

Influence Of Economic Status On Female Criminality: A Case Of Female Prisoners At The Meru Gk Prison, Meru County, Kenya.

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Abstract:

Female criminality is costly to societies all over the world. Studies on why women commit crimes have been few and produced mixed results which posed a challenge to solving this security problem. The purpose of the study was to assess how economic status influences female criminality among female prisoners at the Meru GK Prison in Meru County in Kenya. The study was guided by the social disorganization theory and the strain theory. The study used a correlational research design. The target population for this study was 309 female inmates at the Meru GK Prison. The target population was also the accessible population. A sample of 110 was drawn, 104 female inmates using the simple random sampling method and 6 experts using purposive sampling. Structured questionnaires, focus group discussions, and interviews were the instruments of data collection. A pilot study was carried out at the Embu GK Prison on sample data of 11 female inmates and 1 prison officer. The pilot data set gave a Cronbach alpha coefficient of 0.894, which was above 0.75 as required, depicting reliability. Quantitative data was analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (IBM SPSS Statistics V26). Proportions, means, frequencies, standard deviation, and Spearman Correlation were used to analyze quantitative data. Qualitative data was analyzed using thematic content analysis. Questionnaires went through evaluation by supervisors and experts in the field to ensure validity. The researcher obtained a permit from NACOSTI and approvals from relevant bodies such as the Tharaka University Ethics Committee, and the Correctional Department. Spearman correlation coefficient of 0.588, was attained at 95% confidence level indicating a positive correlation on whether there is a relationship between economic status and female criminality. There was a significant influence of economic status on female criminality. The findings of this study shape recommendations on the management of female criminality thus important to the National government, county government, and corrections department.

Keywords: *Economic Status, Female Criminality, Introduction:*

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Globally, female criminality has been on the rise. Different researchers sample different populations and draw similar patterns in female crime. For example, an article by Nadia Campaniello (2019), 'Women in Crime', has data on female criminality from research carried out in the United States, Wales, England, and Italy. The research reveals that female crime existed and has been on the rise from as far as the 1980s. Data from India, Russia, Thailand, Brazil, and Nigeria shows that more women engage in crime both knowingly and unknowingly (Jakubowski, (2022). Nadia Campaniello (2019) noted that between 1980 and 2011, the number of women arrested for violent crimes and property crimes doubled. While the research reveals that different motivations lead to female criminality, it does not fully cover the globe, and this leaves room for more research.

I. Literature Review:

The vulnerable nature of women puts them at the center focus of entertaining the thought of crime. When there is a limit to accessing healthcare and substandard socioeconomic conditions, life tends to be difficult for women. Women do not take to violence in most cases due to gender socialization. Violence among

women happens mostly in the family set-up and is a response to male violence, when every other solution seems not to work (James, 2022). Davidson (2019) felt that both men and women have equal opportunity to get into crime. For particular crimes, however, women have less opportunity compared to men. A good example is a crime like burglary. In most cases, burglary happens late in the night and it tends to be a solo act. A woman walking in the night alone already raises suspicion. The opportunity for crime may differ for both men and women and so is the type of crime each may participate (Davidson, 2019). Most organizations have men at the top and the women right under. The women find themselves under authority and having limited access to a lot of opportunities. The tendency to engage in a white-collar crime has opportunity for the male more than the female. As things change and more women rise in the career ladder, the scales also shift on the likelihood of women committing white-collar crimes. More women are getting educated and rising to powerful positions in the corporate world hence opening more opportunity (Chesney, 2017).

Unemployment is among the leading causes of crime (Pollock, 2014). For women, most cases find single mothers trying to fend for their children. Other constituting factors like lack of education lead to women securing low paying jobs that cannot be sustained. Women lose jobs anyhow and this leads to them opting for illegal means of securing a livelihood. Some of the most common alternatives include prostitution and drug and substance peddling and abuse. About eleven million women-headed households lack the basic source of income (Campaniello, 2019). Most of the women with no qualifications find themselves making too little in terms of income to survive. Unemployment and poverty in most cases intertwine and push women to engage in crime so as to reduce the suffering.

More women are working in the modern U.S and changing the dynamics of economic and social trends since World War II (Hailey, 2018). Hailey (2018) continues to write that the shift in the job market where more service jobs are available and less manufacturing jobs have made the nature and meaning of gender position change. More women in the 1990s got into the job market and cut the dominance of men by one third. However, the job market has gender specific jobs and the male dominance is clear. The women continue to fight for limited opportunities left by the larger male space. On the surface, it may appear that the service industry is equalizing the playing field but the reality is that the economic marginalization is heavy on women in many ways (Jackson, 2019).

The International Monetary Fund Strategy report of 2018 showed that women still got selected for specific jobs. The gender parity makes women get the less valued jobs and have less income. The segregation pushes women to the service section and leave men in the manufacturing section which makes more money. The largest percentage of women get employment in service work, after clerical employees. With the development of technology, more women are able to get better positions in the industries but still leans on service. The desire to do more and get better income may make some women choose crime to bridge the gap (International Monetary Fund. Strategy, 2018).

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs report of 2020 revealed that there is a very casual approach to women employment. The casualization has brought about the lack of a sustainable income for many women since the jobs pay low and they are not full-time. The number of women in part-time employment surpasses the number of men in part-time employment. It is easier for a man to secure full-time employment than for a lady. The benefits of a full-time job are numerous, not to mention bonuses, health insurance, and other packages depending on company (Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2020). The person working on part-time basis misses out on all the benefits. The women are the same people taking care of families and some are single-parents. The burden is heavy on the women and they may opt for more than one job to have a full salary. Getting the many jobs and service the jobs within a short period of time becomes difficult. The result of the casualization of women working is women choosing for alternative methods to achieve the means to meet their day-to-day needs (International Monetary Fund. Strategy, 2018). The economic status of women is a contributing factor to the choice of engaging in criminal activity.

II. METHODOLOGY

This study employed a correlational research design. Correlational research design tests the relationship between two variables that have zero influence from a third external variable (Bryman, 2016). The research design blended both qualitative and quantitative data for purpose of accurate and credible research findings.

The location of the study was the Meru GK Prison located in Meru County. Meru County is county number twelve (12) under the constitution of Kenya 2010. The estimated population of Meru County is 1.5 million according to the census of 2019. There are three prisons in Meru County namely; Meru GK Prison, Kimitu GK Prison, and Kangeta GK Prison. The prisons are medium security prisons under the Prisons Act of 2010. Suspects are referred to any of the three prisons after sentencing.

The Meru GK Prison had an estimate of one thousand two hundred and fifty-nine (1259) prisoners and of this, female prisoners were 309 as of 2017 (Mutabari, 2017). The target population was 309 female inmates.

This was also the accessible population for the study. The study was administered on female inmates at the Meru GK Prison serving any length of sentences. The researcher additionally interviewed stakeholders in the prison like wardens (2), psychologists (1), religious leaders (1), counselor (1), and a senior officer (1). The target population is the accessible population. focus group discussions were also used to get additional data from the accessible population.

A sample size of 104 respondents was drawn using the formulae proposed by Nassiuma (2001) as shown below: $n = NC^2 / (C^2 + (N - 1) e^2)$

$$n = NC^2 / (C^2 + (N - 1) e^2)$$

Where:

n = Sample size,

e = Standard error.

C = Coefficient of variation, N = Population,

C=25%, e = 0.02 and N= 309

$$n = [309 * 0.25^2] / [0.25^2 + \{(309-1) 0.02^2\}]$$

$$= 31.125 / 0.2613$$

$$= 103.998 > \text{Rounded Off} = 104$$

= 104 respondents were selected for the study.

The research instruments were questionnaires, focus group discussions, and interview schedules. The questionnaires leaned towards the objectives of the study to ensure validity. The questionnaires were used to collect data from the female inmates and the interviews were used to collect data from prison stakeholders. 104 female inmates were the target population for filling out the questionnaires. The questionnaires had closed-ended questions for the female inmates. The questionnaire also used Likert scale items extensively. There were four sections in the questionnaires; three addressing the objectives of this study and one section gathering biodata. The questionnaires were a key part of this research.

The group discussions backed up the questionnaires and assisted in getting further useful information that may not have been captured by the questionnaires. The researcher selected then 16 female inmates from the sample of 104 purposively after filling the questionnaire, in order to participate in the 2 focus group discussions (8 inmates each). The researcher asked the prison officers to help in identifying influential inmates.

From the interview schedule, the stakeholders working in the prison provided information useful to the research and suggested solutions. 6 prison stakeholders participated in addressing the interview schedules.

The questionnaires were evaluated before the actual study to check for appropriateness and validity. The objectives of the study were also checked with the questionnaires to ensure alignment of purpose. Seeking counsel from supervisors and experts in the field assisted to sight gaps and areas that needed adjustments. Corrections were part of the process of ensuring the questionnaires were effective. Validity is about how well research findings show similarity between participants and true findings among individuals outside the study. A study instrument is valid when it can measure appropriately the different variables and how the variables influence each other and interact (Bryman, 2016).

A pilot study took place at the Embu GK Prison in Embu County, Kenya. Meru GK Prison and Embu GK Prison are similar only that the latter has fewer inmates. The pilot study took place on a small number of female inmates of about eleven (11), which is 10% of the sample size (Bryman, 2016), and one stakeholder. In liaison with the prison authorities, the pilot study was conducted on inmates serving a sentence of not more than five (5) years.

A pilot study aims at testing for reliability and gauging the internal consistency of the questionnaire. The researcher employed the Cronbach alpha coefficient to test for internal consistency. The Cronbach alpha is a statistical coefficient that is a value between 0 and 1, used to test how reliable an instrument is. After getting the feedback, the data set was split into two and a score for participants was calculated from each half of the scale. Cronbach alpha value of at least 0.75 was acceptable and indicated reliability (Allibang, 2020). The same scores on each half indicated high correlation and reliability. The test gave a 0.936 result meaning that the research instruments were reliable.

The table below shows the Cronbach alpha test results:

Table 1: Reliability Test on Pilot Data

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.936	11

Data collection is the process of collecting data for purposes of study using the relevant sources (Allibang, 2020). The data collection procedure had the researcher secure an introductory letter from the Tharaka University Research Ethics Committee that assisted in obtaining a research permit from the National Council of Science and Technology (NACOSTI) before starting the research process. The researcher sought

permission from the Commissioner of Prisons before conducting any physical visits to the prisons. The researcher visited various institutions of interest and informed them of the intention to collect data. The researcher proceeded to sample and obtain the participants from the list of names offered. The researcher introduced the participants to the purpose of the research and sought their consent to participate in the research.

III. Results And Discussions

The analysis was both qualitative and quantitative. Descriptive statistics like proportions, means, frequencies, and standard deviation were the data analysis and data were presented in tables. The researcher used Spearman Correlation (inferential statistic) to analyze the influence the independent variables have on the dependent variable and content analysis was used to analyze qualitative data. Quantitative data was analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (IBM SPSS Statistics V26).

Respondents Response Rate

A total of 104 questionnaires were issued for the study and 93 of the 104 were filled. The number of questionnaires filled was 89.4% of the total which was considered adequate as it was above 80% (Snyder, 2019). Only 6 out of the 7 sampled for the interviews were able to participate which was still adequate as it represented 85.7% of the total which was still acceptable. There were 2 focus group discussions (FGDs) comprising of 8 female inmates each which was 100% of the sample.

The information response rates are represented in Table 3 below;

Table 3: Respondents Response Rate

Response Rate	Questionnaire		Interview Schedule		FGDs	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Response	93	89.4%	6	85.7%	2 (of 8 people each)	100%
Total	104		7		2	
Total %		100%		100%		100%

Distribution of Respondents by Age

The information on age was divided into different groups to facilitate ease of classification and interpretation. The study sample had 93 participants. 44.1% of the participants were between 28 and 37 years of age constituting the largest group. The lowest cluster in terms of age was the 58 years and above group which constituted only 4.3%. The information on age distribution is represented in Figure 3 below:

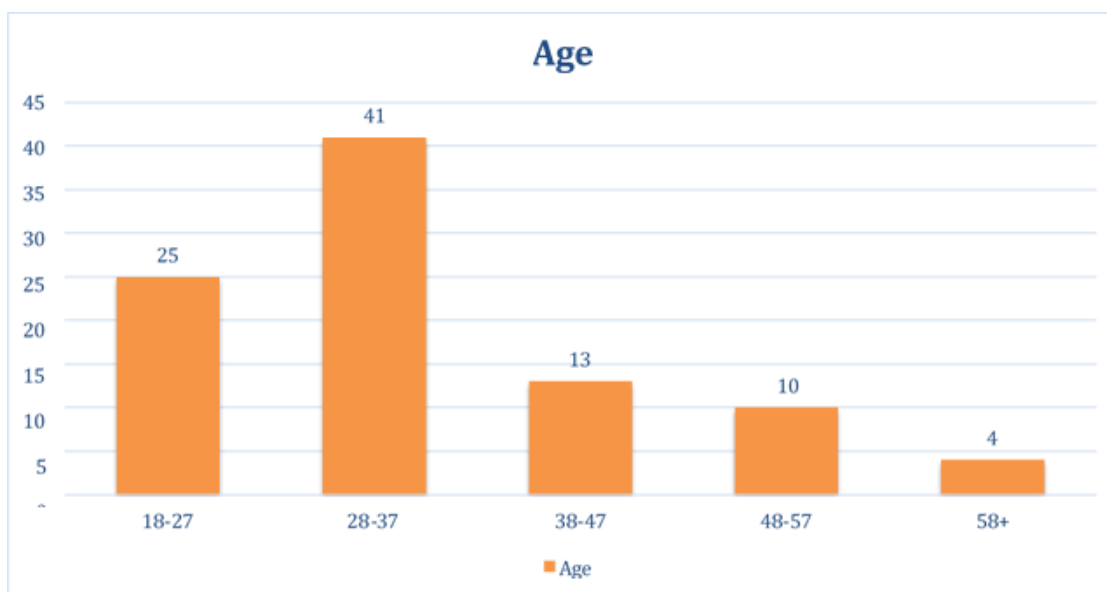


Figure 3: Distribution of Respondents by Age

Distribution of Respondents by Level of Education

Information on the level of education revealed that the majority of the respondents had attained a primary level of education with a representation of 41.9%. 37.6% of the respondents had attained a secondary level of education which seconds the majority very closely. The lowest representation of the respondents had no

education with this group being 8.6%

Figure 4 below summarizes the information on the levels of education:

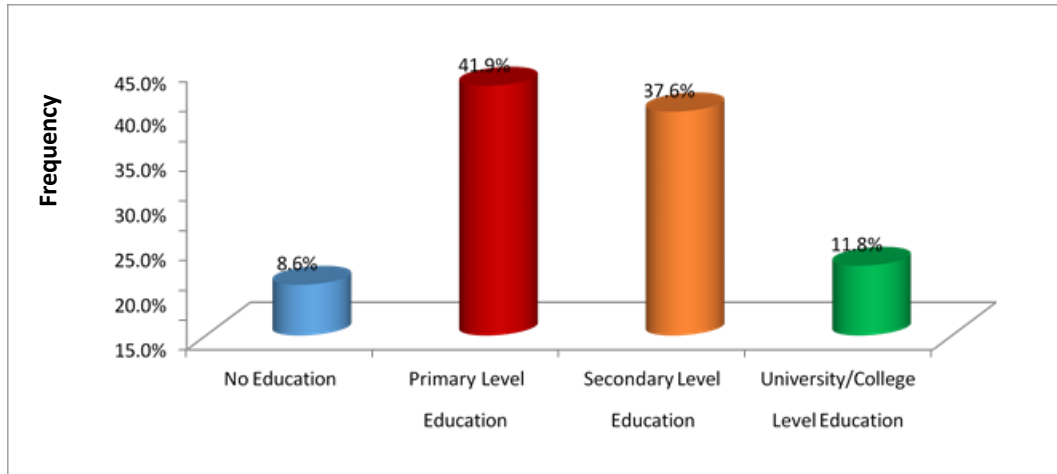


Figure 4: Distribution of Respondents by Level of Education Distribution of Respondents by Family Structure

The family structure analysis showed that most of the female inmates who participated in this research related to a single-parent family with a 40.9% representation. There was an almost even distribution of respondents in the rest of the family categorizations.

Figure 5 below shows the distribution as per family structure;

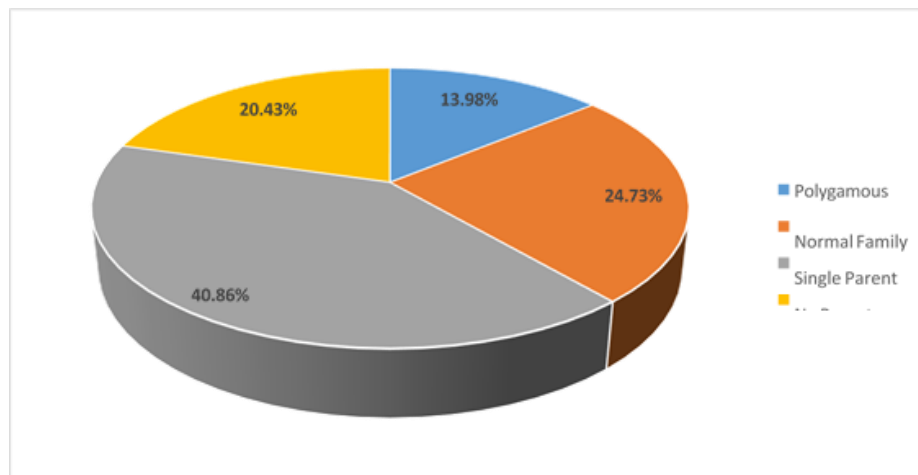


Figure 5: Distribution of Respondents by Family Structure

Distribution of Respondents by Income

Income information showed that most of the participants of this study had an income before prison (80.6%). Of the number that had an income, the majority of them earned less than Kshs. 5,000 (33.3%). Only 3.2% of the participants earned a salary above Kshs. 30,000 and below Kshs. 45,000. The data on income showed that there was a likelihood that the income was not enough for most of the participants hence seeking alternative means like crime to meet their needs.

Table 4 below summarizes the information on whether income was earned before prison or not:

Table 4: Distribution of Respondents by Income Before Prison Question: Did you have a source of income before prison?

	Frequency		Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	Yes	75	80.6	80.6	80.6
Valid	No	18	19.4	19.4	100.0
	Total	93	100.0	100.0	

Figure 6 below shows a representation of the range of income earned per month;

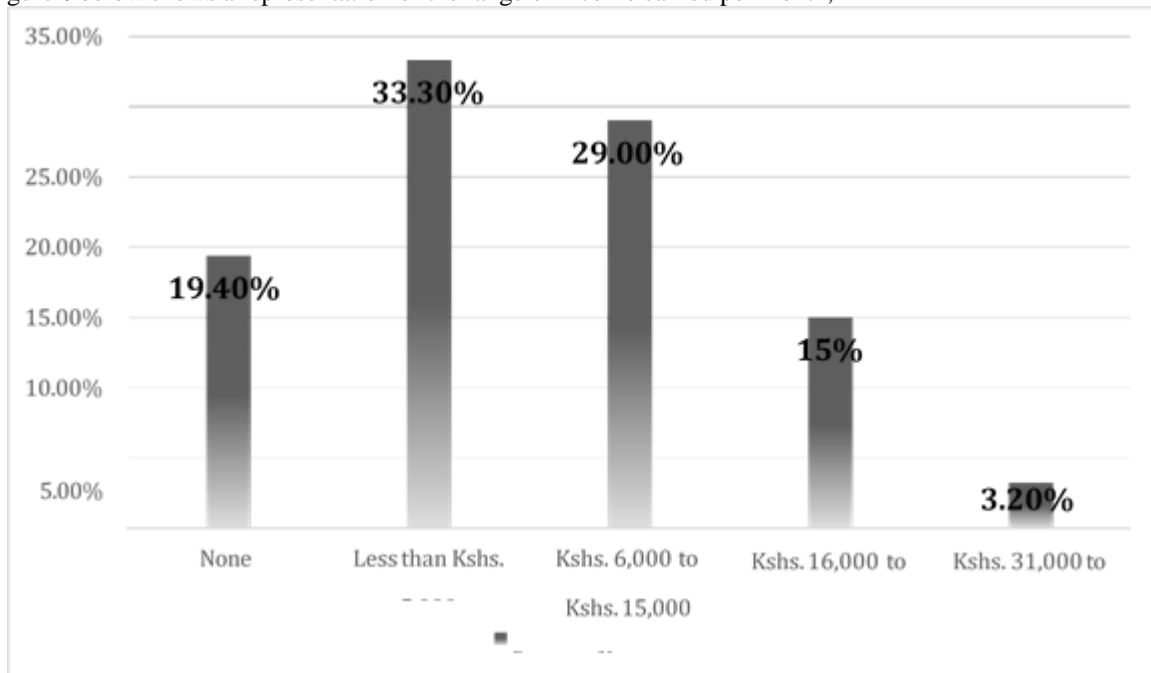


Figure 6: Distribution of Respondents by Range of Income per Month

Characteristics of Focus Group Discussion Participants

The 16 participants constituting 8 people in each group were purposively selected from the people that participated in the filling of the questionnaires. The participants were selected on basis of discussions and openness to sharing experiences. There was help from the prison officials in identifying female inmates that would be most useful in this study through discussions and sharing information related to this study.

Normality Test

Normality tests were carried out on the data and the findings showed that the data was not normally distributed. Table 5 below lists all the variables and the tests of normality using both the Kolmogorov-Smirnov^a and Shapiro-Wilk tests. The Kolmogorov-Smirnov^a and Shapiro-Wilk tests gave a p-value (Sig) of 0.000 for all the variables which was very low compared to the standard 0.05 indicating that the distribution was not normal. The highest score on the Kolmogorov-Smirnov^a test was 0.197 which was greater than 0.05 therefore rejecting the null hypothesis that the data followed a normal distribution. Test was done to determine the method for statistical data analysis. Since the distribution was not normal, the study adopted a nonparametric method of analysis (Spearman).

Table 5 below shows the summary of the normality tests:

Table 5: Tests of Normality

Kolmogorov-Smirnov ^a			Shapiro-Wilk		
Statistic	Df	Sig.	Statistic	Df	Sig.
.197	93	.000	.869	93	.000
Eco_Score					

Data Analysis

The researcher sought to find out if there was an influence of economic status on female criminality. A five- point Likert scale was used to interact with the female inmates on the possible influence of economic status on female criminality. Following the levels of agreeability of 1. Strongly Disagree, 2. Disagree, 3. Neither Disagree nor Agree,

4. Agree, 5 Strongly Agree, the following were the findings from the 93 participants who filled out the questionnaire. From The questionnaires, 67.8% of the participants gave positive feedback to the association of economic pressure to female criminality. In summary, the majority of the participants were in agreement with the influence of the economic status of female criminality with an approximate cumulative of above 50% on reactions to all the statements investigating this objective of economic status. Percentages of below 30% did not

agree that economic status would influence crime. The findings strongly support the possibility of economic status influencing female criminality.

Table 7 below gives a summary of the findings on the influence of economic status on female criminality;

Table 7: Economic Status Responses

Statement	1-Strongly Disagree	2-Disagree	3-Neither Disagree or Agree	4-Agree	5-Strongly Agree	TOTAL
It takes the economic pressure to consider crime.	4 4.3%	19 20.4%	7 7.4%	49 52.7%	14 15.1%	93 100%
Unstable income would increase chances of crime.	6 6.5%	19 20.4%	7 7.5%	42 45.2%	19 20.4%	93 100%
Crime was the only solution to my economic burden.	7 7.5%	13 14%	9 9.7%	39 41.9%	25 26.9%	93 100%
My income would be enough if I did not have dependents.	5 5.4%	13 14%	7 7.5%	53 57%	15 16.1%	93 100%
Poor economic choices can lead to crime.	7 7.5%	20 21.5%	5 5.4%	44 47.3%	17 18.3%	93 100%
Financial discipline can limit chances of crime.	8 8.6%	16 17.2%	7 7.5%	44 47.3%	18 19.4%	93 100%
It is not what you earn but how you manage it that matters.	10 10.8%	11 11.8%	10 10.8%	48 51.6%	14 15.1%	93 100%

A correlation analysis was done using the Spearman’s Correlation formula on SPSS. The test gave a positive correlation coefficient of 0.588. The correlation was high giving the indication that economic status had a significant influence on female criminality. The significance level (2 tailed) of the test was 0.01. The findings of the correlation indicated that an increase in economic status issues led to an increase in female criminality tendencies. Figure 7 below presents the correlation in a line graph comparing the means of the dependent variable and economic status. The line graph shows a positive correlation where an increase of one variable on the x-axis resulted in an increase of another variable on the y-axis.

Table 8 below summarizes the information on correlation between economic status and female criminality:

Table 8: Spearman’s Correlation of Eco_Score and Dep_Score Means

		Dep_Score	Eco_Score
	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.588**
Dep_Score	Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.000
Spearman's rho	N	93	93
	Correlation Coefficient	.588**	1.000
Eco_Score	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.
	N	93	93

Figure 7 below shows the correlation between economic status and female criminality in a line graph;

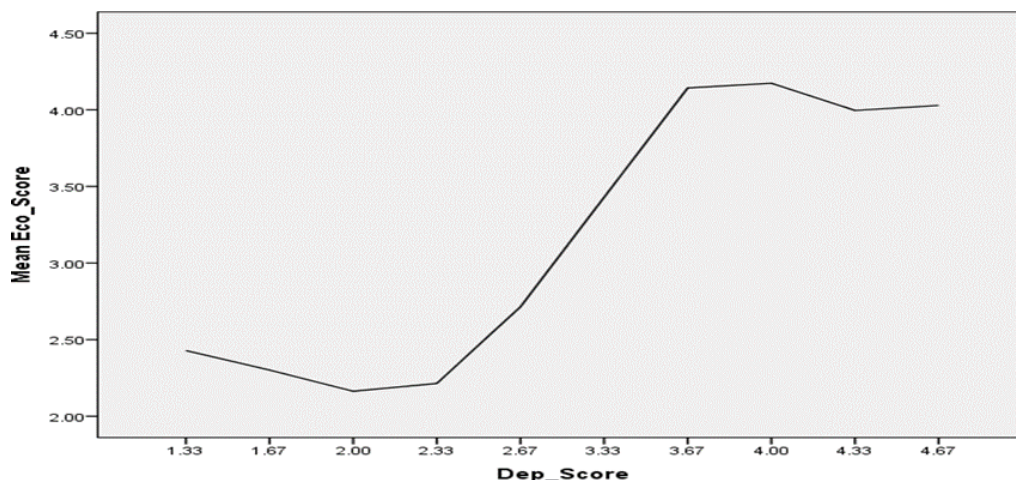


Figure 7: Line Graph Correlation of Eco_Score and Dep_Score Means

To further confirm or disconfirm the quantitative finding on the connection between economic status and female criminality, the researcher administered focus group discussions for female inmates and interviews with prison officials. The discussants agreed that economic status influences the occurrence of criminality among females. Some of the women associated female criminality with the need to get easy solutions for existing economic problems. Other women said that female criminality could be associated with the need to prove a point and end financial abuse in partnerships. Other women still thought women in crime could be a result of a need for a better life. There were other women whose opinions heavily leaned on the aspect of unequal opportunities in the workplace leading to women earning less. To even out the income, women may have chosen crime.

Figure 8 below shows a summary of the themes that surfaced from the discussions about the influence of economic status on female criminality;

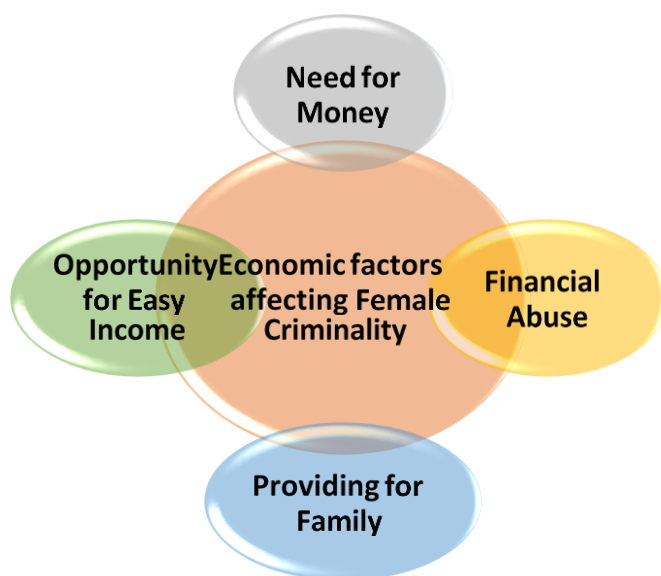


Figure 8: Themes on Economic Status Influencing Female Criminality

From the discussions, the matter of a need and finding a solution was very clear. The strain that came with having a need and finding a means to that need was the issue a lot of women were addressing. For example, having had a strained relationship with a spouse who ended up mistreating you and you seeking a way out through crime was as topic that surfaced. Women in career ended up in a socially disorganized spaces trying to find footing in the work environment. For example, a lady manager who did not get equal benefits to a male manager yet she felt qualified opted for crime. The result was activity going against the company approved standards in order to balance the deficiency. From the responses, the work environment seemed a battlefield for women to prove their worth. Resulting to crime was one of the ways the discussants showed was their solution to the issue.

Another of the economic issues that pushed women to crime was the need to have a better life. The women who were single parents and had children in most cases had the highest tendency to consider crime compared to other women. From the discussions, the women attested to being in a point of want and not being able to give their families the kind of life they felt the families deserved. There were others that were not burdened by family but when they compared their lives to their peers that were doing much better than them, and they felt that they were not doing enough. The women in question then opt for crime so as to get to a better life. The news has in the recent past aired stories of women trafficking drugs and other illegal substances especially across borders. An example is the story of Hailey who confessed to have lost her job and custody of her kids during the COVID period and she opted to find a solution to help her pay the bills (James, 2022). The women in most cases will open up and say that they only were after the money and the better life that comes with having more money, regardless of the means.

Some of the views from the female inmates at Meru GK Prison on the influence of economic status of female criminality included;

“There are people with money problems who choose to look for easy solutions. There is a woman in prostitution because she does not have the skill to get a decent job and there are children to feed.” (Discussant 1, Group 1, 23rd August, 2023)

“Other women want to prove a point to their husbands or partners who financially abuse them. When

you feel that a man is mistreating you just because he provides for you, some women will bear it for a short while.” (Discussant 3, Group 1, 23rd August, 2023)

“There are other women who want the better life and the only way seems criminal. There are stories of women caught at airports trafficking drugs in their stomachs. Those women know that there is quick and good money there hence the risk.” (Discussant 7, Group 2, 25th August, 2023)

“Most well to do women in the career field will seek better opportunities to earn better money but due to the nature of the work environment, sometimes men dominate and choke the women from progressing. The women in an effort to fight back will engage in both bribery and forgery in order to get ahead. Most do not get caught but those caught face the wrath of the law mercilessly.” (Discussant 4, Group 2, 25th August, 2023)

Further to the focus group discussions, there were interviews carried out on the stakeholders engaged with the female inmates at the Meru GK Prison on the influence of economic status on female criminality. The researcher found varied opinion and different angles of reason but the bottom line was the close association of economic status to female criminality.

In light of the views of the stakeholders, there was a problem when it came to how women solved their financial issues. The women pegged their choice to commit crime for financial gain on the needs they had. The needs were either a family issue or the need to level up and be on the same level with a peer. The excuses women gave included feeding the family, and other reasons like getting a better life. Going by the tenets of the strain theory, the Stakeholders said that there was a gap or problem that women in crime were always trying to fill. The gap in most cases was a financial gap. Strain theory shows that when there is a strain, there is a way of balancing. In this case, the way of balancing economic problems for most women in the prison was through crime.

Stakeholders went ahead to share their opinion and say that women in crime and mostly those caught would attribute their problems to money. A number of the female inmates claimed that their lack of financial muscle led to them being in prison. There were those women who felt that if they had money, they would not participate in crime and they would still afford bail or bond and eventually not be in prison.

The following were some of the reactions with regard to the effect of economic status on female criminality from the Stakeholders;

“Most of the issues associated with criminal activity stem from money. It may not necessarily be income but matters surrounding money. A lot of others also have marital issues. More women are engaging in crime to cater for a need. Shop lifters are quite a number in here.” (Stakeholder 1, 23rd August, 2023)

“Money is the root of all evil. A lot of the inmates here will attest to the fact that money was the reason they got themselves in prison. There are those who say that they were not able to afford the fines in court. There are others who saw the opportunity to get an extra and easy income and they ran for the opportunity. There are others who feel that they were wrongly accused but because they could not afford fighting back, they are now in prison. In Meru County especially, women have a very big attachment to money and the problems associated with money. More women are getting into crime for economic gain. There could even be more women than women in crime soon. The number of women engaging in crime is unsettling.” (Stakeholder 2, 23rd August, 2023)

“This is the major issue. Inmates seek an avenue to meet their needs through crime. While there are other underlying issues, money is the most pronounced. We try and guide that money is not everything and the need to trust God for better days. Over time, more and more female inmates are serving time for crimes relating to solving an economic issue. It could be a partner who does not provide or an opportunity to gain financially but illegally arose. Others blame the lack of money for being in jail. They claim that those with money have power.” (Stakeholder 4, 25th August, 2023)

“There is. There is no problem without a cause. There is no direction that matters cannot take. Especially when it is a financial issue, people tend to be irrational. More money, more problems. Less money, more problems.” (Stakeholder 6, 26th August, 2023)

From both the quantitative and qualitative the findings of the research, economic status affects female criminality to a great extent. These findings were in agreement with the findings of Annang Albert who carried out research in Ghana on women prisoners testing their reasons for committing crime. Annang Albert found that the economic issue was the greatest push to committing crime. The research also found that women want a better life for their families and will do anything to get the desired life, even if it means crime. (Annang, 2021).

Economic status greatly influences the choice to commit crime among females. From women with pending financial issues, to women who see the opportunity and seize it, to women who want a better life, to women who have no other way of providing for their families. Economic status of women made the women consider crime on different levels and this made the women very vulnerable. Annang went further to confirm with his respondents that a woman in most cases will have a reason to do whatever she does (Annang, 2021). In this case, the women had the financial motivation to engage in crime.

The findings also indicated the presence of a lot of strain in the options that the women had to solve

their economic issues. There was the evidence of lack and a need to warrant the need for solutions. The women needed money to fend for their families, and there were other women who wanted a balanced space in the working environment. There were other women who wanted to be recognized and appreciated in their domestic unions. The reasons for committing crime to solve an economic issue created gaps. The environment and social interaction groups of the women in focus also contributed greatly to the choice to commit crime. The women in the unfair work environments, the women in homes with heavy economic burdens and the women in relationships that did not validate them all rounded up to socially disorganized environments precipitating female criminality. The strain theory shows the existence of problems that need solving in every human life. The choice to cover those gaps legally or illegally is purely the discretion of a person (Mohammed J. Islam, 2014). This discussion lens on the choices of women to fill the financial gaps through crime.

IV. Summary, Conclusions, And Recommendations

The following are the summary findings of this study:

The research findings highlight a strong association between economic status and female criminality, affirming the significance of addressing economic factors in the rehabilitation and prevention efforts within the criminal justice system. Female inmates often turn to crime as a means of addressing financial strains and disparities, indicating a need for comprehensive interventions.

By implementing the recommended strategies, there is an opportunity to break the cycle of crime driven by economic factors and empower female inmates to reintegrate into society successfully. These initiatives should not only focus on punishment but also on rehabilitation, support, and addressing the root causes of criminal behavior, ultimately contributing to the overall well-being and reformation of female offenders.

Policy Recommendations

- i) The National Government should formulate rehabilitative structures specific to the cause of female criminality. Such structures will go a long way in addressing the cause of female criminality. A good example of such structures is having a body of correction that is specific on rehabilitation and not correction.
- ii) The County and National Governments should work together to come up with skill developing programs for women in society to improve their livelihood and not only waiting for the women to become inmates in order to get new skills.

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