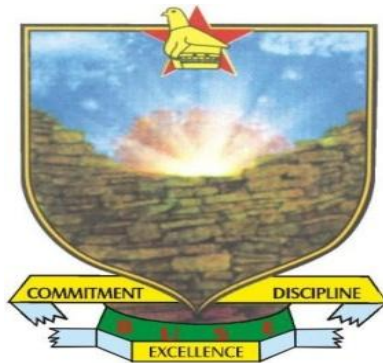


BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION



**A FRAMEWORK TOWARDS ADDRESSING THE EFFECTS OF CULTURAL
DEGENERATION IN INFLUENCING JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN ZIMBABWE.
A CASE STUDY FOR ZAKA DISTRICT.**

BY

BUDAI YOSA TAKUNDANASHE (B210760B)

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE
EDUCATION, FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES,
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK, IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE HONORS DEGREE IN
SOCIAL WORK**

SUPERVISOR:

DR MANGWIRO

JUNE 2025

BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

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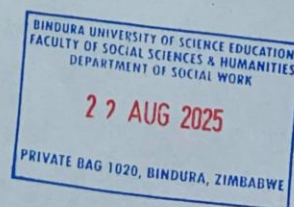
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DECLARATION

I, BUDAI YOSA TAKUNDANASHE solemnly declare that the research: **A framework towards addressing the effects of cultural degeneration in influencing juvenile delinquency in Zimbabwe. A case study for Zaka District** is based on my own work carried out during the course of my study under the supervision of Dr Mangwiro.

I further assert that the work has not been submitted to any other institution (locally or abroad) for any other certificate, diploma or degree. I have also followed all the guidelines provided by the university in writing this dissertation and whenever I have used the material from any other sources, due credit through the provision of their details in the references has been offered.

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Student Number: B210760B

Title of Project: A framework towards addressing the effects of cultural degeneration in influencing juvenile delinquency in Zimbabwe. A case study for Zaka District.

Program: Social Work

Year Granted: 2025

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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DEDICATION

The Researcher dedicates this research to any child predisposed to the risk of various elements of cultural degeneration which are influencing children into juvenile delinquency. To a parent, guardian overwhelmed to monitor and supervise the behaviour and activities or interactions of the children in their custody. To teachers, church leaders and other community leaders who are responsible for the welfare and protection of children. And to any stakeholders who are conveniently positioned to bear influence which creates a safer environment for the protection of children from juvenile delinquency and the risk factors which contribute to this problem. The dedicatees and the researcher will sustain the agenda on the discourse of child welfare and protection from juvenile delinquency and the contributing factors. Finally, I dedicate this research to children in Zaka District in which this research was carried out.

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MARKING GUIDE: UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROJECT

Chapter 1 INTRODUCTION	Possible Mark	Actual Mark
Abstract	10	
Background to the study- what is it that has made you choose this particular topic? Include objectives or purpose of the study	20	
Statement of the problem	10	
Research questions	15	
Assumptions	5	
Significance of the study	15	
Limitations of the study	5	
Delimitations of the study	5	
Definition of terms	10	
Summary	5	
Total	100	
Weighted Mark	15	

Comments.....
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Chapter 2 LITERATURE REVIEW

Introduction- what do you want to write about in this chapter?	5	
Conceptual or theoretical framework	10	
Identification, interpretations and evaluation of relevant literature and citations	40	
Contextualisation of the literature to the problem	10	
Establishing gaps in knowledge and how the research will try to bridge these gaps	10	
Structuring and logical sequencing of ideas	10	
Discursive skills	10	
Summary	5	
Total	100	
Weighted Mark	20	

Comments.....
.....

Chapter 3 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Introduction	5	
Research design	10	
What instruments are you using to collect data?	30	
Population, sample and sampling techniques to be used in the study	25	
Procedures for collecting data	15	
Data presentation and analysis procedures	10	
Summary	5	
Total	100	
Weighted Mark	25	

Comments.....

Chapter 4 DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Introduction	5	
Data presentation	50	
Is there any attempt to link literature review with new findings	10	
How is the new knowledge trying to fill the gaps identified earlier	10	
Discursive and analytical skills	20	
Summary	5	
Total	100	
Weighted Mark	30	

Comments

Chapter 5 SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction- focus of the chapter	5	
Summary of the whole project including constraints	25	
Conclusions- have you come up with answers to the problem under study	30	
Recommendations(should be based on findings) Be precise	30	
References	5	
Appendices i.e. copies of instruments used and any other relevant material	5	
Total	100	
Weighted mark	10	

Comments

SUMMARY:-

	Actual	Total
Chapter 1	_____	
Chapter 2	_____	
Chapter 3	_____	
Chapter 4	_____	
Chapter 5	_____	
Total	_____	_____

ABSTRACT

This research explored on a framework towards addressing the effects of cultural degeneration in influencing juvenile delinquency in Zaka District, Jerera growth point. The researcher was curious about the cultural degeneration elements predisposing children to juvenile delinquency. The researcher was keen to understand various forms of crimes which are prevalent among children. Also, the researcher sought to establish intervention strategies to mitigate the effects of cultural degeneration in influencing juvenile delinquency. The qualitative research methodology was used, utilizing a case study research design, non-probability purposive sampling, in depth interviews, focus group discussions and sensitive ethics with 20 participants, which constitutes children, parents, and key informants from Zaka District, Jerera growth point. Therefore, the data collected was presented, analysed, interpreted in line with the objectives and literature review using thematic content analysis approach. The research established the cultural degeneration elements predisposing children to juvenile delinquency. Family structure breakdown and lack of parental supervision, drug and substance abuse, unrestricted media influence, decline of traditional values and educational decline. In line with the theoretical framework of the research, crime and anomie by Emile Durkheim, these cultural degeneration factors have broken the structures of the society which used to hold law and order therefore children have become delinquency. As a consequence, children are participating in various forms of criminal activities. They are committing property crimes, violent crimes, drug related crimes and sexual offenses such as theft, bullying, assault, shoplifting, gang violence, abuse of illicit drugs and alcohol, child marriages, incest, indecency assault and rape. In mitigation, the researcher suggested the significance of restoration of cultural ways of disciplining children like the role of aunties and uncles in counselling children and the use of corporal punishment. The research also suggested family supervision and media censoring to control children's behaviour and the integration of Ubuntu African philosophy in children's learning curricula. The research will impact Social Work profession, the government, and Non-governmental organizations in guiding any juvenile delinquency and child protection interventions or programs.

ACRONYMS

ACRWC	-	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of Children
ADHD	-	Attention Deficit Hyper Activity Disorder
CBO	-	Community Based Organizations
CCWs	-	Community Childcare Workers
DCWPS	-	Department of Child welfare and Protection services
DDC	-	District Development Coordinator
DSD	-	Department of Social Development
NGOs	-	Non-Governmental Organizations
STIs	-	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
UNCRC	-	United Nations Conventions on the Rights of Children
UNICEF	-	United Nations International Children Emergence Fund
VFU	-	Victim Friendly Unit
WHO	-	World Health Organization
ZRP	-	Zimbabwe Republic Police

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The increase of children crime rates all over the world is a true reflection of cultural degeneration and moral degradation. Children are committing different forms of crimes which includes theft, alcoholism, drug and substance abuse, bullying, physical assault, unprotected sex, teenage pregnancies, robbery and vandalism of property. All these mentioned acts serve as evidence of cultural degeneration and the breaking down of societal ties which used to regulate the behaviour and morality of humanity. The traditional values are fading away, the family system has been broken down, there is extinction of cohesion among community, rise in the consumption of harmful technology and social media. Serious ethical ramifications for society and the nation as a whole result from cultural decay and the adolescent aberrant behaviour that follows. This emphasizes how urgently families and the community must work together to come up with intervention that will assist in dealing with the effects of the widespread moral decay in society. The only way to achieve cultural regeneration is for families, community organizations, NGOs, and the government to work together to instil moral, ethical, and normative ideals in children that foster good character. Thus, the introduction, study background, problem statement, study aim, study objectives, research questions, study significance, literature review and theoretical framework, research technique, and study ethical issues are all covered in this chapter.

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

A global issue in contemporary culture, cultural degeneration is typified by a rise in antisocial behaviour and a drop in life quality, particularly among the younger generations. Among its manifestations include perverse sexual practices, gender-based violence, robbery, theft, vandalism, alcohol and drug abuse, bullying patterns, addiction and abuse on social media, adolescent pregnancies, and contempt for authority (Louw, 2017). Every year, more than 176 000 killings take place among young people aged 15 to 29, accounting for 37% of all homicides worldwide (WHO, 2023). According to statistics, for every child killed, other kids suffer injuries that necessitate medical care, and occasionally the effects might impair the person's ability to function socially, psychologically, and physically. Violence among children includes range of acts from bullying, physical fighting, severe sexual and physical assault, gang related violence and homicide.

One in eight young people report experiencing sexual abuse, and the offenders are also young people, according to WHO (2023). Bullying and physical altercations are very common among kids. These crimes have led to numerous issues that have impacted the community as a whole in addition to the individuals involved. They lower productivity, lower property values, and raise the costs of criminal justice, welfare, and health care. Children's delinquent behaviour is being caused by a number of factors which attention deficit hyperactivity disorders (ADHD), poor education and low commitment to school, early involvement in drug and substance abuse and exposure to disintegrated families and gender-based violence. WHO (2023), suggest that there is need to reduce economic inequalities, enhance education and employment opportunities and improve quality of life. There only problem with this viewpoint is that it doesn't take into considerations moral and cultural factors which should be addressed to solve the problems of children in conflict with the law.

One of the nations where young people are facing moral decay is the United States of America (USA). According to Kay (2019), there is a greater prevalence of moral decay in American classrooms. The dress code among the young people is in itself a reflection of moral decay especially among girls whose dress code flaunt sexuality. This problem is hugely influenced by lack of parental supervision, social media role models like Rihanna, Taylor Swift and Kanye West. The social learning theory of Albert Bandura explains that children learn behaviour through adaptation and imitation (Lahey, 2012). Therefore, social media role models have played a huge role in children crime rates. Sexuality among children has increased, there is a lot of drug and substance abuse, disobedience to parents, bullying trends and gang violence. The values which were meant to shape children who are growing up have been broken because of cultural degeneration and the cases of children in conflict with the law have increased.

The rising number of child criminal cases over the African continent is another indication of the effects of cultural decay. Teenagers who engage in delinquent behaviours include rape, theft, property destruction, alcohol and drug addiction, and reluctance to follow parental instructions, according to Elliot, Huizinga, and Menard (2012). Bullying, fighting, stealing, vandalism, sexual immorality, gang violence, and gun ownership are all signs of delinquency among Nigerian adolescents in secondary school. Of much importance to note is that there are two main categories of delinquent behaviours which Nigerian adolescents engage in and these are, criminal and status offences (Iyiani, Paulinus, Ajibo and Ibenekwu, 2018). The criminal offences are violations which apply to adults and they consist of stealing, arson, sexual abuse,

drug offences, killings, burglary, pickpocket, and robberies. The other type is the status offence which does not apply to adults and they are truancy, not adhering to parent's demands.

According to Agbakwuru (2018), a family's values, structure, and dynamics have a big impact on the behavior, attitudes, interests, and general well-being of its members in a social context. A child's family and school are two of the most significant institutions in their life, and they are also the main places where they socialize, especially as adolescents. The influence of the family on a child considerably influences the child's future self, including the type of parent the child will become. The school environment also has a significant impact on the teenager. The family is seen as the primary institution that socializes the young and provides surveillance over their behaviour through a set of values and practices in the family life (Okorodudu, 2017). Knowledge and skills necessary for future survival are learned in school. Maladaptive teenagers and the rise in crime and violence are the results of parents' and educators' failure to enforce discipline in their kids. Ladzani (2014) argues that the absence of cultural awareness among young people is mostly caused by their abandonment of their own traditional culture, customs, and norms as a result of their absorption in the European society. The family system, which is the core of African identity and morality, and Ubuntu (Unhu) must be restored in order to handle the issue. This calls for an immediate moral regeneration.

Since statistics show that juvenile crimes are on the rise in Zimbabwe, the problem of juvenile crime has emerged as a modern one. The three major towns of Harare, Mutare and also Bulawayo had an average of 263 child arrests each month in 2013 (UNICEF, 2013). Muparanganda and Muparanganda (2016) claim that Zimbabwe is seeing a rise in the number of young people behind bars. According to statistics from UNICEF Zimbabwe, 234 children were imprisoned for breaking the law in 2002; this number excludes children in correctional facilities or custody institutions. Children in Zimbabwe are imprisoned for offenses like murder, assault, rape, theft, and malicious property damage (Muparanganda and Muparanganda, 2016). Some of the juveniles were pardoned through the provision of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act (Chapter 9: 07) Section 358(2) (d) but they continue to commit similar crimes. This reflects that juvenile crimes have a root cause which need to be addressed first before we look for juvenile justice initiatives and that root cause is cultural degeneration.

According to Muparanganda & Muparanganda (2016), a comprehensive social protection system is necessary to address socioeconomic issues like poverty that undermine children's

welfare and encourage them to participate in criminal activity. Additionally, they recommend that social workers address risk factors like abusive and neglectful behavior, dysfunctional home situations, inconsistent parenting, and social and community issues that make kids more likely to commit crimes. In order to guarantee that children are nurtured in a stable home setting where they receive the proper care and direction required for their best possible physical and psycho-social development, social workers might participate in parenting clubs that teach effective parenting techniques. Most crimes committed by children in the modern-day Zimbabwean context are mainly prompted by cultural erosion, poor parental guidance, disintegrated families, lack of community cohesion, drug and substance abuse, social media and globalization. This entails that there is an urgent need to come up with a multidimensional and complex framework to address the effects of cultural degeneration in influencing juvenile delinquency in Zimbabwe.

1.2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

In the past few years, the world has witnessed an exponential increase of cultural degeneration especially in Western countries. This debauchery has spread its wings across the globe affecting even the developing countries like Zimbabwe because of globalization. In Zaka district, the decline in cultural values and moral standards has created a very huge impact on the behaviour of young people. Through media influence, family dynamics, poor socioeconomic status, peer pressure and other several factors, the world has become a hostile place for the positive development of children socially and mentally. Research indicates that cultural degeneration has led to a rise in juvenile crime rates. According to Louw (2017), the rise in juvenile delinquency is an indication of the growing cultural decay of young people. There is increase in vandalism, theft, drug abuse, gang activity, indecent assault and sexual crimes amongst the young people in rural areas. The norms of the society that were deemed deviant years ago have become normalized in the modern-day society for example sex before marriage leading to incest, rape and aggravated assault cases among the children. Cultural degeneration has also affected the mental health of children leading to children developing maladaptive personality which leads to crime and deviance. This study seeks to address the effects of cultural degeneration in influencing juvenile delinquency or actions which make children to come in conflict with the law. The aim is to develop a framework geared towards addressing the problem at hand.

1.3. AIM OF THE STUDY

The main aim of the study is to explore the effects of cultural degeneration on juvenile delinquency in Zimbabwe and also to come up with a framework which seeks to reduce juvenile delinquency.

1.4. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- To explore the elements of cultural degeneration and their implication on juvenile crime rates.
- To identify the prevalence and manifestations of children moral degeneration and children's criminal cases.
- To come up with possible intervention framework to address the effects of cultural degeneration in influencing juvenile delinquency in Zimbabwe.

1.5. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- 1) What are the elements of cultural degeneration and what is their implication on juvenile crime rates?
- 2) Explain the prevalence and manifestation of children moral degeneration and children's criminal cases?
- 3) What are the possible interventions to address the effects of cultural degeneration in influencing juvenile delinquency in Zimbabwe?

1.6. SIGNIFICANT OF THE STUDY

The research magnifies the current body of knowledge in the study of social work, sociology, juvenile justice and other related disciplines on the phenomenon of cultural degeneration and its impact toward juvenile delinquency. It offers a very helpful framework and intervention strategies to help address the high rate of juvenile criminal cases and moral decay in society. It supports the development of positive behaviour, character, and personality in children to ensure that they grow up to be responsible and productive members of society. In order to develop effective policies that address juvenile delinquency from its underlying causes, the study also aims to inform and influence the Judiciary Service Commission, the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, the ZRP victim-friendly unit, and other pertinent government offices and policy makers. The study can also help Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and Church Based Organizations to become aware of the challenges which needs to be addressed among the children in conflict with the law.

1.7. RESEARCH ASSUMPTIONS

The essential data will be accessible to the researcher, and the data collected from the population will be precise, comprehensive, pertinent, objective, and trustworthy. The population will accurately reflect the entire population. The research is predicated on the ideas that societal, familial, community, and individual factors all play a role in juvenile offenses and that cultural decay has a major effect on juvenile delinquency. Reducing youth crime can be achieved in part by addressing cultural degradation.

Furthermore, the study relies on crime and anomie theory and ecological systems theory to understand the connection between cultural degeneration and juvenile delinquency. The state of anomie or disorder which is caused by structural tensions makes crimes and deviance among young to be inevitable. Also, juvenile delinquency is influenced by the interplay between individual, family, community and societal factors which makes up the ecological system.

1.8. DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

1.8.1 Geographic Delimitation

The research was restricted to a single geographic area. This study solely looked at cultural deterioration among the youngsters in Zaka District ward 19, despite the fact that it is a problem throughout Zimbabwe. Given the aforementioned, the study's conclusions cannot be overstated or extrapolated to other parts of Zimbabwe because the circumstances there might be different from those in Zaka.

1.8.2 Time frame delimitations

The study's time frame is restricted to June 2023–May 2025. The precise time frame over which the research was carried out and the data was gathered is referred to as the study's time delimitation. In this case, the study is limited to a period from which I started the industrial attachment to a time a finish the fourth year of university. Life is dynamic and therefore situations or events evolve as time progresses. The data that was captured between the stated time-frame of the study might not apply years before 2023 or years after the research period

1.8.3 Theoretical Delimitation

The study will primarily focus on effects of cultural degeneration in influencing juvenile delinquency in Zimbabwe. This includes issues of family structure breakdown, erosion of traditional and moral values, influence of social media and the breaking down of community ties. Other intrinsic factors like personality disorders as well as the influence of economic and political structures to the rate at which children commit crimes are excluded from this study.

1.9. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

1.9.1 Sample Size

Practical limitations, such as participant availability or budgetary limits, may restrict the study's sample size. A small sample size may limit the findings' generalizability and the capacity to make thorough inferences about the larger population of juvenile crime cases.

1.9.2 Financial limitations

Inadequate funding often hinders the researcher's ability to find pertinent resources, literature, or information and to collect data (internet, questionnaire, and interview). Another significant limitation is the lack of funding for conducting case studies.

1.9.3 Theoretical limitations

The problem of juvenile delinquency is influenced by a variety of social, political, economic, environmental and psychological factors. It might not bring justice to the study to bring focus on social and cultural factors only as the causation of juvenile delinquency in Zimbabwe. Our choice of theoretical framework may not fully capture the complexity of multi-factorial interactions.

1.10. DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

- A community's entire way of life is what is referred to as its culture. It comprises their attire, marital traditions, family life, artistic endeavors, work habits, religious rituals, recreational activities, and the tangible products they manufacture (Hayes, 2015). Simply said, culture is a society's dynamic and all-encompassing way of life, values, and customs that are passed down from one generation to the next.
- Cultural degeneration is the erosion of values and decline of standards of life of children and adults (Lusenga, 2010). It refers to the decline or erosion of a culture's values, traditions, and practices, often resulting in a loss of cultural identity and social cohesion.
- According to Hamilton (2011), a juvenile is a kid or young person who may face different treatment for an offense under their individual legal systems than an adult. According to the Children' Act (Chapter 5:06) juvenile is a word which similarly refers to children. Therefore, a juvenile refers to a minor or a child below the age of 18 years.
- Delinquency from a legal viewpoint refers to any behaviour that goes against the criminal law and that is committed by a young person below the age of eighteen (Iyiani,

Paulinus, Ajibo and Ibenekwu, 2018). Juvenile delinquency implies to the crimes that are committed by children or any deviance behavior which makes them to come in conflict with the law.

1.11. DESSERTATION OUTLINE

The dissertation consists of five chapters from chapter 1 to chapter 5. Each chapter contains different contents which seeks to explore on the framework towards addressing the effects of cultural degeneration in influencing juvenile delinquency in Zimbabwe.

Chapter 1: Introduction and the background of study.

Chapter 1 emphasized on the introduction, background of the problem, aim of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, research questions, significance of the study, research assumptions, delimitations, definition of key terms and research time frame.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

The chapter reviewed the literature on the many viewpoints held by academics regarding cultural degradation and how it affects juvenile criminality. The theoretical underpinning that directs this investigation was also covered in this chapter.

Chapter 3: Research methodology

The following, research philosophy, research design, demographic and location, non-probability sampling strategy, ethical considerations, focus group discussions, interviews, observations, and data gathering tools were the main topics of this chapter.

Chapter 4: Data presentation, analysis and interpretation

The presentation, analysis, and interpretation of the gathered data were the main topics of the chapter. In this chapter, arguments derived from the presentation, analysis, and interpretation of the gathered data were supported by literature.

Chapter 5: Summary, conclusion and recommendations

An overview of the study, a summary of the findings, recommendations, area of further research, intervention model and conclusion was provided in this chapter.

1.12 CHAPTER SUMMARY

This chapter provided an overview of the study, consisting its background, problem description, justification, goals, and definitions of important words, as well as its limitations and delimitations. The study's literature review is presented in the following chapter.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 INTRODUCTION

In this chapter of literature review, related researches on cultural degeneration and juvenile crime rates will be reviewed. It will review the literature basing on researches from global, regional and national level. Current legal instruments in regards to child protection is going to be emphasized. The following subheadings like what is cultural degeneration, what is juvenile delinquency, theoretical frameworks of cultural degeneration in relation to juvenile delinquency, elements of cultural degeneration and their implication on juvenile crime rates, prevalence and manifestations of children's crime rates and possible intervention framework to address the effects of cultural degeneration in influencing juvenile delinquency in Zimbabwe will all be covered in the literature study. The chapter is going to bring out some gaps which have been left by previous literature.

2.1 DEFINITION OF CULTURAL DEGENERATION AND JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Moral decay and a fall in the standard of living for both young and old are examples of cultural degeneration (Lusenga, 2010). Cultural degeneration describes how a culture's values,

customs, and practices deteriorate or disappear, frequently leading to a loss of social cohesiveness and cultural identity. According to Hamilton (2011), a juvenile is a kid or young person who may face different treatment for an offense under their individual legal systems than an adult. According to Iyiani, Paulinus, Ajibo, and Ibenekwu (2018), delinquency is defined as any behaviour that is against the criminal code and is carried out by a young person under the age of eighteen. Juvenile delinquency implies to the crimes that are committed by children or any deviance behavior which makes them to come in conflict with the law.

2.2 THEORATICAL FRAMEWORK

The researcher will highlight the theories that support the research study under the theoretical framework. A theory is a hypothesis or a structured body of recognized information that can be applied in a number of situations to explain a certain group of events. As the theoretical foundation for this research investigation, crime and anomie theory was applied.

2.2.1 Crime and Anomie Theory (Durkheim and Merton, 1893)

Crime and anomie theory which was propounded by Durkheim and Merton in 1893 shall be central to this study. This is a functionalist theory which see crime and deviance resulting from structural tensions and lack of moral regulations within the society (Giddens, 2009). The crime and anomie theory holds that modern society is eroding its previous norms and standards without replacing them with new ones. When there are no unambiguous rules to govern behaviour in a particular sphere of social life, anomie results. Deviance is unavoidable in an anomie-ridden state since individuals have free will (Giddens, 2009). Anomie brought on by a lack of community links, deteriorating educational standards, dissolution of families, and a loss of traditional values is known as cultural degeneration. The crime and anomie theory explains the root cause of juvenile crimes like gang violence, theft, drug and substance abuse, sexual crimes, among others. Children who are raised from low-working class families are more likely to join gang activities, robbery and theft as an adaptive response to their disadvantaged situation. Therefore, the state of structural order and moral regulations in the society is directly linked to the rate of juvenile delinquency.

One of the earliest explanations of the reasons behind deviant behaviour that was genuinely sociological was the crime and anomie theory. This theory seeks to explain deviation by focusing on social structures and patterns that emerge as individuals and organizations react to situations over which they have little control. According to Durkheim, societal change and integration have a major role in aberrant behaviour. Norms will become ambiguous as society

changes quickly, leading to anomie. Anomie is a condition of normlessness in which society is unable to adequately control the expectations or actions of its constituents. It happens when people's goals are let to grow beyond what can be achieved. Human needs and desires are controlled by the social order in well-functioning civilizations, and ambitions are kept in check. According to Durkheim, in order for people's wishes to be defined and constrained and made feasible by the resources at their disposal, normative values are required. Durkheim continues by talking about the social factors that contribute to anomie in contemporary society, all of which he believes are transient byproducts of modernization. First, since the primary purpose of conventional institutions like marriage and religion is to offer moral regulation of objectives and behavior, their decline creates an environment that is conducive to anomie (Durkheim, 1897). The institution of family and marriage regulate the desire to belong and thrive, but high divorce rates weaken this regulatory power as young people will end joining gang groups and engage in theft and robbery. The lack of regulatory mechanism in trade and industry, in the pursue of technology and other human endeavours has left the society in a state of chaos and as a result juvenile delinquency continue to rise.

2.2.2 Relevance of crime and anomie theory to the study

The crime and anomie theory will be appropriate in the quest of this study as it helps us to explore the relationship between cultural degeneration and juvenile delinquency. This theory suggests that the state of order within societal structures such as the culture, education, religion, economy, media, politics and social relations determine the rate of crime and deviance within a society. Structural tensions or dysfunctional of the society which can be revealed through cultural degeneration is the cause of crime among the young people. Poor upbringing and the environment may be the cause of young people's criminal behaviour, claim Mangwiro and Chitereka (2021). The crime and anomie theory also describes the elements of cultural degeneration and their implication on juvenile delinquency for example family structure breakdown and unrestricted media control cause maladaptive behaviour in children which results in criminal acts like violence, rape, theft and robbery. According to the crime and anomie theory, crime and deviance are functional elements of the society because they lead to change, they provoke collective response to the problem and they shift attention from individual explanations to social forces and relations within the society (Haralambos and Holborn, 2000). From this view point we can deduct solutions which can help us come up with a framework towards addressing the impact of cultural degeneration in influencing juvenile delinquency in Zimbabwe through collective action and social change.

2.3 ELEMENTS OF CULTURAL DEGENERATION AND THEIR IMPLICATION ON JUVENILE CRIME RATES

The concept of cultural degeneration refers to the decline in cultural values, norms, and practices that can lead to social disorganization and increased deviance and children crime rates. It encompasses various factors which includes, family structure breakdown, drug and substance abuse, media influence, loss of community cohesion, decline in traditional values and educational deterioration. Understanding how these elements contribute to juvenile crime rates requires a comprehensive analysis of their interconnectedness.

2.3.1 Family structure break down

The breakdown of family structures is one of the main causes of juvenile delinquency, a topic that has gained international attention. The USA Bureau of Justice Statistics discovered that 72% of adolescents in jail come from broken homes, and law enforcement organizations in the US reported 2,18 million juvenile arrests (Alfry, 2010). Compared to children from stable homes, children from unstable homes are more likely to experience a range of behavioral and academic issues, such as drug and alcohol misuse, smoking, vandalism, aggression, and criminal activity. Sibanda (2018) argues that due to the influence of glocalization, new types of families have emerged in Africa. For instance, single parenthood is now common in most urbanized areas which is a not a perfect family for the positive personality development of children. Compared to two-parent households, single-parent households are frequently more financially susceptible. These families may be drawn to chaotic neighborhoods where crime and violence are common due to this regrettable economic situation. Children raised by alcoholic parents or parents that are addicted to drugs tend to become criminals because of lack of order and parental supervision.

Increasing rates of juvenile crime rates has become a major social problem regionally. Studies have traced the preponderance of juvenile crimes to the increasing rate of family instability among other factors (Ugwuoke, 2020). The family plays a very important role of shaping children's behavior and values. The Ubuntu African philosophy strengthen the idea that a child should be raised by the community starting from his nuclear family and when the family fails the individuals in that family are also doomed to fail. The modern-day society is now characterized with a numerous divorces, single parented homes and neglect parents which is a manifestation of family structure breakdown. Children are now caught in crimes such as drug and substance abuse, forgery, rape, violence and robbery because of lack of parental control.

According to Alfrey (2010), children in single-parent households typically receive low levels of supervision because the parent is busy with other errands. Inadequate parental supervision contributes directly to children's anti-social behavior and indirectly by exposing them to deviant peers, such as drug addicts, which gives them an absolute propensity towards higher levels of criminal acts. Inadequate supervision resulting from family instability is linked to juvenile delinquency.

Since statistics show that juvenile crimes are on the rise in Zimbabwe, the problem of juvenile crime has emerged as a modern one. Muparanganda and Muparanganda (2016) claim that Zimbabwe is seeing a rise in the number of young people behind bars. Children in Zimbabwe are imprisoned for offenses like murder, assault, rape, theft, and malicious property damage (Muparanganda and Muparanganda, 2016). Some of the juveniles were pardoned through the provision of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act (Chapter 9: 07) Section 358(2) (d) but they continue to commit similar crimes. This reflects that juvenile crimes have a root cause which need to be addressed first before we look for juvenile justice initiatives and that root cause is cultural degeneration. Deindustrialization has led to Zimbabwe's economic downturn in recent years, which has resulted in numerous children running afoul of the law. By early 2015, Zimbabwe was primarily an informal economy, or, as it is commonly known, a country of sellers, according to Mlambo (2015). Many families are struggling financially, and many children are living in child-headed households. As a result, most children turn to illicit activities including robbery, theft, and sex labor in order to survive.

2.3.2 Drug and substance abuse

Substance abuse and drug misuse have emerged as a leading cause of juvenile delinquency on a global scale. In this perspective, drugs are substances that, when used, cause a person to act irrationally or in a certain way (Gazimbe and Khosa, 2021). In addition to consuming mood-altering drugs, children are starting to consume them at younger and younger ages. Regular drug users have a number of problems, including poor peer relationships, health problems, academic difficulties, and engagement in delinquent activities including theft, assault, and gang violence. These individuals can be introduced to drugs and alcohol, at schools, at home, at a peer's home, or other common areas especially in *ghetto* areas.

Regionally, the use of drugs and substance abuse is one of the major causes of juvenile delinquency. Drugs are introduced to children in schools, at home or shopping centers. If alcohol, nicotine, crystal methyl (*guka mutoriro*) and marijuana are perceived to be common

in school, juveniles are more accepting of these drugs (Cappelli et. al, 2021). Furthermore, teens attend parties and events in which they are exposed to these substances and are open to try and use them. These deviant activities are perceived as acceptable in peer groups or environments because of their ubiquity (Chen et al., 2018). If a youth is negatively influenced by their peers to try a new substance, they are likely to fall into that behaviour or a pattern of substance use. Other harmful effects presented to young people by substance abuse are other health issues, low academic achievement, depression, social problems, and more. Alcohol and marijuana use affects the state of consciousness and is linked to antisocial behaviors present in children and youths which makes them come to commit crimes such as theft, destruction of property, trespassing, violence, homicide, rape and other serious crimes.

Drug misuse in Zimbabwe's schools has historically been associated with the immediate post-independence era (Chikoko, 2013). The most frequently abused drug by pupils in the secondary schools in Hwange District is marijuana (mbanje in the local language). Alcohol, glue, and cigarettes are among the other substances that are abused. According to this data, students acknowledge that drug usage is common in their classrooms (Gazimbe and Khosa, 2021). Students who frequently participate in a variety of anti-social behaviors, including fighting, bullying, stealing, and damaging school asserts, are more likely to be high on drugs, according to Mpofu and Machingauta (2023). Children who take drugs experience drunkenness, cognitive impairment, and a loss of self-control. Drugs have the ability to induce altered states of consciousness, which may lead to uncontrolled deviant behavior and criminal activity.

2.3.3 Unrestricted Media influence

Globally, the sociocultural landscape has undergone significant change as a result of the growing relaxation of restrictions on media content in the name of liberal media policy and creative freedom. Everyone, including kids and teenagers, can readily access the unrestrained media content and lack of self-regulation that contains high levels of crime, aggressive behavior, and sexual relationships. One of the main causes of juvenile delinquency is thought to be unrestricted media (Shali, 2017). Today's culture is mostly dependent on the media and internet to promote communication and social interaction. The majority of kids and teenagers use social media for over three hours per day on average (Khan, 2022). Children are actively present on various online apps like TikTok, Instagram, snapchat, X and Facebook where they are exposed to harmful and inappropriate social media content (Navarro, 2023). A large variety of sexually explicit content is available online and pornographic sites depicts brutal acts of sex,

incest videos, paedophilia, and so on. Unrestricted media influence has led children into committing various crimes from property crimes, violent crimes and sex offenses.

The rising number of child criminal cases over the African continent is another indication of the effects of cultural decay. Teenagers who engage in delinquent behaviors include rape, theft, property destruction, alcohol and drug addiction, and reluctance to follow parental instructions, according to Elliot, Huizinga, and Menard (2012). Bullying, fighting, stealing, vandalism, sexual immorality, gang violence, and gun ownership are all signs of delinquency among Nigerian adolescents in secondary school. These crimes have become more rampant among children because of negative social media role models. Back in the days, before social media colonized the minds of humanity, children used to view their elders as the source of guidance and good direction. Nowadays children are adopting the culture which is displayed by their social media role models for example the hip-hop culture which teaches violence, promiscuity, theft and robbery. This culture has become so prominent among the young generation in the African region.

Locally, access to sexually explicit content is becoming much simpler due to the expanding internet in developing nations like Zimbabwe. According to Albert Bandura of the social learning theory, young people learn by imitation and adaptation, therefore frequent exposure to pictures of crime, violence, and sex at an unsuitable age increases the likelihood that fantasies will become reality. According to Ndudula (2014), people nowadays frequently imitate the lifestyles of celebrities as they are portrayed in the media, including their unethical behavior. Cultural degeneration through unrestricted media influence has influenced children into committing serious crimes such as theft, gang violence, rape, incest, and aggravated assault.

2.3.4 Decline of traditional values

The erosion of religious and economical values by post-colonial communities is known as cultural degeneration. According to Mugumbate and Chereni (2019), this is characterized by a lack of African humanness (Ubuntu) and a good values system that influences society. The deterioration of traditional values is seen to precede or coincide with a drop in living quality, an increase in criminal cases, and juvenile misbehavior. African society has changed as a result of Eurocentric beliefs and ideals. According to Katola (2014), they have caused Africans to become estranged from their own cultural beliefs. While individualism and secularism are highlighted as the ideal culture, everything about African culture was demonized. The

European secular culture of individualism and capitalism, which only serves to sow discord and hatred among people, supplanted communitarianism, communalism, African religious ceremonies, and African humanness (Ubuntu).

In Zimbabwe, traditional values and practices play a significant role in instilling good morals among children and youths, teaching them through games and choirs. Through traditional teachings, boys were taught in what was called *Dare* (traditional men's meeting) to become men of integrity who does not bring disrepute to their family name and that is what kept the society intact (Mugumbate and Chereni, 2019). On the other hand, girls were educated by their grandmothers and the aunties to become chaste and obedient. The decline of traditional values and ushering in of a new culture of western ideologies of individualism and freedom of children from disciplinary measures led to the rise of crimes among the young people manifesting through violence, assault, indecent sexual assault, early marriages and incest.

2.3.5 Educational decline

Around the world, education is one of the most important socialization tools and has a significant impact on how children behave and think as they get older. Juvenile delinquency is more likely to occur among children who are denied access to education in many parts of the world, for example, because of lack of resources, geographic restrictions, or financial limitations, or who have a negative school experience because of poor instruction, absent or abusive teachers, or other factors (Louw, 2017). Going to school has been a huge problem for most juvenile criminals. Some communities lack schools, and first-time schooling is perceived as being expensive. Even when education is free, there are still costs involved, like clothes, books, writing materials, and meals. All of these are challenging factors to the child's education over the financial limits of the child's family. Young people who lack education are therefore idle and always involved in criminal activity.

In the African region, the role that education plays a very fundamental to the cognitive and behavioral development of children. Behaviour is socially learned (Lahey, 2012), therefore it is through tools of socialization like education that children acquire perceptions, attitudes and behaviour. Bullying, fighting, stealing, vandalism, sexual immorality, gang violence, and gun ownership are all signs of delinquency among Nigerian adolescents in secondary school. According to Iyiani, Paulinus, Ajibo, and Ibenekwu (2018), there are two primary types of delinquent behaviors that Nigerian teenagers participate in: criminal and status offenses. The reduction in education is the cause of these crimes.

In Zimbabwe, juvenile delinquency cases are rising at a very alarming rate and such degeneration is attributed to educational decline. Poor education performance and school truancy in children who live in rural areas and children from poverty backgrounds for example those who live in high residential areas like Mbare exposes them to risks of drug and substance abuse and various criminal behaviors. Students who frequently participate in a variety of anti-social behaviors, including fighting, bullying, stealing, and damaging school property, are more likely to be under the influence of drugs, according to Mpofu and Machingauta (2023).

2.4 PREVALENCE AND MANIFESTATION OF CHILDREN'S CRIME RATES

Juvenile crime manifests in various forms, reflecting a range of behaviors and motivations that can be influenced by individual, familial, social and environmental factors. Understanding these manifestations is crucial for developing effective prevention and intervention strategies. Some of the offenses committed by the juvenile delinquents include;

2.4.1 Property Crimes

Children are increasingly committing property crimes worldwide, particularly in cultures where poverty is prevalent. Every culture has an institutionalized route to success, and crime typically occurs when people are unable to make a living using these socially acceptable ways, according to Robert Merton's strain theory (Giddens, 2009). Children from low-income homes are more prone to commit property crimes like shoplifting, burglaries, and stealing. In the United States, African American children from ghettos are more likely to be victims of these crimes.

In Nigeria, vandalism is another popular type of youth activity that many teens will participate in. There are many different forms of vandalism. One minor form of vandalism presents in schools and all-around communities is graffiti. Graffiti is significantly more present in low income or minority communities (Goldsmith, 2022). Youths living in disadvantaged neighborhoods were shown to have a higher risk of being involved in acts of vandalism participating in acts of arson and damage of property which are property crimes.

In Zimbabwe, property crimes are among the most common forms of juvenile delinquency. These include theft, burglary, vandalism, and shoplifting. Juveniles may engage in property crimes for various reasons such as peer pressure, economic necessity, or the thrill associated with committing the act. For instance, shoplifting can often be driven by a desire to fit in with peers or to obtain goods that they cannot afford. Theft and shoplifting are a crime defined in Section 113 of the Criminal law codification and reform Act (Chapter 9:23). This is one of the

most prominent crimes that is committed by children due to influence of their friends and sometimes poverty and economic strains pushes them to steal.

2.4.2 Violent Crimes

During a period known as the "violence epidemic," the number of young people jailed for violent crimes, including homicide, in the United States increased dramatically in the 1980s and 1990s (Young, Greer, and Church, 2017). These crimes continue to spread in the 20th century with young people being involved in gang violence, robbery and assault cases. One of the effects of global urbanization has been the emergence of youth gangs, which are groupings of young people that are frequently categorized by geography, ethnicity, or ideology. According to recent reports, there is an increase in groups that hold extreme opinions. The rise in juvenile gangs is attributed to a number of factors, including globalization, exposure to unrealistic lifestyle "ideals" in modern media, economic migration, the loss of extended family networks, and a decline in child supervision.

At regional level, another concerning youth activity presently seen in today's youth culture is youth violence in schools (Navarro, 2023). This type of violence can be present in multiple forms of physical or emotional violence. Some examples of this violence can be present through bullying, school fights, and even more severe cases of gun violence. Some children even go as far as getting involved in gang violence and robbery which are serious offenses against criminal law.

According to the Criminal Law Codification and Reform Act (Chapter 9:23), assault (Section 89), robbery (Section 126), and homicide (Section 47) are among the violent crimes that young people in Zimbabwe perpetrate. These behaviors are frequently more severe and can be caused by a number of things, including as psychiatric problems, gang activity, or exposure to violence in the neighborhood or at home. Due to peer pressure and other socialization factors, men are statistically more likely than women to commit violent crimes; nevertheless, there is also a growing trend of women engaging in significant violence. One of the most heinous crimes perpetrated by children, particularly those raised in broken homes, is homicide. This is because these children are mainly exposed to domestic abuse and violence which increases their proclivity to violence behaviour.

2.4.3 Drug-Related Offenses

With an expected 424,300 arrests involving individuals below the age of 18 in 2020, juvenile delinquency is a crucial, persistent problem that affects various provinces in the United States

(U.S.) (Puzzanchera 2022). According to OJJDP 2020, the most frequent offenses for which young people are imprisoned include violence, drug misuse, theft, assault, and vandalism. The United States has the biggest number of juvenile arrests of any developed country, notwithstanding significant advancements (Puzzanchera 2022). Most children who commit crimes are usually influenced by drugs. The selling of illegal drugs such as heroin, cocaine, marijuana, and codeine has become an economic outlet for children who come from poverty backgrounds.

There is evidence that adolescent criminality is rising in many African nations at the same time that the economy is contracting, particularly in major cities (Navarro, 2023). In addition, a number of factors are frequently cited as contributing to the rise in juvenile crime, including the rapid urbanization process, ongoing poverty, injustice, political violence, the lack of adequate social services, the consolidation of transnational crime organizations, the proliferation of drug use and trafficking, the breakdown of social networks and families, and the accessibility of weapons. Children are involved in drug related crimes such as drug and substance abuse and selling of illicit products. Because of drug and substance abuse there is increase in crime rates among children who are involved in theft, violence and sexual offenses.

In Zimbabwe, juveniles engage in drug-related offenses which encompass possession, distribution, and manufacturing of illegal substances. The onset of drug use during adolescence can lead to criminal behaviour as individuals seek to support their habits or become involved with drug trafficking networks. Around the world, drug and substance misuse have grown to be significant issues as a sign of adolescent delinquency. Drug abuse, according to Djodonou et al. (2016), is defined as using drugs in ways that are not acceptable in one's culture. Intoxication, cognitive impairment, and a lack of self-control are some potential side effects of drug abuse. Drug usage and possession are prohibited by the Dangerous Drugs Act (Chapter 15:02) and Section 157 of the Criminal Law Codification and Reform Act (Chapter 9:23). Therefore, the use and possession of harmful drugs such as cannabis, fentanyl, bronchi chloride, crystal meth and so forth by young people is a manifestation of a generation that has deviated from its norms and laws that are governing the society.

2.4.4 Sexual Offenses

At a global level, teenagers are involved in sexual offenses which include sexual assault or sexual exploitation. Factors contributing to these behaviors include exposure to sexual content at an early age or experiences of abuse themselves. Because of unrestricted media exposure

children are taking consumption of explicitly sexual videos from the internet and Tv. The society itself has become hypersexual to an extent that most teen girls dress in a sexually provocative manner which increases rape and sexual abuse among children.

Children in Africa are getting involved in sexual offenses at a very young age because of the decline of traditional values, breakdown of families and the influence of unrestricted media. Chara (2022), asserts that traditional systems play a crucial role in instilling good morals among the children but these traditions have been demonized by westerners. Because of the decline of African traditional culture parents have lost control of the children and that has led to the rise of various sexual offenses including incest, rape and indecent assault at homes and in schools.

Rape, as defined by section 65 (1) (a), aggravated indecent assault, as defined by section 66 (1), indecent assault, as defined by section 67, bestiality, as defined by section 74, and sexual intercourse within a prohibited degree of relationship, as defined by section 75 of the Criminal Law Codification and Reform Act, are among the sexual offenses that are most common among children in Zimbabwe (Chapter 9:23). Child marriages have sometimes been caused by sexual assaults, particularly in rural areas. They also increase the risk of STIs like HIV and AIDs since children are ignorant about protected sex. Children who are sexually abused at an early age are most likely to become involved in prostitution and harmful behaviour like drug abuse in their adulthood. Sexual offenses are among the most serious crimes that are committed by children because of cultural degeneration.

2.5 LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

International human rights instruments that are widely acknowledged for the protection of juvenile justice include the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children (UNCRC), the United Nations Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (Beijing Rules), the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty (Havana Rules), the United Nations Basic Principles on the use of Restorative Justice Programs in Criminal Matters, and the Guidelines for Action on Children in the Criminal Justice System (Muparanganda and Muparamganda, 2016). According to Article 37 of the UNCRC, children have the right to be free from torture, cruel treatment, and deprivation. Article 40 encourages states to develop juvenile justice. The UNCRC's provisions protect and preserve children's rights from being treated like adults when they are in legal trouble. In addition to giving them a second chance at life through rehabilitation procedures, this keeps kids from developing a criminal record at an early age.

To safeguard children who are in legal trouble, the African continent also embraced several international laws and developed its own formal legal structures. The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child is one of these legal systems. Every kid who is accused or convicted by the law has their rights and freedoms upheld under Article 17 of the ACRWC. The provisions of the Charter enable the creation of a unique juvenile justice system and provide a framework for the administration of juvenile justice, claim Muparanganda & Muparanganda (2016). Additionally, it promotes children's growth and upholds the values of participation, nondiscrimination, and best interests of the kid. In accordance with the ACRWC, Zimbabwe and other African nations have created juvenile justice systems that serve the interests of the children.

Juvenile justice in Zimbabwe is governed by a variety of laws (Muparanganda and Muparanganda, 2016). The Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act (Chapter 9:07), the Children's Act (Chapter 5:06), and the Criminal Codification and Reform Act (Chapter 9:23). Mangwiwo and Chitereka (2021) assert that the 2013 Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 20) Act protects the rights of criminals, especially minors. Every child under the age of eighteen has the right to equal treatment before the law, which includes the right to be heard, according to Section 81(a). Juvenile courts are established by the minors's Act, and the Criminal Law Procedure and Evidence Act guarantees that minors receive suitable punishments while maintaining the confidentiality of their identities. Zimbabwe is required by both the 1990 Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the 1999 African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) to establish a juvenile justice system that adheres to the guidelines established by these agreements (Muparanganda and Muparanganda, 2016).

To the degree that children would have continued to receive unfair treatment in the absence of these laws, they made a significant contribution to the provision of justice for children who are found in touch with or in conflict with the law. These legal documents do not, however, include recommendations for the restoration or rehabilitation of children who have run afoul of the law, enabling them to adopt moral values and avoid recidivism.

2.6 STRATEGIES TO ADRESS THE EFFECTS OF CULTURAL DEGENERATION IN INFLUENCING JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN ZIMBABWE

2.6.1 Cultural ways for punishing juveniles

Certain cultural tactics, such as traditional counseling, mediation, and corporal punishment, were employed in Zimbabwe prior to the implementation of juvenile justice and other policy

strategies currently employed for the restoration of children in confrontation with the law. Zimbabwe has historically had procedures and cultural frameworks that help youngsters grow up morally. As mentors and counselors to the females and uncles to the boys, family members such as aunts were crucial. Raising the child was the village's collective responsibility. However, modernization forces have seized control of these structures, and socioeconomic development has undermined them (Sibanda, 2018). These mentors have been physically and socially removed from the communities due to cultural deterioration brought on by urbanization and globalization, leaving young people vulnerable (Zimbabwean Culture, 2013). The majority of households are left child-headed as a result of parents fleeing Zimbabwe in search of better opportunities, leaving kids unsupervised. The key issues facing the nation's juvenile justice system today stem from the incompatibility of traditional norms with so-called modern principles that were brought over from the West. The majority of these contemporary ideals do not satisfy the requirements of Zimbabweans, and over time, governmental systems have dismantled the customary institutions that held communities together, making children more likely to commit crimes.

One of the essential tactics that was employed in Zimbabwe not too long ago before being abolished by the Zimbabwean Constitution in response to the current international human rights order was corporal punishment. Physical punishment is defined by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child as "any punishment in which physical force is used and intended to cause some degree of pain or discomfort, however light." Most involve hitting kids with the hand or a tool, like a wooden spoon, belt, shoe, whip, stick, etc. (UNCRC, 2006). The aforementioned methods of reprimanding children in the family, at school, and as a juvenile punishment are widely used and accepted, particularly in African nations like Zimbabwe. In the past, corporal punishment was employed as a disciplinary measure. A religious proverb states, "Spare the rod and spoil the child." In other words, from a cultural standpoint, spanking kids is a way to discipline them for having excellent morals. However, corporal punishment is considered a violation of fundamental human rights and cruelty against children on a global scale. Because it compromises children's physical integrity, shows disregard for human decency, and damages their self-esteem, it is regarded as cruel and demeaning. It is alleged to violate the principles of nondiscrimination and equal treatment under the law by treating children as half-human. Article 37 and 28 (2) of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children obligates member states to take all appropriate measures so that they can protect children from an inhuman, degrading treatment, physical or mental violence. Zimbabwe has

ratified and acceded to some of them. This is the reason why corporal punishment has been removed as a form of discipline leading to the introduction of juvenile justice courts.

Customary law was another conventional method of handling matters involving minors who were in legal trouble. The unwritten traditions and customs of Zimbabwe's tribes are referred to as customary law. These have existed from the beginning of time and are based on the tribes' traditional values. Mugumbate and Chereni (2019) assert that customary law is based on African philosophy or traditional values that have developed over time as a result of the community's prudent decisions, usually under the direction of elders or traditional leaders such as Sadunhu or Mambo. As a result, it is practical and applicable to the general public, strengthens families and communities overall, and promotes the values of responsibility, forgiveness, reconciliation, and mending broken relationships. The majority of its traits are similar to those of modern restorative justice. African philosophy is and was a code of conduct and custom that directs community members' behavior rather than a set of laws (Mugumbate and Chereni, 2019). Chiefs and headmen govern the provinces and districts, which are distinct from one another and provide the codes of customary rules. As a result, different communities had different interpretations and applications of rules of conduct. Mediation and the involvement of community elders as counselors for both the victim and the offender were the traditional methods of handling criminal acts. Both the victim and the perpetrator benefit from these communal elder counseling sessions. The restoration of the mental and emotional aspects is considered to include these therapeutic approaches. However, the dominance of the constitution of Zimbabwe which focus more on the crime committed and not the person replaced the effect of customary law which was very instrumental in addressing juvenile delinquency.

2.6.2 Juvenile justice

The social welfare model of juvenile justice is one of the most effective strategies to addressing effects of cultural degeneration in influencing juvenile delinquency in Zimbabwe. This model is based on the idea that young people are the product of their environment (Mangwiro and Chitereka, 2021). Children who commit crimes are usually influenced by their poor upbringing which might have exposed them to violence, sexual content, crime through media, families, schools and community environment. The social welfare model put the responsibility of protecting the children in conflict with the law to the state (Vengesai, 2014). This has necessitated the idea of pre-trial diversion and separate criminal justice system as provided in Article 40 of the UNCRC and the Children's Act (Chapter 5:06). It shifts the courts from

punishing the young offenders through the normal criminal justice and focuses on protecting children through probation, supervision and institutionalisation. Issues such as family structures, media influence, norms and values, education and socio-economic status are put into consideration in a bid to understand the causes of juvenile delinquency and addressing these issues through a social welfare model is the ideal solution.

2.6.3 Policy recommendations

Policy recommendations and implementation is essential to put emphasis on new factors that influence delinquency. There are different methods and recommendations that can be implemented to help address prevention and intervention strategies (Navarro, 2023). There is need to put media sensory policies which protect children who are below the legal age of majority from accessing harmful media content which can affect their personality and behavioral development. Policies which foster our traditional norms and values should be emphasized so that the society can be restored to sanity (Katola, 2014). According to the ecological systems theory of Bronfenbrenner, the environment plays a very crucial role of shaping the personality development of children. Therefore, there is need to put proper policies in all structures of the society to ensure that the innocent minds of young children are protected. There is also need for cooperation and collaboration of the government department of social development and child protection with other stakeholders and non-governmental organization to protect children and promote their welfare.

2.6.4 Counselling and education

Counselling and education programs are some of the effective strategies which offer plenty of support for developing children (Navarro, 2023). Children needs to be educated about the effects of drug and substance abuse. Drug and alcohol education is a great prevention strategy for drug and alcohol use. There are drug and alcohol treatment centres for youths who are experiencing addiction already or have been caught with substances for example Mubatirapamwe Trust in Harare, Zimbabwe. However, it is essential to try and prevent children and teens from reaching the rehabilitative stage and find preventative strategies. Adolescents tend to participate in deviant activities often due to peer pressure or just out of curiosity. One of the most negative youth activities is alcohol or substance use. It is also significant for schools to acknowledge youth drug use and find solutions and prevention strategies for their sites and students. Children also need to be educated about the dangers of being involved in criminal offenses like theft, violence, homicide or rape at an early stage as this would affect their carrier in the future. For those who were raised in dysfunctional families there is need for counselling

so that they become psychologically and emotionally stable hence preventing their possibility to committing crimes.

2.7 GAPS LEFT BY EXISTING LITERATURE

This study highlights how cultural degeneration influences delinquent behaviour and crimes among children. It brought attention to the forms and manifestation of criminal offenses that are committed by children. There is a gap in the literature despite the fact that there has been significant research on problems and coping strategies since there is no literature specifically on the effects of cultural degeneration in influencing juvenile delinquency in Zimbabwe. Therefore, it is important to conduct research on the elements of cultural degeneration that are influencing children into committing crimes in Zimbabwe.

2.8 CHAPTER SUMMARY

The theoretical framework, aspects of cultural degeneration, theories of cultural degeneration, types of juvenile delinquency, literature review on the issue of juvenile delinquency, and coping mechanisms were the main topics of the chapter. The next chapter presents the research methodology.

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the techniques the researcher does to collect information in order to address the questions regarding how cultural decay affects juvenile criminality in Zimbabwe. The research methodology, design, target population, sample size, sampling strategy, data collection methods, data processing, and data presentation are all highlighted in this chapter. This chapter will examine the study's shortcomings and highlight the ethical considerations that inform the research.

3.1 RESEARCH PHILOSOPHY

Prior to selecting a certain research approach, it is necessary to identify the philosophical concepts that impact the research activity. They describe a researcher's general philosophical outlook on the world and the type of research they bring to a topic. The constructivism or social constructivism ideology, which is frequently coupled with interpretivism, serves as the foundation for this study. According to Creswell (2018), this is a common method for qualitative research. According to social constructivists, people create subjective meanings and try to understand the world in which they live and work. This is the ideal research philosophy since the researcher wants to ask participants open-ended questions to learn about their experiences based on how they perceive their background and the events in their lives. Therefore, social constructivism philosophy will be very instrumental in understanding cultural degeneration factors which are influencing juvenile delinquency.

3.2 RESEARCH APPROACH

Cresswell (2018) defines research methodology as the methodical and structured process of conducting research, which includes sampling tactics, data gathering procedures, data analysis methods, and research design. The three types of research methodologies include mixed methodology, qualitative research, and quantitative research. The researcher used a qualitative research approach because this study was descriptive in nature.

Because the researcher sought to learn about the world of research participants by studying and interpreting their own circumstances, the researcher chose to employ qualitative research as the

approach for this study. A method for investigating and comprehending the significance that people or groups assign to a social or human issue is qualitative research (Cresswell, 2018). The research method included developing questions and procedures, data typically collected in the participant's surroundings, data analysis that progressed inductively from details to more general themes, and the researcher's judgments of the meaning of the data. In order to investigate how cultural decay affects juvenile delinquency in Zimbabwe, qualitative research approach was used. It provided descriptive information that is useful in coming up with intervention strategies to reduce the juvenile delinquency.

The focus on developing novel concepts and theories that may subsequently be evaluated through qualitative research led to the selection of qualitative research (Creswell, 2013). Additionally, because it goes deeper to comprehend people's opinions from their own viewpoints and explores and explains areas where little is known, the qualitative research approach was chosen. This approach was used by the researcher to investigate and understand, from the perspective of research participants, the phenomena of cultural deterioration and juvenile delinquency in the Zaka area. Furthermore, the qualitative research approach enabled the researcher to understand the socially constructed meanings by engaging with the respondents in their natural environment and developing a deeper relationship with them (Bryan and Bell, 2015). This was noteworthy since subjectivity, which enables qualitative researchers to observe respondents in their natural settings and gather firsthand information, is of greater interest to them. This gives the researcher the ability to feel the subjective aspects of the topic being studied.

3.3 RESEARCH DESIGN

According to Cresswell (2018), research designs are forms of inquiry within a research strategy that give particular guidance for study operations. It serves as a road-map for a research issue. The qualitative research approach encompasses a variety of research designs, such as case studies, ethnographies, grounded theory, phenomenology, and narrative research.

For this study, a case study research design was employed. Case studies are a sort of inquiry design used in many fields, including evaluation, in which the researcher thoroughly examines a case, program, event, activity, process, or another individual (Creswell, 2018). When conducting case studies, which are time and activity-limited, researchers employ a variety of data gathering methods over a long period of time to obtain a wealth of information (Yin, 2014). Case studies was applied to investigate cases for children who came in conflict with the law

and the influence cultural degeneration. It allowed circumstantial insights on the cases of juvenile crimes and informs on the possible interventions to reduce the problem. In order to decipher the significance of the data gathered on the problem of juvenile delinquency, the research design was useful in organizing the presentation, description, and interpretation of the data.

3.4 STUDY SETTING

This study was limited to a specific geographical setting. The research was carried out in Zimbabwe, Masvingo Province, specifically Zaka District Ward 19 in Jerera Growth point in the District Department of Social Development. Masvingo Province which was once called Fort Victoria is in the Southeastern direction from Harare CBD. The distance between Harare CBD and Zaka District is 395km via Chivhu, Gutu Road. Part of the interviews were conducted in government offices where key informants are located and other interviews took place in the community where community care workers and our key participants the children and their guardians are located. The researcher chose the study location because it is one of the areas where there is high degeneration among children, drug and substance abuse, theft and sexual offenses cases are myriad.

3.5 TARGET POPULATION

Babbie (2016) asserts that a study's population determines its breadth. The study concentrated on kids under the age of eighteen who had run afoul of the law or interacted with law enforcement due to juvenile delinquency problems. Due to their records, both boys and girls were deemed appropriate for this specific study. The study also included key informants, such as community care providers, NGOs, and government stakeholders. The goal of the study was to comprehend how the children were raised and the elements of cultural decay that affected the criminal behavior. The data that was collected was later analysed to understand the effects of cultural degeneration in influencing juvenile delinquency and the possible ways to fix the challenge.

3.6 SAMPLE SIZE AND SAMPLING TECHNIQUE

Silverman (2020) defines sampling as the process of collecting information from a subset of the entire group. The research study comprised of two different categories of participants, key informants like community care workers and other stakeholders with relevant knowledge about the welfare of children. Subjects of the study, the juveniles occupy the second category. The

sample of the study consisted of a total of 20 people, 12 participants are the juveniles who are the main subjects of the study to provide diversity of opinions and experiences of respondents and 3 elders of the community who caregivers or parents of the children to get enough information. Children were chosen using a non-probability, purposeful sampling technique based on their criminal histories. Purposive sampling was used to get the viewpoint of important informants, who make up another participant type. Purposive sampling is the process of choosing participants according to their specialization, background, or viewpoints (Patton, 2002). Three government officials, one informant from the ZRP Victim Friendly Unit, one from the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, and one who works as a social worker in the Department of Social Development were chosen by the researcher. Community care workers or ward focal persons were two more important informants. The number of research participants that were interviewed is shown in the table below.

Research participants	Number of research participants
Children	12
Parents	3
Government officials	3
CCWs	2
Total	20

The researcher was able to validate particular hypotheses regarding the research phenomenon in this example, children moral degeneration by using a non-probability purposive sample technique (Bryman, 2016). A deeper comprehension of contextual issues pertaining to cultural degradation and juvenile delinquency challenges in the Zaka area was made possible by the use of the purposeful sampling technique. The researcher was able to gather thoughts about juvenile delinquency, which were then coded, conceptualized, and categorized to enable the researcher develop problem-solving techniques that could be applied to the difficulties that young people encounter.

3.7 DATA COLLECTION METHODS AND RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS

3.7.1 In-depth Interviews

Since this study required in-depth reports of the moral and cultural degenerative factors driving juvenile criminality, in-depth interviews were judged to be the most appropriate technique of gathering data. According to Phillips and Mrowczynski (2021), in-depth interviews are qualitative methods for gathering detailed information about people's experiences, opinions, and emotions on their own terms. In Zaka, Ward 19, six children and three caregivers were questioned in-depth. The focus groups and interviews were conducted in the Department of Social Development offices, which provide a distraction-free, safe space for participants to feel at ease and confident enough to divulge personal information. Additionally, interviews were conducted with five important informants in their respective locations or offices. All of the interviews were recorded using a phone. Silverman (2020) asserts that open-ended interview questions are frequently used to extract the thoughts and opinions of the interviewees. This entails the difficulty of having conversations with respondents that emphasize their experiences. Because it is more adaptable and produced more data when the researcher delved for information based on the responses, this kind of data gathering approach was chosen. Since the research participants provided more detailed answers, nothing regarding the problems of juvenile delinquency and cultural degradation was omitted. The researcher learnt more about the respondents through in-depth interviews since it necessitates one-on-one conversations about the socio-cultural factors faced by children which has prompted antisocial behaviour. Many children were more forthcoming in these in-person interviews due to the delicate nature of the study. With the respondents' permission, the researcher also made handwritten notes during the interviews. The duration of each interview was roughly thirty to forty-five minutes.

3.7.2 Focus group discussions

The researcher collected data from research participants through focus group talks. According to Uranta and Ogbanga (2017), the foundation of a group discussion is the idea that interpersonal interactions enhance people based on jointly determined goals and decision-making about the conversation's aim. Focus groups are a structured group procedure used in exploratory research to gather in-depth information on a certain topic or issue and to examine people's thoughts and feelings (Creswell, 2018). Focus group discussions generally lasted 1 hour, longer than this will cause the discussion to lose momentum. 2 focus group discussions were created and interviewed; the first one composed of 6 children selected purposively based on criminal cases. The second focus group was composed of 2 parents, 1 CCW and 1 Social

Worker from the department of social development. The researcher took the place of a moderator and group facilitator. During the group discussions, the researcher took some short notes recording data in the notebook. The focus groups allowed participation of members, opening up and collaborating on solutions. The focus group moderator's job was to facilitate the discussion and to encourage all respondents to contribute their thoughts, feelings and ideas. The children, parents and key informants described the criminal activities that children are mostly involved and the factors which push them to commit crimes. They also provided some mitigation measures against the challenge.

3.7.3 Observations

The researcher was also observing facial expression, emotional imbalances and signs of psychological trauma exhibited by respondents in the study. Without having to ask, the researcher could tell that certain respondents have emotional trauma from looking at their expression, their attitudes and their behaviour. According to Patton (2021), systematic observation creates a consistent way to capture factors like the surroundings. The use of observations is essential in the research since it is necessary to assess the environmental circumstances in order to understand the living situations as reported by the respondent and connected by the researcher's observations (Newing, 2020). This offered rich evidence of how children's experiences in their families and communities shaped their personalities. The results were validated by a combination of in-depth in-person interviews, focus group discussions, and observations.

3.8 DATA COLLECTION TOOLS

3.8.1 Interview schedule guide

Interview schedule guides were used in the research to collect data during interviews. According to Philipps & Mrowczynski (2021), structured interview questions must be pre-written to prevent interviewers from deviating from their intended research objectives. A total of 3 interview schedule guides were used for the in-depth interviews and group discussions. The first interview schedule guide was used to obtain information from 6 children who are not included in the focus groups. The other guide was used to ask questions in the focus group discussion which comprised of 6 children. Another interview guide was created with specific questions for the key informants, the parents, government officials and CCWs for both in-depth interviews and group discussion. The interview guides consisted of open-ended questions to gain more detailed information from the respondents. The interview guide was beneficial since

it allowed the interviewer to change topics and provides space for clarification by the interviewer if a response misses a point. The interviewees and Researcher interact within and beyond the structured questions (Lopez and Whitehead, 2016). This implies that the researcher utilized the structured interviews to inquire and get clarification from children, their parents and key informants about the elements of cultural degeneration which are causing children to come in conflict with the law.

3.9 DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS PROCEDURES

3.9.1 Thematic analysis

According to Lester, Cho, and Lochmiller (2020), thematic content analysis is a technique used in qualitative research to display and analyze data. The collected data was manually displayed and analyzed using a thematic content analysis approach. The analysis was predicated on the study's subjects and sub-themes. Finding themes in data and employing data coding to generate meaningful patterns are the goals of thematic content analysis. The following are the stages in thematic analysis technique that were used during data presentation and analysis:

- **Familiarization:** During the first stage of thematic analysis called familiarization the researcher ready and familiarize with the data from interviews, texts, discussions and observations. In this particular study, the researcher familiarized with information obtained during interviews with children and key informants identifying preliminary themes. Preliminary themes and ideas were identified at this stage.
- **Coding:** Coding was the following stage and during this phase is where the researcher assigned codes to data segments in text, phrases and sentences. The researcher highlighted portions of the text and applying labels and codes, to them that describe the nature of their content.
- **Initial themes generation:** After that, initial themes were generated. Themes were identified within the codes for example family structure breakdown is the cause of juvenile crime rates. The researcher refined and defined themes through iterative analysis, explored the correlation between themes and identified theme characteristics.
- **Theme Review:** At stage 4 is where theme review and refinement were done. The researcher ensured that themes were coherent, consistent and relevant to the data that they are based on, which is in this case the influence of cultural degeneration on children in conflict with the law.

- **Theme naming and definition:** It was at this point that themes were given precise and succinct names. After defining themes and subthemes, a thematic framework was created. In order to make sense of the data gathered from conversations and interviews with children, key informant stakeholders, and community care providers, it is crucial to define the themes.
- **Report writing:** The results were compiled into a report. The researcher wrote a thorough report, grouped findings according to themes, and illustrated topics using quotes and examples. A thematic analysis was created that is open-ended and includes an introduction that outlines the research question and methodology, a statement about the methodology, a detailed discussion of each theme, and a conclusion that outlines how the analysis addressed the research questions and highlights the main ideas.

Every interview was verbatim translated into English, transcribed, and excerpts were taken from the transcripts. In order to provide a comprehensive framework for data analysis, comparisons, and presentation, important themes and concepts were also found and classified. The information was shown in accordance with the study's goals, which included identifying the primary themes, identifying the components of cultural decay, identifying the types of crimes committed by young people, and identifying solutions to the problems. The individual experiences, remarks, and viewpoints of the interviewees were then grouped based on recurrent themes that were chosen from each interview transcript.

3.10 FEASIBILITY OF THE STUDY

The study was easy to conduct because the researcher was familiar with the study site. Vital information was available to the researcher, and the data collected from the public was reliable, accurate, comprehensive, pertinent, and objective. The researcher also received approval from the district development coordinator (DDC) and the Zaka District Department of Social Development (DSD) because the study was designed to interview people in a particular area of their territory, which is Zaka District in Masvingo Province. Meeting the responders as they choose the time for the interviews was therefore easy.

3.11 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Making sure the participants were safe from injury was crucial for the researcher. Ethics is a crucial topic in research, particularly in the social sciences where human subjects are frequently involved. In order to prevent injury to research subjects, researchers must conduct their work

ethically. The researcher conducted the study in accordance with the following ethical guidelines to guarantee the safety of research participants.

3.11.1 Freedom of coercion

People cannot be coerced or pressured into participating in research (Lahey, 2012). Once the research begun, the participants were informed that they are fully free to change their minds and withdraw from the research without penalty. Before conducting the interviews with participants, the researcher asked for volunteers who wish to participate in the study to avoid coercion of participants.

3.11.2 Confidentiality

Throughout the investigation, the researcher likewise maintained confidentiality. According to Lahey (2012), researchers are required to maintain the utmost confidentiality about all information they discover about research participants. To preserve the participants' identity, the study's results were not made public. Data findings were securely stored to guard against information misuse in the future. By not utilizing the interviewees' true identities, the researcher protected their privacy. In order to protect participant privacy, video cameras were also avoided during the study.

3.11.3 Informed consent

The complete scope of the study was described to the respondents in a language they could comprehend. This was done so that research participants may make an informed decision about whether or not to engage in the study by knowing what to expect (Laws, Harper, Jones, and Marcus, 2013). Prior to conducting interviews, the researcher gave the participants a thorough explanation of the study's objectives and regulations. To ensure that the research participants were aware of what to anticipate from the study, this was done.

3.11.4 Limited deception

In other situations, research must be done without the respondents fully understanding the study's actual goal. Lahey (2012) states that two requirements must be satisfied for research to use deception. The first step is to provide the prospective participants with all the information that they may reasonably be expected to require in order to make an informed decision regarding their participation. This means that only research components that would not affect participation decisions could be the subject of the deception. Second, participants in the research must be clearly informed of the nature of the deception as soon as possible. The researcher gave particular attention to these ethical considerations throughout the field research

to protect the welfare of the participants. Limited deception was applied during the study and participants were immediately after the study revealed everything that was concealed from them for the sake of progress of the study.

3.12 SUMMARY

In this chapter, the research methodology was outlined. The study's shortcomings, ethical considerations, target population, sample size, data gathering technique, and research methodology were all highlighted. The following chapter presents the data presentation, analysis, and commentary.

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

4.0. INTRODUCTION

The data collected through focus groups and one-on-one in-depth interviews is presented, analyzed, and interpreted in this chapter. Scholarly opinions on the phenomena of cultural decay and juvenile delinquency from a range of academics corroborate the data presentation and interpretation. Based on all of the study's objectives, the gathered data is presented and analyzed on a framework for addressing how cultural degradation affects juvenile delinquency in the Zaka area of Zimbabwe. The study's objectives were discussed during the data presentation and analysis, including the aspects of cultural degeneration that are influencing young people to commit crimes, the types and manifestations of crimes that are common among young people, and prevention strategies for the effects of cultural degeneration on juvenile delinquency in the Zaka Ward 19 area. The researcher has been able to decipher the significance of participant remarks regarding the phenomenon of cultural degeneration and juvenile delinquency in the Zaka ward 19 area thanks to the chapter's examination of all the study's objectives. The reader's comprehension of the subject, the difficulties, and potential solutions is ultimately enhanced by the researcher's perceptive examination of the participant accounts on the research issue.

4.1. DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF PARTICIPANTS

Table 1: Main participants (Children)

Table 1

NAME (PSEUDO)	CATEGORY	AGE	GENDER
Tino	In-depth Interviews	14	M
Taku	In-depth Interviews	17	M
Taonga	In-depth Interviews	17	M
Mary	In-depth Interviews	16	F
Jane	In-depth Interviews	14	F

Tendai	In-depth Interviews	17	F
Faith	Group discussions	16	F
Tariro	Group discussions	17	F
Sekai	Group discussions	14	F
Rudo	Group discussions	13	F
Frank	Group discussions	17	M
Kudzai	Group discussions	15	M

The above *table 1* shows demographical information of main participants who were involved in the research. The researcher used pseudonyms to conceal the identities of the participants. The table shows 12 children identified with pseudo names. The first 6 children on the table are the those that participated in one-on-one interviews and the remaining 6 participated during in-depth discussions. There are 5 male children and 7 female children as illustrated on the table and they range between 13 to 17 years old.

In the above table of children who are the main participants of the research, the demographics is composed of those above 13 years old to 17 years old because they have developed physically and intellectually. They are able to comprehend the research questions and give appropriate responses for the study. There is balance of gender in the category of children to avoid bias of research findings. Both male and female children are represented on the table because all of them are facing similar challenges of cultural degeneration and they are all participating in various forms of crimes.

Table 2: Key informants

Table 2

Participant	CATEGORY	AGE	GENDER	WORK EXPRIENCE
Parent 1	Key informant	44	M	
Parent 2	Key informant	52	F	
Parent 3	Key informant	37	F	

Social worker	Key informant	39	F	4 years
VFU Officer	Key informant	32	M	2 years
Education Officer	Key informant	47	M	10 years
CCW 1	Key informant	38	M	3 years
CCW 2	Key informant	48	F	5 years

Table 2 shows the demographics of key participants who participated in the research. There is 1 female social worker aged 39 who is a key informant with 4 years of experience working in Department of Child Welfare and Protection Services. The table shows that there is 1 male Education officer a key informant with 10 years of children working in the Ministry of primary and secondary education. There is 1 male VFU officer a 32 years key informant with experience of 2 years working in Victim Friendly Unit. At last, the table shows 2 CCWs in the category of key informants, 1 is a male and another is a female. CCW 1 has 3 years of experience and CCW 2 has 5 years of experience working in contact with children under the Department of Child Welfare and Protection Services.

In *Table 2* which shows the demographics of key informants, there are 2 female parents and 1 male parent because female parents are the ones who spend much time with children and therefore, they know much about children's behavior. There is 1 social worker, 1 VFU officer and 1 Education officer to provide more detailed information from various government departments which are responsible for child welfare and protection. The social worker, VFU officer and the Education officer have a good experience in their respective area of practice dealing with children therefore they were qualified enough to provide sufficient information for the purpose of the research. 2 CCWs were interviewed as representatives of community agencies and key informants who have the best knowledge about the backgrounds and experiences of children in the community. They are part of the community and they also have quality experience working as community childcare workers as shown in the table above.

4.2. ELEMENTS OF CULTURAL DEGENERATION INFLUENCING JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Determining the components of cultural degradation and their impact on juvenile delinquency in the Zaka ward 19 region was the objective of the first study questions. Highlighting the social effects or experiences that the majority of children encounter during their developmental milestones and are linked to juvenile delinquency was the other goal of this purpose. In order to ascertain this, the researcher gathered data from a variety of individuals who were all sample participants, beginning with youngsters and moving on to key informants. The following findings were brought about from the research:

4.2.1. Family structure breakdown/ Inadequate parental supervision on children behavior

The research shows that, children who have come in conflict with the law did not have enough parental control in their childhood and some of them confirmed that they come from disintegrated homes where there was domestic violence, divorces, alcoholic parents and so forth:

Tino, a participant from the in-depth interview remarked:

“Baba vangu chidhakwa uye vanogara vachishungurudza vanhu kumba kuburikidza nekutuka kana kurova ndizvo zvakaita kuti ndizova neukasha nekurwa nevamwe vana kuchikoro”. (My father is a drunkard and he is abusive at home both verbally and physically and that is the reason why I developed an aggressive character and always fighting with other kids at school).

Another participant, Taku from the in-depth interviews concurred that:

“Vabereki vangu vakarambana tichiri vadiki tikasara tichigara nababa. Baba vanogara vari kubasa nguva zvinji zvekuti havakwanisi kuona hunhu hwedu tiri kumba ndizvo zvakaita kuti ndizoita musikanzwa wepabonde nehanzvadzi yangu diki kwandiri”. (My parents divorced when we were very young and we were left in the custody of our father. My father is always busy with work so that he can't monitor our behavior at home and that is why I ended up having sex with my little sister).

Parents on the other hand conceded from focus group discussions that they could not have enough quality time to monitor their children's behavior and that is the reason why children ended up developing deviant habits like stealing, fighting and taking drugs. Their responses are captured below:

“Tinogara takabatika nebasa uye nguva zhinji tinosiya vana vedu kumba vari vega. Nekuda kwekuti tinozodzoka kubasa taneta hatisi kuwana nguva yekugara pasi nevana tichivatsiura nekuvaraira hunhu hwakanaka ndiko saka vave kuita nhubu” (We are always occupied with our jobs and most of the times we live our children home unattended. Because we come back wearied from work, we lack time to sit our children and advising them and reprimanding them for good behavior and that is the reason why our children have become delinquent).

One of the key informants, a Social Worker from the Department of Social Development explained:

“Children are product of the environment in which they are raised from and in most cases domestic violence is the reason why children are getting hooked up in drug and substance abuse and violent behavior. The social worker confirmed that a larger number of cases which they have handled of children in conflict with the law are linked to the breakdown of family structure”.

The issue of family structure breakdown is the cause of juvenile delinquency because children usually become delinquent and immoral when there is no parental supervision. This is in line with research by Alfry (2010), who contends that a risk factor for juvenile delinquency is insufficient parental supervision brought on by unstable families. He claimed that because they receive less supervision, children from broken homes are more likely to engage in juvenile delinquency. In support of this, Sibanda (2018) argues that due to the influence of globalization, new types of families have emerged in Africa. For instance, single parenthood is now common in most urbanized areas which is a not a perfect family for the positive personality development of children. This means that inadequate parental supervision and the breakdown of the family structure predisposes children to juvenile delinquency. As a researcher I would recommend the Department of Child welfare and Protection services (DCWPS) should collaborate with Community Childcare workers (CCWs) and parents to establish parenting support groups in which they discuss challenges that are being faced by guardians of children to come up with ways to solve these challenges and create a child safeguarding environment.

4.2.2. Decline of traditional values and cultural ways of punishing juveniles

The research illustrates that, the decline of traditional or African cultural values due to globalization and modernization has become an existential risk that has caused many children to become juvenile delinquent. The participants recounted their experiences with regards to the

cultural changes, the extinction of traditional values which has directly affected their development. The Key participants also gave clear comparative and illustrations about which cultural methods have changed in regards to how children were punished in the past times.

Taonga a participant from the interview explained:

“Ndakatanga kuita zvepabonde ndiri grade 7 nemusikana wandaidzidza naye nekuda kwekuti ndakanga ndasekwa neshamwari dzangu ndichinzi handisati ndamborara nemusikana uye ndakasara kumashure” (I started to have sex at grade 7 with a certain girl in my class because my friends were laughing at me that I was still naïve about sex and I’m also backward).

Another Participant, Mary noted:

“Ndakakura ndichigara ndega nevanun’una vangu nekuda kwekuti vabereki vangu vaishanda kudhorobha izvo zvakazoita kuti ndipedzisire ndave kuita misikanzwa yekunwa zvinodhaka nekuba zvinhu zvavanhu”. (I grew up staying alone with my little siblings because my parents were working in the urban area. That experience made me to become a deviant alcoholic child who was also involved in stealing people’s property).

CCW 1 conveyed that:

“The current state of juvenile delinquency is caused by a lack of discipline because the government outlawed physical punishment as a legitimate method of child discipline, as well as a contempt for African culture and traditional initiation schools”.

The Social Worker and the Education Officer concurred to the same utterances:

“Lack of parental supervision, positive role models, disregard of the African ways of disciplining children through the aunties and the uncles, the elders in the village and the church are the cause of juvenile delinquency. Juvenile delinquency is also rising because children have adopted the Western ways of life most of which portrays indecency, violence, individualism and disobedience of children to parents”.

The stories of the participants are a glaring unreputable proof of the erosion of culture and traditional values which has directly influenced children to become deviant. The emerging trend of decline of traditional values and cultural ways of disciplining children resonates with current social problems arising from divorce cases and single parented homes in Zimbabwe.

The High Court of Zimbabwe, cited in The Herald 15 May, (2019) observes 4 563 couples divorced in 2018 and 2019. The break-down affects men, women and children. This makes visible the trend of single parents, single persons, stepparent parents, guardian and child-headed families in local communities. The impaired parenting resonates with Parker et al. (2021) who argue that inadequate parental supervision results in children encountering socio economic challenges which influence them into committing criminal acts such as violence, assault and theft. This is also coupled with the extermination of effect of traditional councilors such as the uncles and the aunties as well as removal of corporal punishment which has worsened the situation. The crime and anomie theory also explains that when the society becomes fragile and chaotic because of extinction of traditional values, the proclivity of crime and unrest is imminent (Giddens, 2009). To this end, one can clearly argue that the decline of traditional values and cultural ways of punishing children has caused huge consequences of exposing children to juvenile delinquency.

4.2.3. Influence of social media and drug abuse

The research shows that, social media influence and drug abuse is another challenge which has influenced children to come in conflict with the law. The participants recounted their experiences with the inevitable pressure on social media, around peers and the issue of drug and substance abuse among teenagers in schools and out of school.

Kudzai a participant from the focus group disclosed that:

“Patinosangana sevakomana vezero rimwe tichitamba tinenge tichiita hurukuro dzemafirimu atinoona etsiva akafanana nanaRambo. Pamwe pachozvinozoita kuti tiite mukundo wetsiva pachedu kupedzisira takuvadzana”. (When we meet as boys of the same age playing together, we will be talking about boxing films that we watch the likes of Rambo. At other times we end up doing fighting competition amongst ourselves to the extent of harming each other).

Children from the focus group discussion conceded that most property crimes which they commit such as malicious damage of property, theft and violent cases like assault are committed under the influence of drug which they influence each other to consume. Their responses were captured below:

“Tinofurirana kutora zvinodhaka nevamwe vazero redu zvinozokonzeresa kuti tipedzisire tave kuita hunhu hwakaipa hwakafanana nekuba, kurova vamwe, kurwa,

nekuputsa zvinhu zvavanhu” (We influence each other amongst our peers to take drugs and substances which causes us to develop ill behavior such as stealing, assaulting others, fighting and damaging people’s properties).

The social worker and the Education Officer explained:

“The issue of social media influence is detrimental to children’s behavior. Children spent huge hours on electronic devices and TV where they consume huge amounts of sexually explicit content and violent movies which causes them to imitate bad behavior since children learn through imitation and adaption”.

Children are committing various forms of crimes such as theft, assault, shoplifting, violence and sexual offenses because of drug and substance abuse which takes away their rationale ability and the content which they are imitating from social media. This social factor also resonates with the United Kingdom, United States researches which found out that 70% of the 12-15 children and 97% of ages 13-17 are on the social media respectively (Burns and Gottschalk, 2019). Unrestricted social media causes children to imitate bad behavior. According to literature, another trend that gained popular attention is the devious lick trend on Tick Tok which was popular around September 2021 in which a student posted a video of sanitizer dispenser that he stores from school soon after covid 19 lockdown. After the video sparked a viral trend with many millions of views on Tik Tok other students started to steal equipment from their schools posting on social media (Dyne, 2021). This is the same way through which children are influenced into criminal activities through social media. The researcher therefore recommends that parents should make sure that they monitor their children’s devices and make sure that they don’t walk content which can affect them.

The findings concerning the effects of drug and substance abuse among children agrees with previous studies in the context of Zimbabwe. Marijuana, or mbanje in the local dialect, is the most often abused substance among students in Hwange District's secondary schools, according to Gazimbe and Khosa (2021). Alcohol, glue, and cigarettes are among the other substances that are abused. According to this data, students acknowledge that drug misuse is common at their schools. According to Mpofu and Machingauta (2023), kids who frequently participate in a variety of antisocial behaviors, including fighting, bullying, stealing, and damaging school property, are most likely under the influence of narcotics. The foregoing information illustrates that social media influence and drug abuse is has a huge effect on juvenile delinquency. This demonstrates that there is need to put strict measures on children at

school and home. Parents and teachers at school should help each other in monitoring children's behaviour.

4.2.4 Educational Decline

The findings demonstrates that decline in the quality of education and access of children to education especially in the rural areas is another risk factor which has exposed children to delinquency. Research participants confirmed to this assertion but some a contrary view on this matter.

The CCWs mentioned that:

“The largest number of children who participate in deviant activities like theft, fighting and drugs are those that are not going to school. Those are the same children who are influencing other children to take drugs especially in the growth point and busy shopping centers”

Children concurred with the view of CCWs regarding to the influence of educational decline. Frank and Kudzai from the focus group discussion were quoted:

“Vadzidzisi havasisina hanya nevana vechikoro nekuda kwamhaka yekuti vari kutambira mari shoma. Vana vechikoro vave kungosiwa vachiita zvavanoda kuchikoro uye hatichanyanyi kudzidza ndizvo zvave kuita kuti vana vechikoro vaswere vachiita zvekudhakwa pamwe nekupfimbana kuchikoro” (Teachers no longer have care for school children because they are receiving low wages for their work. They are neglecting children to do what they want, skipping lessons and that is the children are now engaging in drugs and promiscuous relationships at school).

The Education Officer argued:

“The standards of education have not declined in school but they are actually improving especially with the launching of the current new curriculum. The problem is not with the teachers or the school system but the society is the discouraging factor. Children from disintegrated families and those from high residential areas are poorly socialized and that is the reason why they are delinquent”.

The depression of educational standards is influencing children into committing crimes and truancy behavior because teachers are now neglecting their role of molding good behavior in children. Literature study by Iyiani, Paulas, Ajibo and Ibenekwu (2018) confirms that

educational decline is a cause factor for juvenile delinquency. They claim that bullying, fighting, vandalism, stealing, sexual immorality, gang violence, and gun ownership are all signs of delinquency among Nigerian adolescents in secondary school. These crimes are committed due to the negligence of teachers who are failing to monitor children at school. However, the Educational Officer had a different view on this assertion, they attribute juvenile delinquency to other cultural degeneration elements defending the education system. In that venue, the researcher concluded that juvenile delinquency is not only caused by one factor by a combination of risk factors which includes both decline on quality of education and other factors.

4.3 FORMS OF CRIMES THAT ARE PREVALENT AMONG JUVENILES

The research established the forms of crimes that are prevalent among juveniles within the context of Zaka, ward 19. These forms of crimes include property crimes, violent crimes, drug related crimes and sexual offenses. The following are the questions that were responded by the participants, “what forms of criminal activities are common among children, in what way is juvenile delinquency a challenge to the development of children, how does juveniles copy up with such challenges.

4.3.1 Property crimes among juveniles

Data presentation and analysis showed that children in conflict with law have committed property crimes such as theft, shoplifting, burglary and vandalism of property especially because of their socio-economic situation. The children, parents and key informants also explained how cases involving children in conflict with the law are handled and the challenges that children face. Below are the accounts given by the research participants:

Children from the focus group discussion agreed that young people end up engaging in shoplifting, stealing people’s property because of high rates of poverty especially in the low-income communities like ghettos. Their responses were captured below:

“The young folks in this neighborhood are committing crimes. There is theft, property damage, and shoplifting. All of this is a result of broken families, single-parent households, and child-headed households that are unable to provide for the needs of the children”.

The Victim Friendly Unit, Social Workers and CCWs which are the key informants were interviewed to solicit their views on the prevalence and manifestation of juvenile crimes in Zaka Ward 19. The VFU officer who was interviewed said the following:

“Many kids, particularly in Jerera Growth Point, have left school without explanation. Because many kids are also addicted to drugs and other substances, housebreaking and property theft are increasing at an alarming rate, even though these young people should be at school getting ready for the future.”

The Social worker and the Education Officer agreed:

“Most children commit crimes because of indiscipline at home. Maladaptive behaviour among children who are getting involved in shoplifting, theft and vandalism of properties is perpetuated by lack of parental supervision. Most of these children even continue to commit the same crimes after being taken through the courts, the police and the Department of Social Development”.

The developing trend of criminal activities among children who are involved in property crimes is a worrisome event in the society and the country as large. The research findings demonstrates that children are getting involved in property crimes because of various social factors and these findings resonates with previous studies. Five kilograms of copper and other wires were found in the knapsack of two youngsters, ages ten and eleven, from Epworth, Harare, Zimbabwe, who were arrested cutting off TelOne and dropping wire in Hatfield, Harare, according to a Herald report from 2021. This is clear evidence of juvenile delinquency among children. For children and teens these types of sneaky thrills can result in emotional rewards among youth offenders (Goldsmith, 2022). Teens are drawn to participate in vandalism because of triggers like curiosity and boredom. Additionally, vandalism can create a cycle of delinquency because seeing vandalism firsthand can spread impulses among adolescents. (Kruzhkova et al., 2018). If a juvenile sees such actions, it might lead them to participate in similar behaviours. And this destructive and impulsive behaviour is commonly seen in adolescents. In view of the above presentation and analysis, it can be clearly deduced that property crimes such as shoplifting, theft, burglary and vandalism are common among children. The government of Zimbabwe has enforced laws to reduce these crimes for example the Criminal law (Codification and Reform Act) Chapter 9:23 but the problem still remains and that is what motivated this research.

4.3.2 Violent crimes

Some participants testified that children partake in various forms of violent crimes in school and out of school. These violent crimes include physical bullying, emotional bullying, cyber bullying, fighting and assaults. The presentation and analysis of data gathered from research participants confirms this viewpoint.

Jane said,

“Ndaigara ndichibatirira vamwe vana vechikoro vadiki kwandiri ndichivatorera chikafu chavo nekuvarova nemhaka yekuti ndaiva munhu anehukasha. Kumba kwedu hakuna munhu aigona kundidzora nekuti baba vangu vakarambana naAmai uye amai vangu nguva zvinji vanenge vakadhakwa”. (I was bullying other kids at school taking their food and beating them because I was a hostile person. At home there was no one who could reprimand me because my parents were separated, I was staying with my mother who is always drunk).

Taku also agreed with Jane:

“Sevakomana tinoita mukundo yetsiva tiri kuchikoro kana kumombe. Tinodzvanyirira vakomana vasingagoni kurwa tichivadzoresa momba kana vakaramba tinovarova”. (As boys, we engage in fighting competitions at school and during grazing flocks. We bully those boys who are not good at fighting but commanding them to herd our cattle whilst we are relaxed and if they refuse, we beat them).

Numerous worries over the moral behavior of young people were also voiced by the police. These included, among other things, fighting, bullying, assault offenses, alcohol and drug misuse, and violence in schools. The contempt for the law by teenagers, who frequently steal school property and parental funds to pay for drugs and alcohol, is another issue that the police have voiced worry about. One Victim Friendly Police officer from the in-depth discussion explained:

“We are worried about the alarming growth rate of disobedient and undisciplined children who are getting involved in violent crimes especially in the growth point and shopping centres fighting and assaulting each other whilst they are hooked up on drugs. Some of these children are stealing money from their parents, stealing property at school and from their parents so that they can afford to buy alcohol and drugs”.

The findings on the prevalent of violent crimes among children in Zaka, Ward 19 shows that children have lost control of their behaviour due to lack of discipline, drug abuse and other factors and therefore they have become a burden to the community, this concurs with other previous scholarly studies. Children were among the many suspects detained for violence and looting in Zimbabwe following the January 14, 2018, protests that were triggered by shock fuel increases, according to Majome (2019). Following that, the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) (2015) identified Harare as having the highest number of juvenile violations (273 cases), followed by Chitungwiza 164, Bulawayo 151, Gweru 69, and Murehwa 34, as demonstrated by Langa (2016) in their annual report submitted to parliament by Zimbabwe's then-Vice-President Emmerson Mnangagwa. The cases included physical abuse, theft, assault, and public fights. Prosecution was referred in 17% of the 691 instances that were filed (Mpofu and Machingauta, 2023). Given the above cases, it can be notably agreed that violent criminal activities have become a devastating problem among children. This calls for the attention of the child protection committee and other responsible organs to put measures which are necessary to protect children from juvenile delinquency.

4.3.3 Drug related crimes

The researcher learnt that there is prevalence of drug related crimes among juveniles in Zaka, Ward 19 area. Young people are influenced by various social and economic factors into taking drugs such as marijuana, crystal methyl, bronchi chloride, and alcohol. These drugs affect their consciousness and causes poor performance at school, school drop outs, and criminal activities.

Tariro a participant from focus group discussion explained:

“Ndinoshungurudzika nekuti vechidiki vazhinji varikutora zvinodhaka kuti vazvifadze nazvo. Izvi zviri kuita kuti vasaremekedza vabereki nekupara mhosva”. (I am grieved by the situation that most children are taking drugs and substances for pleasure. This is the reason why they disobey parents and conflict with the law).

The Social worker who works in the Department of Social Development insisted on the growing rate of drug and substance abuse among children in the area. The following statements were captured during interviews:

“Since the majority of these young people come from households with a single parent and a child, there is an excessive amount of alcohol and drug misuse in this area. The majority of these kids commit crimes like assault, theft, and break-ins.”

Parents alluded to issues raised during focus group discussions:

“We are particularly concerned by the fact that their children are becoming disobedient, dropping out of school, engaging in criminal activities and others have developed severe mental disorders due to drugs especially ‘guka’ (crystal methyl). We are also aware that most juveniles who influence others into taking drugs come from child headed and single parent families which lack supervision and discipline”.

The research findings brought out that children are committing drug related crimes by taking illegal drugs such as marijuana and crystal methyl. Emerging information on drug and substance abuse is emphasized by other studies. Djodonou et al. (2016) used in-person interviews with 117 children in Benin who were between the ages of 11 and 18. According to their findings, 76.9% of the participants had dropped out of school, 30.8% came from dysfunctional households, 42.2% had used psychoactive substances, 48.7% had fathers who were not present, 44.4% had fathers who were not present, and 53.9% were orphans. They highlighted that the major offenses that were committed by juveniles included theft being at the top with 46.2%, followed by rape at second place with 19.7%. Substance abuse, school dropout, and absence of either parents or broken homes were some leading factors in criminal conduct among adolescents in Benin. This is undoubted indication that drug and substance abuse is a common criminal activity among juveniles. However, the researcher also concluded from the findings that the issue of drug and substance abuse affects more a particular demographic specifically male child. This is because boys influence each other that taking drugs is somehow associated with masculinity.

4.3.4 Sexual offenses among juveniles

The research findings brought out that, children are committing various sexual crimes. These include teenage pregnancies, indecent assault, early sexual engagement and incest. The following explanations were captured during discussions:

The social worker said:

“The majority of young people use sex as a form of self-entertainment, which worries me. Teenage pregnancies are high in this area as a result of this. There are a lot of single parents nowadays. They also misinterpret the law and lack knowledge of cultural norms and standards.”.

The Education Officer also confirmed and said:

“The majority of students leave school throughout the school day. They have a higher percentage of teenage pregnancies and school dropouts because they engage in more unprotected sex. Some of these kids have STIs as a result of having unprotected sex”.

A teenager named Taku explained that most children are engaging in sexual crimes because they lack parental supervision and good role models. He said:

“Vana vazhinji vanoita mhosva dzepabonde nemhaka yekuti vanenge vasina vanhu vakuru vekutoredzera hunhu hwakanaka uye vanenge vasina vanhu vanovaraira”.

(Most children partake in sexual crimes because they lack positive role models and they don't have elderly people who can chasten them).

The growing rate of sexual offenses that are committed by children is a worrisome development that has raised concern in the society. Both the children, the parents, the government stakeholders and community representatives have demonstrated their apprehension towards this matter. These emerging findings resonates with the study that was done by Chara (2022) which highlights myriad cases of child-on-child sexual abuse. In Tsholotsho, Zimbabwe, a 13-year-old boy sexually assaulted a 9-year-old cousin, Bindura, who was six months pregnant after reportedly being sexually assaulted by two 17-year-old siblings. In Harare, Zimbabwe, an 11-year-old boy sexually assaulted a 4-year-old girl. These adolescents were arrested in the majority of cases, but their parents acted protectively to keep them from being arrested, demonstrating their failure as parents who are meant to teach their children appropriate behaviour. This clearly shows that sexual offense is a common criminal activity among juveniles. The researcher recommends that the church, the family and community should play their role in restoring morality among the young generation so that such heinous crimes like incest can be prevented.

4.4 MITIGATORY WAYS TO ADDRESS THE EFFECTS OF CULTURAL DEGENERATION ON JUVENILE CRIMES

The research findings established different cultural degeneration factors which are exposing children to juvenile delinquency. They also gave a detailed account of the forms of crimes that children are committing as a result of these factors. In this section, they suggest ways of mitigating the effects of cultural degeneration on juvenile crimes.

4.4.1 Restoration of culture ways of disciplining children

The study reviewed that there is need to bring back cultural ways of disciplining children through family counselling and corporal punishment.

The Education officer and the VFU Officer raised concern over the abolishment of corporal punishment as a way of punishment for children who come in conflict with the law. The following sentiments were captured during focus group discussions:

“The restriction of corporal punishment as a method of reprimanding children is the reason why juvenile delinquency has escalated in the society. The government should give parents, teachers and guardians of children powers to discipline their children using corporal punishment because it has proven to be useful in the earlier years”.

On that same note, children confirmed that cultural ways of disciplining children are most effective in raising children with good morals, who respects constitutional laws and societal values.

Sekai said:

“Vana vazhinji vave kuita hunhu hwakashata nechikonzero chekuti vari kushaya vanhu vanokwanisa kuvatsiura. Vana sekuru nana tete vanofanira kuita basa rekudzora vana nekiugadzirisa hunhu hwavo”. (Most children are engaging in immoral acts the reason being that they are lacking guidance and counselling. The uncles and the aunties should play the role of correcting and restoring children’s morality).

The findings from the research shows the importance of restoring cultural ways of punishing and correcting children in addressing juvenile delinquency. Family members like Aunts play a very important role of being counsellors and mentors for the girls and uncles to the boys. This is supported by Mugumbate and Chereni (2019) who argued that a child is raised by the whole village starting from the nuclear family, extended relatives and the community at large. There need to strengthen such structures where the society and the family become functional in raising children who are morally grounded through counselling and family meetings “*dare*”.

Corporal punishment is one of the instrumental strategies that were used in Zimbabwe for not so long ago before it was removed by the Zimbabwean Constitution in response to current human rights global order. The social welfare model of juvenile justice according to Mangwiro and Chitereka (2019) gives a contrary argument. They assert that children are victims and it is the surrounding environment which needs to be addressed. They propose that children in

conflict with the law should be given a lenient punishment. The Education officer and the parents however emphasized that children are supposed to be disciplined at home and school to avoid contact with law enforcement agents and the juvenile justice system. The researcher recommends that policy makers in the government should allow the use of corporal punishment for disciplining children.

4.4.2 Family supervision and media censoring

The research findings demonstrates that family supervision and media censoring can be used a mitigatory strategy to address the effects of cultural degeneration in influencing juvenile delinquency. All the participants, in separate interviews, unanimously agreed that the family members are significant in monitoring and supervising children's behavioral activities or interactions. They concurred that family members should be technologically literate to control children's activities social media and attend to their children physically to correct them.

Mary suggested that,

“Vabereki navachengeti vanofanira kutarira vana pavenenge vari painternet. Saka vanofanira kuve neruzivo pamusoro petechnology kuti vakwanise kutarira vana nevazukuru painternet. Vabereki/vachengeti vanofanira vatarire maphone evana vachiwona maApplications ari muphone nezvaanoshandiswa”. (The parents and/or guardian should monitor and supervise children's online activities. They should have at least the basic knowledge and understanding about the current technologies. The digital literacy enables parents/guardians to scroll through a child's phone or tablet to vet the different installed applications and appreciate the specific functions).

Tendai from the interview concurred that:

“Kukosha kwevabereki/vachengeti, vakoma, vana sisi kuti vazivewo pamusoro peFacebook, Instagram, tik-Tok, Twitterne Dark websites kuti vakwanise kubatsira vana kana vari painternet. (The urgency for parents, guardians and siblings to come to speed with the new media platforms likeFacebook, Tik-Tok, Instagram, Twitter and Dark websites in order to have a clue then capacity to monitor or supervise any online activities).

The parents/guardians conceded,

“Sevabereki ibasa redu kutarira vana vedu matambiro avo. Tinofanira kuona zvinhu zvinokanganisa vana vedu zvakafanana nezvinodhaka, shamwari dzisina kunaka nemavhidhiyo anoratidza zvinhu zvingakanganisa pfungwa dzevana padandemutande”. (As parents we should supervise our children’s behavior. We should be able to identify factors that may affect our children such as drugs and substance abuse, bad friends, and toxic videos which may affect the behavior of children on the internet).

The findings of the research emphasized the responsibility of the family members in supervising children’s behavior and media censoring as the intervention strategies to mitigate the effects of cultural degeneration in influencing juvenile delinquency. This corresponds to the study which was done by Alfry (2010). The USA Bureau of Justice Statistics discovered that 72% of adolescents in jail come from broken homes, and law enforcement organizations in the US reported 2,18 million juvenile arrests (Alfry, 2010). Compared to children from stable homes, children from unstable homes are more likely to experience a range of behavioral and academic issues, such as drug and alcohol misuse, smoking, vandalism, aggression, and criminal activity. Therefore, it is an undisputable fact that parents have a main role to play in supervising and monitoring their children so that they have a positive growth. Children needs parental supervision at home and online. There is need to ensure the invocation of the age-appropriate internet controls, laws and policies which facilitate safer online child browsing.

4.4.3 Ubuntu philosophy in learning curricula

Findings from the research emphasized the importance of including the Ubuntu African philosophy in learning curricula as the best possible way to instil humaneness and good behaviour in children. Below are some of the responses from key informants of the study:

The social worker as one of the key informants argued:

“The integration of Ubuntu philosophy as part of children’s learning curricula is very instrumental for cultural restoration during early childhood development. If children are raised in the confines of the ubuntu philosophy they tend to become morally sensitive and conformant to societal rules and obligations.”

The education officer and the parents confirmed to the same utterances. Their statements follow:

“Children should be groomed within the principles of unhu/ubuntu both at home and in school. The government should implement policies which allows ubuntu to be a part of the learning area for children from primary schools as this would allow children to be well rooted in the African culture of humaneness and good behaviour”.

The study suggests that the integration of Ubuntu philosophy in children’s learning curriculum is very important for instilling values of humanness, respect of authority, discipline, integrity and communitarianism which are crucial in building children’s behaviour and addressing juvenile delinquency. These suggestions go in line with the existing literature. According to Navarro (2023), counselling and education programs are some of the effective strategies which offer plenty of support for developing children. Policies which foster our traditional norms and values should be emphasized so that the society can be restored to sanity (Katola, 2014). According to Bronfenbrenner's ecological systems theory, children's personality development is greatly influenced by their surroundings. Therefore, in order to protect young children's innocent minds, appropriate policies must be implemented in all societal structures. The government should therefore push for policies which encourage the ubuntu as part of the learning curriculum for children to become culturally rooted hence reducing juvenile delinquency.

4.5 CONCLUSION

This chapter presented data from all the research participants, the children, parents/guardians and key informants. The data was analyzed and interpreted within the broader objectives and literature. Various elements of cultural degeneration which are influencing juvenile delinquency were analyzed. The research presented and analyzed forms of crimes that are common among juveniles and the mitigatory strategies which can be used address the juvenile delinquency. The researcher also provided his comments, supporting, arguing and recommending some suggestion on the research. These processes, therefore enabled the researcher to close up the gap which was identified at the launch of the research.

CHAPTER 5: SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 INTRODUCTION

This Chapter presents the summary of the research findings, conclusions, implications to the Social Work profession and recommendations. The summary and conclusion are outlined in accordance with the research objectives. The implications to social work illustrate the ways the

findings shall influence various cultural systems which affects the behavior of children with the identified stakeholders. The recommendations provide opportunities for further research within the child protection and juvenile justice discourse. Finally, the chapter summary is provided.

5.1 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

At the beginning of the research in Zaka Jerera growth point with juvenile delinquencies who are being affected by the degeneration of culture in society, the researcher was curious about the elements of cultural degeneration which have influenced children into committing crimes. The researcher also sought to understand the various forms of crimes which are commonly committed by children as a result of cultural degeneration. Also, the researcher was motivated to explore ways of mitigating against the predisposition and risks faced by children due to cultural degeneration as a way of reducing juvenile delinquency. In the view of the curiosities and wondering, the researcher conducted in-depth interviews with key participants who are the children, in-depth interviews with parents, community childcare workers (CCWs) and key informants which answered the questions. The researcher also conducted a focus group discussion with children to answer the curiosities.

5.1.1 Elements of cultural degeneration

The study shows that there are various elements of cultural degeneration which are influencing children into committing crimes. These elements include family structure breakdown or inadequate parental supervision on children's behavior, decline of traditional values and cultural ways of punishing children, unrestricted influence of social media and drug abuse. Cultural degeneration has brought these emerging problems in the society. The social fabric which used to hold the society together has been broken. Broken families have failed to produce children with good morals and values thus hence the increase of juvenile delinquency. Children are watching sexually explicit videos online and violent movies on Tv, no one is there to discipline children and most juveniles are being influenced into taking drugs and alcohol at school and out of school. To this end, cultural degeneration is responsible for influencing juvenile delinquency.

5.1.2 Forms of crimes prevalent among juveniles

The study brought out that there are various forms of crimes which are prevalent among juveniles. Children are committing property crimes such as theft, shoplifting, burglary, and vandalism of property especially because of socio economic situations. Children who come

from poverty-stricken homes with lack of parental supervision have the highest record of theft and shoplifting among other property crimes. Children also commit violence crimes which includes physical bullying, emotional bullying, cyber bullying, fighting and assaults. Unrestricted social media influence and domestic violence has exposed children to violence and because of that children are now imitating that behaviour. There is also prevalence of drug related crimes among children. Young people are influenced by various social and economic factors into taking drugs such as marijuana, crystal methyl, bronchi chloride, and alcohol. These drugs affect their consciousness and causes poor performance at school, school drop outs, and criminal activities. The study also established that sexual offenses are common among juveniles. These include teenage pregnancies, indecent assault, early sexual engagement and incest. This is mainly because of lack of parental supervision and unrestricted social media influence.

5.1.3 Mitigatory ways to address the challenge of juvenile delinquency

Given the elements of cultural degeneration and the criminal activities that are common among children, the research also established mitigatory ways to address the effects of cultural degeneration in influencing juvenile delinquency. The research emphasized the importance of restoration of cultural ways of disciplining children through family counselling and corporal punishment. Corporal punishment is a negative reinforcement mechanism which can be used to bring back children to order. From an African perspective, children are raised by the whole village beginning with the family which emphasizes the idea that the uncles and the aunties should play a role of counselling and instilling good moral in children.

In addition to that, the research centered the significance of family supervision and media censoring as a mitigatory strategy to addressing the effects of cultural degeneration in influencing juvenile delinquency. The family becomes the suitable primary institution which cares or supervises children online. It also centered children on the safer internet browsing practices. Children should have the onus to decide the age-appropriate content, conduct, contacts or contracts. Nonetheless, the mitigatory suggested service will ensure the invocation of the age-appropriate internet controls, laws and policies which facilitate safer online child browsing. The research also emphasized the physical monitoring of children's behavior at school and home. The parent should know what kind of friends does his child associate with to prevent issues of peer influence into drug and substance abuse. The research also brought out the importance of including Ubuntu philosophy in learning curricula as the best possible way to instill good behavior in children. The research suggested that the government and other key

stakeholders should push for policies which encourage Ubuntu so that children may become culturally rooted and good behaved hence reducing juvenile delinquency.

5.2 CONCLUSION OF THE FINDINGS

The research concluded that children commit various forms of crimes which include property crimes, violent crimes, drug related crimes and sexual offenses. These crimes have become prevalent amongst juveniles due to family structure breakdown, erosion of cultural values and traditional ways of disciplining children, unrestricted social media influence, drug and substance abuse. These cultural degeneration elements can be abridged by addressing various structures of the society which hold the society together. In other words, the researcher concluded that through capacitating parents to discipline and supervise their children's behavior, putting online restrictions for children and implementing policies which promote Ubuntu, the government and other key players in children protection can address the problem of juvenile delinquency.

The research findings in this study and the literature analysis have demonstrated and validated the significant incidence of criminality and moral decay in youngsters worldwide. Zaka Jerera District has faced significant obstacles as a result of the phenomena of cultural deterioration. Children's moral degradation is widespread and shows up as delinquent behaviors like drinking, rudeness, lack of self-control, greed, selfishness, disobedience to authority, sexual promiscuity, drug and alcohol misuse, dropping out of school, stealing, vandalism, bullying, and extracurricular activities. Zaka Jerera District and the country as a whole stand to lose a great deal if the issue of cultural degradation is not addressed immediately. Juvenile criminality is interfering with the lives and futures of the youth. This is not good news for the nation.

Children have become extremely disrespectful, criminal and irresponsible as they are no longer useful for their families and community. They have become a liability as their parents, the community and state incur huge costs because of their delinquent behavior. This is due to the fact that the consequences of children's immoral behavior, such as drug and alcohol misuse, burglaries, robberies, muggings, hijackings, murders, and sexual assaults, are felt by families and communities. However, because the state must employ the legal system and law enforcement to patrol, arrest, and imprison them as well as care for them while they are incarcerated or in rehabilitation facilities, it also bears significant expenditures. Additionally, the position that probation officers play in the Department of Child Protection and Welfare services raises the stakes. The government, commercial sector, community structures, and Non-

Governmental Organizations (NGOs) must collaborate to address cultural degradation that contributes to adolescent delinquency in order to avoid these traps. They should make sure that steps are taken to guarantee that kids grow up in a setting that fosters their healthy physical, mental, moral, and spiritual development.

5.3 IMPLICATION TO THE SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION

The social Work practice is set to benefit from the research at the macro, mezzo and micro levels. The findings are going to be shared to the Masvingo Provincial Office of the Department of Child Protection and Welfare Services, under which the Zaka District, where the study was conducted report to. The researcher signed an agreement to submit the copy of the research. For example, the finding can be used to initiate policy formulation by the Ministry of Labor, Social Welfare and Social Development and its sister Ministries to guide any juvenile delinquency and child protection programs in the Social Work practice settings. The finding can be utilized by non-state actors and child protection organization to strengthen families and community structures through various programs to mitigate against juvenile delinquency.

The findings will help social workers create programs and frameworks that address the difficulties faced by teen parents, child-headed households, and single parents in order to protect the children from harmful influences. In order to foster and promote constructive behavior and character development in children and young people, it will also motivate social workers to expand collaboration between the state, churches, business sector, and community institutions.

5.4 RECOMMENDATIONS

To mitigate against the effects of cultural degeneration in influencing juvenile delinquency, the researcher recommends that:

5.4.1 Social work

Social workers should carryout interventions which prioritize on changing the sociocultural environment in which children are raised. They should initiate community-based programs and parenting support groups in which matters of child welfare are discussed and solutions are passed. In case that there is identified cases of juvenile delinquency, it is advised that social workers should provide family conferences, rehabilitation mechanisms and counselling services to restore the child back to the society. It is also recommended that social workers

should collaborate with other government stakeholders and non-governmental organizations to form structures and come up with integrative strategies to deal with juvenile delinquency.

5.4.2 Government and Non-governmental organizations

African humanness and value systems that instill and foster human dignity, integrity, respect, authority, discipline, love, relationships, trust, accountability, and community service in young people are recommended to be incorporated into the present educational system by the government. In this manner, adolescent delinquency will become less of an issue. The government should also implement policies that encourages parents to discipline their children for behavior modification, and neglect of children by the parents should be strictly punishable by the law. Children should be capacitated through the Information, Communication and Technology curricula of the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education so that children can participate on the internet safely. This will prevent children from coming in contact with internet content which is harmful or toxic to their cognitive and emotional transition.

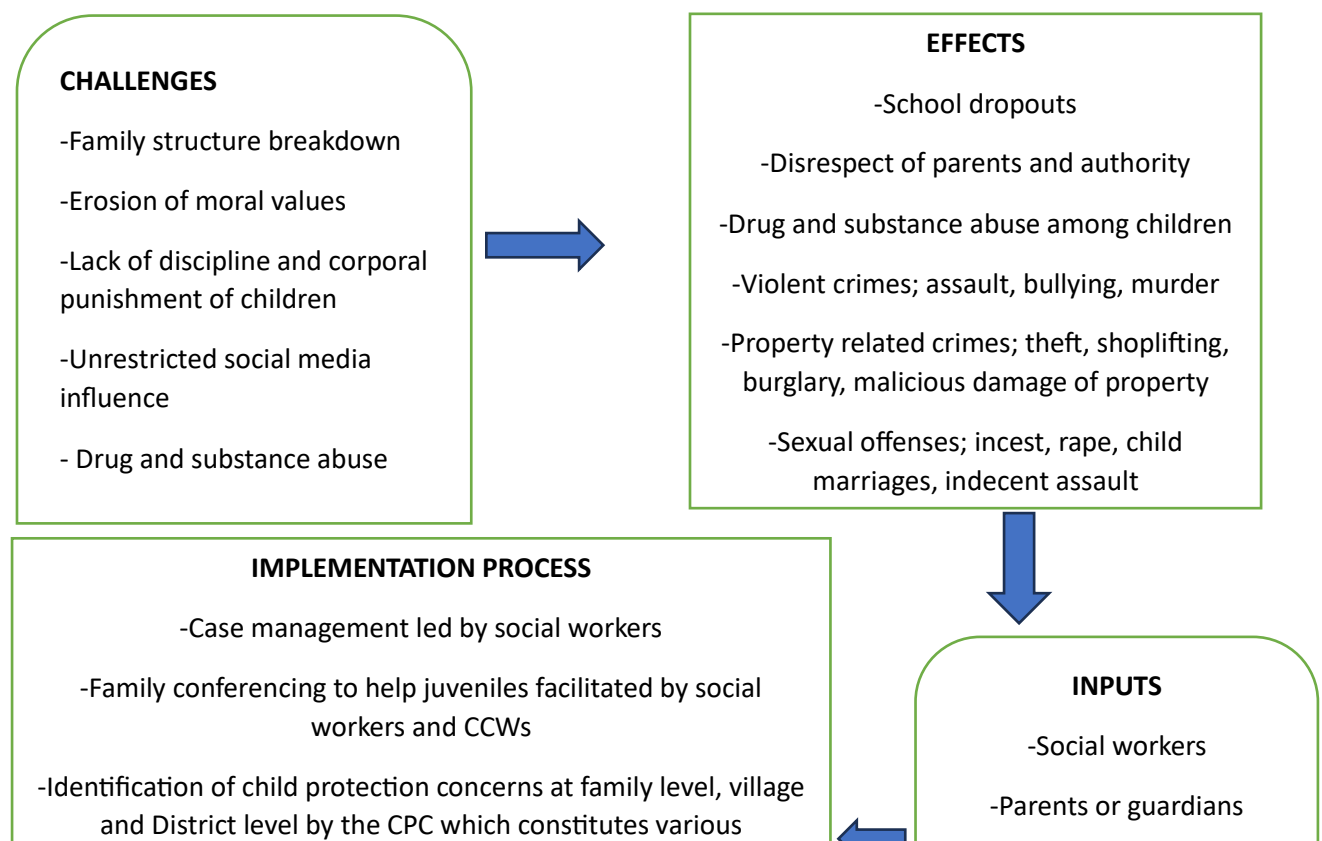
A well-thought-out plan for the cooperation of traditional councils, churches, community structures, municipalities, and non-governmental organizations in meeting the needs of the youth, including basic necessities and counseling services, is advised in order to lessen the impact of cultural degradation on juvenile delinquency. The DCWPS should initiate community-based programs to capacitate parents/guardians with basic digital and technological skills so that they are equipped to monitor and supervise children online.

5.5 AREAS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

To promote results-based interventions on the discourse of child protection and juvenile delinquency, the researcher suggests further future studies in the following areas:

- i. There should be qualitative and quantitative research country wide to assess the effects of cultural degeneration in influencing juvenile delinquency.
- ii. Since the results of this study highlight the aspects of cultural degeneration and the types of criminal activity among children, more funding and research should be allocated to the phenomenon of juvenile moral degeneration and the issues it raises.
- iii. There should be a study assess the impacts of child online risks or crimes associated with social media.

5.6 INTERVENTION FRAMEWORK: A CHILD PROTECTION SOCIOCULTURAL REGENERATION AND INTEGRATIVE FRAMEWORK (CPSRI).



A Child Protection Sociocultural Regeneration and Integrative Framework (CPSRI) is a 6-phase process that was developed after the researcher collected and analyzed data for the purpose of bringing out real intervention strategy which is not just prescriptive but practical. The framework seeks to address the objectives of the study which include; the elements of cultural degeneration which are influencing children into juvenile delinquency, forms of criminal activities prevalent among juveniles and the mitigatory ways to address the issue of cultural degeneration and juvenile delinquency. The model provides potential outputs and outcomes if the intervention is followed.

The first stage of the framework shows the challenges that are faced by children as individuals in families and in communities. The following stage explains the effects of these challenges on children for example children become school dropouts due to drug and substance abuse. The third phase of illustrate the inputs that are needed address the situation such as Social Workers. The fourth stage brings out the implementation stage in which the inputs are utilized to address the problem for example the Social Worker provides counselling psychosocial support to children. On fifth stage there are the outputs or the immediate results which come shortly after

implementation process for example developed tailored plans in addressing juvenile's specific needs, risks and strengths. The last phase shows the outcomes or long-term results of the intervention process for example decrease in juvenile delinquency rate and recidivism.

The framework will help children, families, communities and the government to address children's concerns and the problem of juvenile delinquent. The social and cultural structures of the society can be restored to functionality if the framework is put to work. This integrative model will promote the application of various theories and methods of social work, the multi-disciplinary approach, multi systems approach as well as case management in the quest of addressing the issue of cultural degeneration and juvenile delinquency. Many private organizations, the Government and social work profession will benefit from this framework in as much as child protection issues are concerned.

5.7 CONCLUSION

This chapter presented the summaries of the findings in relation to cultural degeneration elements which are influencing juvenile delinquency. The study conclusions were established on the basis of the research findings and concluded that cultural degeneration has led to prevalent of juvenile crimes. The study's implications to the social work profession were discussed. Recommendations in order to create a child safeguarding environment in the different practice settings were proffered.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: Informed Consent Form



Dear participant

My name is Budai Yosa Takundanashe, I am a student Social worker from Bindura University of Science Education. I am carrying out a study on **“A framework towards addressing the effects of cultural degeneration in influencing juvenile delinquency in Zimbabwe”**.

Thank you for accepting to take part in this study. Before we begin, I would like to state that your contribution is completely voluntary. Again, you may find some questions to be emotionally frustrating and if that happens, you are free not to answer. You are equally free to leave if need be. In observance to the ethics of research, the information given will be kept confidential considering that no personal details or physical addresses will be required. If you have understood and agree to participate in this study you may proceed to sign this consent form.

Participant's Signature.....

Researcher's Signature.....

Date.....

APPENDIX 2: Parental Informed Consent



I..... hereby consent to my child's participation in the study.

I was given an explanation of the study's purpose and methodology. I realize that my child's participation in the study is optional, and she has the right to withdraw or refuse. Answer certain questions with no negative effects. I accept that anonymity will be protected and my child will

remain anonymous when the study's findings are presented. Confidentiality will be protected at all times. Recordings will be kept in a secured cabinet and destroyed two years after publishing or six years after completion.

Name of the child

Date and time

.....

.....

Name of parent

Date and time

.....

.....

APPENDIX 3: In-depth interview guide for juveniles

Introduction

My name is Budai Yosa Takundanashe a Social Work student at Bindura University of Science Education. My topic reads “**A framework towards addressing the effects of cultural degeneration in influencing juvenile delinquency in Zimbabwe**”. I found it necessary to ask you questions as part of the participants criteria. The study is for academic purposes therefore participation is voluntary and you are free to withdraw at any given time

Questions

Section A: Participant’s background information

1. Do you go to school?

2. Do you live with your parents?

3. Where do you stay?

Section B: Elements of cultural degeneration and their implication on children crime rates.

1. From your understanding what is juvenile delinquency?

2. What do you understand about cultural degeneration?

3. What social problems did you encounter in your family upbringing which affected your behaviour?

4. In what way has unrestricted social media, drug and substance abuse and decline of education affected you into criminal activities?

5. Which traditional ways of disciplining children for committing crimes were used in the past?

Section C: Prevalence and manifestation of children crime rates

1. Which criminal activities have you committed in your life?

2. Have you been involved in any property crimes, violent crimes, drug related crimes or sexual offenses?

3. What consequences have you faced for acting in conflict with the law?

4. How did you cope up with your challenges as a child in conflict with the law?

Section D: Strategies to address the effects of cultural degeneration in influencing juvenile delinquency

1. What was done by your family and your community to change your behaviour?

2. What initiatives did the Government and Non-Governmental Organisations took to ensure the success of your rehabilitation?

3. Compare the current juvenile justice system with the traditional ways of punishing juvenile offenders?

4. In your point of view, what do you think should be done by the Government and the community as a whole to ensure the positive development of children?

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING

APPENDIX 4: Focus group guide for juveniles

Introduction

My name is Budai Yosa Takundanashe a Social Work student at Bindura University of Science Education. My topic reads **“A framework towards addressing the effects of cultural degeneration in influencing juvenile delinquency in Zimbabwe”**. I found it necessary to ask you questions as part of the participants criteria. The study is for academic purposes therefore participation is voluntary and you are free to withdraw at any given time

Ground rules

1. Everyone has a right to participate and contribute to the discussion
2. You are encouraged to speak one at a time
3. No criticism and side conversation is allowed

4. You raise your hand when you want to ask questions
5. No making noise or any attempts of violence is allowed

Questions

Section A: Elements of cultural degeneration and their implication on children crime rates.

1. What is your understanding on juvenile delinquency?
2. What influenced you into committing juvenile delinquency activities?
3. In your experience, can drug and substance abuse, unrestricted media influence, poor family upbringing, lack of educational and cultural values causes juvenile delinquency?

Section B: Prevalence and manifestation of children crime rates

1. Which criminal activities have you committed in your life?
 - Are they: property crimes, violence crimes, drug and substance or sexual offenses.
2. What challenges have you incurred as a child in conflict with the law?
3. How often have you committed those criminal activities?

Section C: Strategies to address the effects of cultural degeneration in influencing juvenile delinquency

1. What is being done by the community and the government to address juvenile delinquency?
2. What more can be done to ensure that children are protected from getting in conflict with the law?

3. What role should the children, the parents, social workers, the government and non-government play to ensure positive development of children and address the effects of cultural degeneration on juvenile delinquency.
4. What are the cultural ways that were used in the past for punishing juvenile offenders in Zimbabwe?
5. Compare the cultural ways for handling juvenile offenders which the current juvenile justice practices?

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING

APPENDIX 5: Interview guide for key informants, parents, government officials and CCWs

Introduction

My name is Budai Yosa Takundanashe a Social Work student at Bindura University of Science Education. I am reaching on the following topic: **“A framework towards addressing the effects of cultural degeneration on juvenile delinquency”**. I would like to appreciate all your efforts in participating in this interview. The researcher found it necessary to ask questions to you as part of the participants criteria and key informants as you have adequate knowledge on the influence of cultural degeneration on juvenile delinquency. The study is for academic purposes therefore participation is voluntary and you are free to withdraw at any given time if you so wish.

Questions

Section A: Participant’s background information

1. Name?

2. What is your role or designation in relation to the juvenile (for example; parent, CCW, Social worker or care staff)?
3. How long have you been in your identified role in this particular community?
4. What is your involvement in relation to the child in conflict with the law?

Section B: Elements of cultural degeneration and their implication on children crime rates.

1. What is your understanding on juvenile delinquency?
2. In your understanding what elements of cultural degeneration are influencing juvenile delinquency?
3. How does family upbringing influence juvenile delinquency?
4. How does poor education, eroded traditional values, social media and drug abuse influence children into committing deviant activities?

Section C: Prevalence and manifestation of children crime rates

1. From your experience what forms of criminal activities are more prevalent among the children?
2. Is there evidence of the following forms of crimes among children in Zaka (property crimes, drug related crimes, sexual offenses and violent crimes)?
3. In what way is juvenile delinquency a challenge to the development of children?

Section D: Strategies to address the effects of cultural degeneration in influencing juvenile delinquency

1. What is being done at community level, or by the government and other stakeholders to address juvenile delinquency?
2. How effective are these interventions in assisting children?
3. What other possible interventions can be put in place to address the challenge of juvenile delinquency?

4. What are the cultural ways that were used in the past for punishing juvenile offenders in Zimbabwe?
5. Compare the cultural ways for handling juvenile offenders with the current juvenile justice practices?

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING

APPENDIX 6: Approval forms from DSD

Official communication should not be addressed
DEVELOPMENT

To individuals
Telephone: +263772242929/+263-34-2223



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL

**ZAKA DISTRICT OFFICE
JERERA**

Republic of Zimbabwe

24 February, 2025

Budai Yosa Takundan Ashe (B210760B)
Bindura University of Science Education

**REF: PERMISSION TO CARRY OUT AN ACADEMIC RESEARCH FOR BUDAI YOSA TAKUNDANASHE,
STUDENT OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCES HONOURS DEGREE IN SOCIAL WORK AT BINDURA
UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION**

Receipt of your letter dated 17 February 2025 with the above-mentioned matter is acknowledged.

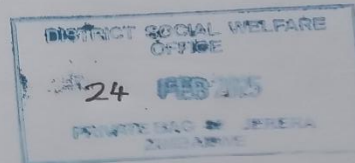
Please be advised that the permission is hereby granted for you to carry out research on a topic titled
**"A framework towards addressing the effects of cultural degeneration in influencing juvenile
delinquency in Zimbabwe. A case study for Zaka district"**.

Permission is granted **STRICTLY** on condition that the research is for academic purposes only in pursuit
of your Bachelor of Science Honors Degree in Social Work. The data collected should not be shared to
third parties.

You are kindly requested to submit a copy of your final research document to the Department of Social
Development upon completion as your research has a bearing to the Department's mandate.

(Mr) Basopo K

DISTRICT SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER- ZAKA



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Telephone: 703711 / 790721-4
Harare



ZIMBABWE

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE, LABOUR AND SOCIAL
WELFARE
Compensation House

Cnr S.V Muzenda and Central Avenue
HARARE

15 My 2025

Budai Yosa Takundanashe (B210760B)
Bindura University of Science Education

**REF: LETTER OF APPROVAL TO CONDUCT A RESEARCH STUDY
TITLED "A FRAMEWORK TOWARDS ADDRESSING THE EFFECTS
OF CULTURAL DEGENERATION IN INFLUENCING JUVENILE
DELINQUENCY". A CASE OF ZAKA DISTRICT.**

Receipt of your letter with the above mentioned matter is acknowledged.

Please be advised that permission is hereby granted for you to carry out research
titled **"A framework towards addressing the effects of cultural degeneration
in influencing juvenile delinquency"**

Permission is granted **STRICTLY** on condition that the research is for academic
purposes only in pursuit of your Bachelor of Science Honours Din Social Work.
The data collected should not be shared to third party (3rd).

You are requested to submit a copy of your final research documents to the
Department of Social Development upon completion as your research has a
bearing on the Department's mandate.



T. Zimhunga
fp T. Zimhunga
Acting Chief Director Social Development, and Disability Affairs
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE, LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE

