

Influence of Peer Pressure on Deviant Behaviors among Male Prisoners in Kiambu County

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to establish the influence of peer pressure on deviant behaviours among male prisoners in Kiambu County. The study was anchored on three theories namely: Deprivation Theory, Social Control Theory and Importation Theory. Descriptive research design was used to guide the study. Purposive sampling was used to select 283 prisoners in Kiambu County who had been in jail for more than 15 years and 6 prison superintendent officers. Data was collected using questionnaires and later tested to ensure that the responses are valid and reliable. It was established that lack of social affiliations within prison led to more harm to prisoners. The finding showed that, peer associates had a great influence on the lifestyle of their members and that guidance and counselling helped in reducing criminal activities in prison. In prison, peer pressure was a dominant cause of deviant behaviour. Peer pressure was a strong denominator among the determinants of adulthood crime. Deviant peers accepted and accommodated each other. Opinions of other inmates encouraged the prisoners to participate in deviant behaviours. Accessibility of drugs and alcohol from peers led to criminal activities and that that peers in prison helped in socialization with codes to adopt. Lastly, it was established that it was difficult to restrain from opinions of their group peers while in the prison. It was concluded that lack of social affiliations within prison led to more harm to prisoners and peer associates had a great role to play in members' lifestyle. It was recommended that the authority should ensure that social affiliations are available within prison to reduce more harm to prisoners. Peer associates need to be of good influence as their lifestyles have a great impact on its members.

Keywords: *Peer influence and deviant behaviours*

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Kenyan prison population is on the rise owing to several factors (Rop, Nyanchongi, Nyangeri & Orucho, 2016). According to Pakes (2019), to safeguard the society from deviant behavior, rehabilitate offenders, and provide restitution to victims of a crime and the society at large, the criminal justice system continuously sentences offenders to incarceration. This is per the Kenyan Prisons Act (Cap 90) and also the Borstal Act (Cap 92). However, according to Omboto (2013), rehabilitating the prisoners through a penal sentence does not always result in rehabilitation. According to the author, sentencing generally exposes inmates to several factors that propel them to continue engaging in deviant behavior, even while in prison (Ombuto, 2013). Deviant behavior is considered abnormal or antisocial because society does not accept or condone the behavior. Thus, deviancy is a deviation from what society expects (Robinson, Wang, and Kiewitz, 2014). This idea is supported by statistical analysis that demonstrates socially accepted behaviors fall into a normal distribution curve, while deviant behaviors are outliers to the normal distribution curve (Berger, Batanova & Cance, 2015).

Research has revealed that behaviors are a manifestation of the environment in which an individual develops (Cless & Lukas, 2017). In addition Christian and Ellis (2014) found that social factors, the psychological make-up of an individual, and their personalities also play a significant role in behavioral adaptations of individuals. Thus, deviant and criminal behaviors are manifestations of the physical and psychological environment an individual encounters. Criminals and deviants have been found to engage in risky behaviors that underline most criminal actions such as criminal patterns, including robbery, drug abuse and gang affiliation. A significant contributor to deviant behaviors is the declining social values and the dissemination of values that are not founded on the continuity of society. That is, in modern society, a trend has arisen where traditional deviant behaviors are no longer subject to social and institutional reprimands (Tsai, Strong & Lin, 2015). Consequently, a complex interaction of eroding social values, ineffective social institutions, emerging environments encouraging deviancy, and lacking rehabilitation methodologies have resulted in increased deviancy and criminal activities in the society. Thus, while prisoners have responded to existing social measures to guard against deviancy, for an increasing number of prisoners, traditional approaches are ineffective in rehabilitating them and regulating their behavior.

Deviant behavior poses a real threat to an individual's physical and social survival in certain social or collective environments. Deviancy is characterized by breaches of social norms, moral norms, and cultural values. The origins of deviant behavior are related to upbringing circumstances, physical peculiarities. According to Yang, Bauer, Johnson, Groer, and Salomon (2014), growth in deviant behavior appears to mirror the current state of the society, which is marked by a growing concern of individual wellbeing instead of the society's wellbeing. Consequently, deviancy goes unchecked, and over time, previously unaccepted norms and behaviors are becoming part of social institutions. For instance, alcohol and drug consumption were traditionally considered as deviant behavior. However, in modern society, recreational drug use is no longer viewed as a deviant behavior with the behavior being depicted in the mass media. Consequently, one can demonstrate that fading and evolving social institutions have not only encouraged individuals to engage in deviancy, but these institutions are now influenced by the deviancy. Social institutions, such as the family unit, are unable to safeguard and prevent deviancy. At the same time, these institutions are now being molded by individuals who have come to view previously unacceptable behaviors as acceptable, further exacerbating the problem of deviancy. Within prisons, deviant behavior is

characterized by assaults, violent attacks, and infractions which negatively affect the security of the inmates, the correctional officers, prison warders, and the entire facility. Deviant behaviors hinder the success of any prison and correctional facility, hence the need to explore the factors that make some prisoners deviant.

The role of peers in influencing delinquency and criminal activities among adolescents cannot be ignored as shared by Kim and Fletcher (2018), who also noted that socialization effect and having delinquent friends is likely to lead one astray. According to Billings and Hoekstra (2019), peer influence is dependent on the proximity of the people, frequency, duration, and intensity of the relationship. Those peers who spend a lot of time together and refer to themselves as close friends are likely to influence the behavior of each other, which is similar to social learning theory. In the correctional and prison setting, then these antecedents make emphasis on peer pressure as the prisoners have the opportunity and space to influence each other (Mohammad & Azman, 2018).

Social interactions in a prison setting often translate to the population of the prison engaging in deviancy. Since the population is dominated by offenders and people who behaved in a manner contrary to society's expectations, there is a high probability of prisoners being inducted into deviancy. Prisoners are often coerced by their peers to engage in deviancy, which the current research demonstrates to be a side effect of prisoners scrambling for limited resources. Prison gangs and groups often compete with each other for the meager resources, requiring most inmates to engage in deviancy such as violence and sexual assault. Any human being according to Winston (2016) and Maslow's theory of motivation, desires to be accepted to a group. As such, Kirk (2017) shares that inmates in their quest to fulfill some of these needs, are coerced by the group to engage in deviant behaviors to gain acceptance. Some have participated in violence, resistance, and other misconduct within the prison facility, as they seek to fulfill the needs of participation in group work and gaining acceptance. Peer pressure and coercion have led several people to astray and encouraged them to participate in deviant behaviors. The case of such factors within the Kenyan prison facility has not been fully explored, hence the need to draw conclusive a report on the same.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

The escalation of deviant behaviour for criminologists remains a central issue, although intensification mechanisms remain understudied. Deviant behaviour as a social phenomenon creates a set of problems and issues connected with contemporary society (Michel & Hargis, 2017). Criminal behaviours can be viewed as a product of abnormal psychological traits that are believed to be more deterministic in nature as they are individuals' differences in terms of dimensions that show consistent patterns of thoughts, feelings, and actions (Gallupe, Boman, Nash & Castro, 2020). Some given form of behaviour are not accepted in consideration of any of these criteria: the behaviour affect the functioning of an individual with other members of the society, if an individual is unable to cater for his/her own needs due to the behaviour and if the behaviour has negative link with the wellbeing of the others. As social established phenomena, deviant behaviour leads to different problems at the society level making the need of searching for answers to the solutions (Cutrín, Gómez-Fraguela, Maneiro & Sobral, 2017). The solution of problems linked to the different types of behavioural deviations of the individual does not fall in a single plane and it has different dimensions. Clearing the specifics of carrying an inquiry into behaviour of deviance as a psychological and social unfolding require a thorough analysis of some issues especially

regarding the problem of deviance of the person hence making it necessary to carry out the current study.

Several studies have been done on the influence of social integration on criminal activities for example McGrory (2018) did an undertaking on social issues linked with violence and how they impact the society with the five boroughs of New York being the point of reference. It was revealed that the violent crimes and social problems spatially coincide within the Bronx, Manhattan and Brooklyn. Similarly Ayar, Lotfi, and Noorae (2012) researched on how social factors affect crimes using a case study of Darehshahr prison, Iran and their findings indicated that the high rates of crime are linked to the finances while politics attract the lowest rate of crimes. Sunday, Adeyemo, and Udofia (2019) researched the effect of deviant behaviour on students' psycho-social involvement in secondary schools. It was noted that psycho-social dimensions covering self-actualization and self-esteem are key indices that can be modelled to depict the perceptions shared by the individuals. On the other hand, the prevalent factors that were seen to have a link with the deviant behaviour in learning institutions included the abuse of drug, being kidnapped and the degree of cultism.

However, the above reviewed studies were conducted in different contexts with some covering slightly different concepts hence creating gaps. In order to bridge these gaps, the present inquiry sought to find out the influence of peer pressure on deviant behaviors among male prisoners in Kiambu County.

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Theoretical Review

The study utilized deprivation theory, social control theory and importation theory to understand psychosocial factors influencing deviant behaviours among male prisoners.

2.3.1 Deprivation Theory

This theory was developed by Walker and Pettigrew (1984). It suggests that prisoner's socialization is a response to the losses they suffer or the pains of imprisonment. The deprivation model suggests that life in prison is degrading and also stigmatizing. As a way of responding to the oppressive condition, the inmates act in an aggressive manner (McCorkle, 1995). Relative deprivation theory has impacted in the evolution of several disciplines in social sciences. Specifically, relative deprivation theory is an establishment of multi-faceted theories of social psychology comprising of frustration-aggression theory, equity theory, social comparison theory, and reference group theory.

In sociology, relative deprivation theory is used in explaining causative reasons for social movements and revolutions. Deviance is a behavioural disposition that does not adhere to an institutionalized set-up or code of conduct. While deviance may have a negative connotation, it is not always a negative action to break social norms; in some cases there is a positive deviation. Although a norm is violated, it is still possible to classify behaviour as positive or acceptable. This theory is relevant to the study as it describes behaviour in violation of social norms including a legally enforced law such as crime. The theory was used to describe deviance among prisoners in Kiambu County.

2.3.2 Social Control Theory

This theory was developed by Wiatrowski, Griswold and Roberts (1981). It explains that a state of lawlessness leads to social disintegration which is likely to cause individuals committing suicide (Williams, 2001). This theory was used to explain why the prisoners deviate from the norms of the prisons. Adler (1995) argues that this theory applies to people who break rules in the society when they don't have any attachments to the society or institution. This theory was used to explain why the prisoners deviate from the norms of the prisons; it helped in explaining how lack of attachment with the prison renders the prisoners into being deviant. For example, prisoner with a family is less likely to engage in deviant behaviours which can lead to an extended stay in prison.

In addition, the theory helped in explaining how the social and self-control of an individual determines if they developed deviant behaviours or not. A combination of these social and self-control factors is what result to psychosocial factors. Low social and self-control was likely to cause breaking of rules. The theory also helped to expound that when the inmates get actively involved in social activities, they were psychologically fit and thus fewer incidents of deviant behaviours. This theory is relevant to the study as it helps in explaining how psychosocial behaviours can lead to deviant behaviours including the prisoners. Idleness lures one to unproductive behaviour which implied that inmates who were adequately involved in prison socialization were disciplined.

2.3.3 Importation Theory

This theory was formulated by Charles Thomas and Samuel Foster (1973). The theory explains how psychosocial factors lead to deviant behaviours among prisoners. This was a theory which was developed in response to deprivation theory. It views prison behaviour as an adaptation to pre-prison and socialization experiences. It suggests that the prisoners take with them their cultures into the prison. If they were deviant, which they were, they are less likely to change even when they get to prison. The inmate behaviour is just an extension of the values the inmate previously held. Therefore, if their past life had challenges of socialization, they led to deviant behaviour in the prison. The theory is relevant to the study as it helped elaborate the variables such as peer pressure which originate from outside to the prison context in most cases and these factors cannot be manipulated by the correctional officials.

2.2 Empirical Review

Peer pressure is among the key forces of criminal behavior especially among those young and adolescent prisoners. Peer pressure can come in the early age of around 5 years among these adolescents. The peer associations have a greater role to play with regard to the living conditions of the members. The associations within peer groupings would shape and predict how the members socialize with each other. An inquiry was conducted by Esiri (2016) to bring out the link between peer pressure and the rate of crime in the prisons. It was noted that there exists peer pressure within the prisons and the ability of the prisoners to be involved in criminal activities and delinquency. The study raised the need for the officials and the management of the prisons to have in place programs and planning efforts with regard to the prisoners who are nearing their release from the prisons. Such programs may have a positive contribution to the wellbeing of the prisoners so that they are to have relevant contribution back to the society. It was noted that grass root approaches

should be adopted in enhancing the ability of the prisoners to cope well when they have been released from the prisoners after successfully completing their jail terms.

Esiri (2016) sought to bring out the link between peer pressure and its link with the criminal behaviour. The specific focus of the inquiry was on peer pressure and its link with the ability of the prisoners to abide by the available laws. It was noted that exists peer pressure within the prisons which is consistent with the criminal behaviour and codes. The recommendation raised by the inquiry was the need for urgent and grass root interventions by the government in the efforts to solve these issues. It was shown that peer pressure is a phenomenon that keeps on recurring especially among the teenage prisoners. It was also noted that peer pressure may set in when the child is at the age of 5 years.

Muia (2016) did an inquiry into social media and its link with the behaviour of deviance. The focus of this undertaking was on the students at the secondary school level within the county of Nairobi. The study did not some prevalence of social media among the school going children which stood at 90%, largely among the students in form one and in form, three, the prevalence stood at 98%. The highly adopted and used platform of social media noted by the inquiry was WhatSapp. It was noted that due to use of stoical media, the sexual activities of the school going students were highly affected. The implications raised by the inquiry were the need for the government to control the use of social media among school going students.

An inquiry conducted on the deviance behaviour at the place ort work in the young Malaysian generation by Nur (2015) shared that there exists an inverse link between the ethical climate at the organizational level and the deviance behaviour. However, the citizenship behaviour at the organizational level and the behaviour of deviance were not linked with each other in significant terms. It was noted that compared to generation Y, more people with generation X are likely to be engaged in deviance at the work place. The study raises the contextual gap having been done in Malaysia and not in Kenyan context.

A study on perceived factors that shape the behaviour of deviance was done by Warimu (2013) sharing that the youths who were employed had positive perceptions on existence of behaviour of deviance. On the other hand, it was shown that the youths who were not employed had negative perceptions on whether deviance existed. There existed a significant link between social-economic contracts and the ability to be involved in deviance behaviour. At the same time, the individuals who had stayed in slums for a longer period had perceptions that the level of deviance was relatively low. There were several challenges with regard to those who were in marriage include their ability to remain faithful.

Porokhnya (2015) did a study on psychological factors that inform the people to remain deviant. It was shown that there was a high rate of misuse of drugs including alcohol within the prisons especially among the juvenile as compared to the adult inmates. Thus, it was shown that the key psychological factors that predict how the individuals engage in deviance behaviour include the behaviour of taking part in abuse of drugs especially alcohol. Mehrabi et al., (2016) conducted an inquiry into social structures and the role in deviance behaviour. It was noted that existence of low social support systems for instance being unemployed, inadequate social welfare programs can have an influence on the health of the prisoners in social terms.

2.3 Conceptual Framework

A conceptual framework identifies the various variables in the study including: independent variable and the dependent variable. It also identifies various parameters used to measure the study variables. The independent variable was peer pressure while the dependent variable was deviant behaviour as shown in Figure 2.1.

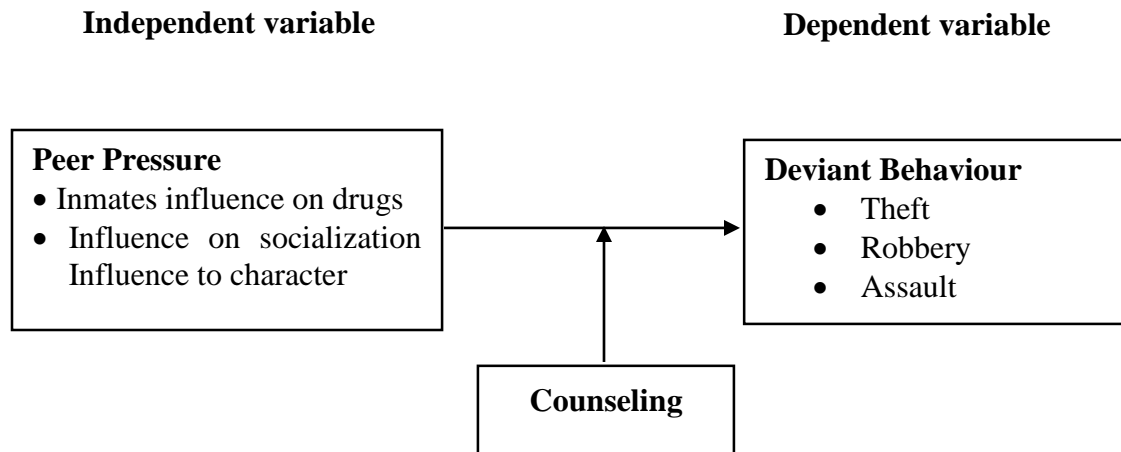


Figure 2.1: Conceptual Framework
Source: Author (2020)

3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

The study adopted descriptive design, Orodho (2005) indicate that a descriptive design helps in systematically providing a description of an area or circumstance in a way that is factual.

3.2 Target Population, Sampling Procedure and Sample Size

The study targeted 1078 male prisoners who had been in prison for more than 15 years as they were the elements that had the necessary information to respond to the research questions of the study. According to the Kenya Prisons Service website (2018), there were 1,078 male prisoners in these three prisons within Kiambu County (Thika, Kiambu and Ruiru) who had stayed in prison for 15 years or more hence, they were targeted for the information they had on deviant behaviours as were influenced by psychological factors. The male prisoners that had stayed in jail for a long period of time had experienced one form or another of psychosocial factors that led to deviant behaviours.

The study purposively selected the 283 male prisoners from the target population of 1078 who had been in prison for more than 15 years to participate in the study. To ensure fair and equitable presentation to all respondents, chance was given to all the respondents to participate in the study; such that 30% of the target population made to the final sample size list. In descriptive study, 10-30% of the accessible population is adequate to provide information of interest to the researcher about the target population (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2007). Thus, the total number of respondents was 1078 male prisoners from which the sample size of 283 was obtained as shown in Table 3.1. The sample size was determined by the following formula given by Kothari (2004),

$$n = \frac{Z^2 \cdot N \cdot \sigma^2}{(N - 1)e^2 + Z^2 \cdot \sigma^2}$$

Where: n = Size of the sample

N= Size of the population given as 1078,

E = acceptable error given as 0.05,

σ = the standard deviation of the population given as 0.5 where not known,

Z = Standard deviation at a confidence level given as 1.96 at 95% confidence level.

$$n = \frac{1.96^2 \cdot 1078 \cdot 0.5^2}{(1078 - 1)0.05^2 + 1.96^2 \cdot 0.5^2}$$

$$= \frac{1035.3112}{2.6925 + 0.9604}$$

n=283 respondents

Once the sample size had been determined using the above formula by Kothari (2004), the study used purposive sampling to select the 283 respondents.

Table 3.1: Sample Size

| Category | Target Population | Sample Size Proportion | Sample Size |
|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Thika Prisons | 412 | 38% | 108 |
| Kiambu GK Prison | 279 | 26% | 73 |
| Ruiru Prisons | 387 | 36% | 101 |
| Prison Superintendent | 6 | 0.6% | 1 |
| Total | 1078 | | 283 |

Source: Author (2020)

3.3 Research Instruments and Data Collection Procedures

Gathering of the views of the respondents was done with the aid of the questionnaire and the interviews. The questionnaire comprises of items that may require responses which are fixed to some extent (Kasomo, 2007). The questionnaire contained open ended and closed ended type of questions. An interview schedule was used to collect data from oral interviews through face to face with the six-prison superintendent at the three prisons in Kiambu County. The interview guide was used to supplement the collected information from the questionnaire for the purpose of triangulation. The interview schedule was structured to ensure all the respondents are asked the same list of questions. There was structuring of the items on the questionnaire into sections as informed by the objectives. The items on the questionnaire will be rated on a five point Likert scale where 1=strongly disagree and 5=strongly agree.

The questionnaires were self-administered to the respondents so as to fill and answer them. After all authorities had been informed, the researcher then distributed the questionnaires to the inmates with the help of the officer in-charge in order for them to complete them. The data was collected over a period of three months. Also, before the start of the interview, the prisoner officers were reminded of the purpose of the study and what would be entailed in the interview. They were asked if they had any questions before the commencement of the interview.

3.4 Data Analysis and Presentation

Once the tools of the inquiry had been returned from the field, cleaning and editing was done making sure the contents were consistent. All these were conducted through the excel package from where they were exported to SPSS tool. A summary of the descriptive statistics covering the means and standard deviations were shown to provide a description of the data.

4.0 FINDINGS

4.1 Response Rate

The researcher distributed 282 questionnaires to prisoners drawn from Thika, Kiambu and Ruiru prisons in Kiambu County. From these, 247 questionnaires were fully filled up by respondents giving a response rate of 77%. The response rate was sufficient and concurred with Babbie (2015) who noted that response rate of above 70% is deemed to be sufficient for analysis and presentation of the results.

4.2 Demographic Findings

The respondents were asked to indicate their demographic information regarding, age, marital status, highest level of education and length of service in prison.

The findings showed that 70.9% of the inmates were between 31 and 50 years. This probably indicates that most of the prisoners were in their youthful age. The age of the participants in an inquiry is among the key element that helps in getting an understanding of their concerns with regard to certain issues. Age also shapes and predicts the level of maturity of the participants of the inquiry (McCorkle, 1995). This age group bracket of 31-50 years probably may feel that their life has been wasted by the imprisonment.

A total of 40.1% of the participants were divorced, 37.2% were single, 13.8% were married and lastly 8.9% were widower. The findings show that (70.3%) of the respondents were single men. This therefore implies that single men are more likely to engage in deviant behaviour as compared to married men. Single men in this context include those individuals who have never married and those that are divorced. These views are consistent with the social control theory where Adler (1995) argues that this theory applies to people who break rules in the society when they don't have any attachments to the society or institution. In this regard, it helps in expounding how lack of attachment with the family renders the prisoners into being deviant. For example, prisoner with a family is less likely to engage in deviant behaviours which can lead to an extended stay in prison. In this view, single men in most cases do not have families, which implies that the single men are more likely to engage on deviant behaviour and this probably is the reason as to why there were more single men in the prisons as compared to the married ones.

Lastly, 46.2% of the inmates' highest level of education was secondary certificate education followed by 27.9% who had primary certificate, 25.1% had college diploma and 0.8% highest level of education was undergraduate. The findings show that 74.1% of the inmates had a secondary education and below as their highest level of education. This shows that deviant behaviour is high among individuals with secondary certificate education followed by those with primary as their highest level of education and below. The literature review supports this finding in terms of perceived factors influencing deviant behaviour among the youth in Njatha-ini community where

Warimu (2013) indicated that youth who were in employment perceived negatively existence of deviant behaviour while the unemployed positively. In most cases, meaningful employment goes hand in hand with the level of education; which implies that people with less education are probably less employed and thus engaging more in deviant behaviour.

4.3 Peer Pressure

Table 4.1 gives the findings of descriptive statistics on the statements that were provided under peer pressure.

Table 4.1: Peer Pressure

| Constructs | Mean | Std. Dev |
|--|--------------|----------|
| In prison peer pressure is a dominant cause of deviant behavior | 3.943 | 0.752 |
| Peer associates have a great influence on the lifestyle of their members | 4.170 | 0.788 |
| Peers in prison help in socialization with codes to adopt | 3.736 | 0.869 |
| It is difficult to restrain from opinions of your group peers while in this prison | 3.717 | 0.892 |
| Deviant peers accept and accommodate each other | 3.883 | 1.146 |
| Peer pressure is a strong denominator among the determinants of adulthood crime | 3.939 | 0.928 |
| Accessibility of drugs and alcohol from peers leads to deviance in our behavior | 3.744 | 0.455 |
| Lack of social affiliations within prison leads to more harm to prisoners | 4.202 | 0.583 |
| Opinions of other inmates encourages the prisoners to participate in criminal activities | 3.846 | 0.811 |
| Guidance and counseling help in reducing deviant behaviour | 4.081 | 0.706 |
| Composite Mean | 3.926 | |

Table 4.1 show that in prison, peer pressure was a dominant cause of deviant behaviour (M= 3.943, SD= 0.752). Peer associates had a great influence on the lifestyle of their members (M= 4.170, SD=0.788). The findings showed that inmates agreed that peers in prison helped in socialization with codes to adopt (M=3.736, SD=0.869). The research showed that, it was difficult to restrain from opinions of their group peers while in the prison (M=3.717, SD= 0.392). The study further found out that respondents were in agreement that deviant peers accepted and accommodated each other (M=3.883, SD=1.146). Respondents agreed that peer pressure was a strong denominator among the determinants of adulthood crime (M=3.939, SD=0.928). Durkheim (1951) deviant behaviour is due to some rise of aspirations in the society. Due to some social forces, prisoners are forced to engage in such behaviours as a way of expressing themselves and also showing their frustrations. The research found that accessibility of drugs and alcohol from peers led to deviance in their behaviour (M=3.744, SD=0.455). Porokhnya (2015) indicated that psychosocial factors leading to deviance among prisoners include drug taking behaviour of prisoners especially alcohol abuse. It was noted that lack of social affiliations within prison led to more harm to prisoners (M= 4.202, SD=0.585). Their research found out that opinions of other inmates encouraged the prisoners to participate in deviant behaviours (M= 3.846 SD= 0.811). The finding further found that guidance and counselling helped in reducing deviant behaviour in prison (M=4.081, SD= 0.706). The finding is in support of Muia (2013) who indicated that guidance and counselling

departments should be vocal in adoption of social media platforms so as to provide mentorship to the students.

On overall, the results in Table 4.2 indicate a mean score of 3.926; the implication of this finding is that majority of the respondents agreed on the statements provided under peer pressure. In other words, this probably implies that peer pressure was evident among the respondents who participated in the study and probably contributed to their deviant behaviour. The assertion is supported by low value of standard deviation of 0.793; which implies that respondents shared similar views and opinions as it regarded peer pressure. The role of peers in influencing delinquency and criminal activities among the adolescents cannot be ignored as shared by Kim and Fletcher (2018), who also noted that socialization effect and having delinquent friends is likely to lead one astray. According to Billings and Hoekstra (2019) who noted that peer influence is dependent on proximity of the people, frequency, duration and intensity of the relationship. For those peers who spend a lot of time together and refer to themselves as close friendship are likely to influence the behaviour of each other, this is similar to social learning theory. In the correctional and prison setting, then these antecedents make emphasis on peer pressure as the prisoners have the opportunity and space to influence each other (Mohammad & Azman, 2018).

From the interviews, the researcher asked the prison superintendent to indicate how much pressure their prisoners faced peer and how much did it contribute to criminal activities. From the responses, 50 percent and above of prison superintendent officers surveyed said that their prisoners had been influenced by peer pressure. The findings indicated that peer pressure improved prisoners' social standing and survival rate in the prison but unfortunately contributed towards their criminal activities. Esiri (2016) noted that since there exists a link between peer pressure and the behaviour of the adolescents, it helps in shaping delinquency and criminal behaviour among the adults. In any society, the youths play an important role in driving the future of the community. The associations within peer groupings were seen to shape and predict how the individuals socialize with each other in the community (Nsofor, 2013).

On influence of peer pressure, the study has established that peer pressure had a positive impact on criminal activities among male prisoners in Kiambu County. The finding established that peer pressure in prison was a dominant cause of deviant behaviour, the peer pressure in prison had a dominant cause of criminal activities and deviant peers accepted and accommodated each other. Mehrabi, Eskandarieh, Khodadost, Sadeghi, Nikfarjam and Hajebi (2016) indicated that socio-economic factors were found to be of statistical significance to criminal activities of the youths in the study area. The study further established that peer pressure was a strong denominator among the determinants of adulthood crime, lack of social affiliations within prison led to more harm to prisoners and opinions of other inmates encouraged the prisoners to participate in deviant behaviours. Muia (2013) who shared that the guidance and counselling departments should be vocal in adoption of social media platforms so as to provide mentorship to the students.

Respondents were asked to indicate other factors of social integration that influenced criminal activities among prisoners in this prison. It was indicated that sublimation was a major influence of crime. The study further established that prisoners with immature defence mechanisms were highly affected prisoners in denial, passive aggression and immature coping mechanism. The deprivation theory supports the psychological factors influence criminal activities. It suggests that prisoner's socialization is a response to the losses they suffer or the pains of imprisonment. The

deprivation model suggests that life in prison is degrading and also stigmatizing. As a way of responding to the oppressive condition, the inmates act in an aggressive manner (McCorkle, 1995).

Psychosocial factors are a combination of environmental, social and psychological factors that affect people. They include personality, psychiatric disorder, family, drug taking, distress, panic and pressure, low-self-esteem among others (Hawkins, 1992). Inmates' criminal activities are a global phenomenon, for example, in Ford Open Prison in UK, there were rioting of inmates that led to setting on fire on buildings. According to Mark Freeman, the deputy secretary of the association of police officers, the rioting was due to some breath tests that the prisoners declined to take. Other criminal activities witnessed in this occasion were presence of alcohol which is illegal.

According to Durkheim (1951) crime is due to some rise of aspirations in the society. Due to some social forces, prisoners are forced to engage in such behaviours as a way of expressing themselves and also showing their frustrations. These words are echoed by O'Brien: (1969) that makes the observation that such behaviour is due to social factors that involve challenging relationships between the personal and social systems in other words; he attributes psychosocial behaviours to deviant behaviours. It was further argued that deviance is most common among people who are not faced by social norms in this case the prisoners. They have inconsistent positions in some disassociated groups by the society and they lack in social affiliations and socializing experiences. For example, the relationship that prisoners have in and out of prison is the leading cause of their behaviour. Social integration forming criminal activities of juvenile personality, a study by Porokhnya (2015) noted that there exists factors at an individual level which limit the ability of the individuals to be adapted to the psychological and social dimensions.

4.4 Deviant Behaviour

The descriptive statistics deviant behaviour as summarized using means and standard deviations are shown in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2: Deviant Behavior

| Statement | Mean | Std. Dev |
|--|--------------|-----------------|
| Deviant behaviour have become common in our prison facility | 3.866 | 0.903 |
| Most of us engage in vandalizing prison property | 4.069 | 0.854 |
| We indulge in violent activities using crude weapons | 3.712 | 0.903 |
| We participate in prison riots | 3.163 | 1.131 |
| We have tried to escape from prison several times when we get an opportunity | 3.897 | 0.649 |
| Most of us take alcoholic drinks and drugs | 3.423 | 0.963 |
| The prison rehabilitation program fails in curbing our deviant actions | 3.720 | 0.987 |
| We have become jail birds as a result of multiple deviant behaviours | 3.878 | 0.976 |
| The clusters of friends we keep influence our deviant activities | 3.906 | 0.640 |
| Overall Score | 3.737 | 0.890 |

The findings in Table 4.1 established that deviant behaviours were common in their prison facility (M=3.866, SD=0.903). The research finding agreed that most of the inmate engaged in vandalizing prison property (M=4.069, SD=0.854). In the findings, the inmates agreed that they indulged in

violent activities using crude weapons ($M=3.712$, $SD=0.903$). Day, Brauer and Butler (2015) on coercion and social support behind bars indicated that coercive experiences within prison are associated with engagement in violent misconduct as well as defiant and institutionalized forms of inmate resistance.

The study further pointed out that majority of the respondents moderately agreed that they participated in prison riots ($M=3.163$, $SD=1.131$). Majority of the respondents agreed that they had tried to escape from prison several times when they got an opportunity ($M=3.897$, $SD=0.649$). Majority of the respondents moderately agreed that they took alcoholic drinks and drugs ($M=3.423$, $SD=0.963$). Walters (2017) shared that there are numerous training and education facilities available to the prisoners. The prison rehabilitation program failed in curbing respondents' deviant actions ($M=3.720$, $SD=0.987$). The findings also found out that, inmates agreed that they have become jail birds as a result of multiple criminal activities ($M=3.878$, $SD=0.976$). In the study, inmates agreed that the clusters of friends they keep influenced their deviant activities ($M=3.906$, $SD=0.640$). Carlson (2012) indicated that deviant friends are accepting of each other and their deviant actions.

On overall, the mean score on criminal activities ($M=3.737$; which indicate that majority of the respondents agreed on the statements provided under deviant behaviours. In other words, it probably shows that inmates had deviant behaviour and perhaps that was the reasons why they were in prison. The overall value of standard deviation ($SD=0.890$); which is relatively lower than 1; an implication that respondents shared similar views and opinions as it regarded their criminal activities. According to Omboto (2013) rehabilitating the prisoners would not be easy as there are some underlying factors and that is why they engage in deviant and criminal behaviour even when still contained in the prison walls. Deviant behaviour considered abnormal or antisocial if it is uncommon, different from the norm and does not conform to what society expects (Robinson et al., 2014). The major problem that leads to these criminal activities is a loss in social value and dissemination of values that should be driven by culture as well as the community (Tsai, Strong & Lin, 2015). Deviant behaviour poses a real threat to an individual's physical and social survival in certain social or collective environments. Deviants are characterized by breaches of social norms, moral norms, and cultural values. The origins of deviant behaviour are related with upbringing circumstances, physical peculiarities. According to Yang et al. (2014), growth in deviant behaviour appears to be simply a mirror of society itself, marked by a growing concern about young people's status. Within the prisons, deviant behaviour are characterized by assaults, violent activities and rule of infractions which negatively affect the security of the inmates, the correctional officers and prison warders and the entire facility. Deviant behaviours hinder the success of any prison and correctional facility, hence the need to explore the factors that make some prisoners deviant.

5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study concludes that lack of social affiliations within prison led to more harm to prisoners and peer associates had a great role to play in members' lifestyle. Guidance and counselling helped in reducing criminal activities in prison. Peer pressure was a dominant cause of deviant behaviour. Peer pressure was a strong denominator among the determinants of adulthood crime and deviant peers accepted and accommodated each other. Opinions of other inmates encouraged the prisoners to participate in deviant behaviours and accessibility of drugs and alcohol from peers led to criminal activities. Peers in prison helped in socialization with codes to adopt. It was difficult to restrain from opinions of their group peers while in the prison.

The study recommends that policy makers in the prisons ought to:

- 1) Ensure that social affiliations are available within prison to reduce more harm to prisoners. Peer associates need to be of good influence as their lifestyles have a great impact on its members. Ensure that the prisoners are offered guidance and counselling programmes to help them in reducing criminal activities in prison.

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