

## Family Related Factors Contributing To Juvenile Delinquency in Starehe Sub-County

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### ABSTRACT

Juvenile delinquency is an antisocial behavior by a child below the age of 18 years who violates laws by involvement in criminal activities. Worldwide a lot of juveniles have been found to engage in delinquency leading them to behavior maladjustment. This study focused on family related factors contributing to juvenile delinquency in public primary schools in Starehe Sub-county, Nairobi County. Three theories; the Ecological System Theory, Social Learning Theory and General Strain Theory were adopted. The design of the study was descriptive. A sample size of four hundred respondents that included three hundred and fifty juveniles and fifty teachers and administrators was obtained by using purposive sampling technique. Questionnaires and interview schedule were used to collect data. Pilot study was administered to ascertain the validity and reliability of the instruments. Quantitative data was analyzed using descriptive statistics such as mean, standard deviation and percentages and presented by use of frequency tables and bar graphs. Qualitative data was analyzed thematically in accordance with the objectives and presented in verbatim. The study findings revealed that parents' demographic attributes such as unemployment, low education level and unstable marriages had great influence on juvenile delinquency. It was also established that low attachment to significant others, parental absence, lack of role models, lack of basic needs and neighborhood factors such as peer pressure contribute to juvenile delinquency. Recommended intervention were guidance and counseling, family counseling, peer counseling and recreation park activities., leisure activities spheres, material and financial support to the needy parents, provision of social and emotional support to juveniles and economic empowerment for parents.

**KEY WORDS:** *Delinquent, Delinquency, Delinquent behaviour, Juvenile delinquency, Family related factors.*

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### I. BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

Nareen and Nadeem (2015) define juvenile delinquency as a criminal act conducted by children or teenagers, particular less than 18 years of age. Ngesa et al., (2009) foster that juvenile delinquency, also known as juvenile offending has increased and has become a worldwide social challenge. Doggett (2004) reiterates that the family is the major socializing agent and main influence to juvenile delinquent behaviour; family disruption, parental absences, lack of support and cohesiveness in the family are attributed to juvenile delinquency (McCord, 2001). Further, WHO (2012) reported people live in crowded informal settlement where the residents are subjected to displacement due to fire out break and floods. In Faisalabad and Bahawalpur District of Punjab Province Nasreen et al., (2015), revealed that due to low income, children were indulgence to antisocial behavior; 34.3% committed murder, 16.4%-gun robbery, and 12.9% indulged in theft.

In a survey conducted by Colleen et al; (2012) in South Africa, Kenya and Tanzania; 40% of children interviewed in Soweto informal settlement in South Africa were victims of crimes. Najala (2018) echoed that individuals who are victims of juvenile offending are likely to live in the same community. Further, breakdown of family structure were some of the leading factors contributing to juvenile delinquency. The findings revealed some of the offences the children committed; truancy, vandalism, burglary, theft and unwarranted sexual behavior. The study endeavors to establish family related factors contributing to juvenile delinquency.

#### Significance of the study in relation to family related factors.

On completion of the study, the findings will be disseminated to a wide audience and it may be useful in the following ways: The psychologists and counselors may use the research findings to help juveniles deal with delinquent behavior. The parents may use the findings in order to make rational decisions on the importance of nurturing and caring for their children aiming at mitigating delinquent behaviour among children.

The government and NGOs may use the findings to gain insight on how to help juveniles deal with delinquent behavior.

### **Theoretical Framework**

This study adopted three theories; ecological system theory, social learning theory and general strain theory.

#### **Ecological Theory**

Ecological systems theory (1979) was founded by Urie Bronfenbrenner and it states that human development is influenced by different types of environmental systems. The theory is divided into five sub systems or layers of environment that help in children's development. The sub-systems are based within the set up that makes child's environment. The sub-systems include the microsystem, the mesosystem, the exosystem, the macrosystem and the chronosystem.. According to Bronfenbrenner (1979), microsystem is the innermost layer of Ecological systems theory. It is closest to an individual and encompasses of interpersonal relationship with the family members, friends, teachers, neighbors and other people who have a direct contact with the children which would affect their behavior. Mesosystem is the relationship between the microsystems in a child's life. This can be explained by the interaction between various aspects of microsystems. Exosystem, does not directly affect individuals but rather it encompasses aspects that children find themselves in and affect them indirectly such as financial constrains within the family and parental joblessness. Macrosystem includes social or cultural ideologies, beliefs, political and economic systems that affect an individual's environment. The macrosystem is the largest and has direct influence on the child. The chronosystem includes the transitions and shifts in one's life span. The chronosystem includes a change in family structure, parent employment status, divorce and society changes such as economic status and civil wars. The major life transition may affect not only marital relationship but also their children's behavior (Bronfenbrenner, 1979).

Parents who are nurturing, affectionate and are fair to their children's well-being create a good environment than parents who are neglectful and do not interact positively with their children. Economic situations determine extent of availability of a parent to nurture the children while poverty and unemployment cause psychological distress and decrease their capacity for support and consistent involved parent. Change that occurs due to one lifestyle to another will adversely affect the child's development. Displacement due to ethnic wars and catastrophic will influence behavior to the children who will make up for their frustrations by indulging in delinquent behavior (Bronfenbrenner, 1979).

Family relationships influence development of a child. Parental discord and psychopathology, economic hardship, cultural values, religious beliefs, political background and shifts in life styles such as divorce and society changes can lead to negative consequences. Health interaction would result to positive outcome in development of children. Counselors need to apply the theory to understand the affected children and help them accordingly (Bronfenbrenner, 1979).

#### **Social Learning Theory**

Social learning theory was founded by Albert Bandura in 1979. The theory posits that an individual can learn through vicarious reinforcement which is based on four steps: observation, retention, reproduction and motivation. The first step for the individual who intends to learn is paying attention to model's characteristics. The individual then observes how the model behaves and retains the learnt behavior. Then the individual continues to practice in order to improve the behavior learnt. In due course, individual's need is satisfied by a motivating force, the individual desires are met hence the individual will likely continue to imitate the behavior frequently and forms a habit. According to Bandura Social Learning Theory (1979), observation learning can occur in environment in which the children live or in a social setting; at home, in school and the neighborhood. Bandura (1979), states that community organizations and social institutions are children's source of information. Living in an environment that promotes unwarranted behavior reinforces the observers to engage in delinquent behavior. Consequences of the model's behavior affect the observer's behavior vicariously (Bandura, 1979). Bandura's Social Learning theory (1979) demonstrates that juveniles observe and imitate what they learn from social settings. Living in social institutions such as family setting, learning institutions and in the neighborhood that have members who portray unwarranted behavior will lead juveniles to delinquent behavior. The imitated behaviors will lead to reinforcement because the juvenile become motivated by what has been portrayed and continue to practice the behavior which becomes a frequent habit (Bandura, 1979).

#### **General Strain Theory**

General Strain Theory was developed by Agnew (1992). It gives a significant explanation of delinquent acts among juveniles and possible outcome of strain in society. GST (1992) posits that a high magnitude of strain or stress levels tend to elicit emotions such as anger, anxiety, frustrations, sadness, depression and despair. These negative emotions in turn create pressure and cause illicit behaviour (Agnew, 1992).

General Strain Theory (1992) states that negative treatment by significant others can cause negative emotions that lead to juvenile delinquency. Agnew (1992) posits that children are influenced by strain which leads them to delinquent behaviour and undesirable circumstances and negative treatment by significant others creates a strain to the recipient. According to Agnew (1992), strain can also be caused by loss of something valued such as withdrawal of parental love and loss of valued individual's property. Broken families due to divorce and separation can cause strain to children and such strain is likely to generate anger and desire to revenge (Agnew, 1992).

According to GST (1992) Agnew fosters that strain that is high in magnitude will influence delinquency; unjustified acts such as abuse, parental rejection and unfair or excessive parental discipline. Affected individuals may attempt to escape environments that are associated with strain either by running away from home and indulgence in delinquent behaviour (Agnew, 1992). Agnew adds individuals may attempt to satisfy their desires by revenging or alleviate negative emotions by indulging in delinquent behaviour such as illicit substance abuse and truancy (Agnew, 1992). GST (1992) also highlights that strain increases persistent delinquent behaviour that becomes chronic. This results to negative relationship with conventional others and significantly increase delinquent peer groups in society (Agnew, 1992).

### **Research Design**

The study adopted a descriptive survey design. The research design allowed the researcher to associate with each respondent's thoughts, opinions, feelings, attributes, behaviors and values. The design was appropriate because it allowed the research to explain the predetermined items in both structured questionnaires and interview schedules (Kothari, 2012). The design was efficient and economical and maximized the reliability of the data collected that will increase knowledge in the field of social science research (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003).

### **The Study Location**

The study location was in Starehe sub-county within Nairobi County. Starehe sub- County occupies an area of 20 sq. km with a population of approximate 200000 people. It consists of five wards: Landimawe, Ngara, Pangani, Ziwani/Kariokor and Nairobi South. There are twenty four public primary schools in Starehe sub County. The sub-county is sub-divided into two educational zones, Ngara zone and Juja road zone with the educational headquarters at City Primary school and St. Teresa's Girls' Primary school respectively. The selected schools are in Juja zone. They are located adjacent to Majengo informal settlement and Mathare informal settlement and bordering to Easteligh. The informal settlements are densely populated and living in a homogenous marginalized area characterized by overcrowded temporary structures and inadequate infrastructure. Residents live in low social economic status strata. Most of them unemployed and a few have temporary jobs as casual laborers. Poverty and crime rate is high within and in adjacent areas of the study location. They include residential areas such as: Mathare informal settlement, Mathare South, Mathare A, Juja Road, Pangani, Easteligh, Kamukunji, Majengo, Pumwani, Ziwani, Gikomba, Mlango Kubwa and Ngara.

### **Target Population**

The study targeted pupils in public primary schools in Starehe sub-county, Nairobi County. There are twenty-four schools with a total population of approximately twenty thousand pupils. The study subjects of sample size of 350 delinquent juveniles presented the entire population was appropriate.

### **The Sample Size and Sampling Procedure**

According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), a researcher should take a big sample size as possible if the target population exceeds 10000 in order to avoid getting discrepancy between the sample characteristics and the population characteristics. In the sampling procedure, deliberate sampling or purposive sampling technique which is a non- probability sampling was employed (Kothari, 2012). Purposive sampling technique was employed to sample the juveniles to constitute an actual sample size of 350 juveniles with desired characteristics of delinquent behavior to represent target population. 30% was distributed among total number in standard 6-8 classes in each selected school. Juveniles/ subjects in the class levels were able to comprehend the items in both structured questionnaire and interview schedule. In addition, deliberate or purposive sampling was employed to sample 20 administrators and 30 teachers to participate in both interview schedule and Focus Discussion Groups in the selected schools; as shown in Table 1;

**Table 1: Sampling Frame**

Public Pri.sch.	School population	No. of Std 1-5	No. of Std 6-8	No. of Respondents	No. of Adm.	No. of Teachers
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*Family Related Factors Contributing To Juvenile Delinquency In Starehe Sub-County*

Mathare	1023	643	380	114	5	8
Kiboro	1015	642	373	112	5	8
Dr. Aggrey	680	444	236	71	4	6
Muslim	250	160	90	27	3	4
Pumwani	243	157	86	26	3	4
	3211	2046	1,165	350	20	30

**Research Instruments**

The researcher used both questionnaire and interview schedule.

**Questionnaire**

According to Kothari (2012) questionnaires are adopted to collect data in case of big enquiries. This method of collecting data was suitable for survey. The researcher used self-administered questionnaire to collect data from the respondents. Likert scale was used to rate matrix form of questions which were in the questionnaire and contingency questions were used to ensure that respondents gave relevant information to achieve the purpose of the study (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003).

**Interview Schedule**

Kothari (2012) explains that an interview schedule method was appropriate for in depth enquiries to closely examine the respondents. It was guided by open-ended questions to collect qualitative data.

**Pilot Study**

According to Mugenda, Mugenda (2003), pilot is a process of pre-testing a research instrument before a researcher embarks on collecting data. It is important in ascertaining validity and reliability of a research instrument. Pilot study was done by use of the two tools, the questionnaire and interview schedule and helped the researcher to standardize the tools before embarking on the actual study. From the observation reflected from pilot study, improvement maximized accuracy.

**Validity and Reliability**

The researcher ensured that the study met the threshold of validity by representation of meaningful, accurate and correct data that reflected what was investigated. Mugenda & Mugenda (2003), posits that construct validity would be met by ensuring that data collected by the use of research instruments will be meaningful and accurate to reflect the study findings. Content validity was the measure of data collected and it was ensured that the questions reflected the objectives exhaustively. Pilot study ensured that the items in the questionnaire and interview schedule were clear and in line with the purpose of the study. The researcher was able to find reliability of the instruments by test re test technique (Kothari, 2012).

A test retest technique was administered to estimate the degree to which the same results would be obtained with a repeated measure of accuracy. Since the two tests that were administered to 10 respondents were expected to attract similar scores. The scores obtained by each respondent on the first and second test were expected to be quite close. To calculate the correlation co-efficient between the two sets of scores obtained from the respondents on the first and second test, the following formula was used:

Where x was the value of test of respondents' outcome in the first pretest and y was the test of a respondents' outcome in the second pretest. Using Karl Pearson's coefficient of correlation, the outcome was 0.87; there was positive correlation between x and y, hence a high reliability (Kothari, 2012).

$$r = \frac{n \sum xy - \sum x \sum y}{\sqrt{[n \sum x^2 - (\sum x)^2] \cdot [n \sum y^2 - \sum y^2]}}$$

**Data Collection Procedure**

Questionnaires were distributed to the sampled respondents who were allowed time to give their responses. An interview schedule was administered to focus discussion groups and subgroups of sampled respondents. The interview schedule was face to face for cross-examination, through oral investigation technique, yielding to in depth information.

**Data Analysis and Presentation**

Data analysis, according to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), is the process of bringing order, structure and meaning to the mass of information collected. Quantitative data was extracted from the questionnaire. It was

analyzed using descriptive statistics such as mean and standard deviation. Presentation was in form of frequency distribution tables, bar graphs and percentage. Qualitative data was analyzed thematically according to the objectives of the study. The qualitative findings were presented in verbatim.

### **Ethical Considerations**

The researcher obtained a permit from the authorities before proceeding to the field to collect data. The researcher was issued with Ethical clearance and permit from both KeMU and NACOSTI respectively. Consent to collect data from juveniles was sought from the parents because the pupils were minors. Self-consent from teachers and administrators in the schools was given. The participants were briefed on the importance of the research and were requested to participate voluntarily. The researcher assured the respondents that all the information that would be given or shared would be treated with strict confidentiality and only to be used for the purpose of the study. To maintain anonymity and confidentiality, the participants were asked to use pseudonyms. The parents assisted and gave consent by signing informed consent forms and teachers/administrators self-consented.

### **Demography Findings**

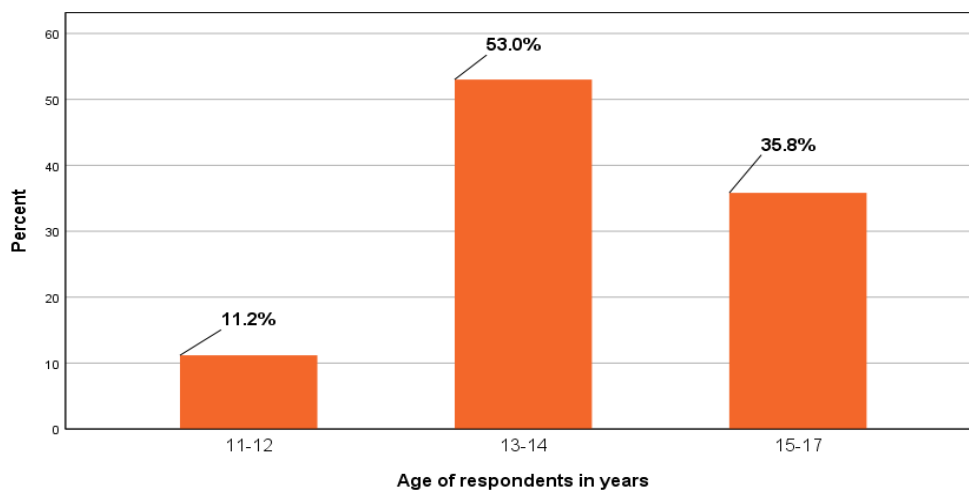
The study involved three hundred and fifty (350) respondents, however 349 participated which represented 99.7% response rate. Demographic variables of the study include gender, age, family background to the respondents, marital status of parents/guardian, number of siblings for each respondent, parent/guardian employment status and parents/guardians/education status.

### **Distribution of Respondents According to Gender**

Both genders; male and female were incorporated. The study findings showed that 57.59% of the respondents were boys while 42.41% were girls. The finding revealed that boys were the majority as compared to girls. This implies that there were more male delinquent respondents than their female counterparts. The finding concurs with Ngesa *et al.*, (2009). It was revealed that boys were prone to juvenile delinquency. This could be that juvenile delinquency is more attributed to male gender.

### **Distribution of Respondents According to Age**

The distribution of respondents according to age is represented in **Figure 1**;



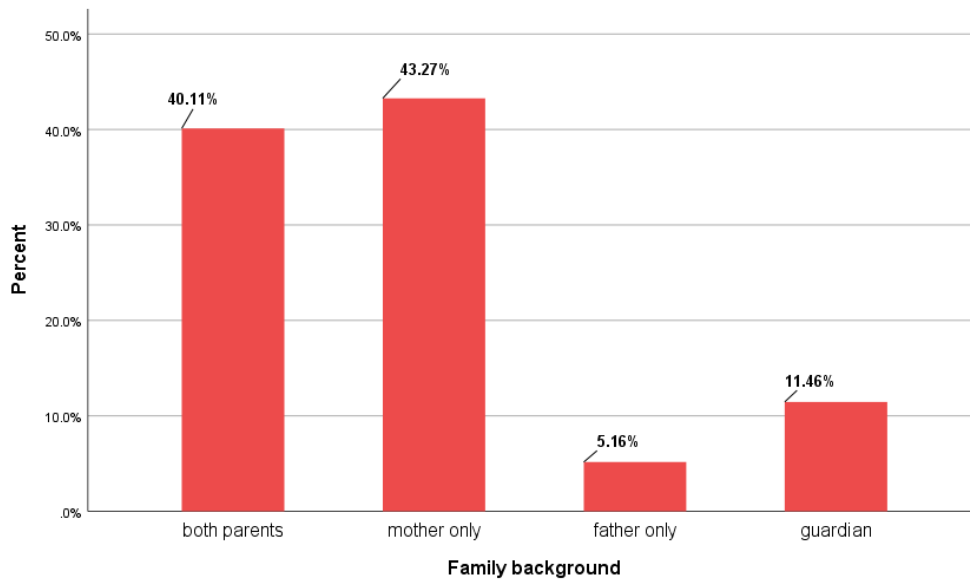
**Figure 1: Age of Respondents**

The study finding revealed that the age and percentages of the respondent were as follows: 11-12 years; 11.2%, 13-14years; 65% and 15-17 years; 35.8%.

This finding demonstrates that majority of the participants were between the age of 13-14 years; 65%. Followed by 15-17 years; 35.8% and 11-12years; 11.2 %. This implies that the middle adolescents were more involved in delinquent behavior than their counterparts in early and late adolescence. Gitonga *et al.*, (2015) corroborate with the findings of a study that comprised of adolescents categorized as early adolescents, middle adolescents and late adolescents. It was revealed that early adolescents; 18.8%, middle adolescents; 42% as the majority, while the late adolescents; 35.6%.

**Distribution of Respondents According to Parents/Guardian Family Background**

The study endeavored to find out the family background of the participants. The study established the following as shown in **Figure2**;

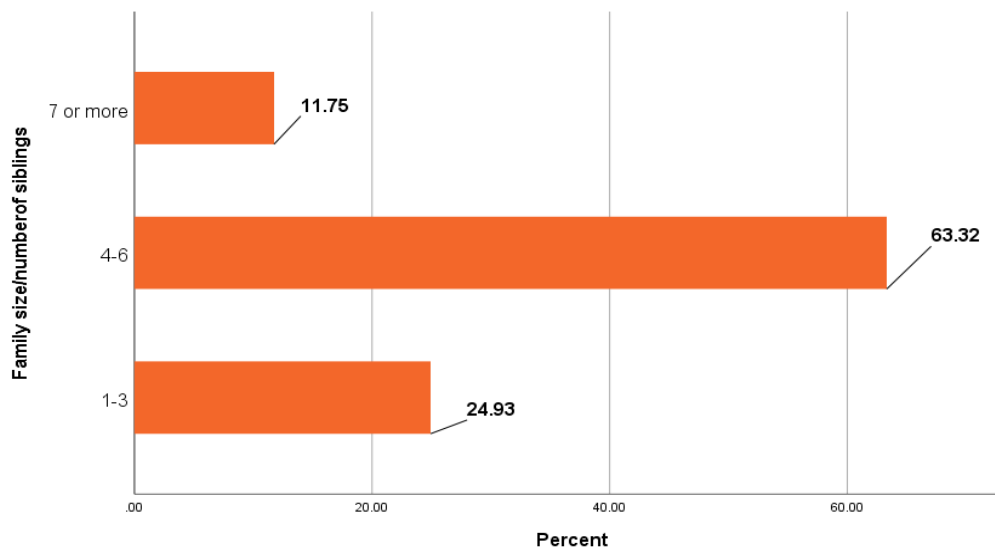


**Figure 2: Family Background**

43.27% of the participants stayed with their mothers only, 40.11% with both parents, 11.41% with their guardians and 5.16% with their fathers only. The study shows that majority 59.84% stayed with one parent. This implies that the parents were adversely overwhelmed by responsibilities to provide and nurture the children. This in turn motivated them to indulge in delinquent behavior. This finding is in agreement with Ngesa et al., (2009), who reported more delinquent behaviour among children from unstable families than among stable couples. The study revealed that 68.2% were from single parent family and 31.8% were from one parent family. Bromfenbrenner Ecological Theory (1979) foster that a change of family structure due to divorce, separation or being widowed will affect not only marital relationship but also children’s behavior. Doggett (2004) corroborate with the finding and posits that juveniles living in families with only one parent due to marital instability and conflict are more likely to indulge in delinquent behavior.

**Distribution of Respondents According to Number of Siblings**

The study endeavored to find out number of siblings the respondents had as demonstrated in **Figure 3**;

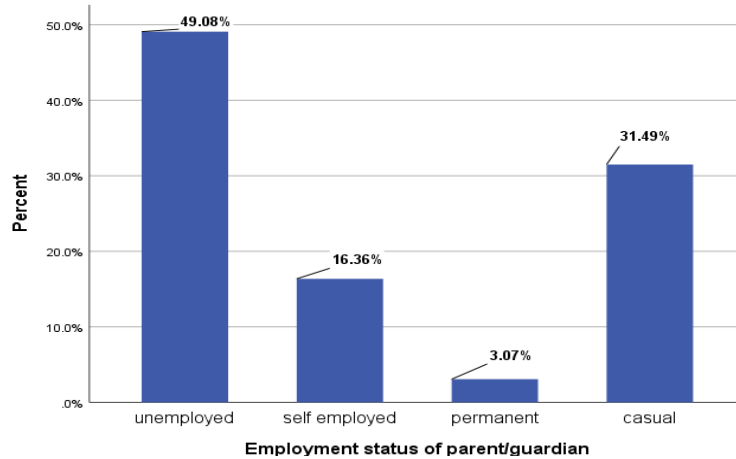


**Figure 3: Number of Siblings**

The study findings demonstrate that 75.07% of the respondents had more than 4 siblings against 24.93% who had 1-3 siblings. This implies that there is high dependence burden and parents are unable to sustain their support to the large family. Further, the parents do not effectively control and meet the obligation to provide needs for their children. Consequently, the juveniles are prone to risk behavior and indulge in delinquent activities. The study finding concurs with Wasserman *et al.*, (2001) who echoed that families with more than 4 children are more likely to have an increased chance of juvenile delinquency. Further, the more siblings a child has less individual attention the child receives from the parents/guardians. Further, Ngesa *et al.*, (2009) agree with the finding and posit that a large family size leads to juvenile delinquency.

### Parents/Guardian Employment Status

The study attempted to find out employment status of fathers, mothers and guardians as shown in **Figure 4**;



**Figure 4: Employment Status of Parents/Guardians**

The study revealed that about half 49.08% of the parents/ guardians were unemployed, about a third 31.49%, in casual employment, self-employment were 16.36% and only 3.07% were employed permanently. The statistics demonstrates that a minimal percent of parents and guardians were permanently employed and majority of them were in either unemployed or were in casual employment. The following verbatim from a class teacher in Pumwani, Focus Group Discussion support this finding;

“The parents cannot put food on the table on daily basis because the family background is poor and their children look for means to get food elsewhere and this will result to behavior change and then... they will be involved in crime scenarios” *Joyce. 26<sup>th</sup>. January, (2021)*

This implied that majority of the parents were economically constrained and were unable to meet their obligation to provide for their children’s need. For instance, the children lacked basic needs such as food and hence they engaged themselves in delinquent behaviour. In context of the findings, economic situations strain the parent and who in turn lack the ability to nurture and meet the need for the strained juveniles which increasingly motivate delinquent behaviour. This finding concurs with Nasreen *et al.*, (2015) who reported that parents with low income had financial constraints and their children had increased chances of indulging in delinquent behavior. Further, such children are likely to indulge in substance use and drug abuse (Sheridan, 2012). UNICEF (2012) reported that children living in low socio-economic status have behavioral problems and in many occasion they indulge in delinquent behaviors. Bronfenbrenner Ecological System Theory (1979) is in agreement with the study findings and emphasis that exosystem encompasses aspects that find children indirectly affected due to financial constraints caused by parental unemployment status. .

### Parents /Guardian Education Level

The study endeavored to find out parents/guardian’s education level as demonstrated in Figure 5;

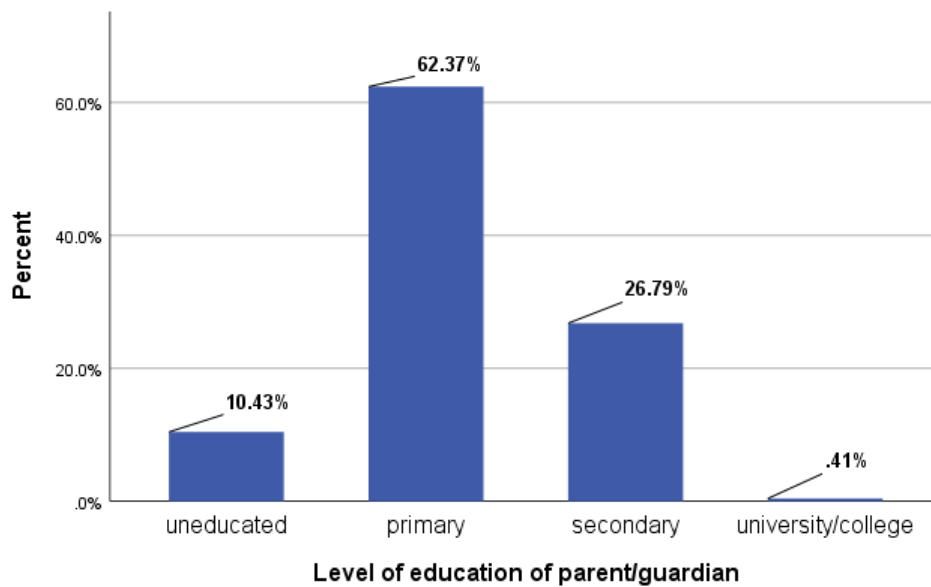


Figure 5: Level of Education of Parents/Guardians

The findings demonstrated that 10.4% of the parents/guardians had not attained formal education, 62.37% had attained primary education, 26.79% had attained secondary education and only 0.41% had attained tertiary/university/college level of education. The verbatim from a class teacher in Pumwani Primary School supports the study findings;

“Parents have low education and they cannot motivate their children. They live in single rooms which are overcrowded and whatever they do in such rooms will be copied by their children and at a later date and they will behave in a similar manner” *Zainab, 26<sup>th</sup>.January,(2021)*.

This implies that a very minimal percentage of parents/guardians had attained tertiary education. The parents had low education that compromised their capacity to nurture, motivate and encourage their children. For instance, they were not in a position to guide their children due to low education and hence the children were disoriented which largely contributed to involvement in delinquent behavior among juveniles. The study finding correlates with Nasreen et al., (2015) who echoed that mother’s education is a fundamental factor because it matters a lot in tending and correcting child behavior.

**Family Related Factors Contributing to Juvenile Delinquency**

Included are parental/guardian related factors, basic needs related factors, neighborhood related factors, other family related factors and extent in which family related factors contribute to juvenile delinquency.

**Parental/Guardian Related Factors**

The parental/guardian related factors were established by use of a four-point Likert scale: 1-Strongly Disagree, 2- Disagree, 3- Agree and 4- Strongly Agree as shown in **Table 2**;

**Table 2: Parental/Guardian Related Factors**

Parental/Guardian Factors	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
My parent is an alcoholic	349	1	4	2.03	.960
I have an absent father/mother	349	1	4	2.67	1.111
My parent/guardian fight/fought in my presence	349	1	4	2.54	1.013
I lack parental guidance	349	1	4	3.07	.894
I lack a role model	349	1	4	3.32	.776
My parent/guardian is a drug addict	349	1	4	2.03	.958
Valid N	349				

The respondents agreed that they lacked role models; 3.32, they lacked parental guidance; 3.07, they had parental absence; 2.67 and parents fight or they fought in their presence; 2.54. The following findings in FDG from class teachers in Mathare Primary School echo the quantitative findings:

“Most of the parents are single parents due to divorce and separation. Others have single parent family at home because of death related factors such as a result of crime and HIV/AIDS; there are many unstable families in this locality...” *Zachary, January, 18<sup>th</sup> (2021)*.

“Here we have parents who are not supportive to their children ... children lack love from their parents... they are not concerned with their children’s welfare and they behave the same as their children...” *Nancy, February, 22<sup>nd</sup>. (2021)*.



In context of the findings, it implies that the majority of the respondents were adversely affected by the family related factors. This implies that they lacked guidance from the parents or guardians. Further, the absence of one parent infers that children lack a role model who is a source of emotional support. Consequently, this motivated delinquent behaviour. Gitonga *et al.*, (2005) is in agreement with this finding and reiterates that parental conflict was related to delinquent behavior among juveniles. Further, Ngesa *et al.*, (2009) concurs with this study that there is a relationship between marital instability and juvenile delinquency in a study finding that demonstrated that 66.6% of juvenile indulged in delinquency due to domestic violence against 3.4% of the respondents who did not experience domestic violence. Buehler & Gerard (2002) reiterate that levels of parental conflict are associated to hostile and aggressive behavior among juveniles. Bronfenbrenner Ecological System Theory (1979) is in agreement with the findings and posits that unhealthy relationship between various aspects of microsystem will affect children hence leading them to delinquent behaviour. When a juvenile is neglected by the parents, juvenile subsequently develop low attachment with a parent. Further, change of family structure due to divorce and separation is attributed to parental absence in the family structure which in turn contributes to juvenile delinquency.

**Basic Needs and Juvenile Delinquency**

The study further sought to establish basic needs related factors contributing to juvenile delinquency. The respondent’s level of response was measured using a four-point Likert scale 1-Strongly Disagree, 2- Disagree, 3- Agree And 4- Strongly Agree as shown in **Table 3**;

**Table 3: Basic Needs Related Factors**

Basic Needs Factors	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
I do not get enough food	349	1	4	2.93	.958
I do not have proper shelter	349	1	4	3.06	.945
I do not have proper clothing	349	1	4	2.77	.887
I do not get medical care	349	1	4	2.50	.850
There is no safety at home	349	1	4	2.95	1.025
Valid N	349				

The study finding from the highest to the lowest mean score was as follows; they agreed that they did not have proper shelter; 3.06%, they did not have security at home; 2.95%, followed by that they did not get enough food; 2.93% and that they did not have proper clothing; 2.77%. However, they disagreed that they do not get medical care at a mean score of 2.50. This implies that majority of the participants are not provided with most of the basic needs. The parents\guardians are unable to nurture and provide for their children’s needs and hence this has contributed children indulgence in delinquent behavior. This study concurs with UN-Habitat (2012) that expressed that juvenile delinquency is high in informal settlements where financial resources are inadequate to meet the cost of rent, food, water and clothing. The findings are also in agreement with Agnew’s General Strain Theory (1992) which posits that strain in a social setting can exhibit stress that may magnify emotions such as anger, anxiety and despair that in turn would create pressure and later lead to juvenile delinquency.

**Neighborhood Related Factors and Delinquency**

The study further sought to establish neighborhood related factors contributing to juvenile delinquency. A four-point Likert scale was used; 1-Strongly Disagree, 2- Disagree, 3- Agree and 4- Strongly Agree as shown in **Table 4**;

**Table 4: Neighborhood Related Factors and Juvenile Delinquency**

Neighborhood Factors	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
I know of a place in the neighborhood where drugs are sold (e.g., cigarettes, bhang, khat, etc.)	349	1	4	2.86	.993
There is a lot of peer pressure in the neighborhood	349	1	4	2.75	1.001
There are many drinking places near our home (e.g., bars, pubs, etc.)	349	1	4	3.53	.760
Valid N	349				

Respondents strongly agreed that there were many drinking places such as bars and pubs near their home; 3.53, they agreed that they knew of places in the neighborhood where drugs such as khat, cigarettes and bhang are sold; 2.86 and there was a lot of peer pressure in the neighborhood by a mean score of 2.75. The following verbatim finding from an administrator in Mathare Primary School supports the quantitative finding.

“We have a problem of learners because they see their neighbors taking drugs. The parents take alcohol and smoke bhang... their children also smoke bhang and cigarettes. We are surrounded by places that sell drugs and illicit drinks...” *Mwende, February, 22<sup>nd</sup>. (2021)*

In context of the findings, it implies that majority of the participants have been influenced by peers within their neighborhood and has motivated delinquent behaviour to escalate. This finding concurs with Kang’ori (2016) who reiterated that peer pressure among juveniles continues to escalate delinquent behavior. Further it leads to juvenile giving in to fit in a group that indulges in delinquent activities.

This study concurs with Mwingi (2015) who reiterates that availability and accessibility of drugs in the neighborhood in many occasions is what drives juveniles to engage in groups and later become regular users of drugs. Eventually, the user forms a habit and becomes an addict. Further, Bandura Social Learning Theory (1979) supports the finding and expresses that individual’s behaviour is influenced by both the environment and characteristics of the models. The model’s behaviour affects the observer’s behavior vicariously. In addition, living in an environment that promotes unwarranted behavior reinforces the observer to engage in delinquency; peer pressure will force the observer to continue imitating behavior of members of a group in order to fit in a particular group of which the imitated behavior will lead to reinforced consequences.

**Other Family Related Factors and Juvenile Delinquency**

The study sought to establish other factors contributing to juvenile delinquency. The respondents used agree and disagree as shown in **Table 5**;

**Table 5: Other Family Related Factors**

Other family related factors	Agree (%)	Disagree (%)
I have witnessed fire outbreak or floods in our home/neighborhood	298 (85.39%)	51 (14.61%)
My parent/guardian does not have time for me	223 (63.90%)	126 (36.10%)
I am never rewarded when I do well	186 (53.30%)	163 (46.70%)
I am punished unfairly when I do wrong	246 (70.49%)	103 (29.51%)

The study revealed that 85.39% had witnessed fire-outbreak or floods either in their homes or neighborhood, 70.4% agreed that they were punished unfairly by their parents or guardians. They agreed that their parents or guardians do not have time for them; 63.9% and that they are never rewarded when they do well; 53.3%. Following is a verbatim from a teacher in Dr. Aggrey Primary School interview schedule.

“Many parents leave their children unattended and they have no time to nurture and have good care for them... then ... the children pick up habit most of which are from their peer groups in their neighborhood.” *Karanja, February, 22<sup>nd</sup>. (2021)*

This implies majority of the participants lacked parental supervision and motivation and they were adversely affected by fire outbreaks, floods and unfair punishment from their parents and guardians. This finding portrays that there are other forces that can affect juveniles and eventually engage in delinquent behavior. For instance, catastrophes such as fire outbreaks and floods create strain to all members of the family especially when family activities are disrupted due to displacement. This study finding concurs with Njenga (2008) who reiterates that when children are affected by displacement due to floods and fire outbreaks in their settlements, they suffer strain and can revenge. Sheridan (2012) is in agreement with the study findings and echoes that informal settlement frequently are adversely affected by displacement and eviction due to natural disasters such as floods and fire out breaks. Further, Ngesa *et al.*, (2009) findings concur with the study that physical punishment by parents or guardians encourages violence and may result to juvenile delinquent behavior. Further, Bronfenbrenner Ecological Theory (1979) is in agreement with findings that many outside force compromise with children’s development besides the immediate family related factors and are attributed to juvenile delinquency.

**Extent at which Family Related Factors Contribute to Juvenile Delinquency**

The study further attempted to find the extent in which family related factors contribute to juvenile delinquency. Frequency/extent was measured by use of always, often and sometimes. The frequency of juvenile delinquency was as shown in **Figure 6**;

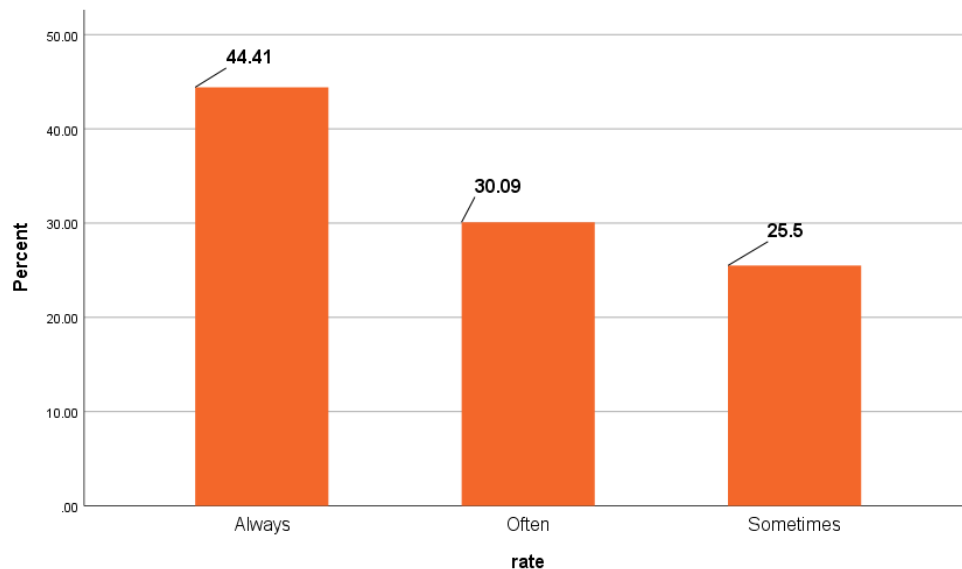


Figure 6: Extent at which Family Related Factors Contribute to Delinquency

The study findings revealed that 44.4% of the participants indicated that always delinquency was caused by family factors, followed by 30.39% who said that often the related family factors contribute to juvenile delinquency and finally 26.50% said sometimes the related family factors contribute to conformity to juvenile delinquency. This implies that a significant number of participants were conforming in delinquent behavior of which was motivated by family related factors. The study findings resonate with Ngesa et al., (2009), who expressed that juvenile delinquency has increased globally at a rate of 33% in a period of a decade and has continued to become a social challenge. Bronfenbrenner Ecological Theory (1979) resonates with the study findings that family disruption, parental absences, lack of support and cohesiveness in the family are attributed to high extent of conformity to juvenile delinquency.

## II. SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS

Base on the findings, the study established that demographic factor had a great influence on the psychosocial factors contributing to juvenile delinquency. The study revealed that there were more male respondents than their female counterparts. The study findings established that in middle adolescence there were more respondents than in early adolescence and late adolescence. The study finding demonstrates that boys are prone to delinquent behavior and that respondents in middle adolescence were increasingly giving in to fit in group and participate in delinquent behavior. Further, the study findings demonstrated that more than half of the parents/guardians had broken marriages as a result of divorce, separation and being widowed. This finding indicates that they lacked parental guidance and role models at home due to parental absence. Hence the parents'/guardians' responsibility to up bring and nurture the children was lacking and hence juvenile indulged in delinquent behavior. Further, the study revealed that 75% of the respondents were brought up in a big family of over 4 siblings. This implies that there is increased chance for juvenile to indulge in delinquent behaviors.

The study findings demonstrated that almost half of the parents/guardians were unemployed, 31.49% were in casual employment, 3.09% were self-employed and 3.07% were permanently employed. The study findings highlighted more than a third of the fathers and then a half of the mothers were unemployed. It was evident that a small percent of the parents was permanently employed. Based on the findings on the employment status, the findings demonstrated that the parents faced a myriad of financial challenges and this implies that they could not meet their obligation to provide for their children's need. The findings also revealed that 10.4% of the parents/ guardians were uneducated; 62.37% had attained primary education, 26.79% had attained secondary education. However, only 0.41% had attained tertiary/university or college level of education.

The study findings demonstrated that family related factors contributed largely to juvenile delinquency. The study found that the juveniles were largely affected by family related factors and that lack of role models was the highest at a mean score of 3.32 and the lowest was father alcoholism at a mean score of 2.03. The respondents were not largely affected by parental conflicts/fight because of one parental absence. This finding implies that there are many broken marriages due to divorce, separation and being widowed. Consequently, the factors overwhelmed the single parents who were left as a custodian of the children. The study finding revealed that basic needs related factors were a cause of delinquency among juveniles. They were rated parental absence, 3.06 as the highest and lack of medical care, 2.50 as the least factor contributing to juvenile delinquency. This

implies that parents were not at a position of providing for their children's need and this resulted to juvenile delinquency.

The study findings further established that neighborhood related factors contributing to delinquent among juveniles. The respondents agreed that there were many drinking places such as bars/pubs; 3.53 and 2.76 in peer pressure. This indicates that a significant number of participants were adversely affected and hence the factors can be attributed to juvenile delinquency. The study finding portrayed that other outside factors such as catastrophes; floods and fire outbreaks are other factors that adversely affected juveniles and hence contributing to juvenile delinquency behaviour.

Further, findings showed that juveniles lacked supervision and motivation and their parents/guardians unfairly punished them. The factors adversely affected the respondents, and in turn they indulged in delinquent activities. The study findings revealed that the guardians /parents lack mutual commitment to parenting and this escalate juvenile delinquency. It was established that the family related factors largely contribute to juvenile delinquency. The respondents indicated that the extent at which the family related factors contribute to delinquency was high. The frequency was measured and it turned out that they often engaged in delinquent at 44.4% as the highest and sometimes was the lowest at 26.50% due to family related factors. delinquency was also as a cause of school related factors. The study finding has revealed family related factors contributing to juvenile delinquency in Starehe sub county, Nairobi County.

### **III. CONCLUSIONS**

There is high conformity of juvenile delinquency in public primary schools in Starehe sub county, Nairobi County. The study concludes that majority of the parents/guardians have low level of education which compromise with their obligation to monitor and encourage their children. Majority, single parents of large families with low economic status are overwhelmed to provide for their children essentials such as proper clothing, food and security. A significant number of parents are unemployed and in unstable family structures which has been attributed to separation and divorce of which compromise with their obligation to provide for and to nurture their children. Parental absence infers that juveniles lack role models, motivation and supervision.

Further, majority of the juveniles are susceptible to neighborhood and school peer pressure which largely motivate the rising trend of delinquent behaviour among juveniles in public primary schools in Starehe sub county, Nairobi County. Drug and substance use in the neighborhood is rampant and has motivated delinquent behavior among juveniles as established by this study. Finally, the study concludes that intervention strategies such as psycho-education, peer counseling guidance and counseling, family counseling and recreation activities to be prioritized to help address juvenile delinquency in public primary schools in Starehe sub county, Nairobi County.

### **IV. RECOMMENDATIONS ON RESEARCH FINDINGS**

- i) The Ministry of Education to prioritize organized, functional and comprehensive guidance and counselling in learning institutions and in local community centers where trained psychotherapists provide intervention for those affected due to marital instability. This will effectively make a significant contribution to mitigate juvenile delinquency.
- ii) Non-governmental organization, psychotherapists and practitioners to provide family counselling and psycho-education aiming at imparting parenting skills for the purpose of assisting parents/guardians develop their children holistically, mentally, spiritually, socially and psychologically.
- iii) Peer-friendly forums to be established by churches to provide peer talk and connect juvenile to role models to facilitate them. In turn juveniles may develop social skills and as such will significantly curb juvenile delinquency.
- iv) The Government to economically empower the unemployed parents and assist vulnerable families in case of need to provide materials assistance such as nutrition and clothing. As such, they will be motivated and in turn effectively mitigate juvenile delinquency.
- v) Policy makers to enhance preparedness for future calamities related to climate change aiming at strengthening disaster management programs to cater and advocate for the affected by catastrophes such as floods and fire outbreaks in informal settlements. By doing so, the families will not be victims of displacement in social settings and as such reduce chances of delinquent behaviour among juveniles.
- vi) The state to provide recreation parks and leisure activities in informal settlement spheres that aim at motivating juveniles and as such increase their autonomy which in turn curb juvenile delinquency.

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