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DISSERTATION REPORT BY KUNDAI MUCHANDIWONA

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THE ROLE OF SOCIAL WORKERS IN CONTROLLING CASES OF YOUTHS
RELAPSING INTO CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR. A CASE OF HARARE CENTRAL
PRISON.

Research project submitted to the faculty of Social Sciences in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the Bachelor of Science Honours degree in Social Work.

APPROVAL FORM

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I certify that I have supervised **KUNDAI MUCHANDIWONA** for this research titled “The role of social workers in controlling cases of youths relapsing into criminal behaviour. A case of Harare Central Prison”. This is in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Science (Honours) Degree in Social Work.

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Chairperson of Department Board of Examiners

The Department Board of Examiners is satisfied that this dissertation report meets the examination requirements and I therefore recommend to the Bindura University to accept a research project by **KUNDAI MUCHANDIWONA** titled, “ The role of social workers in controlling cases of youths relapsing into criminal behaviour. A case of Harare Central Prison” in partial fulfilment of the Bachelor of Science(Honours) Degree in Social Work.

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DECLARATION AND RELEASE FORM

I **KUNDAI MUCHANDIWONA** studying for the Bachelor of (Science Honours) Degree in Social Work, cognizant of the fact that plagiarism is a serious academic offense and that falsifying information is a breach of ethics in Social Work research, truthfully declare that:

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2. I have adhered to the research ethics required to pursue Social Work research.
3. I grant the University permission to use this dissertation for educational purposes.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this dissertation to my father and mother Mr and Mrs Muchandiwona, they worked so hard to make sure I had everything I needed, I love you so much.

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ABSTRACT

The study focused on exploring the roles of social workers in controlling the cases of youths relapsing into criminal behaviour. The aim of the study was to identify the roles of social workers in reducing recidivism among youth offenders in Harare. The specific objectives were: to find out the causes of youth offenders relapsing into crime at Harare Central Prison, to examine the part played by social workers in controlling cases of youths relapsing into criminal behaviour at Harare Central prison, to ascertain the challenges faced by social workers in the process of controlling cases of youth offenders at the Harare Central Prison, to provide recommendations to social workers on how they can overcome the challenges that they face to ensure effective rehabilitation of youth offenders at Harare Central Prison. Underpinned by the systems theory and the social learning theory which explains how social workers can intervene in assisting youths who engage in criminal behaviour, the study made use of a mixed methodology which is a combination of qualitative and quantitative research methods, to collect data at Harare Central Prison, using in depth interviews with sixteen respondents, six which were key informants. The study brought out that facilitating, linking and counselling were some of the roles of social workers in controlling cases of youths relapsing into criminal behaviour. The study revealed that youths relapse into criminal behaviour largely because of lack of community engagement and the country's crippled economy. Therefore the study recommended that social workers should act as resource mobilizers and advocates so that there is successful reintegration of the youths into the community to avoid recidivism.

LIST OF TABLES

Table 4.1 Response Rate.....24

Table 4:2 Participants' level of education.....25

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 4:1 Gender distribution of participants.....	23
Figure 4:2 Participants' Age.....	24
Figure 4:3 Causes of Recidivism.....	25
Figure 4:4 Role of social workers.....	29

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

- NGO- Non Governmental Organisation
- UN- United Nations Development Programme
- CSO- Civil Society Organisation
- ZPCS- Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Service

Contents

APPROVAL FORM	i
DECLARATION AND RELEASE FORM	ii
DEDICATION	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iv
ABSTRACT	v
LIST OF TABLES	vi
LIST OF FIGURES	vii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	viii
LIST OF APPENDICES	xiv
1 CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY	1
1.1 Background of the study	1
1.2 Statement of the problem	3
1.3 Aim	3
1.4 Objectives	3
1.5 Research questions/ sub problems	4
1.6 Assumptions	4
1.7 Significance of study	4
1.8 Limitations of the study	5
1.9 Delimitations of the study	5
1.10 Definition of key terms	5
1.11 Chapter Summary	5
2 CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW	7
2.0 Introduction	7
2.1 Theoretical framework:	7
2.1.1 The Systems theory	7
2.1.2 Applicability of the theory to the study	8
2.1.3 Social Learning theory	9
2.1.4 Applicability of the theory to the study	9
2.2 Literature Review	9
2.2.1 Global Overview on the roles of social workers in reducing youths relapsing into criminal behaviour	10
2.2.2 Regional Overview on the roles of social workers in reducing youths relapsing into criminal behaviour	10

2.2.3	Zimbabwean perspective on the roles of social workers in controlling the cases of youths relapsing into criminal behaviour.	11
2.3	LEGISLATION AND PROGRAMMES ON REOFFENDING IN ZIMBABWE GUIDING SOCIAL WORKERS	11
2.3.1	The Constitution of Zimbabwe.....	11
2.3.2	The Prisons Act Chapter 7: 11	12
2.3.3	The Zimbabwe juvenile justice system	12
2.4	Roles played by social workers in controlling cases of youth relapsing into crime	12
2.4.1	Facilitating behavioural change	12
2.4.2	Providing counselling	13
2.4.3	Facilitating community based interventions.....	13
2.4.4	Facilitating rehabilitation programmes.....	14
2.5	Research gap	14
2.6	Chapter summary.....	15
3	CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOOGY.....	16
3.1	Introduction	16
3.2	Research approach.....	16
3.3	Research design	17
3.4	Target population	18
3.5	Sampling.....	18
3.5.1	Sample size.....	18
3.5.2	Sampling techniques	18
3.6	Data collection techniques and instruments	19
3.6.1	In-depth interviews.....	19
3.6.2	Documentary analysis.....	20
3.7	Data analysis techniques.....	20
3.8	Feasibility of the study	21
3.9	Ethical considerations	21
3.10	Limitations of the study	21
3.11	Chapter summary.....	22
4	CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS.....	23
4.1	Introduction	23
4.2	Response Rate.....	23
4.3	Demographic Characteristics of Respondents	23

4.3.1	Sex.....	24
4.3.2	Age	24
4.3.3	Level of Education.....	25
4.3.4	Discrimination from Community.....	26
4.3.5	Unemployment	27
4.3.6	Lack of Education	27
4.3.7	Drug Abuse.....	27
4.3.8	Lack of Family Support.....	28
4.4	Role of Social Workers in preventing youths in relapsing into crime	29
4.4.1	Counselling.....	29
4.4.2	Empowerment of Inmates	30
4.4.3	Linking up inmates with Companies and finding connections.....	30
4.4.4	Facilitating Family Reunion	30
4.4.5	Intermediator.....	31
4.4.6	Facilitate Sports and Recreational Activities for reformation.....	31
4.5	Challenges faced by social workers in the process of controlling cases of youth offenders at Harare Central Prison.....	31
4.5.1	Lack of Resources.....	32
4.5.2	Lack of Transport.....	32
4.5.3	Corruption and poor implementation of Programs.....	32
4.6	Recommendations to Social Workers on how they can overcome challenges effective rehabilitation.....	32
4.7	Chapter Summary	33
5	CHAPTER 5: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	35
5.1	Introduction	35
5.2	Summary of the Study	35
5.2.1	Causes of youth offenders relapsing into crime at Harare Central Prison.	35
5.2.2	Role played by social workers in controlling cases of youth relapsing into criminal behaviour	36
5.2.3	Challenges faced by social workers in the process of controlling cases of youth offenders at the Harare Central Prison.	36
5.3	Conclusions	36
5.4	Recommendations	37
5.5	Recommendations for Further Study	38
5.6	Chapter Summary	38

REFERENCES 39

LIST OF APPENDICES

- Approval from the Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Service
- Turn it report
- Respondent interview guide
- Key informant interview guide

1 CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

A large number of youths in Zimbabwe are engaging in crime due to various factors such as economic recession which leaves them with no other option than to engage in crime. The youths are imprisoned and charged with crime, however even after imprisonment, punishment and rehabilitation, the youths relapse into criminal behaviour which becomes a major challenge to the youths' futures and also in the society at large. This research seeks to explore the role of the social workers in controlling cases of youths relapsing into criminal behaviour. To add on, various researchers who focused in the field of social work roles in reducing deviance found that some of the obstacles they faced were incompetence, finance and unavailability of resources. This research is going to investigate variables such as the causes of youth relapsing into crime, the social workers' role in reducing cases of youths relapsing into criminal behaviour, the challenges that the social workers face and the mitigations to the challenges. Therefore, this first chapter serves as an introduction bringing out the background to the study, the problem statement, the purpose of the study, research questions and objectives, literature review, the significance of the study, the assumptions as well as the limitations and delimitations.

1.1 Background of the study

Across the globe, cases of youth offenders have emerged as a major problem causing global unrest. The anti social behaviours often associated with the youth include vandalism, weapon carrying, rape and alcohol abuse among other practices. Boakye (2012) eludes that in any human society, there are accepted modes of conducts, hence deviance is inevitable and deviance and crime is and has always been a threat to the peacefulness and tranquillity enjoyed by community members.

In addition to the above point, Gxubane (2018) argues that young ex offenders in their social reintegration phase experience several challenges, some of which drive these youths to recommit crimes. Chauke and Malatji (2021) concur that the community and family are sources of the problems that increase young offender's vulnerability when returning to society. In a study carried out in Capetown, South Africa, factors pushed young ex offenders to commit crime were a lack of parental love, domestic violence, peer pressure and the use of drugs. Adams, Chen and Chapman (2017) argue that the chances of recidivism can be reduced if the ex offenders are mainstreamed into the economy through employment thus

helping them to stay away from antisocial behaviours. Therefore it is very vital to explicitly reveal the duty of social workers in helping to rebuild social relations and fostering constructive linkages so that the ex offenders do not relapse into crime.

There are no accurate recidivism statistics in Zimbabwe but however there are cases of youth recidivism into crime in Zimbabwe. These cases have been rising due to the prevailing economic recession in Zimbabwe. Mambende et al (2016) depicted that juvenile offences can be rampant in developing countries such as Zimbabwe that are going through economic challenges and poverty. COVID 19 has been the other reason that has led to youth relapsing into criminal behaviour and it has further worsened the economic struggles of the people thus leading to ex youth inmates relapsing into criminal behaviour. According to Zinyemba et al (2020), Zimbabwe has a good rehabilitation model on paper, but a lot has to be addressed in terms of the implementation of the program, as evident by the high rates of recidivism. Therefore Zimbabwe's rehabilitation model which is clearly not implemented has led to the high rates of youth relapsing into criminal behaviour. According to Gona et al(2014), roughly 90% of the respondents at Chikurubi Farm prison contributed that there is a little engagement to rehabilitation programmes by serving inmates, so as a result, this acts as a cause to recidivism.

According to Ruparanganda (2016) contributed that social workers in Zimbabwe also partake an important role in the prevention of recidivism and provision of remedial and preventive services. Torres and Mariscal (2016) further added that social workers have the most contact with juveniles and they possess appropriate education to identify and the immediate and risk and protective factors. However though social workers' roles are considered important in reducing youth relapsing into criminal behaviour, Zinyemba(2020) argues that the roles of social workers are not defined. This therefore serves the purpose of this research in exploring the roles of social workers.

There are no accurate statistics on the youth recidivism rates at Harare Central Prison but prison officers believe that recidivism rates are high. This is because of the high cost of living in Harare and Zimbabwe at large which has left youth inmates with no other choice than to reoffend. Therefore this explains the purpose of this research in exploring the roles of social workers in reducing recidivism among youth offenders.

1.2 Statement of the problem

The majority of the youth in Harare are struggle to make ends meet because they are orphans, come from broken families, have limited educational backgrounds and also due to the high rate of unemployment in Zimbabwe which is being caused by the prevailing economic recession in the country. These conditions of survival have been further worsened by the COVID 19 pandemic which has led to series of lockdowns refraining the people from full participation in honest income generating activities. As a result, the youth engage in crimes including rape, pick pocketry, robbery, house breaking and murder. Crime becomes their major option for survival and also to provide for their siblings. According to the United Nations (2009), these youth become recidivists in pursuit of earning respect by being financially independent. Bartol and Bartol (2005) suggest that youths grow up in a society where their role models are criminals therefore these youths fail to have proper role models. Therefore the environment plays a major influential role on how the youths turn out to be. Youths who commit crime become recidivists because they fail to get support from the community, they fail to get successful reintegration into the society and also due to the lack of counselling. However, it should be noted that there are youths who come from functional families but they are still recidivists due to peer pressure, modelled behaviour and observational learning. Youths recommitting crime is a major problem because the youths who have greater potential to attain education and have bright futures end up being imprisoned endlessly. According to Wortley and Tanner (2007), their talents are wasted and their future is shattered because they fail to think beyond committing crime. Recidivism in Harare is becoming an unbreakable cycle that needs urgent attention so as to protect the future.

1.3 Aim

The main aim of this study is to identify the role of social workers in reducing recidivism among youth offenders in Harare.

1.4 Objectives

1. To find the causes of youth offenders relapsing into crime at Harare Central Prison.
2. To examine the part played by social workers in controlling cases of youth relapsing into criminal behaviour at Harare Central Prison.

3. To ascertain the challenges faced by social workers in the process of controlling cases of youth offenders at the Harare Central Prison.

4. To provide recommendations to social workers on how they can overcome the challenges that they face to ensure effective rehabilitation of ex offenders at the Harare Central Prison.

1.5 Research questions/ sub problems

1. What causes youth ex offenders to relapse into criminal behaviour?

2. What is the part played by social workers in controlling cases of youth relapsing into criminal behaviour?

3. What are the challenges that the social workers face in reducing recidivism among youth offenders?

4. What are the recommendations to social workers on how they can overcome the challenges that they face to ensure effective rehabilitation of ex offenders?

1.6 Assumptions

The study is based on the assumption that the ex youth offenders relapse into criminal behaviour due to unsuccessful rehabilitation and unsuccessful reintegration into the society which negatively impacts the youths' futures as individuals and the community as a whole. Therefore the study will assist in defining the roles of the social workers in helping assist the problem of youth recidivism into crime.

1.7 Significance of study

The study is important as it is going to give detailed information about the roles of social workers in controlling cases of youth relapsing into criminal behaviour. This knowledge is going to benefit the community at large in knowing the roles of social workers so that they can assist in complimenting the social workers` efforts in bid to help the youth ex offenders from relapsing into criminal activities. The study will also provide a piece of work which will educate and prepare social worker students so that they are able to competently execute their role in assisting youth offenders relapsing into criminal behaviour.

1.8 Limitations of the study

The possible limitations are that the relapsed ex youth offenders may not be comfortable enough to open up about their experiences because of the immediate relationship that would have been established with a stranger. Also, the social workers and administrators might be limited to some information as they would be upholding the confidentiality of their client's cases.

1.9 Delimitations of the study

The study will be limited to Harare Central prison only and to people between the age of 15 to 24.

1.10 Definition of key terms

In this study:

Recidivism is reoffending behaviour might be the process of one committing a different offense but the repeated offense will be exuding the same behaviour. According to Bartol and Bartol (2005), recidivism is the behaviour of recommitting the same or different offense.

Youths are persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years (United Nations General Assembly, 2009)

Juveniles are any human being under the age of eighteen, unless the age of eighteen, unless the age of majority is attained earlier under national legislation (UNICEF, 1989).

Ex offenders are individuals who have been released from prison and who are now reintegrating into the society.

1.11 Chapter Summary

The chapter provided an overview of the study topic. The chapter focused on the background of the study was stated including the aim, research questions, definition of terms, significance of the study, the assumptions of the study, the statement of the problem and the study objectives.

2 CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction.

The chapter focuses on the literature review of the research. The literature contains what other scholars wrote on the issues regarding youths relapsing into criminal behaviour globally, regionally and locally. Adding on, the chapter has a theoretical framework and the study made use of the Systems theory and the Social Learning theory. The systems theory contains the Bronfenbrenner model which helps to understand recidivism in terms of human interaction with the environment. The Social Learning theory also assists social workers in that they can use the social learning techniques to model effective interpersonal skills and restore a sense of personal identity thus modelling behaviour in youth offenders. Also, the chapter includes legal frameworks guiding social workers in assisting youth offenders.

2.1 Theoretical framework:

The two theoretical frameworks to be used in this study are the Systems theory and the Social Learning theory.

2.1.1 The Systems theory

The systems theory suggests that a person's character is shaped by the environment that surrounds him or her. According to Ambrosino, Ambrosino, Hefferman and Shuttlesworth, (2005) the Systems Theory in social work strives to improve the "goodness of fit" between a client and their environment. Corey (2012) stipulates that the theory will be used to understand recidivism in terms of how individuals become recidivists from interactions with family members, peers and other people in the community. The Bronfenbrenner model consists of the micro system, meso system, exo system, macro system and chronosystem. The systems theory is significant to this research because for a youth ex offender to reintegrate into the society, his or her emotional readiness, family and community are important to be examined.

According to Friedman and Neuman (2010), the systems theory is regarded as an organizational model building upon an individual in an environment perspective so as to deconstruct and then reconstruct situations while looking at the relationship between different systems and the larger social environment. The systems theory consists of the micro, mezzo and macro systems. Green and McDermott (2010) suggest that these terms are used to identify the levels of systems in an attempt to understand the complexities of how different

systems' interaction with one another and the effects they have. The systems theory is one of the commonly used approaches to the practice of the social work profession. Utilizing this research is advantageous to the study as it helps in understanding the causes of recidivism at all levels and how social workers can address the issue of youth relapsing into crime by assessing all level of human interaction. According to Higgins and Severson (2009), the systems theory helps to bring out the differing systems in a person's life in order to best meet their needs also understanding their environment, barriers and opportunities within their lives.

2.1.2 Applicability of the theory to the study

In examining an ex offenders reintegration experience, the social worker must look at the micro, mezzo and macro levels that impact the youth offender. At the micro level, the individual mental and emotional readiness of the youth ex- offender as he or she comes back into the society after prison release should be carefully examined. It is the role of the social worker to assess the youth ex offender's preparedness and document the mental and physical health concerns. If there is no emotional and physical readiness of the youth from prison release, the youth ex offender is likely relapse into criminal behaviour; therefore social workers intervene through offering rehabilitation services to the youth offender.

Also, there is the mezzo level whereby the level of family and peer support systems should be examined. Travis et al (2001) suggests that the more communication that an ex offender has with his family and friends while in prison will determine the amount of easiness with which they will rejoin with family and friends. Therefore, the social worker should offer counselling services to the family and peers of the of the youth offender while he or she is still in prison and after prison release so as to build a good relationship between them which will foster a welcoming and ease environment to the youth offender so as to avoid relapsing into criminal behaviour.

Lastly, at the macro level, this framework will be applied to determine if the community based social work approaches are effective in reducing recidivism rates of youth offenders. At macro level, the social workers should assess whether the community based approaches are effective in reducing recidivism rates and apply new approaches which could be effective in communities. At the macro level, the government and its policies are also included. The government and its policies set regulations as well as services concerning the lives of the youth ex offenders during prison and after being released from prison. Therefore it the role of

social workers to advocate for policies which create a good friendly and suitable environment which helps control the cases of youths relapsing into criminal behaviour.

2.1.3 Social Learning theory

The Social Learning theory is based on that humans are capable of self directed behaviour change. These behavioural changes can occur after an individual becomes in contact with other individuals who effectively model interpersonal skills (Bandura 1977). For example if a child grows up with his abusive father, he is also likely to be very abusive because the father would have become the modelled his son's behaviour to be violent. The Social Learning Theory upholds that all human behaviour is learned as the person interacts with the environment. Bandura (2009) reveals that individuals learn to reason and act violently as an outcome of what they are exposed to in their everyday lives. Therefore a social worker can assist youth offender to learn the acceptable behaviour through modelling their behaviour.

2.1.4 Applicability of the theory to the study

According to Correy (2009), social learning “involves a triadic reciprocal interaction among the environment, personal factors (beliefs, preferences, expectations, self-perceptions, and interpretations) and individual behaviour”. The social learning theory is significant since a social worker can use the social learning techniques to model effective interpersonal skills and restore a sense of personal identity thus modelling behaviour. The social worker uses the social learning techniques with the youth ex offenders so as to assist them to develop cognitive skills, cope with diverse obstacles and to model effective interpersonal skills. Once the social worker trains the young ex offenders in these areas, it assists that they then acquire a sense of personal identity. When the youth ex offenders are returned back to the community from prison, the social worker should make sure the youth ex offender finds a caring supportive adult who will then continue to enhance modelling behaviours and cementing the skills developed through social learning.

2.2 Literature Review

This segment contains literature which was previously written by other authors which ranges from a global point of view, regional and then from a Zimbabwean perspective. It interrogates previous and current studies on the roles of social workers in controlling cases of recidivism among youth offenders.

2.2.1 Global Overview on the roles of social workers in reducing youths relapsing into criminal behaviour

The latest attempt to define the social worker roles in the 21st century was done in 2014 in the United Kingdom by the College of Social Work as according to The College of Social Work (2014). Their area of focus was mainly to identify the social worker roles in the context of several service systems and nations. The results that were brought up were that social workers assume a lead role in safeguarding the socially excluded, the vulnerable and the ones who are at risk of abuse and neglect.

UNICEF released a document in 2013 stating the major roles that should be taken by social work professionals within the juvenile justice framework. Social work intervention was integrated into three spheres namely primary, secondary and tertiary sphere. The primary and secondary mainly focuses on the preventive measures through creation of protective environments, whereas the third sphere seeks to prevent re-offending crime of the youths who would have already been involved in committing crime, (Ruparanganda, 2016). However, it should be noted that social worker roles in reducing youth relapsing into crime is accompanied by challenges as well. The challenges include drug and substance abuse, mental challenges and limited participation in policy making. According to Wilson (2010), noted that the limited participation of social workers in the policy making of criminal justice policies is a challenge to social work interventions across the world.

2.2.2 Regional Overview on the roles of social workers in reducing youths relapsing into criminal behaviour.

The structure of the criminal justice and welfare system determine the range and type of social work practice in a country (Carr, 2012). Therefore it should be noted that role of social workers in reducing recidivism among youth offenders in the African region is determined by various factors such as the availability of resources, the countries' legislations and recognition of the social work profession. Chitembwe (2006) suggests that the role of social workers include giving counselling, screening juvenile youths before court appearance and the facilitating rehabilitation to youth offenders to ensure that juvenile offenders smoothly reintegrate into the society.

According to Muyobela and Strydon (2017), the role of the social work profession in correctional institutions in Zambia was identified as arising in two general forms. The two

general forms are supportive and linkage roles. Social workers bring out the supportive function in substance abuse, mental health, vocational rehabilitation and educational sectors, on the other hand the linkage function includes the role of advocacy, brokerage and linkage between offenders and their communities. Lucas (2010) contributes that one of the notable duties of the probation officer as stated in the probation rules and regulations of Botswana include advising, assisting and befriending the probationer and when necessary capacitate them so that they find employment. However, it should be noted that the other challenge faced by social workers in controlling the cases of youth relapsing into crime is the shortage of resources. According to Lucas (2010), the other challenge identified recently by the Department of Social Services of Botswana was inadequate facilities to carry out rehabilitation procedures.

2.2.3 Zimbabwean perspective on the roles of social workers in controlling the cases of youths relapsing into criminal behaviour.

In Zimbabwe, literature pertaining to the role of social workers in reducing cases of reoffending crime is scarce. Rugaranganda (2016), conducted a study on the changes in Zimbabwe's juvenile justice system through which the role of social workers was revealed which include facilitation of family reunification and offering counselling. However, it should be noted that the study failed to examine the duties because it was a desk research study. The shortages of resources is a challenge that the social workers in Zimbabwe face in trying to reduce the cases of recidivism.

2.3 LEGISLATION AND PROGRAMMES ON REOFFENDING IN ZIMBABWE GUIDING SOCIAL WORKERS

2.3.1 The Constitution of Zimbabwe

In terms Chapter 11 of the Zimbabwean constitution (2013), section 227, there is the Zimbabwe Prison and Correctional services which aims at the protection of the members of the society by rehabilitation of crime offenders so that they successfully integrate in the community. According to Zinyemba et al (2020), its main function is to protect the society from criminals through incarceration and rehabilitation of convicted persons and others who are lawfully required to be detained and their reintegration into the society. Therefore social workers use the constitution to carry out their rehabilitative role to youth inmates and ex youth inmates so as to assist them from relapsing into crime.

2.3.2 The Prisons Act Chapter 7: 11

In terms of Chapter 7:11 ,of the Zimbabwean constitution, there is the Prisons Act. According to Zinyemba et al (2020), the policy framework was reported to provide guidelines to social workers, psychologists and sociologists. Therefore the Prisons Act also guides the social workers in executing their rehabilitative and linkage roles. However, it should be noted that inasmuch as the Prison Act acts as a guide to the social work roles, social work roles are engraved in the social scientist roles as a whole, therefore the policy is not social work specific.

2.3.3 The Zimbabwe juvenile justice system

The Zimbabwean juvenile system is a reformative and retributive system which looks into the roles of social work practice play. This system protects the juveniles, people who are below the age of eighteen and assists them through rehabilitation process so that they do not recommit crime. Therefore social workers use the juvenile system acts as a guideline to the social workers as they in executing their roles when dealing with the young youth in assisting them to avoid relapsing into crime.

2.4 Roles played by social workers in controlling cases of youth relapsing into crime

2.4.1 Facilitating behavioural change

The role of social workers in controlling cases of youth relapsing into crime is to facilitate behavioural change. According to Bandura(2009), social learning is critical for human survival but sometimes it can go wrong if the behaviour being imitated is self destructive. Therefore ex youth inmates behaviours can be achieved by the social worker facilitating that the ex youth inmates associate themselves with positive role models who will help them to develop good behaviour. If there is need, the social worker should place ex youth inmates in a safer environment where there a proper role models for modelling good behaviour. For example, the youth might be leaving with parents who are in and out of prison therefore the youth is forced to relapse into criminal behaviour as there will be no proper role models for the youth. Through counselling, social workers can facilitate behavioural change on the youth offender by incapacitating them problem solving skills and anger management skills. From a social learning perspective, social workers can use social learning techniques like role playing and modelling so as to model good behaviour.

2.4.2 Providing counselling

The other role of social workers in controlling cases of youth relapsing into crime is to provide counselling. According to Zinyemba et al (2020), the social worker should provide pre incarceration counselling, individual counselling, group and family counselling, discharge plan counselling services and post incarceration counselling services. Through pre incarceration counselling and individual counselling, the youth offender is introduced to the new environment, bringing out the expectations of prison life, empowering the youth on the survival skills in prison life and also bringing to light success stories of ex prisoners who were reformed. Miceli (2012) suggests that if social workers execute their therapeutic services, as suggested by Rogerian's person centred approach, recidivism may be reduced. The social worker should also conduct group counselling so that the youth inmates are well received by old inmates so as to avoid traumatizing experiences that might cause them to relapse. According to Borycki and Makkai (2007), recidivists indicate that the stigma of having a criminal record can have lifetime psychological effects. Therefore it is the duty of the social worker to provide family counselling to the family of the youth inmate so that they do not stigmatize him or her upon release thus fostering a welcoming environment for the ex youth offender and diminishing deviant decisions that might cause recidivism. Lastly the social worker should conduct post incarceration counselling which acts as a way of monitoring the decision making capacity and mental well being of the youth after release.

2.4.3 Facilitating community based interventions

The social workers should facilitate community based interventions. Community based interventions are important as they may help reduce recidivism especially if services are matched to the specific needs of young adults (Spencer, 2004). Simmons (2002) suggests that including a variety of agents in the intervention process, community programs are able to address various ecological risks that influence the likelihood of continued or renewed criminal activity. Therefore, by contrast, individual interventions overlook the key contributing factors to crime that are influential to an individual's level of decision making. Community based interventions are useful as they attempt to change underlying causes of youth relapsing into criminal behaviour such as poverty and unemployment. According to Jones and Barlett Publishers, a part of community based programming and release planning includes understanding and assessment for risk factors associated with an offender. A good example is that an ex youth offender might be released from prison, yet the factors that would have led the youth to relapse into crime are still present such as poverty and unemployment.

Therefore, by the social worker facilitating community based interventions it assists community engagement in dealing away with the key risk factors of recidivism by for example, including the ex youth offender in community income generating projects. This is further compounded by the systems theory, showing how the macro systems level has a positive impact of building the youth into refraining from crime. Through conducting risk assessment, social workers assist in reducing youths from relapsing into crime by making sure that there is proper supervision and care accessible by offenders.

2.4.4 Facilitating rehabilitation programmes

In addition to the above point, social workers have the role of facilitating rehabilitation programs to the ex youth offender. According to Miceli(2002), rehabilitation is a lifelong process whereby prisoners accept their antisocial behaviour and display a considerable level of commitment to reconstructing, asserting and redeveloping themselves to becoming reintegrated into the society after undergoing a psycho educational programme. According to Zinyemba et al(2020), offering rehabilitation programs can be done through making use of case work, to assess the strengths and weaknesses of offenders so as to best assist offenders in the correct rehabilitation program that they choose. The social worker should also impart knowledge on the youth offenders the importance of undertaking these rehabilitation programs. Social workers should also conduct a needs assessment for the youth offenders and further advocate that the ex youth inmates get adequate resources for successful rehabilitation. Zinyemba et al(2020) suggests that Zimbabwe has a good rehabilitation model on paper but a lot has to be implemented in terms of implementation therefore Zimbabwe should also borrow a leaf from countries like South Africa which offers a broader rehabilitation programme.

2.5 Research gap

Previous studies have shown that a lot of research was done around areas to do with the roles of social workers in reducing recidivism not particularly focusing on the youths. The youths are within the age group in the society which is more vulnerable to behavioural change through peer pressure and poor role models; therefore they end up making irrational decisions. Therefore there is need to bring out how this specific age group can be best assisted by social workers so as to control them from relapsing into crime. Also, there is little information on efforts to identify key benefactors and how they can assist the youths in

permanent modification of behaviour. As a result, it is very fundamental to specify and clarify the role of social workers in controlling cases of youths in reoffending crime.

2.6 Chapter summary

The chapter projected different forms of literature in the role of social workers which include the information on theoretical framework and also the legal frameworks or policies that guide the social workers when controlling the rate of the youths relapsing into crime. The chapter also included the Systems theory and the Social learning theory which explain how the social worker should intervene in carrying out his or her role in reducing youth recidivism into crime. Lastly, the chapter contains the research gap where it brings to light areas where previous studies have not highlighted.

3 CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

The methodology is discussed in this chapter, which includes the research approach, which includes mixed methodology, research design, data collection methods and instruments, population and sample size, and sampling techniques. The boundaries and delimitations of the study are also included in this chapter. The study's shortcomings are also discussed in this chapter, as are the research equipment. The chapter also discusses research ethics, which is a set of moral guidelines or a code of conduct which was used throughout the research.

3.2 Research approach

A research method is defined by Cohen, Manion and Morrison (2007) as a systematic process through which a claim can be refuted using empirical evidence. Creswell (2009) believes that a research method is a strategy which is properly and systematically chosen by the researcher to provide answers to the research questions. A research method therefore influences the research design to be employed and how the researcher will collect data from the target population and steps to be taken to safeguard the research findings.

Creswell (2009) indicates that there are two main types of research methods namely qualitative and quantitative research methods. Shank (2002), defines qualitative research as a form of systematic empirical inquiry into meaning. Denzin and Lincoln (2000) suggest that the qualitative research involves an interpretive and naturalistic approach and this means that qualitative researchers study things in their natural settings, attempting to make sense of, or to interpret, phenomena in terms of the meanings people bring to them. Chiromo (2009) argues that other researchers choose to use a mixed research method where both qualitative and quantitative methods are used in a research. Mays and Pope (2006) concur that a qualitative research method attempts to broaden or/and deepen human understanding on how things are in the social world while a quantitative research method uses statistical techniques that allow researchers to employ experiments and test hypothesis in a measurable sense. In this research study, the researcher employed a mixed method research methodology since the topic under study is dealing with the social world of humans and there is another type of data that requires quantification.

According to Foodrisc (2016), mixed methodology is advantageous as it provides strengths that offset the weaknesses of qualitative and quantitative research. For example, qualitative data is more of exploratory and explanatory and it compliments quantitative which is more numeric. As a result, the use of mixed methods provided a broader and complete understanding of the study. The researcher chose a mixed methodology which has qualitative and quantitative research methods so as to involve the use of descriptive data and numbers. Mixed methodology enables the researcher to enrich the study findings. It also helps to get a better understanding and get meaningful enriched results which have quality and quantity as numbers and words would be used together. However, the research is bound to face challenges as the research will be complex and time consuming.

3.3 Research design

Maree (2007) posits that a research design is an overall strategy that is chosen by the researcher integrating various research components in a unified and logical manner so as to fully address the topic under study. Jahoda et.al (1951), defines a research design as the arrangement of conditions for the collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to the research purpose with economy and procedure. This indicates that a research design is a roadmap which is systematically designed and followed by the researcher until s/he provides answers to the research questions.

The study made use of the case study design in order to understand the roles of social workers in controlling the cases of youths relapsing into crime. A case study assists the researcher to understand the role of social workers by exploring them through research participants in a natural setting. Creswell (2013) suggests that a case study is an explanation or exploration of a case through detailed in-depth data collection involving multiple sources of information rich in context. Richie and Lewis (2012) suggest that a case as an in-depth study of a phenomenon in its context from the perspective of the participants involved in the phenomenon. A case study carefully explores a phenomenon in its natural setting using multiple methods of data collection to obtain information from people so as to reveal the role of social workers in reducing recidivism into crime. According to Marczyk, DeMatteo and Festinger (2011), a case study seeks to provide an accurate and complete description of the case through the use of in-depth interviews, observations and study of personal writings of participants. Therefore, a case study assists to explore in depth information about the role of

social workers in reducing youth recidivism into crime since a case study is an explanation of a case over time through detailed in-depth data collection.

3.4 Target population

Target population refers to the whole collection of elements which the researcher is interested in studying. According to Gall and Gall (2012), the term population means a group of elements or cases, whether individuals, objects or events, that conform to specific criteria and to which there is tendency to generalize the results of the research. In the context of this study, the population refers to the prison social workers and youth recidivists. Maxwell (2012) defines population as the theoretically specified aggregation of the study elements and therefore target population as the aggregation of element from which the sample is driven from. The target population in this study comprised of ten youth reoffenders at Harare Central prison and eight social workers who were willing to participate in the study.

3.5 Sampling

Sampling is defined as a process of selecting a certain group of people, objects or items taken from a larger population as a representative of the population in order to generalise findings from a research.

3.5.1 Sample size

Fraenkel and Wallen (2011) define a sample as a subset of the population which is under study, it serves a source of required data and normally sampling is done where the population is too big for research. In order to acquire valid results of the study, the researcher used a sample of ten youth ex offenders and six social workers who constitute eighty nine percent of the target population. According to Drake (2011), research information that is reliable and valid for a large population has to be 10% to 20% of the sample size so as to represent the whole population. Therefore thus study will use a sample of fourteen respondents in a bid to come up with valid results.

3.5.2 Sampling techniques

A sampling method is a technique used to collect information from the total population as postulated by Fraenkel and Wallen (2011). The researcher used the convenience sampling and purposive sampling methods. Convenience sampling which is also known as Haphazard Sampling or Accidental Sampling is a type of non-probability or non random sampling where members of the target population that meet certain practical criteria, such as easy

accessibility, geographical proximity, availability at a given time, or the willingness to participate are included for the purpose of the study according to Dornyei (2007). Youth ex inmates at the Harare Central prison will be selected according to their availability and willingness to partake in the study. The study uses convenience sampling as the technique is very fast. Availability sampling is advantageous as it helps in the development of the study as social workers participate effectively through highlighting their roles, the challenges they face.

King (2014) suggests that purposive sampling entails that the researcher uses his or her own judgement on which respondents to select, and picks those who best meets the purpose of the study. As a result, social workers were selected using purposive sampling because the social workers were the right candidates in meeting the purpose of the study.

3.6 Data collection techniques and instruments

Secondary and primary sources of data were used in this study. For easy administration and execution of the collection of data, three data collection techniques were used which include semi structured interviews, documentary analysis and key informant interviews so as to acquire information which is relevant for the study. These instruments assisted the researcher in gathering data so as to find out the causes of reoffending of youth, the social worker roles, the challenges that the social workers face and the recommendations.

3.6.1 In-depth interviews

The research used in-depth interviews so as to collect information from the social workers and the youth ex offenders. According to Matthew and Ross (2010) postulates that in-depth interviews have a great advantage in that the researcher can also observe unspoken language, promotes high response rate and they are flexible and create a rather friendly atmosphere than paper work. The researcher will ask youth ex offenders questions on what causes them to reoffend. Villainy, Lewin and Stephins (2009) suggest that the purpose of the in depth interviews is to get inside the view of the respondents and to generate hypothesis from such perspectives and the method is easy and the researcher obtains the first hand data although some might provide information that is biased. In-depth analysis is also advantageous in that it does not require literacy and there is also room for further questions for clarity. However, it should be noted that in-depth interviews consume a lot of time and the participants might give irrelevant information.

3.6.2 Documentary analysis

The phone register and diaries will be used as the secondary source of information to obtain the names of the youth ex offender admitted at the prison. The second source of information provides recorded information for the youth ex offenders who were reconvicted for committing crime. The phone registers and diaries also bring out the required total number of youths who would have recommitted crime. According to Matthew and Ross (2010), documentary analysis gives the researcher a chance to look into the real situation experienced by the writer during the period the document was written thus revealing the importance of the background to the development of the study. Documentary analysis is also important as it helps the researcher to understand the topic of research analytically. However, it should be noted that documentary analysis has its shortcomings as there might be some exaggerations since the institution and its workers cannot record its shortcomings that result in youths reoffending.

3.7 Data analysis techniques

Data analysis is important in every research study so that there is easy understanding of collected data. Bodgan and Biken(2002) suggest that data analysis is a planned and vivid procedure of logically arranging data from the research instruments used. It transforms the mass data collected into smaller manageable units, for better and easier understanding. The researcher used the thematic content analysis by Braune and Clarke (2006). Cresswell (2013), defined analysis of data as a process of inspecting, transforming, and modelling collected data with a goal of discovering its usefulness giving out conclusions and improving decision making. The researcher will program individual questions during the collection of information as it will assist the researcher in retrieving meaning and combining information associated with the roles of social workers in reducing youth recidivism. According to Maguire and Belahunt(2017), the thematic analysis is the process of identifying patterns or themes within qualitative data. The table below shows the framework:

Braun & Clarke's six-phase framework for doing a thematic analysis.

Step 1: Become familiar with the data	Step 4: Review themes
Step 2: Generate initial codes	Step 5: Define themes
Step 3: Search for themes	Step 6: Write up

Source : adopted from Maguire and Belahunt (2017).

3.8 Feasibility of the study

The study will be carried out at the Harare Central prison and its feasibility is premised on the support from the Zimbabwe Prison and Correctional Services Head Quarters who will assist in the success of the study by giving a positive response. The social workers being the target population of the study will also contribute to the feasibility of the study as they keep records of the people they would have worked with thus making it easier to disseminate the information. The feasibility of the study is also aided by the recommendation letter from the Bindura University Faculty of Social Science and Humanities and also the permission to conduct the study by the ZPCS. Therefore, as a result of this, the study will be feasible to conduct as permission would have been granted by the higher authorities.

3.9 Ethical considerations

According to Borg and Gall (2012), ethical considerations refer to the consideration of the principles of morality and right or wrong of actions prior to acting, considering whether or not it is within the rules of right practice and standards of professionalism. The researcher will seek informed consent from the participants and will explicitly explain the aim and the objectives of the study to the participants observing the principle of confidentiality so as to protect the identities of the participants. This is so as to uphold the ethics of the social work profession and also the ZPCS since it is an offense to release information without the right from the responsible authority.

Nachmias and Nachmias (1981) explain that informed consent is the procedure where individuals choose whether to participate in an investigation after being informed with facts that would likely influence their decision to participate in a research. Therefore the researcher has to take into consideration the issue of informed consent. The principle of acceptance is to be used as every human being is considered different and unique in his or her own way. The non judgemental attitude is also to be applied so as to get reliable information as well as to create a light atmosphere to the youth ex inmates.

3.10 Limitations of the study

The possible limitations are that the relapsed ex youth offenders may not be comfortable enough to open up about their experiences because of the immediate relationship that would

have been established with a stranger. Also, the social workers might be limited to some information as they would be upholding the confidentiality of their client's cases.

3.11 Chapter summary

The chapter focuses on the research methodology used to gather data from the key informants and social workers who were the target population. The chapter included the research design used, target population, sample size, sampling techniques, data analysis and ethical consideration upheld in the study.

4 CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents and analysis the findings of the study. The data was presented in accordance to the four objectives of the study laid out in the first chapter of the study. The study used a mixed methodology design, which incorporated both qualitative and quantitative approaches, with a particular emphasis on the qualitative approach. An integrated approach is taken, merging qualitative and quantitative data analysis and presentation techniques. This allowed for qualitative themes and narratives derived from quantitative data to be descriptively analysed. The approach taken sought to ensure that data sets from the quantitative and qualitative approaches augment each other.

4.2 Response Rate

Target	Target response	Actual Response	Percentage
Inmates	10	10	100
Social workers	8	6	75
Total	18	16	89

Table 4.1: Response Rate

The rate of response seeks to find the actual number of participants who successfully contributed to the research in relation to the initially targeted sample size. The researcher used to collect data. The research targeted 18 participants and from the 18 participants only 16 responded to the questions. This led to 89% interview response rate. Zagorsky and Rhoton (2008) postulated that an interview response rate must be 50% and above to produce reliable results. Based on that, the study's interview response rate of 100% will be able to produce reliable results

4.3 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

The research targeted 18 respondents and from the 18 respondents only 16 managed to participate in the research. The other three could not participate due to various reasons. This

section thus shows the demographic participants of the respondents such as sex, age and level of education. This assisted the researcher in the analysis of the findings.

4.3.1 Sex

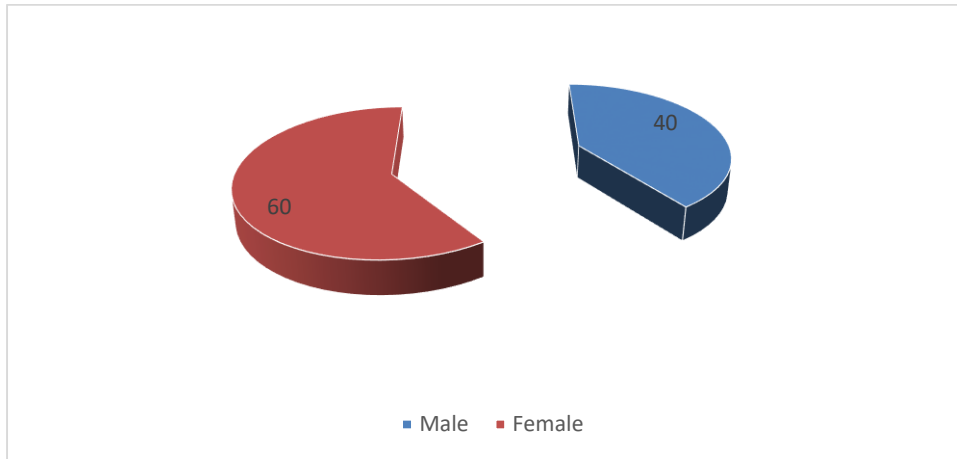


Figure 4.1: Gender distribution of participants

The research collected data from both males and females as shown in the figure above. Ten participants were males constituting 60% and only 6 were females constituting about 40%. This shows that the number of male ex-offenders were many than the female ex-Offenders.

4.3.2 Age

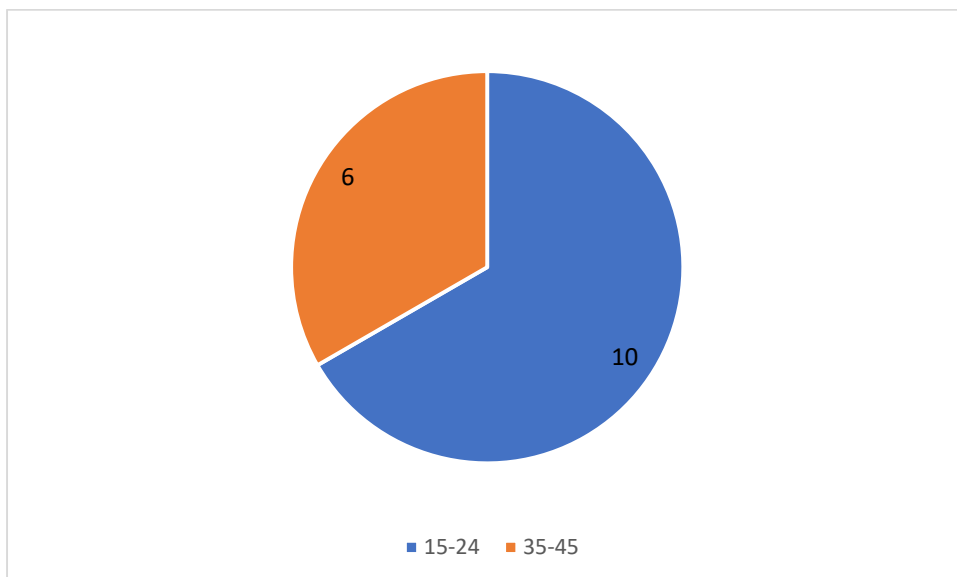


Figure 4.2: Participant's Age

The research targeted youths and this means that all the 10 youth ex-offenders who participated in the research were in the age group between 15-24 as stipulated in the chapter

three of the study which looked at the methodology of the study. Also, the key informants consulted were in the age group between 35-45.

4.3.3 Level of Education

Level of Education	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Schooling	1	6
Primary	2	13
Secondary	7	43
Tertiary	6	38
Total	16	100

Table 4.2: Participant’s level of Education

The table above shows the level of education of the respondents. The findings indicate that all of the key informants were literate meaning they were able to read and write. The highest frequency was secondary level where 7 participants indicated that they had reached secondary level and these constituted 43%. Also 6 participants (38%) had reached tertiary level whilst 2 participants (13%) reached primary level and on the other hand only 1 (6%)

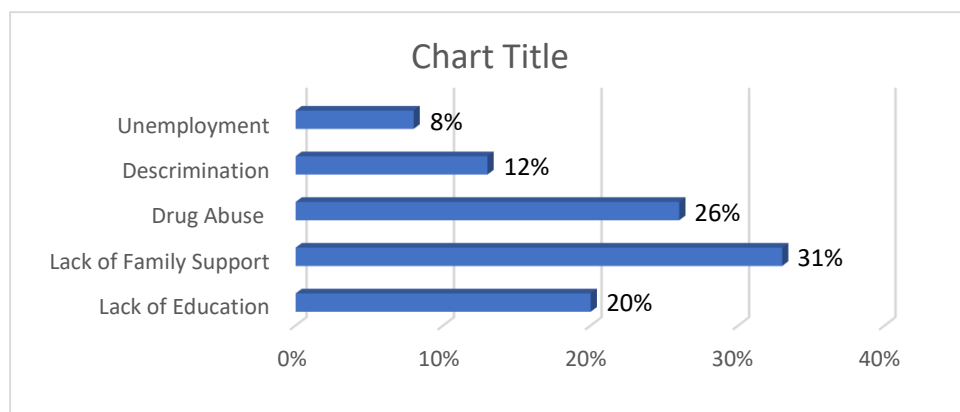


Figure 4.3 Causes of Recidivism

participant had not attended school.

The first objective of the study was to understand why youths' offenders relapse into crime and in general the research sought to understand recidivism. Thus, the participants gave various responses to the question as shown in the figure above. The findings indicate that the highest response was lack of family support where five participants 31% indicated that lack of support leads to recidivism. Four (25%) participants said that drug abuse is also the cause for recidivism by ex-offenders. 2 (12%) participants indicated unemployment whilst only one (8%) indicated unemployment. The figure shows that youth ex-offenders end up resorting to crime again due to factors such as unemployment, discrimination, drug abuse, lack of family support and lack of education. The study findings therefore seem to indicate that there are various reasons that cause youth to relapse into crime. These cause ranges from community level, personal level and also individual level.

4.3.4 Discrimination from Community

According to the respondents one of the reasons why youth ex-offenders' relapse into conflicts is discrimination from the community. The findings indicate that sometimes the community fails to accept and to forgive the youth offender and this may eventually lead the offender to do crime again. One youth offender said that,

What we want from the community is acceptance that we have changed and corrected our past, but if the community continue to taunt us and to give us different names, we always feel like going back is the only solution (Male respondent, 24 years old).

Thus, the research discovered that there is also labelling from the community where the youth offender continues to be labelled as a criminal and this leads to stigma. The findings agree with Cain (2019) who stated that stigma occurs when labelling, stereotyping, separation, status loss, and discrimination transpire together in the context of a power situation that can influence individual behaviour through interactions between institutional obstacles that marginalize groups, labels and prejudice from one's community, and personal reactions to these aspects. Thus, the findings indicate that stigma resulting from reject from the community is a predictor of youth criminal recidivism.

4.3.5 Unemployment

Moreover, the findings also indicate that employment is one of the reasons why youth ex-offenders end up doing crime again. The findings indicate that there is a great link between employment and offenders relapsing into crime. One participant noted that,

*When we are released from prison it is difficult to find employment due to our past and this pushes us to go back to find other ways of survival which are illegal (**Male respondent, 22 years old**).*

From the findings it seems clear that it is much less likely for youth ex-inmates to find employment than a member of the general population. This is congruent with what Buckman (2018) noted in his study which found that formerly incarcerated candidates with nearly identical professional experience as non-offenders were less than half as likely to receive job offers. Also, according to the literature consulted by the US Bureau of Justice, only 12.5 percent of employers said they would accept an application from an ex-convict. Ironically, the study findings indicate that getting back to work decreases the chances of relapsing into crime, but there are barriers for ex-convicts finding work meaning that not finding employment is one of the reasons why youth offenders end up conducting crime. The findings also show that about 70 percent of youth offenders and ex-offenders are high school dropouts. And as a result of incarceration and involvement in the criminal justice system, many former prisoners are viewed negatively by former employers or by individuals within their former professional networks, if they previously had one. The combination of a limited professional network and a conspicuous résumé gap can make it very difficult for ex-convicts to get an interview with a prospective employer.

4.3.6 Lack of Education

Moreover, the findings also indicate that lack of education on the effects of crime is also another reasons why youth ex-offenders' relapse into crime. The findings indicate that many prisoners have limited education and work experience, which makes it difficult for them to secure employment after they are released.

4.3.7 Drug Abuse

The findings also review that drug abuse is also one of the reasons why youth offenders end up relapsing into crime. The findings indicate that most of formerly incarcerated men have a history of substance abuse, and a significant percentage suffer from physical and mental

health issues. This agrees with what Carcach (2019) wrote when he said that drug abuse often acts as a motivation to crime and this is also why youthex-offenders end up doing crime again.

4.3.8 Lack of Family Support

The findings also indicate that the prisoners who maintain consistent contact and connection with their families during their sentences have a lower chance of relapsing into crime rate than those who do not. This means that lack of support from family was also cited by the respondents as the major reason why youths end up relapsing into crime. In an interview a social worker noted that,

In practice, the impact of family and friends visits on the psychological health of youth offenders and acts as their motivation to desist from crime and future offending (Key Informant, 35 years old).

In practice, the impact of family and friends' visits on the psychological health of prisoners, their motivation to desist from crime, future offending

Over half of incarcerated are parents of minor children, which means they may miss out on many of their children's critical and formative years. Unfortunately, there are obstacles to maintaining consistent contact with family, and challenges for ex-offenders once released.

Lack of family support is also supported by A 1996 Maryland Department of Human Resources and Women's Prison Association report which listed the following seven major obstacles to youth relapse into crime.

- Insufficient information about visiting procedures.
- Proximity of prison facilities
- Family inability to afford transportation to the prison.
- Difficulty scheduling visits.
- Visiting procedures are humiliating or uncomfortable.
- Visiting areas are inhospitable for children.
- Foster parents are unwilling to aid in visits.

Borzycki (2015) noted that once youth ex-offenders return home, they are dependent on family members and must overcome years of limited contact, potential resentment, and a change in the household dynamic. According to the Urban Institute Justice Policy Centre, just

before release, 82 percent of ex-offenders thought it would be easy to renew family relationships; after returning home, over half reported it was more difficult than expected. Family members often assume a new financial and emotional burden when ex-offenders return home, having to support a dependent adult.

4.4 Role of Social Workers in preventing youths in relapsing into crime

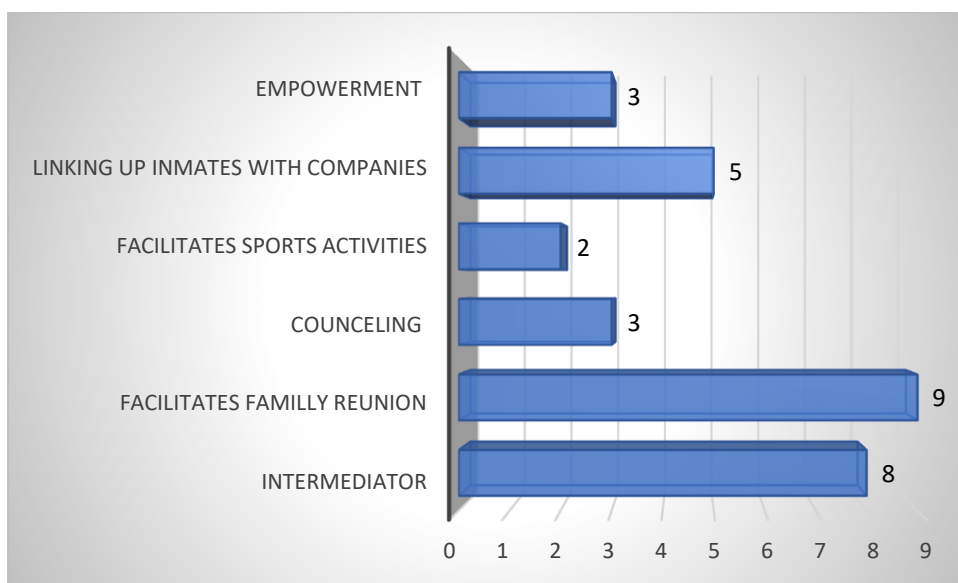


Figure 4.3: Showing Role of Social Workers. Source: field work (2022)

The figure above shows the roles of a Social Worker as indicated by the participants. The findings shows that majority of the participants agreed that one of the roles of a social worker is to facilitate Family reunion and this mentioned 9 times by the participants. Also, role of being an intermediary was mentioned 8 times by the participants, on the other hand 3 participants said that empowerment and counselling is one of the roles of a social worker. 2 participants mentioned sports activities.

4.4.1 Counselling

Also, it is the role of the social workers to conduct different therapies and specific counselling techniques, such as cognitive-behavioural therapy (CBT), constitute an effective

intervention method with which to reduce the likelihood of a youth offender relapsing into criminal behaviour. One Social worker said that,

It is not easy to prevent recidivism; we have to ensure that every inmate goes through counselling so as to assist them on how to cope with a lot of changes resulting from life in prison (Female Social Worker, 39 years old).

This is congruent with Baldry (2016) who reported a reduction in recidivism of nearly 23% when counselling was used as an intervention. This means that counselling services have been used in other countries such as Australia.

4.4.2 Empowerment of Inmates

Respondents also argued that it is the role of the Social Worker to empower the offender with survival techniques and preview the offender of prison life especially the norms and values of the organization so that they will not be found on the wrong side of the law again. A participant also argued that the Social Worker can use a strategy of telling the inmates success stories of former inmates who have reformed, this can be done by making use of former prisoners who would have managed to survive prison life and would have successfully reintegrated back into the community as a way of preventing the youth offender in committing crime again.

4.4.3 Linking up inmates with Companies and finding connections

Another role of social workers in preventing youth offenders in relapsing into crime as indicated by the findings at Harare Central prison is to find connections beneficial to the inmates. A third of the social workers interviewed at the prison indicated that they have received help from companies such as Delta who come and pay for the school fees of all the inmates till, they finish their academic journey. One of the reasons why youths' ex-offenders relapse into crime is because they lack the opportunity to further their education. Thus, it is the role of the social worker to link up the inmates to companies who funds their education.

4.4.4 Facilitating Family Reunion

The findings also indicate that the other role a social worker is to facilitate the process of rehabilitation by providing a platform for family reunion. 5 of the key informants interviewed noted that sometimes they link the offender with people like Tilda who conducts transformation radio shows. One participant interviewed noted that;

The radio shows and the tv programs such as another chance which social workers links the participants with are very useful in reuniting the ex-offender with his family (male key informant, 40 years old).

They also facilitate shows such as another chance where participants are given a chance to tell their story and to ask for forgiveness from the community.

4.4.5 Intermediator

Moreover, the findings also indicate that the role of the social worker is to be an intermediary. Three of the key informants interviewed agreed that a social worker acts as an intermediary between the society and the community the offender is supposed to return to. One of the key informants said that

Sometimes we have to go and speak with community leaders such as village heads and chiefs on behalf of the ex-offender reassuring them that he is now a reformed person (female key informant, 37 years old).

4.4.6 Facilitate Sports and Recreational Activities for reformation

Furthermore, the findings also indicate that the social workers engage the inmates into sports and recreational activities so as to prevent them from relapsing into crime. Social workers interviewed noted that,

We engage into sports and recreation because the activities make the inmates to feel relaxed and it is also part of the healing process (key informant, 35 years old).

The findings indicated the ability of recreation and sports activities to lessen the offending behaviour among young people in Zimbabwe and it has been the role of the social worker to facilitate the activities with a focus on impacting aboriginal delinquent youth.

4.5 Challenges faced by social workers in the process of controlling cases of youth offenders at Harare Central Prison.

The Social Workers at Harare Central Prison were asked on the challenges they face in controlling cases of youth offenders at the prison. Different responses propped out from the participants. These include issues such as lack of resources, lack of transport, corruption, poor implementation of programs.

4.5.1 Lack of Resources

The findings indicate that lack of resources is also one of the challenges faced by the social workers at Harare Central Prison. The social workers indicated that the youths they deal with require many resources so as to assist them in not entering into criminal activities again. There is need for financial resources to conduct activities such as sports and also to educate the inmates on survival skills which will assist them after prison life.

4.5.2 Lack of Transport

Moreover, another challenge faced is the issue of lack of transport. The participants interviewed indicated that there is dire need of transport to transport the youth offenders to their designated prisons. Failure to transport those means that they have to mix up with the adult prisoners and this presents a challenge to them as they are re-socialized into crime. Once they have been re-socialized into crime by the adult inmates it becomes hard to rehabilitate them and to prevent them from recidivism and this is one of the challenges faced by the social workers.

4.5.3 Corruption and poor implementation of Programs

Moreover, another challenge as said by the social workers is corruption and poor implementation of programs. Corruption is frequently related to the treatment of and conditions for youth offenders. There are many different types of corruption indicated by the participants. They include misuse of funds. The findings indicate that sometimes the resources that are donated for the rehabilitation of young offenders are often misused by the prison officers and this means that this increases the challenge of lack of resources. Also, poor implementation of programs was also presented as a challenge.

4.6 Recommendations to Social Workers on how they can overcome challenges effective rehabilitation

The findings also sought the opinion of the respondents on what can be done by social workers to overcome the challenges they are facing. Most of the respondents agreed that there is need to source for more funds so as to counter the challenge of lack of resources. Another key informant argued that social workers should lobby and advocate for policies which empower the inmates especially after they leave prison. Social workers should also raise awareness to the community on the importance of family visits to the transformation of inmates and for effective rehabilitation. This is in line with Baldry (2016) who argues that the

social worker should work relentlessly to overcome the challenges they face in rehabilitating ex-offenders.

4.7 Chapter Summary

This chapter looked at the presentation of findings. The chapter started by presenting the demographic characteristics of the participants. The findings presented shows that there were many males than females and that the respondents were literate. The chapter presented the findings on the three objectives of the study. Thus, the chapter gave various reasons why youth offenders end up committing crime. It also looked at the role of social workers in preventing recidivism and also it presented the opinion of the participants on what can be done to improve rehabilitation of ex-offenders.

5 CHAPTER 5: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

The chapter will focus on the summary, the conclusions and recommendations of what should be undertaken so as to better the role of social workers in reducing the cases of youths relapsing into criminal behaviour. The summary, conclusions and recommendations are drawn from the data analysis that was done in the previous chapter four.

5.2 Summary of the Study

The aim for the study was to identify and also examine the roles of social workers in controlling the cases of youths relapsing into criminal behaviour at Harare Central Prison. The study also intended to examine the challenges faced by social workers in trying to control the cases of youths relapsing into criminal behaviour. The other purpose of the study was to identify the reasons that lead youths to relapse into criminal behaviour which would improve the effectiveness of social workers' roles when intervening in controlling the cases of youths relapsing into criminal behaviour. The other aim of the study was to identify the ways that they can overcome the challenges that the social workers face in trying to carry out their roles. The research adopted the systems theory and the social learning theory.

5.2.1 Causes of youth offenders relapsing into crime at Harare Central Prison.

The research sought to investigate the causes of youth's relapse into crime. The findings indicate that there are a number of reasons that cause recidivism amongst the youths which includes unemployment, discrimination, drug abuse and lack of family support. The research found out that the most contributing factor as indicated by the participants is lack of family support. Families act as a source of motivation for change amongst the youth offenders and when the family stops caring the youths lose their hope and relapse into crime. Moreover, difficulties in finding job opportunities increases hardships for the offenders which eventually cause them to think about crime as their only way to survive causing recidivism. Thus, the research also discovers that unemployment is a major cause for relapse into crime. The research found out that these challenges are mainly caused by discrimination by the community thus the community contributes the most to youth recidivism. The findings on the causes of youth recidivism are in agreement with the literature of the study where

statistics in other countries indicates that youths' offenders find it difficult to find employment. According to Higgins et al (2009) there are many reasons why youth re-entry into the society might be impossible and these includes issues like discrimination by the community and lack of family support and discrimination by the community.

On the other hand, the interview responses indicated that, young offenders, lack of parental bond, not attending school and drug substance abuse, are risk factors that predict recidivism among youths. This finding is consistence with various research literatures. For example, Hong, et al (2013) delinquency and criminal activities at a younger age were significant predictors for re-arrest (Hong, et al., 2013).

5.2.2 Role played by social workers in controlling cases of youth relapsing into criminal behaviour

The research also investigated on the role of social workers in controlling youth relapse into criminal behaviour. The findings on this objective indicate that social workers have a very big role to play in preventing recidivism amongst the youths' offenders. The findings indicate that social workers conduct different counselling techniques in a way to foster rehabilitation of youth offenders. Most offenders face challenges in coping up with the new life and social workers assist through counselling activities. Also, social workers assist the offenders by linking them to companies willing to sponsor their education and according to the findings this has increased the number of offenders finding employment opportunities during post imprisonment. Some of the offenders find it difficult to re-engage with their families and the findings also indicated that it is the role of the social worker to facilitate family reunion.

5.2.3 Challenges faced by social workers in the process of controlling cases of youth offenders at the Harare Central Prison.

The findings indicate that Social Workers face many challenges in their endeavour to handle cases of recidivism among the youths. The challenges indicated include lack of resources, poor transportation, corruption and poor implementation of policies. Thus, the research indicates that these challenges create barriers for full reintegration and rehabilitation of offenders in the community.

5.3 Conclusions

Basing on the findings, the research concludes that reducing cases of recidivism amongst the youths of is not a one-man band. There is an indispensable need for a multiple stakeholder

approach to ensure the implementation of programs and services that robustly and sustainably ensure reintegration of youths in the community. This is mainly because the research discovered that there are many hurdles which cause youth offenders to stumble upon crime once reintegrated into the community and these include issues of discrimination, lack of family support and unemployment.

The research also concludes that social workers play a crucial role in the integration of offenders and in the prevention of recidivism amongst the youths. Their role includes facilitating family reunion, linking up inmates with companies, facilitating sports activities and also offering counselling services. However, from the research the researcher concludes that social workers experience multiple challenges hindering them from offering these services. The challenges show that social workers are not receiving much support they need to play their role to reduce cases of recidivism. The work of social workers on this cause remains undermined and neglected.

5.4 Recommendations

To the government

- To solve challenge of unemployment the government should make amendments of shunning employees with criminal records.
- The government should offer full support to the social workers so as to reduce the challenges they face mentioned in chapter four of the study such as lack of resources.
- There is need for enforcement of accountability mechanisms at prisons so as to reduce challenge of corruption which creates hurdles to the work of social workers in reducing recidivism.

To the community

- Communities should create environment suitable for transformation of offenders and based on acceptance such support is crucial in preventing discriminations which leads to recidivism
- Family support as discovered by the research is crucial in preventing recidivism thus there is need for families to offer full support to ex-offenders

To CSOs

- Civil society organisations should be more robust in raising awareness to communities that offenders deserve a second chance.

- CSOs should make efforts to create youth empowering projects so that poverty which was one of the contributing factors to youths recommitting crime in Zimbabwe is reduced.

5.5 Recommendations for Further Study

This study did not analyse the influence of treatment facilities on recidivism. Understanding the influence of treatment programs, and long-term effects for youth could prove beneficial in developing and implementing appropriate interventions, as well as reducing overall incarceration. The study recommends future research to examine the perceptions of the offenders who have experienced juvenile recidivism and became involved in the adult justice system about intervention and services which could have reduced their risk to re-offend. Focusing on intervention is important for the subgroup of juvenile recidivists age 17 and 18 years old because interventions could reduce juvenile recidivism and lower the percentage of juveniles entering the adult system. Finally, another area for further exploration is the perception of the juvenile probation officers who work more closely with juveniles and have more opportunities to observe juveniles' family dynamics.

5.6 Chapter Summary

The chapter comprised of the summary of the study findings presented in Chapter 4. The findings from chapter four included the factors which lead to youths relapsing into crime, the role of social workers in controlling cases of youths relapsing into criminal behaviour, the challenges that they face and the recommendations for the challenges that the social workers in controlling the cases of youth recidivism into crime.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: APPROVAL FORM FROM ZIMBABWE PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICE

ZIMBABWE PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICE

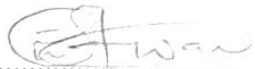
<p>Telephone : 706501/2/3/4, 777384 754197,710095</p> <p>Telegrams : "PENAL", HARARE</p> <p>Fax : 754157</p> <p>Email : zps@gta.gov.zw</p>		<p>Reference: G/24/17</p> <p>OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER - GENERAL Private Bag 7718, Causeway Harare ZIMBABWE</p>
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31 March 2022

KUNDAI MUCHANDIWONA
BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION

APPLICATION FOR CLEARANCE AND AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT RESEARCH IN PRISON.

1. The above subject refers.
2. You are hereby informed that your application for clearance and authority to conduct a research entitled "*The role of social workers in controlling cases of youths relapsing into criminal behaviour. A case of Harare Central Prison.*" was approved.
3. You can now make arrangements for data collection at your convenient time during working hours and at your expense. During your data collection exercise you are required to observe all the necessary rules and regulations including ethics appertaining to your study and you shall not be allowed to divulge to any unauthorised person(s) information regarding the operations of the ZPCS.
4. May you take note that the ZPCS in its plans to upscale its preparedness towards the preventive measures, procedures are to be followed and containment against the spread of the corona-virus (COVID-19) disease within cantonment areas and Prison institutions since prison visits of any nature remain suspended. As part of the waiver to the foregoing, you are therefore required to observe all the set guidelines whilst conducting your research, and you are also encouraged to use other forms of data gathering such as electronic means and /or questionnaire format in liaison with the supervisor and Officer –in –Charge of the respective station for you to harness information from the prison without entering or necessarily getting into direct contact with targeted population at the prison intuition.
5. More so, on completion of your project you are required to submit both soft and hard copies of your findings to the ZPCS Research and Development for the Commissioner General's information.
6. By copy of this letter the, OC- Harare Metro Province and the OIC Harare Central Prison are advised of this approval.

PP 

.....
H. Tambade (Chief Superintendent)
Deputy Director Research and Development
Action.
SO- Security
Info
OC-Harare Metro Province
OIC- Harare Central Prison
Research and Development.
File

INFORMATION & RECORDS OFFICE
PRISONS & CORRECTIONAL NAH HQ

31 MAR 2022

P. BAG 7718, CAUSEWAY
ZIMBABWE

ZIMBABWE PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICE

DECLARATION FOR RESEARCH/ATTACHMENT IN THE ZIMBABWE PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICE

I, KUNDAI MUCHAUSWONA I.D Number 08-2002-F16 A04 a member of Bulawayo University of Science Education subject to the conditions prescribed in the **OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT** Chapter 11:09 part 4(2)(b) which states:

Any person who – publishes or communicates such model, article, document or information to any person in any manner or for any purpose prejudicial to the safety or interests of Zimbabwe; - shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding twenty thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding twenty years or both such imprisonment.

I am fully aware of the serious consequences which may follow on breach of these provisions.

I further understand that those provisions apply not only during my period of visit in the Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Service but also after my period of visit has ceased.

I acknowledge that my visit will commence from

04/04/2022 to 15/04/2022

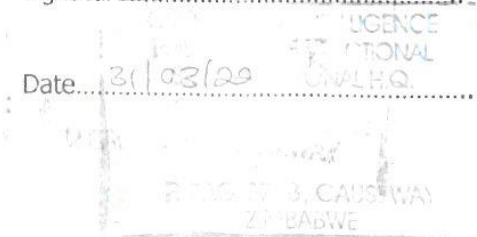
This done at ZPCS NHQ in Zimbabwe, this 31st day of March

2022

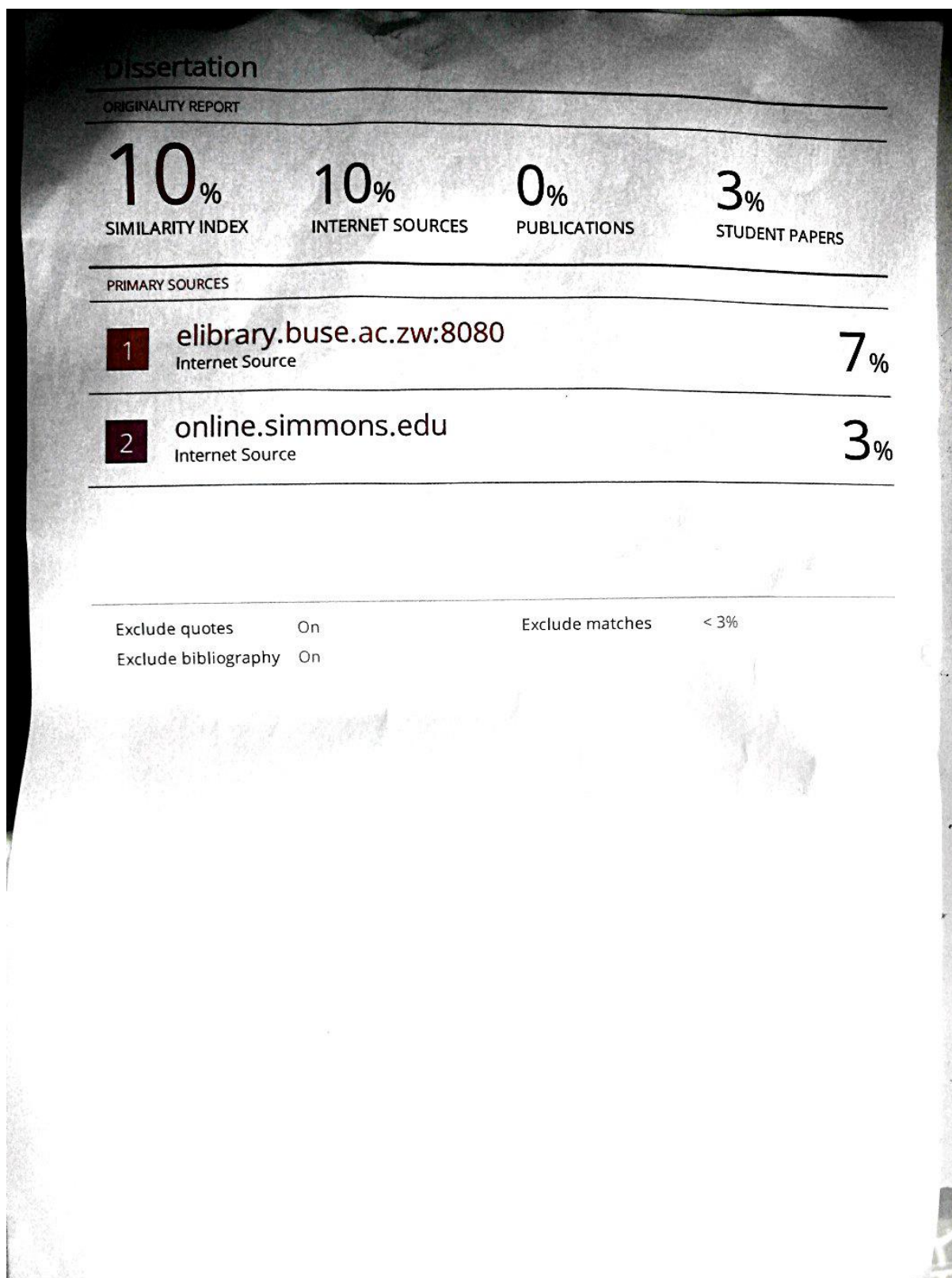
Signature [Signature]

Witness [Signature]

Date 31/03/22



APPENDIX 2: TURN IT IN REPORT



INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR YOUTH REOFFENDERS AT HARARE CENTRAL PRISON

a] Introduction

My name is Kundai Muchandiwona. I am a student at Bindura University of Science Education. In a bid to fulfil my Bachelor of Social Work Honours Degree requirements, I am embarking on a study which is titled, **“The roles of social workers in controlling cases of youths relapsing into criminal behaviour at Harare Central Prison in Harare, Zimbabwe .** As a citizen of Zimbabwe, I desire to explore the roles of social workers in curbing the issue of youth recidivism into criminal behaviour. The information that I will receive is entirely for academic purposes and confidentiality will be upheld. Participation in this study is voluntary and informed consent is highly considered. It is my hope that the information I will gather will assist in offering academic growth to the learners and also benefit the Zimbabwean nation so as to assist in combating youth recidivism into crime.

b] demographic characteristics

1. age 15- 19() 19-24.....()

Age

2. Level of education primary.....() secondary.....() tertiary...()

3. Occupational status employed.....() not employed.....()

4. Caregivers or dependents yes.....() No.....()

5. Religion

C] Challenges

What causes relapsing into crime?

What are the challenges that are faced after discharge?

What are the factors that act as an obstacle to reform and meet societal expectations?

What are the governmental and nongovernmental social workers’ efforts in addressing challenges by ex youth offenders?

How effective are these services that are offered by governmental and non governmental social workers?

Do you have caregivers? If yes, how do they offer support?

Do you have a spouse? If so, how does she or he offer support?

How do the members of the community treat inmates when they are in the community?

Which methods should best address in reducing the number of youths reoffending crime?

How has Covid 19 affected the rate of youth reoffending criminal behaviours?

APPENDIX 4: KEY INFORMANT GUIDE

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR THE SOCIAL WORKERS AT HARARE CENTRAL PRISON.

a) Introduction

My name is Kundai Muchandiwona. I am a student at Bindura University of Science Education. In a bid to fulfil my Bachelor of Social Work Honours Degree requirements, I am embarking on a study which is titled, “**The roles of social workers in controlling cases of youths relapsing into criminal behaviour at Harare Central Prison in Harare, Zimbabwe.** As a citizen of Zimbabwe, I desire to explore the roles of social workers in curbing the issue of youth recidivism into criminal behaviour. The information that I will receive is entirely for academic purposes and confidentiality will be upheld. Participation in this study is voluntary and informed consent is highly considered. It is my hope that the information I will gather will assist in offering academic growth to the learners and also benefit the Zimbabwean nation so as to assist in combating youth recidivism into crime.

b) BIOGRAPGHY

1. How old are you?
 2. What is your level of education?
 3. How long have you been working at the Harare Central Prison?
- c) What are the social worker roles in addressing youths relapsing into criminal behaviour ?
- d) Which methods have proven to be most effective in reducing recidivism of youths into criminal behaviour?
- e) What are the causes of youth recommitting crime?
- f) What are the challenges accompanied with trying to address the issue of youth recommitting crime?
- g) How can the state assist in mitigating the challenges faced?
- h) Which gender is largely involved in reoffending crime?