

**CHALLENGES OF REHABILITATING JUVENILE DELIQUENTS IN
UGANDA: A CASE STUDY OF KAMPIRINGISA NATIONAL
REHABILITATION CENTER AND NAGURU REMAND HOME**

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DECLARATION

I, Mugerwa Paul, declare that this is my own original piece of work and it has never been submitted for any award to this or any other University/ Institution.

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SignedDate.....

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this book to my guardians Rev. Father Richard Jozwiak and Mr. Dario Martin, without forgetting my late parents Mr. Henry Kasule and Miss. Catherine Nakigozi.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor Dr. Paddy Musana for his untiring effort and guidance without which this work would never have been produced. I am also thankful to the almighty God who gave me life and wisdom to reach this far. He is greater than anything! “Greater is that is me, than that is the world” 1 John 4:4.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CSM	Child Saving Movements
FGDs	Focused Group Discussions
HR	House of Refuge
KNRC	Kampiringisa National Rehabilitation Center
LCs	Local Councils
NGOs	Non Governmental Organization
NRH	Naguru Remand Home
PO	Probation Officer
RCs	Rehabilitation Centers
WFP	World Food Programmes

ABSTRACT

The study explored the challenges of rehabilitating the juvenile delinquents in Uganda between 1997 and 2007. In Uganda, juvenile delinquency has become a threat to the urban centers and families; with major characteristics of theft, arson, drug trafficking, addiction to commit crimes which altogether have constituted a threat to the general public. By 1960s, the Government of the Republic of Uganda had realized a threat emanating from the juvenile delinquents and thus came up with the construction of rehabilitation centers among which were Naguru Remand Home and Kampiringisa National Rehabilitation Centers. Nevertheless, the challenges pertaining to juvenile delinquency continued to be felt up to 2007 when the study was carried out.

The study was carried out on Naguru Remand Home and Kampiringisa National Rehabilitation Centers and both qualitative and quantitative techniques of research were employed by the researcher. Three methods were employed during the data collection from respondents. These are; interviews of the respondents, Focused Group Discussions and observation. The information collected was organized according to chapters in order to make a meaningful presentation, conclusion and recommendations of the study. Descriptive statistics were presented in percentages after the use of Statistical Program for Social Scientific (SPSS) and Microsoft excel. The findings collected reveal that the challenges of the juvenile delinquents emanate largely from the home environment albeit other factors are held vital.

In the conclusion, the researcher calls upon adults (man and a woman) who remain careless upon juveniles after producing them to remember the happiness they have underwent before producing

such young generation. It is from such conclusion that the study recommends the culture of peace not to the juveniles but much more to the families because a family is a sole intercourse of all fabrics of the social norms, taboos and laws governing the land. The study also calls upon the government to revive its activities such as carpentry which were in rehabilitation centers like Kampiringisa National Centers as an endeavor to contain forms of delinquency in the country.

CHAPTER ONE

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The study explores the challenges of rehabilitating juvenile delinquents by Rehabilitation Centers (RCs). Rehabilitation Centers have been set up by people of good will, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Churches and Governments¹ in the world to provide psychotherapy to juvenile delinquents because of delinquency or anti-social characters. These characters include truancy, assault, theft, arson, drug trafficking, addiction to commit crimes and intolerance.

According to Justine Pikunas (1969:61)², family background has got an upper hand in determining the growth of delinquency among juveniles. This starts from substance abuse of pregnancy, early (teenage) childbearing, low birth weight, parent's criminal record, poor parental supervision, erratic child-rearing behavior, parental disharmony and rejection. Once juvenile delinquents are taken to RCs, they are counseled, given free food, health care, free water, shelter and comforted for life but after re-integration to their families and communities, prior delinquency rose again.

The study was conducted in two RCs of Kampiringisa National Rehabilitation Center (KNRC) and Naguru Remand Home (NRH). KNRC is found in Mpigi District with a population of 243 juvenile delinquents while NRH is found in Kampala District with a population of 148 juvenile

¹ Geoffrey Steven Kyeyune, 1999:14

² Justine Pikunas, 1969:61

delinquents but the number is never constant because each day more are brought while other leave and escape from the centres

1.2 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

Juvenile delinquency is as old as history of man and according to the Holy Bible (Genesis 4:8b), delinquency began with sons of Adam when Cain attacked and killed his brother- Abel³, from which God cursed Cain for such delinquent act. Since then, delinquency continued to multiply throughout the world. In the ancient times, delinquency was rampant among families of the soldiers and the Viking because the two groups could spend most of their time in camps, wars and on government duties compared to the time spent with their children as well as their families. In the middle ages, delinquency increased among middle class families who could spend most of their time at work and this escalated with the industrial revolution in 18th century that started in Great Britain by 1770s. With the growth of industries throughout Europe, European governments got concerned about the growth of delinquency and this led the legal systems to enact laws to distinguish between juvenile delinquents and adult criminals. Under [Code Napoleon](#) in France⁴ for example, limited responsibility was attributed to children under the age of 16 and such responsibility could define who is a juvenile delinquent.

Despite apparent desire to curb down delinquency, punishments of juvenile offenders and their institutions remained inadequate up to 19th century. The first institution specifically for juvenile delinquents was the House of Refuge (HR) which was founded in New York City in 1824, so that juvenile delinquents could be separated from adult criminals. According to the documented literature, these were juvenile delinquents of the freed slaves who were not catered for by their families because of poverty as parents were resettling from slavery, a barbaric practice of the 19th century by the white race against the black race.

³ Holy Bible, King James version, 2000: 4

⁴ Grant A. J and Harold Temparley 1962: 86

Although this was first of its kind to separate juvenile delinquents from adult criminals, modern rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents started in the middle of the 20th century. According to Mcardle (1951:120), the history of rehabilitating juvenile delinquents started in Europe after the inferno of World War 1 and World war 11⁵ (WW 1 and WW 11) that led thousands of orphans and vulnerable children in the world. According to Mcardle (1951:120-123), there were 147, 000 juvenile orphans in Italian cities, 200,000 in Greece, and the total number of juvenile orphans in Europe were 13,000,000 by 1946 because of the effects of the wars. In Germany, mentally and physically handicapped juveniles were exterminated under the policy of racial purification⁶ as a way to avoid delinquency which was expected in the Post World War-Germany with a view that, delinquents could be dangerous to the city population. Juveniles with conditions such as epilepsy, mental retardation or cerebral palsy were put to death for the good of the State and for the good health of the rest of the nationals in Germany. In Slovakia, over 2,000 juveniles were deaf and dumb, blind, mentally and physically deficient while in Yugoslavia, 20,000 juveniles were blind, amputees or severely facially disfigured from burns, and thousands of others were similarly affected (UNESCO, 1947:38)⁷.

Juveniles of this kind led European nations to opt for RCs that could provide relief and care since most of them had lost their parents, others were mistreated by their parents and governments because of scarce resources which altogether led to the rise of juvenile delinquents not only in urban centers but also in all circles of continental Europe. While the Great wars were considered the major sources for the growth of juvenile delinquents in the 20th century, Huang et al (2004:

⁵ Mcardle, 1951:120

⁶ Burleigh , 1997:44-50

⁷ UNESCO, 1947:38

89,821-826) assert that modern delinquency among juveniles is associated with street life⁸. This means that juvenile delinquency began with the growth of suburbs and their associated consequences. This assertion supports the argument that delinquency grew with industrial revolution that started in Great Britain towards the second half of 18th century.

Scholars of psychology have observed that juvenile delinquents who live on streets or suburbs do not decide all of a sudden to go there or do they wish to have street life; many factors emanating from family background have been advanced to elucidate the growth of delinquency among juveniles. This is true in accordance to the Holy Bible (Genesis 4:8b), which stresses that delinquency started from the family of Adam. Besides that, Huang et al (2004: 89,821-826) assert that millions of street juvenile delinquents that live in various cities of the world have had reputable records of delinquency in their families and communities before resorting to the street life and large proportions of them reside in Latin America and Africa. They assert that while in their families, juveniles involve in taking drugs, fight and kill people, robbery, rape women and defile young females in their villages, form gangs that threaten people at night which all together have remained a threat to their communities. Such practices increase as juvenile delinquents go to the streets.

In Africa, Juvenile delinquency grew with the coming of colonialism that was received by the continent as a vehicle of change. Nonetheless, colonial impacts on the social setting of the African families and clan ties led redundant children who later found their safe haven on the street. In Uganda, 10,000 juvenile delinquents live on the streets of Kampala⁹ and it has been observed that most of them come to the streets because of mistreatment and lack of basic needs in their families and due to delinquency committed against their communities. Because of delinquency, communities and their families take little interest in them and this makes juvenile

⁸ Huang et al,2004: 89,821-826

⁹ New vision July, 28th 2007

delinquents develop a survival instinct which leads them into more delinquency; they are isolated, expelled from their homes which force them to go to streets where the police and people of good will get them to RCs. Others are taken directly by their parents and guardians to RCs to get psychotherapy because of delinquency committed against their communities.

The research of this kind was carried out in Naguru Remand Home and Kampiringisa Rehabilitation centre. The main mission of Naguru Remand Home is to rehabilitate and create accommodation to the children who are in conflict with the law within the age bracket of 12 – 18 years. Its vision is to confine the renovations, recruiting more staff to improve on the services rendered to the juvenile delinquents, networking with other NGO's and other well wishers to start income generating activities and to expand on the size of the agency. On the other hand, the major mission of KNRC is to improve the quality of life of juvenile delinquents and children who made the streets their homes. Its vision is to create a society where juvenile offenders and former street children live to their full potential and their rights and aspiration fulfilled.

1.3 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Delinquency among juveniles constitutes a problem which the research was intended to address. In their families and communities, juvenile delinquents burn peoples' houses, rape women and defile young females, steal peoples' property and ever malingering which all constitute a threat to the communities. On the street, juvenile delinquents take drugs, rape women; kill people at night rob, involve themselves in criminal gangs to threaten the public at night. They also associate themselves in drug trafficking and associate with vultures to get food from the dustbins. Their existence in their homes and streets has threatened their families, communities and the government since in most cases is fertile ground for recruiting rebels and child trafficking.

In Rehabilitation Centers, juvenile delinquents are taken with such characters with hope that when given psychotherapy, delinquency will stop. While in Rehabilitation Centers, juvenile delinquents are counseled by the care-takers, guided through religious services, given free food, water, shelter and accommodation, they are also given comfort, taken to schools and given skills to use for their future life. However, on reintegration into their families and societies, one wonders whether they learn too much and forget so fast from the Rehabilitation centers. After few days of reintegration, some juveniles resume fighting, defilement, raping of females and arson activities. At zenith, juvenile delinquents kill their family members and once again end up on streets if not prisons. Since most of juvenile delinquents are taken to Rehabilitation Centers (RCs) with the hope to get pro-social behaviors, one wonders what is the intricacy involved in bringing pro-social behaviors among them. The threat is that once they have returned to delinquency, they become more dangerous and unruly than ever before and the prior respect completely wanes away. Although many documents have been written about juvenile delinquents, the challenges involved in rehabilitating them has never been documented yet their existence has remained a threat to the community. This has been so because researchers have neglected them without knowing that their existence on streets is a harvesting ground to agents of conflicts in the world. It was from such background that the study was thought to examine the challenges of rehabilitating juvenile delinquents in Uganda, using the case studies of Kampiringisa National Rehabilitation Center and Naguru Remand Home.

1.4 DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Juvenile: This is a young person who is not yet old enough to be considered an adult¹⁰

¹⁰Cambridge international dictionary of English, 1995:775

Delinquent: This is a person who behaves in a way that is illegal or unacceptable to most people¹¹.

Delinquency: This is un-acceptable behaviors¹² among juveniles in accordance to the moral codes of the society

Juvenile delinquency: This is refers to criminal acts performed by Juveniles. It is either violent or non-violent crime committed by persons who are usually under the age of eighteen (18) and are still considered to be minors.

Rehabilitation Centers: These are places where juvenile delinquents are taken for psychotherapy, guidance and for the pro-social behavior in order to wipe away the antisocial characters.

Remand Home: place where young offenders are confined and rehabilitated.

1.5 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

1.5.1 Area scope

The study was conducted in Naguru Remand Home and Kampiringisa National Rehabilitation Center. The two centers have for long been known for dealing with the young offenders in Uganda and have been responsible for the rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents.

1.5.2 Time scope

The study covered the time frame between 1997 and 2007 because it was in 1997 that the government of Uganda came up with the Universal Primary Education (UPE) and it would be

¹¹ Ibid, 1995:365

¹² Opcit

assumed that with the UPE introduction, all children would find way to schools and hence no phenomenon of juvenile delinquents.

1.5.3 Content scope

The study explored the challenges of rehabilitating juvenile delinquents in Uganda because the activities of juvenile delinquents have threatened cities and urban centers and if such challenges are ironed out them, a conflict free generation shall be achieved.

1.6 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The general objective of the study was to examine the challenges of rehabilitating juvenile delinquents.

Specific objectives include;

1. To examine the causes of delinquency among juveniles
2. To establish the extent to which RCs influence behavioral change among juvenile delinquents.
3. To examine the role of modern courts of law towards juvenile delinquents
4. To analyze the challenges affecting RCs in rehabilitating juvenile delinquents

1.7 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the causes of delinquency among juveniles
2. Is there a relationship between RCs and behavioral change among juvenile delinquents?
3. What role do modern courts of law play in rehabilitating the delinquents?
4. What are the challenges affecting RCs in rehabilitating juvenile delinquents?

1.8 THEORETICAL FRAME WORK

The Theoretical Framework of the study is developed from the Social Learning Theory by Albert Bandura (1975) which states that a combination of environmental (social) and psychological factors influence behaviors of an individual. In his Theory, Albert Bandura believes that aggression which forces juveniles to delinquency is learnt through behavior modeling¹³ by observing others aggressive models either through the media or environment where they live. He believes that aggression among juveniles is influenced by the family members through reinforcement and thereafter, juveniles use the same aggressive tactics that their family members illustrate when dealing with others.

Albert Bandura noted that observation which is a major factor of Social Learning theory among juveniles has four elements. These are attention, retention, motor reproduction and motivation. Albert Bandura believes that attention makes an individual acquire significant features of the modeled behavior and in order to do this, juveniles must attend to what the model is doing and saying in order to reproduce the models' behavior.

Retention is another element of observation and it goes hand in hand with the cognitive that helps juveniles to code and retrieve information. In order to reproduce the modeled behavior, juveniles must code the information into long-term memory. That is why when juvenile delinquents are in RCs, they behave to have retained what the care-takers tell them to adhere but on returning to their communities they start former acts of delinquency. This is because the former delinquency have been retained in the long-tem memory and once juvenile delinquents are returned to their communities from RCs, they start again to observe the models which make them to retrieve what has been kept in the long-term memory as delinquency. In such situation, environment plays an important role.

¹³ Albert Bandura , 1975:6

Besides that, Albert Bandura believes that the cognitive has got two behavioral components; the component that drives juveniles to delinquency and the component that drives juveniles to pro-social behaviors. In this case, when a juvenile delinquent is taken to any environment, it determines the behaviors to be illustrated. It has been observed that when the cognitive component of antisocial behaviors is excessive, delinquent acts dominate the behaviors of a juvenile, the same to the cognitive component of pro-social behaviors.

Motor reproduction is another element of observation learning. In this, juveniles must possess the physical capabilities to reproduce the models' behaviors once they are learnt through attention and retention.

The final element in observation learning is motivation or reinforcements. In this, juveniles expect positive reinforcements for the modeled behavior but when a negative reinforcement is given, a behavior of any kind ceases from them. In order to illustrate the theory into practice, Albert Bandura presents the bobo doll experiment where juveniles watched violence on television,¹⁴ of a woman kicking and sitting on a bobo doll. She hit it with a little hammer, shouting aggressive phrases. The pupils who watched this film were a group of kindergarten who liked it a lot. The pupils were later set out to play in a play-room with pens and clipboards in their hand (a brand new bobo doll) with several observers. A lot of little kids started beating the new bobo doll. They punched it and shouted "kick it" sat on it; hit it with the little hammers, and so on. To Albert Bandura, this seems like real experiment at first, but the change of behaviors by the children even without being rewarded elucidate that the pupils had physical

¹⁴ Evans, 1989:22

capabilities to reproduce what they observed. Albert Bandura concludes that in case of reward, such children can perform well than what they portrayed.

Berkowitz (1962:247)¹⁵ agrees with Albert Bandura on the issue of television as source of behavior modeling and according to them, television has got great effects onto the adolescent juveniles.

Albert Bandura (1976:207) goes ahead to elucidate the importance of environment to Social Learning Theory among juveniles¹⁶. He believes that juveniles living in high crime rate areas are more likely to act violently than those who dwell in low-crime rate areas. To him, the neighborhood surrounded by culture of conflicts, decay and insufficient social organizations is a major cause of delinquency among juveniles.

In order to control acts of delinquency among juveniles, Bandura stated that the problem should be diagnosed and treated during ones' childhood by the therapists. When an individual becomes a youth or an adult, he should be subjected to self control in order to overcome criminal behaviors. The famous therapy is modeling therapy. Albert Bandura states that "if you get someone with a psychological disorder to observe someone dealing with the same issue in a more productive fashion, the first person will learn by modeling the second". Bandura's original research on this involved a herpephobic person with a neurotic fear of snakes. The client was subjected near the window, looking in the lab-room where only a chair, a table, a cage on the table with a locked latch, and a snake clearly visible in the cage were put.

The client through the window watched another person (an actor or the model) going through a painful experience to approach the snake. The person was terrified in his acts at first but later

¹⁵ Berkowitz, 1962:247

¹⁶ Albert Bandura, 1976:207

shook himself out of fear and told himself to relax and breathe normally. He could take one step at a time towards the snake. He later stopped in the middle to retreat from panic and started all over again. Ultimately, he got to the point where he opened the cage, removed the snake; sat on the chair, and swathed the snake over his neck, all of a sudden gave him calming instructions. When the client saw this, (no doubt with his mouth hanging open the whole time) he was invited to try it. Well knowing that the other person was an actor, the client started the acts until he was successful. Albert Bandura recommended this approach to juvenile delinquents.

To those who are old, Albert Bandura believes that the idea of self-control must be incorporated into a therapy technique called self-control therapy and psychologist have noted that this has been quite successful in simple problems such as smoking, overeating, and study habits, drinking alcohol and idleness. Albert Bandura believes that this can work through behavioral charts, environmental planning and self-contracts. Bandura believes that Self-control requires an individual to keep close history of his behaviors both before changes. This involves something simple as counting how many cigarettes an individual smokes in a day as recorded in behavioral diary. With the diary approach, an individual keeps the details about when and where the habit occurs most. This gives an individual to know the cues associated with the habit (Does an individual smoke more with certain friends or in certain locations or after coffee).

Having realized the behavior chart, Albert Bandura believes that an individual can approach the environmental, For example, an individual can remove or avoid some of those cues that lead to bad behaviors; start drinking tea instead of coffee (divorce that smoking partner). In self-contract, an individual is encouraged to arrange rewards for himself when adheres to the plans of good behaviors, and possibly punish himself when he does not. The contract should be written down and witnessed by the therapist, and details should be elucidated very explicitly. For

example, an individual can say that, I will go out to dinner on Saturday night if I smoke fewer cigarettes this week than last week. This according to Albert Bandura is good to the families where juveniles find models.

1.9 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

It is hoped that the study shall contribute to the existing body of knowledge about rehabilitating juvenile delinquents and stimulate further researchers into the field of delinquency. Besides that, the policy makers shall be enabled to address the lacuna in rehabilitating juvenile delinquents so that long lasting and complete behavioral change can be visibly realized among the delinquents once they are reintegrated into their families and communities.

1.10 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The study was limited by language since most juvenile delinquents come from different areas of the country however; this was solved by the help of the caretakers who were ready to interpret questionnaires to juvenile delinquents.

Finances for transport and stationary were also high and this led the delay in the completion of research process.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

This chapter presents review of related literature on delinquency and rehabilitation. The aim of the study was to establish the challenges of rehabilitating juvenile delinquents.

2.1 JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Delinquency among juveniles is a result of social pressure from delinquent peers¹⁷ and parental responsibility. While parental responsibility starts from the time of pregnancy, social pressure from the delinquent peers starts when juveniles have grown up. Though social pressure from the delinquent peers and parental responsibility are held important by Ronald Akers and Robert Burgess (1966), Micheal Rutter (1995:432) believes that delinquency among juveniles is a result of troublesome environment¹⁸ which juveniles encounter in their early-age.

Modern psychologists agree with Micheal Rutter about the source of juvenile delinquency by asserting that when troublesome environment changes; delinquency among juveniles also changes. If the troublesome environment changes forever, delinquency among juveniles reduces and later ceases forever. However, if the troublesome environment changes for a short time and resume again, delinquency also stops for a while and later resumes again. From such background, Micheal Rutter (1995:435) concludes that delinquency that extends to adult-hood is inherited from parents and not as a result from troublesome environment. He goes on to elucidate that inheritance is a source of delinquency to most juveniles whose early-age environment seems to have been peaceful.

¹⁷ Ronald Akers and Robert Burgess , 1966

¹⁸ Micheal Rutter , 1995:432

2.2 CAUSES OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

A number of reasons have been advanced by various scholars in attempt to explain the increased number of juvenile delinquency and these reasons include the following;

2.2.1 Family background

This has been held a potent factor for the growth of delinquency among juveniles in that the norms, values and morals from the family unit create an internalized blueprint for juvenile personality, beliefs and attitudes. Psychologists believe that healthy and nurturing families instruct juveniles on how to interact using functional norms, whereas unhealthy families instruct juveniles on how to interact using dysfunctional norms.

Gorman-Smith D, Tolan. P. H, Loweber.R and Henry D. B (1998:5, 26) give families with marital instability as fertile grounds for dysfunctional norms. They observe that when marital instabilities exist within a family, the observable outcomes are seen through juveniles¹⁹. These marital instabilities include; stress, estrangement, fighting of parents, coldness, and unhealthy boundaries. That is why Albert Bandura in the Social Learning Theory believes that an environment surrounded by a culture of conflicts, decay and insufficient social organization is a major source of delinquency among juveniles. According to Albert Bandura, juveniles who observe aggressive models will later be aggressive. According to the research study in KNRC and NRH, it was revealed that juvenile delinquents tend to associate with their parents particularly fathers and in turn reproduce their characters.

¹⁹ Gorman-Smith et al, 1998:5, 26

Gorman-smith et al (1998:5, 26) noted that, families that disintegrate into divorce exhibit a high incidence of delinquency more than families that remain united. Gorman-smith et al believe that after divorce, fathers normally concentrate on second wives and the supervision of the children dies away. Such weakness in supervision becomes a source of delinquency. During the research study in KNRC and NRH, it was revealed that some juvenile delinquents live with their fathers at home due to divorce and through FGD; juvenile delinquent respondents revealed that their fathers use laissez-faire form of administration at home which is fertile ground to the growth of delinquency. However, Wallerstein J. S and Kelly J. B (1996:11.15) assert that it does not mean that all single-parent homes are likely to produce delinquents; the key factor is whether the family unit is healthy²⁰ or not.

Besides that, psychologists believe that juveniles residing in step-families have got high risk of becoming delinquents due to stress associated with the lack of resources and social-economic needs. This assertion is supported by the evidence got during the research study carried out in KNRC and NRH. It was revealed that majority delinquents, who are taken to both RCs, mention to have lived with step-mothers for a long time that normally create troublesome environment in order for juveniles to run away.

Justin Pikunas (1969:61) gives inheritance as a determinant factor for the growth of juveniles. He believes that the characters which juveniles inherit from their parents continue to stimulate their life because hereditary code works for life²¹. Such characteristics include; aggression, volatile nature, theft, murder and smoking. According to Albert Bandura's Social Learning Theory, such characteristics are learnt through observation by juvenile delinquents. This was supported by the

²⁰ J. S and Kelly J. B, 1996: 11.15

²¹ Justin Pikunas 1969, 61

evidence from research carried out in KNRC and NRH that most delinquent males inherit characteristics of their fathers who take alcohol and smoke opium as a way to gain strength.

Troublesome families with scarce resources also influence juveniles to delinquency. This is manifested through failure to pay school fees by fathers and decay of parent-juvenile interaction that would have barred delinquency. Due to troublesome environment, juveniles start ant-social activities such as stealing their fathers' money in disguise to pay school fees, take drugs and alcohol to release stress. It is from such circumstances that [Simmons, Burgeson, Carlton-Ford and Blyth \(1987\)](#) believe that home environment is fundamental to the growth²² of delinquency.

In conclusion, Micheal Rutter and David J Smith (1995:450) observe that a family as a source of delinquency has four paradigms: the neglect paradigm, conflict paradigm, divergent behavior and values paradigm and disruption paradigm²³. The neglect paradigm has two distinct aspects and these include; lack of supervision and interaction between parents and juveniles. The conflict paradigm is important in explaining the conflicting issues between juveniles and the parents. Micheal Rutter and David J Smith (1995:450) believe that because aspects to child development are lacking within a family, indiscipline starts among juveniles which result into delinquency.

While carrying out research study in KNRC, some juvenile delinquents revealed that due to lack of money for supper, their parents could advise them to go to the streets for begging. In this context, two varied outcomes were revealed. Those who went for begging on the streets later got friends and at once, they took up street life. On the other hand, those who refused to go to the streets for begging, they were later expelled by their parents from homes. In both circumstances, delinquency was the best option to juveniles. In divergent behavior and values, parents are

²² [Simmons, Burgeson, Carlton-Ford and Blyth, \(1987\)](#)

²³ Micheal Rutter and David J Smith, 1995:450

criminals themselves and they become the role model to juveniles in the growth of delinquency. This highly supports the Social Learning Theory of Albert Bandura. Lastly, the disruption paradigm has it that neglect and conflicts arise because of marital discord as already seen above.

2.2.2 The Socio-economic factors

The status of the working-class families is an important factor for the growth of delinquency (Martin, 2005:66)²⁴. Using a historical analysis from Child-Saving Movement (CSM), Martin illustrates how urban working families (middle-class) can have delinquent juveniles. In the middle-class families, Martin believes that parents put a lot of pressure on juveniles due to involvement in peer groups and the nature of lifestyle portrayed by juveniles. Such pressure is never liked by juveniles and in order to set themselves free from the parents' pressure, juveniles resort to delinquency.

On the other hand, Martin believes that the poor and under-class people have got more chances of producing delinquents. This group is commonly found in urban-centers with chronic cycle of poverty that does not please juveniles. Because of poverty, juveniles lack opportunities to go to school and parental attention. Scholars have observed that in suburbs where such groups are living, cultural norms and family ties continue to weaken overnight and this increases permissiveness among juveniles which is associated with delinquency.

Education is an influential factor for the development of delinquency among juveniles. It has been observed that in an ideal environment, educational opportunities should be availed to all juveniles. Unfortunately, Alwin D. F and Thornton A (1984: 6, 49)²⁵ observes that educational

²⁴Martin, 2005: 66

²⁵ Alwin D. F and Thornton A, 1984: 6, 49

opportunities available for the poor and middle-class juveniles are different from the educational opportunities available to rich juveniles. Such difference in educational opportunities creates stigma among juveniles from the poor and low income earners families and in order for juveniles to free themselves, they resort to acts of delinquency such as robbery, drinking alcohol and taking drugs which constitutes delinquent acts.

2.2.3 The Media

The media has also been held important to the growth of delinquency among juveniles. Allover the world, Television and movies have popularized heroes who promote justice through physical elimination of their enemies.²⁶ Researchers have concluded that young people who watch such movies tend to behave in volatile manner when provoked in order to eliminate their offenders. This is common among juvenile males between 8- to 12-years old. Besides that, the Media brings individual violence by demonstrating violent acts to the spectators, and such violent acts are transferred to juvenile spectators. The influence the media according to scholars is temporary and can last for several hours and days.

However, using the Bob Doll experiment, Albert Bandura theorized that juveniles who watch such violence are influenced by the models to become volatile and such acts can lead to delinquency. It has been observed that where television portrays ordinary violence committed by parents or peers, juveniles are influenced to use violence from different situations and as the number of violent acts on television increases, the tendency to delinquency increases among juveniles.

2.2.4 Urbanization

The on going urbanization in developing countries is a contributing factor to juvenile delinquency. Urbanization has fostered new forms of social behaviors among juveniles due to weakening of primary social relations in families. Evidence from documented literature shows that juveniles who receive adequate parental supervision are less likely to engage in delinquent activities compared to those who receive just a dose of parental supervision. In urban areas, dysfunctional families are characterized by conflicts; inadequate parental control, weak internal linkages and integration. It has been observed that many of the urban poor live in slum and squatter settlements with overcrowded, unhealthy housing and a lack of basic services. It is here that the majority of urban youth and children live²⁷ and it has been a serious source of the street and orphaned children, but above all delinquents.

According to the UN-Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, delinquency is on the rise in the whole world and its trend is linked to the rapid and dramatic social, political and economic changes that have taken place in Africa. The principal offences committed by juveniles are theft, robbery, smuggling, prostitution, the abuse of narcotic substances, and drug trafficking²⁸. In Asian countries delinquency is largely an urban phenomenon while in Europe it is due to the nature of the families. Scholars have asserted that juveniles constitute the most criminally active segment of the population and the most noticeable trends in Africa are drug-related offences which are marked among the male delinquents.

²⁷ Urban Management Programme 2000:3

²⁸ 15 United Nations, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (ST/CSDHA/21),1993

2.3 REHABILITATING JUVENILE DELINQUENTS

Attempts to rehabilitate juvenile delinquents started in Europe with the meeting in 1947 of experts to trace the causes of delinquency and the nature of psychotherapy to be administered in the RCs. In the Geneva²⁹ meeting, delegates discussed the relationship between war and juvenile delinquency on one hand and the relationship between the family and delinquency on the other. The major conclusion was that though the wars cause delinquency on a large scale, family background was held the major source of delinquency among juveniles. The [International Union for Child Welfare \(1947:49-52\)](#) has it that the delegates concluded that family breakdown, loss of parents, abandonment, lack of educational opportunities, spiritual starvation and absolute breakdown of moral guidance were the major causes of juvenile delinquency at that time³⁰.

In Uganda, delinquency has been witnessed throughout the country but the majority of the delinquents live in Kampala. Geoffrey Steven Kyeyune (1999:24) asserts that juveniles that develop delinquency and go to the streets have got many reasons stemming from the family background. He believes that many families live in terrible conditions that influence juveniles into acts of delinquency. It is from such background that Geoffrey Steven Kyeyune (1999:26) believes that rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents should start from families and the streets.

Scholars have observed that since the creation of mankind, the basic needs for life have been essential for his living in the world. These include shelter, water, healthy care and food. It is from such background, that Geoffrey Steven Kyeyune emphasizes to give juveniles basic needs of life while they are in their homes in order to stop the growth of delinquency. Unfortunately, the basic needs are not given to them and this makes them to go to the streets where conditions

²⁹ THE 2000 Geneva meeting on delinquency

³⁰ [International Union for Child Welfare, 1947:49-52](#)

are more pathetic than in their homes. Scholars have observed that once you see a rat running towards the fire, then know that what is behind it; is hotter than the fire.

2.3.1 The transition to rehabilitation centers

Geoffrey Steven Kyeyune (1999:27) observes that transition to RCs is one of the most difficult things³¹ in the process of rehabilitating juveniles. According him, this starts from the streets for the street children where they should be initiated to basic needs of life before informing then the intention to transfer to RCs. This is intended to create good and friendly environment that can attract them to the road to RCs.

Though Geoffrey Steven Kyeyune aim at creating an environment that can attract street children to go to RCs, parents and communities should work to provide a solution to sop juveniles from going at the streets. To those whose parents died, African sociologists observe the importance of the community ties in upbringing such juveniles. In this, they emphasized the role of elders and relatives. If relatives are not caring, Jean Jacques Rousseau advocated for the government that can make a contract with the people and since juveniles are the future generation, the government should get involved in looking after them.

While carrying out the research study in KNRC and NRH, juvenile delinquents revealed the nature how they were ambushed by their parents, relatives and the police men who took them to RCs. Some juvenile delinquent respondents asserted that they were surprised when their fathers took them to NRH and some to KNRC when they never knew where they were going.

³¹ Ibid,1999:27

2.3.2 Rehabilitation process

Documented evidence has revealed that neither juveniles were born delinquents or indisciplined. In rehabilitating juveniles therefore, one needs to be aware that juveniles were normal human beings before delinquency. Geoffrey Kyeyune (1999:25) observes that when juveniles are taken to rehabilitation centers, counseling is a major technique to be applied in the initial stages and it must go on until juvenile delinquents have realized their mistakes and when they have opted for the way forward. Counseling is done to determine the level of psychosis to the delinquents particularly those of drug abuse and prostitution. From the research carried out from KNRC and NRH, it was observed that counseling is a major method used by the caretakers and this is done to all juveniles until the time of resettling them. On the other hand juvenile delinquent respondents noted that drugs are used as a tool to overcome the challenges they meet in life and such habits are adopted by the new comers into delinquency in order to cope up with life.

Psychologists have noted that the environment in rehabilitation centers starting from the facial expression should be attractive to juveniles from the thoughts of the streets and poor attitudes. However, it was observed that the environment in both KNRC and NRH is never appetizing. The compound is not good and the nature of the building does not seem to be called RCs.

Scholars have noted that recreational activities are fundamental in the process of rehabilitating juveniles. These include football, netball, chess, draft and athletics. Besides that, open debates are also fundamental in rehabilitation process whereby juveniles are shaped to talk in the public. Geoffrey Steven Kyeyune(1999:27)³² observes that debates build confidence and trust not only to the social workers who are charged with the role of looking upon juveniles but they all create

³² Geoffrey Steven Kyeyune, 1999:27

confidence and raise awareness among juvenile delinquents as juveniles express some of the advantages and disadvantages of their former life experience.

Documented evidence reveals that training is yet another activity in rehabilitation of juveniles. This training according to the research carried out in KNRC and NRH starts from counseling up to formal education. The most training to juvenile delinquents in RCs is vocational training. This is done to enhance talents and to impart skills into juvenile delinquents as a way to make them self sustainable individuals in future. Major subjects in training include resource management, teamwork and development, saving and investment with great emphasis on discipline.

Polytechnic training is also fundamental in training. Here researchers have identified carpentry and tailoring as a major work to be done in RC. Unfortunately, in NRH and KNRC, this was not there. It was observed that in KNRC, buildings were constructed for such training programmes but none of the programs are currently carried out.

Formal education is yet another service provided during the rehabilitation process. This is intended to provide literacy to juveniles in RCs. Those who excel in primary education, they are facilitated to secondary education and tertiary institutions.

2.3.3 Resettlement and post resettlement

This is a process of returning juveniles back to their families and communities. According to Geoffrey Steven Kyeyune (1999:40), it starts with building of bridges between juveniles and their relatives or their families. It has been recorded that most parents and relatives get surprised to hear that their children have been street children, juvenile delinquents.

Before the process of resettling juvenile delinquents the court proceeding must take place first. After that, RCs' wardens then approach the probation officers in the district of juveniles and those in the county for resettlement. This passes through the local leaders such as the sub county chiefs, parish chiefs and the LCs to return juveniles home. The above scholar believe that through such links, difficulties in environment that led to delinquency are discovered and related to the causes given by juveniles to the care-takers. However through research carried out from KNRC, there is a challenge to RCs when the family members refuse juvenile because of delinquency performed before leaving home.

When juvenile delinquents have been welcomed, reunion remains a challenge, it takes rehabilitation centers time to determine that juvenile delinquents have been re-united with the family and the community. Geoffrey Steven Kyeyune asserts that some times cultural practices are performed where the traditional leaders consult the spirits in order to retain juvenile. During the process of reunion, juvenile is treated as a new member of the community and later in the post resettlement juvenile needs the follow ups until when he/she is contented with the community. It has been observed that the post settlement is a difficult stage because juvenile returns to settle in the once environment.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The chapter presents methods used in data collection; both qualitative and quantitative methods were used. This was because of the issues under study, that is; Challenges of rehabilitating juvenile delinquents in Uganda requires an understanding that cannot be got using one research method. Focused Group Discussions (FGD), open ended questions, observations, literature review and interviews with key informants were carried out. Using constant comparative method as stated by Strauss and Glaser (1967:271)³³, specific samples were compared for verification of the emerging concepts and categories from the data. It was observed that studies on juveniles have been undertaken but few have been documented with a link to rehabilitating of juveniles delinquents. This comparative account of the two rehabilitation centers and their work provided the mechanisms that can be used to strengthen the rehabilitation centres in the rehabilitation process.

3.1 DATA SOURCES

The researcher used primary and secondary data sources. Primary sources of data collection are those which, directly involved data collection from the field through self administered questioners, face-to-face interviews and direct observation. Secondary sources were mainly library research and analysis of related documents like the Uganda districts information handbook, review of RCs brochures and related maps.

³³ Strauss and Glaser ,1967:271

3.1.1 Observation

In two RCs of KNRC and NRH, data collection was through observation. The issues of concern that observation tapped include, the social behaviors of juvenile delinquents, rehabilitation activities and the social environment of juveniles in RCs. Direct observation provided the researcher with real situation on the ground and the nature of how things are done. Thus clear knowledge and understanding for recommendations and conclusions.

3.1.2 Questionnaires

Questionnaires were administered to various juvenile delinquent respondents so as to get their views on the topic. Questionnaires were physically delivered to juvenile respondents by the researcher in RCs and not by mail (see appendix A).

3.1.3 Interviewing

Formal interviews for key informants with pre-set guiding questions were carried out and the responses were recorded in a standardized form. These questionnaires are presented in appendix B.

3.1.4 Library research

The researcher carried out extensive literature review to understand the concepts better which called for lot of background information. Different information was obtained and reviewed from the Institute of psychology book bank of Makerere University, Makerere Social Research Center Library and Makerere university main library.

3.2 THE RESEARCH DESIGN

A case study research design was used since it accepts multiple methodologies including quantitative, qualitative and participatory approaches. These were used to supplement and complement one another. Each method used has advantages and disadvantages but it was planned that their use in the field of research would help one another. Besides that, studies on juvenile delinquents have been dominated by quantitative analysis but in order for the researcher to understand the concepts better; both qualitative and quantitative methods were used. While quantitative methods were used to correlate the social-economic circumstances that led the delinquency among juveniles, qualitative methods became necessary to elucidate why delinquency occur among juveniles.

3.3 PARTICIPATORY APPROACH METHODS

Materials were gathered from group discussions where participatory exercise was carried out. Through group discussions and in-depth interviews with key informants, participatory approach enabled the researcher to reach the once marginalized group of juvenile delinquents and the reasons to why they took up delinquency as a last resort. It also helped the researcher to come up with behavioral traits of some of respondents as juvenile participated in the exercise.

3.5 SAMPLING PROCEDURE AND SAMPLE SIZE

The size of the sample was 115 respondents in two RCs out of 571. According to Amin (2005:454), the size of the sample is determined as presented in the table one

Table 1: Determining of the sample size (s) per population size (N)

N	S	N	S	N	S	N	S	N	S
10	10	100	80	280	162	800	260	2800	338
15	14	110	86	290	165	850	256	3000	341
20	19	120	92	300	169	900	269	3500	341
25	24	130	97	320	175	950	274	4000	351
30	28	140	103	340	181	1000	278	4500	354
35	32	150	108	360	186	1100	285	5000	357
40	36	160	113	380	191	1200	291	6000	361
45	40	170	118	400	196	1300	297	7000	364
50	44	180	123	420	201	1400	302	8000	367
55	48	190	127	440	205	1500	306	9000	368
60	52	200	132	460	210	1600	310	10000	370
65	56	210	136	480	214	1700	313	15000	375
70	59	220	140	500	217	1800	317	20000	377
75	63	230	144	550	226	1900	320	30000	379
80	66	240	148	600	234	2000	322	40000	380
85	70	250	152	650	242	2200	327	50000	381
90	73	260	155	700	248	2400	331	75000	382
95	76	270	159	750	255	2600	335	100000	384

Source: Amin, 2005:454

Purposive, snowball and simple random sampling techniques were used to reach the respondents.

In the first instance, a two stage purposive sampling was used to select KNRC and NRH, and the same sampling technique was used to reach the two wardens of the selected Rehabilitation

Centers. While a snowball sampling technique was used to reach the care-takers, a simple random sampling technique was used to reach juvenile delinquents in both Rehabilitation Centers who were later organized into Focused Group Discussions during the interviews. Apart from the care-takers and wardens, the Local Council (LCs I-III) chairpersons of the area and the Probations Officers (PO) were interviewed as key informants.

In KNRC, five care-takers were interviewed while nine care-takers were interviewed from NRH. Then, three chair-persons of LCI, II, and III within each location of each RC were also selected because of their role in the area where juvenile delinquents are rehabilitated from. Two Probation Officers (PO) were interviewed in each District where the RC is located leading to four total numbers of PO respondents.

Finally, Focused Group Discussions of juvenile delinquent respondents were conducted in both RCs whereby in KNRC, 42 respondents within four Focused Group Discussions were interviewed. Three Focused Group Discussions were comprised of ten respondents per-each and one comprised of 12 respondents. In NRH, 47 respondents within four Focused Group Discussions were interviewed. In the four Focused Group Discussions, two groups comprised of 10 male juveniles per each, one comprised of 14 male juveniles and one comprised of 13 female juveniles were interviewed. This made a sample of 115 respondents of the study and the information can be presented on the table two.

Table 2: Illustration of the sample size

Rehabilitation center	Kampiringisa		Naguru		Total
Sex	Males	Females	Males	Females	
Wardens	1	-	1	-	2
Care-takers	3	2	8	1	14
LC-chairpersons (I-III)	3	-	3	-	06
Four key informants (Probation officers)	-	-	-	-	04
Focused Group Discussion per RC	Three Focused Groups consisting of 42 participants	-	Two Focused Group consisting of 34 participant s	One Focused Group consisting of 13 participants	79
TOTAL NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS					115 people

3.6 DATA ANALYSIS

Qualitative and quantitative methods of data analysis were used to analyze the challenges of rehabilitating juvenile delinquents. Qualitative method was used because it was easier to use it in describing and interpreting the findings while quantitative method became instrumental through the SPSS (Statistical Package of Social Science). Through the qualitative method, the study findings were analyzed and presented in percentages and graphs.

CHAPTER FOUR

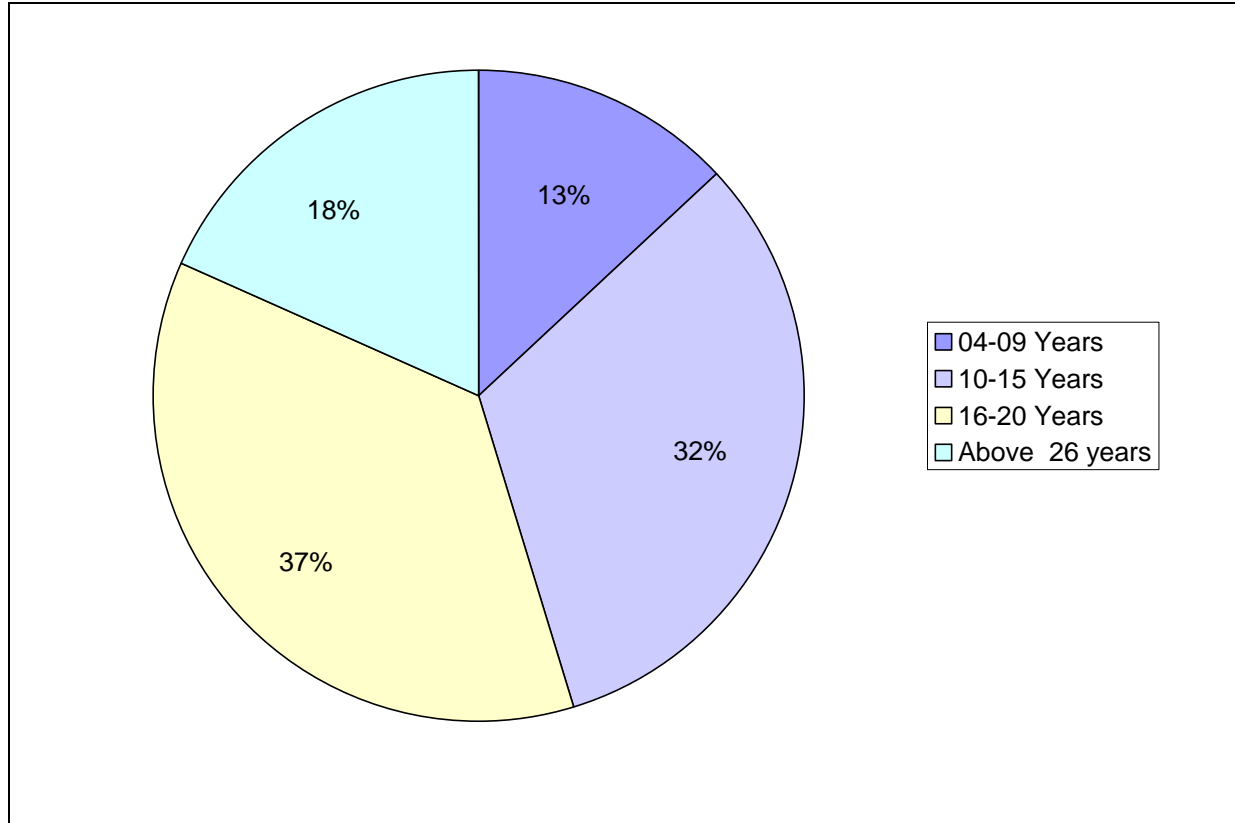
PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

This chapter focuses on presentation and discussion of the findings got during the field study in KNRC and NRH. The field results are presented in form of graphs, pictorial charts and tables. It starts with the socio-economic characters of juvenile delinquent respondents which are fundamental in examining the challenges of rehabilitating juvenile delinquents. It then presents causes given by juvenile delinquent respondents for delinquency. The extent to which RCs influence behavior change among juvenile delinquents is also presented in detail. The role of modern courts of law in rehabilitation process is also presented and discussed. It then ends with challenges faced in rehabilitating juvenile delinquents.

4.1 THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTER OF THE RESPONDENTS

The socio-economic character of the respondents is presented by sex, age, level of education, religious affiliation and juveniles' former occupation, which altogether remained fundamental to interpret and discuss the process of rehabilitating juvenile delinquents. It starts by presenting age groups of the respondents in percentages which according to the research carried out in KNRC and NRH is presented on the pie chart one in percentages on next page.

Pie Chart 1: Age groups of the respondents in percentages

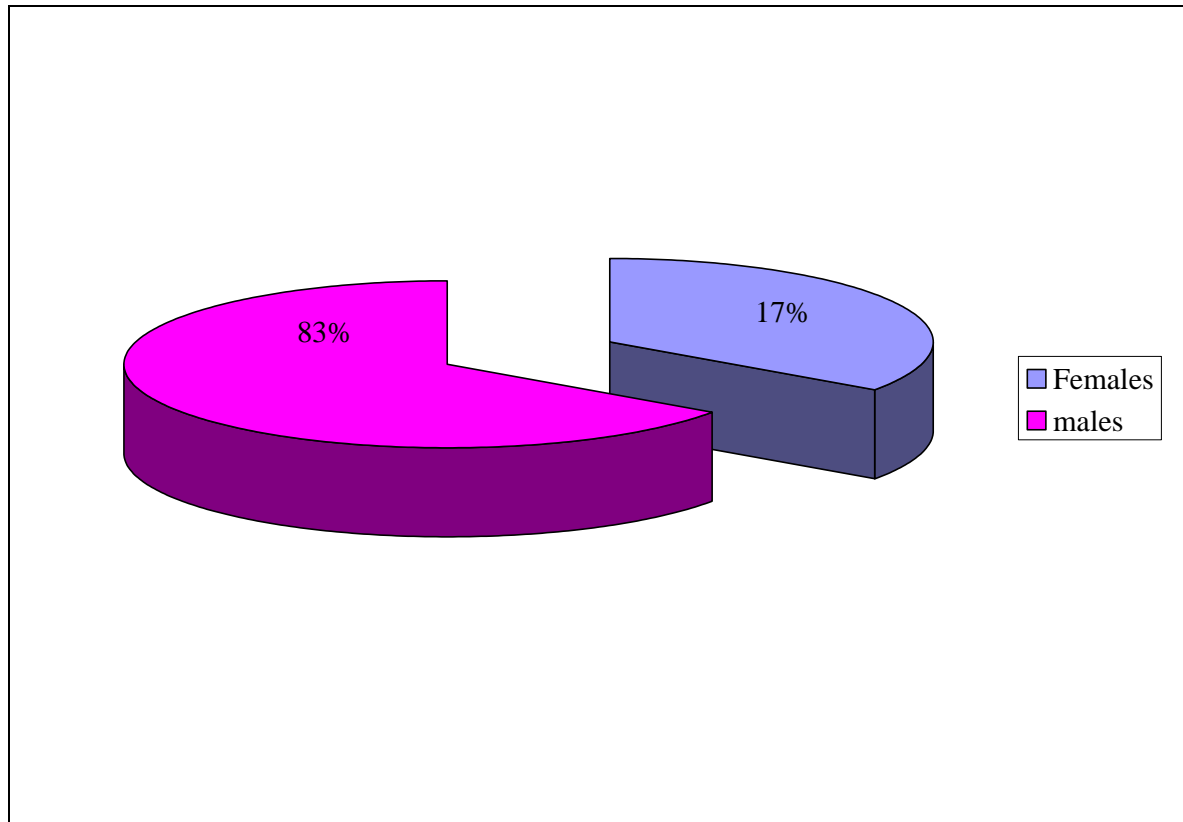


Source: Data collected from the field

Analysis from the above pie chart reveals that delinquency increases with the adolescent stage but it decreases with adulthood. This is because during the adolescent stage, some juveniles attempt to adventure into various fields of life some of which become avenues for the growth of delinquency. While in KNRC and NRH, it was revealed that such groups of people are easy to rehabilitate because delinquency which they portray is learnt. It was also affirmed that rehabilitating adolescent groups is easier compared to adult groups because the adolescents can listen and always imitate what the seniors or the elders (models) do which is not the case to the adult delinquency because the adult delinquents are rigid to the advice from the care-takers.

The socio-economic character of the respondents is also presented by sex. According to the research carried out in KNRC and NRH, the information is presented in the pie chart two below as;

Pie chart 2: Sex of the respondents in percentages



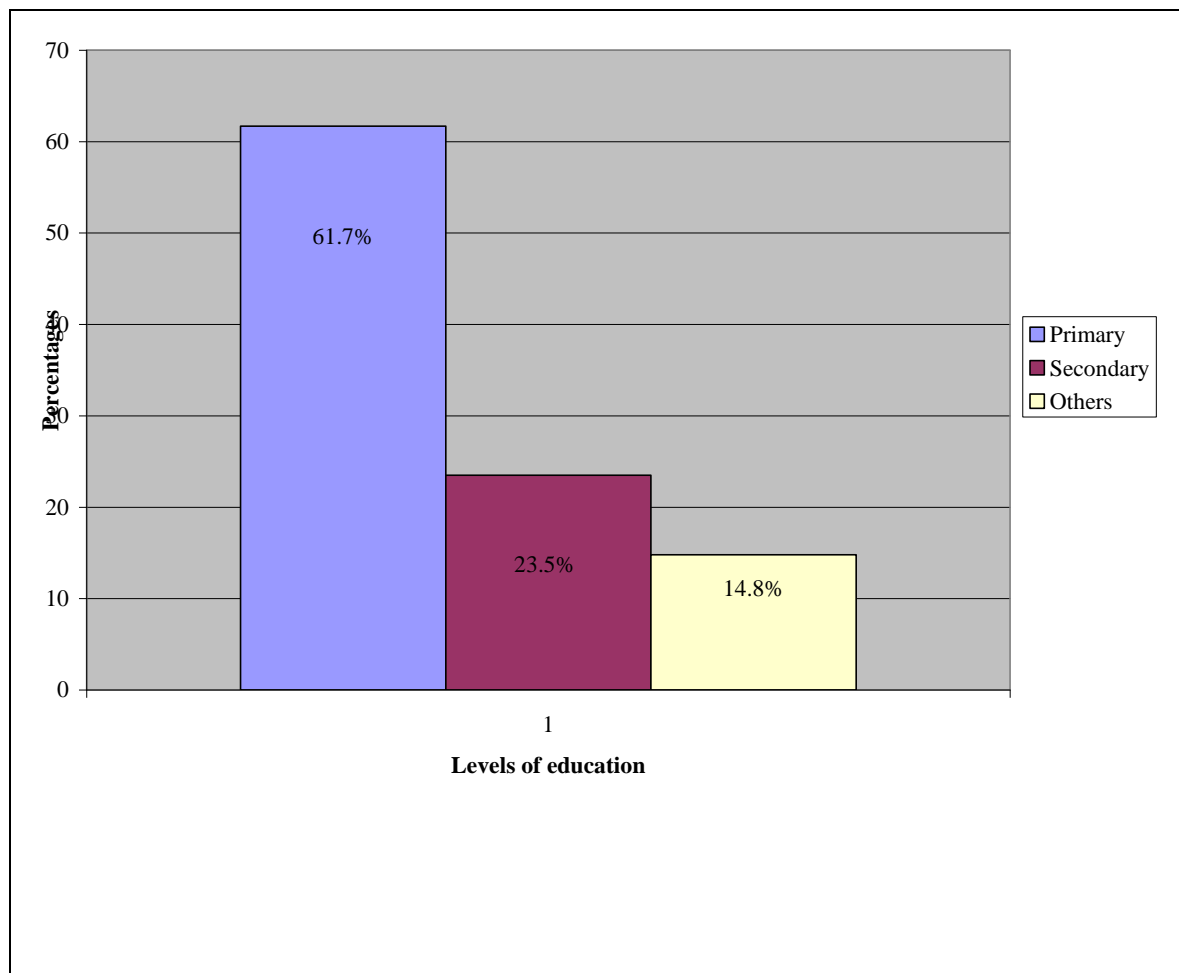
Source: Data collected from the field

The information in pie-chart two implies that delinquency is common among male juveniles as opposed to female juveniles. This is because male juveniles are found of adventuring into many social economic activities compared to female juveniles and out of such activities, male juveniles learn delinquency. While in the RCs, it was revealed that female juveniles are easy to be rehabilitated, accepted and resettled back to their families or communities compared to the male juvenile delinquents. This is because female juvenile delinquents easily confess and accept their mistakes compared to male juvenile delinquents. Such confessions among the female juveniles

give a clear approach to their care-takers. It is from such background that male juveniles largely remain a challenge to rehabilitation process.

Education distribution was another characteristic of the respondents as presented on the bar chart one below;

Bar chart 1: Levels of education distribution of the respondents in percentages

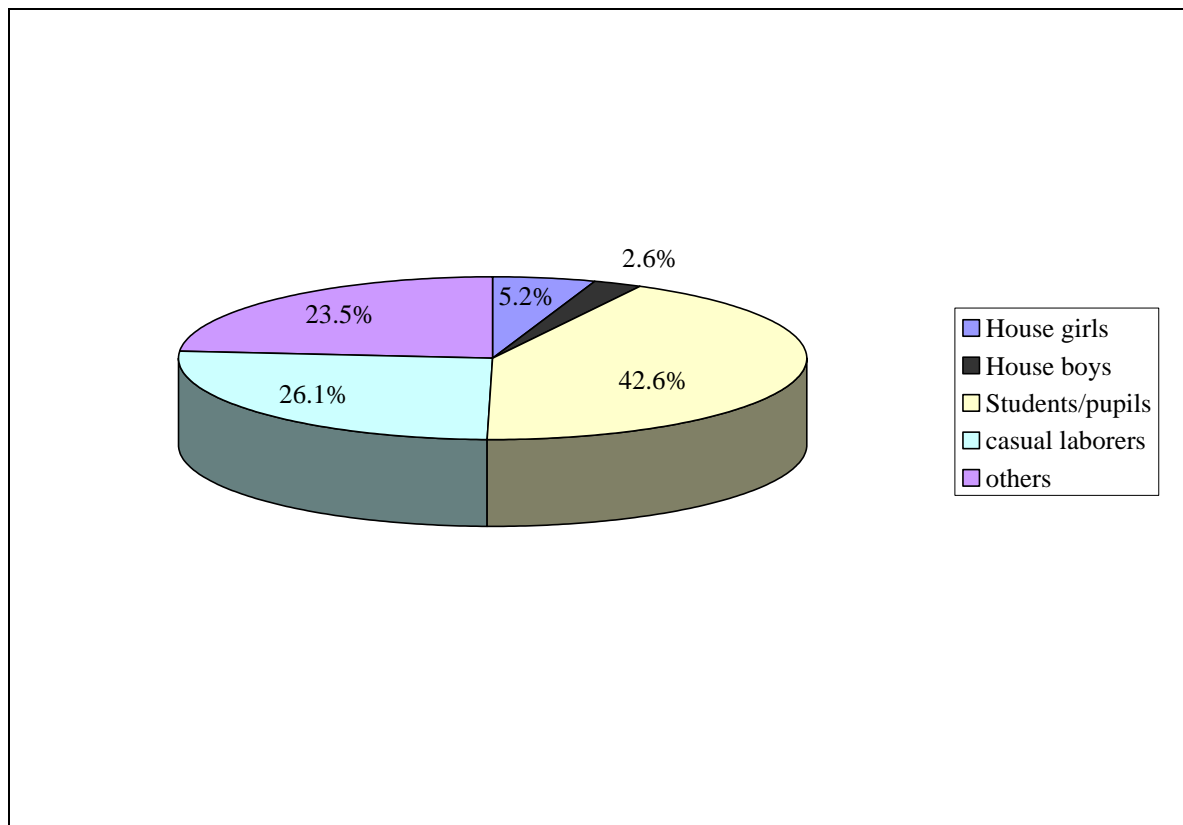


Source: Data collected from the field

It can be explained that the high percentage of juvenile delinquents in RCs is from primary schools compared to the rest of the levels of education and this is due to the fact that many of the delinquents were from poor families who could not even afford the little to support their children in secondary schools.

The social-economic occupation of respondents was another characteristic and according to the research carried out in KNRC and NRH, the results are presented on the pie chart three below.

Pie chart 3: Occupation distribution of the respondents in percentages

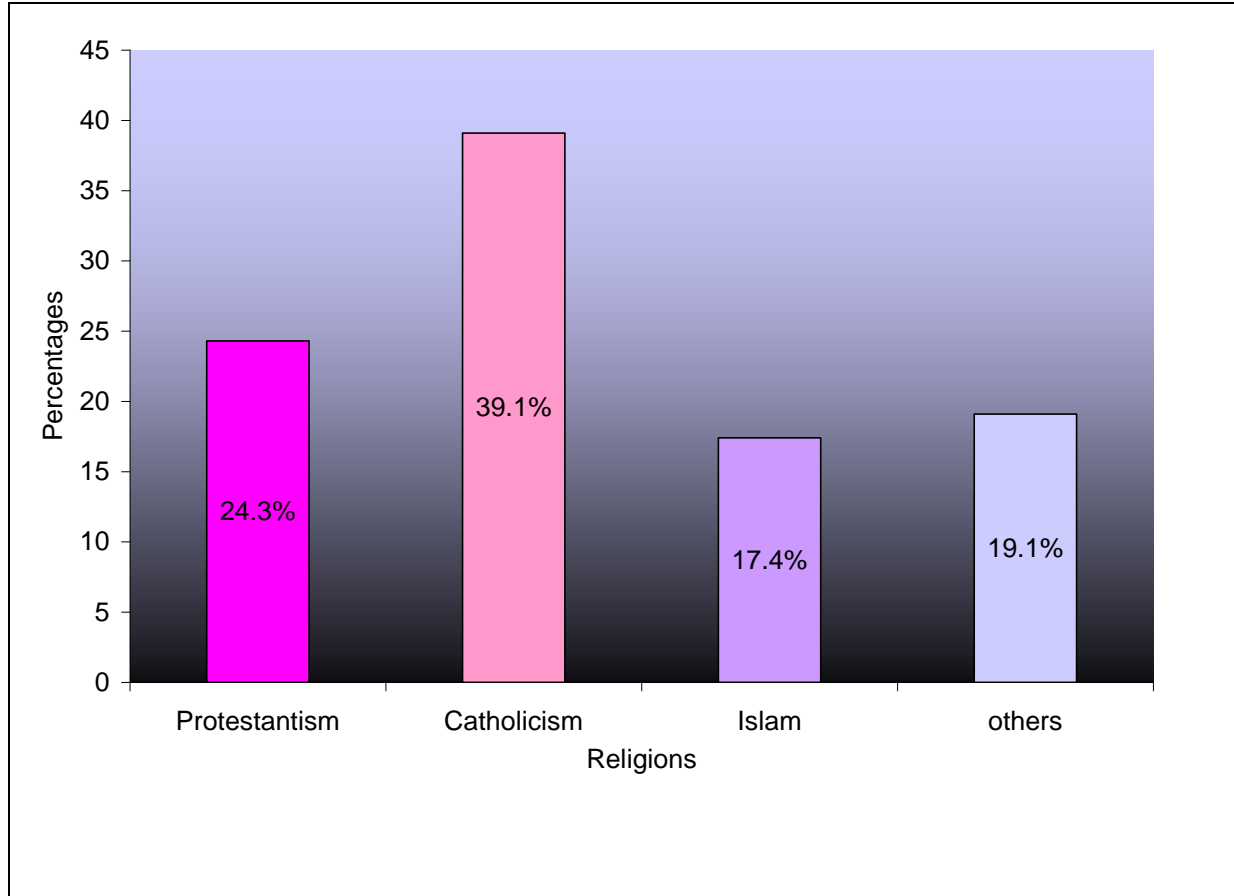


Source: Data collected from the field

Using the results from the pie-chart above it can be interpreted that majority of juvenile delinquents come from schools. Although it was revealed by the care-takers that juvenile delinquents from schools are easy to rehabilitate and resettle back to their homes, it was at the same time revealed that juveniles from the rest of the former occupations have got a hard spirit that is very hard to rehabilitate.

Religious affiliation constituted another characteristic of the respondents and according to the findings; the information is presented on bar chart two;

Bar graph 2: Religious affiliations of the respondent in percentages



Source: Data collected from the field

Because of religious background, it can be asserted that pro-social behaviors can be easily instilled among juvenile delinquents as long as the delinquents were brought up in fear of God. Besides that, it was revealed by the care-takers during the study carried out in KNRC that religion is an important tool in instilling morals and discipline among juvenile delinquents, this is done through religious services and counseling.

4.2 REASONS GIVEN FOR DELINQUENCY BY JUVENILES

Various reasons were given by the respondents as to why they indulge in delinquency such as theft, disrespect of elders, drug abuse, attempted murder, prostitution, treason, defilement, possession of firearms, idleness and disorderly. Juvenile delinquent respondents in both KNRC

and NRH stressed group influence as a major cause that led them to delinquency. They noted that groups are formed at schools and at their homes. At schools, some juvenile delinquents noted that they started slowly by stealing pens, pencils and books to use them. In order to defend themselves from the rest of the students, they developed aggressive characters by identifying with certain symbols such as the cross (which means danger) that become a threat to the rest of the school members.

Respondents mentioned desire for good things as another cause for delinquency. These include clothes, perfume, going out with their friends, holding mobile phones and drinking alcohol. Such desires lead juvenile delinquents to steal and in the process they are caught and find their way to prisons or RCs. During the research study carried out in KNRC, one of juveniles revealed that he stole his fathers' money to buy a mobile phone³⁴ which resulted into his way to RC.

Some juvenile respondents mentioned desire to fornicate as another cause of delinquency among juveniles. Male juvenile delinquents noted that in order to entice young females, they must steal money from their fathers, mothers and relatives since they do not have sources of income.

Besides that, respondents noted that they steal because they would like to pay school fees. Through FGDs, some respondents highlighted that they are living with their step-mothers and fathers but the circumstances at home are full of trouble. They are not allowed to express themselves, their rights as children are abused and sometimes can take a month without going to schools due to lack of school dues and this has pushed some to stealing in order to go to school but would not get away with the law.

³⁴ Information from the field 11 February, 2008

Respondents also identified careless parents as a major cause of delinquency. To them, their fathers are found of coming late in the mid night and leave early in the morning to work; and the same to their mothers. In order to keep themselves busy, they start visiting their friends where they end up watching pornographic movies that entice them into delinquency. One of the male juvenile respondents in NRH noted that due careless parents, he could always have time to go to tonight video-halls to watch pornographic movies³⁵ that are basic avenues for delinquency.

Respondents identified separation and broken families as a cause for delinquency. It was revealed that juveniles start permissive life immediately after their parents have separated from each other. Because of separation their fathers opt to marry second wives whom the young generation do not owe respect. They become unruly at home and always abuse their stepmothers and the reaction of their fathers is to take them to RCs.

Mistreatment by parents, guardians and relatives remain a major cause of delinquency among juveniles. They noted that at home they are denied food; beaten and isolated from the rest of the children. At times they are forced to sleep outside the houses and this led juveniles to resort to street life and its associated ills where they were got by the city council to the RCs.

Absolute poverty was also mentioned as a cause of delinquency among juveniles and this makes male juveniles to resort to stealing and female juveniles to prostitution. Some male Juveniles noted to have stolen people's money, parents and guardians because of poverty. One of the male juvenile respondents was quoted saying;

“I was caught stealing 20,000 from the neighbors' house since at home neither my mother nor my

³⁵ Information from respondent on 11th February, 2008

father could afford to buy me scholastic materials to go to school’

In the same way female Juvenile noted that in such circumstances, they resort to selling their bodies as a way to earn a living. Such practices lead them to be neglected by their parents and guardians who later resort to take them to RCs. but since are young, they are taken to NRH and KNRC for rehabilitation.

Respondents mentioned loss of parents as a major factor leading to delinquency. After the death of their parents particularly due to AIDS, some juveniles found themselves without care or with someone to comfort them for life. They began permissive life and join the once barred groups by their parents. In such groups, they began taking drugs such as marijuana, take alcohol which all constitute delinquency.

Besides that, respondents noted that they are sometimes neglected by their parents particularly their fathers. They noted that after reaching in the adolescent stage their fathers neglected them, refused to give them school fees and later tell them to leave their houses. Juvenile feel isolated and the only option is to join the street children where they are got by the police and taken to RCs.

Pornographic novels and films were identified as causes of delinquency among juveniles. Male juvenile respondents noted that films which they watch entice them to commit crimes like defilement and rape. In order to defile, they first take drugs and alcohol such that they could be strong and remove shyness from their face. They also claimed that some drugs are mixed up with alcohol to act as stimulants for easy defilement.

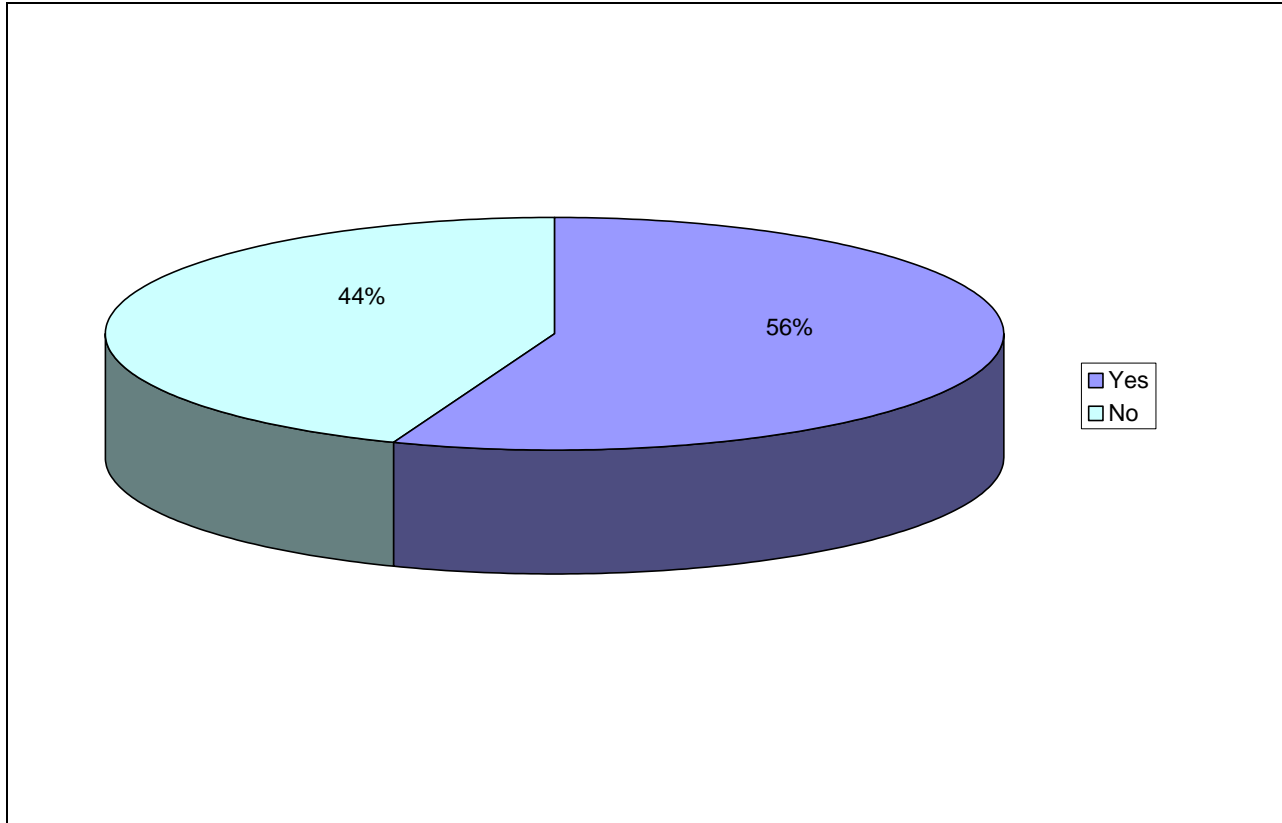
Bandwagon effect was mentioned as a cause for delinquency by respondents. This to the respondents interviewed is a result from their fathers and peer group. They mentioned a situation where their fathers have been stealing radios and they also wished to steal such commodities. They also mentioned that their parents are good smokers and in most cases, parents give them chances to smoke. On top of that, some juveniles noted that their fathers are found of beating their mothers, an act that attract them to fight with their neighbors children

4.2.1 Confining juvenile delinquents to RCs

Varied response was given when juvenile respondents were asked whether they were arrested. Some respondents supported that they were arrested while others noted that they were not arrested. Respondents described the processes how they are arrested in three ways. While some Juveniles were arrested immediately after committing crimes and taken to the police stations where they were later transferred to NRH and later to KNRC, others explained awful experience which they passed through before RCs. They noted that at first they under-went intimidation by their step mothers and their fathers. They revealed that their step mothers could deny them food, force them to eat when the rest have finished eating and in the absence of the house boys/girls; they could be forced by their step mothers to substitute them. They could be stopped from going to schools in order to clean the houses, nurse the young children and above all to prepare food for the rest of the family members. When they refuse to do the above chores, the only option was to be taken to RCs. On the other hand, those who have been street children noted that they were gotten by the police and the city council and taken to RCs

Respondents were interviewed whether their family members participated in taking them to RCs and 56% of the respondents supported the statement while 44% objected to the statement. The information of this kind is presented on the pie chart four as follows.

Pie chat 4: Family participation when taking juveniles to RCs in percentages

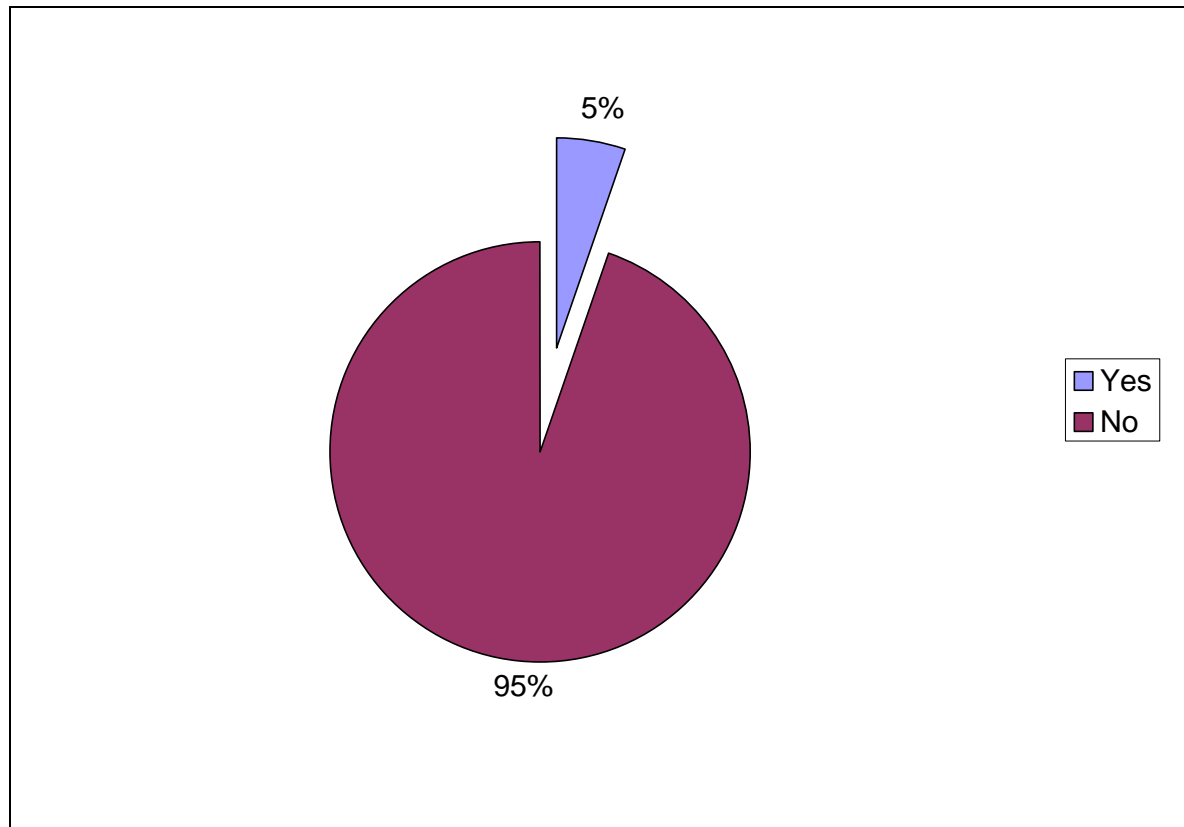


Source: Data collected from the field

The above pie chart on page 45 shows that 56% of the respondents said that their families participated in taking them to RCs. This might be attributed to the fact that most of juvenile families come from schools (see pie chart three), most especially in primary schools (see bar chart one) where parents still have an upper hand in their children's lives. However, 44% of juveniles said that their parents did not participate in taking them to RCs. This might be attributed to the fact that some juveniles adopt juvenile tendencies when they have left school and their parents' homes where they may be living alone or with friends (see pie chart three)

Respondents were interviewed on how they are treated while living at the centres and 95% of the respondents said that they are not treated well. However, 5% of the respondents said that they are treated well and care is taken upon them. This information is presented on pie chart five;

Pie chart 5: Response on treatment in RCs in percentages



Source: Data collected from the field

The 95% of the respondents noted that they are given poor food, sleep with more than 10 juveniles in one room, and eat only posh and not allowed to go to other places. On the other hand, the 5% of the respondents noted that they are given food, catered upon by the care-takers and allowed to go to schools.

95% of the respondents described awful experiences in the RCs where they are seriously beaten as a way of punishment and moreover some times by their fellow juveniles whom are said to be their heads. Food which is given to them is not good as it is not well prepared and almost only one type of food. While in the group discussions, respondents noted that although they were facing troublesome environment in their homes, the treatment in the troublesome environment in their homes was better compared to the treatment in RCs. They noted that they had freedom and

could eat well compared to the daily posh of RCs and potatoes with beans. The poor services in RCs might be as a result of limited funding or financial help from the government and other donors yet the numbers are big. Also this percent might constitute those juveniles from well to do families who are not satisfied by the services provided in RCs since they seem below standards as compared to their initial life style at home. Five percent of the respondents however said that they are satisfied and treated well in the RCs. These might be juveniles from the hitherto poor families. This can be illustrated by the picture one which was taken during the research study as;

Picture 1: Food in RCs



Source: Photo by Paul Mugerwa

Rehabilitating the delinquent behaviors is a fundamental role of RCs and according to the research carried out in KNRC and NRH; caretakers have tried to make RCs resemble homes in order to change their delinquency to pro-behaviors. During the same research study, it was observed that a number of juveniles have got negative attitude towards RCs despite efforts by

care-takers to make RCs homes for juvenile delinquents. Through Focused Group Discussions in KNRC, respondents revealed that they are caned and put into a certain small room normally called “Akadukuulu”³⁶ for the whole day as a punishment. They mentioned that such practices make them to compare their families and RCs but they find that their families are better despite troublesome environment. The act of caning juveniles was observed and pictures taken as juveniles were to be caned in RCs and this can be presented on picture two;

Picture 2: Children lying to be caned.



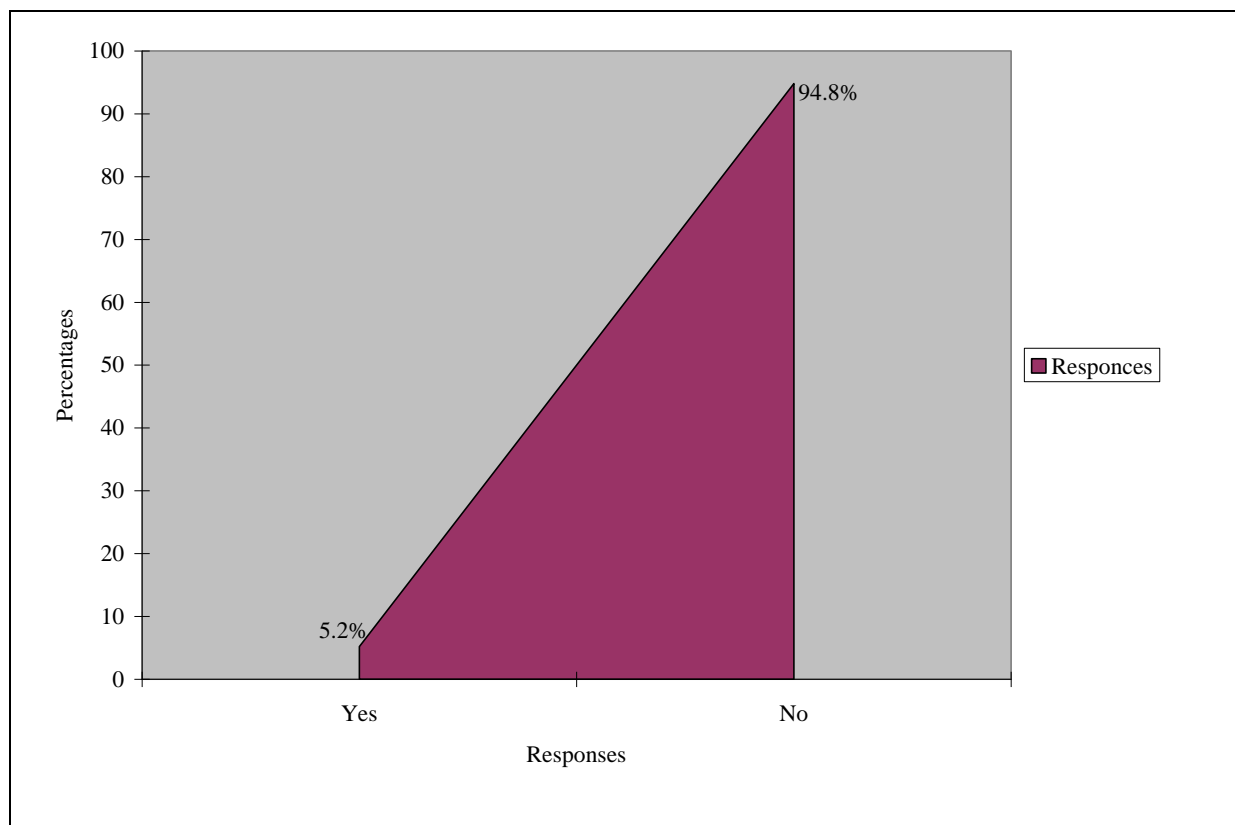
Source: photo by Paul Mugerwa

³⁶ Information from KNRC on 11th February, 2008. Akadukulu is a small room which is ever dark and dirty.

According to the respondents, the condition in RCs cannot be compared with conditions in their homes and from their experience; some of the delinquents are taken to the RCs because of allegations by their stepmothers and guardians.

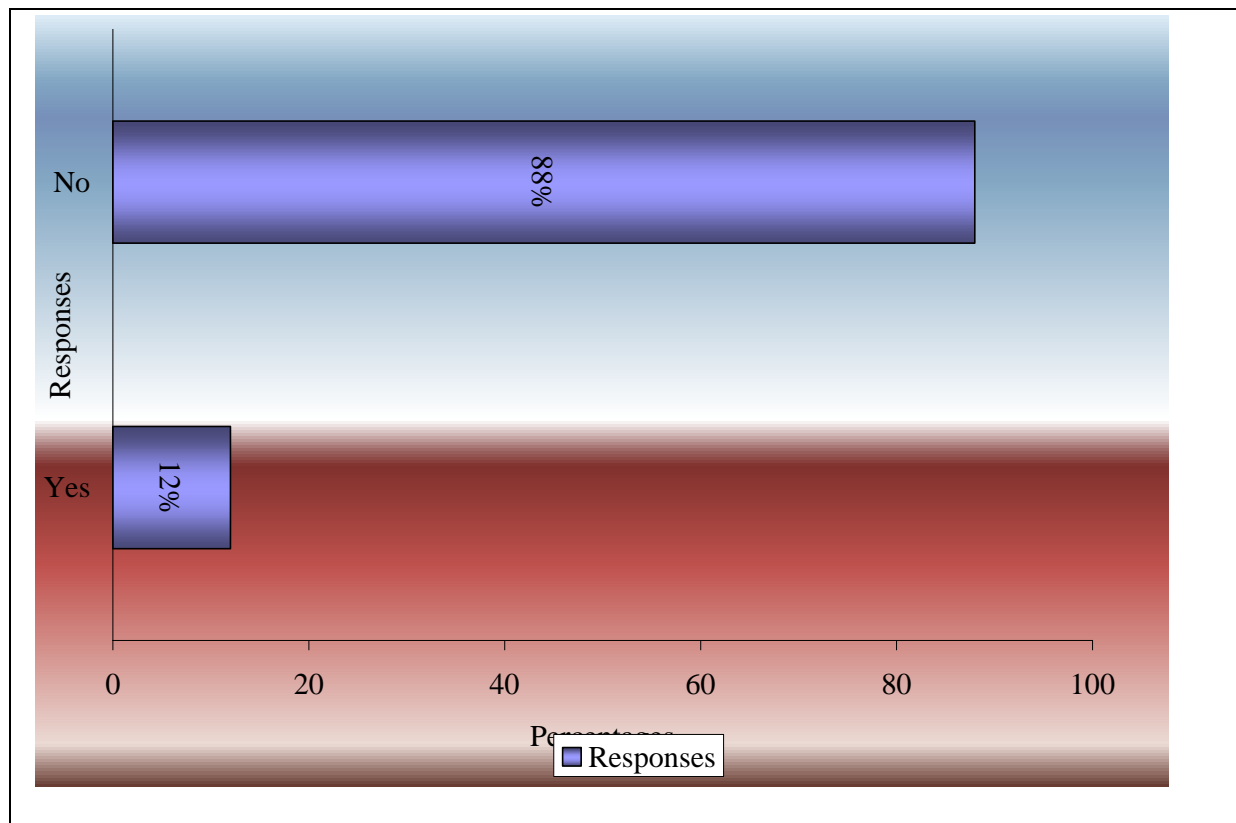
Respondents were also asked whether RCs are better off than their homes and 94.% of them supported the view that RCs are not better than their homes while 5.% of juvenile respondents supported that RCs are better than their homes. This information reveals that RCs have got to go extra miles in order to change the behaviors of juvenile delinquents. The information above can be shown on the bar chart three as follows;

Bar chart 3: Responses whether RCs are better than juvenile homes in percentages



Besides that, juvenile delinquent respondents noted that they are not experiencing motherly love in rehabilitation centers. When they were interviewed whether they experience motherly love, 88% of the respondents did not support the statement while 12% agreed with the statement that they experience motherly love in RCs. 12% of the respondents who did not agree to the statement are those whose parents died or those living with step mothers. In otherworld, they see rehabilitation centres as their real families and the caretakers as their parents while those who refuted the statement were the children whose parents or relatives are still living and do not want to stay in RCs ; they have somewhere to go and feel no motherly love in RCs. This information is presented on the stacked bar chart one;

Stacked bar chart 1: Responses on motherly love in RCs in percentages

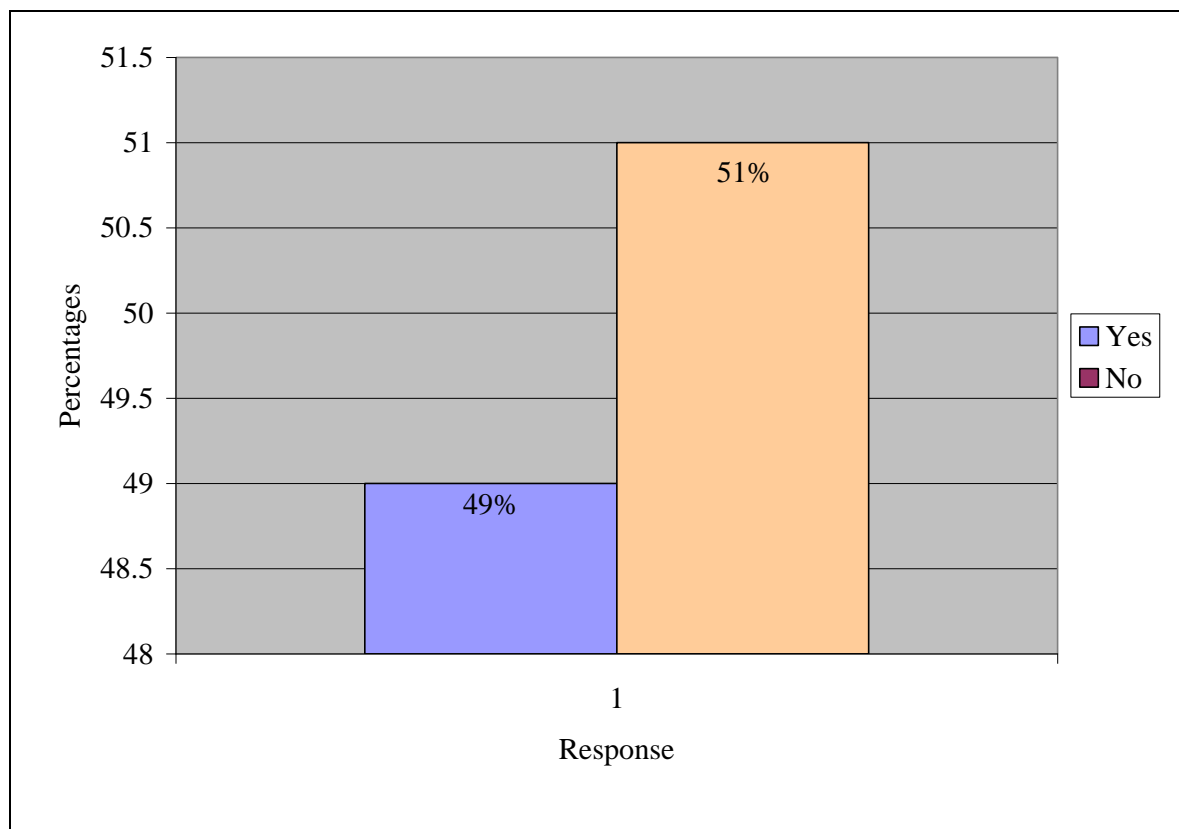


Source; Data from the field

4.2.2 Services given to juveniles in RCs

According to the research findings from both KNRC and NRH, food is a major service given to juvenile delinquents and when asked whether they receive enough food, 51% of the respondents supported the statement that food is enough while 49% of the respondents objected it. It should be noted that the food is just in quantity but not in quality as it was observed. Posh and beans is the order of the day in NRH and it was worse in KNRC where un-peeled potatoes and were served. This information is presented on the bar chart four;

Bar chart 4: Response on the food in RCs in percentages

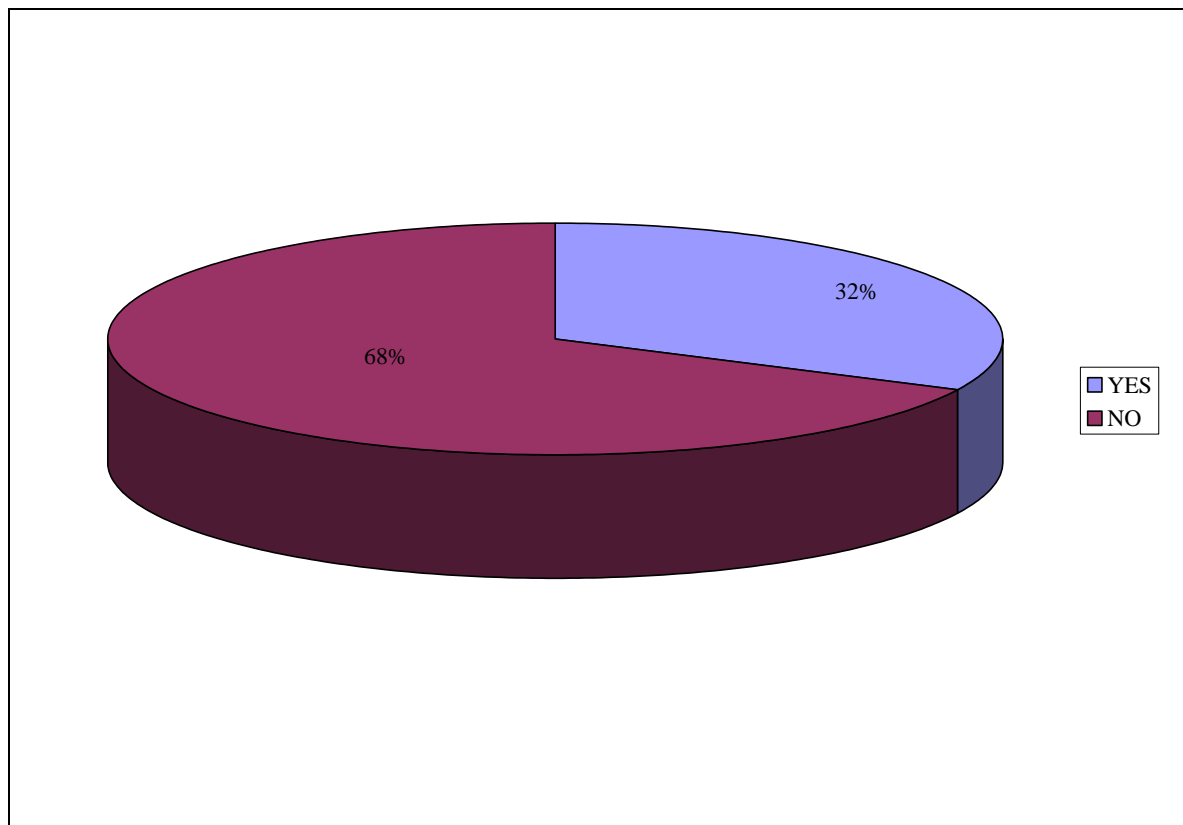


Source; Data from the field

Various types of food were mentioned by juvenile delinquent respondents and these include posh with beans, potatoes and cassava.

On the accommodation, respondents gave yet varied responses. While 32% of the respondents supported the view that they are satisfied with accommodation and clothing given to them in the RCs, 62% of the respondents objected the statement. This information is presented on the pie chart six on the following page. The respondents noted that they are many and are crowded in some rooms and moreover some of their members do urinate on beds which make it un-hygienic. Mostly the 32% who supported the view were mainly those from the street who had no way to sleep and this is their best while in RCs and the rest 62% who objected the statement were from homes where they would sleep well amidst other difficulties and therefore found the accommodation in RCs very un-satisfying and not comfortable.

Pie-chart 6: Response on accommodation in RCs in percentages



Source; Data from the field

The type of accommodation which the respondents referred was observed during the research study and pictures to portray the nature of accommodations are presented on the following page.

Picture 3: Juvenile's accommodation in RCs



Source; photo by Paul Mugerwa

Other services given in attempt to rehabilitate juvenile delinquents have been put in table two and the response presented before them in percentages. They include disciplining of juveniles for the wrong action committed and rewarding them for the good action done; juvenile participation in recreational activities, inspection by the caretakers every morning, guidance and counseling, protection from the offended people, going to schools and receive religious services. This is presented on the table two

Table 3: Responses to the service given in RCs

Services given in RCs	Yes	No
Disciplined for the wrong committed	95%	5%
Rewarded for the good action done	22%	78%
Engage in recreational activities	94%	6%
Inspected every morning	88%	12%
Undergo guidance and counseling	96%	4%
Protection from the offended	76%	24%
Go to school	70%	30%
Receive religious service	95%	5%

Source; Data from the field

According to the respondents, disciplining juvenile delinquents is in form of canes and 95% of the respondents supported the statement that they are disciplined for the wrong action done while 5% of the respondents objected the statement (the 5% of the respondents happened to be new and that's why they objected the statement). It was revealed that punishing juvenile delinquents make them to develop a sense of respect and removes the desire to permissiveness that developed due to lack of supervision by their parents.

Table two also shows response towards the rewards given to juvenile delinquents for the good action done and 22% of the respondents supported the statement that they are rewarded for the good action done while 78% of the respondents refuted the statement. It was revealed that the caretakers prefer caning rather than rewarding the delinquents. However, it is not the caretakers' problem since the RCs are government run. Little money is said to be invested in the two RCs and from that background therefore, there is no money to buy gifts to reward the children but

there is some other type of rewards which are not material like praise and promotion as a prefect or leader in RCs.

On recreational activities, 94% of the respondents mentioned that they involve in activities such as playing football, dance drama, debating and educative indoor games like board games (locally called omweso) snakes and ladders and playing cards which all together attract juveniles to stay in RCs. It was also observed that dancing and playing football and netball are major recreational activities in the RCs. Because both juvenile delinquents and the care-takers involve in recreational activities, intimate relationship is created during playing which further free association between the two. During the research study, various activities were observed and can be illustrated in the following pictures

Picture 4: Types of Games/play in RCs



Source; Photo by Paul Mugerwa

One of the care takers in KNRC noted that “Games and sports have helped juveniles to forget their past and now they live wonderful lives”. As far as game and sports are concerned in NRH and KNRC, it was revealed that an NGO called Right to Play has done a lot in facilitation of football and their sport facilities.

Picture 5: Juvenile delinquents in dance and drama session



Source; Photo by Paul Mugerwa



The above pictures taken during the research study from the RCs easily explain that there is an important work done by RCs in rehabilitating juvenile delinquent behaviors. It was revealed that through recreational activities, delinquents learn to associate with each other and that such activities refresh juvenile delinquents. The association developed from activities of this kind makes juvenile delinquents confess crimes committed and therefore remain an important tool to bring the culture of peace and togetherness in RCs.

Further more, the findings from the field reveal that 88% of the respondents supported the view they are inspected every morning in their dormitories while 12% of the respondents never supported the statement. Through the care-takers, it was revealed that morning inspections are fundamental in bringing discipline among juvenile delinquents. Care-takers further noted that some juvenile delinquents would not like to wake up but because of the daily inspections; juvenile delinquents are encouraged to wake up for the inspection. Inspection also is fundamental in engaging juvenile delinquents in activities like cleaning their dormitories, compound and juvenile themselves to take shower. One care taker from NRH said that inspecting children gives them a sense of belonging; it is like a father or a mother who wakes up to check on his child

According to the table two, 96% of the respondents noted that they undergo guidance and counseling while 4% objected it. It was revealed that counseling is an important tool in bringing discipline among juvenile delinquents. Besides that, counseling makes juvenile delinquents confident to believe that there are some people who care about them. Guidance and counseling is among forms of the services given to juveniles during rehabilitation. It was revealed during the study that juvenile delinquents undergo guidance and counseling at an individual and group level. This is done by the groups such as religious groups and institutions which are invited by

the care takers to visit the RCs for such services. Such religious bodies include; the Chosen Generation Intervention, Jesus Cares for All, Open Door for Spiritual Development. It was also revealed by the care takers that the professional counselors and priests are invited to counsel juvenile delinquents. Other groups that give guidance and counseling include Give Me a Chance; an NGO responsible for the resettlement of juvenile delinquents, the Presbyterian Church and the Redeemed Church of Makerere.

It was further revealed by the caretakers in both RCs that it is during guidance and counseling that juvenile delinquents confess and openly speak out their evils which give the concerned people a good ground for intervention. It was revealed further that guidance and counseling done at an individual level normally is done to special cases and those are the hard core children who take long to change their behaviors.

Respondents also confessed that they are protected from those they offended and this was supported by 76% of the respondents while 24% refuted the statement that they are protected. According to the care-takers protecting juvenile delinquents is a crucial issue while in RCs because parents entrust them with authority to take care upon them. One of juvenile respondents from NRH noted that they are protected because rehabilitation houses are surrounded by the wall that has got barbed wires on top³⁷. Further still the law protects these children in NRH and KNRC and no one attempts to attack them.

Table two also reveals that 70% of the respondents go to schools to acquire formal education as opposed by 30% of the respondents. In KNRC, respondents are provided with a library where they make their private reading in holidays. It was revealed that those that do not attend schools

³⁷ Information from the respondents 11th February, 2008

are juvenile delinquents who were got from the streets at an old age and never wanted school life again. On technical education, respondents revealed that they have never received technical education

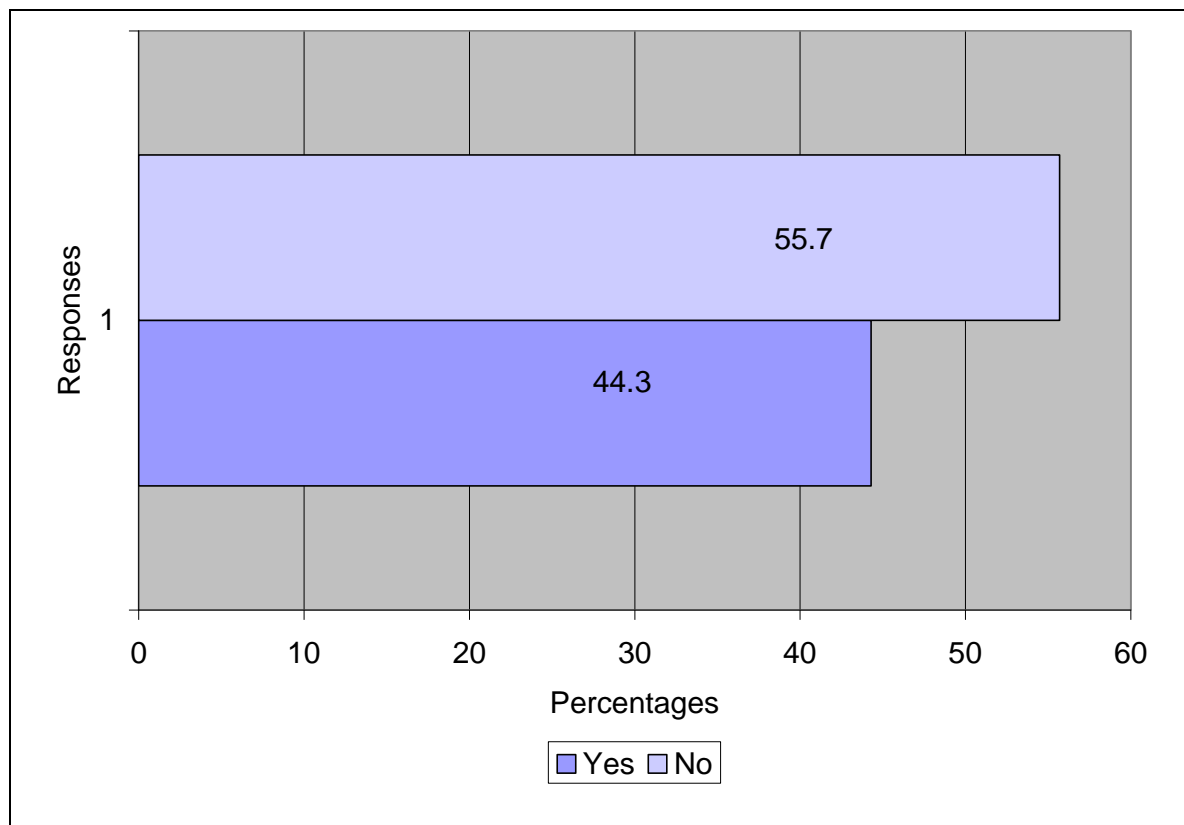
It was observed during the study that both KNRC and NRH used to have technical equipments for technical skills but these are now few. For example, they used to have carpentry workshops for the boys and tailoring for girls but these have ceased to be. On formal education, the majority among the 70% who supported the view that they receive formal education were respondents from KNRC because they do attend school from a nearby UPE schools while those who refuted the statement were respondents from NRH. They just once in get some few lessons of formal education from the remand home give by the caretakers who are not even professional teachers.

Lastly, table two shows that 95% of the respondents supported the view that they receive religious services and only 5% objected the statement. It was further revealed that religious services are received once in a week and through religious services, it is believed that juvenile delinquents are spiritually transformed. 95% of the respondents happened to have come from religious families and surely appreciate the presence of such services in the RCs while the 5% happened to be children who were never brought up in religious families or had taken long on the streets. It was revealed that several priests and pastors are invited on many occasions to pray and preach to the children in both NRH and KNRC and the caretakers clearly put it that this has been very fundamental in rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents since they are spiritually transformed.

4.3 COURTS OF LAW AND JUVENILE DELINQUENTS

Respondents were also asked whether they have ever been tried to the courts of law and according to the bar chart five below, 56% of juvenile delinquents have never been tried by the courts of law while 44% have ever.

Bar chart 5: Response by juvenile delinquents whether have been tried to the courts of law.



Source; Data from the field

Those who responded that they have never been tried by the courts of law presented two reasons. These are time and futility of the cases alleged upon them. The respondents who gave time as a reason believe that they have spent not more than one month in RCs and therefore are convinced that the police is still investigating the matter. Others asserted that they do not have cases to answer in the courts of law. Such group is convinced that they did not commit any offense and thus they are in wrong places.

Some respondents revealed that they had the rights of association, movements and worship when they were living in their homes but in the RCs, these rights are violated by the care-takers who do not allow them to move from place to another, they do not associate with the rest of their family members and their friends. Though they are allowed to worship, some respondents do not appreciate the nature how the worship is conducted. They believe that worship has got a lot to do with association but a part from meeting the care-takers and the group of juvenile themselves, no one they have ever met since their stay in RCs. Besides that, Moslem juvenile delinquents noted that that they have never received their religious leader to lead worship. They noted that they only see some priests who organize prayers in small rooms within few hours but they have never worshiped in accordance to Islamic faith.

On the other hand, some juvenile delinquents who have ever been tried to courts of law have never been pleased with the court proceedings. Some respondents noted that in the courts of law, they are not allowed to defend themselves since the court lawyers and judges use English as a medium of communication yet some young juvenile delinquents can not speak English. Besides that, respondents noted that it would be better to be having their lawyers but they are not given time to look for them. Nonetheless, they believe that even if it was to look for them, it would have remained difficult for them to have a lawyer yet the lawyers need millions of money.

4.4 JUVENILES ATTITUDES TO THE LIFE IN RCs

Varied responses were also given towards the life in RCs by the respondent. While some mentioned that they like life in the RCs, others objected it that they do not like the life in RCs. According to the care-takers, majority of juveniles that like RCs are juveniles that do not have where to go and most of them came from the streets but those who have got where to go, do not like the RCs.

Juveniles talked about guidance and counseling as service which has remained important to them. This according to the care-takers has been the most effective way to influence behavioral change among juvenile delinquents. It was also observed that had they have had guidance and counseling services like what they receive in RCs; they would not have developed delinquency. Unfortunately, they revealed that none of their parents or their guardians did involve in guidance and counseling exercise in their families and this became a major reason for delinquency. Some juvenile delinquents also revealed that there is intimate association between juvenile delinquents and the care takers which according to one of juvenile delinquents has helped him to become friendly to people compared to the period when he was at home³⁸.

Juveniles also noted that food has made some juvenile delinquents to like the RCs and according to the care-takers, most of juvenile delinquents that like food in the RCs are those coming from the streets and coming from very poor families has become the order of the day in their families.

Playing football was also mentioned as an activity that makes juvenile delinquents like RCs. They noted that they like the place because of playing foot ball. The reason behind this is that foot ball has occupied the avenue which prior RCs was for running to bars to drink alcohol and to think how to steal their fathers' money.

Education was also mentioned as the best service received by juvenile delinquent respondents. Respondents noted that while on the streets, they were not receiving such education

³⁸ Information from the field on 11 February, 2008

On the other hand, respondents noted that they do not like RCs because they are not their homes. They pointed out that once in RCs; they are not allowed to move from place to another. In KNRC, a juvenile delinquent during the interview said “East or west the hoe is the best”

Respondents also never liked the RCs because they are caned by the caretakers. According to the respondents in FGD, juveniles are beaten in most cases rather than being advised. This makes them hate RCs and thus opt to go back home or to the streets.

Respondents revealed that they do not like RCs because they are subjected to digging and fetching water. Such activities to some juvenile delinquents have been for house boys/girls in their families.

Juvenile delinquent respondents noted that the home is better though there is mistreatment. To them, they are missing the company of their friend at home, some of their parents and guardians.

4.4.1 Changes in behaviors among juvenile delinquents in RCs

Juvenile delinquent respondents gave a number of changes in their behaviors starting from the social economic changes which according to the care-takers are fundamental to justify that certain behaviors have been changed and juvenile delinquents can be resettled back to their families. These include appreciating for what is given in the RCs such as forms of advice, willingness to greet fellow juvenile delinquents and the care-takers together with willingness to give confession about their past experience

Some respondents also noted that that they no longer smoke, a habit that had ruled their lives for many years. Those who have at once hated schools have returned to school. Juvenile delinquent

respondents also noted that they no longer steal their friends' shirts nor can they take opium which had prior become a common practice while at the streets and in their families. This was justified by the care-takers who raveled that some of juvenile delinquents interviewed have completely changed from heir former behaviors³⁹.

Respondents noted that they used to go to video shows and dancing halls at night which was done hiding from their parents but this has become an issue of the past since they were taken to RCs.

Fighting was also mentioned as one of the major act which juveniles used to do and this has led unfriendly relations with their teen-ages. However, juvenile delinquents noted that they no longer fight and have opted to live a peaceful life.

Some Respondents noted that they have started a culture of worship which was never thought of before RCs. Some respondents revealed that they have lived without the knowledge about God but because of religious services in RCs, they have realized that there is a supreme being above the earthly creatures and man inclusive. This according to the respondents has led the fear of God and a cording to the recorded literature, the fear of God is the source of peaceful mind and peace in the world.

Some male juvenile delinquent respondents noted that they used to disturb young girls which at times could lead them to defilement and raping but this has become an issue of the past and they can now live with them in RCs without disturbing them.

³⁹ Information from the field on 12 February, 2008

Juvenile delinquent respondents noted that they could use vulgar language against anyone and the elders inclusive. However this has changed while in RCs and they have started respecting their elders such as care-takers in RCs.

Some delinquent respondents noted that they were found of isolating themselves from the public in attempt to plan for delinquency but through RCs, they have started associating with the care-takes. They can also associate themselves with the public particularly fellow juvenile delinquents and at school, they noted to have been associating with fellow children and their teachers.

Lastly but not least, delinquent respondents noted to have been able to realize the problems which led them into delinquency. This realization came as a result of counseling and religious services.

Personal hygiene has also improved particularly among those who came from the streets and vulnerable families. Respondents talked of cleaning their teeth every morning which was unheard while at the street. They also mentioned daily bathing and desire to live in a clean environment.

4.4.2 Challenges in rehabilitation process

According to the research study carried out in NRH and KNRC, various challenges have mentioned by juveniles and the key informants. Such challenges affect both the care-takers and the consequences have been in-appropriate behaviors among juveniles at the end.

The anti-social behaviors of juveniles have remained a major challenge not only to the care-takers involved in rehabilitating juveniles' but to some of the fellow juveniles themselves. It was

revealed by both juvenile delinquents and the caretakers that some juvenile characters have remained un-tamed. Because of the long stay on the streets and due to the fact that they loss of hope in their lives, some juvenile delinquents have got characters like those of beasts. They vandalize properties, make noise at night and start fighting with their fellow juvenile delinquents.

Lack of human resources has been yet another challenge to RCs amidst of increasing number of juvenile delinquents per day. This has led the care-takers to elect juvenile delinquents to be in charge of certain groups and dormitories where juveniles sleep. Juvenile delinquents elected by the care-takers always mistreat and beat their fellow juveniles, and this has created hatred and conflicts among juveniles delinquents.

Long period of time spent by juvenile delinquents in RCs before being taken to courts of law has been yet another challenge. This increases the number of juvenile delinquents in RCs amidst of little facilities given to juvenile delinquents. The consequences have been increased scarcity of facilities in the RCs leading to poor feeding and poor clothing. Beside that, it increases diseases due to congestion alongside lack of medical personnel. These diseases are mostly social transmitted diseases which most juvenile delinquents acquire when they are on the streets.

Lack of fuel for the vehicles to transport juvenile delinquents to courts of law has been problem facing RCs. It was revealed that some times juvenile delinquents overstay in the RCs due to this issue.

Lack of casual laborers has also been mentioned as another challenge to the RCs. As a result, the care-takers have been forced to use the labor of juvenile delinquents in such jobs such as cleaning the compound, toilet, and the dormitories in order to make the place clean.

Poor facilities such as building have stood for a long period as a challenge to RCs. It was observed that the buildings in both KNRC and NRH are old and according to the care-takers, the buildings have never been renovated since 1960s for NRH. This can be justified by the wrecked iron-sheets; old electric poles that have broken down alongside shabby buildings and toilets. It was also observed that rooms which were built for carpentry and tailoring activities in KNRC have turned into best places of small birds' nests.

Lack of schools where juvenile delinquents can be recruited have also remained a challenge according to the care-takers. It was revealed that due to delinquency, head teachers do not admit male delinquents fearing that they can cause trouble to the rest of the pupils. This has resulted into increased redundancy and idleness in RCs.

How to reach parents, guardians and relatives of juvenile delinquents have also stood as a long lasting issue particularly to those juveniles got from the streets. It was revealed that juveniles do not tell the truth about their background unless they have been brought by their parents or relatives. This has contributed to their long stay in RCs. Besides that, care-takers revealed that parents, guardians and relative expect much from the RCs towards juvenile delinquent morals yet they have failed to create a convivial atmosphere for juveniles at home.

There is lack of enough food to the ever increasing number of juveniles delinquents. It was revealed that the WFP which used to supply food to the centers withdrew due to the increased scarcity of food in Northern Uganda and Southern Sudan. One of the care takers noted that there has been a decrease in food supply when the WFP left the work only in hands of the government yet children need to feed well if rehabilitation is to be successful.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 CONCLUSION

The following lessons can be drawn from the study findings; the police get some juvenile delinquents from the streets to rehabilitation centers. Delinquency is not in-born; it is acquired and gradually grows within an individual turning him or her into juvenile delinquents with time, depending on the environment which he lives. Most parents produce children out of choice, when they feel the time is right and are both happy about having them. So juveniles are conceived and born normal children but in most cases the unfriendly and cruel environment in which they are raised changes them to social perverts. On taking juvenile delinquents to RCs, force and various approaches are used but after rehabilitation; the environment that led to the growth of delinquency once again welcomes juvenile. At this point, one would call upon the police and all the stake holders to put their approaches onto the environment that led to the birth of delinquency rather than juveniles.

The culture of peace and pro-social behaviors are the wishes to all individuals to juvenile delinquents and this can be explained using analogy of birth. At birth, a child cries because of changes in environment but parents use different approaches to rehabilitate the environment in order to make the born child grow with the peaceful mind and pro social behaviors. Such rehabilitation of environment makes juvenile grow well as an upright human being but the change of environment in the period of growth lead to the growth of delinquency among juveniles. It is from such background that one should strive to rehabilitate the environment together with juveniles rather than juveniles alone.

5.1.1 Rehabilitation of juveniles

Rehabilitation as an approach to delinquency among juveniles demands nothing else rather than friendly environment that can restore justice, order, comfort, dignity and the culture of peace among juveniles. It deals with the restoration of hope to the once hopelessness juveniles and inculcates the spirit of love and self recognition. In order to do this, rehabilitation centers need to be modernized in a shape beyond family environment of juveniles. Such approach calls for the government and other stake-holders intervention.

5.1.2 Study findings on challenges of rehabilitating juvenile delinquents.

The study examined the challenges of rehabilitating juvenile delinquents and the extent to which Rehabilitation Centers shape juvenile behaviors. The role of Rehabilitation Centers therefore, is significant in making the once hated juveniles to be called the loved ones. From the study finding, it was revealed that rehabilitation centers such as KNRC and NRH have got activities that can make the delinquents forget the anti social characters such as playing football, dancing, singing and counseling. Such activities need to be taken to the home environment of juvenile delinquent.

After Counseling and having realized that the acts of delinquency are no longer there, the care-takers then take some juveniles back to schools but those who found that they can not go back to school remain in rehabilitation centers with nothing to do since activities involving carpentry and tailoring which were meant to be in RCs such as KNRC are no longer there. This means that such groups remain idle in Rehabilitation Centers and the anti-social behaviors can once again develop since an idle mind is a workshop of the devil. It thus remains important for the government to revive such activities in order to make the work of rehabilitation more effective and universal.

In the process to rehabilitate juveniles, courts of the law are involved in order to judge juveniles cases. Although Rehabilitation Centers face challenge to transport the delinquents from KNRC (Mpigi District) to Kampala District where there are the courts of law, the practice of taking juvenile delinquents to the courts of the law has remained sounding since it brings justice to juveniles. However, due to the increased number of the delinquency among juveniles it would be better if the government can set up a court responsible for delinquency. Such courts of law should allow juvenile delinquents to defend themselves, using Act 34 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda that talks about the rights and who is a child. Act 28 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda talks about the rights to fair hearing which should be embraced in such courts of law rather than judging juvenile delinquents without defending themselves as it was revealed from the study findings.

Lastly, the findings of the study reveal that delinquency starts from troublesome environment at homes of juveniles. This means that rehabilitation of home environment rather than juveniles delinquents would be better solution to curb down delinquency. In such circumstance, the government should get involved into the affairs of various homes that have proved to be sources of delinquency. To juveniles who claim to have lived without parents, relatives need to be engaged into such affairs. This means that the government should increase services to its people.

5.2 Recommendations

In order for Rehabilitation Centers to successfully address the issues pertaining delinquency, there is a need for the government to facilitate the centers to full capacity. The government needs to employ more practitioners in the field in order to make the centers such that RCs can advise means to transport juveniles to the courts of law.

Although the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda is good enough in stipulating the rights of the children, a lot is desired in the Acts. The government needs to streamline its structure on the child growth and development starting from homes up to the society rather than mentioning the rights only. In this, there is a need to explain who and how to observe such fundamental rights and the penalty to the offenders should be well stipulated in the Constitution.

The study shows that in KNRC, there was carpentry and tailoring activities in its initial stages but one wonders how such activities became a buried issue to the extent that rooms where such activities were carried out, have remained vacant for a period. Such activities are good to make juveniles independent on their return to their former homes. Therefore, there is a need to revive the technical studies in the Rehabilitation Centers to occupy juveniles who are not interested in pursuing formal education such that on their resettlement to their former families they are useful persons and independent.

There is a need to train more probation officers and magistrates to work in the circles of juvenile delinquents. In this, the conditions for the growth and development of juveniles in the families should be embraced by the majority and such group of professionals should organizing trainings and workshops for the children growth and development related issues

There is a need to rehabilitate the troublesome environment in families by the parents, community and the government. In such works, the government should have the rights and responsibility to cater for a certain number of children per family in Uganda. In this, family planning methods should be employed in case the government takes up the responsibility of certain number of children per family. This does not mean that parents should stop producing beyond such certain number of children which are to be catered by the government. If parents

want to produce beyond the government normal line, they must take responsibility of extra children and in any case of irresponsibility a visible penalty should be placed onto him/her. In such families, the major emphasis should be the culture of peace

Close-knit societies can influence and address the problems facing the youth in particular area and give them the support they need to reject negative peer pressure.

Proper justice measures help to rehabilitate juvenile delinquents and so children should not be deemed justice, rather pay attention to offering justice to them.

Not all juveniles should be taken to RCs. Juveniles who do not pose a threat to the public safety should be better punished through community services.

In order to do a way completely with the issue of juvenile delinquents, there should be early childhood interventions because it is a strategy which is aimed at nurturing well behaved children as they grow. This makes best in their first five years of age. Parents should teach their children manners and they should not tamper them when they are in wrong.

5.3 SUGESTIONS FOR FURTER STUDY

After carrying out the research study on challenges of rehabilitating juvenile delinquents in Uganda the researcher suggests that studies should be carried out on the culture of peace in families as a strategy to juvenile delinquency in Uganda. The researcher also suggests a study to be carried out to establish reasons why most juvenile delinquents are males.

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