

**BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION**  
**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK**



**A MODEL TO MITIGATE RECIDIVISM AMONGST MALE JUVENILES IN  
CHIPINGE DISTRICT.**

**BY**

**B203220B**

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK IN  
PARTIAL FULFILMENT FOR THE REQUIREMENTS FOR BACHELORS OF  
SOCIAL SCIENCES HONOURS DEGREE IN SOCIAL WORK, BINDURA ZIMBABWE**

**JUNE 2025**

## **DECLARATION**

I declare that this dissertation is my own work and has not been submitted in any form for another degree or diploma at any university or other institution of tertiary education. All sources have been acknowledged and properly cited.

## APPROVAL FORM

I certify that I supervised **BHEKANY MAPOSA (B203220B)** in carrying out this research titled: **a model to mitigate recidivism amongst male juveniles in Chipinge district.:** in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the Bachelor of Science, Honours Degree in Social Work and recommend that it proceeds for examination.

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Name: **Miss Gambiza**    Signature:.....Date: **20 JUNE 2025**

### *Chairperson of the Department Board of Examiners*

The departmental board of examiners is satisfied that this dissertation report meets the examination requirements of a Bachelor of Science Honors Degree in Social Work and therefore I recommend to Bindura University of Science Education to accept this research project by **BHEKANY MAPOSA** titled: **a model to mitigate recidivism amongst male juveniles in Chipinge district.** in partial fulfilment of the Bachelor of Science, Honours Degree in Social work.

### *Chairperson*

Name:                      Signature.....Date: **20 JUNE 2025**

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SOCIAL WORK

Student

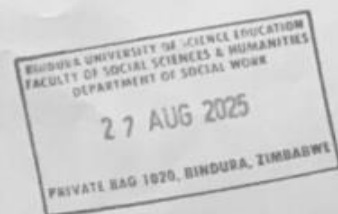
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## RELEASE FORM

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Signed ..... Date .....

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this project to the following people for their unconditional love, financial and social support, throughout my graduate school experience: My parents the Maposa's, my mother in law and my husband Shingirirai Khumbula.





## MARKING GUIDE

**BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION**

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**Name:**

**Registration No:**

### MARKING GUIDE: UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROJECT

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

Comments.....  
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### Chapter 2 LITERATURE REVIEW

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

Comments.....  
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### Chapter 3 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

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

Comments.....  
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### Chapter 4 DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

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

### Comments

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### Chapter 5 SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

### Comments

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### SUMMARY:-

**Actual**

**Total**

**Chapter 1** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter 2** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter 3** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter 4** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter 5** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total**                      \_\_\_\_\_

## **ABSTRACT**

*The focus of this study was to find the major drivers of male juvenile recidivism in Chipinge District and develop a model to address the existing causes. The study was conducted using a phenomenological qualitative research design, a non-probability sampling where the purposive sampling method was used and interviews were used as well as a method of collecting data. Through this method, eight male ex-convicted juveniles were interviewed to find out the drivers of recidivism amongst them through their experiences. The study findings unearthed that, both the community and the prison setting are to blame for juvenile recidivism in the District, with poverty, substance abuse and peer pressure, prison housing or interactions, family breakdown and scarcity of resources as major contributors to the philosophy. The two major key informants that were interviewed by the researcher, managed to paint a bright view for the researcher to understand the undermining causes of recidivism. Through the acquired information, the researcher developed the RISE model as a recommendation in addressing juvenile recidivism. The model will be focusing on rehabilitation, integration, support and empowerment of male ex-convicted juveniles. This model is in support of resource support not just emotional, the researcher understood that there is no any other way of reducing juvenile recidivism than addressing root causes of it. This model will be much helpful in Chipinge District since it addresses the identified root causes.*

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## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

#### **1.1 Introduction**

Chapter one explains the research focus and the different experiences that juveniles face leading them to habitual criminalist. It explains the problem within Societies as well as the rehabilitation system of the ZPCS that are moulding habitual offenders. This Chapter provides aim and objectives of the study that are key to the project and also tries to give a clear justification of the study. There is also a discussion of previously gathered literature on the experiences of juvenile ex-convicts and how they are treated in society, which is the foundation of this study. Finally, this chapter shares the potential contributions of this study to social work practice from both a micro and macro perspective.

#### **1.2 Background of the study**

The problem with juvenile delinquency is becoming more complicated and the programmes aimed at their treatments now proliferate in almost all institutions (U.S Department of Justice, 2007). However these programmes are either ill-equipped to deal with the present realities or are not implemented fully. Many countries have done little or nothing to deal with these problems and international programmes are being insufficient. The countries are engaged in activities aimed at juvenile crime prevention but the overall effect of these programmes is rather weak because the mechanisms in place are often inadequate to address the existing situation (Campaign For Youth Justice, 2007, Acoca, 1999). In as much as the rehabilitation system is trying to curb recidivism, or young offenders turning into habitual offenders, its efforts has proven to be in vain since juvenile delinquents has much increased. Many habitual offenders in prisons have been first convicted as juveniles and the system turned them into habitual criminals.

This research will mainly aim at juveniles that are incarcerated at adult prisons, how the rehabilitation system that is being implemented is however, failing or inadequate to change or make them reform into better versions of themselves but instead harden them into habitual criminals and also how community structures came to play in contributing to this philosophy. Many juveniles who are incarcerated end up recidivating back to detention centres as opposed to

developing skills to becoming productive members of society (Lambie & Randell, 2013). Many of the circumstances that lead to juvenile delinquency are social factors (Palermo, 2013; Teasely, 2014; Tyler, 2015). Thus inadequate resources at prisons such as housing leading to juveniles being mixed with adults where there will be abused and molested, negative interactions with habitual offenders exposing them to an unfavourable environment for reforming, minimum monitoring of their progress since Zimbabwean prisons have just one or two rehabilitation officers who will be in charge of the whole organization like at Chipinge Prison where there are only two rehabilitation officers against over 500 male inmates, and about 20 female convicts. Moreover, there is also minimum involvement of other stakeholders that are essential to their rehabilitation process like NGOs such as Plan International, FACT only to mention a few who might be useful in addressing their resource challenges especially on educational equipment. Also during reintegration these juveniles they lack resources that they may put the skills they learnt to practice which will therefore lure them back to crimes, society's stereotypes leading to stigma makes them feel belonging and unacceptable as part of their communities. Not to leave out broken families leading to child headed families and spiritual attacks from relatives or those that they may have wronged before also contributes and leads one to end up a habitual criminal. Even though there are a lot more reasons that might contribute after reintegration, the rehabilitation process needs to be revised to cater for such gaps that are leading juvenile offenders to end up recidivating.

### **1.3 Statement of the problem**

Juvenile delinquency leading to habitual criminalism among juveniles has become much prevalent in Chipinge District. Despite the good intentions of Prison rehabilitation services, studies have shown that there is a high rate of recidivism among juvenile offenders in Zimbabwe, (Zinyemba, 2020). Having also Chipinge Farm Prison as one of the stations that records more juvenile recidivism yearly shows how the rehabilitation process needs some revision and fixing. Though there are currently multiple community prevention programs designed to help reduce or prevent juvenile delinquency, the ineffectiveness of both state sponsored and school-based programs is a result of antiquated solutions, leading to a significant increase in juvenile delinquency and recidivism. Having also many social factors within communities in Chipinge contributing to hard-core criminalism among juveniles gives one room to note this challenge as a major problem that is affecting Chipinge District as a whole.

#### **1.4 Aim of the study**

To explore the drivers of recidivism amongst male juvenile offenders in Chipinge.

#### **1.5 Objectives of the study**

1. To explore the key services available to male children in conflict with the law that help reduce recidivism in Chipinge
2. To identify socio-economic drivers of recidivism among juveniles within the justice system and in their communities.
3. To come up with recommendations to reduce recidivism amongst male children in conflict with the law in Chipinge

#### **1.6 Justification of the study.**

Juvenile delinquency has become a pressing concern in Zimbabwe, with an increasing number of young people engaging in hard-core criminal activities. This trend is not only alarming but also has severe consequences for the individuals, communities, and the nation as a whole. This study seeks to investigate the phenomenon of habitual criminalism amongst juveniles in Chipinge District, Manicaland, Zimbabwe, with a focus on understanding the underlying causes, consequences, and potential solutions. Despite the growing concern, there is limited research on habitual criminalism amongst juveniles in Zimbabwe. This study aims to fill this knowledge gap and provide insights into the phenomenon. Previous studies on juvenile delinquency in Zimbabwe have focused primarily on the causes and consequences of general delinquency. However, there is a dearth of research on recidivism amongst juveniles, particularly in the Zimbabwean context. This study aims to address this gap through examining the characteristics thus, investigating the demographic, socioeconomic, and psychological characteristics of juvenile offenders engaging in criminal activities, identifying causes as well as assessing the consequences of hard-core criminalism amongst juveniles.

The study is also very vital in informing policy development through its findings that provide valuable insights for policymakers, informing the development of policies and programs aimed at preventing and addressing recidivism amongst juveniles. This study will also be instrumental in evaluating existing policies evaluating their effectiveness and identifying areas that needs improvement. Also by providing empirical evidence on the factors contributing to habitual

criminalism amongst juveniles, this study promotes evidence-based practice in policy development and program implementation.

The study will also be instrumental in raising awareness in communities nationwide about the impacts of socio-economic as well as psychological factors on juveniles driving them in becoming habitual offenders. In so doing the study seeks to promote community engagement and mobilization in trying to address this challenge. The study's findings can inform the development of community-based initiatives aimed at preventing and addressing hard-core criminalism amongst juveniles, thereby reducing crimes in communities.

Also through advancing knowledge, the study will be useful to the university and the education sector as a whole. The study's findings can inform the development of curricula and courses related to criminology, sociology, psychology, and social work, ensuring that students receive up-to-date and evidence-based knowledge. The study also contributes to the university's research and scholarship agenda, demonstrating the institution's commitment to advancing knowledge and addressing societal challenges. The study's findings can inform teaching and learning in social work and social policy programs, providing students with insights into the social and economic factors that contribute to juvenile delinquency leading to hard-core criminalism.

## **1.7 Definition of Key Terms**

For the study, the following areas needs clarity:

**Adolescence:** The period of biological, cognitive, and psychosocial transition from childhood to adulthood that usually lasts a decade or so (Berger, 2000). For the purpose of this study, adolescents refer to individual's ages 12 to 18.

**Juvenile:** One who is under the age of consent, most often 18 years of age (Davis, 2002?)

**Juvenile offender:** A person under 16, 18, or in some states, 20 years of age, who has been found guilty of committing offenses against the law (Rush, 2003).

**Recidivism:** Engaging in unlawful behaviour by those who previously were sentenced, treated, and released (Davis, 2002).

Hard-core criminals: A habitual offender is an individual who has been convicted of multiple crimes, often of a serious or violent nature, and who continues to engage in criminal behaviour despite previous punishments or interventions. Habitual offenders often exhibit a pattern of persistent and escalating offending, and may be characterized by a lack of remorse, a disregard for the law, and a tendency to blame others for their actions (James, 2002).

## **1.8 Dissertation outline**

On chapter one, there will be introduction, background of the study and statement of the problem at first, introducing the challenge under study. There will also be aim of the study, objectives, justification of the study, definition of key terms and a chapter summary at the end.

Chapter two will also be mainly focusing on literature review. The section will start with an introduction, theoretical framework before presenting the main literature. The section will end with a chapter summary.

Also on chapter three an introduction will commence the section. It will focus on research methodology. The section will talk about research philosophy, research approach, research design, the study setting, targeted population, sampling techniques and sampling size, data collection techniques and tools research procedure, validity and reliability, data analysis, limitations and end with a chapter summary.

Chapter four will focus on presentation of findings, and an introduction will commence the section. Demographics will be presented followed by themes developed from each objective. The section will end with a chapter summary.

On chapter five, there will be summary, conclusions and recommendations. The section will begin with an introduction then a summary of findings. There will also be conclusions, implications for Social Work, recommendations, areas for future study and a chapter summary at the end.

## **1.9 Chapter summary**

Chapter one focused on the introduction and background of this study. It justified why hard-core criminalism is the, chosen paradigm to use in this research study, because the researcher is seeking to develop insight on the subject of the experiences that a habitual offender juvenile have. This chapter included a problem statement that described areas that juvenile offenders may have a

different experience from adults. The justification also shared information about the knowledge gap on hard-core criminalism that is yet to be discovered by researchers. This chapter also provides the dissertation outline that is much instrumental in guiding both the researcher and readers. Finally, this chapter discussed micro and macro implications that this study may have on the social work profession.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

Chapter two is a section of the study that introduces previous research conducted on the different drivers of habitual criminalism amongst male juveniles and the previous recommendations made by researchers. The chapter will first provide a theoretical Framework that will help in explaining the study objectives and give a clear understand of the phenomenon under study. Also main literature shall be discussed in this section identifying gaps and inconsistencies in the existing researches, and also sets the stage for further research about causes of juvenile hard-core criminalism in Zimbabwe.

#### **2.2 Theoretical frameworks**

##### **Social Disorganization Theory**

Social disorganization theory explains how an individual's living, physical, or social environments are the main causation when determining how a person chooses to behave (Simms, 2016). Social disorganization has become a staple theory in identifying ecological differences as they pertain to the levels of crimes committed on the bases of structural and cultural factors that transform the norms of social order in a community (Daoud, et al, 2017). Many researchers have found that in a community that is deteriorating, the crime rate would be higher than a community that is being well maintained or newly rebuilt (Simms, 2016). This gives explanation to how the community becomes responsible for juvenile delinquency and recidivism.

##### **Relevance**

This theory better explains the role played by both physical and social environments in molding one's behavior. Juveniles learn from their surroundings, the more they are exposed to harmful practices and criminal traits, the more they are likely to commit crimes. As the study's objective, this theory managed to explore the drivers of hard-core criminalism by identifying the community in which the juvenile resides. The same community that is also responsible for a juvenile's recidivating back to detention through its set stereotypes and beliefs that separates or alienate ex-convicts juveniles from their other counterparts. Through this conduct, a child will feel less



accepted in his community, hence thus destroying a sense of belonging and ownership within them. Such juveniles have a higher chance of reoffending and return back to prison where they will fill belonging and accepted. The theory also provides a better explanation on the first objective of this study that seeks to explore the key social services being offered to male juveniles and their community. This theory is of the belief that the outside environment is responsible for one's behavior, for a child to know something it takes the people around him to educate him through different ways. Male juveniles especially in Chipinge District which has most of its communities living below the poverty datum line, these areas still needs awareness campaigns on rights, laws and policies that protects juveniles from harm. In so doing, juveniles will be well much aware of their rights and responsibilities as well.

## **2.3 Main Literature**

Literature review begins by discussing the social welfare and rehabilitation services that are being implemented as a way to reduce recidivism amongst juveniles. The section will also take note of the causes of recidivism amongst male juveniles globally, regional and locally, and a discussion on recommendations and strategies that have been brought up previously by researchers in order to curb recidivism will end the section.

### **2.3.1 Social Welfare and rehabilitation services**

#### **Global view on social welfare and rehabilitation services**

Globally, juvenile justice systems emphasize rehabilitation, restorative justice, and social reintegration. Countries like Norway and the Netherlands prioritize individualized treatment plans, psychosocial support, and education access. According to Lipsey (2009), effective interventions include cognitive-behavioral therapy, family-based treatment, and academic support. Counseling and Therapy is one good example that helps juveniles identify and change negative thought patterns and behaviors. These have been implemented all over the world be it cognitive-behavioral therapy or family therapy that addresses family dynamics and relationships to promote positive change. Though this wasn't enough, different states tried through vocational trainings, community based programs, Restorative Justice Programs and after care services. These have worked together in trying to give juveniles that are in conflict with the law, a life apart from delinquency. Especially community based approaches provides services within the juvenile's community to promote reintegration. Mostly if reintegration is successful juveniles won't find a reason to reoffend.

According to none organization website, the current prison system is not supportive of the reintegration process back into society. As a result of this lack of support, the prison system is increasing rates of recidivism. For a successful rehabilitation process to be achieved on juveniles there is need for a great cooperation and coordination of different stakeholders in catering for their social welfare and needs. Juveniles in conflict with the law may need access to social services, and unfortunately may not have this opportunity. In the state of California, (and seventeen other states) juveniles who were convicted of a drug felony after August 22, 2010, were banned from receiving welfare and food stamps for life ([www.allofusornone.org](http://www.allofusornone.org), retrieved on February 7, 2006). This affects a child's life, the system is supposed to correct these children to be better versions of themselves rather than breaking them up until they think less of themselves. A widely cited example is the Missouri Model (USA) which utilizes small, therapeutic correctional facilities emphasizing therapy, education, and community reintegration (Mendel, 2010). Recidivism rates in Missouri dropped to under 10% compared to national averages of over 50%.

### **Regional view on social welfare and rehabilitation services**

However in Africa, the effectiveness of rehabilitation systems and all the above mentioned strategies has been weakened by scarcity of resources and weak institutional frameworks. Some of the countries in the region have done better so far, taking South Africa as an example, has a relatively advanced system including diversion programs, child and youth care centers, and probation services (Gallinetti, 2009). The Child Justice Act (2008) prioritizes non-custodial measures and aftercare support. Also Kenya operates Child Protection Units and places an increasing focus on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and community-based rehabilitation (Muigua, 2014). Such an amazing work if it were to spread within the region juvenile recidivism can therefore, be reduced.

### **Local view on social welfare and rehabilitation services**

Zimbabwe has made steps toward juvenile justice reform through the Child Justice Bill (2021). However, in districts like Chipinge, access to services remains constrained by geographic isolation, funding deficits, and limited personnel. Juvenile justice systems across the globe emphasize rehabilitation over punishment. In Zimbabwe, the Child Justice Bill (2021) seeks to strengthen the juvenile justice system by introducing child-sensitive approaches aimed at rehabilitation and

reintegration. According to the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (2022), diversion programs and probation services exist but remain inconsistently implemented, especially in rural areas like Chipinge. This affects the effectiveness of the frameworks and strategies implemented in the nation. If a framework is developed it should therefore benefit every region not only focusing on urban areas alienating rural communities. Save the Children Zimbabwe (2020) piloted a community diversion programs in Manicaland Province which showed promising results in reintegrating children back into school and community life. However, long-term monitoring was lacking. These programs allow offenders to avoid formal court procedures and instead undergo rehabilitation through community service, counseling, or vocational training (UNICEF Zimbabwe, 2020). If this is implemented fully, juveniles will have a chance to reflect on themselves without being labeled by the community. However, in Chipinge juveniles are going through the mainstream court processing where they are sentenced to adults prison where they are exposed to harmful practices and criminal behavior. Also the Ministry of Public Service, Labor and Social Welfare collaborates with NGOs to provide limited counseling services, but the coverage is sparse in rural communities (Save the Children, 2019). Evidence shows that access to skill development opportunities can significantly reduce the likelihood of re-offending (Kazembe & Mupfumira, 2020). However, such programs are often urban-centric and lack funding in remote areas like Chipinge. Despite these interventions, Chipinge district continues to face infrastructural and resource limitations, hindering the consistent delivery of these services. Local CSOs (community service organizations) such as Childline and the Zimbabwe National Council for the Welfare of Children (ZNCWC) are critical in bridging service gaps, albeit on a limited scale. Having considered all this, this study seeks to give a model on how to improve the existing strategies and frameworks, making sure that they benefit the rightful intended population that is juveniles making sure that they won't recidivate back to prison.

### **2.3.2 Socio-economic drivers**

#### **Global perspective on socio-economic drivers**

Socio-economic determinants play a major role in juvenile re-offending. Theoretical frameworks such as strain theory and social disorganization theory emphasize how poverty, lack of opportunities, and broken social structures increase the likelihood of criminal behavior. Scholars such as Mears et al. (2016) and Chung et al. (2002) identify poverty, educational exclusion, peer

pressure, and dysfunctional families as major predictors of recidivism. Structural inequality and community disintegration exacerbate juvenile re-offending. Robert Agnew's General Strain Theory explains how exposure to negative social conditions (e.g., poverty, abuse, blocked opportunities) induces deviant behavior as a coping mechanism. This worldwide view, brings to surface how the environment is a major contributor to juvenile delinquency and recidivism.

### **Regional perspective on socio-economic drivers.**

Across sub-Saharan Africa, juvenile recidivism is driven by poverty, family disruption and substance abuse. Many children commit crimes for survival (UNODC, 2017). If a child is arrested today for stealing in order to put food on the table, if the challenge is not resolved properly after reintegration, the child will still steal for survival. Civil conflict and HIV/AIDS have led to widespread orphan hood and child-headed households, especially in countries like Uganda and Mozambique (Kasirye, 2012). This leaves many juveniles unguided and monitored which will lead them to delinquency. This usually exposes children to substance and drug abuse especially in urban and peri-urban areas also due to peer influence and lack of recreational outlets (Alemayehu, 2020). Once one start living under the influence of drugs, is capable of doing anything.

### **Local perspective on socio-economic drivers**

In Zimbabwe juvenile recidivism is mostly linked to poverty and unemployment, family breakdown, substance abuse, stigmatization, and social reintegration barriers. There is no large gap between the drivers in Zimbabwe and those that are affecting the rest of the world. High levels of poverty in rural areas like Chipinge push young people towards petty crimes for survival. Without economic alternatives, re-offending becomes a rational choice (Mugwadi, 2021). Same as juveniles from broken homes often lack parental guidance, increasing vulnerability to criminal networks. UNICEF (2022) notes a strong correlation between family instability and youth recidivism. Family support systems thereby, becomes a major stone in reducing juvenile recidivism. Upon release, many juveniles face stigma that prevents re-integration into schools, families, and communities—fueling a return to criminal behavior (Zimbabwe National Rehabilitation Centre, 2020). If the outside environment becomes hard to ex-convict juveniles, they will end up considering jails as their homes, where they are understood and accepted. A 2022 study by Justice for Children Zimbabwe on youth correctional centers showed that over 60% of

juveniles reoffended within one year of release due to poverty, lack of employment, and social rejection. The study proved how juveniles are pushed back to prison by several factors but didn't thereby, develop a solution to the problem at hand. This is the major reason for this study to develop a model that can be referred to by different stakeholders in reducing recidivism amongst juveniles.

### **2.3.3 Previous Recommendations**

#### **2.3.3.1 Restorative Justice**

##### **Global perspective on restorative justice**

Restorative justice is a conflict resolution paradigm that brings together victims, offenders, and community members to address and resolve crimes or disputes (Braithwaite, 2002). This approach focuses on restoration, reparation, reintegration, and community participation, promoting healing and restoring relationships (Johnstone & Van Ness, 2007). Programs like family group conferencing and victim-offender mediation have proven effective in New Zealand and Canada (Zehr, 2002). Also community involvement encourages active participation from community members in resolving conflicts and promoting reintegration (Pranis, 2001). Reconciliation aims to mend broken relationships and promote a sense of belonging and accountability (Lederach, 1997). Restorative justice is gaining popularity worldwide, with various countries exploring its potential to improve justice systems (Johnstone & Van Ness, 2007). By focusing on healing, reparation, and community involvement, restorative justice offers a promising approach to addressing crimes and promoting justice.

##### **Regional view on restorative justice**

Africa has a rich history of restorative justice, with various countries implementing traditional mechanisms to resolve conflicts. For example, Rwanda's Gacaca Process is a traditional justice system used to address genocide-related crimes, promoting truth-telling, forgiveness, and reconciliation (Clark, 2010). This became very instrumental in attaining peace and reconciliation within the state. South Africa's Ubuntu Philosophy emphasizes the importance of community and interconnectedness in resolving conflicts and promoting justice (Battle, 1997). Nigeria's Council of Elders uses traditional mediation and reconciliation processes to resolve disputes and promote healing (Alemika, 2003). However, restorative justice also faces challenges, such as limited

capacity, state interference, and cultural sensitivity (Sherman & Strang, 2007). Traditional justice systems may not be equipped to handle complex or serious crimes, and government involvement in restorative justice processes can undermine their effectiveness and authenticity.

### **2.3.3.2 Community-Based Rehabilitation Models**

#### **Globally view on community-based rehabilitation models**

Community involvement has been shown to enhance reintegration, especially when traditional leaders and local mentors are engaged (Nyatsanza & Dube, 2019). The model has gained popularity worldwide, particularly in low-income and middle-income countries as a strategy for community-based development (WHO, 2010). The World Health Organization has developed the CBR, community based rehabilitation, as a way of developing communities as well as involving people with disabilities. Its aim was to empower individuals, families through community involvement and participation (Hartley, 2016). Their success depends on factors like community engagement, cultural relevance, and adequate resources (Cornwall & Nyamu-Musembi, 2004). This has negatively affected the effectiveness of the model, in undeveloped and developing countries, resources are a major obstacle. This research however seeks to improve these programs by developing a way or strategy to help the less privileged communities and develop them.

#### **Regional perspective on community-based rehabilitation models**

In Africa, the CBR have been influenced by traditional and cultural practices that emphasize community involvement and family support (Channon, 2014). Southern Africa, in particular, has a rich history of self-help and community-based initiatives, with examples dating back to the 16th century (Machingura, 2016). This model has managed to assist families and communities to work together towards child protection and delinquency. This has played a pivotal role in managing juvenile delinquency. However in reducing recidivism amongst juveniles, the model has been insufficient whereby, the families and communities are the same parties that are stigmatizing ex-convicts juveniles reducing them to nothing but only criminals. There is need for improvement that is what the study is going to focus on, looking on how communities are going to be more accommodative to ex-convicts and accept them so that a sense of belonging is built.

#### **Local view on community-based rehabilitation model**

Zimbabwe has been involved in research-informed rehabilitation planning, with a focus on community-based approaches (Machingura, 2016). The country has hosted workshops and conferences on CBR, highlighting the importance of collaboration between stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and community organizations (Mji, 2017). While there is limited literature on specific CBR models in Zimbabwe, research suggests that community-based initiatives can be effective in promoting the inclusion and empowerment of people with disabilities (Channon, 2014). This has proved how previous researches has mostly focused on people with disabilities and other parts of the community paying less attention to the issue of juvenile recidivism.

#### **2.3.3.3 Education and Skills Training**

Establishing alternative education pathways, such as bridging courses and technical training, can help break the poverty-crime cycle (Kazembe & Mupfumira, 2020). Imparting technical skills on juvenile offenders is a very effective strategy that is very vital in removing them from the streets and keeping them busy. Plan International Zimbabwe's "Safe Spaces" program offered mentorship and skills development for vulnerable boys in rural Mutare, significantly reducing risk behavior over a 12-month pilot period (Plan, 2022). In doing such the organization managed to impart skills to vulnerable boys so that they can be employers and employable in the Labor market. However, the organization targeted just vulnerable boys not specifically ex-convicts juveniles, it is very hard to conclude that juveniles benefitted from the initiative. Also on another note, the programmer was very significant in empowering individuals, but since there is a high rate of unemployment in the region and the trained boys were not given resources to start up their own businesses. This is the area that is targeted by this research on how developed strategies can be addressed so that they can be effective in reducing juvenile delinquency and recidivism.

#### **2.3.3.4 After care support**

Aftercare services are very instrumental in monitoring juveniles' life after reintegration. These are sustained follow-up post-release that prevents reoffending. Ex-convicts face numerous challenges when reintegrating into mainstream society, including broken family and community relationships, unemployment, and inferiority complex (Berg & Huebner, 2011). These challenges can lead to feelings of isolation and rejection, making it difficult for ex-convicts to secure employment and support themselves.

South Africa's NICRO model includes job placement, psychosocial support, and parental training. Tailoring support services to meet the unique needs of each ex-offender can also promote successful reintegration. This is far much difference than Zimbabwe that only focuses on checking if the individual managed to settle in the community without challenges of implemented the acquired skills. In rural communities like in Chipinge District, the department is not able to practice after care services due to resources. This is the most crucial part of this research, giving ways in which this after care support service could be implemented fully in the nation where it will also benefit those in rural communities like Chipinge with adequate resources.

## **2.4 Chapter summary**

The section managed to give theoretical framework that helped in explaining how juvenile delinquency and recidivism are being molded in different communities. The section also managed to give previous research's perspectives on juvenile delinquency and recidivism, what causes recidivism and also how it can be reduced. The literature is very instrumental in the study since it lays a baseline for the researcher's research.

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter will focus on the methods that are being used during the research pertaining this study. The section begins with the research philosophy that consists of assumptions, values and principles that will guide the researchers approach to the study. It also consists of the research approach which is the qualitative approach, the research design, study setting, targeted population, sampling techniques, as well as data collection tools. This chapter also provides limitations pertaining the research, giving detail of the shortcomings that the research approach is associated with and also provide solutions.

#### **3.2 Research philosophy**

The major assumption of this study is that juvenile participants would provide the best insight into why juveniles are recidivating back to detention. If juveniles are given the chance to express themselves, it is possible that the resulting information can be used to bring about change that would reduce juvenile delinquency as well as avoid juveniles becoming habitual offenders. The



research will use an interpretivism philosophy that emphasizes the subjective interpretation of data and the importance of understanding the meaning and context of phenomena. Since the study is focusing on a complex and sensitive topic, that requires deep understanding of the experiences and perspectives of ex-convicts juveniles, this philosophy enables one to explore the lived experiences, perceptions and meanings that juveniles attach to their involvement in criminal activities. In this study the researcher adopted a constructivist epistemological position, which posits that knowledge is constructed through social interactions and agreements. This position informs the researcher's research design, as she will be using qualitative methods to gather data and thematic analysis to identify patterns and meanings. The researcher recognises that this position has implications for her research findings, as it may need to emphasize the role of social context and power dynamics in shaping the experiences of juveniles who have become habitual offenders. The researcher also adopted a social constructivist ontological position, which posits that social reality, including the concept of habitual criminal behavior, is constructed through social interactions and agreements. This ontological position informs her research design, as she will be using qualitative methods, such as in-depth interviews and focus groups, to gather data on the lived experiences and perspectives of juveniles involved in criminalism. The researcher's social constructivist position also shapes her data interpretation, as she will be seeking to identify the ways in which social norms, power dynamics, and cultural values shape the meanings and interpretations that juveniles attach to their behavior till they become habitual offenders.

### **3.3 Research approach**

For the study the researcher selected a qualitative approach to gain a clearer understanding of how policies, social and cultural factors contribute to increased juvenile delinquency and recidivism. Previous research's that used a quantitative approach to gain an understanding of this phenomenon brought back numerical findings that did not clearly explain the driving force for delinquent behavior among juveniles hence it becomes difficult to obtain a model on how to deal with this challenge without clearly knowing driving factors behind. A general inductive approach will be used to explore why juveniles conduct delinquent acts and the environmental impact of juvenile delinquency and recidivism leading to habitual criminalism.

### **3.4 Research design**

The study used the phenomenological qualitative research design which is instrumental in exploring people's experiences and perceptions. This design allowed the researcher to use a technique called bracketing to set aside their own assumptions and biases in order to gain a more nuanced understanding of the research phenomenon. This was helpful in understanding the factors that are contributing to juveniles becoming habitual offenders as their experiences are different and complex. Through this understanding, the design becomes instrumental in developing an effective framework on how to deal with the drivers of habitual criminalism amongst juveniles.

### **3.5 Study setting**

The study will be conducted in one governmental organization, the ZPCS Chipinge Prison farm and the surrounding communities that are within Chipinge District. In this District the researcher identified that the area have more reasons and factors that drives juveniles into becoming habitual offenders through its social and cultural values and beliefs. Also due to poverty they are many school dropouts in the District, leading to many juveniles to be on the streets as early as 12 years of age, with nothing productive to occupy themselves with. This leads male juveniles into crimes since most of them will be associated with substance abuse while girls will be exposed to prostitution and early marriages. Having considered such factors, the researcher saw it vital to conduct the research in this District for a perfect and detailed results that will be helpful in developing a model to address the drivers of habitual criminalism.

### **3.6 Target population**

The research aims to study and understand juvenile offenders that have been convicted more than once in Chipinge District. Besides juvenile ex-convicts, the study wishes to obtain significant information from vital stakeholders of the communities that are within the District. The researcher will target 10 participants who will help in providing useful information concerning juvenile delinquency and recidivism.

### **3.7 Sampling techniques and sample size**

The researcher will make use of the non-probability sampling where the purposive sampling method will be very instrumental in attaining the required information for the study. When studying juvenile offenders, a purposive sampling method will be particularly useful since it will allow the researcher to access hard to reach populations such as juvenile ex-convicts. The method

is also flexible that will allow the researcher to adjust the sampling strategy as needed. A total of 10 in-depth interviews will be conducted with juveniles that have turned to habitual offenders, 2 interviews with key informants.

### **3.8 Data collection techniques and tools**

The study will use interviews as a data collection method which will be very vital in acquiring in-depth information about juvenile delinquency and recidivism from different participants. Also this will give room for the researcher to ask questions and clarity as per needed during the research. In the study the researcher will use in-depth interviews with stakeholders such as parents and service providers so as to acquire rich information about the study. Through the interviews, the researcher will use audio recorders and note taking.

### **3.9 Research procedure**

#### **Step 1. Seeking permission**

Firstly, the researcher sought permission from Institutional body, the Bindura University body, in the social sciences Department. An approval letter was provided by the institution for the research to be conducted. Secondly, the researcher sought permission from the ZPCS organization through a research proposal with her objectives, methods to be used as well as the expected outcomes outlined for her to conduct her research within and outside the organization. She was granted permission and a letter of approval was then provided for her to proceed.

#### **Step 2. Literature review**

The researcher conducted a thorough literature review about the study. Searching for existing literature about the study, for her to gain a deeper understanding of the phenomenon under research. This helped and guided her research since she would also consider the past used methods of research and their outcomes.

#### **Step 3. Research design**

The researcher now decided on a research design to use while conducting her research with an understanding of the population under study. A data collection plan was also developed where she had to decide on methods and tools to use to collect data.

#### Step 4. Data Collection

The researcher then collected data while implementing the data collection plan following all necessary procedures. Data was accurately recorded and stored.

#### Step 5. Data Analysis

Applied a thematic analysis techniques to identify patterns, trends, and relationships in her data.

#### Step 6. Results and Discussion

After there was presentation of the researcher's findings using tables and figures. Also there is a discussion on the implications of her findings, relating them to the broader literature and research context.

#### Step 7. Composing a report

The researcher provided the research context, objectives, and methodology and also summarized the key findings and themes. The methods selected and results selected were also provided.

### **3.10 Validity and reliability**

Prior to beginning any interviews, the researcher advised the interviewee of any risk that they could possibly incur during the study. This study involved little to no risk and did not pose any harm to participants. Participants were advised that no payment of any kind would be offered or paid out for their participation in the study. All documents and correspondents collected for this study will remain with the researcher in a secure space under lock and key. This includes all data collected and analyzed while conducting this study. The documents and data collected will remain on recording devise and stored in a safe place. All participants were advised that being a part of this study is voluntary and they do not have to participate if they were not interested. Also, the researcher advised all participants that they could stop the interview process at any time.

### **3.11 Data analysis**

The researcher used a thematic analysis to analyze the collected data for the study. Thematic analysis allows researchers to gain a deeper understanding of their data by identifying patterns, themes, and meanings that emerge from the data. It is a method that involves identifying, coding, and categorizing themes in the researcher's data. According to Morse & Williams (2019) coding

is a key data organizing strategy that assists researchers in processing data thematically, that has been collected.

### **3.12 Limitations**

The researcher interviewed participants who as juveniles displayed and committed acts of delinquency who may not report their delinquent and give a self-biased report. The participants are likely to reflect on a number of topics about risk factor, influences, policies and recidivism. Also considering the sample that was used it may not be a representative of the entire population of juvenile offenders, turned habitual criminals. Since it is a hard to reach population study, the researcher may not have access to complete or accurate data about the research. The study was also be limited by time and resources that however affect the effectiveness of the research.

### **3.13 Chapter summary**

Chapter three focused on the methodology that is being used to conduct this research. The section presented from research philosophy, justifying why she choose the used research approach to conduct the research. The section also provides the research design, study setting, targeted population, sampling techniques as well as data collection techniques. This chapter also discussed limitations pertaining the research approach and whole study that might affect the effectiveness of the research.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

#### 4.1 Introduction

The purpose of this section is to present, interpret, analyses and discuss data. In this section the data will be presented as according to the research design that was used during data collection that is qualitative research design. The data is going to be presented in themes that will help explain the research results. Also verbatim from selected participants and key informants will also be presented.

#### 4.2 Demographic characteristics of participant/ respondents

The following table 1, presents demographic information of participants. The table also presents the number of participants that participated.

**Table 1 Total Response Rate**

Participant	Intended	Actual
Key informants interviews	2	2
Interviews with juveniles	8	6
Total	10	8

From the table above, a total number of 8 people participated out of 10 which makes it 80% out of the intended number of participants. Face to face interviews were the two rehabilitation officers of Chipinge Prison, and the six online interviews were ex-convicts juveniles.

**Table 2 Demographics for primary participants**

VARIABLES	PERCENTAGE
PLACE OF ORIGIN	

Chipinge town	20%
Checheche	45%
Chinyamukwakwa	35%
AGE	
15 years	20%
16 years	40%
17 years	30%
EDUCATION LEVEL	
Did not ask	25%
Primary level	65%
Secondary level	10%
NUMBER OF TIMES INCARCERATED	
Once	20%
Twice	50%
Three- four	30%

The table above presents the demographical information of participants that were interviewed for the study. It shows participants' place of origin of respondents which are Chipinge town, Checheche and Chinyamukwakwa. These are not the only places that has juveniles that are recidivating but that's where the researcher conducted her research. These three places represent the whole District. The researcher interviewed juveniles between the age of 15 and 17 because this is the age where children engage in more experiments. The researcher only focused on male juveniles as the study tittle had mentioned. The table also shows how most of the juveniles who

participated dropped out of school at primary level. The table went on presenting the number of times these juveniles had recidivated back to prison showing unsuccessful reintegration.

### **4.3 Themes**

The results of this study are presented in several sections, each focusing on a specific theme. In most direct quotes, the researcher translated Nda language into English.

#### **4.3.1 Key services available to male children in conflict with the law**

The findings indicate that counselling and therapy services, education and vocational training programs, and mentorship and support services are all effective in reducing recidivism among male juveniles in Chipinge District.

##### **4.3.1.1 Counselling and therapy services**

These services provide participants with the opportunity to address underlying issues and develop coping strategies, which can help reduce recidivism. The findings of this study indicate that participants who received counselling and therapy services had lower recidivism rates compared to those who did not receive these services. Specifically, individual therapy sessions, group therapy sessions, and family therapy sessions were all effective in reducing recidivism. Mostly, family therapy, findings indicated that juvenile offenders who went through family therapy were able to get the help they needed and recidivism was reduced. The findings also render the counselling and therapy services less effective in the District since there are limited experts to conduct the counselling sessions within the ZPCS. Group therapy sessions that are being done at Chipinge Prison through the rehabilitation department are also being very instrumental in helping juveniles in conflict with the law to reflect on themselves and change for the better. Also as mentioned, the researcher found out that family support remains the main weapon in fighting recidivism amongst juveniles.

Participant 5 had this to say

*'I was the black sheep of my family, having been involved in drugs and committing crimes my family kind of neglected me. After I was arrested which is for the third time, for unlawful entry, the Chipinge Prison rehabilitation officer conducted my family since they were not visiting anymore as they said I'm taking the prison as a boarding*



*school where there were just supposed to bring me food. Through the help of the rehabilitation officer, a family counselling session was held that turned my life around. I managed to reconcile with my parents, and after reintegration I became a new person with the support of my family.'*

Participant 2 also added

*'I never had the chance to meet the rehabilitation officer for a counselling session not even on induction, or never did I have one outside of Prison. Unless you are referring to my mom's advises. '*

Informant 1 had the following view

*'It's very hard to cover all of the inmates in prison, the nation doesn't have the resources let alone talk of Chipinge. At my station we are two covering more than five hundred inmates. The workload is too much but as a rehabilitation officer at the station I try, but obviously, my services may not reach to everyone who may need them. For juveniles we try to give extra care since they are still a vulnerable population. But at Chipinge we always have juveniles more than 15 every month.....'*

The above responses from different participants and respondents brings to surface how counselling and therapy services are scarce in Chipinge both in and out of Prison. This doesn't give the rehabilitation officers room to relax as they will be busy every day trying to meet the needs of each and every inmate. Some juveniles goes in and out of Prison without having been on a counselling session. The first participant only managed to have a family counselling session at his third time recidivating. This shows how there is a limited number of experienced personal at the station, if it was done sooner, he would have never reoffended. The first informant also managed to point it out that, they are outnumbered by far, and two people can never cater for more than five hundred inmates.

Having considered that, it becomes clear how the rehabilitation system that is at Chipinge Prison is failing to cater for the population on therapy sessions, how the officers are overworking in trying to manage the inmate's welfare. This view brings to surface that, limited resources within the District is therefore affecting efforts being made in reducing juvenile recidivism. The findings proved how it is very much possible, to curb juvenile recidivism with all the required resources available.

Implementing effective counselling services in Chipinge District requires several key components. First, targeted interventions should be developed to address the unique needs and circumstances of male juveniles, such as cognitive-behavioural therapy and mentoring programs. Additionally, staff should be trained in evidence-based practices to ensure they're equipped to provide effective counselling services. Lipsey (2009), further supports that, effective interventions include cognitive-behavioural therapy, family-based treatment, and academic support. The researcher identified cognitive-behavioural therapy as one key services that is crucial to juvenile recidivism, but considering the situation at hand, the District is failing to keep up with the recommended standards due to resources. Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (2022), further validates that, diversion programs and probation services exist but remain inconsistently implemented, especially in rural areas like Chipinge. This brought to surface how most services just like counselling services are inconsistently put to action within the region. However, collaborating with local organizations and stakeholders can help develop tailored programs that address these challenges. By working together, it is possible to create effective counselling services that meet the specific needs of male juveniles in Chipinge District and help reduce recidivism. Though this could be very difficult to implement since ZPCS is a private organization that keeps all its operations private and does not entertain help from other organizations without a heavy protocol followed.

#### **4.3.1.2 Education and vocational training programs**

These programs provide participants with the skills and knowledge necessary to secure employment and become productive members of society. The findings of this study indicate that participants who received education and vocational training had higher rates of employment and education participation compared to those who did not receive these services. Additionally, the study found that alternative education programs and vocational training programs were particularly effective in reducing recidivism among juveniles. Also, the findings showed that with all the

acquired skills, juveniles are failing to secure jobs within their communities due to stigma and lack of employment in the District. They also lack resources to start up their own businesses so that they can be self-reliant. This greatly affects the effectiveness of the efforts made by the rehabilitation system in prison.

Participant 2 had this to share

*'I have learnt a lot of skills while I was serving my first sentence including welding. We would also be taught gardening, how to make raised beds for vegetables and how to make a compost and many other aspects. Welding was my favourite I was one of the best, but when I was released, I had no equipment's to start up my own welding business and the local welder never wanted anything to do with an ex-convict. As an orphan I had no one to help me with a piece of land so that I can start a gardening project.....'*

Informant 1 shared this view

*'We do an assessment but mostly we place juveniles in areas of their interest, during rehabilitation activities. Mostly, they start by working under the supervision of their seniors, that's elderly inmates those above 25 years of age, to teach and guide them. At Chipinge Farm Prison we teach juveniles skills like, gardening, weaving, poultry, building, hairdressing, shoe repairing and many other projects. We believe as an Institution that these skills are very vital in the community for one to be self-reliant and financially independent.'*

Participant 7 also added

*I got lucky during my first time in prison and was selected by the rehabilitation officer to be one of those who were going to attend and learn in a piggery project workshop. I learnt a lot about the piggery project and after the workshop I got my certificate after excelling on my exam. After I was released 6 months later, I managed to secure a job at Chinyamukwakwa primary school using my certificate and the head was open minded, he believed in change unlike other teachers there. I was doing great at my job, cleaning the pig sty, feeding managing the pigs' day to*

*day lives. But after two months, two pigs were stolen and slaughtered just outside of school fence. I became the prime suspect since I was an ex-convict and most of the people in Chinyamukwakwa believed in the "jere rino roodza" proverb. I was arrested and the court sentenced me to six months imprisonment.*

The findings indicated how the rehabilitation system is fighting to impart skills on juveniles in conflict with the law that can help them and keep them busy in the community while reducing their chances of reoffending. This shows how juveniles are reintegrating with great different skills, but due to how our society is designed, their efforts of changing for the better are being reduced to nothing. The Chipinge District community, believes that if one commits a crime and got arrested, that person has the likelihood of re-offending and recidivating.

This shows how community stereotypes and prejudices are being a block to the efforts being made in reducing juvenile recidivism in Chipinge. Though there is a high rate of unemployment in the District, even those who had managed to secure jobs still faces stereotypes leading them back to detention. This is a community that needs improvement in how they handle ex-convicts juveniles, it's a community that needs to be positive about children's lives, a community that sees the light in a child's life even if the individual himself is failing to see one. This brings to surface how the challenge causing children to recidivate lays in the community, where we have stakeholders, headman's, and families that are failing to be supportive and positive minded about their children who had once committed a crime.

This way in which Chipinge community is responding to juvenile delinquency reduces these juvenile ex-convicts to nothing but just mere criminals. The community is killing their sense of belonging and ownership. Andrews & Bonta, (2010), validates this notion, they noted that community-based initiatives focusing on rehabilitation, education, and vocational training can foster a sense of ownership and responsibility among juveniles, helping them reintegrate into society. Furthermore, in support of these findings, mentorship programs providing role models and support systems help juveniles develop a sense of purpose and belonging, reducing their likelihood of reoffending, (DuBois et al., 2002). If that support system is lost, a sense of purpose and belonging is lost as well creating high chances of reoffending.

#### 4.3.1.3 Prison housing

The findings of this study highlight the significance of prison housing in supporting the rehabilitation and reintegration of male juveniles. By providing a safe, comfortable, and supportive environment, prison housing can play a critical role in reducing recidivism. Proper housing in male prisons for juveniles is of paramount importance, since it fosters protection for juveniles from elderly inmates. According to the findings, Chipinge Farm Prison, does not have separate accommodation for juveniles from elderly inmates. They share the same section, in which what only separates them are rooms. This might pose as a threat to a juvenile's welfare and social circle. The people that a child spends more time with is the very person that influences their behaviour. In trying to protect these juveniles the rehabilitation officer selected all young offenders from 24 to 14 years of age and put them in their own cell. To some extent, this housing arrangement if it was done effectively was able to reduce juvenile recidivism.

Informant 2 had this to say

*'It becomes very difficult to protect a child from someone he spends most of his time with, someone he associates with, at daily basis, except at night. Protecting a juvenile in an adult prison requires a lot of resources in terms of housing, so that they can be separated from the adults. In as much as we want to reduce recidivism while mixing them during the day, our efforts became fruitless. Most of the habitual adult offenders today here at Chipinge, started as juveniles, they kept on offending until now it has become a habit.'*

Participant 4 said the following

*'I was so terrified of jail, the idea of being in the same environment with murderous was taking its toll on me. But while I was there I managed to keep myself occupied with school. This helped me to minimize my association with the adults during the day since we had a separate cell as juveniles.'*

The findings brought to surface how hard it is to protect a juvenile in an environment without the proper resources necessary to provide the proper shield they deserve. The informant made it clear that if resources permitted juveniles needed their own section separating them completely from adult prisoners. The inadequate organizational resources, is acting as a hindrance to the reduction

of recidivism amongst juvenile offenders. For those juveniles who stick to school work or keep good company they have less chances of reoffending.

This shows how prison housing is of paramount importance as all other basic social services needed by juveniles in conflict with the law. Some may argue that prison housing cannot be considered a social service since it is a prison provision not for safety but for punishment. Through the researcher's findings, housing is one key social service that plays a pivotal role in reducing juvenile recidivism. This helps in keeping juveniles safe, since they are more vulnerable at a mainstream prison than adult offenders. They are just merely children, despite the fact that they offended. Keeping them away from habitual adult offenders is best for them, thus avoiding imitation of bad behaviours.

In support with the findings, Sutherland's theory noted that, just as any behaviour is learned, so is criminal behaviour. Delinquency, as understood using a DAT perspective, occurs because of the individual's contact with other criminal behaviour patterns. A youngster who is continuously surrounded by persons who are engaging in criminal acts will likely offend. This is exactly where proper prison housing for juveniles comes in, where they will be protected from contact with other criminal patterns.

#### **4.3.2 Socio-economic drivers of recidivism amongst male juveniles in Chipinge District**

The findings indicated that poverty, family breakdown, stereotypes, peer pressure and substance abuse, and scarcity of resources are the major causes of juvenile recidivism. The majority of respondents reported that poverty was a major factor contributing to their recidivism, followed by family breakdown in Chipinge District.

##### **4.3.2.1 Poverty**

Most of the respondents mentioned poverty as the major contributor to juvenile delinquency and recidivism in the District. Chipinge District is an area with most of its communities isolated and poverty stricken, most families live from hand to mouth. Besides farming, the area has a few activities that can keep just a few number employed. According to the findings most juveniles are arrested for unlawful entry. Stealing food or things to sell for money to fend for themselves or their families. As sad as it is, some families depend on these children, accepting whatever they bring home, thus encouraging them to keep on stealing to put food on the table. The findings indicated

that juveniles from poor households are more likely to recidivist than those from more affluent households. Poverty limits access to education and job opportunities, making it more difficult for juveniles to secure legitimate means of income. This can lead to increased reliance on crime as a means of survival, perpetuating a cycle of recidivism.

Participant 3 noted the following

*'I was the source of income to my family, my father was a nobody who only cared about beer, as the first born son I could not seat and watch while my family starve to death. I found stealing as the fastest way to feed my family.....'*

Participant 1 also supported saying

*'From the day my father died, my relatives collected everything from us, I dropped out of school and hunger became our day to day problem. I had no any other option that to break in people's shops. I would steal food and money to bring food to the table. My mother had no problem with it because I became her breadwinner. I have been in and out of Prison two times now, but as long as we had no any means of survival, I don't see myself resting while my family suffers.'*

Informant 1 also had the following view

*'I think poverty can be considered the major contributor to juvenile recidivism in this District. Even if we equip them with different skills, these children will also lack the resources to use and put their skills to ground. We trained many welders only if we had the resources, maybe we would have given them the equipment's they require to start their businesses and became self-reliant. But as long as they lack a source of income, juvenile's recidivism will be very difficult to curb.'*

The findings shed light in to how poverty is being a hindrance to the reduction of recidivism amongst male juveniles in Chipinge. The responses also made it clear that even with the prison rehabilitation system, it is very hard to reduce recidivism amongst juveniles in Chipinge. Even after vocational trainings, juveniles still lack resources to start their own businesses and this will still lure them back to crimes. Having considered the findings it becomes clear that poverty has a big role to play on juvenile recidivism.

The researcher managed to consider poverty as a major challenge that's affecting the efforts being made by different stakeholders in trying to reduce juvenile recidivism. The children involved in unlawful entry are more likely to become habitual offenders if their challenges are not resolved sooner. From the findings, the researcher discovered that, the support in which these juveniles were getting from their families made them see what they are doing as good since they are saving their family. Family support is a very crucial component to overcome. Though there is poverty in these families where these children came from, the way they are feeling responsible and never punished for stealing is being an encouragement to such a criminal trait, hence becomes difficult to reduce recidivism amongst male juveniles in the district.

In consistence with the findings, Social disorganization theory explains how an individual's living, physical, or social environments are the main causation when determining how a person chooses to behave (Simms, 2016). The juvenile's choices are being determined by the people around them. Due to poverty parents are however, forgetting their role as parents, instead they are misleading juveniles making them to fend for their families. Mugwadi (2021), further supports that, levels of poverty in rural areas like Chipinge push young people towards petty crimes for survival, without economic alternatives, re-offending becomes a rational choice. Having considered this literature, a challenge that caused one to offend, if the problem is not therefore resolved, the act is most likely to be repeated.

#### **4.3.2.2 Family breakdown**

The findings of the study reveal that family breakdown is a significant factor contributing to juvenile recidivism in Chipinge. Many of the respondents reported coming from single-parent households or households with absent parents. Some parents are deceased and some went outside the country leaving child headed families behind. From the responses, the researcher found out that most parents go to South Africa looking for greener pastures leaving children as masters of their own lives, making their own choices. Some also responded that family conflict and violence lead them to crimes, parents separating leaving children vulnerable and hungry. Broken families are producing juvenile delinquency and supporting recidivism amongst male juveniles in Chipinge.

Informant 2 had the following perspective



*'Most of the juvenile offenders we had more than twice here have no one outside of prison to look after them. They come from broken families where parents separated leaving them alone to look after themselves. Some live with grandparents who are not capable of controlling them and take advantage of their age.'*

Participant 2 had stated the following

*'Both my parents died, I was raised by my aunt from my father's side. She would make sure I feel uncomfortable and always reminds me that I had no one since my parents are dead. I left home for the streets, sleeping anywhere. I ended up stealing to feed, got arrested a couple of times. But even after rehabilitation, I have no one to take me in or care for me. No one is willing to help me especially now that am an ex-convict they think am bad news.'*

Participant 6 also stated the following

*'My parents live in South Africa, they come sometimes after two years in December for holidays but they don't stay for more than two weeks. Since I was ten, I was being left in the care of my sister who is four years older than me. Obviously, she can't control me, when I was fifteen got arrested for attempted murder, when I got out of prison never stopped engaging into fights and I returned to prison with murder....'*

The findings proved that, the impact of family breakdown on juvenile recidivism is significant. Juveniles from broken homes are becoming involved in crime due to lack of parental supervision and guidance. Family conflict and violence are also leading to increased stress and anxiety for juveniles, which contribute to involvement in crime.

The study's findings revealed a significant relationship between family breakdown and juvenile recidivism in Chipinge. Notably, most of juveniles in correctional facilities come from single-parent households or households with absent parents, highlighting the prevalence of family breakdown among recidivists. Furthermore, the lack of parental involvement and supervision, family conflict and violence, and lack of support and guidance from family members are all significant contributing factors to juvenile recidivism. These findings suggest that family breakdown can lead to increased stress, anxiety, and lack of guidance for juveniles, ultimately

increasing their likelihood of re-offending. Juveniles need guidance so they may lead a positive life, from the findings, the family is responsible for how their children turn out to be. They just did not fail once but twice and some thrice. From the findings the researcher noted that, children from intact and strict families may lead a positive life.

UNICEF (2022), further validates that, there is a strong correction between family instability and youth recidivism. The literature is in support of the findings that, juveniles from broken homes often lack parental guidance, increasing vulnerability to criminal networks and high chances of reoffending after reintegration. Many researchers have found that in a community that is deteriorating, the crime rate would be higher than a community that is being well maintained or newly rebuilt (Simms, 2016). In the same sense, a home that is deteriorating, is more likely to produce criminals than a well maintained home. It is very rare for juveniles to make right choices without guidance from parents or guardians, this creates more room for juvenile recidivism.

#### **4.3.2.3 Substance abuse and peer pressure**

Substance abuse and peer pressure are significant challenges facing many juveniles in Chipinge, and they have been linked to various negative outcomes, including juvenile recidivism in Chipinge. According to the findings juveniles in correctional facilities in Chipinge reported using substances such as cannabis, glue, marijuana and other illicit drugs. Many of these juveniles reported that substance abuse contributed to their involvement in crime. Also the findings brought to surface how substance abuse and peer pressure are connected in influencing juvenile recidivism. Many of these juveniles reported that their peers encouraged them to engage in delinquent behaviour, including substance abuse and crime. Substance abuse can lead to impaired judgment, increased aggression, and decreased inhibitions, making it more likely for juveniles to engage in delinquent behaviour.

Participant 4 mentioned the following

*'I had friends who introduced me to smoking marijuana, and once I am under the influence of the drug nothing becomes impossible. We would steal, starting up fights until one day I was arrested and sentenced to nine months imprisonment at Chipinge Prison. After I was released I re-joined the same gang but unfortunately again, I paved my way back to prison.'*

*Participant 5 had the following to share*

*'I got hooked with a very bad company, these boys would influence me to try many things, and I even sniffed somethings that I don't even know. We would also use pampers and bulbs to drug ourselves. I was arrested and sentenced thrice and at all counts it was due to marijuana. I would look for money to buy it whenever I run out of it.'*

*Informant 1 also had the following view*

*'Some juvenile come to jail as zombies, they would not even be able to recognize themselves. But since prison is an isolated environment without a lot of things like drugs, they will slowly come to their consciousness as the drug fades in their system. This has proved me that mostly, these children commits crimes under the influence of drugs that they use.'*

The findings managed to bring to surface the nexus between substance abuse, peer pressure and juvenile recidivism in Chipinge District. The participants managed to point out how they are drawn to drugs by their peers. It is when they are under the influence of drugs, that they became violent and also engage into crimes like stealing. They can also steal in order to raise money so that they can buy drugs since they are addictive. The informant made it clear how juveniles are arrested and sentenced to prison while they are half conscious due to drugs.

The current findings corroborate the DAT perspective that delinquency occurs because of the individual's contact with other criminal behaviour patterns (Akers & Sellers, 2004). The theory helped in explaining this phenomenon how juveniles who associates with a bad company are most likely to be influenced into crimes. In support of the findings, research suggests that substance abuse is a major predictor of recidivism among juveniles, the Journal of Behavioural Health Services & Research in 2022, highlights the importance of addressing substance abuse issues in juvenile justice systems. The more a juvenile uses drugs the less they listen to their parents.

#### **4.3.2.4 Shortage of resources**

According to the findings, economic hardships are a major driver of recidivism, with many young offenders struggling to find employment or access basic necessities. The study found that

economic resources are a central challenge for families supporting incarcerated relatives, making it difficult for them to provide visitation and emotional support. Also it becomes a major challenge to released juveniles, after reintegration, they lack the resources to put the skills they acquired in prison to action so that they can be self-reliant.

Informant 2 had this to say

*'Teaching juveniles skills becomes useless the moment they found no place in the community to implement them. They need resources to start their own businesses. '*

Participant 8 also stated

*'After being released, I could not secure a job because am an ex-convict, neither could I start a project myself I don't have any money or equipment's.'*

The findings indicated how shortage of resources are therefore, contributing to juvenile recidivism in Chipinge District. Juveniles are failing to implement their skills in the society because there are no jobs. Since they also doesn't have the resources to start their own projects, it becomes difficult to survive, hence they will find their way back to crime. Through the findings, the researcher learned that, if juveniles are kept busy, doing something productive with their lives, their chances of reoffending becomes very slim. If only they were provided capital after skills training, so that they can start a life it could go a long way in reducing recidivism among male children in Chipinge.

The literature is also of the same view that, without economic alternatives, re-offending becomes a rational choice (Mugwadi, 2021). South Africa's NICRO model includes job placement, psychosocial support, and parental training, this got useful in resolving the challenge of securing jobs. The idea being also of keeping them occupied and busy so that they won't find time to commit crimes.

#### **4.3.3 Potential solutions according to the findings**

According to the findings, the District requires a powerful approach that addresses the root causes of juvenile recidivism. An approach that gives juveniles a chance to prove their worth to the community and curb stereotypes.

#### 4.3.3.1 Economic Empowerment Programs

The findings indicated that a lot has been done in empowering juvenile offenders as a way of reducing recidivism including trainings. Participants brought it to surface that what affected them the most are resources to begin their own businesses or projects. The findings showed that of there is capital after reintegration, juveniles are able to start their own projects and kept themselves busy, hence reducing chances of recidivism.

Participant 8 said the following

*'If only I had access to resources, or money to buy my own equipment's, I would have done so and started my welding business.....'*

Participant 5 had the following to say as well

*'Poverty is the main driver that's pushing us to crime, but if we had any other way of meeting our needs. Personally I would never steal to feed.....'*

Informant 1 had the following perspective

*'If only our economy permitted, juveniles needed resources so that they can have a start. This support will help them and their families as well, reduce crime rates in the community as well as reducing juvenile recidivism.'*

The responses proved how getting economic empowerment is crucial to achieving reduction of juvenile recidivism. The research found out that most juveniles are failing to reintegrate successfully due to hunger and poverty and most of them think if they can get financial support to start their own businesses they will not be involved in crimes again.

It is a very crucial point, to those who are failing to refrain from committing crimes due to poverty. If strategies are implemented to fight poverty, these children will no longer find a reason to reoffend. Microfinance options and business training can also support entrepreneurship and economic growth, empowering juveniles to become self-sufficient and productive members of society.

Previous researchers also shared the same view that, establishing alternative education pathways, such as bridging courses and technical training, can help break the poverty-crime cycle (Kazembe

& Mupfumira, 2020). This is true but the view is halfway, since there is no provision of resources so that they can be self-reliant and break poverty-crime cycle, thus reducing juvenile recidivism. Plan (2022), further strengthens that, offering mentorship and skills development for vulnerable boys is very crucial in reducing risk behaviours amongst them. The view is very vital in social development of young boys, but obviously these boys have no resources to begin their own businesses. In this case the problem still exists and juvenile recidivism will be difficult to fight.

#### **4.3.3.2 Family Support Programs**

Findings presented that, family support programs can also help mitigate the effects of recidivism by providing financial and emotional support to families of incarcerated juveniles. Also participants noted that counselling and therapy services can address underlying issues, helping to heal and strengthen family relationships. By supporting families, the likelihood of recidivism can be reduced and promote positive outcomes for juveniles.

*Participant 1 said the following*

*'The only family I have left with are my siblings and my mother, and my mother had no problem with me engaging in crime because that's where the food we eat come from.'*

*Informant 2 also added*

*'Family support is very critical in a child's life, what we encourage as a family is what the child sees as good but what we punish them for they refrain from. Also those families that neglect a child because he is an ex-convict, that will not make it better but rather worsens it since the child will feel uncomfortable in his own home. This is how most of them end up regarding the prison as their home.'*

The idea that if families are supported so that they can also be there for the child involved in criminalist is very significant in reducing juvenile recidivism. Family support is very important in a child's life, according to the findings some children were engaging in crime because their family was supporting them. According to the research, if the same support is used in encouraging juveniles to be productive members of the society rather than criminals it will be very instrumental in reducing the chances of recidivism.

According to literature, Social disorganization theory explains how an individual's living, physical, or social environments are the main causation when determining how a person chooses to behave (Simms, 2016). If the environment becomes unwelcoming to crime, juveniles are less likely to engage in such. This brings to surface how a child's surrounding is to blame for his actions. What the environment supports becomes right to him.

#### **4.3.3.3 Education and Mentorship**

The findings also presented improvement of access to education and mentorship programs as another essential solution. According to the findings these programs can focus on life skills development, academic support, and career guidance, helping juveniles to develop positive life skills and make informed decisions about their future. Also awareness campaigns against stereotypes leading juvenile to recidivist in communities is also one of the major contribution made by respondents towards reducing juvenile recidivism. Others also noted partnering with local schools and organizations to provide educational support and resources, ensuring that juveniles have access to the tools they need to succeed.

Participant 3 added the following

*'I had no one to pay for my fees, and this caused me to stop attending school while I was in grade five. In prison I managed to proceed from 5 to 7. Maybe if I got arrested again this time will proceed to secondary.....'*

Informant 1 also had the following view

*'I came to realize that most juveniles who come here are school dropouts. Most of them cannot even write their names or build sentences. This proved to me that there is a connection between school dropping and committing crimes amongst juveniles. Also after they are educated here in prison or trained different skills to be useful in the community, the same community is neglecting them, they are not positively supporting them so that they can reintegrate successfully and deliver what they have in store to the society. Community stereotypes are greatly affecting efforts being made by the prison rehabilitation system in trying to reduce recidivism.'*

According to the findings there is a nexus between dropping out of school and committing crimes. The more school dropouts we have in a community the more crime rate is going to rise. Respondents noted that they are being given a chance to go to school in prison which poses as a threat to efforts in reducing recidivism. Also the community was noted for its pivotal role in driving juveniles back to prison through their stereotypes.

Awareness campaigns in communities are very important in fighting set stereotypes about ex-convicts. In Chipinge rural communities only a few believe that ex-convicts can change for the better, they only associates prison with bad news. They also believe that if one have been in prison he or she will return back to prison one way or the other. Education is greatly needed in these communities so that an accommodative environment is created for reintegrating children. In this way juvenile recidivism will therefore, be reduced. Kimbrell (2020), further supports that, awariness campaigns are a necessity in most rural communities against stereotypes and biases. From this idea one gets to understand the position in which Chipinge rural communities are in if stereotypes are put to consideration. More will be presented in the next chapter through a model.

#### **4.4 Chapter summary**

The chapter presented, interpreted, analysed and discussed the study's findings. The section firstly presented the findings through a demographic table which helped in giving places in which the research was conducted. The section also discussed key services available to male juveniles who are in conflict with the law, the socio-economic drivers of recidivism and also the noted recommendations.



## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

This chapter is going to give a summary of the research findings and also give conclusions to the study as well. The section will also note the study's implications to Social Work profession. Before giving areas for future study, the chapter will also present a model as a recommendation in addressing juvenile recidivism.

#### **5.2 Summary of findings**

Addressing recidivism amongst male juveniles requires a comprehensive approach that targets individual, family, social, institutional, and economic factors. The research managed to bring about different significant drivers and solutions that participants think they are applicable in their society. Through the help of key informants and significant participants the researcher managed to bring instrumental results that brought to light a lot of mysteries about juvenile recidivism.

#### **Key services available to male juveniles who are in conflict with the law**

The study findings revealed all the key services that juvenile's offenders have access to in Chipinge. According to the research, counselling and therapy services are vital services that juvenile offenders have access to. The findings indicated that in Chipinge District these services are scarce due to resources and not all juvenile offenders got the chance to have a session during their sentence. Key informants reported that there is shortage of skilled personal at the station, also due to resources, out of prison juveniles could not conduct counselling sessions due to resources as well. There is also education and vocational trainings services at Chipinge Prison. The findings indicated that juveniles are trained different skills such as building, weaving, welding, poultry, piggery, gardening only to mention a few. With all these skills, findings indicated that juveniles are failing to secure jobs in their communities regardless of how skilled they are. The results also suggested prison housing as one of the primary key services offered to juveniles in conflict with the law at Chipinge Prison. According to the findings, juveniles are a vulnerable population in a prison setting where they are exposed to a lot of abuses and exploitation. The findings indicated how crucial it is to accommodate juveniles separately from adult inmates. From the findings

juveniles' conduct and association with adult inmates increases the chances of reoffending to the juveniles since he will be coping criminal traits.

### **Socio-economic drivers of recidivism amongst juveniles**

According to the research, juvenile recidivism is a complex issue that is influenced by different factors. The findings indicated that poverty is the major contributor to juvenile delinquency and recidivism in Chipinge. Participants brought to surface that, it is due to hunger that's leading them to reoffending. Also other factors have been noted as Drivers such as family breakdown, the findings showed that the absence of parents affects a child's behaviour. This includes all family breakdown including divorce and abusive marriages where domestic violence is the order of the day. The study also noted substance abuse and peer pressure as contributors to juvenile recidivism. The findings indicated how one social circle influences his behaviour. Lastly the findings considered lack of resources as one of the drivers of recidivism amongst juveniles. The findings presented the idea that after all the rehabilitation efforts, juveniles still lack the resources to practice their skills so that they can be financially independent. **Potential solutions according to the findings**

The findings indicated solutions that participants think could be vital in solving the challenges that are pushing them to prison. According to participants economic empowerment programs are essential in reducing juvenile recidivism in Chipinge. Having noted poverty as the major contributor of this problem, economic empowerment is the best way of reducing recidivism. Also the findings showed that, those who lack resources during reintegration to start their own projects, economic empowerment programs is what they really need to get on their feet. Findings also supported that family support is crucial in preventing delinquency and reducing recidivism amongst juveniles. According to the findings, it is through family support that other juveniles turned into habitual offenders, and through the same system, juveniles are able to change for the better. The findings also presented education and mentorship of juveniles and the community as well. The idea is all about juvenile vocational trainings, awareness campaigns against stereotypes leading juveniles to reoffend will also be implemented.

### **5.3 Conclusions**

A multi-sectoral approach is essential in addressing recidivism amongst male juveniles in Chipinge District. Effective interventions should target individual, family and economic factors in all operations and programs. Early intervention is also crucial, as early identification and intervention can help mitigate risk factors and prevent recidivism. The study concludes that, strengthening family relationships and providing support can play a critical role in reducing recidivism amongst juveniles, while community-based initiatives can provide opportunities for socialization, education, and employment, helping juveniles reintegrate into society. The study sighted the importance of resources in implanting rehabilitation programs, making sure that after release these children will be able to stand on their own doing their own businesses.

### **5.4 Implications for social work**

The study's findings have significant implications for social work practice, policy, and research. Social workers can develop effective interventions and advocate for policies that support the rehabilitation and reintegration of male juveniles by understanding these suggestions.

Social workers should conduct comprehensive assessments that consider individual, family, social, institutional, and economic factors contributing to recidivism. This approach enables them to identify specific needs and risk factors, such as substance abuse, mental health issues, or lack of education and employment opportunities. Interventions should be tailored to address these needs, and family-cantered practice should be prioritized to strengthen family relationships and provide support to families of juveniles.

Also research is needed to better understand the complex drivers of recidivism and identify effective interventions. Social workers should evaluate the effectiveness of programs and interventions to inform practice and policy. Additionally, research should focus on developing culturally responsive practice and interventions that address the unique needs of diverse populations. By prioritizing research and evaluation, social workers can develop more effective interventions and advocate for policies that support the rehabilitation and reintegration of male juveniles.

## **5.5 Recommendations**

In response to the challenge presented in the above chapters, the researcher considered all the findings and came up with a model that addresses the complex issue of juvenile recidivism in Chipinge District.

### **RISE Model**

RISE is an abbreviation standing for Rehabilitate, Integrate, Support and Empower. The model presents a process from rehabilitation in prison to empowerment post-release. It is a transformative model that seeks to reduce juvenile recidivism in the targeted area, Chipinge district.

#### **5.5.1 Rehabilitate**

Firstly, the rehabilitate stage, the model is putting more emphasis on the rehabilitation of juvenile offenders while they are still in prison. This stage targets juvenile justice institutions and remand centres. The model suggest that there should be more therapeutic intervention units inside correctional facilities so that juveniles can have more access to counselling sessions. The sessions should also focus on trauma-informed counselling, anger management and addiction services. The program should be run by trained psychologists, social workers and peer mentors who knows what to say and how to say it considering all the risks while conducting a therapeutic session with a juvenile. Many juveniles in Zimbabwean institutions suffer from unaddressed trauma and mental health issues (Chikunda & Mutswanga, 2018). This stage will help unleash juvenile's anger and trauma that they have kept for a long time. There is also education and training programs where juveniles are taught different skills as per their own interest.

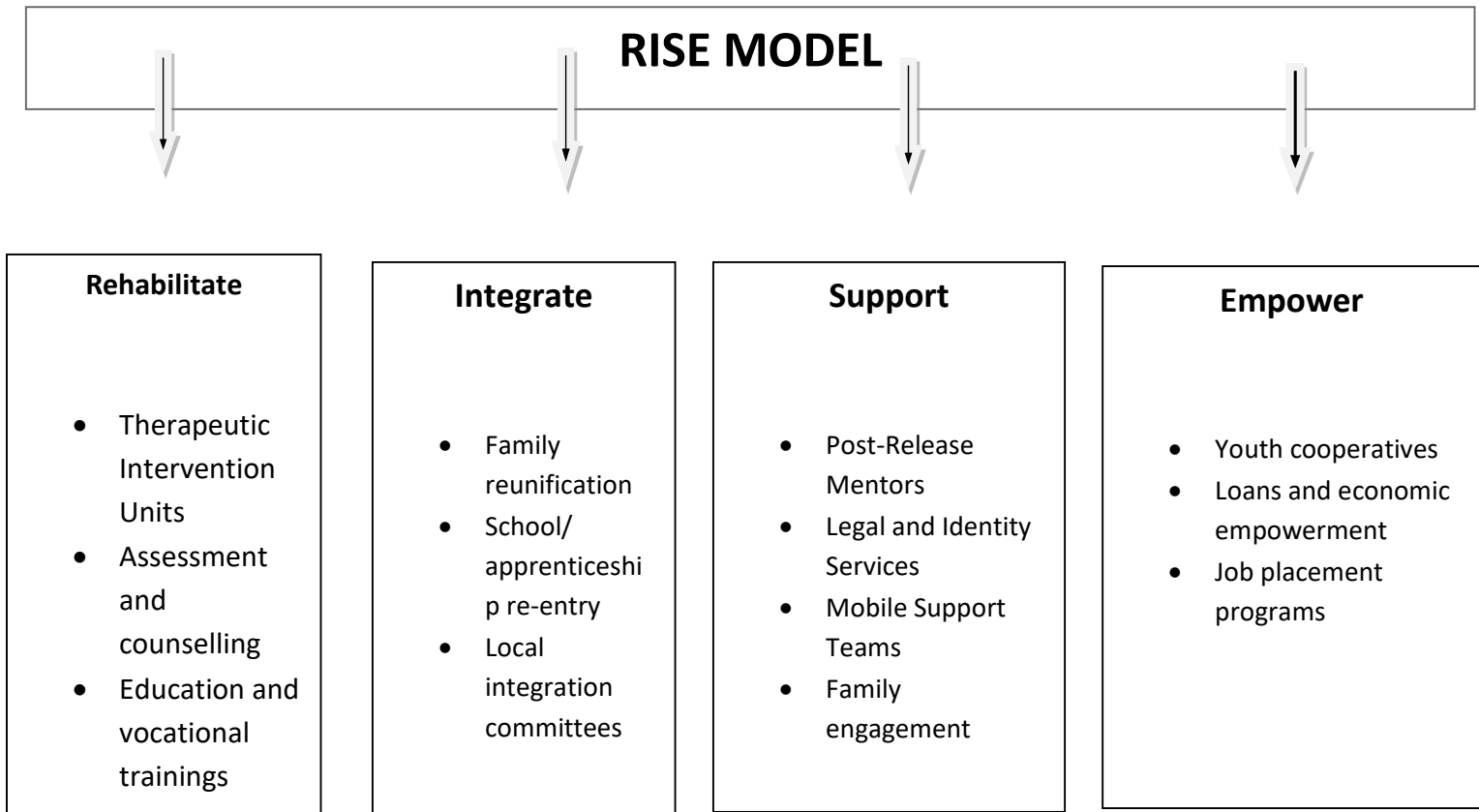


Fig.1

### **5.5.2 Integrate**

On the integration stage, the model targets community and family, the whole reintegration process making sure that juveniles have been accepted back and a sense of belonging is built. The model is also concerned about building ties through home visits and parent coaching. The model also puts its focus on school re-entry for dropouts so that they get another chance. In this way, juveniles will be linked with schools and vocational trainings who are willing to accommodate them. The model also presents that there should be a local integration committees who will be responsible for the post-release of juveniles, help them reintegrate so that they won't recidivist. These committees will compromise of social workers, traditional leaders, former offenders and teachers. In this way stigmatization will successfully be reduced. According to Zhou (2017), reintegration failures are a key driver of reoffending; stigma and exclusion reduce chances of successful return.

### **5.5.3 Support**

Support also is a very essential solution to juvenile recidivism, on this model it is referred to as the long-term aftercare that is offered to juvenile ex-convicts. This stage makes use of post-release mentors who will mentor these juveniles in the community as their role model. Also juveniles would be assisted to get birth certificates, national IDs so that a sense of belonging is strengthened. Also on this stage, a group of mobile support team (MSTs), will be responsible for rotating between villages and this group compromise of probation officers, and psychologists educating communities at least twice a year advocating for ex-convicted juveniles .

### **5.5.4 Empower**

The model also presents empowerment as its last component. It emphasized socio-economic independence among ex-convicted juveniles through offering loans and other forms of lifting their businesses. Also on empowerment, there is job placement for juveniles, thus making sure that they find a source of income, therefore reducing the chances of reoffending.

RISE model can be introduced and implemented in Chipinge District with the help of local churches like church of Christ, schools, traditional leaders, NGOs like Plan Zimbabwe and government departments like social welfare and correctional services. The program could take three years to carry out where the first year will be on capacity building, training, and stakeholder

mobilization while on second, implementation for 30 juveniles post-release and the third year compromise of evaluation, refinement and policy advocacy. This will be a very instrumental initiative in ending juvenile recidivism in Chipinge.

### **5.6 Area for future study**

After considering the study's findings, several areas can be identified for future study. One could look at longitudinal studies, examining the long-term outcomes of juveniles who participate in rehabilitation programs or interventions. In this case investigating the trajectories of risk factors, such as substance abuse or mental health issues, and their impact on recidivism.

Researchers could also look at cultural responsive practices, looking at cultural differences in recidivism rates and the impact of culturally responsive practice on outcomes. This also includes developing and evaluating interventions that address the unique needs of diverse populations.

### **5.7 Chapter summary**

The section managed give a summary of the study's findings summarizing each and every theme presented in the previous chapter. The section also concluded the study and provided implications for social work profession. Also a model was presented as a recommendation to address juvenile recidivism in Chipinge District. At last, the section looked at areas for future study.

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## **APPROVAL LETTER**

## **APPENDICES**

### **PARTICIPANT CONSENT FORM**

My name is Bhekany Maposa a part 4 social work student at Bindura University of Science Education. I am researching on the drivers of recidivism amongst juvenile offenders in Chipinge. The study aims to develop a model on how to address the major contributing factors in the District that are driving ex-convicted juveniles back to detention centers. Your participation in this study will help inform policies and interventions to reduce juvenile crime. Your participation is voluntary, and you can withdraw at any time without penalty or consequence.

Procedure: You will be asked to participate in an interview that will take approximately thirty minutes.

Confidentiality and Anonymity: Your participation will be kept confidential, and your identifying information will be protected.

Consent Statement: I have read and understood the consent form and agree to participate in the study.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **APPENDICES**

### **Appendix 1: In- depth interview guide with ex-convicts juveniles.**

#### **SECTION A:**

Can you start by telling me a bit about yourself (age), and your experiences with the juvenile justice system?

#### **SECTION B:**

Can you describe your family background and upbringing? (e.g., family structure, parental involvement, socioeconomic status)

Did you experience any significant life events or challenges during your childhood or adolescence? (e.g., trauma, abuse, neglect)

##### **Onset of Criminal Behavior**

Can you tell me about your first experiences with crime or delinquency? What led you to engage in these behaviors?

How did you perceive the consequences of your actions at the time? Did you think about the potential impact on yourself or others?

Were there any specific peers, family members, or individuals who influenced your decision to engage in criminal behavior?

##### **Drivers of Habitual Criminalism**

What do you think drove you to continue engaging in criminal behavior, despite the risks and consequences?

How did you perceive the benefits or rewards of criminal behavior compared to the risks or consequences?

#### **SECTION C:**

Can you describe your social environment and peer relationships during the time you were engaging in criminal behavior?

How did your community or neighborhood influence your behavior? Were there any specific factors that contributed to your involvement in crime?

Did you have access to any positive role models, mentors, or support systems that could have helped you avoid or desist from crime?

#### Personal Characteristics and Attitudes

How would you describe your personality and attitude towards authority figures, rules, and laws during the time you were engaging in criminal behavior?

How did you perceive yourself and your place in society during this time?

#### **SECTION D:**

What factors contributed to your decision to stop engaging in criminal behavior or seek rehabilitation?

Can you describe any specific programs, services, or interventions that helped you desist from crime or rehabilitate?

How do you think the juvenile justice system could be improved to better support young people in desisting from crime and rehabilitating?

Looking back, what do you think are the most important lessons you've learned from your experiences?

How do you think your experiences could inform strategies for preventing or reducing juvenile delinquency?

Is there anything else you'd like to share about your experiences or perspectives on the drivers of habitual criminalism amongst juveniles?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

## KEY INFORMANTS CONSENT FORM

Dear participant

My name is Bhekany Maposa a part 4 social work student at Bindura University of Science Education. I am researching on the drivers of recidivism amongst juvenile offenders in Chipinge. The study aims to develop a model on how to address the major contributing factors in the District that are driving ex-convicted juveniles back to detention centers. Your participation in this study will help inform policies and interventions to reduce juvenile crime. Your participation is voluntary, and you can withdraw at any time without penalty or consequence.

Procedure: You will be asked to participate in an interview that will take approximately thirty minutes.

Confidentiality and Anonymity: Your participation will be kept confidential, and your identifying information will be protected.

Consent Statement: I have read and understood the consent form and agree to participate in the study.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## **Appendix 2: In- depth interview guide with key informants**

### **SECTION A**

Can you start by telling me about your role and experience working with juveniles involved in the justice system?

What do you think is the purpose of this interview, and how do you think your insights can contribute to understanding the drivers of recidivism amongst juveniles?

### **SECTION B: EXPLORING SOCIAL FACTORS**

Based on your experience, what do you think are the primary drivers of recidivism amongst juveniles?

How do you perceive the role of family, peers, and community in shaping juvenile behavior?

Are there any specific risk factors or indicators that you believe contribute to juvenile delinquency?

### **SECTION C: EXPLORING THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM AND ITS IMPACTS**

How would you describe the current juvenile justice system's response to habitual criminalism amongst juveniles?

What strengths and weaknesses do you see in the system's approach to addressing juvenile delinquency?

Are there any specific programs, services, or interventions that you believe are effective in preventing or reducing juvenile delinquency?

### **SECTION D: STRATEGIES TO REDUCE JUVENILE RECIDIVISM**

What strategies do you think would be most effective in preventing or reducing recidivism amongst juveniles?

How important do you think it is to address underlying issues such as trauma, mental health, or substance abuse in juvenile offenders?

Are there any specific policies or practices that you believe could be implemented to improve outcomes for juveniles involved in the justice system?

#### Collaboration and Coordination

How do you think different stakeholders (law enforcement, social services, education) can work together to address juvenile delinquency?

What role do you see for community-based organizations or non-profits in preventing or reducing juvenile delinquency?

Are there any specific challenges or barriers that you believe hinder collaboration and coordination amongst stakeholders?

#### Reflections

Looking back, what do you think are the most important lessons that can be learned from working with juveniles involved in the justice system?

How do you think your insights can inform strategies for preventing or reducing recidivism amongst juveniles?

Is there anything else you'd like to share about your experiences or perspectives?

