

**BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION**

**FACULTY OF COMMERCE**



**DEPARTMENT OF INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY STUDIES**

**EXPLORING THE DRIVERS OF TEENAGE DELINQUENCY: A CASE STUDY OF**

**MBARE**

**BY**

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**B202420B**

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE  
REQUIREMENTS OF BACHELOR OF COMMERCE (HONOURS) DEGREE IN  
FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE AT BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE  
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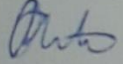
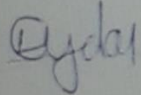
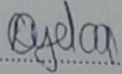
**JUNE 2024**

### APPROVAL FORM

The undersigned confirms that they read and recommend to **Bindura University of Science Education** for acceptance, a dissertation entitled; **exploring the drivers of teenage delinquency: a case study of mbare**, submitted by Tinotenda Dekesa (**B202420B**) in partial fulfillment for the requirements of the Bachelor of Commerce Honors Degree in Financial Intelligence.

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<p>SUPERVISOR</p> <p></p>	<p>DATE</p> <p><u>25/09/2024</u></p>
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## **DEDICATION**

This research project is dedicated to my parents, my sisters (Marthel Dekesa and Mufaro Dekesa and Takapiwa Dekesa). I thank you all for the intellectual support that you gave me. I will forever be grateful for that

## **ABSTRACT**

This study focused on teenage delinquency in Mbare, Zimbabwe, with the aim of identifying the factors that contributed to delinquent behaviour and providing recommendations for intervention. The research explored the unique socio-economic challenges faced by teenagers in Mbare and examined their implications for delinquency. A mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative and qualitative methods, was employed to gather data from community members, teenagers, and professionals in the field. The findings highlighted the significant contributions of family dynamics, socio-economic challenges, peer influence, substance abuse, and community disorganization to teenage delinquency in Mbare. Within the family environment, major causes such as inadequate parental supervision, absent or neglectful parents, and criminal behaviour among family members were identified. Socio-economic factors, including poverty, unemployment, and limited access to education, were found to contribute to frustration and desperation, increasing the likelihood of involvement in criminal activities. Peer influence played a crucial role, as delinquent peers influenced teenagers to adopt deviant behaviours. Substance abuse, particularly drugs and alcohol, impaired judgment and decision-making, thereby increasing the likelihood of engaging in delinquent acts. Disorganized communities with weakened social bonds and limited collective efficacy made teenagers more vulnerable to negative peer influences. The study underscored the negative impacts of teenage delinquency on individuals and the community, including mental and physical health consequences, disruptions in education, and legal consequences. Emphasizing the importance of comprehensive interventions, the study recommended strengthening family support systems, enhancing socio-economic opportunities, promoting positive peer influences, implementing substance abuse prevention and treatment programs, and improving community organization and cohesion.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

All praises belong to the Almighty **God** who is the Supreme Authority Knowing the ultimate relations underlying all sorts of phenomenon going on in this universe and whose blessings and exaltations flourished my thoughts. The compilation of this project has been made possible through the unwavering support and patience extended by my supervisor. My appreciation greatly extends to my fellow students, who always lifted me up. Finally I would like to thank my family members for their social, love, encouragement and moral support.

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.0 Background of the study

Teenage delinquency is a global problem that has gained increasing attention due to its harmful effects on individuals, families, and society. Delinquent behaviour among teenagers covers a wide range of activities that go against social norms and legal boundaries, such as theft, drug abuse, vandalism, and violent crimes. The consequences of teenage delinquency go beyond immediate victims and impact communities and society as a whole through higher crime rates, strained social services, and reduced overall well-being.

In the specific context of Mbare, located in Harare, Zimbabwe, there has been a troubling increase in teenage delinquency. Mbare faces unique socio-economic challenges that contribute to the prevalence of delinquent behaviour among its young population. Factors like high levels of poverty, limited educational opportunities, unemployment, and inadequate access to basic services create an environment that fosters delinquent activities (Mutandwa & Chikwature, 2019). These challenges make teenagers more vulnerable, pushing them towards engaging in criminal behaviour as a means of survival, rebellion, or fulfilling material needs.

The types of delinquent behaviour observed in Mbare include theft, which includes both petty theft and organized theft rings, drug abuse, and gang violence. Substance abuse, particularly involving drugs like marijuana, cocaine, and methamphetamine, has become widespread among teenagers in Mbare, often leading to risky behaviours and criminal involvement (Dube & Madzingira, 2017). Gang violence, driven by territorial disputes, social exclusion, and peer pressure, further contributes to the increasing rates of teenage delinquency in the area.

For the purpose of creating efficient interventions and preventive measures, it is essential to comprehend the fundamental reasons of youth delinquency in Mbare. It is possible to put into practice strategies that support positive youth development, fortify social support networks, and offer chances for school, employment, and community involvement by recognizing and addressing these reasons. In order to identify the underlying reasons of this problem and develop focused

treatments to lessen its effects, this study intends to investigate the different elements that contribute to adolescent delinquency in Mbare.

### **1.1 Problem statement**

This study addresses the concerning and increasing issue of teenage delinquency in Mbare, a suburb in Harare, Zimbabwe. Despite the ongoing efforts of the government and various stakeholders to combat this problem, teenage delinquency remains persistent and worrisome within the community. The consequences of this ongoing delinquency have far-reaching impacts on the affected individuals and the broader community.

It is important to emphasise that teenage delinquency can have serious consequences for the individuals involved. Engaging in criminal activities at a young age can result in various negative outcomes, including legal consequences, disruptions to education, compromised mental and physical health, and limited future opportunities (Broidy et al., 2003). Furthermore, delinquent behaviour can perpetuate a cycle of criminality, increasing the likelihood of continued involvement in illegal activities in adulthood.

Beyond the individual level, teenage delinquency presents significant challenges for the wider community. It contributes to a sense of insecurity and fear, diminishing the quality of life for residents and negatively affecting community unity. Additionally, the financial burden associated with addressing the consequences of teenage delinquency, such as increased policing, healthcare costs, and property damage, strains community resources (Welsh & Farrington, 2015).

Despite the efforts made thus far, it is crucial to understand the underlying factors that contribute to the persistence of teenage delinquency in Mbare in order to develop effective interventions. By identifying the specific drivers and risk factors associated with delinquent behaviour among teenagers, it becomes possible to implement targeted prevention and intervention strategies. This study aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the drivers of teenage delinquency in Mbare, with the ultimate goal of informing evidence-based policies and interventions to address this pressing issue.

## **1.2 Purpose of study**

The purpose of this study is to explore the drivers of teenage delinquency in Mbare and provide recommendations for addressing this problem. It is hoped that the findings of this study will inform policy and practice in the area of youth development and crime prevention.

## **1.3 Objectives**

The main objective of this study is to explore the drivers of teenage delinquency in Mbare. Specifically, the study aims to:

- Identify the main factors contributing to teenage delinquency in Mbare;
- Analyze the impacts of teenage delinquency;
- Provide recommendations for addressing the problem of teenage delinquency in Mbare.

## **1.4 Research questions**

To achieve the objectives of this study, the following research questions will guide the research:

- What are the main factors contributing to teenage delinquency in Mbare?
- What are the impacts of teenage delinquency?
- What recommendations can be made to address the problem of teenage delinquency in Mbare?

## **1.5 Significance of the study**

This study is significant in several way:

Firstly, it will contribute to an understanding of the drivers of teenage delinquency in Mbare, which will inform the development of effective interventions to address this problem. Secondly, it will provide a basis for further research on the topic. Finally, it will raise awareness of the problem of teenage delinquency in Mbare and the need for action to address it.

## **To the student**

After conducting this research, the researcher will have a comprehensive understanding of teenage delinquency and its concepts. The researcher will gain knowledge on factors contributing to

teenage delinquency in Mbare. Additionally, the researcher will gain insight into the impact of teenage delinquency on society.

### **To Bindura University of Science Education**

The study aims to provide lecturers with a deeper understanding of teenage delinquency, its impacts and solutions to address it. Additionally, the research findings will be beneficial to Bindura University students, as they will receive guidance on how to conduct their own research, based on the well-structured and well-written methodology presented in this study.

### **1.6 Assumptions of the Study**

- The data collected is trustworthy
- All participants will fully cooperate
- The participants will respond to the questionnaires sent
- Secondary data for the study is easily accessible

### **1.7 Delimitations of the study**

This study focuses specifically on teenage delinquency in Mbare, Zimbabwe. It does not address the broader issue of youth crime in Zimbabwe or other countries. Additionally, the study will only consider the perspectives of key stakeholders, such as law enforcement officers, community leaders, and young people themselves.

### **1.8 Limitations of the Study**

The study may be limited by a number of factors, including the availability of data, the willingness of key stakeholders to participate in the research, and the researcher's own biases and limitations. Additionally, the research project is being conducted simultaneously with other courses, which creates a time constraint.

### **1.9 Definition of terms**

- Teenage delinquency: refers to criminal or antisocial behavior exhibited by young people between the ages of 13 and 19.
- Mbare: a suburb in Harare, Zimbabwe.

- Drivers: the underlying factors or causes of teenage delinquency.

### **1.10 Summary**

In this chapter, an introduction to the study has been presented, which includes a discussion of the background, research problem, objectives, research questions, significance, purpose, delimitations, limitations, and definition of terms. The upcoming chapter will examine the current literature on teenage delinquency and the factors that contribute to it, establishing a theoretical framework for the study.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.0 Introduction**

This chapter aims to provide an in-depth review of existing literature on the drivers of teenage delinquency, specifically focusing on the case study of Mbare in Harare, Zimbabwe. The literature review will be guided by the objectives of this study, which include identifying the main factors contributing to teenage delinquency in Mbare, analyzing the impacts of teenage delinquency, and providing recommendations for addressing the problem of teenage delinquency in Mbare.

#### **2.1 Conceptual framework**

A theoretical framework refers to the application of models. According to Saunders (2003), a conceptual or theoretical framework is utilized in research to outline potential courses of action and present a preferred approach to an idea or concept.

##### **2.1.1 Definition and Understanding of Teenage Delinquency**

Before exploring the factors that contribute to teenage delinquency, it is essential to establish a comprehensive understanding of what teenage delinquency encompasses. Teenage delinquency refers to the involvement of adolescents, typically ranging from 12 to 18 years old, in activities that are deemed illegal, deviant, or detrimental to themselves or others (Cox et al., 2019). Such behaviors may include theft, drug abuse, and participation in gangs, acts of vandalism, or acts of violence.

##### **2.1.2 Factors Contributing to Teenage Delinquency**

Several factors contribute to teenage delinquency in Mbare, Zimbabwe. These factors interact and create an environment that increases the likelihood of young individuals engaging in delinquent behavior. It is important to understand these factors to develop effective interventions and preventive measures. The following factors have been identified as significant contributors to teenage delinquency in Mbare:

##### **Socioeconomic Disadvantage**



High levels of poverty, limited access to quality education, and a lack of employment opportunities create a challenging socioeconomic environment for teenagers in Mbare. Economic hardships can lead to frustration, desperation, and a higher likelihood of involvement in criminal activities as a means of survival or seeking material gains (Mutandwa & Chikwature, 2019). Addressing the underlying socioeconomic disparities is crucial in mitigating teenage delinquency.

### **Breakdown of Family Structures**

Disrupted family dynamics, including single-parent households, absent or neglectful parents, and inadequate parental supervision, contribute to teenage delinquency (Mutandwa & Chikwature, 2019). The weakening of family structures and a lack of positive role models can leave teenagers vulnerable to negative influences and increase their susceptibility to engaging in delinquent behavior.

### **Peer Influence**

Peer relationships play a significant role in shaping teenage behavior. The influence of delinquent peers can lead to the adoption of deviant behaviors and involvement in criminal activities (Dodge et al., 2008). Peer pressure, desire for acceptance, and the need to belong can override individual values and contribute to delinquency.

### **Substance Abuse**

Substance abuse, particularly drug and alcohol misuse, is strongly associated with teenage delinquency. Teenagers may turn to substance abuse as a coping mechanism or to enhance feelings of excitement and rebellion (Dube & Madzingira, 2017). Substance abuse impairs judgment, increases aggression, and diminishes self-control, making individuals more prone to engaging in delinquent acts.

### **Community Disorganization**

Rapid urbanization, migration, and the breakdown of traditional social structures can lead to community disorganization, which in turn contributes to teenage delinquency. Disorganized communities often lack cohesive social networks, supportive institutions, and effective crime prevention strategies, making it easier for delinquent behaviors to flourish (Shaw & McKay, 1942).

These factors interact and reinforce each other, creating a complex web of influences that contribute to teenage delinquency in Mbare. Understanding the interplay between these factors is crucial for developing comprehensive interventions that address the underlying causes of delinquency and promote positive youth development.

### **2.1.3 The impacts of Teenage Delinquency**

The impacts of teenage delinquency extend beyond the individuals involved and have significant consequences for both the affected young people and the broader community. Here are some key impacts of teenage delinquency:

#### **Legal Consequences**

Teenage delinquency can lead to legal issues and involvement in the criminal justice system. Engaging in delinquent behavior may result in arrests, convictions, and the creation of a criminal record, which can have long-lasting negative effects on future educational and employment opportunities (Farrington, 2003).

#### **Educational Disruptions**

Teenagers involved in delinquency often experience disruptions in their education. School suspensions, expulsions, or dropping out due to delinquent behavior can hinder academic progress and limit future prospects (Battin-Pearson et al., 2000). The lack of educational attainment can perpetuate a cycle of disadvantage and increase the risk of continued delinquent behavior.

#### **Mental and Physical Health Consequences**

Teenage delinquency is associated with a range of negative mental and physical health outcomes. Delinquent individuals are more likely to experience mental health issues such as depression, anxiety, and substance abuse (Andershed et al., 2007). Additionally, delinquent behaviors often involve risk-taking and exposure to violence, increasing the likelihood of physical injuries and health problems.

#### **Increased Risk of Continued Criminality:**

Teenage delinquency can set the stage for a lifelong involvement in criminal activities. Engaging in delinquent behavior during adolescence has been linked to an increased risk of persistent

criminality in adulthood (Moffitt et al., 2002). Breaking this cycle of criminality requires effective interventions and support during the teenage years.

### **Community Impact**

Teenage delinquency has a negative impact on the community as a whole. It creates a sense of insecurity, fear, and mistrust among residents, diminishing the quality of life (Welsh & Farrington, 2015). Additionally, communities bear the financial burden associated with the consequences of delinquency, including increased policing costs, healthcare expenses, and property damage.

Understanding the impacts of teenage delinquency highlights the urgency of addressing this issue and implementing preventive measures and interventions to support at-risk youth. By providing appropriate support, guidance, and opportunities for positive development, the negative impacts of teenage delinquency can be mitigated.

#### **2.1.4 Recommendations for Addressing Teenage Delinquency in Mbare.**

In order to address the problem of teenage delinquency in Mbare, it is essential to adopt a comprehensive approach that focuses on prevention, intervention, and rehabilitation. This can include the implementation of evidence-based programs and policies that target individual, family, and community factors associated with delinquent behavior.

Preventive measures can involve early intervention programs that promote positive youth development, such as mentoring programs, after-school activities, and community engagement initiatives. These can provide teenagers with constructive outlets for their energy and help develop important life skills, such as problem-solving and conflict resolution.

Interventions should also target at-risk individuals and families, providing them with support services and resources to address the underlying issues contributing to delinquent behavior. This can include counseling, vocational training, educational support, and assistance in accessing employment opportunities.

Additionally, community-wide efforts should focus on creating safe and supportive environments for adolescents through initiatives such as improving neighborhood infrastructure, increasing community policing, and fostering strong social networks. Collaboration between law enforcement

agencies, schools, healthcare providers, and social service organizations is crucial for the success of these efforts.

It is also important to note that cultural sensitivity and context-specific approaches are indispensable when addressing teenage delinquency in Mbare. Understanding the socio-cultural norms and values of the community can help ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of interventions (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2009).

To inform these preventive and intervention strategies, further research is needed to explore the specific drivers of teenage delinquency in Mbare. Conducting qualitative and quantitative studies that involve collecting data from both individuals engaging in delinquent behaviors and community members can provide valuable insights into the underlying causes and potential solutions.

In conclusion, teenage delinquency in Mbare is a pressing concern with wide-ranging implications. By understanding the complex interplay of individual, familial, and societal factors that contribute to this issue, tailored preventive, intervention, and rehabilitation strategies can be developed to address it effectively. Collaboration between stakeholders, evidence-based practices, and localized interventions will be crucial in tackling teenage delinquency and promoting the well-being of young people in Mbare.

## **2.3 Theoretical framework**

Several theories effectively elucidate the factors that drive teenage delinquency and its consequences. The role of a theoretical framework is to identify the relevant variables and relationships pertaining to teenage delinquency. Summers (2008) suggests that theories serve three primary functions: explaining observed phenomena, predicting outcomes of relationships, and summarizing knowledge. The following theories offer valuable insights into teenage delinquency.

### **2.3.1 Social learning theory**

The social learning theory, developed by Albert Bandura, is a psychological theory that proposes that individuals learn behavior through observation, imitation, and reinforcement. According to this theory, people acquire new behaviors by observing others and the consequences of their actions, and then imitating those behaviors if they are reinforced or rewarded (Bandura, 1977).

In the context of teenage delinquency, the social learning theory suggests that young individuals may be influenced by observing and imitating the delinquent behaviors of their peers, family members, or role models within their community (Akers, 1998). For instance, if a teenager witnesses their older sibling or close friends engaging in criminal activities, and they observe that these behaviors are rewarded or result in positive outcomes such as respect or material gain, they may be more likely to imitate those behaviors (Bandura, 1977).

Social learning theory emphasizes the importance of modeling and observational learning in shaping behavior. It suggests that individuals learn not only through direct personal experiences but also through vicarious learning, where they observe and internalize the actions and consequences experienced by others (Bandura, 1986).

The theory also highlights the role of reinforcement in the learning process. If a teenager observes that a delinquent behavior leads to positive outcomes or rewards, such as gaining popularity among peers or obtaining material possessions, they may be more likely to engage in similar behaviors (Akers, 1998).

It's important to note that social learning theory does not imply that individuals will automatically imitate all observed behaviors. Factors such as the perceived legitimacy of the behavior, the individual's own values and beliefs, and the availability of alternative models and opportunities for prosocial behavior play a role in the decision-making process (Bandura, 1986).

### **2.3.2 Strain theory**

Strain theory, initially formulated by sociologist Robert Merton in 1938, it provides a framework for understanding why individuals may engage in delinquent behavior. It suggests that when there is a disconnect between socially accepted goals and the means available to achieve them, individuals may experience strain or stress, which can lead to deviant or criminal behavior as a coping mechanism.

In the case of Mbare, a neighborhood or community, teenagers may face a range of strains that contribute to their susceptibility to delinquent behavior. One significant strain is poverty. Poverty is a pervasive issue in many communities and can create a sense of hopelessness and frustration among individuals, including teenagers. Living in impoverished conditions often means limited access to basic necessities, such as food, healthcare, and housing, which can intensify feelings of

strain (Merton, 1938). It suggests that when there is a disconnect between socially accepted goals and the means available to achieve them, individuals may experience strain or stress, which can lead to deviant or criminal behavior as a coping mechanism.

Poverty as a significant strain contributing to delinquent behavior in communities like Mbare has been widely recognized (Agnew, 1992). Living in impoverished conditions often means limited access to basic necessities, intensifying feelings of strain among individuals, including teenagers.

Unemployment as a strain leading to delinquency has been discussed in the context of strain theory (Agnew, 1992). High levels of unemployment can result in financial instability and a lack of opportunities for personal and economic growth, potentially pushing individuals towards delinquent behavior.

The relationship between limited access to educational opportunities and delinquency has been explored in the strain theory literature (Agnew, 1992). Scarce or poor-quality educational opportunities can leave teenagers feeling frustrated and disadvantaged, further exacerbating the strain they experience and potentially leading to delinquency.

The impact of limited access to resources and support systems on delinquent behavior has been acknowledged within the context of strain theory (Agnew, 1992). Lack of access to community centers, recreational facilities, mentorship programs, or counseling services can contribute to the strain experienced by teenagers and increase the likelihood of engaging in delinquent behavior.

### **2.3.3 Social Control theory**

Social control theory, developed by Travis Hirschi, emphasizes the importance of social bonds and informal social controls in shaping individuals' behavior and reducing the likelihood of delinquency (Hirschi, 1969). According to this theory, strong social bonds act as protective factors that discourage individuals from engaging in deviant activities.

In the context of Mbare, broken family structures can weaken social bonds and contribute to increased delinquency among teenagers (Sampson & Laub, 1993). Instability within families, such as separation, divorce, or the absence of one or both parents, disrupts the formation of strong attachments between parents and children. The lack of emotional support, guidance, and supervision from parents or caregivers can result in weakened social bonds, leaving teenagers more susceptible to delinquent behavior.

Weak community cohesion is another factor that undermines social bonds in Mbare (Shaw & McKay, 1942). When there is a lack of social integration, limited opportunities for collective activities, and a weakened sense of shared values and norms, social bonds may be less prevalent. Without a strong sense of community and positive interactions with peers and neighbors, teenagers may be more likely to seek validation and belonging through delinquent peer groups or engage in activities that deviate from societal norms.

Inadequate parental supervision and control also play a critical role in increasing the risk of delinquency among teenagers (Hirschi, 1969). Effective parental discipline, including consistent monitoring, setting clear boundaries, and enforcing consequences for deviant behavior, is essential for preventing delinquent acts. However, in Mbare, factors such as parental stress, economic hardships, and limited resources may hinder parents' ability to provide adequate supervision and control over their children's activities, leaving them more vulnerable to engaging in delinquent behavior.

## **2.4 Empirical evidence**

**Jennings, W. G., Piquero, A. R., Gover, A. R., & Perez, D. M. (2015). The effects of adolescent delinquency on young adult physical health. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 44(12), 2287-2302.**

Jennings et al. (2015) conducted a study with the aim of exploring how adolescent delinquency impacts the physical health of young adults. They examined the association between involvement in delinquent behaviours during adolescence and physical health outcomes in early adulthood.

The study revealed that individuals who participated in delinquent behaviours during their teenage years were more prone to experiencing poorer physical health outcomes in young adulthood. These outcomes included higher rates of chronic diseases, lower levels of physical fitness, and an increased presence of risk factors for poor health, such as smoking and substance abuse.

The researchers also identified that various factors, such as socioeconomic status, race/ethnicity, and access to healthcare, influenced the effects of adolescent delinquency on physical health. They emphasized the significance of addressing delinquent behaviours during adolescence to prevent negative physical health outcomes later in life.

In summary, the findings of this study indicate a substantial relationship between adolescent delinquency and physical health in young adulthood. This underscores the importance of early intervention and preventive measures to promote positive health outcomes among individuals at risk.

**The drivers of juvenile delinquency in Zimbabwe: A case study of Bulawayo, by Masuku, S. K., & Maphosa, C. (2019)**

The article by Masuku and Maphosa (2019) investigated the drivers of juvenile delinquency in Zimbabwe, with a specific focus on the case of Bulawayo. The study used a case study research design, which involved in-depth analysis of a single case or a small number of cases in order to gain a deep understanding of the research topic.

The authors identified a range of factors that contributed to juvenile delinquency in Bulawayo, including poverty, family problems, lack of parental guidance, peer influence, and unemployment. They argued that these factors interacted with each other and with broader societal issues, such as political instability and economic decline, to create a "vicious cycle" of crime and disorder.

The study also highlighted the importance of addressing the root causes of juvenile delinquency in order to effectively reduce crime rates. The authors suggested that interventions should focus on improving access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities for young people, as well as strengthening families and communities.

**Factors contributing to the rise of juvenile delinquency in Zimbabwe: A case study of Chitungwiza, by Machingura, F., & Chikwanha, A. B. (2014).**

The article by Machingura and Chikwanha (2014) explored the factors that contributed to the rise of juvenile delinquency in Zimbabwe, with a specific focus on the case study of Chitungwiza. The authors argued that a range of social, economic, and cultural factors drove the increase in juvenile delinquency in Zimbabwe, including poverty, unemployment, family breakdown, and peer influence.

The study used a mixed-methods approach, combining both quantitative and qualitative data to examine the issue. The authors conducted a survey of 200 young people in Chitungwiza to gather information about their attitudes towards crime and their experiences with delinquency. They also



conducted in-depth interviews with key informants, including police officers, teachers, and community leaders, to gain a deeper understanding of the root causes of juvenile delinquency in the area.

The authors identified a number of key factors that contributed to the rise of juvenile delinquency in Chitungwiza. These included poverty, unemployment, and a lack of educational and employment opportunities for young people. They also highlighted the role of peer pressure and the breakdown of traditional family values as contributors to the problem.

The study emphasized the importance of addressing these underlying factors in order to effectively reduce juvenile delinquency in Zimbabwe. The authors suggested that interventions should focus on providing young people with access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities, as well as strengthening families and communities.

### **Legal consequences of teenage delinquency by Johnson, C. M. (2018)**

Johnson (2018) conducted a longitudinal study to examine the legal ramifications of teenage delinquency. The primary objective was to investigate how delinquent behaviors during adolescence could influence legal outcomes and consequences over time.

The study's findings demonstrated a significant correlation between teenage delinquency and legal consequences. It revealed that adolescents who engaged in delinquent behaviors were more prone to encountering legal issues and facing consequences, such as arrests, charges, and involvement with the criminal justice system.

The longitudinal design of the study enabled the researcher to track the legal outcomes of teenage delinquency over an extended period, providing valuable insights into the long-term effects of delinquent behaviors on individuals' legal trajectories. These findings emphasized the importance of addressing delinquency during adolescence to prevent or mitigate future legal consequences.

Additionally, the study underscored the necessity for comprehensive interventions that target both the individual and the broader social context to effectively address teenage delinquency. By offering support, resources, and suitable interventions to at-risk adolescents, researchers and

practitioners can help prevent further engagement in delinquent behaviors and decrease the likelihood of negative legal outcomes.

**An assessment of factors contributing to juvenile delinquency in Zimbabwe: A case study of Hopley Farm, by Chatora, M. R. (2012).**

In the article titled "An assessment of factors contributing to juvenile delinquency in Zimbabwe: A case study of Hopley Farm" published in the European Scientific Journal in 2012, the author, Chatora, examined the various factors that contributed to juvenile delinquency in Zimbabwe, with a specific focus on the Hopley Farm settlement.

Chatora argued that poverty was a major factor in juvenile delinquency in Zimbabwe. The majority of the youth in Hopley Farm lived in poverty, with limited access to education, healthcare, and other basic necessities. This poverty created a sense of hopelessness and desperation among the youth, leading them to engage in criminal activities as a means of survival.

Chatora also highlighted the role of unemployment in juvenile delinquency. The high rate of unemployment in Zimbabwe made it difficult for young people to find jobs, leading them to resort to crime to make a living.

Furthermore, Chatora noted that the lack of parental guidance and supervision was another factor contributing to juvenile delinquency in Hopley Farm. Many of the youth in the settlement had absent or neglectful parents, leaving them to fend for themselves and making them more susceptible to criminal influences.

Finally, Chatora suggested that the lack of access to social services and community programs was also a contributing factor to juvenile delinquency in Zimbabwe. These programs could provide young people with positive alternatives to crime, such as education and vocational training, but they were often lacking in Hopley Farm and other similar settlements.

In conclusion, Chatora's article highlighted the importance of addressing the underlying social and economic factors that contributed to juvenile delinquency in Zimbabwe.

**Juvenile delinquency in Zimbabwe: A case study of Harare, by Musadzi, C., & Shumba, A. (2017)**

Musadzi and Shumba (2017) examined the prevalence and causes of juvenile delinquency in the city of Harare, Zimbabwe. The authors conducted a survey of 150 juvenile offenders, as well as interviewed law enforcement officials and community leaders.

The study found that poverty, unemployment, and a lack of parental supervision were the primary factors that contributed to juvenile delinquency in Harare. Many of the respondents reported that they had turned to crime as a means of survival, as they lacked access to education, healthcare, and other basic necessities.

The authors also noted that the justice system in Zimbabwe was not adequately equipped to handle juvenile offenders, with many being held in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions. This, combined with a lack of rehabilitation and reintegration programs, led to a high recidivism rate among juvenile offenders.

Overall, the study highlighted the need for a comprehensive approach to address juvenile delinquency in Zimbabwe, including addressing the root causes of poverty and unemployment, improving access to education and healthcare, and implementing effective rehabilitation and reintegration programs for juvenile offenders.

**Dube, M. C., & Madzingira, N. (2017). Substance abuse among school-going youths in Zimbabwe: Implications for policy and practice. *Journal of Substance Use*, 22(3), 293–298.**

The study was conducted by Munyaradzi Chinyama Dube and Nkosinathi Madzingira. Its objective was to investigate the prevalence and patterns of substance abuse among school-going youths in Zimbabwe and explore the implications for policy and practice.

According to the authors, substance abuse poses a significant problem among young individuals in Zimbabwe, with potential negative consequences for individuals, families, and society as a whole. The study revealed that alcohol was the most commonly misused substance among school-going youths, followed by cigarettes and illicit drugs. This highlights the necessity of addressing the availability and accessibility of these substances to young individuals.

The study identified several contributing factors to substance abuse among school-going youths. Notably, peer pressure was recognized as a significant influence, as young people may resort to substance abuse in order to fit in or gain acceptance from their peers. Family issues, such as

dysfunctional family dynamics, lack of parental supervision, or substance abuse within the family, were also identified as contributing factors. Furthermore, stress and socioeconomic factors, including poverty and limited opportunities, were linked to an increased risk of substance abuse.

To tackle substance abuse among school-going youths, the authors emphasized the importance of a comprehensive approach. They suggested implementing prevention programs to raise awareness about the risks and consequences of substance abuse, as well as developing skills to resist peer pressure. Early intervention strategies were also recommended to identify and support young individuals who may be at risk or already engaging in substance abuse. Additionally, accessible treatment services for those struggling with substance abuse were deemed necessary.

In terms of policy and practice, the authors called for the development of policies that promote education, awareness, and support for young people dealing with substance abuse. This includes the implementation of school-based prevention programs, training teachers and counselors to identify and address substance abuse issues, and collaboration with relevant stakeholders to establish comprehensive support networks.

Farrington and Welsh (2007) conducted a study aimed at identifying early risk factors associated with criminal behaviour in children and assessing effective interventions to prevent them from engaging in a life of crime. The researchers conducted a thorough review of existing research on risk factors and interventions related to juvenile delinquency and criminal behaviour.

**Farrington, D. P., & Welsh, B. C. (2007). *Saving children from a life of crime: Early risk factors and effective interventions*. Oxford University Press.**

The study's findings indicated that several early risk factors are linked to an increased likelihood of children participating in criminal behaviour later in life. These risk factors encompass individual aspects like temperament, cognitive abilities, and impulsivity, as well as family factors such as parental criminal behaviour, family conflict, and low socio-economic status. Additionally, peer influences, school performance, and neighbourhood characteristics were identified as significant risk factors for delinquency.

Regarding interventions, the study revealed that early prevention and intervention programs that target these risk factors can effectively reduce the likelihood of children becoming involved in criminal behaviour. These interventions may involve parental training programs, academic support

and mentoring initiatives, cognitive-behavioural therapies, and community-based programs that address risk factors at both individual and environmental levels.

The researchers emphasized the importance of early identification and tailored interventions to prevent at-risk children from developing into chronic offenders. By addressing the underlying risk factors and providing appropriate support and resources, it is possible to prevent children from embarking on a life of crime and promote positive outcomes.

In summary, this study underscores the significance of early intervention and targeted prevention strategies in diverting children from a life of crime. It emphasizes the need to address risk factors and offer effective support to at-risk youth, highlighting the potential to positively impact their lives and prevent future criminal behaviour.

**Smith, C. A. (2015). Delinquency and antisocial behaviour: A review of family processes and intervention research. Social Issues and Policy Review, 9(1), 32-73.**

Smith (2015) conducted a study on delinquency and antisocial behaviour, focusing on family processes and intervention research. Key findings include the significant role of family dynamics in delinquency development, with factors like parenting styles and communication patterns impacting behaviour. Risk factors like inconsistent discipline were linked to delinquency, while protective factors such as parental warmth were found to reduce it. Effective family-based interventions were identified in reducing delinquent behaviour, emphasizing the importance of early intervention and parent training programs. The study's implications stress the importance of promoting positive family dynamics to prevent and address delinquency in youth as it leads to strained relationships and isolation.

## **2.5 Gap analysis**

While there have been studies conducted on the drivers and impacts of teenage delinquency in various contexts, there is a research gap specifically concerning the case of Mbare, Zimbabwe. Limited research exists that specifically explores the factors contributing to teenage delinquency in Mbare and provides comprehensive insights into its impacts and effective recommendations for addressing the problem.

The existing literature on teenage delinquency predominantly focuses on general factors and trends, often overlooking the unique socio-economic and cultural dynamics of Mbare. As a result,

there is a lack of in-depth understanding of the specific drivers of teenage delinquency in Mbare and the distinct impacts it has on the community.

Furthermore, while some studies offer recommendations for addressing teenage delinquency, these recommendations tend to be generic and may not account for the specific challenges faced by the community of Mbare. Thus, there is a research gap in terms of context-specific recommendations that consider the socio-economic, cultural, and environmental factors unique to Mbare.

Therefore, this dissertation aims to bridge the research gap by conducting an in-depth exploration of the drivers of teenage delinquency in Mbare, analyzing its impacts, and providing tailored recommendations to address the problem. By filling this research gap, the study will contribute to the existing literature and provide valuable insights for policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders working towards effectively addressing teenage delinquency in Mbare.

## **2.6 Summary of the chapter**

This literature review has provided an overview of existing research on the drivers of teenage delinquency, with a specific focus on the case study of Mbare in Harare, Zimbabwe. The review has identified socioeconomic status, family environment, peer influence, and the school environment as key factors contributing to teenage delinquency. The next chapter will delve into the research methodology and design, which will allow for the collection and analysis of data to further explore these factors in the specific context of Mbare and provide recommendations for addressing the problem of teenage delinquency.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.0 Introduction**

This chapter provides an overview of the methodology employed to investigate the factors contributing to teenage delinquency in Mbare. It outlines the research design, participants, research instruments, and data collection procedures, summarizing the methodology used in the study. The methodology section is crucial for ensuring the validity and reliability of the findings and establishing a clear collection and analysis framework. The aim of this chapter is to present a concise and clear account of the research methodology and demonstrate the rigor with which the study was conducted.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

Research design, as defined by Creswell (2014), is a blueprint for conducting a study that maximizes the validity and reliability of the findings. It provides a plan for conducting research, outlining the framework or strategy for data collection, analysis, and reporting of findings (Singh, 2006). The primary purpose of research design is to enable the researcher to effectively address the research problem by providing a roadmap for finding answers to research questions.

For this study, a mixed-methods approach was chosen as the research design, combining both quantitative and qualitative methods. This approach allowed for a comprehensive exploration of the factors contributing to teenage delinquency in Mbare, providing a deeper understanding of the problem. The quantitative component involved surveys and statistical analysis, while the qualitative component included interviews and case studies.

##### **3.1.1 Descriptive Survey Research**

A survey was conducted to collect information from individuals. Descriptive research, as defined by Kumar (2011), portrays existing problems or situations. This study conducted a descriptive survey to obtain direct feedback on the drivers of teenage delinquency in Mbare. This research approach was used to organize and present data using visual aids such as graphs and pie charts.

### 3.2 Target Population

The population, according to Johnson and Christensen (2016), refers to the entire group of individuals or objects to which the researcher wants to generalize the findings of a study. Similarly, Singh (2006) defines population as a group of items that share similar characteristics. In this research, the population of interest consisted of community members of Mbare and teenagers living in Mbare.

### 3.3 Sampling Procedure

This section discusses the selection of a sample size of 70 respondents from the population for the study. The researcher chose purposive sampling, considering factors such as age, gender, and involvement in delinquent behavior. Convenience sampling was also used. Foley (2018) explains that purposive sampling is a non-probability sampling technique where researchers choose the members of the population to be included in the study based on their own judgment and criteria. Purposive sampling was used to select delinquent teenagers in this study, allowing the researcher to choose individuals with rich information about the topic. Community members of Mbare were selected using convenience sampling, which involves using readily available respondents for interviews.

### 3.4 Population Sample

Sampling is a crucial step in research, as the results obtained from a sample can be generalised to the entire population being studied, as stated by Singh (2006). In determining the sample size, the researcher aimed to balance cost-effectiveness while ensuring sufficient data collection without making the respondents feel uncomfortable or threatened. Therefore, a sample size of 43 respondents was chosen for data collection, as shown in Table 3.1

**Table 3.4. 1 Population and Sample Size**

Category of respondents	Population	SAMPLE SIZE
Community members of Mbare	20	10
Teenagers living in Mbare	20	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>30</b>

*Source: Primary Data*



### **3.5 Research instruments**

According to Neuman (2014), research instruments refer to tools or techniques used by researchers to collect, measure, or record data. In this study, questionnaires and interviews were employed as research instruments, and their descriptions are provided below.

#### **3.5.1 Questionnaires**

Questionnaires are defined by Johnson and Christensen (2016) as research instruments comprising a series of questions posed to individuals to gather data. Self-administered questionnaires were used in this study, consisting of both closed and open-ended questions to maximize the usefulness of the obtained data. The researcher personally administered the questionnaires to the targeted population in Mbare. Care was taken to craft clear and straightforward questions, ensuring that respondents could easily understand and answer them without ambiguity.

A meeting was scheduled with the respondents to collect the questionnaires, and out of the 22 questionnaires delivered, 20 were received. The purpose of the questionnaire was clearly stated as academic research, and the respondents were familiar with its format, facilitating analysis. Questionnaires were chosen due to their quick and convenient nature for gathering the required information, as well as their familiarity to most respondents.

#### **Advantages of using semi-structured questionnaires:**

- Standardization: Semi-structured questionnaires enable standardized data collection by ensuring that participants are asked the same core set of questions. This facilitates comparability and enhances the study's reliability.
- In-depth Responses: The open-ended nature of semi-structured questionnaires encourages participants to provide detailed and comprehensive responses, allowing researchers to gain deeper insights into their thoughts, experiences, and perspectives.
- Participant Engagement: By allowing participants to express their views and opinions, semi-structured questionnaires enhance participant engagement and provide a sense of involvement in the research process, leading to richer and more meaningful data.

#### **Disadvantages of semi-structured questionnaires:**

- Potential Bias: The interpretation and analysis of responses in semi-structured questionnaires rely heavily on the researcher's judgment and subjectivity, introducing the possibility of bias as different researchers may interpret and code the data differently.
- Lack of Standardization: While semi-structured questionnaires provide a framework, the flexibility in responses can result in variations in the depth and detail provided by participants, making it challenging to compare and generalize findings across respondents.
- Limited Quantification: Semi-structured questionnaires primarily generate qualitative data, which may limit the ability to quantify and statistically analyze the findings, posing challenges in drawing precise and generalizable conclusions.

**To overcome the disadvantages of semi-structured questionnaires, the researcher implemented the following strategies:**

- Mixed-Methods Approach: The researcher used a mixed-methods approach by combining qualitative data from semi-structured questionnaires with quantitative data from other sources, such as surveys or observations. Triangulating data from different methods provided a more comprehensive understanding of the research topic.
- Clear Guidelines: The researcher developed clear guidelines to ensure consistency and objectivity during the analysis process.
- Data Validation: Data validation was conducted by sharing the summarized findings with participants and seeking their feedback or verification. This enhanced the credibility and trustworthiness of the data and allowed participants to contribute to the interpretation of their own responses.

### **3.5.2 Interviews**

Interviews were conducted to reach individuals unwilling to respond to the questionnaire and to save their time. Only relevant and accurate questions were asked during the interviews, focusing on the research objectives. Leading questions were avoided to prevent bias, and all necessary information was carefully noted down.

Community members and teenagers living in Mbare were selected for interviews. The interviews were scheduled a week in advance and conducted at the respondents' residences to ensure privacy,

except when a respondent requested the presence of someone else during the interview. The interviews were expected to last around 10 minutes on average, although some took longer due to the respondents' comprehension and literacy levels. In total, 8 interviews were conducted, involving 6 teenagers and 2 community members aged between 21 and 30 years.

Moreover, interviews were used to obtain professional views on the topic and complement the information gathered through the questionnaire. They clarified issues that couldn't be adequately addressed in the questionnaires. Individual interviewing was employed to allow every respondent to express their thoughts without being influenced by group psychology.

#### **Advantages of using interviews:**

- Adaptability: Interviews offer the advantage of adapting the wording to suit each specific respondent. By conducting interviews, the researcher could observe non-verbal behavior, aiding in obtaining answers to important questions. The researcher maintained control over the interview environment, ensuring that all questions were answered and necessary data was collected. Immediate feedback and a higher response rate were achieved compared to questionnaires.

#### **Disadvantages of interviews:**

- Biased Information: In Mbare, some respondents provided biased information to please the researcher, resulting in irrelevant and unrealistic data. To address this, the researcher aimed to establish a rapport with the participants, explaining the purpose and significance of the research study and its underlying motives.

### **3.6 Procedures for Collecting Data**

In this study, the data was collected using a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods. Qualitative data was obtained through semi-structured interviews, focus group discussions, and participant observation. On the other hand, quantitative data was collected through a survey questionnaire. Before collecting the data, the interview guide and questionnaires were prepared. The respondents for the questionnaires were randomly selected, while the interviews followed a key informant approach. The questionnaires were distributed by the researcher, who also provided clear instructions on how to fill them out. During the interviews, the researcher asked questions and recorded the responses. Non-verbal cues like head nodding and moments of silence were also used to encourage participants to share additional information. After collecting the completed

questionnaires, the researcher expressed gratitude to the respondents for their contribution to the study.

### **3.7 Validity and Reliability of the Research Instruments**

Validity is defined as the extent to which a questionnaire or survey accurately measures what it intends to measure (Gliem & Gliem, 2013). To ensure validity, the researcher designed the questionnaire using simple and precise language, ensuring that the respondents understood each question clearly. This approach helped ensure that the research instruments effectively gathered information related to the research problem. The researcher also carefully examined the questionnaire responses for incompleteness, omissions, illegibility, and obvious inconsistencies to ensure the reliability of the obtained data. This approach allowed the researcher to draw appropriate conclusions and generalize the findings. Reliability refers to the ability of research instruments to generate consistent and accurate results. This study examined the questionnaires for validity by ensuring that each question addressed the research problem and objective. Additionally, a pilot study was conducted to ensure the reliability and validity of the research instruments.

### **3.8 Pilot Study**

To test the validity of the research project, a pilot study was conducted in the Mbare area. Short questions were asked to community members and policemen during the pilot study. This helped determine the validity and reliability of the research project. As a result, the researcher was able to experiment with different measures and select the ones that produced the clearest results for the main study. The pilot study also revealed the need to revise the questions for improved clarity and relevance.

### **3.9 Methods of Data Presentation and Analysis**

The data analysis process involved summarizing, comparing, synthesizing, and applying statistical tools to enhance the comprehensibility of the gathered data and interpret the results in relation to the research problem. Descriptive statistics were used to represent the data for ease of understanding, and tables were chosen to display survey responses due to their simplicity and transparency. The researcher employed both qualitative and quantitative analysis techniques. Qualitative analysis was used when data couldn't be expressed numerically, and it involved interpreting the data using statements. On the other hand, quantitative analysis utilized tables, bar

graphs, and pie charts to represent the numerical findings, with responses converted into percentages for ease of comprehension.

### **3.10 Ethical Considerations**

The study adhered to ethical principles such as obtaining informed consent, ensuring confidentiality, and promoting voluntary participation. Participants were informed about the study's purpose and their right to withdraw at any time. They were also assured that their responses would be kept confidential, and their identities would remain anonymous in the final report.

### **3.11 Summary**

This chapter has provided a detailed description of the methodology employed in investigating the factors contributing to teenage delinquency in Mbare. It included information on the research design, data collection methods, sampling techniques, and data analysis procedures used in the study. The next chapter will present the study's findings and discuss their implications.

## CHAPTER IV

### DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

#### 4.0 Introduction

The fourth chapter of the dissertation presents a thorough overview and analysis of the research findings. As mentioned in the third section of the dissertation, the required data for analysis was obtained through detailed interviews. This chapter critically assesses and interprets the gathered study findings by referencing pertinent literature previously explored in the field.

#### 4.1 Questionnaires response rate

**Table 4. 1 Questionnaires response table**

Category	Questionnaires issued	Questionnaires returned	Rate of response
Community members of Mbare	10	9	90%
Teenagers living in Mbare	12	11	92%
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>90%</b>

Source: Primary data 2024

Creswell (2014) suggests that researchers should strive for a response rate of at least 50% to ensure the data collected is unbiased. However, in this study, the response rate exceeded the 50% benchmark and aligned precisely with the research objectives, reaching a notable 90%. Out of the twenty-two questionnaires distributed to respondents, twenty were successfully returned and utilized for analysis by the researcher.

##### 4.1.1 Interview response rate

**Table 4. 2 Interview response rate**

Category	Interview expected	Actual Interview held	Rate of response
Community members of Mbare	2	2	100%
Teenagers living in Mbare	6	4	67%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>75%</b>

*Source: Primary data 2024*

The researcher successfully conducted six interviews with community members and teenagers residing in Mbare. Out of the selected teenagers, the researcher effectively completed four interviews with teenagers living in Mbare, and two community members were also chosen and their interviews were successful. The response rate reached 75%, which is considered an acceptable percentage.

#### **4.2: Demographic characteristics of respondents.**

**Table 4. 3 Demographic characteristics of respondent**

Factor	variable	frequency	percentage
<b>Gender</b>	Female	8	40%
	Male	12	60%
<b>Age</b>	15-18 years old	11	55%
	19-30 years old	3	15%
	31-40 years old	3	15%
	41- 50 years old	2	10%
	Above 50 years old	1	5%
<b>Level of education</b>	O' Level	4	20%
	A' Level	3	15%

	Diploma	6	30%
	Degree	2	10%
	Dropout	9	45%
<b>Occupation</b>	Unemployed	10	50%
	Self-employed	7	35%
	Formal employment	3	15%

Source: Primary data (2024)

Table 4.2 illustrates the division of respondents into two categories, female (40%) and male (60%), indicating that surveys were distributed based on gender awareness, and there was no evidence of any bias. The table includes all respondents who participated in the research study, along with their ages, level of education, and occupation.

The respondents' ages were grouped into five categories, as displayed in the table. The largest group consisted of 11 respondents (55%) aged 15-18 years old. There were 3 respondents (15%) in the 19-30 years old category. Both the 31-40 years old and 41-50 years old categories had 3 respondents each, accounting for 15% each. The category comprising respondents above 50 years old had 1 respondent, representing 5%.

The survey was conducted by different individuals, considering the respondents' level of education to assess their necessary knowledge for answering the survey. Among the 20 respondents, 45% were dropouts, 4 respondents (20%) had O' Level education, and 3 respondents (15%) had A' Level education. Both the Degree and Dropout categories had 2 respondents each, accounting for 10% each.

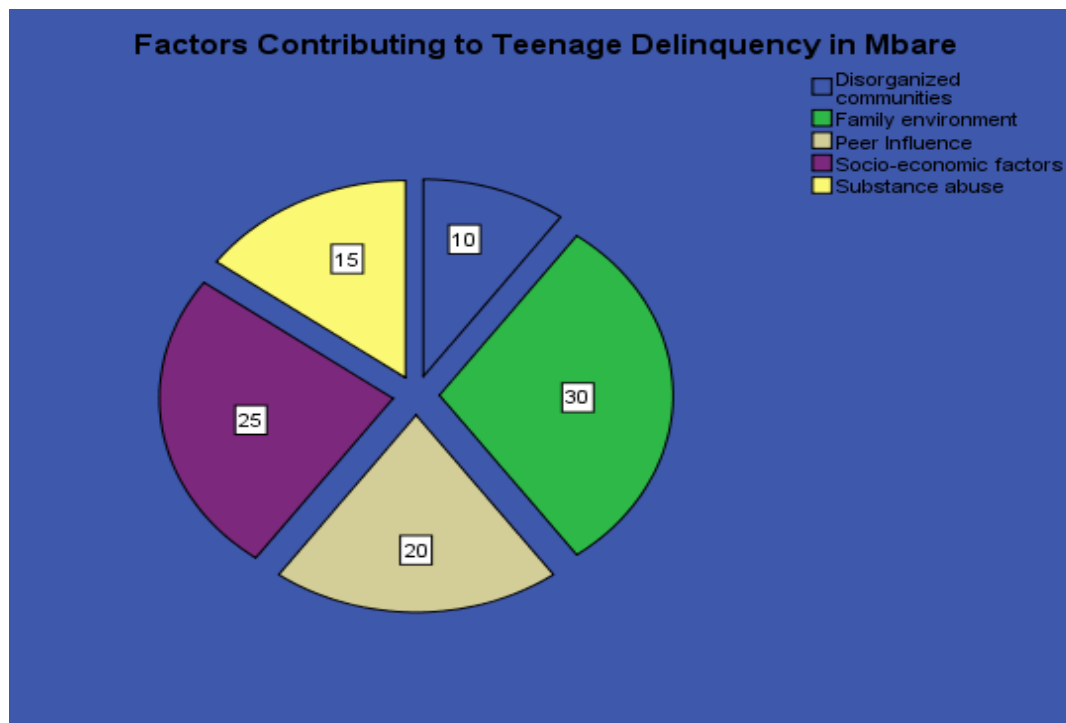


The survey also focused on the occupation of the respondents, resulting in three groups: Unemployed, Self-employed, and Formal employment. The highest number of respondents were unemployed, representing 50% of the total. Self-employed individuals accounted for 7 respondents (35%), while formal employment was reported by 3 respondents (15%).

## 4.3 Research Findings

### 4.3.1: Factors Contributing to Teenage Delinquency in Mbare

**Figure 4.1: Factors Contributing to Teenage Delinquency in Mbare**



**Figure 1**

*Source: Primary data*

Table 4.3 illustrates that a significant contributing factor to teenage delinquency in Mbare is the family environment. About 30% of the respondents identified family-related issues, such as inadequate parental supervision, absent or neglectful parents, and criminal behavior among family members, as major causes of teenage delinquency. Family dynamics and relationships play a

crucial role in shaping a teenager's behavior, and when these aspects lack positive role models, healthy communication, and appropriate discipline, teenagers may struggle to navigate challenges and make responsible choices. These findings align with the research conducted by Masuku and Maphosa (2019), who discovered that family problems and lack of parental guidance, when combined with broader societal issues like political instability and economic decline, create a "vicious cycle" of crime and disorder among teenagers.

Regarding socio-economic factors, 25% of the respondents indicated that they were the main causes of teenage delinquency. High poverty levels, limited employment opportunities, and inadequate access to quality education can contribute to delinquency. Economic hardships can lead to frustration, desperation, and an increased likelihood of involvement in criminal activities to survive or seek material gains. Similar findings were reported by Machingura and Chikwanha (2014) in their study on juvenile delinquency in Chitungwiza, which identified poverty, unemployment, and a lack of educational opportunities as key factors contributing to delinquency.

Peer influence was identified by 20% of the respondents as a factor causing delinquent behavior in teenagers. According to Dodge et al. (2008), the influence of delinquent peers can lead to the adoption of deviant behaviors and involvement in criminal activities. Peer pressure, the desire for acceptance, and the need to belong can override individual values and contribute to delinquency. The presence of delinquent peers in Mbare has resulted in many teenagers engaging in crimes and disrupting the community.

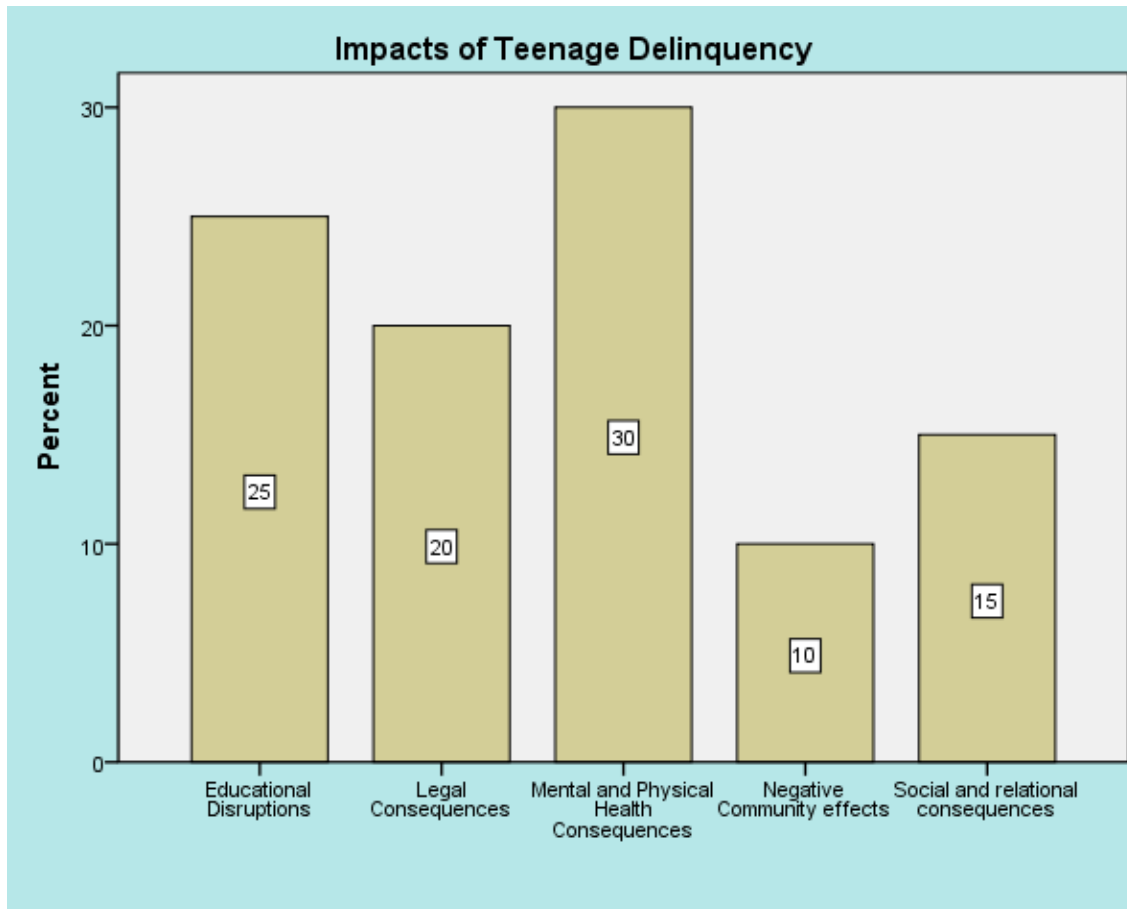
Substance abuse was suggested by 15% of the respondents as a contributing factor to teenage delinquency. Drugs and alcohol can impair a teenager's judgment and decision-making abilities, leading to poor choices and risky behaviors. Substances like marijuana and crystal meth, known as mutoriro in Mbare, can alter a teenager's perception of reality and contribute to aggressive behavior, increasing the likelihood of engaging in delinquent acts. These findings are supported by Dube and Madzingira (2017), who revealed that teenagers turn to substance abuse as a coping mechanism or to seek excitement and rebellion, which impairs their judgment and leads to delinquent acts. Their study also highlighted alcohol as the most commonly misused substance among school-going youths, followed by cigarettes and illicit drugs. They recommended implementing prevention programs to raise awareness about the risks and consequences of substance abuse and developing skills to resist peer pressure.

Regarding disorganized communities, 34.5% of the respondents suggested that such communities tend to have higher rates of crime and violence, including drug trafficking, gang activity, and interpersonal violence. Exposure to such environments increases the likelihood of teenagers engaging in delinquent behavior, as they may be influenced or pressured into joining gangs or participating in criminal activities. Disorganized communities often have weakened social bonds among community members, resulting in a lack of strong attachments to positive role models, such as parents, teachers, or community leaders, who can provide guidance, support, and supervision. Without these strong social bonds, teenagers become more susceptible to negative peer influences or seek validation and acceptance from deviant peer groups. Mbare, with its high crime rates and illegal black market dealings, can be considered a disorganized community in Zimbabwe.

These findings align with the social disorganization theory proposed by Shaw and McKay (1942), which argues that disorganized neighborhoods with weak social bonds and limited collective efficacy are more susceptible to crime and delinquency.

#### **4.5 The impacts of teenage delinquency**

##### **Figure. 4.2: the impacts of teenage delinquency**



**Figure 2**

The primary impact of teenage delinquency is the resulting consequences for mental and physical health, as indicated by the majority of individuals surveyed, as shown in the table above. Thirty percent of participants recognized mental and physical health consequences as a significant impact, citing issues such as depression, anxiety, and substance abuse among delinquent individuals. Furthermore, delinquent behaviors often involve risk-taking and exposure to violence, increasing the likelihood of physical injuries and health problems resulting from substance abuse. For instance, according to interview respondents, crystal meth negatively affects appetite, teeth, and lungs. These findings are supported by Jennings et al.'s study (2015), which found that individuals who engaged in delinquent behaviors during their teenage years were more likely to experience poorer physical health outcomes in young adulthood. This included higher rates of chronic diseases, lower levels of physical fitness, and a higher prevalence of risk factors for poor health,

such as smoking and substance abuse. Farrington & Welsh (2007) also argued that teenage delinquency leads to higher rates of substance abuse and addiction, hence resulting in mental health consequences.

During the interviews conducted, some respondents indicated that many teenagers in Mbare suffer from drug addiction, including marijuana and crystal meth, which has a negative impact on their health. Twenty-five percent of the participants stated that delinquency among teenagers often disrupts their education, leading to school suspensions, expulsions, or dropping out, which hinders academic progress and limits future prospects. This observation is evident in Mbare, where most teenagers are dropouts and prioritize delinquent behaviors and drug use over education. These findings align with Fergusson et al.'s study (2016), which argued that teen delinquency can disrupt the educational process not only for the delinquent individuals but also for other students. It can result in disciplinary actions, suspensions, or expulsions, creating disturbances and distractions in the learning environment.

Twenty percent of the respondents identified legal consequences as a major impact of teenage delinquency. Engaging in delinquent behavior may lead to arrests, convictions, and the creation of a criminal record, which can have long-lasting negative effects on future educational and employment opportunities. This observation is consistent with Johnson C. M.'s study (2018), which revealed a significant association between teenage delinquency and legal consequences. The study found that adolescents who engaged in delinquent behaviors were more likely to experience legal issues and consequences, such as arrests, charges, and involvement with the criminal justice system.

Fifteen percent of the respondents indicated that teenage delinquency leads to strained relationships. Delinquent behavior often results in strained relationships with family members, friends, and peers. These behaviors erode trust and create conflicts within these relationships, causing emotional distress and distance. Smith (2015) explains that teenage delinquency can have social and relational consequences, such as complicated family dynamics characterized by distance and lack of trust from friends and family.

As shown in Figure 4.2, 10% of the respondents suggested that teenage delinquency leads to negative community effects. Delinquent behaviors can contribute to an increase in crime rates and compromise community safety. This creates fear, disrupts social cohesion, and hinders the overall

development and well-being of the community. These findings are consistent with a study by Brown & Jackson (2020), which highlighted several key societal impacts of teenage delinquency. These included increased crime rates, strain on the criminal justice system, economic costs associated with delinquent behaviors, disruption of social order and community cohesion, and negative effects on public safety and well-being.

#### **4.6 Recommendations to Address the Problem of Teenage Delinquency in Mbare**

The final objective of this research was to provide appropriate recommendations to address the problem of teenage delinquency in Mbare.

Three-quarters of the respondents emphasized community engagement and empowerment as crucial factors. They suggested fostering community involvement of teenagers by establishing partnerships between community organizations, schools, law enforcement agencies, and local residents. They recommended encouraging community members to actively participate in prevention efforts and create a sense of ownership and responsibility for addressing delinquency. Additionally, they proposed implementing educational programs that raise awareness about the consequences of delinquency, promote positive values, and teach conflict resolution and problem-solving skills. These programs could be conducted in schools, community centers, and other relevant settings. These recommendations are supported by Tracy, Wolfgang, and Figlio (2016), who found that early identification and targeted interventions can help reduce the likelihood of persistent delinquent behavior. Effective interventions include family-based programs, educational support, mentoring, and community resources.

A quarter of the respondents suggested increasing job and economic opportunities in Zimbabwe. They recommended promoting job opportunities for teenagers and young adults through vocational training, apprenticeships, and entrepreneurship initiatives. Assisting them in acquiring skills and finding employment can reduce their vulnerability to delinquency.

A few respondents advocated for providing parenting programs and support services in Mbare. They believed that such programs would help parents develop effective parenting strategies and improve family dynamics. Parenting programs can teach parents positive discipline techniques, communication skills, and ways to strengthen the parent-child bond. These programs can be offered through community centers, schools, and health clinics.

Additionally, several respondents highlighted the importance of mental health support for teenagers in Mbare. They recommended establishing counseling services and mental health programs that are easily accessible and affordable for teenagers. Addressing underlying mental health issues can help prevent or reduce delinquent behaviors and promote overall well-being.

Lastly, a few respondents emphasized the need for comprehensive and coordinated efforts among various stakeholders, including government agencies, community organizations, schools, and law enforcement. They suggested the development of a collaborative framework to ensure that strategies and interventions are implemented effectively and that resources are allocated appropriately.

#### **4.7 Interview Findings**

The interviewees provided insights into various factors that contribute to teenage delinquency. These factors include poverty, limited access to education, and breakdown of family structures, environmental influences, peer pressure, lack of opportunities, substance abuse, inadequate mental health support, weak law enforcement, and the presence of gangs.

The respondents also highlighted the impacts of teenage delinquency. These include increased crime rates, heightened fear and insecurity, emotional and financial strain on families, negative community reputation, high school dropout rates, and limited opportunities for the future, perpetuation of the cycle of poverty, vandalism, lawlessness, psychological trauma, legal consequences, and overall harm to the social fabric.

To address the issue of teenage delinquency in Mbare, the interviewees provided several recommendations. They suggested implementing mentorship programs, vocational training initiatives, community policing efforts, neighborhood watch programs, counseling services, life skills training, support services, the creation of safe spaces for recreation and sports activities, awareness campaigns, educational and skills development programs, increased parental involvement, family support, and the establishment of a comprehensive referral system for mental health services.

#### **4.8 Summary**

In summary, this chapter presented the findings of the investigation. Data was collected through interviews and questionnaires, and the results were presented using bar graphs and tables. The chapter concluded with key findings, recommendations, and a summary of the research.



## **CHAPTER V**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.0 Introduction**

In the preceding section, we introduced the outcomes of the study. This section aims to provide a concise version of the findings in relation to the research goals, draw conclusions that encompass the entire project, propose recommendations based on the findings, and suggest potential avenues for future research. The recommendations are expected to aid in evaluating the current problem.

#### **5.1 Summary of the study**

The study's background highlighted the global issue of teenage delinquency, specifically focusing on Mbare in Harare, Zimbabwe, and the unique socio-economic challenges contributing to delinquent behavior. The problem statement emphasized the negative impacts of teenage delinquency on individuals and the community. The purpose was to explore the drivers of delinquency and provide recommendations for intervention. The research questions centered on contributing factors, impacts, and recommendations. The study's significance was to inform interventions and raise awareness. Assumptions were made regarding trustworthy data, while delimitations focused on the study's scope and limitations, such as data availability and time constraints. The chapter concluded by providing a preview of the next chapter on existing literature and theoretical frameworks.

The study aimed to identify factors contributing to delinquency, analyze its impacts, and provide recommendations for addressing the issue. Concepts such as the definition of teenage delinquency, contributing factors (socioeconomic disadvantage, family breakdown, peer influence, substance abuse, and community disorganization), and impacts (legal consequences, educational disruptions, mental and physical health consequences, and increased risk of continued criminality) were discussed. Recommendations for addressing teenage delinquency in Mbare included preventive, intervention, and rehabilitation strategies. The theoretical framework provided insights into social learning theory, strain theory, and social control theory as explanations for teenage delinquency,

emphasizing the importance of understanding social bonds, strains, and socialization in delinquent behavior.

The research methodology for investigating teenage delinquency in Mbare was outlined. The dissertation discussed the research design, target population, sampling procedure, research instruments used, and data collection procedures. A mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative and qualitative methods, was chosen to explore the factors contributing to teenage delinquency. Surveys were conducted to collect data from individuals, while interviews were used to reach respondents unwilling to respond to surveys. Purposive and convenience sampling were employed to select the sample population. Questionnaires were used to gather information from community members and teenagers in Mbare, while interviews were conducted to obtain professional views and clarify issues. The chapter highlighted the advantages and disadvantages of using semi-structured questionnaires and outlined strategies to overcome potential limitations. Overall, the methodology section aimed to ensure the validity and reliability of the study findings and provide a robust framework for data collection and analysis.

### **5.3 Summary of the findings**

The research focused on factors contributing to teenage delinquency. The findings indicate that the family environment plays a significant role in teenage delinquency. Major causes identified include inadequate parental supervision, absent or neglectful parents, and criminal behavior among family members. When families lack positive role models, healthy communication, and appropriate discipline, teenagers may struggle to develop the necessary skills to make responsible choices.

Socio-economic factors were also found to contribute to teenage delinquency. High levels of poverty, unemployment, and limited access to quality education can lead to frustration and desperation, increasing the likelihood of involvement in criminal activities as a means of survival or seeking material gains.

Peer influence was identified as another contributing factor to teenage delinquency. The influence of delinquent peers can lead teenagers to adopt deviant behaviors and engage in criminal activities. Peer pressure, the desire for acceptance, and the need to belong can override individual values and contribute to delinquency.

Substance abuse, particularly drugs and alcohol, was found to contribute to teenage delinquency. Impaired judgment and decision-making abilities resulting from substance abuse can lead to poor choices and risky behaviors. Certain substances, such as marijuana and crystal meth, can alter teenagers' perception of reality and increase the likelihood of engaging in delinquent acts.

The research suggests that disorganized communities have higher rates of crime and violence, which can influence teenagers to engage in delinquent behavior. Weakened social bonds, lack of positive role models, and limited collective efficacy in these communities make teenagers more susceptible to negative peer influences and seeking validation from deviant peer groups.

The findings align with previous research, which emphasizes the importance of addressing family dynamics, socio-economic challenges, peer influence, substance abuse, and disorganized communities in efforts to prevent teenage delinquency.

The main impact of teenage delinquency was observed in mental and physical health consequences. Delinquent individuals often experience mental health issues such as depression, anxiety, and substance abuse. Risk-taking and exposure to violence in delinquent behavior could lead to physical injuries and health problems. Delinquency could also disrupt education, leading to school suspensions, expulsions and academic underachievement, limiting future opportunities for the individuals involved. Legal consequences, including arrests, convictions, and incarceration, further compound the negative impacts and hinder the prospects of rehabilitation.

#### **5.4 Conclusion of the study**

Based on the findings, it can be concluded that teenage delinquency in Mbare, Zimbabwe, is influenced by a combination of factors including family dynamics, socio-economic challenges, peer influence, substance abuse, and community disorganization. These factors interact and contribute to delinquent behavior, leading to negative impacts on the individuals involved and the community as a whole.

The study highlights the importance of addressing teenage delinquency through comprehensive interventions that target the root causes. Effective strategies should focus on strengthening family structures, providing support and resources to socio-economically disadvantaged families, promoting positive peer influences, implementing substance abuse prevention and treatment programs, and improving community organization and cohesion.

## **5.5 Recommendations**

Based on the findings and conclusions, the following recommendations are proposed for addressing teenage delinquency in Mbare, Zimbabwe:

1. Strengthen family support systems: Implement programs that promote positive parenting skills, improve parental supervision, and provide resources for families in need. Parenting education and counseling services can help parents create nurturing environments and establish healthy relationships with their children.
2. Enhance socio-economic opportunities: Develop initiatives that address poverty, unemployment, and limited access to quality education. This can include vocational training programs, job placement services, and scholarships to improve economic prospects for teenagers and their families.
3. Promote positive peer influences: Establish mentoring programs, youth clubs, and recreational activities that encourage positive peer interactions and provide alternative avenues for socialization. Peer-led initiatives can promote pro-social behaviors and discourage delinquent activities.
4. Implement substance abuse prevention and treatment programs: Increase awareness about the risks of substance abuse and provide accessible and affordable treatment options for teenagers struggling with addiction. Collaborate with healthcare professionals, schools, and community organizations to develop comprehensive prevention and intervention strategies.
5. Improve community organization and cohesion: Foster community engagement and empowerment through initiatives such as neighborhood watch programs, community centers, and collaborative projects. Strengthening social bonds and collective efficacy can create a sense of safety, belonging, and responsibility within the community.

## **5.6 Future Research**

While this study provides valuable insights into teenage delinquency in Mbare, Zimbabwe, there are several avenues for future research that could further enhance understanding and inform interventions:

1. Longitudinal studies: Conduct longitudinal studies to examine the long-term effects of teenage delinquency on individuals and communities. Tracking individuals over time would provide insights into the factors that contribute to desistance or persistence in delinquent behavior.
2. Comparative studies: Compare teenage delinquency rates and contributing factors across different regions in Zimbabwe or other countries. This would help identify contextual variations and inform the development of tailored interventions.
3. Evaluation of intervention programs: Evaluate the effectiveness of existing intervention programs targeting teenage delinquency in Mbare or similar communities. Assess the outcomes of these programs in terms of reducing delinquency rates, improving socio-economic conditions, and enhancing the well-being of individuals and communities.
4. Exploring cultural factors: Investigate the influence of cultural factors on teenage delinquency in Mbare. Examine how cultural beliefs, norms, and practices shape delinquent behaviors and identify culturally appropriate strategies for prevention and intervention.
5. Technology and delinquency: Explore the role of technology, such as social media and online platforms, in teenage delinquency. Investigate how digital environments contribute to delinquent behaviors and develop strategies to mitigate the negative influences of technology.

By pursuing these research directions, policymakers, practitioners, and researchers can gain a deeper understanding of teenage delinquency and develop effective strategies to prevent delinquent behavior, support rehabilitation, and create safer and more prosperous communities.

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## **APPENDIX 1:**

### **LETTER OF INFORMED CONSENT**

Dear Respondent.

My name is **Tinotenda Dekesa B202420B** I am a Bindura University of Science Education student studying towards a degree in Financial Intelligence . I am doing a research study entitled ***“EXPLORING THE DRIVERS OF TEENAGE DELIQUENCY: A CASE STUDY OF MBARE”***. Prior approval to conduct this study with the school as a case in point has been attained from the administration.

The researcher consequently requests that you voluntarily participate in this study and be as honest as possible in answering the questions. If you wish not to participate, you should not respond to the questionnaire. The researcher wishes to assure you that your identity will not be revealed to any person(s) and your responses will be regarded as confidential. The information you provide will **not** be used outside its intended purpose.

In order to do justice to the said investigation, please complete the questionnaire to the best of your knowledge and ability. Please do not write your name on any part of the questionnaire. The questionnaire takes about ten minutes to complete.

### **Instructions**

For your answers, you are kindly asked to tick in the box resembling your response or simply fill in the spaces provided.

Disclaimer: I hereby consent to participate in this research, and I confirm that I have read the above information and agree with it.

Place: .....

Date: .....

Sign: .....

### **APPENDIX II:**

### **QUESTIONNAIRE**

**Please where applicable TICK or FILL in the blank spaces provided.**

### Section A: Demographic profile

1. Gender: Male [ ] Female [ ]

2. Age :

15-18 years old [ ]

19-30 years old [ ]

31-40 years old [ ]

41- 50 years old [ ]

Above 50 years old [ ]

3. Please indicate your highest level of education:

O' Level [ ]

A' Level [ ]

Diploma [ ]

Degree [ ]

Dropout [ ]

4. Occupation:

Unemployed [ ]

Self-employed [ ]

Formal employment [ ]

### SECTION B: Factors Contributing to Teenage Delinquency in Mbare

For question 5, use the following key: (1-strongly disagree, 2-disagree, 3-uncertain, 4-agree, 5-strongly agree)

5. Factors Contributing to Teenage Delinquency in Mbare:

	S	C	O	R	E
--	---	---	---	---	---

	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Socio-economic factors:</b> High levels of poverty, lack of employment opportunities, limited access to quality education.					
<b>Family environment:</b> Inadequate parental supervision, absent or neglectful parents and criminal behavior among family members					
<b>Substance abuse:</b> Substance abuse, including alcohol and drug use					
Peer Influence					
Disorganized communities					

Any other (specify).....

### SECTION C: Impacts of Teenage Delinquency

For question 6, use the following key: (1-strongly disagree, 2-disagree, 3-uncertain, 4-agree, 5-strongly agree)

6. Respondents' attitude on the impacts of teenage delinquency:

	S	C	O	R	E
	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Legal Consequences:</b> Convictions, and Creation of a criminal record					
<b>Educational Disruptions:</b> School suspensions, expulsions, or dropping out					

<b>Mental and Physical Health Consequences:</b> Depression, anxiety, and substance abuse					
<b>Social and relational consequences:</b> Lifelong involvement in criminal activities, social isolation, strained familial relationships, and a loss of trust from loved ones.					
<b>Negative Community effects:</b> Sense of insecurity, fear, and mistrust among residents					

Any other (specify).....

#### **SECTION D: Recommendations for Addressing Teenage Delinquency in Mbare**

**7.** Based on your knowledge and experience, what strategies or interventions do you think can effectively address the problem of teenage delinquency in Mbare?.....

.....

**8.** How can parental involvement be improved to mitigate teenage delinquency in Mbare?.....

.....

**9.** Are there any community-based programs or initiatives that you believe would be beneficial in preventing teenage delinquency in Mbare?-----

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Thank you very much for taking time to complete the questionnaire. Kindly cross check to see if you have responded to all questions.

## **APPENDIX II**

### **INTERVIEW GUIDE**

#### **1. Factors Contributing to Teenage Delinquency in Mbare:**

- a. Can you share your perspective on the main factors that contribute to teenage delinquency in Mbare?
- b. In your opinion, what social, economic, or environmental factors do you believe influence teenage delinquency in this community?
- c. Are there any specific challenges or circumstances that you think make teenagers more susceptible to engaging in delinquent behavior in Mbare?

#### **2. Impacts of Teenage Delinquency:**

- a. From your observations or experiences, what are the impacts of teenage delinquency on individuals, families, and the community as a whole?
- b. Can you provide examples or stories that highlight the consequences or negative effects of teenage delinquency in Mbare?
- c. In your opinion, how does teenage delinquency impact the overall well-being and development of teenagers themselves?

#### **3. Recommendations for Addressing Teenage Delinquency in Mbare:**

- a. Based on your knowledge and experience, what measures or interventions do you believe can effectively address teenage delinquency in Mbare?
- b. Are there any existing programs, policies, or community initiatives that have shown promise in preventing or reducing teenage delinquency?
- c. What specific recommendations would you propose to address the issue of teenage delinquency in Mbare, considering the unique context and challenges of the community?



**Thank you for your valuable insights and contributions.**