during the same period followed by shoplifting. This figure contains most of the crimes committed by juveniles in the Ramotshana Correctional Services in Rustenburg, North West Province.

2.2. CAUSES OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

This section will concentrate on the causes of delinquency because this is where the problem starts and stabilises for a while before it graduates to adult crime.

There are different kinds of crimes and situations which motivate juvenile delinquency. It is by understanding the root cause of crime in terms of its social, political, economic and sociological aspects that South Africa will be in a position to have an effective strategic system to develop interventions that have a significant impact on the problem. There are many causes of recidivism among juveniles. Outlined under this section are few of them that lead juveniles to commit crimes over and over again. Examples are; violence in schools, dysfunctional families, poverty, low self-esteem, exclusion or discrimination labelling and lack of parental guidance.

According to Burchard and Burchard (1987) as cited by Tshiwula (1998:18), the following are factors contributing towards crime and delinquency:

- Being born in South Africa and having no basic literacy skills;
- Growing up in an area where education did not seem to improve your economic and social status or growing up where social role models were not law-abiding citizens;
- Having no choice of peers, except the ones your limited environment offers;

- Experiencing repeated failure in school and having a negative self-concept;
- Growing up in a home with marital discord and lack of family affection and cohesion;
- Inconsistent parental discipline and being rejected by or abandoned by parents, especially males by their fathers; and
- Having parents or siblings who engage in criminal activities.

It can be argued that not all juveniles who experience some of these factors turn to criminals. Many juvenile delinquents have a background of poverty and broken homes, but one also finds middle and upper class youths who have homes and money turning to delinquency.

2.2.1. LABELING

Dryfoos (1990) argued that youngsters should not be labelled delinquents, but rather troubled youths. Labelling can influence further involvement in crime, because a person is inclined to fulfil a role that is assigned to him.

2.2.2. POVERTY AND SOCIAL CLASS

Poverty is one of the most vigorous predictors of juvenile delinquency and adolescent violence for both males and females. The lower the social class, the greater the likelihood of involvement in delinquent or criminal behaviour. Youths living under poverty conditions are more likely to drop out of school, be unemployed, be victimized and witness a variety of violent events. Living in disadvantaged environments lead to the belief that economic survival and social status depend greatly on being aggressive and violent to others (Bartol 2002:38).

2.2.3. SOCIALISATION

Lack of parental guidance during the socialisation process contributes to juvenile delinquency. In prison, it is possible for juvenile offenders to become socialised with inmates in police cells or prisons while awaiting trial. This can lead to their re-arrests. Sonnekus (1992) states that there is a greater risk of repeated offences from someone who has paid for a past crime by being incarcerated, than from someone who has been helped to overcome whatever problems led to the criminal behaviour. Tshiwula (1998:10) notes that the cause of juvenile delinquency and misconduct is a matter of importance when studying criminality. The reason for this is that the aetiology of juvenile offences often forms the basis for crime causation in adult life. Delinquency is a social disease with symptoms that can be treated at primary, secondary and tertiary levels. A person's previous criminal history has generally been considered as one of the most reliable predictors of future behaviour.

2.2.4. FAMILY

Family represents the primary agent for the socialisation of children. It provides the basic needs for children. It also teaches social roles, moral standards, and disciplines children who do not comply with those norms and values. Failure to do so can influence the shaping of the child's values and attitudes. Factors such as family size, the child's birth order in the family, delinquent siblings, broken homes and conflicts also contribute to a child becoming a delinquent. Adolescents who do not have adequate role models or who adopt role models who encourage delinquency are likely to be involved in delinquent behaviours (Tshiwula, 1998:46).

Bartol (2002:47) supports this assertion by Tshiwula by stating that combining several family factors such as family size, quality of parental supervision, parental drinking habits, employment history and criminality,

are more impressive than any single factor, especially in reference to male delinquency. He further concludes that children from large families characterised by the above factors are at greater risks of becoming delinquents than children from families without these features.

According to Lerner and Spanier (1980:459), it is not the broken home per se that leads to possible delinquency, but some factors associated with broken homes such as tensions.

Bartol (2002:47) states that lack of parent-child involvement and parental rejection have also been found to be strong predictors of serious delinquency. He argues that emotional abuse and neglect may play a more critical role in the development of delinquency than physical punishment. Emotional abuse includes behaviours such as frequently screaming at the child, calling a child insulting names, excessively criticising or generally ignoring the child.

2.2.5. ENVIRONMENTAL INFLUENCES

Exposure to criminality in the community context has proven to be a significant predictor of delinquent behaviour for both males and females. The environment is undergoing rapid changes such as urbanization, for example. This is accompanied by a breakdown of traditional sanctions, norms, values and forms of social control. Glanz (1990:7) states that this is said to be more the case for urban black South African youths. The old order is no longer considered relevant in the new social environment. The school is also part of the adolescent's environment.

Glanz (1990:19) points out some of the risk factors in schools that may lead to delinquency. Amongst them, he cites a display of aggressive behaviour towards others, using money to win approval and acceptance, disrupting appropriate classroom behaviour, vandalising school property, performing poorly in academic work, spending free time with older

students who are aggressive both in and outside school and labelling themselves as 'bad, fiery or untouchable'. The influence of the school in juvenile delinquency is said to be indirect and the school may not be able to do much about the role it plays. Most juveniles spend most of their time in school.

2.2.6. PEERS



Peer groups develop from childhood, but they become more important in adolescence. Peers have the ability to make an adolescent to be on top of the world or at the bottom of the social ladder. They hold the key to the adolescent's popularity or rejection. Membership in a deviant peer group may be the result of rejection by a normal peer group. Peers provide attitudes, motivations and opportunities for engaging in anti-social and delinquent behaviours. A friend who behaves and thinks in a delinquent manner, produces the most delinquent associates. Peers can also be responsible for introducing their friends to gangs which may lead to delinquency. A gang offers a structured and organised way to engage in delinquent or criminal behaviour (Tshiwula, 1998:62).

According to Last (2001:3 & 13), there are many reasons why young children choose to join a gang. In the school setting, students who are under-achievers, poor learners, or have language difficulties see themselves as losers in the academic setting. They can be approached by a gang and be recruited into the organisation. The guns and gangsters hold a glamorous allure for many South African youths. Here, they become 'some-one', a part of an organisation of kids just like themselves. They have a new 'family' who they tend to spend more and more time with. Gang leaders lure them with the promise of fraternity and brotherhood. They are told that the worst that can happen to them if they commit a serious crime is two years in a juvenile facility which is a very small price to pay for belonging. Those who do not belong, have to turn to

other means to impress their peers. Harassment and bullying have become everyday occurrences.

2.2.7. SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Juveniles use substances in order to cope with insecurities, feeling of rejection or problems of everyday life. Once the substances become a support, they are difficult to give up. The use of alcohol and drugs make a juvenile lack consistency. They would be unable to decide what is good for them when confronted with unhealthy choices. They always want to please others rather than being true to themselves. Some of the drug and alcohol abuse by juveniles are influenced by peers and other deviant adult role models (Tshiwula, 1998: 68).

2.2.8. MEDIA

The mass media may also play an important role in the incidence of crime. According to Botha et al (1992:9), research has shown that children in South Africa spend almost three and half hours a day watching television. Juveniles spend most of their free time watching television, which might provide a link between violence on television and aggression.

2.3. PREVENTATIVE MEASURES/STRATEGIES TO MINIMIZE JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Muntingh (2001:1) indicates that with regard to the work of counselling young prisoners in the country, there are a number of offender reintegration services available in South Africa, but they are fairly isolated and mostly do not provide a comprehensive service that starts in prison and continues until after release. This assertion came as a result of the services rendered by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and community-based organisations (CBOs) in helping prisoners.

Nair (2002) connotes that for us to overcome the problem of the imprisonment of young people requires major involvement of a number of contributors. The successful prison transformation that will exercise a positive impact on recidivism and overall crime rates, depend on healthy interaction among all these participants at the various levels. Nair (2002) further indicates that many prisoners in South Africa are caught in an endless journey, travelling on the common return ticket from inside prison to the outside and inside again.

2.3.1. REHABILITATION

According to Watson (2004), the term rehabilitation of prisoners was coined, within the Prison Policy in the 20th Century according with hope that the staff and the environment would rehabilitate prisoners and prepare them for a more productive life on release. The high recidivism rates suggest that confinement to prison is primarily custodial rather than rehabilitative.

There are also indications that counselling enables prisoners to take responsibility for their own behaviour and further reduce the risk of prisoners feeling they have no other option but to re-offend. It is indicated that a paradigm shift is currently underway in Department of Correctional services towards the rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents instead of traditional punishment and incarceration with hardened adult criminals (Scheepers, 1997:1).

2.3.2. PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND TERTIARY PREVENTION

Primary prevention is designed to prevent behaviour before it emerges. Usually, primary preventions programs are established early in the developmental sequence of a child, preferably before the age of seven or eight. These programs are usually found within the school system where

there is large number of young children, all of whom are exposed to the intervention.

Secondary prevention programs are designed for children who show some early signs of aggressive, antisocial, or law-violating behaviour, but have not yet been formally classified as delinquent. In some cases, these children or their families have been referred to social service agencies or juvenile courts, but they have not been adjudicated delinquent.

Secondary prevention programs include gang monitoring by teams of community workers, probation officers and law-enforcement officers.

Tertiary prevention programs are often described as treatment or counselling for already involved delinquents. These programs are designed to reduce serious delinquent or criminal behaviour. These programs are carried out in institutional settings (Bartol, 2002:52&53).

2.4. THE ROLE OF FAMILY AND SOCIETY

The family plays a critical role in the socialisation process and a basic assumption or hypothesis is that juvenile delinquents lack parental guidance. Schools also play a significant role in socialising children regarding violence involving scholars.

Most acts of violence that happen within the school premises are perpetuated by the learners against one another, some of the violence is actually imported from outside the school grounds. Gang activities, which are most feared, are imported into the school. If instability and violence plague the community, such habits are easily socialised and internalised by young people who then act it out with their peers in schools (Lentswe 2005:2).

Because of the negative consequences connected with dysfunctional families, the roles of other social institutions and individuals in society become very important. Example of social institutions and individuals are;

teachers, religious leaders, sports role models and cultural leaders. They are required to supplement the role of parents in shaping the values and life style choices of all children and youth. It is in the context of dysfunctional families that the role of the state, through its various government departments and communities, with all its social institutions takes on a significant importance in the development of a correcting environment for children and the youth.

Young prisoners return to crime after their release and find themselves back in prison again. It is of vital importance that a problem of this kind within a society be addressed and one way of doing so is to offer as much counselling as possible to young prisoners in prison and after release. Counselling includes a wide range of assistance to give advice and information, to encourage and build self-esteem, to attend to inner well-being and order in society, as well as to bring about a change in the way the person thinks about morals and values and to pray (Hobyane, 2007: 04).

2.5. ROLE OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND NGOs

Besides the work of psychologists and social workers in rehabilitating prisoners in South Africa, there are government and Non-Governmental Organisations, which are there to help ex-prisoners in terms of vocational training. In addition to what the NGOs are doing, some of them also prepare ex-prisoners to make maximum use of their temporary employment to improve their longer-term economic prospects and to expose them to the opportunities of self-employment (Muntingh 2001:1).

2.6. CONCLUSION

In conclusion juvenile delinquency is an alarming crisis that is under looked in South Africa or not given much attention. Generally speaking, criminal courts spend too little on the sentencing stage of criminal trials.

The family represents the primary agent for the socialisation of children. It provides the basic needs for children. It also teaches social roles, moral standards, and disciplines children who do not comply with those norms and values. Failure to do so can influence the shaping of the child's values and attitudes. Family's role to delinquency is very important. The family plays a critical role in the socialisation process and a basic assumption is that juvenile delinquents lack parental guidance. Schools also play a significant role in socialising children regarding violence involving scholars.

Adolescents/ juveniles represent a period of extensive physical and psychological growth. The likelihood of becoming involved in delinquent behaviour is affected by the environmental influences at home and in the neighbourhood. Juveniles find themselves torn between their parents and their peers. It is the choices they make that will lead to their involvement in delinquent behaviour.

CHAPTER THREE

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

3.1. INTRODUCTION

Theory is part of everyday life. It can be abstract or concrete and it is required for generalising explanations especially in quantitative studies. Theories about crime can be thought of as abstract because they refer to a social construct which cannot be seen. Moreover, a theory can be explained in either a complex or an abstract manner. There are two forms of theory, namely; unit theory and metatheory. Unit theories emphasise a specific problem and make testable assertions in quantitative analysis. Metatheories are theories about other theories. Theories on crime and delinquents in this study are unit theories.

A good theory is one that can be tested and one that best fits the evidence of research by proving the hypothesis to be accepted or rejected. A theory should explain what has been puzzling people before, and sensitise those who are interested in crime to new and important ways of looking at the phenomenon. Theories can also present possible policy implications for solutions to a problem.



3.2. PSYCHOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT THEORY BY ERIK ERIKSONS

Erik Erikson's theory comprises of eight stages. This theory focuses on how personalities evolve throughout life as a result of the interaction of biologically based maturation and the demands of the society. The emphasis is on the role of the social environment in personality development. He states that the society in which one lives makes certain psychological demands at each stage, and these demands are 'crises'. The

search for identity is a crisis that confronts people during adolescence. Although Erikson's psychosocial theory addresses the development throughout the lifespan, it is included here because of the importance of identity formation during adolescence. The stage of development which will be used in this study is stage five, 'identity versus role confusion'. At this stage, the adolescent's age ranks between twelve to eighteen years. Adolescence is a time when young people explore who they are and establish their identity. Some people feel confused and uncertain about their identity. As a result, they are said to suffer from role confusion (Zastrow et al 2004:255).

This relates to juvenile delinquency because teenagers at this stage are confused and not sure of what they want or what they are really doing. This stage is where the teenager is most vulnerable. This is where they feel or sometimes pressured to belong or to be noticed. In the end, some of the teenagers end up being involved with gangs and some end up misbehaving. This as a result leads most of them into jail.

3.3. SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES: APPLICATION OF THEORIES TO GANG FORMATION AND BEHAVIOUR

Numerous attempts to explain why youths join gangs and why gangs engage in delinquents or criminal attitudes have been made. These explanations include biological, psychological and sociological theories. No consensus exists as to which theories are most useful and sufficient. In order to illustrate the existing theories, the following will be summarised; differential association theory, anomie theory, deviant sub-culture theory and control theory (Zastrow et al, 2004:313).

3.4. DIFFERENTIAL ASSOCIATION THEORY BY EDWIN SUTHERLAND

This theory asserts that criminal behaviour is the result of a learning or socialization process that primarily stems from small intimate groups (family, neighbourhood peer groups and friends). People internalise the values of the surrounding culture. When the environment includes frequent contact with criminal elements and infrequent contact with non-criminal elements, a person is apt to engage in delinquent or criminal activities. Past and present learning experiences in intimate personal groups define whether a person should violate laws, for those deciding to commit crime. The learning experiences also include which crimes to commit, the techniques of committing these crimes, the attitudes and the rationalisation for committing them. Thus, a youngster who is most admired, is a member of a gang involved in committing burglaries or in drug trafficking, who receives instructions from gang members to commit crime and also receives approval from the gang for successfully committing these crimes (Sutherland & Cressey, 1970:76).

3.5. ANOMIE THEORY BY ROBERT MERTON

This approach views delinquent behaviour as resulting when an individual is prevented from achieving high status goals in a society. Merton notes that every society has both approved goals; 'wealth and material possession' and approved means for achieving these goals; 'going to varsity and finding a job'. When certain members of society want these goals but have insufficient access to the approved means for achieving them, a state of anomie results. Unable to reach these goals through approved means, the individuals and gangs seek to achieve the desired goals through the illegal means. Merton states that higher crime rates are apt to occur among those groups who are discriminated. These groups include the poor and racial minorities (Zastrow et al, 2004:313).

3.6. DEVIANT SUB-CULTURES THEORY BY WALTER MILLER

This theory is another explanation for delinquent gang behaviour. It asserts that some groups have developed their own attitudes, values and perspectives that support criminal activity. Miller(1958:6) argues that American lower class culture is more conducive to crime than middle class culture. He explained that lower-class culture is organized around six values; trouble, toughness, excitement, fate, smartness (ability to con others) and autonomy. Miller (1958:6).concludes that the entire lower-class sub-culture is deviant in the sense that every male growing up in this sub-culture will accept these values and almost certainly violate the law somehow.

Miller also indicated that delinquents often came from mother-dominated, one-parent homes and sought to achieve masculine status through peer group activities, such as fighting in street gangs. In this perspective, subculture is perceived to be in conflict with the dominant values rather than reacting to them (Tshiwula, 1998:38).

3.7. SUB-CULTURE THEORY BY ALBERT COHEN

Cohen (1992:39) contends that gangs develop a delinquent sub-culture that represents solutions to the young male gang members. A gang gives them a chance to belong, to amount to something, to develop their masculinity and to fight the middle-class society. According to Cohen, the delinquent subculture can effectively address the status of the working-class boys, especially those who are rejected by the middle-class society (Cohen, 1992:39).

The juvenile gang is defined as delinquent subculture. According to Cohen, working-class or lower-class boys have a little chance of achieving standards set by the middle-class and the boys will reject these values

and develop what is called reaction-formation of their own characterised by the ambivalence and ultimately leading to delinquency (Tshiwula, 1998:37).

3.8. SOCIAL CONTROL THEORY BY TRAVIS HIRSCHI

Theories in this category assume that all people would naturally commit crimes. Therefore, they must be controlled and constrained by society from breaking the law. There are three factors to consider in preventing crime. The first one is the internal controls through the socialisation process that society builds up in an individual- it is believed that developing a strong conscience and a sense of personal morality will prevent most people from breaking the law. The second factor is thought to be a strong attachment to small social groups such as family, which prevents individuals from breaking the law, because they fear rejection and disapproval from the people who are important to them. The last factor is that people do not break the law because they fear arrest and incarceration.

Hirschi (1969:313) suggests that the decline in delinquent behaviour is due to the control of social bonds such as involvement in school activities, affective ties to parents and belief in the moral norms. The weaker the social bonding, the likelihood that the adolescent will become involved in delinquent gang activities. Hirschi also states that social bonding is weakened by factors such as parental criminality, inadequate parental supervision and warmth, and parents rewarding deviant behaviour.

According to Shoemaker (1990), as cited by Tshiwula, Hirschi's social control theory holds that most people stay out of trouble most of the time because of their bond with society's norms through their socialisation by society's institutions such as family, school, work and church. Those,

whose bonds become weak, will turn to like-minded peers for support and approval.

Hirschi (1969) sees this social bond consisting of four parts: attachment; commitment; belief; and involvement. Attachment is the psychological and emotional connection one feels towards other people at the extent to which one values these persons' feelings and opinions. Commitment is the cost benefit approach to delinquency. Involvement refers to participation in legitimate activity. A belief refers to a conviction that rules, applied with equity and fairness and merit being obeyed consistently (Tshiwula, 1998:23).

3.9. LABELLING THEORY BY EDWIN LEMERT

Lemert developed the concepts of primary and secondary deviance which became the central elements of the development of the labelling theory. This theory holds that if a person is given a negative description, it affects their present situation and future behaviour. This is especially so when others respond to them as if the negative description was correct. In essence, this means that repetition of delinquency is a consequence of having been labelled so in the first place. This label may alter a person's image to a point where he/she begins to identify himself/herself as a delinquent (Tshiwula, 1998:28).

3.10. SOCIAL LEARNING THEORY BY ACKERS

Ackers' theory of social learning states that people learn both deviant and other behaviours and the definitions that go along with it. The learning can be direct through conditioning or indirect through imitation and modelling. The learned deviance can be strengthened by reinforcement or weakened by punishment. Its continued maintenance depends not only on

its own reinforcement but also on the quality reinforcement available for alternative behaviour. If the definitions of deviant behaviour are reinforcing, and if the alternative behaviours are not as strongly reinforcing, an individual is likely to be engaged in deviant behaviour (Tshiwula, 1998:34).

CHAPTER FOUR

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A small scale survey consisting of a total of 25 juveniles from the Ramotshana Correctional Services in North West Province was used as a sample on the 18th of October 2012. Two key institutional respondents were also interviewed to elicit more information about the correctional institution at Ramotshana Correctional Services in the North West Province on the 16 October 2012. This chapter is the methodology aspect of the study and comprises of the sampling, data collection and data analysis of the study.

4.1. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY



The methodology that will be used in this study entails both quantitative and qualitative approaches (mixed methodology) in order to have an in-depth understanding of the issues under study.

Qualitative and quantitative approaches enable the researcher to obtain rich information about the research topic. Qualitative research can support quantitative research and vice versa (Flick, 2006:33). This shows that in some instances one research method needs certain aspects of the other method to enable the researcher to conduct research successfully.

Quantitative Method is a research method that relies less on interviews, observations, and small numbers of questionnaires, focus groups, subjective reports and case studies but is much more focused on the collection and analysis of numerical data and statistics. Qualitative research is called so because its emphasis lies in producing data that is rich in insight, understanding, explanatory and focuses on the depth of information (Housderi and Crouch, 2003:116).

The mixed method enables the researcher to have a clear and deep understanding about the subject. The qualitative research is inapplicable to certain areas of study as it cannot be statistically justified unless the researcher decides to use mixed research methods or triangulation.

4.2. RESEARCH DESIGN

The type of research design which will be used under this study is a case study, which refers to a situation where a particular individual, program or event is studied in depth for a defined period of time. A case study may be suitable for learning more about a little known or poorly understood situation. It can also be useful for investigating how an individual or program changes over time as a result of certain circumstances or interventions. In a case study, the researcher collects extensive data on the individual, program or event which the investigation is focused on. The data often includes documents, past records, audiovisual materials and observations (Leedy & Ormrod, 2005:135).

4.3. DATA COLLECTION TECHNIQUES

There are few types of data collection instruments, but what will be used in this study are self-administered questionnaires with both closed and open ended questions. Self-administered questionnaires are completed by the respondents themselves without the assistance of the researcher. They are therefore, advantageous because they are time effective. This can be done by distributing the questionnaires and collecting them once they have been filled out (Bless & Higson-Smith, 2006:117). This is what was followed in this study.

Self administered questionnaires are less expensive. They also offer great anonymity as there is no face-to-face interaction between respondents and the researcher (Kumar, 2005:130).

To every advantage, there is also disadvantage along. This is one of the disadvantages of self-administered questionnaires; without supervision, some participants may fail to answer some or even all the questions because they could not understand them. Some may not complete the questionnaire because they are not interested or too busy (Fink, 2008:152).

The advantage of open-ended questionnaires is that they are the easiest type because they are the most natural way of expressing questions in everyday conversation. It also affords the respondents the opportunity to elaborate. Disadvantage of open-ended questionnaires is that the participants may find it difficult to answer open-ended questions. Advantage of close-ended questionnaires is that they are much easier to be analyzed. Disadvantage of close ended questionnaires is that they are harder to be designed (Gorard, 2003:11).

4.4. POPULATION AND SAMPLING

The population of the study will be from Ramotshana correctional service which is based in Rustenburg, North West province. The research is going to be based on teenagers and youths, with ages ranking from fifteen to twenty five. The sampling method that will be used is purposive or judgemental sampling. This sampling method is based on the judgment of the researcher regarding the characteristics of a representative sample. The advantage of this sampling method is that the sample will be free from systematic bias that might stem from the choices made by the researcher.

4.5. DATA ANALYSIS

Quantitative data obtained through the use of questionnaires will be analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS). On the other hand, qualitative data will be subjected to content analysis. Content analysis is a method of analyzing qualitative data in a systematic objective and quantitative manner. It involves classification of data into major content areas by looking for common threads, trends or themes in the data (The Training Edge, 2000:13).

4.6. ETHICAL CONSIDERATION.

The promise of confidentiality is an assurance by the researcher that the information provided by participants can never be linked to them publicly (Ruane, 2005:22). For confidentiality purposes respondents (juveniles) will not be required to write their names or any personal details on the questionnaires.

The principle informed consent is about the rights of individuals to determine for themselves whether or not they want to be part of the research project. The participants cannot be forced to participate in the research, especially for them to be honest and cooperative. This is done because if they are forced to participate, they are likely to provide false information. In some instances people may refuse to participate in the research project with a thought that it might be risky for them when they participate. It is therefore, the duty of the researcher to clarify certain things about the research, its aims and objectives, and answering any questions the respondents may ask, then guarantee confidentiality to them (Ruane, 2005:19).

4.7. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

Limitations of the study include what the study is about and what it is not about. They include the boundaries and how the results may and may not contribute to the understanding of the study (Rossman & Marshall 2011:76). This is what guides the researcher on what aspects he/she ought to focus on. Limitation of the study restricts the researcher to play around the topic and not to lose the focus. The focus of this study is going to be based on the causes of juvenile delinquency.

CHAPTER FIVE

DATA ANALYSIS, FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter presents the research findings based on the responses of the juveniles and the workers at the Ramotshana correctional services based in Rustenburg, North West province. The questionnaires were developed to elicit information on issues such as the demographic profile of the respondents, causes of juvenile delinquency and possible solutions to the phenomenon. In this chapter, data and results are analysed in the descriptive and thematic analysis. A small scale survey consisting of a total of 25 juveniles and two workers (prison wardens) from the Rustenburg Correctional Services in North West Province is used in the analysis.

5.1. DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS



TABLE 1: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS

	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
15-16	-	-
17-18	-	-
19-21	15	60%
OTHER	10	40%
TOTAL	25	100%

Table 1 shows that the majority of the respondents sixty percent (60%) are between the ages of 19-21, followed by forty percent (40%) that are in the other age group. This is supported by what was mentioned earlier in the literature; looking at crime statistics in South Africa and the ages of

the perpetrators, offending behaviour seems higher among older adolescent and young adults of 18 and 25 years of age.

TABLE 2: GENDER OF RESPONDENTS

	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
MALE	25	100%
FEMALE	-	-
TOTAL	25	100%

According to table 2, there is a high rate of juvenile delinquency among males (100%) as compared to females (0%). This is supported by what was said in the literature; official arrests statistics and self-report studies show that female adolescents are involved in less serious delinquent acts than adolescent males. Adolescent males are more likely to be arrested for possession of stolen goods, vandalism, weapon offences and assaults (Bartollas, 2003:47). An additional contributory factor is the socialization of male and female children. Girls are socialised to take on more domestic oriented responsibilities and stay home. Boys on the other hand, tend to spend more time socializing with their peers away from home. This increases the potential of interacting with juvenile delinquents who may encourage and teach them how to engage in delinquent forms of behaviour. This is also highlighted by Edwin Sutherland's differential association theory (1970:76) and Ackers' social learning theory (1998:37) in the theoretical aspects of the study.

TABLE 3: EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION OF RESPONDENTS

	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
PRIMARY SCHOOL	-	-
SECONDARY SCHOOL	25	100%
TERTIARY	-	-
NO SCHOOLING	-	-
TOTAL	25	100%

Table 3 shows that the majority of the juveniles (100%) are mostly secondary school scholars. This is based on the respondents' responses at the correctional services.

TABLE 4: RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION OF RESPONDENTS

	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
CATHOLICISM	01	04%
PROTESTANTISM	-	-
CHARISMATIC	01	04%
AFRICAN CHURCHES	20	80%
OTHER	03	12%
TOTAL	25	100%

Table 4 shows that the majority of the respondents' religion 80% is African churches, followed by 12% of other religions then 04% of both Catholicism and Charismatic religions. There were no Protestant affiliates from the respondents.

TABLE 5: MARITAL STATUS OF PARENTS OF RESPONDENTS

	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
MARRIED	02	08%
SINGLE	18	72%
SEPARATED	04	16%
DIVORCED	-	-
WIDOWED	01	04%
TOTAL	25	100%

According to table 5, majority of the respondents' parents (72%) are single, whereas 16% comprises of separated parents. Married parents of the respondents constituted of (08%), followed by widowed parents with only 04%. There were no divorced parents from the respondents' responses. The statistics support a common assumption that juvenile delinquency is associated with dysfunctional family structures, particularly, in cases where the father is absent.

TABLE 6: OCCUPATION OF PARENTS OF RESPONDENTS

	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
PROFESSIONAL	06	24%
SKILLED	14	56%
UNSKILLED	05	20%
TOTAL	25	100%

Table 6 shows that 14 parents of the respondents' (56%) are skilled employees, followed by 6 parents who are professional employees with (24%). Only 20% are parents who are unskilled.

TABLE 7: EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF PARENTS OF RESPONDENTS

	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
EMPLOYED	16	64%
UNEMPLOYED	05	20%
SELF EMPLOYED	04	16%
TOTAL	25	100%

Table 7 shows that majority of the respondents' parents (64%) are employed, followed by 20% of unemployed parents. Only 16% of the respondents' parents constitute self employed parents. This finding shows that majority of the juveniles sentenced are somehow fortunate, because their parent/s is/are employed. Not all the respondents' parents are unemployed. This is quoted in one of the responses by the juveniles "our parents do talk and give guidance to us, we just don't listen".

This is also supported by Tshiwula (1998) in the literature that it can be argued that not all juveniles who experience poverty turn to criminals. Many juvenile delinquents have a background of poverty and broken homes, but one also finds middle and upper class youths who have homes and money turning to delinquency.

TABLE 8: PERIOD OF CONFINEMENT/ ARREST

	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
LESS THAN A YEAR	-	-
1-3 YEARS	15	60%
4-6 YEARS	10	40%
OTHER	-	-
TOTAL	25	100%

Table 8 shows that 60% of the respondents have been arrested in the period between 1-3 years, followed by 40% of the respondents who have been arrested in the period between 4-6 years.

TABLE 9: NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED BEFORE

	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
YES	15	60%
NO	10	40%
TOTAL	25	100%



Table 9 shows that 60% of the respondents have been arrested before, followed by 40% of the respondents who have never been arrested before.

TABLE10: WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING ENOUGH TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

	JUVENILES		WORKERS	
	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
YES	18	72%	02	100%
NO	07	28%	-	-
TOTAL	25	100%	02	100%

Table 10 shows that 18 respondents (72%) and the 2 workers (100%) agree that government is doing enough to address the problem of juvenile delinquency, whereas (28%) of the respondents disagrees.

TABLE 11:WHETHER SCHOOLS DO ENOUGH TO ADDRESS JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
YES	16	64%
NO	03	12%
SOMETIMES	06	24%
TOTAL	25	100%

Table 11 shows that 64% of the respondents agrees that the schools are doing enough to address the problem of juvenile delinquency, whereas 12% of the respondents disagrees. 24% of the respondents said that the schools do address the juvenile delinquency problem, but only sometimes.

TABLE 12: WHETHER THE FAMILY IS DOING ENOUGH TO ADDRESS JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
YES	20	80%
NO	05	20%
TOTAL	25	100%

Table 12 shows that 80% of the respondents agrees that the family is doing enough to address the problem of juvenile delinquency. 20% of the respondents disagrees that the family is not doing enough to address the juvenile delinquency problem.

TABLE 13: WHETHER THE JUVENILE HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN ANY OF THE REHABILITATION PROJECTS

	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
YES	22	88%
NO	03	12%
TOTAL	25	100%

Table 13 shows that 88% of the respondents have been involved in the rehabilitation process offered by the correctional services, whereas 22% have not been involved in the rehabilitation projects.

TABLE 14: WHETHER THE REHABILITATION PROGRAMS ARE EFFECTIVE

	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
YES	02	100%
NO	-	-
TOTAL	02	100%

Table 14 shows that according to the 2 wardens (100%), the rehabilitation programs are indeed effective.

TABLE 15: THE LIVING CONDITIONS IN THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
GOOD	09	36%
NOT GOOD	09	36%
GOOD, SOMETIMES BAD	06	24%
UNEQUAL TREATMENT	01	04%
TOTAL	25	100%

Table 15 shows that the respondents have different views concerning the living conditions in jail. 36% stated that the living conditions are good and also not good (36%), followed by 24% of the respondents who said the living conditions are good, sometimes bad, then 04% of the respondents who said that the living conditions have unequal treatment.

TABLE 16: WHETHER THE JUVENILES SHOULD BE PUNISHED

	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
YES	02	100%
NO	-	-
TOTAL	02	100%

Table 16 shows that 2 wardens at the correctional services (100%), agree that juveniles should be punished for their misbehaviour.

TABLE 17: IF WORKERS HAD HAD CHILD/REN ARRESTED BEFORE

	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
YES	02	100%
NO	-	-
TOTAL	02	100%

Table 17 shows that 2 wardens responded had their child or children arrested before.

5.2. THEMATIC QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

All the open-ended questions of the study will be subjected to qualitative thematic analysis. Thematic analysis examines the common themes and the trends that data suggests. Usually within these, common themes, trends and exhaustive meaning of the responses is put across.

- The respondents and wardens viewed the causes of juvenile delinquency as follows; peer pressure, lack of parental guidance, poverty, not attending school, drugs and alcohol abuse; and family structure.

- The effects of juvenile delinquency include among other things the following; psychological; emotional; and financial effects.
- Explanations of whether the government does enough to solve the problem or otherwise from the respondents and wardens, range from the following responses; "the government does not take the respondent's complaints seriously"; "the government does try to address the problem of juvenile delinquency, but not enough"; "the government provides education"; "the government sends juveniles to prison where they get bad influences from their fellow inmates"; "rehabilitation projects"; "the government is providing for most of the juvenile's needs"; "schools are running inside the prison"; and "labour department is offering courses".
- Whether schools are doing enough or not to address the juvenile delinquency problem is a research question that was answered by the respondents in the following manner: "schools should send police to search on a regular basis"; and "schools should cancel cell phones and casual clothes on the school premises".
- Explanations on whether family is doing enough to address the juvenile delinquency problem is answered by the respondents in the following manner: "if families loved their children, they would not let them to be in jail"; "the family do talk and give guidance to the juveniles", "it is the juveniles who don't listen"; "families neglects their children after their first offence"; and "parents beat their children up and that makes them stubborn and rebellious".
- In the view of the respondents and wardens, the rehabilitation projects entailed the following: anger management class; counselling; handwork; development (school); spiritual care; social work programs; and sports.
- According to the respondents, factors leading to recidivism were stated as follows: "labelling, peer pressure, and poverty". Labelling is a process and its implications are highlighted by Edwin Lemert's labelling theory in the theoretical framework of the study.

- Recommendations on how to prevent juvenile delinquency were tackled by the respondents and the wardens in the following manner: "recidivists should be motivational speakers to youth", "juveniles should go to school and stay out of trouble", "people should stop labelling the offenders as criminals", "there should be more parental support", "government should provide skills programs for youth", and "there should be employment availability".
- Wardens explained juvenile delinquency as: "a child who has violated the rules and norms of the country", and "somebody who has infringed pain on somebody else".
- Justification from wardens on whether the delinquents should be punished or not was: they have violated some norms of the community and need to be punished by the law.
- Wardens stated the working conditions as the following: "very conducive and assisting in the development of the staff".
- According to the wardens, the major problems they encounter when dealing with the delinquents are the following: "their rudeness, and anger".
- According to the wardens, the behaviour of the delinquents inside the prison is as follows: "willing to change, learning from their mistakes but not all of them".
- The warden's responses on whether the rehabilitation programs are effective or not are as follows: "concentrates on anger management and other different programs".

CHAPTER SIX

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1. CONCLUSIONS

It is clear from the research study conducted that there are delinquents younger than twelve years of age and it goes without saying that there are criminals at the age of sixteen. The latest case that supports this is the case of seven young school boys that were allegedly arrested for gang raping a mentally challenged girl and videotaped themselves. This is the reflection of the degeneration of moral values amongst the youth. In addition, this also highlights the significant role of peer pressure in delinquency.

There are speculations about how everyone is at least an occasional law breaker. Opportunity, temptation and the social tradition of one's peer group are the important causes and this has nothing to do with individual weakness and wickedness. The different social classes may differ in their favourite forms of dishonesty, depending upon their circumstances and opportunities.

6.2. RECOMMENDATIONS



Since the study found that juvenile delinquency is a crisis in South Africa, it is recommended that the government together with secondary schools and the community should do more than what they are doing now to address the problem of juvenile delinquency. The findings show that the majority of juveniles lack family support and are constantly under a lot of peer pressure. This is supported in the theoretical framework by Hirschi (1969:313), who suggests that the decline in delinquent behaviour is due to the control of social bonds such as involvement in school activities,

affective ties to parents and belief in the moral norms. Hirschi also states that social bonding is weakened by factors such as parental criminality, inadequate parental supervision and warmth, and parents rewarding deviant behaviour (Hirschi, 1969:313).

It is therefore recommended that all secondary schools should establish programs that would assist both the juveniles and the community to deal with the issue of juvenile delinquency.

The programs could be the solution to bridging the gap between the peer pressure and lack of parental guidance. It is further recommended that once the prison sentence of the juvenile is completed, correctional services should provide schools with feedback on the causes that they find motivating the juvenile delinquency.

Delinquents are different from the rest of their age groups. They are seen as the mal-adjusted individuals who by virtue of their damaged personalities, fail to learn civilized standards of behaviour and are liable to persistent trouble with the law. Their normlessness deficiencies indicate a need for help such as attitudinal reorientation, social and psychological treatment for their emotional disturbances. This is supported by Hobyane (2007) in the literature by stating that young prisoners return to crime after their release and find themselves back in prison again. It is of vital importance that a problem of this kind within a society be addressed and one way of doing so is to offer as much counselling as possible to young prisoners in prison and after release at home in the society.

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6.4. APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR JUVENILES

SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

Please tick the appropriate box.

1. AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS

15-16	<input type="checkbox"/>
17-18	<input type="checkbox"/>
19-21	<input type="checkbox"/>
OTHER	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. GENDER OF RESPONDENTS

MALE	<input type="checkbox"/>
FEMALE	<input type="checkbox"/>



3. EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS OF RESPONDENTS

PRIMARY SCHOOL	<input type="checkbox"/>
SECONDARY SCHOOL	<input type="checkbox"/>
TERTIARY	<input type="checkbox"/>
NO SCHOOLING	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

CATHOLICISM	<input type="checkbox"/>
PROTESTANTISM	<input type="checkbox"/>
CHARISMATIC	<input type="checkbox"/>
AFRICAN CHURCHES	<input type="checkbox"/>
NONE	<input type="checkbox"/>
OTHER	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. MARITAL STATUS OF PARENTS

MARRIED	
SINGLE	
SEPARATED	
DIVORCED	
WIDOWED	

6. OCCUPATION OF PARENTS

PROFESSIONAL	
SKILLED	
UNSKILLED	

7. EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF PARENTS

EMPLOYED	
UNEMPLOYED	
SELF EMPLOYED	

SECTION B: CAUSES OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

8. WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER AS THE CAUSES OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY?

9. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN CONFINED/ ARRESTED?

LESS THAN A YEAR	
1-3 YEARS	
4-6 YEARS	
OTHER	

10. HAVE YOU BEEN ARRESTED BEFORE?

YES	
NO	

SECTION C: EFFECTS OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

11. WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE EFFECTS OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY?

SECTION D: INITIATIVES TO REDUCE JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

12. DO YOU THINK GOVERNMENT IS DOING ENOUGH TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY?

YES	
NO	

12.1. EXPLAIN

13. DO YOU THINK SCHOOLS ARE DOING ENOUGH TO ADDRESS JUVENILE DELINQUENCY?

YES	
NO	
SOMETIMES	

13.1. IF NO, WHAT SHOULD SCHOOLS DO TO MINIMIZE JUVENILE DELINQUENCY?

14. DO YOU THINK THE FAMILY IS DOING ENOUGH TO ADDRESS JUVENILE DELINQUENCY?

YES	<input type="checkbox"/>
NO	<input type="checkbox"/>

14.1 EXPLAIN

15. HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED IN ANY OF THE REHABILITATION PROJECTS OFFERED BY THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES TO REDUCE JUVENILE DELINQUENCY?

YES	<input type="checkbox"/>
NO	<input type="checkbox"/>

15.1. EXPLAIN

15.2. WHAT DID THEY ENTAIL/ INVOLVE?

15.3. ARE THESE PROJECTS HELPFUL?

YES	
NO	

15.4. WHAT ARE YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO IMPROVE THE PROJECTS?

16. HOW ARE THE LIVING CONDITIONS IN THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES?

17. WHAT FACTORS IN SOCIETY LEAD TO RECIDIVISM (going in and out of prison again and again)?

18. WHAT ARE YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO REDUCE JUVENILE DELINQUENCY?

APPENDIX B: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE PRISON WARDENS

Dear respondents

I would appreciate it if you would take some time to complete the questionnaire. The research is conducted to fulfil the requirements for the Master's Degree in Sociology at the North West University. The aim of this study is to determine the causes of juvenile delinquency leading to recidivism (going in and out of prison again and again) in Ramotshana Correctional Services, Rustenburg. Your answers will be treated confidential and you do not need to give out your name or details. Your participation will be highly appreciated, as every response adds value to the study. There is no right or wrong answers. Please try to answer every question as honest as you can be. Thank you for your cooperation.

Obakeng Mogorosi

1. What do you understand by the term 'juvenile delinquency'?

2. Should the delinquents be punished for this behaviour?

YES	
NO	



2.1. Justify your response.

3. Have you had a child/ren arrested before?

YES	
NO	

4. How are the working conditions at the correctional services?

5. What are the major problems that your establishment encounter in dealing with juvenile delinquency?

6. What do you consider as the causes of juvenile delinquency?

7. What do you consider to be effects of juvenile delinquency?

8. How is the behaviour of the delinquents inside the institution?

9. Do you think the rehabilitation programs are effective?

YES	
NO	

9.1. Give a reason for your response

9.2. What do the rehabilitation programs entail?

10. Do you think government is doing enough to address the problem of juvenile delinquency?

YES	
NO	

10.1. Justify your response.

11. What do you recommend to reduce juvenile delinquency?
