

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

Reintegration predicaments: the lived experience of ex-convicts in Chinhoyi.



(B200411A)

**RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE HONOURS DEGREE IN
SOCIAL WORK.**

JUNE 20224

DECLARATION

I, Jeanette Makoni hereby declare that this project is my original work and that it has not been copied or lifted from any other source without acknowledgement.

Signature.....

Date.....

RELEASE FORM

Bindura University of Science Education

NAME OF AUTHOR

JEANETTE MAKONI

STUDENT NUMBER

B200411A

TITLE OF PROJECT: REINTEGRATION PREDICAMENTS: THE LIVED EXPERIENCE
OF EX-CONVICTS IN CHINHOYI.

DEGREE TITLE Bachelor of Science Honours Degree Social Work

YEAR GRANTED

2024

Permission is hereby granted to Bindura University library to produce single copies of this project and to lend or sell such copies for scholarly or scientific research purposes only. The rights and neither the project nor extensive extracts from it may be printed or otherwise reproduced without the author's approval.

SIGNED

B200411A-----

PERMANENT ADDRES

5122 Dzivarasekwa Extension Harare

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



Student name Jeanette Makoni
Supervisor's name L. LIGANDOF
Chairperson's name P. J. Nson

Signature J. Makoni
Signature L. Ligandof
Signature P. J. Nson

Date 02/10/24
Date 02/10/24
Date 02/10/24

DEDICATION

I dedicate this dissertation to the Almighty for taking me this far and helping me complete this research study. Not forgetting my parents who provided for my wellbeing during the four years period at University. To my siblings Cathy and Maphillie thank you for being my source of inspiration not forgetting Ngonidzashe.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I would like to acknowledge my supervisor Mrs Chigondo for being my guide during the construction of this project. I would also want to thank the people who have been helping me put this project to life.

ABSTRACT

The study was a research based on the difficulties that ex-convicts are facing prior to their discharge from imprisonment. The main objectives were to get a clearer view on the social, economic, political and psychological predicaments that the ex-convicts face when reintegrating back into the society. The study was an analysis of how having a strong support system thorough the adoption of the social support theory, can help an ex-convict rebuild their lives rather than failing in the hands of recidivism. Case study research design was used during the research. The collection of data was done through key informant and focus group discussion. The target population comprised of different people from the Chinhoyi town and the key informant was the prison rehabilitation officer. Upon completion the research finding showed that indeed there are ex-convicts that are going through difficulties when reintegrating into the society, some show resilience whilst others fail victim of the economic state and turn to drug and substance abuse henceforth leading to recidivism.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The following chapter will be a detailed phase of the study as a whole offering a thorough background, objectives, aims of the study and a set of objectives. The chapter also provides the significance of the study, delimitations and definition of key terms. Generally, this chapter sets the foundation of the discussion and set a path on what the research study will be equipped with.

1.2 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

In Zimbabwe the establishment of prisons was first done under the colonial authorities as the Rhodesia Prison services where it's aim was to punish, oppress and humiliate offenders.

The history of prisons is deeply intertwined with the evolution of punishment and societal control. While rudimentary detention centers existed as early as 1000 BC in Mesopotamia and Egypt, their primary function was not to punish but to detain individuals awaiting sentencing, often to death or slavery. These early prisons, typically underground dungeons, reflected the brutality of the times and reinforced the view of imprisonment as a negative aspect of humanity. It was during the Middle Ages that the concept of imprisonment as a form of punishment for crimes began to emerge. The first modern prisons, built in Europe in the 18th century and the United States in the 19th century, exemplified this shift. The Eastern States Penitentiary in Pennsylvania, for instance, embodied the concept of solitary confinement, where inmates spent most of their time isolated in their cells.

The introduction of prisons to the African continent was a consequence of European colonization. The first such institution, Cape Town Castle in South Africa, housed not only

criminals but also political prisoners and members of indigenous populations. This highlights the multifaceted nature of imprisonment, encompassing both criminal justice and political control.

From its origins as a mere holding facility, the concept of imprisonment has evolved significantly. While early prisons were primarily about inflicting pain and humiliation, later institutions sought to reform individuals through isolation and introspection. However, the legacy of imprisonment as a tool of societal control, with its potential for abuse and exploitation, remains a complex and ongoing issue.

The coming of prison establishment in Zimbabwe came in the 18th centuries when the country was still under the colonial rule and still called Rhodesia. The Rhodesian prisons were spaces of abuse and brutality and oppression characterized with struggling, Munochiveyi (2015). The first prison was called Salisbury Prison in 1892 in what was then the capital city, the second was established in Bulawayo called the Grey Prison. One can argue that the establishing of both these prisons was as a way of keeping able bodied men in captive after an uprising in Mashonaland and the Ndebele defeat. In the 1980s, President Mugabe is believed to have initiated the practice of granting pardons in political matters. Specifically, in 1988, following the Unity Accord, Clemency Order No. 1 was issued, providing amnesty for human rights violations committed by state forces and dissidents from 1982 to 1987. This amnesty has been criticized for being politically motivated and benefiting the ruling party, particularly during elections. While it is intended to release prisoners early, critics argue that it has allowed perpetrators to escape punishment for their crimes, with the government resorting to transitional justice mechanisms to evade accountability.

Perpetrators have enjoyed a blanket of amnesty as the government employed the transitional justice mechanism that favor the perpetrators""', Tirivangasi et.al (2020). However, in the last years amnesty has been done annually with selected crimes and those who had served a quarter of their sentences allowed to be discharged. On Friday 19 April 2024 saw another batch of Chikurubi prisoner being pardoned by amnesty and set free, this initiative is set to free over 4000 prisoners as alluded on their social media page on Facebook by the Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services. This gesture leads Pillay et.al (2021) to argue that "although the country has released some prisoners, it is still not enough to decongest the prisons" he adds on to say there is a need to further decongest the prisons, ensure facilities have adequate tap water, and consider the use of video and audio technology to minimize visitors to inmates (Pillay, 2021). Rather with the evolving of technology and knowledge there were less serving time for prisoners. The latest exact number of annual prison population that was accessible was that of 2023 which reported a total number of 21,619 prisoners. In that same year, the percentage of female prisoners was 2.1% and that of juveniles under the age of 18 was 3.2% indicating a raise from the 0.6% in 2019, thus although exact statistics of now cannot be traced it is of paramount importance to note how the crime rate has been prevailing. The study on different dimensions associated with prisoners has been progressing though-out the years.

Prison conditions has been in different conversations that made headlines as some complain of the housing conditions and poor prison conditions (Pillay et.al 2021). Further studies showcase how not only is the living conditions hard but also access to healthcare facilities "through lack of funding from the government, the prison faces severe shortages of medicines, vital drugs, insufficient equipment and nutrition for supporting its overall inmate population", (Mutsago & Sitawa,2021). As stipulated by Western (2018), ex-convicts are victims of lifetime violence: from

being incarcerated and after being released from prison of racial inequality, unemployment, difficulty to rejoin social cycle, mental illness, and chronic pain. Lerman (2013) is of the view that “punitive turn has had profoundly negative consequences for both crime control and community life.” Thus, it is not only punishment that can help; ex-convicts rather rehabilitation. One has to note that there However 2013, took a wild turn of the punitive ways to a sudden shift in correcting the Department was rebranded from the Zimbabwe Prison Service to the Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Service which change speaks more to rehabilitation than retributive Over the past 200 years, several researchers have noted the transitions in rehabilitation from the ancient punitive ways of imprisonment that have taken place in Southern African countries. Zimbabwe in particular went through a transition in 2013 where it shifted from being called Zimbabwe Prison Services (ZPS) (the organization then responsible for the administration of prisons) changed its name to Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services (ZPCS) (Mubona & Muchenje 2023). In Zimbabwe there are 46 main prisons with 26 satellite prisons, 2 only amongst them are female prison (Chikurubi and Shurungwi), 17 house male inmates only whilst 27 houses both males and females and there is only 1 open prison in Marondera, as of recent there have been Connemara open prison where transfers of prisoner have been processed. More campaigns, awareness, television documentaries and talk shows were put in place to educate the whole nations in the ways of the prison life and how ex-convicts can live life after incarceration while they grapple difficulties outside such as employment, social support, intimate relationships, education, narrative shifts in identity transformation, positive social attitudes towards offenders by others, being able to break societal stereotypical aspects and alienating their capacity to live anew.

This study is going to take a closer look at how despite facing the above- mentioned difficulties ex-convicts continue to show resilience and go on about their lives. This study was phenomenal

as other researchers focused on women as Magadzire (2018) majored on the plight of female ex-prisoners in Zimbabwe which involves stigmatization, victimization, lack of access to medical facilities, lack of pre-natal and post-natal care for pregnant mothers and nursing mothers and also the success and challenges of the rehabilitation mechanisms. Nonetheless, in this study the researcher will take a closer look at the way imprisonment would have affected them as they have a whole life ahead of them that's how significant the study is it looks past and beyond imprisonment and look at the way rehab would have surely worked outside prison. Van Hout & Mlanga-Gunda (2019) carried a study of prison health situation and health rights of young people incarcerated in the sub-Saharan Africa prisons and detention centers. It is in the study which alluded that the treatment and special protection of the rights of incarcerated young people in prison are mandated under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as under United Nations (UN) human rights instrument. Thus, no study in particular has focused on the issues beyond prison life and how ex-convicts adapt to the outside world. In the Zimbabwean context McCann (2016) had a study of experiences of prison women in the context of proving a book written by Petina Gappah which was called *The Book of Memory*. McCann navigated in the eyes of Chiedza Musengi and Irene Staunton and outline how the book of memory contained fictional and no-fictional stories as a whole. Thus, the study is worthy of attention as it is driven not from any book but rather the author researched and found a loophole in the experience of outside the prison lives in trying to navigate through life and navigating through a manual of things they learnt in prison and applicability of it in the outside world.

1.3 RESEARCH AIM

The study aims to shade more light on the life hardships faced by ex-convicts when reintegrating back into the society and how do they show resilience and fight off recidivism.

1.4 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

As compared to any other human being, ex-convicts are disadvantaged more when it comes to getting employment in the formal sector and dealing with their own trauma from family rejection and societal stereotypes. Despite the efforts made when they are in prison to prepare them for the outside world, ex-convicts fight battles each and every day to be seen, heard and accounted for without any backlash and negativities from the society. Hence the risk of getting back into what landed them in prison in the first place in trying to make ends meet and provide for their families thus it's no mystery why the number of recidivists is many in prison, it is also due to the economic dwindle that is being faced by the Zimbabwean people hence the relapse in rehabilitated ex-convicts. This study is going to examine the hardships faced by ex-convicts who are trying to make ends meet and be better societal models without falling back into the prison.

1.5 OBJECTIVES

- i. To explore the day to day lives of ex-convicts in Chinhoyi just after their release.
- ii. To understand the leading factors to recidivism in the lives of Chinhoyi's ex-convicts
- iii. To explore the challenges faced by the community in the acceptance of ex-convicts back into the Chinhoyi community.
- iv. To get an indepth analysis of how community view ex-convicts

1.6 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- I. What are the strategies used by ex-convicts to survive?
- ii. What are the factors surrounding the recommitting of crimes in Chinhoyi.

- iii. What is the general attitude of the society towards ex-convicts.
- iv. What are the possible factors that make the Chinhoyi community less accommodative to ex-convicts.

1.7 ASSUMPTIONS

In this study, the researcher assumed that ex-prisoners faced hardships during prison time, which impacted their psychological and economic well-being. Another assumption was that ex-convicts face historical biases and prejudices in the process of criminal justice system, in prison and in society. The assumption that the community lacks education on ex-convicts is also of importance to note. The study assumed that participants are going to willingly speak openly and honestly about their experiences in prison as well as their experiences post-release. Finally, the assumption is that the participants understood the questions asked to them and they are going to be forthcoming with their responses.

1.8 SIGNIFICANCY OF THE STUDY

The traditional emphasis on rehabilitation within criminal justice research has begun to give way to a new focus on reintegration for ex-convicts. This study distinguishes itself by prioritizing the process of reintegration, a perspective largely absent in previous research. While earlier studies advocated for rehabilitation as the primary goal of the criminal justice system (Hubbard, 2012), this research challenges this assumption. The perception of prisons has shifted from mere holding institutions for punishment to facilities designed to implement sentences and penalties (Taylor et al., 2013). This evolution suggests a need to understand the social implications of these changes, particularly for individuals navigating the transition back into society. By investigating the experiences of ex-convicts, this study aims to contribute to positive social

change. It seeks to understand the lasting impact of convictions and the challenges faced during the reintegration process. This study's unique perspective on reintegration will provide valuable insights into the complexities of managing post-incarceration experiences, ultimately contributing to a more informed and compassionate approach to supporting ex-convicts in their reentry into society the findings offer valuable information for a variety of stakeholders, including the public, policymakers, administrators, families, schools, and the criminal justice system. By sharing this knowledge, the study hopes to foster a better understanding of the complex issues surrounding recidivism, ultimately leading to a reduction in re-offending rates.

1.9 DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The targeted audience however might provide limited information that can make the results a bit shallow.

1.9.1 DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Recidivism: The act of a person repeating an undesirable behavior after they have either experienced negative consequences of that behavior or have been treated or trained to extinguish that behavior. It is also used to refer to the percentage of former prisoners who violated their paroles, supervised release, or who are rearrested for a similar offense (Henslin, 2008).

Ex-convict: a convicted criminal who is no longer serving a prison sentence. (Collins English dictionary)

1.10 CHAPTER SUMMARY

This chapter established the fundamental elements underpinning this research. It explored the study's context, identified the problem under investigation, and outlined specific objectives and

research questions. Additionally, it outlined the significance and limitations of the study.

Building on this foundation, the next chapter will delve into a comprehensive review of existing literature related to the topic.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 INRODUCTION

This section seeks to unriddle the sentiments, opinions and ideas put across by different scholars and authors on ex-convicts and the causes of recidivism that encompasses theories and legal frameworks that addresses the general treatment of prisoners and how the judiciary system works

in their favor. According to Arlene (2015), a literature review involves examining relevant books, articles, and other sources pertaining to a specific topic or theory. It synthesizes these sources, providing a summary, analysis, and critique in the context of a research project. Accordingly, the following literature review will explore previous research and diverse perspectives on the challenges faced by ex-convicts as they reintegrate into society, focusing on the social, economic, psychological, and political dimensions of their experiences in various

2.2 THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

Schumacher and Brownell (1984) define the theory of social support as a transaction of resources between two individuals, with both the provider and recipient perceiving the exchange as beneficial to the recipient's well-being. They also suggest that this exchange not only positively impacts the individuals involved, but also reduces the risk of negative behaviors and strengthens the individual's internal defenses. This is reflected in the Danish proverb, 'No one is rich enough to do without a neighbor,' as explained by Sarason (2013). This saying conveys the wisdom of the importance of social support in promoting well-being and preventing negative outcomes. In other words, social support involves the giving and receiving of resources, such as emotional, informational, and instrumental support, between individuals. This exchange can lead to improvements in both the giver and receiver's well-being, as well as fostering a sense of connection and community that can protect against negative behaviors and promote overall health. The Danish proverb highlights the idea that even those who may appear to have abundant resources or wealth cannot thrive in isolation, emphasizing the essential role that supportive relationships play in our lives

This is intertwined with the aim of this study which is a showcase of the life hardships faced by ex-convicts when re-integrating back into the society after imprisonment and how being with or without the support of a supportive family can slow one's progress when outside prison. Putri and Rozana (2024) alludes that (Cohen and Wills 1985) mentioned how social support can reduce stress by changing coping patterns by influencing self-perception and individual behavior when solving problems. Thus, the pressure one undergoes once out of prison and is starting life from zero with the economic hardships in Zimbabwe, entrepreneurship maybe the only answer hence the need for capital. The need of a supportive family then comes in-hand so as to help in stabilizing the pressures especially in ex-convicts as they try to gasp and understand the ways of living and providing for the family (Putri & Rozana, 2024) alludes that the major factor that reduces stress in single mothers is social support.

Social support distinguishes between four types of support: emotional, instrumental, informational, and appraisal (Fiedler & Mann, 2012). Emotional support is associated with sharing life experiences and involves the provision of empathy, love, trust, and caring (Fiedler & Mann, 2012). Ex-convicts require love from their surroundings, with the way the society stereotype has grouped them into being misfit and it is hard for people to express their support towards them as they are titled as barbarians and violent people.

Instrumental support involves the provision of tangible aid and services that directly assist a person in need and is provided by close friends, colleagues, and neighbors (Fiedler & Mann, 2012). In prison, inmates are taught different skills and how to handmake and craft a lot of things from sculpture to basketry, so as to equip them when they are outside the prison walls as they cannot be accommodated into the formal business sector. However, one has to note that even the money to buy equipment needed to start practicing what they used to make in prison maybe hard hence

leading to one committing the same crime to have money to invest in themselves because sponsorship from family and friends can be hard to acquire as family member lack the trust on ex-convicts. Bochner (2001) alludes that ethnography is a social science directed purposefully toward empathy, caring, or identifying with the suffering of others” (p. 143). Given such a background, it is easier to understand how much the ex-convicts needs tangible and psychological support especially from their primary care which is family to abstain from crime.

The concept of informational support centers on providing individuals with the tools they need to overcome their challenges. This support takes the form of advice, suggestions, and relevant information (Fiedler & Mann, 2012). However, simply providing information is not enough to ensure rehabilitation, especially when it comes to offenders. A common misconception persists within society that imprisonment alone can rehabilitate criminals (Mbete, 2001). This belief is misguided, as rehabilitation is a complex process demanding significant effort and commitment from the individual. The assumption that offenders possess the inherent ability to transform themselves is flawed. Instead, rehabilitation requires a proactive approach, tailored interventions, and substantial support to facilitate genuine change (Mbete, 2001).

In essence, while informational support is a crucial component in addressing problems, it is not a panacea for rehabilitation. True transformation requires a multi-faceted approach that acknowledges the complexities of human behavior and the challenges associated with change

. Appraisal support, encompassing constructive feedback, affirmation, and social comparison, plays a pivotal role in an individual's self-evaluation and growth. Closely intertwined with appraisal support are social relationships, which profoundly influence post-incarceration outcomes. Social integration, defined as the presence of social ties, and social support, an essential facet of

social relationships, are key factors in facilitating successful reentry for formerly incarcerated individuals.

Social support, often measured as perceived access to assistance, actual assistance received, or social network integration, acts as a bulwark against the myriad challenges faced by ex-convicts. It encompasses various forms of support, including emotional, financial, and practical assistance. Adequate social support networks can mitigate the negative effects of reentry barriers, such as lack of employment, housing and money. Research has established a strong correlation between the availability of social support in a community and the success of released individuals. When ex-convicts return to communities with robust social support systems, they have a better chance of reintegrating into society, reducing the likelihood of recidivism. Communities play a vital role in providing resources and opportunities for ex-convicts, fostering the development of support networks that promote their well-being and reentry.

In conclusion, appraisal support and social relationships, particularly those marked by social integration and social support, are crucial elements for successful reentry after incarceration. By equipping ex-convicts with self-evaluation skills and connecting them to supportive communities, they can be empowered to overcome barriers, facilitate their reintegration, and reduce the likelihood of recidivism.

2.3 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The Prisons Act [chapter 7:11]

Thus, the Prisons Act contains provision that encourage the rehabilitation and reformation of prisoners. It emphasizes education, vocational training and work programs within correctional facilities to equip inmates with skills that can assist them finding employment upon release.

Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act [Chapter 9:07]

The Act sets out the procedures to be followed in criminal cases, starting from the investigation stage through to the trial and appeal process. It aims to ensure fair and efficient administration of justice in criminal matters.

SI 2023-146 Criminal Procedure (Sentence Guidelines) Regulations

The Probation Act provides for the establishment of probation services in Zimbabwe. Probation is an alternative to imprisonment, allowing certain offenders to serve their sentences in the community under the supervision of a probation officer. The aim is to assist offenders in reintegrating into society and addressing the underlying causes of their criminal behavior.

2.4 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.4.1 SOCIAL PREDICAMENTS

People that are released from prison experience life outside of prison as unpredictable and insecure. They are faced with stigmatization, poverty, and feelings of alienation from the “world outside”, which limit formerly incarcerated men’s opportunities for positive participation in social life (Sieferle, 2022)

This was the results after a study in Germany was carried directed at the post-prison life of incarcerated men. It takes of how male ex-convicts are active agents who seek to escape their insecure, marginal social position by using techniques of social navigation. Thus, in order for

male ex-convicts to function they use strategies and skills to effectively interact and navigate complex social situations

2.4.2 STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION

Stigma, defined as a social phenomenon in which labelling, separation, and discrimination occur together in a power situation that allows them (Link & Phelan, 2001). It is one of the predicaments ex-convicts face in the modern world. It is alluded that various behavioral /health factors (eg, reoffending, mental health symptoms) were associated with stigma mechanisms, though most evidence was cross-sectional (Feingold, 2022). Although in this study Feingold could not find the researchers that has to systematically review what is known about stigma related to criminal legal involvement as experienced by individuals with a history of incarceration. After a close research the research found that criminal legal involvement and stigmatization needs further study to provide the link. In Cameroon stigmatization is one of the common factors that led ex- convicts into recidivism. Besin-Mengla (2020) explained how in Cameroon, ex-convicts are generally rejected by the society that continue to label them as criminals. Smith (2021) presupposes that ex-convicts are minorities and are disadvantages and face discrimination and challenges in gaining employment. He further elaborates on the issue of discrimination being a social issue but have effect in all the aspects of an ex-convict's day to day life. William & Rumpf (2020)'s study showed how stigma continues to be a structuring force in the lives of the formerly incarcerated. It is in their findings that they alluded that in Chicago stigmatization of the formerly incarcerated leads to exploitation, judgement and competing demands. Housing discrimination is also amongst the discriminations associated with being an ex-convict. Berry & Wiener (2021) carried out a housing research on the reentry of ex-convicts and there came with the conclusion that people perceived released ex-offenders because they are

low in competence and warmth sharing a neighborhood with such can be questionable and that the low competence stereotype diminished willingness to rent to ex-offenders (Berry & Weiner, 2021).

2.4.3 FAMILY RELATIONS

Benin-Mengla, (2020) takes of how ex-convicts are rejected in family circles by wives, children and their siblings upon their release from prison. The above statement outlined the treatment of ex-convicts by their families after being discharged from imprisonment in Cameroon.

Khellstrand, et al (2020) talks of how social support is important and it appears to be a huge factor in helping after the release of men and women from imprisonment by promoting adjustment and success in multiple areas of life. Thus, family involvement is an important aspect in the ex-convict's life but in many instances social support is misunderstood during reentry and often ignored by family members leaving an ex-convict in a difficult situation to cope on their own. Furthermore, imprisonment became insightful learning to them through the visits it creating a stronghold between family ties and emotional support knowing that emotionally one had a shoulder to lean on in hard times works in the mental state providing a refreshed mindset. Families comprehend what life is like after imprisonment and in other instances family dynamics help in making the person stay afloat receiving affection helps in making sure recidivism is limited.

2.4.4 COMMUNITY

Ex-convicts continue to live in the shadows of their mistakes even after serving for their sentence which society view as punishment thus ex-convicts are still being perceived as criminals by the society a reporter in South Sulawesi alluded. Further studies in the area showed that by the

continuous labelling of ex-convicts as criminals, it does not erase the discriminatory nature of the community towards their reentry. Ex-convicts if not given the opportunity to be better can show and react negatively, especially if the ex-convict finds it difficult to get a decent job, so in order to meet economic demands in order to survive, the crime will be repeated (Muin & Indrawati 2021). Thus, community plays a role in the successful reintegration of a person and shun the idea of recidivism.

2.4.5 ECONOMIC PREDICAMENTS

2.4.5 UNEMPLOYMENT

Wiafe (2021) outlined how unemployment is one of the challenges ex-convicts face. He carried on a study that showed how 283 SME owners would willingly employ an ex-convict. After a survey it was noted that there is a high level of un-willingness for SME owners to employ an ex-convict in Ghana. Not only labeling within the scope of society but also in the scope of the world of work, especially companies. In South Sulawesi, ex-convicts are not confident to compete in the world of work to get decent work and feel discriminated against because they are not given opportunities in the world of work (Muin & Indrawati, 2021). Cameroon high stigmatization to ex-convicts and (Besin-Mengla 2020) alludes that in as far as employment is concerned, in case they are employed, they are paid meagre salaries and easily dismissed if suspected of any offence sometimes even without any investigation. Thus, they are victims of their past life even after serving their time. Yin, Boateng & Kofie, (2022) reveal that in Ghana most ex-convicts could not secure jobs due to their blemished character. Thus Cameroon, Ghana and South Sulawesi are host of ex-convicts who face the same problem of being victims of stigma, discrimination, judgments and labelling which puts a negative picture on ex-convicts hence risking their chances of getting employed.

2.4.6 POVERTY

After serving time in prison poverty can be seen as a predicament that ex-convicts face and may lead into recidivism, Bowen (2020) carried out a research on how poverty impacts recidivism in West Virginia. It is in this study that (Bowen 2020) pointed out how high rates of recidivism not only have a negative impact on the ex-offender but the offender's families, the community and the entire state. Bowen concluded that recidivism has no link to poverty however there should be further studies on the economic situation that was unavailable in his study. Homelessness is one of the factors that ex-convicts face after being released from prison. Jasni and Nasri (2021) obtained results from housing and ex-convicts and had the response that family denial, unemployment and drug addictions were three of the most interrelated factors that contribute to homelessness among former prisoners during their reintegration process.

2.4.7 PSYCHOLOGICAL PREDICAMENTS

Conviction and incarceration shatter a person's integrity and identity. Incarcerated perpetrators may suffer from moral injury and are forced to live in circumstances of permanent stress and fear. Whether or not such suffering is "their own fault," moral injury and post-incarceration syndrome are understudied traumas, (Willigenburg 2020).

2.4.8 POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

A study in Poland showed how mental health is rarely addressed by state institutions, Pękala-Wojciechowska, Kacprzak, Pękala, Chomczyńska, Chomczyński, Marczak & Rasmus, (2021). The study revealed that mental and physical health is a serious obstacle to social reintegration of ex-prisoners living in Poland. Bebbington, et al (2021) is of the view that ex-prisoners suffered an excess of current psychiatric problems, including common mental disorders (CMDs), psychosis,

post-traumatic disorder, substance dependence, and suicide attempts. Thus, there is need for a sounding family so that one does not relapse and face psychological disorders that can hinder their progress into the reintegration into the society.

2.4.9 SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND ADDICTION

The rejection of ex-convicts by the society in Cameroon pushes the ex-convicts to vices such as drug and alcohol consumption and to crimes. This causes their re-imprisonment shortly after leaving prisons of Cameroon. Besin-Mengla (2020) Thus drugs are taken by ex-convicts as a coping mechanism and in most cases, it lands them in prison again. In Kenya female ex-convicts are mostly victims of drugs and substance abuse after being released from prison (Muthee, Adeli & Barasa, 2020)

2.4.10 POLITICAL PREDICAMENTS

The reason for imposing incarceration is to punish offenders for violating societal norms and values (Amali, Sibanyoni & Tshivhase, 2021) as a way of stripping the off their rights and dignity. Imprisonment is usually assumed to be a negative life event that can act as a hindrance to the former prisoner to successfully reintegrate after being freed from prison (Jasmi & Nasir, 2020)

2.4.11 VOTER DISENFRANCHISEMENT

In the 2016 elections in Florida ex-felon were included in the voting of the state elections. Scholars amongst he likes of Finetti, Ramirez & Dwyre (2020) argued that ex-felons are ill-informed of their voting rights after incarceration, reducing their likelihood of voting. In Washington DC ex-

convicts can resume their voting rights when released or at some point thereafter release (Billy 2020). He further alludes how in Commonwealth of Kentucky ex-convicts with some extreme verdicts such as murder will never resume the right to vote.

2.5 CHAPTER SUMMARY

This chapter covered the review of literature. The social support theory, shaped by the aspect of revealing how support in an individual is key in shaping an individual's action, perspectives, reaction, behavior and attitude towards crime with the broader aim of responding to the difficulties ex-convicts face in the community that can result in them recommitting crime. Different scholarly views were openly discussed based on the level of social predicaments which include stigmatization and discrimination, family relations and community's overview. The economic predicaments that involve unemployment and poverty which can cause stress and homelessness in ex-convicts hence high level of recommitting crime. Psychological predicaments that involve post-traumatic stress disorder and drugs and substance abuse in ex-convicts. And finally, the chapter covered political predicaments that talks about voter's disenfranchisement.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter will be a detailed analysis of the research methodology that was employed by the researcher in carrying out this study. There will be a detailed analysis on the research design, sampling, data collection techniques. The methodology comprises of the ethical issues, possible limitation, research instruments, sampling techniques, sample size, target population and data analysis. The qualitative research approach, interviews and case study were used to explore the relationship between ex-convicts and the hardship they face that might lead to the recommitting of crime.

In this study, the researcher is going to adopt case study as the research design of this proposal. George & Bennett (2005) explains how to design case study research that will produce results useful to policymakers and emphasizes the importance of developing policy-relevant theories. Thus, case study can be seen as a yardstick to measure positive outcome in researches and in this study. Case studies rely on putting a whole meaning to a research.

3.1 RESEARCH APPROACH

The researcher will implement the use the qualitative research approach. Moser & Korstjens (2018) highlighted that qualitative research was designed to produce a low inference description of a phenomenon. Through carrying out interviews, it will provide the researcher with raw data from the horse`s mouth and has its roots in social science with further enlightenment on why people act as they do, attitudes, way of life and suspicions among others. Given this scenario, the researcher chose to work with the qualitative research design so as to intermingle with participants and to acquire an in depth understanding of their experiences after being reintegrated into the society. The researcher also chose qualitative because provides a better understanding of the research problem and helps in having a deeper understanding of causal relationship of the society and ex-convicts.

3.2 RESEARCH DESIGN

In this study, the researcher is going to adopt case study as the research design. Adam, Pierre and Roulstone (2009), defines research design as a plan or a blue print of how the researcher intend to conduct the research. The research will be carried out using case study research design which is in-depth-study of a particular research problem rather than a far-reaching statistical examination or survey, (Anastas & Jeane, 1999). The researcher will use case study design because it serves best in exploring present-day, realistic situations and provide the foundation for implementation of ideas, policies and relevant theories. This case study will look at both genders and different age groups to understand the problems faced by ex-convicts from different point of views.

3.3 DATA COLLECTION METHODS

The researcher will use interviews to get information on the experiences of ex-convicts. Byrne (2001) alludes that interviews allow participants to provide rich, contextual descriptions of events.

He further explains that the process of interviewing is time-consuming, and the quality of data often is dependent on the attitude of the interviewer. The researcher will also observe the way of life the ex-convicts live from a distance thus direct observation. There will also be a structured interview with questionnaire on ex-convicts especially on those who served a little period of prison time. There will be interviews also on the care givers and key informants thus the prison social workers. Key informant interviews will be carried out with a similar questionnaire to yield a fair level of response. Focus group discussion will be used so as to acquire honest opinionated responses from ex-convicts.

3.4 TARGET POPULATION

Honegr et al (2020) defined target population as a group of people or individuals from which a distinct sample can be drawn. Chinhoyi is in the Makonde district in the Mashonaland West province with a total general population of 90,800. As of 2023 the people who were in and out of prison annually were recorded as 65 the larger number being of young male adults from the age of twenty-two to twenty-seven and juveniles. The prison has 3 social workers in this research the researcher will only use the knowledge of one social worker.

3.5 SAMPLE AND SAMPLING TECHNIQUES

A sample can be defined as a set of elements which are ideally representatives of the population. Out of the 65 (100%) recidivist, the researcher will use 50% of them to carry out the study. The researcher will use half the number by selecting a certain group per gender, age and crime. Out of the 90,800 people in the district the researcher will only pick 100 individuals who will represent the society's views on ex-convicts. The researcher is going to use a purposive sampling method for the study. Purposive sampling involves purposive or deliberate selection of particular units of

the universe for constituting a sample which represents the universe (Kothari, 2004). In purposive sampling, a researcher's judgement is utilized for selecting respondents which will be considered as representatives of the population. According to Bless and Higson-Smith (1995:95), Gilbert (1993:74) and Wimmer & Dominick (1991:66) participants chosen by purposive or judgmental sampling (theoretical sampling) are chosen because they possess the necessary characteristics or information the researcher wants and that the researcher has a good knowledge about the subject at hand. The study will utilize purposive sampling because it enables the study to directly approach the target population, enabling the production of desired results. During the study the researcher is going to use a non-probability sampling technique. According to Glen (2019), non-probability sampling is a sampling technique where the odds of any member being selected for a sample cannot be calculated. The non- probability sampling mostly relies on the subjective judgement of the researcher. The study is going to use non-probability sampling as a result of the target population which is very small, making it impossible to make use of probability sampling.

3.6 ETHICAL CONSIDERATION

The researcher is going to observe ethical issues so that no harm could befall participants. Punch (2011) defines ethical issues as a set of beliefs and values that guide a research approach.

Ethical considerations, such as that of, informed consent, confidentiality, anonymity and privacy were observed in the study.

Informed consent is going to be observed during the research. According to Armiger (1997), informed consent means that a person knowingly, voluntarily and intelligently, and in a clear and manifest way, gives his consent. Therefore, to ensure that this ethical consideration will be observed, the researcher is going to present a consent form and go through the terms with the

participants before they engage in the research study. Thus, they were given sufficient information enabling them to decide on whether they wished to take part or not (Ritchie, et al., 2014) The purpose of the research and potential reparations will be made explicit to them. Participants will be given the right to choose whether to participate or not.

Anonymity, confidentiality and privacy will be practiced during the study. Anonymity refers to keeping secret by not identifying the ethnic or cultural background of participants, refrain from referring to them by their names or divulging any other sensitive information about a participant. Confidentiality is the management of private information by the researcher in order to protect the subjects' identity (Laopoulou et al, 2019)

3.7 LIMITATIONS OF THE RESEARCH

Difficulties in finding ex-convicts as many people hide that part of their lives as to shield stigmatization and labelling from the society. This problem will be solved by the engaging of the Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services in the providing of assistance to the researcher by giving information of juveniles and adults who had been in prison before. This study might face a delay in acquiring information from the Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services as it is a paramilitary institution that requires a certain sequence in acquiring information and record keeping.

3.8 RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS

The researcher will use four different guides as instruments in facilitating the exploration and discovery of information. Structured interviews guide has an advantage to have no exploration of topics that are out of the objective as the questions will be straight forward and only specific to

the objective of the study. The observation guide will provide the researcher with the settling contexts thus the environment that will make the objectives being met in as far as the community's involvement is concerned. Focus group guide will be employed although it is time consuming and may lead to less group being covered the research will use this guide so as to get an exploration of ideas, opinions and insights from a different point of view. Lastly there will be the key informant guide with questions drafted to gain knowledge from an expert on the objectives of the study

3.9 CHAPTER SUMMARY

The chapter described methods used by the researcher to gather information. The study was also described as being qualitative in nature which was used to collect data relating to ex-convicts and audiences surrounding them.

CHAPTER 4

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents, analyses and discusses data obtained from the interviews and focus group discussions. The research bases on the views of different individuals who show their own experiences about life after imprisonment living as an ex-convict in the Chinhoyi city, the environment and daily conditions that they are subjected and exposed to.

4.2 RESPONSE RATE

Fig 4.1

| Name of group | Number of people targeted | Number of people who participated | Results in percentage |
|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Key informant | 3 | 1 | 33'3% |
| Focus group discussion | 65 | 45 | 69% |

4.3 DEMOGRAPHIC DATA PRESENTATION

4.3.1 FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION

The Focus Group Discussions (FDGs) were carried out with the division of ex-convict into three sections, in which I grouped the ex-convicts in their ages from 14years-19years, 19years-25years and 26-57years respectively based on the crimes they were charged with when they were

imprisoned. By the putting ex-convicts in sections the researcher managed to unpack each question with language better understood by the participant. Amongst the 65 ex-convicts who the researcher could reach out to only 45 participated and made a total percentage of 69% making the research outcome a success as the predicaments were discussed in all angles. The FDGs response provided the researcher with relevant information on the how difficult life is when one is still being labelled even after going to serve their sentence and reforming in prison.

4.3.2 KEY INFORMANT

The researcher managed to conduct an interview with only one of the key informants that she had initially chose to work with. Although the respond percentage might be a little lower the researcher managed to get information that was tangible and in trusting the knowledge of the key informant as he had been a prison social worker and rehab officer for more than 16years. Of interest to note is how the key informant pointed out how youths in drug and substance abuse users are the ones who are mostly affected by recidivism, showing how it is more of a habit in them as the prison has recorded a percentage of more than 31% of recidivism. The researcher also noted that less prisoners are eager to learn new skills in prison hence having difficulties when reintegrating into the community. Not only is the ex-convict to blame for showing little or no knowledge at all but also the remand prison has less materials available for prisoners to engage in crafting, sewing or gardening as they rely on the funding of donors and well-wishers for material and inventory to start up a project

4.4 CHARACTERISTICS OF PARTICIPANTS

The key informant was the rehabilitation officer of the Chinhoyi Remand Prison who has had knowledge in the rehab department for more than 16 years and was now promoted to being

assistant officer in charge. Young people who participated from the age of 16-20 were only 8 as they considered the exercise to be a waste of their time and most of them that did not show up are the ones under drug and substance abuse act. The most dominant gender was the males as some females were not forthcoming about carrying out the exercise.

4.5 SOCIAL PREDICAMENTS

The researcher designed questions that concerning the general knowledge of ex-convicts and identifying types of predicaments as guide for FDGs whilst key informant was set to give their insight on the role they play as prison authority in equipping ex-convicts of the outside world as far as their social life is concerned. Upon being asked what encompasses a social life of an ex-convict the key informant alludes that

“The social life of an ex-convict after being discharged cannot be normal, in most cases the friendship that they form in prison will be their link of associates because the idea of their families, friends and workmates or church mates to look at them as the same person there were once before serving time behind bars will be biased” key informant.

In reality the key informant highlights how, the change of an ex-convict can be seen by the prison rehabilitation officer but not with the social circle. It is in this instance the research understood some of the replies given by a male participant aged 19, he suggested that his social life after imprisonment was:

“People assumed I was still a criminal and associating with my friends was hard as at times they would interrogate me about my experience instead of me moving on I would feel like I don’t belong in the group as my jail time was always a topic hence I started isolating myself”

The feeling of isolation was noted in the ex-convicts which made them less involved in social activities. This is in sync with what Muin & Indrawati postulates in chapter 2 that even though they have paid for their wrongdoings, ex-convicts still receive labels that results in them being considered criminals by the society.

Rodney talks of how hanging out with his friends was scarier to him as they would continue to smoke marijuana and drink kambwa which had landed him in prison so he would distance himself in fear of relapse:

“I’m constantly worried about falling back into old habits and ending up in prison and disappointing my parents” participant in the focus group discussion

Leonard a 55-year-old man was the only one who was hopeful for the social support he was getting for his family and friends as he was a grandfather with many grandchildren who had a strong relationship and bond with him he alludes that he is:

“I am honestly happy for the second chance that I got through the amnesty, I am determined to make a better life for my big family and sharing the rest of my days being a better grandfather and make my late wife proud.”

Although Leonard seemed happy and some participants said it was because he was of old age and hence it was hard for him as an elder in his family to be disrespected, Ali who was 49 had a different story to tell as he said his family did not respect and welcome him the same way Leonard was welcomed

“I was behind technology and the money currency and I ended up sounding like a nag to my wife and children hence they started gossiping about me and giving me names such as

“Zato”(a common adage used in prison) which made me spend most of my time at the local store drinking and coming back home to sleep only.”

Ali felt what (Besin-Mengla,2020) alluded that ex-convicts are rejected in family circles by wives, children and their siblings.

In addition, the researcher went on to ask the key informant about the counseling offered by the ZPCS when convicts are admitted.

“The rehabilitation office is always available but then in prison offenders rarely think they need help of being counseled of course we offer counseling on admission and many offenders think it is enough, however after going back into the community that is when they understand the importance of counseling some try to apply the theories while others fail because being given advise and help without being in the outside is different when one is living the truth outside prison walls”

The research was equipped with information that ex-convicts do not know that they are helplines such as friendship bench which is a free call line in which one can be helped to deal with their emotions and realize their full potential in the society after showing resilience. Inasmuch as the researcher obtained different views from ex-convicts’ social predicaments are one of the factors that are worthy being paid attention to and address as it is one of the strong basses of building a strong foundation in recreating of the life of an ex-convict. A little number of ex-convicts showed resilience in as much as social predicaments is concerned. Lydia alludes that if the social support is strong them as ex-convicts can find the argue to be in isolation as she as a mother have been subjected to social events that had pulled down her social self-esteem.

4.6 ECONOMIC PREDICAMENTS

This predicament was seen as the major difficulty amongst the participant as it was highlighted how there is no employment for them unless there are jobs paying them less salaries to even accommodate for themselves and their families. The key informant outlined that

“If only these ex-convicts would be given a platform to choose what they want rather than coming into a prison setup with old ways of empowering prisoners, such as the making of bottle cases using sacks, it is now outdated and there is need for that to be revised.”

In Chinhoyi, ex-convicts face immense economic challenges upon release from the remand prison. Ex-convict upon release inherit the country's fragile economy, characterized by hyperinflation, widespread unemployment, and change in currency makes it difficult for ex-convicts to reintegrate into society effectively. With a criminal record, they are often shunned by potential employers, making it hard to secure a job.

“The only job offers I would receive from people after I was discharged was tumabasa tusina musoro although ndanditorinewo mapaper akakwana ekuita accountant zvaisaonekwa “

That having said, forces many ex-convicts to resort to informal trading or illegal activities to survive, perpetuating the cycle of poverty and crime. This is inline with Bowen²⁰²⁰ who studies a link between recidivism and poverty in West Virginia, thus the issue in Chinhoyi is also being experienced by other states. Furthermore, the lack of capital and resources to start their own entrepreneurship programs and be independent is being experienced by ex-convicts in Chinhoyi particularly and lives them in a cycle of economic despair.

The economic struggles of ex-convicts in Chinhoyi are compounded by the country's harsh economic conditions. Statistically, as of 2023 the unemployment rate of 14,57% was recorded

for the youths though activists argue that it was a small amount that represented the number of youths that are unemployed. Moyo (2023) alluded that as bad as it was in 2023, 2024 is forecasted to have a 62,91% in accordance to the Zimbabwe Market Forecast. The unavailability of a sounding economy leaves ex-convicts in a vulnerable state and expose them to exploitation and recidivism. Moreover, the social stigma surrounding ex-convicts makes it difficult for them to access credit, loans and even securing a job further limiting their economic opportunities into starting their own business. This is sync with (Wiafe,2021) who alludes that there is a high level of un-willingness for SME owners to employ an ex-convict in Ghana. As a result, many ex-convicts in Chinhoyi are forced to live on the margins of society, struggling to make ends meet and facing a bleak future.

The researcher noticed how the economic predicaments were mostly centered on unemployment and poverty. The Makunde district is characterized by land landscapes which are being used as farms and mines to look for gold. Ex-convicts are more familiar with the line of work that is either in mines working as Makorokoza) where there is fast and hard life. One of the participants highlighted that

“Mugodhi wakareba and you can only hope kuti haundirike urimo nekuti panofiwa ipapo straight ende ndorinenge ratova guva rako anokuchera ndiani nekureba kwawakaita “

This highlights how the job is risk and in their own voices it does not pay as much as it, they are always superiors who come for the gold and the jobs of “mangweja” is to mine only. This is in line with the same employment situation in Cameroon as (Besin-Mengla 2020) alludes that in as far as employment is concerned, in case they are employed, they are paid meagre salaries (Besin-Mengla, 2020)

4.7 PSYCHOLOGICAL PREDICAMENTS

The researcher carried out FGDs and key informant interviews and the study findings proved that psychological predicaments are one of the difficulties ex-convicts in Chinhoyi are also facing. More over the other participant managed to point out that in prison the situation can be more accommodative because you will share stories and have the rehabilitation officers to talk to unlike when one is in the outside worlds hence leaving them in their own thought that can make them not leave in a free minded world but rather as slaves of the past.

“I do not have any access to any mental health facility, nyaya dzacho ukadziudza vanhu dzinomuka dzazara mumaraini zviri nane ndingozvinyararira hangu asi kuri kuti ndawana munhu anochengeta masecrets angu saja gogo wekujeri zvaiita nane” FDG participant

The key informant outlined how the mental state of the prisoners while in prison are put first priority even on the day of admission and discharge they undergo a session to equip them of the outside world and the changes.

“the first days I went home I had flashbacks of being in a cell sharing it with different people and I could not sleep on my own I was scared which made me to sleep less hours and not pay attention on my school work I ended up dropping out of university” Layla aged 23 a former student of CUT who was imprisoned under drugs section

This is in sync with Willigenburg (2020) who is of the view that conviction and incarceration shatter a person’s integrity and identity. Incarcerated perpetrators may suffer from moral injury and are forced to live in circumstances of permanent stress and fear. Whether or not such suffering is “their own fault,” moral injury and post-incarceration syndrome are understudied traumas. There is need for a study in the traumas as in the case of Layla she had to drop out of

school because she was afraid of being addictive to sleeping tablets as a coping mechanism and relapse on drug taking again. Thus, mental health issues are of importance to address, not only is it a huge predicament but is one of the difficulties that can lead to suicides and drug abuse.

It was during the FDG when it was mentioned that being able to get therapeutic help in Chinhoyi is expensive and some participants would rather not talk about their problems to a person who has never been in the same shoes as them. Nixon (2020) alludes how the use of peer workers are best for ex-convicts as they are empathetic by experience and can help in uplifting the mental state of others.

4.8 CHAPTER SUMMARY.

The chapter focused on data presentation and analysis of the research findings from the field that was carried out through focused groups discussions and key informant interviews. The researcher presented the information in form of tables. Findings from this study have been found to be consistent with related studies reviewed in literature on the predicaments being faced by ex-convicts in Chinhoyi. Amongst them being social predicaments in which it was divided into three groups that encompasses the social cycle of an individual and what they might face socially after being discharged thus stigma and discrimination, family and community. There were also economic predicaments in which poverty and unemployment are center players in making life difficult for ex-convicts. The researcher also dived into the psychological predicaments where it was mostly a review of the mental state of ex-convict and how it is hard for them to fit in back into the community.

CHAPTER 5

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENATION

5.1 CHAPTER SUMMARY

This chapter gives a summary of the research, conclusion and recommendations the following findings of the study on reintegration predicaments. The research was aimed at analyzing the factors that surrounds ex- convicts to be socially, economically, politically and mentally in the Chinhoyi district. It is in this chapter where concluding observations are presented concerning how ex-convicts undergo different problems in the family, communities and in the associates circle. Finally, recommendations shall be presented and discussed concerning how the society can be more accommodative to ex-convicts, initiatives that can be put in place in response to the economic, social and mental predicaments faced when reintegrating into the Chinhoyi community and ways to improve service provision to ex-convicts.

5.2 SUMMARY

The first chapter was a detailed explanation of the study as a whole with the background, objectives, aims of the study and a set of objectives. The chapter also provides the significance of the study, delimitations and definition of key terms. Generally, this chapter sets the foundation of the discussion and set a path on what the research study will be equipped with. This chapter covered various issues that form the basis of this study. The background of the study, statement

of the problem, study objectives, research questions, significance and delimitations of the study were covered. The research questions and objectives were constructed in a way that would bring out favorable results. In the background it was also alluded how recidivism was an issue of concerns as in some cases the predicaments were too heavy of a load hence leading to an ex-convict relapsing.

In chapter two, the researcher reviewed related literature on the predicaments that are faced by ex-convicts in the community, family and within themselves, the economic predicaments that were mainly unemployment and poverty and the housing sector, the psychological difficulties that would be traumas that result in them taking and abusing drugs and lastly the political predicament in which they would want to take a part in. It is in this chapter where the theory of social support was used to understand how the lack of a sounding and supportive social circle might lead to one facing more trouble when reentering the society whilst having a vibrant social support network removes the probability of recidivism. The chapter also provided legal frameworks that protect the rights and freedom of the incarcerated individuals.

Chapter three explained the methods that the researcher was going to use to gather information. Interviews and FGDs methods rooted in qualitative approach were used on the collection of data relating to the difficulties being faced by ex-convicts. The chapter outlined the research instruments that the researcher was going to use for data collection. The researcher also outlined the targeted population, using the rehabilitation officer as key informants. The targeted population was selected through the information provided by the ZPCS in Chinhoyi. The researcher in this chapter discussed ethical considerations and participants who took part signed consent forms for ethical reasons during the study.

Chapter four focused on data presentation, and analysis of the research findings and some these findings were presented in form tables. The researcher obtained information from the focus group discussion and key informant showing the aspects of the ex-convict's lives that were of importance to note. Findings were presented and linked to the research objectives and the theoretical guidelines being a guide in the study. The results were discussed under the same themes that were researched in the literature review.

5.3 CONCLUSION

Reintegration's predicaments, upon carrying the research can be seen as a blockade of the ex-convict's true potential as it is surrounded by many aspects that rather disadvantage the ex-convict. The social stigmatization and discrimination that they are exposed to can qualify them to be a marginalized group or special population in the Chinhoyi community. Unemployment, poverty, voter's disenfranchisement, housing amongst others were some of the factors that make ex-convicts have a hard time reentering back into the society as they are some issues that are less discussed. There is need for a proper channel that ex-convicts should follow upon being release so that they can be assisted with at least some aid to start off in the outside world. There was also the issue of services that are offered in prison and how helpful there could be in securing ex-convicts are career, there is need to revise referrals pathways in service provision for a better production of individuals who can be fully equipped with skills that are in line with the outside world's evolvement.

5.4 IMPLICATIONS ON SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

This section seeks to highlight relevance of the study to social work practice. This will be done through outlining duties of social workers and how they influence the outcome of a change in the predicaments being faced by ex-convicts. Social work is interdisciplinary, trans-disciplinary and

intersectional in the sense that it works professional from other disciplines and uses individual and community experiences to advocate for individuals from grassroots level to macro level (Schneider & Lester, 2001).

Social workers promote popular participation among the marginalized community groups. This ensures that young people and adults become actively involved in decisions making processes that affect them, thereby empowering individuals without the labelling and discrimination that can hinder them from reaching their goals. Social workers have skills and knowledge in understanding human behavior in the environment and conduct various researches in order to come up with better interventions to address different behaviors being portrayed.

Secondly, social workers serve as an intermediary, hence linking clients to appropriate social service systems and service providers. Social workers can work with the resource system to ensure that they become more responsive to address to the ex-convict's needs. Thus, social workers may make referrals within service provision systems which assists in improving the response to traumas and quality of services provided to ex-convicts. This helps promote the goal of social work through restoring social functioning within individuals, groups and communities.

Moreover, educating the community is an empowering tool which can be offered by social workers through outreach services such as campaigns and awareness's in order to address the stereotypical nature surrounding ex-convicts. This leads to attitudinal and psychological change, thereby maximizing capacity within individuals and community. Therefore, through spreading of information, social workers promote improved societal attitude and social change.

Advocacy is one of the social workers which can be exercised through petitioning for the ex-convicts to be revised, representing the need of an address to the difficulties they face upon being discharged. Social workers make attempts to pursue structural changes that will address

inequities within the social, housing, economic and political structure Therefore, social workers as advocates are involved in planning and helping ex-convicts exercise their rights as reformed members of the community.

5.5 RECOMMENDATIONS

There is need for awareness campaigns, road shows, television talk shows that rather showcase how being incarcerated helps a person change rather than make the worse. The issue of taking care of one's mental health after imprisonment is important and there should be rehabilitation help centers accessible and free to ex-convicts so that they are more adaptive to the outside world as they were to the inside walls with the help of a counsellor. Best results can be attained through creation of community halls that are full equipped with activities and encompasses the youth so that they cannot lay idle and succumb to drugs and end up committing crimes. Implementing of economic strengthening initiatives would be a great stride towards alleviating poverty and build a strong economy. On another angle what mostly limit ex-convicts to venture into the white collared jobs is the issue of a criminal record. Initiatives on policy renewals should be made that if a person has served their prison time a bad record should be cleared off their record because it will be a constant reminder that can easily lead back to imprisonment. There are also issues surrounding adoption and voting in which the rights of ex-convicts are not address in most cases ex-convicts end up not partaking in state events in fear of violating rights and getting in trouble with the authority.

5.6 AREAS OF FURTHER RESEARCH

The researcher suggests that future studies being done on the victims of the ex-convicts and how facing ex-convicts after they have served their time made them feel. The traumas and predicaments surrounding the victims needs also to be addressed and assessed.

5.7 CHAPTER SUMMARY

The chapter intended to provide a summary from the findings of the study. It goes further to draw conclusions of the findings, where it was noted that social, psychological, economical predicaments can be addressed and come up with a sounding community in the Chinhoyi city. There was the mentioning of the need for coming up with initiatives which address the predicaments that ex-convicts face. The chapter also highlighted the relevance of social work practice in the welfare of ex-convicts as a whole. Lastly there were recommendations that were suggested on how to improve the general wellbeing of ex-convicts

REFERENCES:

Agtong, G. A., Bazer, A., Descuatan, K. A., & Ceballo, E. C. (2023). Life after Imprisonment: Exploring the Repercussions of Jail Time on Ex-Convicts. *Asian Research Journal of Arts & Social Sciences*, 21(3), 61-77.

Arlene, D. (2015). *Aging Feminities: troubling representations*. Newcastle, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing. Arriola KR, Loudon T, Doldren MA, Forten

Bebbington, P. E., McManus, S., Coid, J. W., Garside, R., & Brugha, T. (2021). The mental health of ex-prisoners: analysis of the 2014 English National Survey of Psychiatric Morbidity. *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology*, 1-11.

Berry, M. C., & Wiener, R. L. (2020). Exoffender housing stigma and discrimination. *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*, 26(2), 213.

Besin-Mengla, M. M. (2020). Reintegration difficulties of ex-convicts: Reasons for recidivism of ex-convicts in Cameroon. *African Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Research*, 3(4), 10-24.

Billy, I. A. (2021). *A Generational Perspective of Whether All Ex-Convicts Should Retain Voting Rights in the USA* (Doctoral dissertation, Campbellsville University).

Bowen Jr, D. E. (2020). *The impact of unemployment and poverty on recidivism in West Virginia: a quantitative analysis* (Doctoral dissertation, Northcentral University).

Chikadzi, V. (2017). Challenges facing ex-offenders when reintegrating into mainstream society in Gauteng, South Africa. *Social Work*, 53(2), 288-300. <https://doi.org/10.15270/53-2-569>.

Dube-Mawerewere, V., & Chiborise, G. M. (2017). Demographic, Bio-Psychological and Socio-Economic Factors Associated with Recidivism at a Central Prison in Zimbabwe. *Open Journal of Social Sciences*, 5(08), 35

Edomwonyi-otu, O., & Edomwonyi-otu, L. C. (2020). Is unemployment the root cause of insecurity in Nigeria?. *International Journal of Social Inquiry*, 13(2), 487-507.

Feingold, Z. R. (2021). The stigma of incarceration experience: A systematic review. *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*, 27(4), 550.

Finetti, H., Ramirez, J., & Dwyre, D. (2020). The impact of ex-felon disenfranchisement on voting behavior.

Honegr, J., Jun D., Kuca, K., Maresova, P. (2020) Definition of the target population for external pacemaker as a key aspect in successful medical device process. *Biomedical Research Centre, University Hospital Hradec Kralove, Sokolska 581, 500 12 Hradec Kralove*

- Hubbard, Z. D. (2012). *The impact of the war on drugs: African American women's perceptions through a phenomenological approach*. Austin, TX: University of Texas.
- Laopoulou, E., Papagiorgis, P., Chrysovitsanou, C., Tsiou, C., Plakas, S., & Fouka, G. (2019). Nurses' knowledge about perioperative care of patients with neurological diseases. *Journal of Perioperative Practice*, 29(4), 87-93.
- Lerman, Amy E. *The modern prison paradox: Politics, punishment, social community*. Cambridge University Press, 2013
- Maculan, A., Ronco, D., & Vianello, F. (2014). *Prison in Europe: overview and trends*.
- Magadzire, M. T. (2018). *The effectiveness of rehabilitation of female prisoners in Zimbabwe: the case of Chikurubi Female Prison*.
- Moser, A., & Korstjens, I. (2018). *Series Practical Guidance to Qualitative Research. Part 3 Sampling, Data Collection and Analysis*.
- Mukwenha, Solomon, Tafadzwa Dzinamarira, Munyaradzi P. Mapingure, and Godfrey Musuka. "Zimbabwe's prison facilities: preparedness for institutional COVID-19 outbreaks." *Public Health in Practice* 2 (2021): 100089.
- Munochiveyi, M. B. (2015). Suffering and protest in Rhodesian prisons during the Zimbabwean Liberation Struggle. *Journal of Southern African Studies*, 41(1), 47-61.
- Muin, A. M., & Indrawati, D. THE EFFECT OF LABELING ON EX-CONVICT IN THE SCOPE OF THE WORLD OF WORK IN COMPANIES IN SOUTH SULAWESI. *Tadulako Law Review*, 6(1), 75-93.

Mhishi, W. (2022). The experiences of ex-offenders living with a mental disorder within three to twelve months following discharge from psychiatric prison care in Zimbabwe: a qualitative study.

Mutsago, S. K., & Sitawa, M. M. (2020). PROVISION OF CLINICAL SERVICES ON THE WELL-BEING OF INMATES IN ZIMBABWE PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES: A CASE OF HARARE CENTRAL PRISON, HARARE PROVINCE, ZIMBABWE

Sarason, I. G. (Ed.). (2013). Social support: Theory, research and applications (Vol. 24). Springer Science & Business Media.

Pascoe, SJS. et al (2015) 'Poverty, Food Insufficiency and HIV Infection and Sexual Behaviour among Young Rural Zimbabwean Women' PLoS ONE 10(1): e0115290. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0115290

Pękala-Wojciechowska, A., Kacprzak, A., Pękala, K., Chomczyńska, M., Chomczyński, P., Marczak, M., ... & Rasmus, P. (2021). Mental and physical health problems as conditions of ex-prisoner re-entry. *International journal of environmental research and public health*, 18(14), 7642.

Putri, B. C. A., & Rozana, A. (2024, January). Pengaruh Dukungan Sosial terhadap Work Family Conflict pada Single Mother di Kota Bandung. In *Bandung Conference Series: Psychology Science* (Vol. 4, No. 1).

Rafique, A. (2021). Unemployment, crime & inflation in Pakistan: socio-economic determinants of crime. *Graduate Journal of Pakistan Review (GJPR)*, 1(1), 29-39.

Ritchie, J., Lewis, J., McNaughton Nicholls, C. & Ormston, R., 2014. *Qualitative Research Practice: A Guide for Social Science Students and Researchers*. 2nd ed. London: Sage.

Song, Z., Yan, T., & Jiang, T. (2020). Poverty aversion or inequality aversion? The influencing factors of crime in China. *Journal of Applied Economics*, 23(1), 679-708.

Tirivangasi, H. M., Nyahunda, L., & Rapanyane, M. B. (2020). A critical analysis of the prospects of transitional justice in post-Mugabe era Zimbabwe. *Journal of Nation-Building and Policy Studies*, 4(2), 161.

Van Hout, M. C., & Mhlanga-Gunda, R. (2019). Prison health situation and health rights of young people incarcerated in sub-Saharan African prisons and detention centres: a scoping review of extant literature. *BMC international health and human rights*, 19, 1-16.

Visher, C. A., & Travis, J. (2003). Transitions from prison to community: Understanding individual pathways. *Annual review of sociology*, 29(1), 89-113.

Willigenburg, T. (2020). Moral injury, post-incarceration syndrome and religious coping behind bars. *Lived Religion, Conversion and Recovery: Negotiating of Self, the Social, and the Sacred*, 171-185.

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

P. Bag 1020
BINDURA, ZIMBABWE

Tel: 263 71 7531-6; 7621-4

Fax: 263 71 7534



BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION

Date: 07/02/2024

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE: REQUEST TO UNDERTAKE RESEARCH PROJECT IN YOUR ORGANISATION

This serves to introduce the bearer, Jeanette Makori, Student
Registration Number B200411A, who is a BSc SOCIAL WORK student
at Bindura University of Science Education and is carrying out a research project in
your area/institution.

May you please assist the student to access data relevant to the study, and where
possible, conduct interviews as part of a data collection process.

Yours faithfully

MR L.C. Nyamaka
Acting Chairperson - Social Work



APPROVAL FORM

**TITLE OF DISSERTATION: REINTEGRATION PREDICAMENTS :THE LIVED
EXPERIENCE OF EX-CONVICTS IN CHINHOYL.**

1. To be completed by the student:

I certify that this project meets the preparation guidelines as presented in the Faculty Guide
and Instructions for Typing Projects

__B200411A_____Date_____/_____/2024

(Signature of Student)

2. To be completed by the Supervisor:

This project is suitable for submission to the Department

_____Date_14_____/_____06_____/2024

(Signature of Supervisor)

3. To be completed by the Chair of the Department:

I certify that the required procedures have been followed and the preparation criteria have
been met for this project

_____Date_____/_____/2024

(Signature of the Chairperson)

Participant consent form

Title

Reintegration predicaments: The lived experience of ex-convicts in Chinhoyi.

I, Jeanette Makoni, a convectional student at the Bindura University of Science Education currently studying a Bachelor's degree in Social Work will be conducting a study on the above-mentioned topic. The study is a requirement by the University in order for me to complete the final year of my studies.

The objectives of the study are as follows:

- To understand the day to day lives of ex-convicts in Chinhoyi just after their release.
- To understand factors surrounding recidivism in the lives of Chinhoyi's ex-convicts
- To explore the challenges faced by the community in the acceptance of ex-convicts back into the Chinhoyi community.
- To educate the Chinhoyi community on life after imprisonment

I am giving consent to be interviewed by the researcher and the objectives of the study have been clearly explained to me in vernacular language that I fully understood. By signing this consent form, I understand that participation in this study is voluntary. I also agree to be audio-taped and I am aware that I am free to withdraw from the study at any given Clarity has been given before the start of the study and I am fully aware of how my identity will be protected at all cost.

If I as a participant has any questions I will contact the researcher on 0774009795 or on her email address jeanettemakoni@gmail.com

Participant's signature:

Date:

Researcher's signature:

Date:

Title

Reintegration predicaments: The lived experience of ex-convicts in Chinhoyi.

Interview guide questions**Key informant**

1. Question: What are the services offered by the prison in making sure that after serving their time, convicts can have a life working on thier own?

.....

.....

.....

2. Are the activities offered by the ZPCS useful and effective in this economy?

.....

.....

.....

.....

3. How best can the society be more accomodative to ex- convicts.

.....

.....

.....

.....

4. What steps can br implemented to fully educate the society on ex- convicts.

.....

.....

.....

.....

Focus Group Discussion Questions**Objective 1**

To understand the day to day lives of ex-convicts in Chinhoyi just after their release.

1. What are the challenges that you face in the society.
2. How do you make a living in Chinhoyi?

3. How is the treatment of your family, friends and associates play a role in your wellbeing.
4. How useful are the skills and education you gained in prison helpful in your day to day life since being discharged from prison.
5. To what extent are the survival strategies sustaining you as a person.

Objective 2

To understand factors surrounding recidivism in the lives of Chinhoyi's ex-convicts

1. What type of offense did you commit?
2. What made you commit the crime?
3. Were you aware that you were committing a crime?
4. How did you get arrested?

Objective 3

To explore the challenges faced by the community in the acceptance of ex-convicts back into the Chinhoyi community.

1. How did your family react to the news of your imprisonment?
2. Did anyone besides your family members visit you while serving your sentence in prison.
3. How are you treated in the society?
4. Is the attitude of the society affecting your mental health and blocking you from reaching your full potential?

Objective 4

To educate the Chinhoyi community on life after imprisonment

1. Does your friends and associates ask about your experience in prison?
2. Is the community aware of how helpful prison was to your life?
3. What are the names the society call you in the streets?

Semi structured interview

Demographic information

Age

Race

Sex

Level of education

Marital status

How many are you in your family

Are you employed anywhere

How does having a criminal record affects the general outcome of securing a job in the formal and informal sector?

Jeanette Makoni dissertation.docx

ORIGINALITY REPORT

9%

SIMILARITY INDEX

9%

INTERNET SOURCES

3%

PUBLICATIONS

5%

STUDENT PAPERS

PRIMARY SOURCES

1

scholarworks.waldenu.edu

Internet Source

1%

2

ir.msu.ac.zw:8080

Internet Source

1%

3

liboasis.buse.ac.zw:8080

Internet Source

1%

4

www.researchgate.net

Internet Source

1%

5

pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov

Internet Source

1%

6

abjournals.org

Internet Source

1%

7

www.scilit.net

Internet Source

1%

8

www.ajqr.org

Internet Source

<1%

9

link.springer.com

Internet Source

<1%

