EXPLORING WHY SOME YOUTH ARE ENGAGED IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES TO ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS IN LIFE: *A study of incarcerated male offenders in the Youth correctional facility, Westville*

by

Sibonelo Magwaza

(216068499)

A dissertation conducted for the purpose of achieving a Master of Social Sciences in the Discipline of Criminology and Forensic studies, at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Howard College, in September 2019.

Supervisor

Prof. Nirmala Gopal (DeD.)

DECLARATION

I **Sibonelo Magwaza (216068499)** declare that this dissertation – Exploring why some youth engage in criminal activities to achieve success in life: a study of incarcerated male offenders in the youth correctional facility, Westville, is a product of my own independent research work. I have not copied over information from any source without acknowledging it in a proper manner in the text and in the reference list.

_____   _____

Signature   Date

_____   _____

Prof. Nirmala Gopal   Date

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AIDS	ACQUIRED Immunodeficiency Syndrome
CF	Correctional Facility
GA	General Assembly
GEAR	Growth, Employment and Redistribution
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HSRC	Human Science Research Council
ISS	Institute for Security Studies
RDP	Reconstruction and Development Programme
SA	South Africa
SAPS	South African Police Services
UN	United Nations
SSA	Statistic South Africa
WCF	Westville Correctional Facility
YCC	Youth Correctional Centre

ABSTRACT

South Africans are plagued by criminal activities which are perpetrated mostly by youth each day. A number of youths tend to deviate from socially accepted behaviours which could be due to lack of legitimate opportunities for them to develop in life. Some of the youth would pursue criminal activities for monetary or material gain, while others would conduct crime for mere prestige.

Some of them are shaped by social and political circumstances which tend to inhibit them from exploring their capacities. The mere fact of being raised in socially disadvantaged communities could be the prime cause of youth crime as they are raised in the very communities which are the breeding soil for potential offenders as they try to make ends meet. Youth who cannot bear to live under poverty opt for shortcut means to achieve success in their lives as they develop envy and greed when observing other youth of a similar age being given legitimate opportunities to showcase their talents. However such criminal means of achieving success in life are detrimental to the victims of crime and the community in general.

Those who are caught and found guilty of crime spend their valuable times incarcerated and could choose to continue with criminal careers or desist from crime if they learned their lesson when they were confined in correctional facilities. However, some studies have identified failures of preventive measures to counteract youth crime. Farrington and colleagues (2016), when they did a systematic review, found that a measure of community-based interventions involving individual, family and school-based interventions produced a mere five percent reduction in the manifestation of youth criminal behaviour.

Not even the institutions like prisons are winning the battle to reduce crime to satisfactory level, especially in South Africa. McCarthy, Schiraldi, and Shark (2016: 2) state that regardless whether the benefits and costs of youth prisons are measured on magnitude of public money spent, they are putting the very people they are suppose to help and put them in a detrimental position irrespective of the fact that prisons and other crime prevention measures have been there for generations.

The institutional failure to address the problem of crime however does not inhibit other attempts like this study to establish other motives for some people to engage in

criminal activities. This is why the aim of this study was to explore why some youth decided to engage in criminal activities, to identify factors in their environments that influence criminal behaviour, and to recommend preventative measures against future youth criminal behaviour.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF FIGURES

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Crime in South Africa remains a challenge that should be viewed and be dealt with in different ways. Youth are known by various scholars to be both the perpetrators and also the victims of crime. This could be due to the fact that youth are still physically active compared to the elderly. For instance, Jantjies and Popovac (2011:2) asserted that "youth do not only become victims but are also likely to be perpetrators of crime and violence in South Africa". However, not every youth in South Africa is likely to be engaged in criminal activities. Youth can either be law-abiding citizens or could choose to engage in a specific criminal activity or in various criminal activities because of different factors which are either explicit or implicit. The aim of this study is, therefore, is to explore the motives of some youth who are engaged in criminal activities to achieve their goals in life.

Youth criminal engagements could also stem from various criminogenic needs such as pro-offending attitudes, criminal associates, antisocial personality, aggression, unemployment, substance abuse, weak motivation, bullying behaviour, and risk to escape in assessing offenders (Le Bel et al., 2008:131 – 159; Ward, van der Merwe, & Dawes, 2006:73 – 83).

South Africa has done magnificent work in bringing about democracy and transformation to be enjoyed by everyone who live there. Nonetheless, crime is still high since the defeat of apartheid in South Africa (SA) in 1994. SA has to address this urgently to ensure that every South African lives a dignified life (Demombynes & Ozler, 2005; Burger, 2007; De Villiers & Nel, 2009).

The problem of crime is difficult to grasp by those who dislike crime regardless of reports made by South African Police Services (SAPS) that the SA crime rates have dropped (Institute of Security Studies 2012; Cunliffe-Jones, 2013; Republic of South Africa, 2013). Many people of SA are still susceptible to high crime dynamics. A number of people of SA have been engulfed with fears resulting from victimisation from various criminal activities.

There is one study that was conducted in 2011 consisting of data acquired from different provinces of SA which indicated that a mere 37 percent from the survey of households were convinced that violent and non-violent crime had declined in their place of residence in the period between 2009 and 2011(Statistics SA, 2012).

Landau (2005:1116) found that "in the rapidly industrialising economy of South Africa, approximately 60 percent of the population lives in urban areas. Until the early 1990s, residence in South Africa's city centres and their well serviced suburbs remained the exclusive preserve of whites, with the country's black, Indian and coloured populations relegated to poor, densely populated townships on the urban periphery."

This findings made by Landau above is likely to have been changed; Probably the situation is worse than stated above, as this was done quite a few years ago. This study believe that the environmental factor of some youth being raised in densely populated townships could also create frustration for young people who still need to live an emancipated life that is different from that of their parents or guardians. In their desire for emancipation in a less resourceful environment, the youth may opt for criminal activities. Bezuidenhout (2011:169) state that "Poor neighbourhoods suffer from a deficient infrastructure, dilapidated buildings, run-down streets, no sewerage or refuse removal systems, poor street lighting, no recreational facilities and little or inadequate town planning all give rise to an environment conducive to crime".

One of the realities is that youth in the twenty first century are not willing to live an impoverished life like their parents and families who have a history of oppression due to the previous laws of the country. However, because of the fact that some of their parents, guardians or grandparents were not fortunate enough to enjoy the rights to exercise their innate talents and make the best of their lives so that they could support their children adequately, they became poor, which is the condition that affects their children (the youth in question).

Pelser (2008:8) state that "Excluded by the debilitating effects of poverty, dysfunctional home environments, poor education, lack of appropriate skills and unemployment, this underclass cannot access the dominant or mainstream culture and yet is incorporated into it and is constantly aware of and seeks to achieve its primary symbols – wealth and conspicuous, acquisitive consumption. Lacking

access to legitimate pathways of achieving society's normative goals, a significant proportion of South Africa's youth has "normalised" illegitimate means – crime and violence – of acquiring the prevailing symbols of "success", to demonstrate cultural compliance, individual status and "control" over their environments."

Bezuidenhout (2011:169) went on to mention that "South Africa's history of apartheid and conflict has contributed considerably to the forming of these disorganised communities. The general opinion is that during the apartheid era, relatively few resources and minimal funds were allocated to developing or expanding housing and neighbourhoods for the majority of non-whites".

From this study's point of view, attempts to understand why some youth engage in criminal activities would be naïve if the political landscape of South Africa were to be neglected. The rationale for considering political issues is because this study believes that politics has a subtle influence that could shape a certain number of youth behaviours, either good or bad behaviours that could be judged against the socially acceptable norms.

Landau (2005:1116) outlined the fact that when the apartheid era ended and the country began its reintegration processes, the cities which were neglected during apartheid became convenient places for people of other African countries to converge into. The problem of limited space and resources escalated and livelihood was a challenge.

When black South Africans saw the opportunity to reclaim their space in these cities after they were free from the notorious era of deprivation, they found themselves contending with foreign nationals who escaped difficulties from their countries of origin.

Due to this gathering of people from various African countries and increasing urbanisation, a situation characterised by limited resources emerged, while the political landscape was ripe, politicians were dealing transiting the economy, and concerned with multiple social services. In a 1998 survey crafted by South African Migration Project, it was found that about 87 percent of South Africans believed that SA enabled foreign nationals to enter this country. Urban South Africans also clearly linked the presence of non-nationals with the country's social ills. Crime was

prominent in all these including the spread of HIV/AIDS, unavailability of employment opportunities and overpopulation. Forty eight percent South Africans at that time believed that foreign nationals were perpetuating crime in the country (Landau 2005:1120).

This study believe that migration of foreign nationals may cause enormous burden for SA to deal with the problem of crime, taking into account the limited resources the country may be experiencing. There are immigrants from different African countries who may have been involved in violent environment and who seek stability by immigrating to SA with the hope of earning a living. However, this may cause conflict if they are unsuccessful in making a living in a legitimate ways.

The UN Report (2005: x) on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Children, two thirds of the Angolan children had seen people murdered after they were interviewed. In Rwanda, 56 percent had seen other children kill people, about 80 percent lost immediate family members, and 16 percent had been forced to hide under dead bodies.

South Africa has its own history of violent past and this study believe that the convergence of various foreign nationals into a country with its history of violence may cause more crime problems, especially violent crime as these these individuals may not been healed of their violent past.

Aside from the psychological impact of war, more practical factors may fuel criminality in the post-conflict period. People, especially young men, facing trauma, loss of livelihoods, and social displacement may find that the only marketable skills they possess are the skills of war, and their only productive asset, a gun (UN, 2005:x).

For the sake of broadening this study horizon to understanding the motives that drive some youth into criminal activities as their way of achieving success in life, a glimpse of history has been integrated. However, the researcher felt it would be unfair and irrelevant to ask the research participants about the historical facts as mentioned above.

This study considers the criminal situation around Durban, KwaZulu-Natal as a serious predicament which needs to be addressed. This is also one of the reasons that motivated the researcher to engage in undertaking an understanding of youth behaviours that are perceived by this study as contrary to the socially accepted behaviour in general.

Burton, Leoschut and Bonora (2009: xiii) declared that youth between the ages of 12 and 21 years are in the pinnacle years for engaging into criminal offences as well as for becoming victims. This implies that a greater number of South Africans get involved into crimes around or within these ages. There are various definitions of youth but that which was defined by the United Nations (UN) and adopted was that 'youth' are those persons who are between the ages of 15 and 24 years old. The endorsement of this definition was adopted in a meeting held in 1985 by the General Assembly.

It should also be mentioned that this international definition of youth does not coerce members of the international community to abide by the latter definition because of various political, social and economic conditions that are not similar from one country to another. In SA, the youth definition is defined by the National Youth Commission Act (NYCA) of 1996 which defines them as persons between the ages of 14 and 35.

The interactions that this study had with the participants went as far as probing the circumstances that implicitly divert the youth in the direction of engaging in criminal activities while there is plethora of choices the youth can choose to achieve success. The rationale for probing to these circumstances was based on the age range of the participants since some of them where not too far from the verge of reaching the peak years of youth as defined by the NYCA of 1996.

Ward, Van der Merwe and Dawes (2012:6) concur with this study's perception when they mentioned that "South Africa faces a crisis with regard to involvement in violence by young people. It does have strong historical roots, and in essence the forms of violence experienced and perpetrated by young people have not changed. Yet there is much that can be done to address this issue, and more than ever before,

the nation has the resources and the will to work with young people. The need for considered responses and preventive initiatives is urgent.

1.2 Problem statement

The escalating problem of crime cannot be identified and explained from one cause that can gratify everyone and be dealt with in a satisfactory way, especially youth crimes. Nor can one criminological theory may help to address the manifestation of various crimes committed by youth in SA, neither one particular profession can manage to address the problem of crime.

The study conducted by Mosavel, Ahmed, Ports, and Simon (2015:5) identified one of the strongest themes in their data which was based on the structural conditions of the community and the negative consequences the structural condition caused to youths lives. Mosavel et al (2015) participants felt strongly about the daily struggles which were prevalent in the youth social structure like the daily manifestations of high rate of poverty, poor education characterised with high rate of unemployment and the use of drugs.

Undoubtedly, daily manifestation of struggles that certain youth are subjected to can contribute to commission of crime. Struggles like these drew the attention of the researcher who then got motivated to get closer to participants affected by situations that shaped them into criminal activities.

1.3 Research question

Maree and Van der Westhuizen (in Maree, 2010:30) elucidate that a research question communicate directly to a chosen research topic of the study. This elucidation as mentioned by Maree and Van der Westhuizen helped this study to adhere to its research topic in order to ensure that the overall research question that was intended to be answered by the participants was obtained and understood.

The overall research question for this study was "why some youth are engaged in criminal activities to achieve their goals in life." Subsequently, sub-questions emerged from the overall research question as provided by chapter 5 of this study.

Although the participants were referred to as incarcerated offenders, all the research questions were addressed to youth incarcerated prisoners in the Westville Prison.

1.4 Motivation for this study

Schoeman (2011:28) states that "the researcher's motive for the study is also important. The choice of a research topic is a personal process as well as a scientific process or professional one. On a personal level, self-initiated researchers undertake a study on their own, might stem from topics of personal interest".

The researcher is a social worker by profession and has observed various criminal activities conducted by youth in the area where the researcher resides and elsewhere. This triggered the researcher's personal interest, in addition to the scientific process, to investigate the motives that shape some urban youth into criminal activities as opposed to being engaged in legal means to achieve their success in life. Hence the focus of the study is based on exploring why some youth engage in criminal activities to achieve their goals in life. Due to the possible challenges that this study would have experienced if the researcher tried to investigate youth criminals around different areas of Durban, the researcher decided that it would be convenient if the study collect the required data from participants who were already serving their sentences after they had been found guilty of their crimes.

1.5 Research objective

This study has outlined three major objectives, namely:

(1) To understand reasons why some youth decided to engaged in criminal activities.
(2) To identify factors in their respective environments that influence criminal behaviour in youth of Durban, KwaZulu-Natal; and
(3) To recommend preventative measures to mitigate against future youth antisocial behaviours stemming from their criminal activities.

1.6 Delimitation of the study area

The study could not afford to investigate all areas of Durban, KwaZulu-Natal in order to acquire information about the youth motives for engaging in criminal activities to achieve success in life, hence the application to the Department of Correctional Services was made. It was also difficult to travel to parts of some rural areas in order to understand youth criminal dynamics that are taking place in those remote areas. The focus was more on urban areas although it was expected that rural offenders could be met in the correctional facility and asked to share their accounts of youth criminal involvement and the motives thereof.

1.7 Crime phenomenon in urban areas

Urban living involves not only opportunities and excitement, but also various problems. Troubles such as poor housing, poor education and crime seem more intense in cities than elsewhere. These problems do not exist in isolation. On the contrary, many connections exist among such problems, such as poverty, poor housing and education, crime, and racial and ethnic tensions. Urban problems are partly a product of cities but also a product of the structure and values of society itself (Macionis & Parrillo 2004:339).

The above are some of the realities that are prevalent in the various places of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban and surroundings, where the target population for this study was based. One reason for the researcher to pursue the study of exploring why some youth engaged in criminal activities to achieve their goals in life was because there is very limited, current information about the social dynamics of urban settings that could be considered to be influencing the youth into criminal activities. Besides what has been mentioned above as some of the contributing factors that may encourage youth into criminal activities, this study believes that there might be underlying factors contributing to crime which are not explicit and which need further investigation.

Crime rates are higher in urban areas than in rural areas. It is not only that urban areas have more people than rural areas. Rather, there is probably something about urban living conditions that leads to higher crime rates. Thus, other features of urban life must contribute to criminality, as listed by Barkan and Bryjak (2004:41):

- Population density with many people living closely together

- Crowded conditions within a household where people who are often unrelated live together with a consequent lack of privacy

- The availability of alcohol and illegal substances at places where people gather socially, such as bars and shebeens, where violence and other crime can occur.

- Overcrowded transportation services

- Limited employment opportunities. Unemployment results in the destabilisation of the household. In an unstable family, the children use violent behaviours and rage as they attempt to coping with the frustration of restricted opportunities; and

- Relative deprivation. Rapid urbanisation leads to increased unemployment and greater demands being made of the consumer. The result is relative deprivation, where the social positions of others are perceived as affluent, and this adds fuel to feelings of frustration and envy. Crime may be a means of coping with such negative feelings, which increase the potential for crimes against property and violent crimes in particular.

All of the above social dynamics were also factors that the researcher found interesting to look at, as they were regarded as the vantage point for understanding relevant variables that instigate criminal activities amongst certain youth in various areas of Durban, KwaZulu-Natal. Although it was not the aim of this study to inquire about poverty in the urban areas, the researcher thought it was still important not to ignore it as it has the potential to explain economic inequalities which may lead to envy, greed and ultimately to various crimes.

As mentioned above, it was also not possible that this study could afford to go to every part of KwaZulu-Natal to get accounts from the youth who have been engaged in criminal activities as to why they have engaged in crimes. This is why this study took initiative of targeting the Westville Correctional Facility (WCF) with the view to acquire rich data of the motives that drive certain youth to criminal activities. The Correctional facility includes youth who have been found to have offended and been incarcerated for their criminal acts. Youth in the Youth Correctional Centre (YCC) come from various areas of Durban. This helped the study to understand the

common and different environmental factors influencing the youth into criminal activities.

By collecting the required data for this study in a Correctional Facility (CF), the researcher envisaged the possibility of understanding youth crimes and their motives for engaging in various criminal activities not only from Black African youth from the townships or urban residents but also those incarcerated youth of other races from affluent middle and upper class as well. This was done with a view that it could bring a broader understanding of various factors influencing certain youth into criminal activities as their way of achieving their goals in life.

1.8 Economic inequalities and crime

Empirical studies on the connection between inequalities in income and crime levels have given divergent results. Some studies found that both income inequalities and poverty are positively linked to manslaughter figures. Others found that economic inequality, and not poverty, might be responsible for the environmental variations encountered in respect of violent crimes (Patterson 1991:759).

Former President Thabo Mbeki told the 61st meeting during the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York in 2006 that economic inequality could lead to a global crisis. He claimed that the gulf between rich and poor was widening all over the world, and that this could be seen in the concentration of economic, military and media forces (Smith 2007:6).

In the Nelson Mandela Memorial Lecture at the University of the Witwatersrand in August 2006, President Thabo Mbeki made special mention of the culture of greed and the haste to acquire wealth easily. The government's economic framework, Growth, Employment and Redistribution strategy (Gear), took the blame for South Africans' apparently uncontrollable lust for money and more money, wherever it can be found: in the corridors of black empowerment, in the numerous casinos or at the nearest Lotto kiosk. Criticisms of the government's economic policy are however not always justified, as it has served to attract both local and overseas investors. The African National Congress's (ANC) original blueprint, the Reconstruction and Development Programme RDP, with its emphasis on development at any price, was

in itself a recipe for failure (Jeffreys 2008:14). This is clearly reflected in the demonstrations and violence in townships and other poverty-stricken areas.

The quotation of the above lecture by former President Mbeki implies that South Africa may have lured the youth into a fallacy by encouraging them to chase money and material gain through means that are easy. Youth are usually encouraged to take the initiative of improving their lives and refraining from alcohol and drugs, yet the question remains whether the words of encouragement by politicians go hand in hand with the issuing of opportunities.

This study acknowledges that youth crimes are not only to be found in areas that are notorious for a number of criminal activities like Umlazi and KwaMashu for instance, but in other areas of KwaZulu-Natal where the researcher has limited information of the criminal activities that are prevalent in those areas. This is also the reason for considering the Westville Correctional Facility as central for acquiring criminal activities that are prevalent not only in townships or urban areas, but even the rural areas which this study could find difficult to reach. In essence, the potential participants were not only restricted to township youth but included suburban areas, rural and semi-urban areas youth who are incarcerated in the correctional facility and were invited to participate in this study voluntarily.

The environmental factors where youth offenders live and are likely to be influenced in terms of their attitudes and behaviours were the crucial focus and interest of this study. The study's assumption, among others, was that if the environment is not conducive and does not cater for youth persons to pursue their talents and socially acceptable desires to better their future; it is more likely that they could be engaged in criminal activities in order to gratify their material needs, successes and goals.

Some youth offenders may find more comfort in prisons than in their respective environments. This perception was observed and listened to during the interviews with this study's participants. Booyens (2011: 86) can attest to this perception when he mentioned that when some of the youth offenders were informed that they were about to be released from a correctional facility, they would ask "Released to do what?"

This implies that these offenders have no other constructive activities to better their lives in their respective environments and in spite of the difficulties of being confined in the correctional facilities; they subsequently regard such facilities as their last hope. Apparently the risk of relapsing into criminal activities is likely to happen again and the issue of crime will forever be an outcry from the communities.

Bello (2017:24) found that, among other findings made by the study, "A traditional goal of African culture is to obtain economic wealth and stability. Proponents of this perspective would suggest that people will use illegitimate means to attain goals when they are denied legitimate ways of achieving them. If offenders are unable to support themselves upon release, or if they feel pressured by their low socio-economic status, they may re-engage in illegal behaviour. As such, recidivism occurs, not as a consequence of a failed programme rehabilitation or because an individual does not recognise his or her wrong doing, but because of the offender's failure to meet economic goals within a broader capitalist system".

In a study conducted by Ngabonziza and Singh (2012) most participants expressed their fear about life after incarceration. Their fear was based on returning to a life of economic uncertainty and a hostile environment that they had left and to which they would inevitably return to upon release.

This study therefore considered the environment in which these youth were being socialised. After interacting with the participants, it seemed that their households could become a recipe for encouraging some youth into criminal activities. The chapters that this study comprises are designed to provide with qualitative methods used to deal with and collect the information related to crime perpetrated by youth and their motives for engaging to criminal activities. Numerous literatures were included in order to perceive and explore youth motives for engaging in criminal activities in their respective environments. The theories chosen in chapter three and the related methodology in chapter four were used to rationalise possible motives shaping the youth to engage in criminal activities as they attempt to achieve their goals in life. On the other hand, chapter five provide with presentation of data from the participants, while chapter six provide with the discussion of findings as well as chapter seven which deals with recommendations and conclusion.

1.9 Poverty and crime

Other studies have revealed that shockingly high unemployment rates in the highest crime communities in the United States are beyond dispute (Sherman 1998:28). This can also resonate with SA as SA experiences high levels of unemployment. Burger (2007:48) also mentioned that police onslaughts in areas of high youth unemployment have given large numbers of young men criminal records for trivial offences. This renders youth limited opportunities of employment and this could elevate the youth to engage into further serious criminal activities as they seek a means of survival, something that they cannot obtain from their families.

Similarly, Sherman, MacKenzie, Eck, Reuter and Bushway (1998:59) also found that employment is certainly a major factor in the development of healthy social bonds and institutions in a community while on the other hand unemployment usually results in crime and disorder. South Africa is no stranger to unemployment which perpetuates poverty on unemployed youth. Some youth find it unbearable to endure their environmental situation of poverty and risk their reputations by engaging in criminal activities.

Ngabonziza and Singh (2012) mentioned that their participants, after being released from the correctional facility, shared that they experienced difficulties even to afford a bus fare that could help them search for jobs. The authors went on to suggest that the core instigators who were more likely to be perpetuating crime experienced socio-economic factors that were likely to be the major cause of their involvement in criminal activities and this required ongoing monitoring by multidisciplinary personnel who would monitor the offenders after their terms of incarceration had been served. Ultimately, this would require various Departments' involvement in addressing the root causes of crime.

In considering the issues of the families, the study also focused on the family as it is recognised by both criminologists and sociologists as the primary sphere of socialisation, and that this is where the person's character is being formed and developed. Obioha and Nthabi: (2011:174) believe that children would experience difficulties resulting from instability of families that are in separated, families with one or both parents deceased or families who are officially divorced. Furthermore, such

families are more likely to have no moral control and ultimately be unstable. The child in such family conditions could be negatively socialised and tend to deviate from the moral values of the society and subsequently become a criminal.

This study also considered the participants' historical backgrounds and their socialisation and how such aspects of their lives could have shaped them either positively or negatively. This is why the essence of the research questions used was more focus on trying to unfold the manner in which the participants were socialised, as another way of substantiating the objectives of this study. Ungar (2008) provided significant ideas when the author studied resilience on youth who could survive in adverse environments. Ungar (2008: 225) mentioned problems associated with living in adverse environments or exposure thereof, where youth would still be resilient in their attempts to make meaning of their lives and experiences. Ungar was in fact trying to understand the lives of street children whom he described as having ability to navigate their way in maintaining themselves with limited resources. However, this study was not based on street youth but there are elements of similarities between those struggling on the street and those who struggle to make meaning of their lives under poor family households or environments.

In SA, where the majority of people still lives in poverty and struggle to make ends meet, there is a high probability that the youth who are subjected to adverse environments have to endure frustrations daily while trying to make meanings of their lives. They seek help but this might not be easily noticed until one gets to know from their own frame of reference, as they are the ones who experience the challenges that they cannot control as they are dependent on parents or guardians for sustainability.

Issues of youth challenges requires a continuous enquiry since people are living in an ever changing world of experiences. Previous literature should serve as stepping stones toward understanding new social dynamics of youth lives which could be pertinent to the prevalent circumstances. It is therefore, imperative that literature pertinent to this research topic be outlined in order to unfold some of the factors that could shape youth behaviour as possible causes for their behaviour.

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

Youth is a crucial developmental phase for all human beings and the vibrant forces of the society. Youth are known by their unique personalities, goals, and ideas which are the results of influences from the very environments under which they are raised. All these elements of youth indicate the kind of respective socio-cultural environments in which they are brought up (Konch & Borbora, 2013:116). Ram Ahuja (1996), an Indian sociologist who carried out a significant study on the relationship between youth and crime, mentioned that "Youth crime is caused by frustrations and deprivations arising from failure to achieve goals, desires and aspirations. These frustrations break or weaken the youths 'social bonds with groups which control their social behavior".

In view of the possible deprivation which leads to devastation due to failure to fulfil their desires, which they would regard as trying to achieve success, this study took these elements into consideration and integrated Merton's theory of anomies, which falls under the social structure theories as discussed in chapter three of this study. This study has no doubt that decisions made out of frustration and devastation resulting from being deprived of the opportunity could create bad decision-making, and criminality is one negative effect that could result.

The identified frustrations shared by the participants of this study made the researcher not ignore the economics of crime as it was mentioned by Freeman (1992:3532). This author believed that the economics of crime is important because crime is closely related to poverty, social exclusion, and other economic problems. Most criminals have limited education and labour market skills, poor employment records, and low legitimate earnings.

The current study then questioned whether the youth offenders are capacitated with other means to sustain their lives, or the support from their significant others. This tends to raise the level of education that the participants could have achieved. This study thought it was significant to know this from the participants.

The finding made by the Survey of the State Inmate Report (1991) was that two-third has never finished school. Subsequently, the US Department of Justice, Bureau of

Justice Statistics (1993) mentioned that among the 25 – 35 years old approximately twelve percent of the male high school dropouts were incarcerated in 1993.

The US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics above may be old when they made these findings, but the reality remains that twelve percent of all male dropouts would be likely to be far higher by now, given the fact that the population increases all the time. This is also the reality that is prevalent in South Africa. Most incarcerated offenders in the correctional facilities have never finished high school.

This study has been structured to outline the global, African and South African phenomenon of youth crime, especially crime relating to economic and material attainment such as crime like theft, mugging, housebreaking and so on, in social environments. Several literatures had been consulted in order to enlighten this study about the nature of data this study was intending to establish, particularly within the context of South Africa, KwaZulu-Natal, Durban and surroundings. This study therefore embarked on exploring why some youth engage in criminal activities to achieve their goals in life: A study of incarcerated male offenders in the correctional facility at Westville.

The researcher's perception of criminal activities that are prevailing in the Durban areas, KwaZulu-Natal townships and semi-urban areas, including the rural areas is supplemented by various literatures from researchers that try to understand the causes of crimes.

It is important to mention that every city has its socially offensive parts that are avoided by most people. Durban is no stranger to certain negativities resulting from various crimes, like Cape Town and Johannesburg. Criminal offenses like mugging, pick pocketing and the likes are some of the popular crimes which happen almost every day.

Demombynes and Özler (2005:265) mentioned some of the SA cities affected by crime like Cape Town, where the upper floor of the central train station is a hot spot for muggings. Gugulethu and Khayelitsha are some of the notorious townships around the city of Cape Town engulfed by various crimes.   Crime is also a rife in Durban, which is one of the large cities in SA.

Burton (2007:1) found that young people between the ages of 12 and 22 are involved in many incidents of crime, being both victims and offenders, and they are also notorious for violent crime. There is no doubt that violent crimes instil fear among the members of the public.

The concern that this study also emphasises is that the numbers of incarcerated youth are increasing year after year. It is important to consider the findings made by the Department of Correctional Services South Africa (2010) that about 57,145 young people between the ages of 14 and 25 were incarcerated in South Africa's prisons. By 2010, SA had youth under the age of 25 amounting to 35.4 percent in South African prisons. A large number of 28 390 of youth offenders were incarcerated for crimes characterised by aggression. Another study found that, "Youth criminality attitudes are the chief dare facing contemporary South Africa" (Leoschut & Bonora, 2007:89). This study believes SA still needs to establish new feasible ways to address the problem of crime, considering all that has been mentioned above.

Other studies believe that weak parental guidance is portrayed as one of the crime determinants in SA (De Wet, 2003; Frank, 2006; Nleya & Thompson, 2009). Parents could be criticised for not taking thorough parental responsibilities that could preclude their children from engaging into criminal activities. Palmary and Moat (2002) concurred with this view when they mentioned that SA is faced with high juvenile delinquency.

As this study managed to interview participants (those who voluntary consented to participate) who were between the ages of 21 and 29, it may happen that the youth constitute a higher number in correctional facilities due higher incidents of crime conducted by them, compared to what Palmary & Moat (2002) found that percent of all sentenced prisoners were young people, and 5e percent of all awaiting trial prisoners were young people under 26 years.

The worst part is that some children in SA begin committing crime at the age of 10 to 15 years, whilst children in other countries begin committing crime at the age of 16 to 18 years (Pelser, 2008).

The researcher could not ignore the fact that these youth were once children before they reached the level of engaging in criminal activities, hence the relationship between parents and their children was mentioned above. This was one of the attempts to perceive possible causes of engaging in crime activities from various aspects of life.

2.2 Youth crime as a global problem

This study acknowledges the fact that SA is not the only country affected by youth crime. The whole world is affected more or less by crime phenomena, particularly crimes perpetrated by youth. When this study was conducted, the greatest concern was that a number of youth were being unconsciously robbed of their developmental phase of youthfulness because of engaging in criminal activities.

This study adopted the definition of youth by the World Bank Development Report 2007, namely that: "Youth is often defined as a transitory phase between childhood and adulthood. It is a time when people, who once depended on their parents, have to start making their own decisions and are often expected to embark on, or want for themselves an independent adult life". This adoption was done only to understand the developmental phase of youth. It did not change the range age 14 to 35 years as it was defined by the NYCA of 1996 which this study adhered to.

This broader nature of definition of youth by the World Bank Development Report gave the study a glimpse of understanding some youth frustrations resulting from not achieving some of their expected success at their phase of development – the level of wanting to make their own decisions yet, they cannot when the majority of them are still residing in parental homes.

It is this transitory phase that the study was concerned more about and wanted to listen to the participants whether there are criminal dynamics that were previously unknown and that needed to be addressed. However, the study still acknowledges the fact that no environments are the same, and what was collected was uniquely South African, although certain aspects of the acquired data could be used in other parts of the world.

Youth are disproportionately represented in statistics on crime and violence, both as victims and as perpetrators, and in many developed countries violent crimes are being committed at younger ages than in the past. Moreover, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and World Bank has reported that there is a growing concern that, in some countries, the proportion of violent crimes committed by youth has been increasing (UNODC & World Bank, 2007:61).

In many households, the tension fuelled by social exclusion and financial hardship has affected the most vulnerable members of the family, such as women and children. A report from UNODC & World Bank, 2007 states, "Evidence suggests that children who witness domestic violence are more likely to engage in delinquent and violent behaviour in the future" (See also Smith and Thornberry, 1995; Margolin, 1998).

It was imperative to establish further whether the participants chose their criminal engagements because of anger, and, if this was the case, who could have been the main instigators. This was one aspect that helped in understanding one of their motives. The study also acknowledged that social environment is characterised by many situations which some youth could perceive as either good or bad, and they react to such social situations or experiences in different ways. The reaction every youth has to whatever social experiences he or she faces is based on his or her individual perceptions and own judgments. Subsequently these reactions could be judged as either socially good or acceptable or socially unacceptable.

Moreover, in conditions of poverty and unemployment, many young people find petty crimes, such as pick pocketing and minor fraud, or illegal trafficking, to be a means to secure extra income for themselves or even their families. They are often pressured into such activities by other individuals, such as major criminals, under threat to their person and relatives. However, because of socioeconomic constraints and exclusion, some choose a criminal or gang life on their own accord, as they find the means to obtain quick cash and alluring commodities as well as social status in crime (UNODC & World Bank, 2007).

De Lannoy, Swartz, Lake and Smith (2015: 26) found disturbing realities in SA. They noted that unemployment rates are high, almost 25 percent on average and over 40

percent when they included youth who became discouraged and lost momentum to seek employment.

These SA realities informed the study that the context where some of the youth are born is very poor and these even points to poor households who cannot afford to provide their children with better education. Such a situation leaves youth with limited opportunities to navigate their career paths or make career choices for better lives.

2.3 The social factors associated with crime in Africa

This study has also adopted the African Report (AR) of the cause of crime in Africa (UN: Office on Drugs and Crime and Development in Africa, 2005) in order to supply a broader understanding of other aspects that may cause youth crime.

The following issues were found by the UN (2005) to be associated with a high crime rate, and since this study concurs with the UN findings, the list was included in this study:

Income disparity is one of the hardest and biggest challenges related to official crime rates. Africa consists of the most unequal countries in the world. On average, the wealthiest ten percent earn 31 times more that the persons of lowest status of ten percent.

Globally teenage and young adult males are known to commit most of the crime. Amongst the youth population of Africa forty three percent are under the age of 15, and this implies that Africa has future potential youth who will be in trouble with the law for a long period of time if conditions of poverty are not addressed urgently; and

A rapid rate of urbanisation, which is characterised by population density, cultural conflicts, and fluctuation of population, is also associated with crime rates.

This study believes that the issue of a high population of youth offenders in Africa in general or in South African in particular is not likely to be addressed in the near future. This also implies that the South African economy will continue be affected and the country's fiscal budget will be strained year after year.

Most African countries are categorised as developing countries, characterised by poorly resourced criminal justice systems. This means that criminal justice officials including judges, magistrates, lawyers and the police, to name a few, are scarce and limit the ability to execute cases of crime effectively.

Some individuals may dispute that the above social dynamics alone would not necessarily cause crime. However, this study is of the opinion that each one of them should not be underestimated as they facilitate the possible occurrence of criminal offences. By taking these into consideration, particularly during the engagement of addressing youth crimes, scholars or multidisciplinary personnel could come out with valuable different approaches to crime reduction.

Policies and other legislation could also be made or amended by taking into account the social dynamics that are uniquely African in appearance. This would however, require financial resources which African countries struggle to maintain for their citizens.

2.4 Youth crime as a South African problem

The study's perception is that although youth crime is a global problem, it is important to outline unique South African social dynamics that could push the country into a serious predicament as a result of crime. The fact of the matter is that not all social dynamics leading to youth criminal engagement were included in this study. Only a few are outlined here, with the view that they are very important for understanding the motives for the youth of South Africa to engage in criminal activities, even though the focus of the study was within the parameters of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban.

It seem that one of the tendencies of the South African culture is to socialise boys to be more aggressive than girls, which may be one of the reasons why boys tend to engage in more aggressive crimes than girls. This could be the result of frustration of failure to reach the desired goals as mentioned earlier. Siegel (2011:50) argued for a similar idea when he asserted that males are taught to be more aggressive and assertive and are likely to form attachments to others. By others Siegel implied that gang that could groom young male into deviant behaviours. It is generally known that

some boys search for approval and acceptance from other boys. On the other hand, females would present themselves as kind, nice individuals to other peers.

Pelser (2008:1) asserted that youth crime, particularly in SA, is a result of the old progress and duplication over the past 30 years of the "culture of violence". This tends to be reflected in "normalised tendencies of crime and violence" among an "underclass" of poorly socialised and socially deprived youth who make up a large proportion of South African population.

Pelser (2008:1) mentioned further that the 1976 revolt by learners and the subsequent rebellion and violence of the 1980s critically damaged the vital institutions of the informal authority, namely families and schools. Pelser asserted that that this was never adequately healed. It can therefore, be said that the children of yesterday, who were called "lost generation, could have transmitted their aggressive attitudes to the next generation and no relief from old anger has been made."

For the purpose of this study, the focus of inquiry was based on incarcerated youth from various townships and semi-urban areas. The study believed that rich information that motivates youth from various areas of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban and surroundings could be obtained through inviting incarcerated offenders to share their experiences with the researcher during data collection.

This assumption can be underpinned by Freeman (2000:221) who mentioned four critical facets of the characteristics of the youth who subsequently get incarcerated or engage into criminal activities. Firstly, the family background was associated with being incarcerated. Youth who got incarcerated were predominantly black, and were disproportionally discovered to have no parents at the age 14. They sometimes came from families that were dependent on welfare. This study believes that this is more associated with poverty and diverse environmental factors.

Secondly, the issue of lack of skills in the youth who get incarcerated tended to be another facet that was identified to be different from the youth who have skills and who were never incarcerated. The likelihood of being removed from school or

playing truant was some of the characteristics found by Freeman study (Freeman, 2000:222).

Thirdly, the use of drugs was also linked with youths who are engaged in crime. They could use needles for drugs which would be an additional health risk. The abuse of drugs and alcohol by the youth who get incarcerated after the commission of criminal offenses and those who were law abiding citizens was highlighted by Freeman to distinguish the potential youth offenders from non – offenders (Freeman, 2000:222).

Cheteni (2018:12) argued that drug-related crimes motivate offenders to commit various crimes. He supported this view by utilising the crime opportunity theory, which states that opportunity determines the outcome of environments prone to crime. In other words, offenders look for an opportunity before committing a crime, and cannot do so unless the opportunity is available to break the law. As mentioned by the SAPS (2017), the youth find it easy to acquire drugs.

Fourthly, youths who were engaged in lesser criminal activities; after perhaps having been caught by the police and brought to book had background characteristics which were more or less similar to those who had never committed crimes compared to those who got incarcerated. Freeman also found that regardless of the reality that both those incarcerated and those who went through probation programmes (as they had also been convicted of commission of crimes), the probated ones were found to be more closely related to non-criminals in terms of their background characteristics. (Freeman, 2000:222).

From the researcher's point of view, the above characteristics of youth who resort to various crimes and subsequently get incarcerated implies that even though some black Africans could be notorious for being involved in more criminal offences compared to other races, they are dissimilar in terms of their individual characters and choices of criminal involvement.

In addition to the family factors which this study assumes to be the cause of certain youth crime in the Durban area, for youth to resort to criminal activities and be

condemned by the community in which they are part, the researcher took into consideration the views of Regoli, Hewitt and Delisi (1996), in which they outlined the role of the family in the socialisation of children. Even though the focus of this study was on youth, as opposed to children, it should be emphasised that every youth was once a child and they may have learned certain behaviours that would have contributed to the current behaviours which are either approved or condemned by the society.

The family, as a well – recognised institution that begins to socialise children, made this study realise the effects that it could create for the participants. Regoli et al (1996:318) also mentioned aspects that are imperative in which children are inculcated in such an environment. The process of children's and youth inculcation begins from a very young age for children. Parents would either disseminate moral information that could have a positive impact on their children or disseminate information that could groom children into deviant behaviours.

Ward, Van der Merwe and Dawes (2012) also emphasised family susceptibility, which could have its roots in poverty in an environment that is characterised by economic discrepancy and a poor level of schooling which leads to some children dropping out from schools. All of these problems affecting the family are likely to direct the youth into crime.

In the family, the child begins to grasp different information that he or she will process and interpret as either good or bad. The family environment is the first influential context where the child is socialised and comes to grips with the manner in which the family functions. That is where she or he learns particular attitudes and behaviours, and understands her or his status within the context of the family group, from where she or he will go out into the social world with these attitudes and behaviours.

Subsequently the child will be ready and open to adopting new attitudes and behaviours from the social world because the child would have already acquired fundamental attitudes and behaviours from her or his family of origin. If the children learn morality and self-control from the family, they are likely to resist deviant

behaviours. However, if the family has influenced the child in a manner that is deviant from morally acceptable behaviours that are recognised by the society, the child is more likely to become a deviant or criminal (Regoli et al 1996:318).

On the other hand, Bender, Leone, Szumki, Wekesser, Biskup & Cozic (1992:90) asserted that non – economic adolescent violence in the form of being violent on the street can facilitate socialisation into illicit conduct, and the acquisition of fighting techniques which could be used during the commission of economic-related crimes. Sustained involvement in crimes involving money produced a model of behaviour which was facilitated by illegal trading available in the neighbourhood or community.

This study is of the opinion that Bender et al (1992) outlined gradual ways that young children could escalate to fully-fledged criminals as they grow, feeding their minds with techniques that they learn from the environment to enrich themselves illegally. While it is probable that the youths could also engage in other criminal activities like rape for physical gratification, material possession seemed to be the primary instigator of most of the youth to resort to crime.

Bender et al (1992:91) mentioned further that the discovery of economic crime was, in general, embarked on with disregard of the precise understanding of the related risks and benefits. Youths also engaged in crime at the age where the younger persons had naïve experience regarding producing a sustainable income. In view of such circumstances, the expectations of these youths with regards to the income from the economic crime tended to vary significantly compared to the expectations they subsequently developed when they began to desire a more sustainable income. As they matured and got to be more realistic about life, they tended to have different perceptions in understanding the difference between legal and illegal platforms to generate resources. More sustained involvement in monetary-related crime was influenced by both illegal and legitimate economic opportunities found within the individual's community.
.
In terms of the SAPS analysis of serious crime categories report (2013/14:4), crime does not happen without a prior cause or motive. It is basically a social occurrence. Social phenomena that impinge on South African society will as a result have an

impact on the occurrence of crime. An unproductive increase in the South African economy requires thorough mindfulness regarding demographic shifts and their realities. This means that the population increases as refugees seek better lives and economic pursuits in SA. At the same time, economy is faced with challenges in growth, and this needs to be considered.

Still, from the SAPS analysis, it has become clear that there is an immediate need to address the issues of social structure in South African society. This also implies that most criminal activities are learned from the social environment and the issue of certain offenders needing to be viewed from inborn capacities to do crime is not the focus for this study.

It should be taken into consideration that youth learn easily compare themselves with older persons and are more likely to assimilate what they observe from their social environment.

The Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC Press, 2005) argues that the SAPS is the major and most noticeable governmental sphere allocated to address all sorts of crimes. Members of the public expect the police to deal with crime head-on. Whenever the new crime trends emerge from the society, it sounds reasonable that the police are the first line of defence against crime.

Other studies, however found different realities in what exactly police officers do mostly during the call of duty. Their performance and duties are far less that the public expectations of what police could do (Criminal Justice Commission 1996; Dadds & Scheide 2000; Laggett 2002).

What police actually do is to engage in maintaining social order and they tend to concentrate on civil disputes and crisis intervention as representatives of the state (Daniel, Southall & Lutchman 2005:144).

The duties that they would perform whenever there are civil disputes or crises are to administrate incidences of crime instead of establishing and dealing specifically with the causes of crime. Notwithstanding, the police do participate in processes to

counteract some of the causes of crime, but the reality remains that they do not possess the credentials to tackle the central causes of crime. The application of the law, following the protocol for using firearms, statement-taking and dispersing illegal and violent protests are some of the obvious duties of the police (Daniel et al 2005:145). More importantly, police should not be the only state figure to be burden to fight crime. Other disciplines should be used in addressing the crime phenomenon.

Considering the idea that crime is a social phenomenon which includes the family dynamics that could affect its members as it can be attested by SAPS (2013/14:4), as well as Regoli et al (1996:318) above, the researcher saw it imperative to use social structure theories as this study's vantage point to explore and understand why some youth engage in criminal activities to achieve their goals in life. These will now be explored.

CHAPTER 3: THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

3.1 Introduction

This study has adopted the ecology of crime, Merton's social structure and anomies, different association, neighbourhood influences and the general theory of crime by Gottfredson and Hirschi (1990) as theories which are considered by the researcher to be appropriate and pertinent to the research topic, namely, exploring why some youth who are incarcerated in the correctional facility at Westville engage in criminal activities to achieve their goals in life.

Personal ideologies are of no value in criminologic theory unless they can be evaluated scientifically. Theory is defined as "an attempt to understand why particular activity or event occurs" (Dantzer & Hunter, 2012:7).

It is important to note that the researcher subscribes to the structure model of environmental influences that might influence the individual into deviant or criminal acts, rather than biological factors that other theoretical perspectives may consider as influencing individual to become a criminal. However, this is not to underestimate the value that the biological factors have contributed to criminology in understanding the causes of criminal behaviours.

Since societies are created by individuals and families, the researcher was interested in the family structures of the incarcerated youth offenders in the correctional facility and their individual upbringing, as well as how these family structures shaped their lives, in addition to the social structure in general.

The researcher was interested in understanding the social environment where the participants were raised and learn their socialisation patterns. This is why the researcher had to include the ecology of crime in the diagram below, which was going to pave the way in establishing the environmental factors that contributed to their criminal behaviours.

Ecology is defined as "the study of the relation of the organism to its environment" (Voss & Petersen, 1971: viii). Social ecology focuses on the person's relation to the social environment. For criminology, this entails study of the spatial distribution of crime and delinquency (Brown, Esbensen & Geis, 2001:307).

This study confirmed that all the participants were raised in disorganised environments characterised by scarcity of resources like the lack of decent schools and job opportunities. This was unfolded when each one of them shared their individuals' financial difficulties experienced by their families. Chapter 5 provide detailed information about their experiences. The relation that each participant had with their environment was clearly unsatisfactory as they shared none of its positivity throughout the interviews. This is when the ecology of crime theory fit to what they were experiencing, namely the poor relations they had with their families, social environments that lacks various resources.

On the other hand researchers and authors like Shaw and McKay contributed significantly when they analysed delinquency that tended to increase in places they termed the "zone in transition". Although their research was based in Chicago, what they discovered is also pertinent to SA, particularly the Durban CBD and its surrounding townships and informal settlements, as they mentioned that crime was high in slum places, irrespective of the racial or ethnic groups who reside in these places. This is a clear indication that the social environment has potential to contribute to criminal activities, especially if the social environment does not cater for its people to make a reliable means of living (Lilly, Cullen & Ball 2011:44).

No participant interviewed during the data collection of this study came from affluent families and they all showed that they were raised in poor townships, slum places with breadwinners of their family members who were either unemployed or earning a low income.

.

Since this study focuses on exploring why some incarcerated youth engage in criminal activities to achieve their goals in life, the researcher had to adopt and put into consideration ideas of Merton's "Social Structure and Anomie" (1938). This was done in order to make sense of possible social criminal realities that could be prevalent in the environments where youth offenders are being raised.

Regardless of the fact that SA and the United States of America are two different countries, it is difficult to dispute the assertion made by the Chicago school when they mentioned that the roots of crime were entrenched chiefly in city slum places,

and this is where people from such places would learn criminal attitudes and behaviours (Lilly et al. 2011:63). Growing up in poor environments may create stresses to youth who are likely to use their energy in a detrimental ways.

Merton (1938) used Durkheim's concept of anomie, which argued that Merton's formulation was broader in orientation and more specific in application. In order to remain true to his belief that criminal behaviour was concentrated among the deprived; Merton had to move away from Durkheim's definition of anomie, that is anomie applied to society as a whole. Merton equated anomie with a lack of equality of opportunity. According to Merton, social conditions bring uneven pressure to bear on people of different classes, and people react as individuals to such conditions. In other words, this pressure will cause some people to commit crime (Fattah, 1997:237).

The above theory as detailed below, in conjunction with other criminological theories that follow was meant to broaden this study's vantage point of observing and understanding general social dynamics that influence youth into criminal activities. The use of these theories also helped this study during the data collection process when the researcher explored the attitudes that caused the participants to relapse into criminal activities in order to achieve their goals in life.

Recidivism has also been found to be one of the problematic aspects of youth who already have historical experience of being involved in criminal activities. That is why the researcher also took into consideration Caneppele and Calderoni's (2014:7) who mentioned that "if we have to deal with delinquency, we cannot resolve the problem of crime by considering the youth as 'criminals': they should be viewed as boys and girls who through breaking the law are sending implied messages to the society that the motives leading them to breaking the law are not linear, but are more complex and dynamic rather than fixed or stationary". From this study's point of view, the message that Caneppele and Calderoni were sending to the societies is that the researchers of crime should focus more on the multiple motives that cause the youth to engage in crime and not consider the youth who broke the law as mere culprits.

The essence of application of these theoretical frameworks for this study social-structural approaches to criminology that examine the way in which social situations and structures influence or relate to criminal behavior. An early example of this approach, the ecological school of criminology, was developed in the 1920s and 1930s at the University of Chicago. It seeks to explain crime's relationship to social and environmental change. For example, it attempts to describe why certain areas of a city will have a tendency to attract crime and also have less-vigorous police enforcement. Researchers found that urban areas in transition from residential to business uses are most often targeted by criminals. Such communities often have disorganized social networks that foster a weaker sense of social standards".

3.2 Merton's social structure and anomie

The United States, in the eyes of Merton's, is an unusual society, not simply because the culture of American consigns success based on economic attainment or achievement (which is the most emphasised goal) but also because this goal is universal – which is also supposed to be the main focus of people who desires success. Poor people are not taught to be satisfied with their lot but rather are instructed to pursue the "American dream" (Lilly, Cullen & Ball 2011:63).

This common ambition for success, nevertheless, consists of irony and unforeseen results. Merton (1968:200) noted that "the American principle which they considers as characterised by virtue, 'exaggerated ambition,' eventually "promotes a cardinal American vice, [deviant] behavior". But why should the desire for social mobility lead to deviance? The problem, Merton observed, is that the social structure limits access to the goal of success through legitimate means such as college education, corporate employment, family connections.

This theory further asserts that people who fall within the category of the lower class are encumbered by pursuing their aspirations because they need to struggle from the disadvantaged positions in order to catch up with those who have the means to easily pursue their goals easily. The difference between what the culture such as the American dream admires a universal struggle for success and what the situation and the structure of the society portrays limited legitimate opportunities therefore, subjects people who are disadvantaged to suffering from daily strains as they desire

a goal that is difficult to be accomplished and even impossible for them to reach. Given this perpetual and difficult social situation that disadvantaged people experience, Merton came to the conclusion that such a situation renders negative social consequences where people could decide to resort to criminal activities (Lilly et al. 2011:63).

The above perceptions by Merton motivated the current researcher to question whether the limited legitimate opportunities as suggested above could be the one of the contributing factors for certain youth of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban areas to resort to criminal activities and methods to attain success in life. This perception can also be viewed in conjunction with the shortcomings that are prevalent in SA urban areas like Durban and its surroundings townships, semi-urban areas and the rural areas.

The researcher also believes that Merton's ideas above, that certain people have limited legitimate opportunities to pursue socially acceptable goals, can be underpinned by the ideas mentioned by the Centre for Development and Enterprise (CDE). The important message unfolded by CDE (2012:3) from two workshops they held was that the root problems that many young people faced are enormous and the young people cannot resolve what they are going through on their own without obtaining professional help. Youth who live in poor communities characterised by disadvantaged schools and a lack of resources (financial resources and so on) experiences challenges to access vocational training so that they can create job opportunities or be hired.

Hill and Paynich (2014:26) mentioned that more recent research examining social disorganisation has determined inevitably problematic situations characterised by a situation of inadequate social networks lacking collective social values around the communities. Where there are slack in collective social values held back by community's revenue, heterogeneity, and poverty, more challenging and complicated problems arise when the law enforcement needs to be used to solve those kinds of problem in the community. Ultimately, this tends to result in police failing to address the perpetual criminal activities around the neighbourhood.

Hill and Paynich (2014) presented information on important social realities that inhibit processes of addressing crime in the neighbourhood, which can be more severe in Africa and SA in particular, due to the limited resources to address the neighbourhood's shortcomings and would always come to the fore, given the fact of African challenges mentioned by the UN in chapter 2.

This study also believes that Sampson and Groves (1989), Hill and Paynich (2014) and the EDC (2012) all concur in their concern about the lack of community involvement and other networks, which they regard as main cause of crime and disorder in a neighbourhood. Sampson and Grove's (1989) perception was based specifically on socially disorganised communities. They mentioned that there is a lack of trust amongst each another when the inhabitants are socially disorganised. This lack of trust for one another would continue despite the fact that members of this community are quite aware of the prevailing crime problems.

The social factors, from this study's point of view, seem to have an enormous effect on the members of the society not only as they are underprivileged, but also because they victimise each other criminally due to a lack of cohesion amongst themselves.

3.3 Differential association theory

In investigating why some youth are engaged in criminal activities to achieve their goals in life, the researcher cannot ignore the fact that youth are living and socialising with their significant others in their daily lives. The interactions that they have with either their peers, families or other people are perceived by this study as influential in their current behaviours and situations. The fact of being incarcerated enabled this study to pursue information that could best be discovered through engaging with potential participants through in-depth qualitative interviews with them.

This makes the theory of different association pertinent in establishing the factors of their criminal behaviours and engagements which could not be explicit. By being guided by this theory during the interviews, the researcher envisaged establishing the root cause of their criminal engagements. However, the root cause of their

criminal involvement was only based upon the youth residing in urban areas around Durban, KwaZulu-Natal.

The study could not also ignore the fact that criminal behaviour is learnt from the social environment, as it was postulated by Edwin H. Sutherland (1939) who established the theory of differential association. Sutherland contributed significantly in the field of criminology, although he was known to be a sociologist, in outlining the fact that through interaction with those who have criminal attitudes and behaviours, a young person can gradually become a criminal. This reality unfolded by this theory was confirmed by this study's participants during data collection.

Furthermore, this study was convinced that the theory of different association would bring about understanding of youth criminal activities after considering the idea behind this theory as outlined by Brown, Esbensen and Geis (2001: 303) who mentioned that Sutherland asserted that criminal engagement was the consequences of the influences acquired from the environment. From this study's point of view, this implies that no one is born as a criminal but criminality would evolve as a person observes and get inspired by others who are already criminals. In fact, all behaviour is learned in more or less the same way. The main difference between conforming (law-abiding) and criminal behaviour is in what is learned, rather than how it is learned.

By being guided by this theory, this study further tried to establish why there are still youth who reside in same environments as the participants who were engaged in criminal activities, who refrained from choosing to do crime to success in life in spite of difficulties they could be facing. This study therefore, outlines the answer to this question in the research findings section in Chapter 6.

3.4 A General Theory of Crime (Gottfredson & Hirschi, 1990)

In addition to the ideas of a learning theory as provided by the differential of association theory by Sutherland, this study also tried to establish the link between the differential association theory and the attachment theory as provided by Hirschi & Gottfredson (1990; 1993). The premise provided by a general theory of crime is that lack of self-control, based from a child's personality, and more importantly from

parent-child interactions, should be blamed because it puts the child's future behaviours at risk. There is also a perception that the commission of crime is likely because there are plenty of opportunities for engaging into criminal activities. Therefore, according to this theory, it is important that self-control should be implemented either by parents or the society in general, in order to prevent antisocial behaviour.

Since opportunities to commit crime are seen as limitless (Hirschi & Gottfredson, 1993), self-control is necessary in preventing antisocial behaviour. In this theory, parent-child attachment is described as a crucial aspect in the establishment of it. Parent-child attachment also relates to effective parental management, that is, the ability to monitor, recognize, and punish poor behaviour.

From this study's point of view, to instil self-control successfully, parents must be concerned with their children's well-being including caring about their whereabouts. This was discovered and thought of, after the researcher has established that the youth who participated in this study grew up in disengaged family structures. As stated by Gottfredson and Hirschi (1990:98), "all that is required to activate the system is affection for or investment in the child". To elaborate on their statement, parents need to show warmth and affection towards their children, in addition to supervising and disciplining them in an appropriate and consistent manner, to produce conforming children as doing so cultivates empathy.

This study believes that attachment is not supposed to be observed or studied only from the parent-child perspective, or between parents and the youth which were the target population for this study and other youth who could be undergoing similar circumstances but also with respect to all the significant others as noted by the participants when they revealed or shared their individual criminal experiences with the researcher during the collection process. The reason for expanding observing the issue of observing youth attachments to other significant others such as teachers, church ministers, peers and so on, other than their parents or guardians was because it was discovered that some of the youth had been engaged in criminal activities through trying to model other criminals found in their environment or elsewhere.

In the future this will also help in understanding how the incarcerated youth began to learn to rebel or comply with the general rules of the law and the code of conduct as in school environments or other institutions. The information about attachments to gang members was also going to be part of a discovery that helped in providing this study with the motives for some youth engaging in criminal activities in order to achieve in life. Furthermore, this study tried to integrate investigating about participants' interactions with their parents or guardians and how these interactions contributed to the state in which they found themselves.

3.5 Ecology of Crime

Crime reality in SA should not be confined to the views of the participants who are known to be engaged into criminal activities, from this study's point of view. The study is also of the view that different areas like the townships and semi-urban areas of Durban, KwaZulu-Natal where the participants reside should be considered.

An ecology study is defined by Williams (2004:270) as the relationship between and institutions in relation to environment. The topographical conditions also affect the incidence of crime in a particular region or locality. A study on the issue of the occurrence of crime in various regions was conducted by Ferri (1905), one of the famous Italian criminologists. According to Nirmala (2009: 69), Ferri analysed the crime index of his country and came to the conclusion that the crime rate varied from one region to another (Nirmala 2009: 69).

The proponents of ecological theory consider social disorganization as the main cause of criminality. They therefore believe that treating or punishing the individual offenders would do little to alleviate the problem and the solution is to be found in making efforts to stabilize the social organization and promoting community feeling, particularly among youths. As Durkheim (1897) rightly put it, — the overall disorder and disorganization, social and personal, shifts behaviour in the direction of crime. The regional comparisons of crime rate in different parts of the country indicate sufficiently that certain crimes are peculiar to a particular location.

It becomes clear, from the ecological theory perspective, that social structure remains the major cause that motivate people, especially youth, to engage in criminal activities.

3.6 Neighborhood Influences

Neighborhood influences seem to have common elements with the ecology of crime since they also focus on the nature of crimes in a particular locality. Nirmala (2009:73) mentioned that when investigating neighbourhood influences, it was found that highly dense areas, including cities and townships in SA, tend to facilitate sexual offenses and theft, burglary, kidnapping, cheating, deceit and so on. Through studying neighbourhood influences, cases of pick-pocketing were discovered to be common in railway stations, bus stops and other commuter pick-up places.

Although this study did not ask the participants about the neighbourhood influences directly, it was discovered that participants tended to model other successful criminals found in their communities. This was one of the influences that motivated them to engage into criminal activities to achieve success in life, and they regarded this to be the best choice for material attainment.

When they got incarcerated, they were even more inspired because they got an opportunity to be close to highly recognised offenders whom they mentioned as skilful in crimes like robberies and monetary – related crimes.

Nirmala (2009:73) mentioned a very important reality of ecological study of prisons when it was discovered that certain types of crime are peculiar to the prison-life. The author gave examples of incidents of crime uniquely prevalent in the prisons like male raping other males which is due to offender's inability to resist biological needs due to the deprivation of family life. Mutual fights and quarrels were amongst the incidents that are common in prison life. In view of what was mentioned by Nirmala (2009) above the fact is that correctional facilities tended to be learning environments that inculcated criminality amongst the youth who participated in this study as well as their co-inmates.

Although this study wanted to also understand factors in the participants' environments contributing to their criminal engagements to achieve success in their lives, the correctional facility where the participants were confined seemed to be influential in perpetuating the youth in engaging to criminal activities. The bond they

developed over months and years in the correctional facility could inculcate youth with other criminal skills and this was observed by the researcher during the interactions with the participants.

The confinement and restriction they were subjected to seemed to display opposite because they sounded to be free in the correctional facility compared to being in their respective homes or environments where they were born.

3.7 Summary

Figure 3.1 illuminates the theoretical framework that sums up the adoption of criminological theories as drafted by the researcher for this study.

Ecology of crime

(Disorganised society)

Merton's social structure and anomie theory

Differential Association

General theory of crime by Gottfredson and Hirschi

Environmental influences
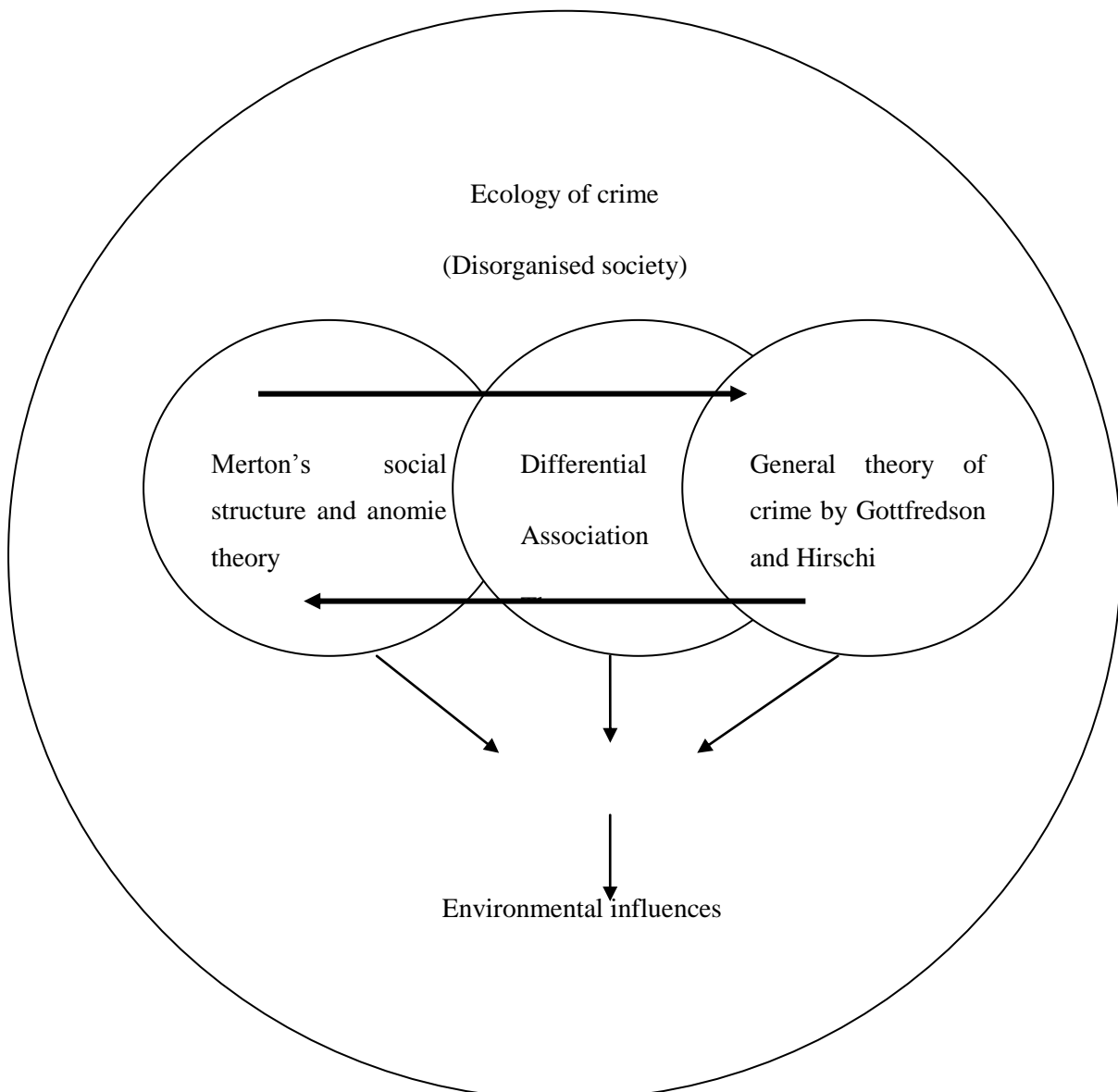
Figure 3.1: Summary of theoretical framework for this study

Source: Own compilation

This study believes that youths can begin criminal careers if they are subjected into the environmental factors as mentioned by the criminological theories used by this study above. If the youths are not given equal access to opportunities (Merton's theory of anomie) to exercise their individual talents and desires in their environment, they are likely to resort to associate with criminals (different association theory) in order to achieve their goals. Criminals can be found in their immediate environment and are influenced by experienced criminals (Environmental influences).

A community that lacks necessary resources and do not caters for youth to have a sense of belonging and express their unique desires and can be a fertile ground that encourages crime involvement (ecology of crime). In line with ecology of crime theory, this study believes that the environment have potential to shape their future if it can cater for the needs of the youth but if does not, is likely to make them rebellious to the rule of law (General theory of crime). Once the youth successes in one or two commission of crime, he or she can decide to continue with criminal engagements in their environment and elsewhere and immerse in criminal career.

It is therefore, important to clearly outline the methodology used in conducting this study and the subsequent data collection, as well as its findings. The qualitative methodology used was regarded by this study as pertinent and convenient for this research topic as follows in the next chapter.

CHAPTER 4: METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

The study's methodology was based on using qualitative research methods because the researcher was interested in listening to the participants' involvements in criminal activities to achieve their goals in life. Participants' words activities during the interviews were going to inform this study about the unknown motives for youth engagement in criminal. The adoption of qualitative research methods was attributed to the objective of this study to have youth offenders as participants who were going to be enabled to share their criminal involvements freely through integrating semi-structured interviews when the data were collected. Dantzer and Hunter (2012:59) mentioned that "this type of interview primarily follows the same ideas or guidelines of a structured interview. The major difference is that in this type of interview, the interviewer can go beyond the responses for a broader understanding of the answers. This is known as 'probing for more details."

Qualitative researchers differ from quantitative researchers in that they are more interested in discovering "new" knowledge than in testing variables. They tend to have a natural curiosity about people and their life-world, which drives them to study social phenomena first-hand. Furthermore, qualitative researchers generally enjoy playing with words, creating order in the midst of seeming disorder, and thinking in terms of complex relationships (Corbin & Strauss 2008:13).

4.2 Research approach

Green and Thorogood (2009:38) hold the view that the goal, aim and purpose of a study among other factors determine whether one should use the qualitative approach as a principal or sole research approach. They maintain that if the aim is "to understand the perspectives of participants, explore the meaning they give to the phenomena, or observe a process in depth, then a qualitative approach is properly appropriate."

The important elements mentioned by Ritchie and Lewis (2005: 32) are that if the research has to explore and describe experiences, the environment of the participants and the process thereof, and generally learn about the whole dynamics

of the environment, and subsequently make the report of the acquired data, qualitative research could be sufficient in addressing the afore-mentioned processes successfully (Ritchie & Lewis 2005:32).

For the purpose of this study, all of the factors which contributed to crimes in youth of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban areas were observed through the frame of reference of the incarcerated offenders in the correctional facility and the information was acquired through the use of qualitative research methods. As Hennik, Hutter and Bailey (2011:8-9) stated, "Qualitative research is an approach that allows you to examine people's experiences in detail, by using specific set of research methods such as in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, observation, content analysis, visual methods, and life histories or biographies".

Hennik et al (2011:9) mentioned further that, "One of the main distinctive features of qualitative research is that this approach enables you to discover valued information from the frame of reference of the participants, and understand the meanings and their own interpretations that they share with the researcher about their behaviour".

The qualitative approach was also adopted by this study due to its focus on studying people in their natural settings, to identify how their experiences and behaviour are shaped by the context of their lives, such as the social, economic, cultural or physical context in which they live as was mentioned by Hennik et al (2011:9).

After consulting the above literature about the qualitative research which this study considered to be relevant and important for understanding criminal activities of the youth of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban surroundings, the researcher also referred to Ritchie and Lewis (2005:32) who advised that when a phenomenon to be studied hold the following features, a qualitative research approach should be followed:

- When the phenomenon is vague or not known, so If one's understanding of the nature of an issue or problem is limited, or lacking, then a qualitative research approach should be used in a research project as a prelude to a statistical enquiry, especially if the subject matter needs to be more clearly understood or defined

- When the phenomenon being studied is deeply rooted within the participants' personal knowledge or understanding of themselves then a qualitative approach is preferable

- The qualitative approach is useful when the phenomenon being investigated needs to be understood from the vantage point of an individual or group that occupied a singular or highly specialised role in society. For example, if a researcher is interested in developing an understanding of the challenges and coping resources of a country's head of state, the nature of the information is likely to require exploratory and responsive questioning; and

- When the phenomenon being investigated is of a delicate and sensitive nature and when target populations are vulnerable, then a qualitative approach should be used. Such a topic is likely to generate emotional and often painful responses, and the researcher must fine-tune the questions so that they are responsive to the particular circumstances of the individual. The researcher also needs to use person-centred interviewing skills sensitively to facilitate a process in which the participants will share their experiences and describe feelings or emotions that may be very distressing or that they may never have expressed.

4.3 Research design

A research design is a plan for collecting and analysing evidence that will make it possible for the investigator to answer whatever questions he or she has posed. The design of the investigation touches almost all aspects of the research, from the details of the data collection to the selection of the techniques of data analysis (Flick 2009: 128). Nieuwenhuis (in Maree 2007:70), defined a research design as a "…plan or strategy specifying the how and from where participants will be selected, the data gathering techniques to be used and how the data collection will be done". Green and Thorogood (2009:42) maintained that a research design attempts to indicate the what, how and why of data production.

Essential to this study was ensuring that a rapport between the researcher and the participants was created. The rationale for putting more emphasis on the issue of

rapport was because it was imperative that the participants trust the researcher and have no doubt that the research was not intended to manipulate them.

According to Morrison (1995:23), the interviewee should feel comfortable, relaxed and willing to supply the required information within a few minutes after the interview has started. This will only happen if rapport has been established or, in other words, if a feeling of harmony and confidence exists between the interviewer and the interviewee. The researcher had to be comfortable with the participants by using their languages, interacting with the participants in a friendly manner and along the engagements the researcher and the participants shared some few jokes.

The researcher had to reiterate that he was just a student who was there to learn from the participants and that they should regard themselves as teaching the researcher something he did not know. This helped in making participants to own a platform of discussion and the atmosphere to be less formal and enabled elaborated answers from the participants without fear. The informed consent forms were not only written in English to benefit the researcher's study but were also translated in Zulu language to ensure the participants were not manipulated when they were interviewed.

With reference to how to analyse data that have been qualitatively generated, Tesch (in Creswell 1994:153) stated that the process of data analysis is eclectic, and that there is no "right way". Leedy (1997:165) concurred and commented that there is no standard procedure for qualitative analysis, but added that this does not mean it is not systematic and rigorous.

For the purpose of this study, the researcher adhered to step-wise format (comprising eight steps) for qualitative data analysis, as proposed by Tesch (in Creswell 1994:154–155; 2009:186) as a plan or one way to approach the process of data analysis:

1. Write down, word for word, the interviews you audio-taped. Once you have completed this, read through them all to get a sense of the whole. Read through all the transcripts carefully. Make note of your ideas as they come to mind.

2. Select one document (one interview) – the most interesting/the shortest/the one on top of the pile. Go through it, asking yourself: What is this about? Do not think about the "substance" or content of the information, but about it underlying meaning. Write down your thoughts in the margin.

3. When you have completed this task for several informants, make a list of all the topics. Put similar topics together. List these topics in columns that might be headed "major topics", "unique topics", and "leftovers".

4. Find a fitting abbreviation for each of the identified topics.

5. Find the most descriptive wording for your topics and turn them into themes or categories.

6. Make a final decision on the abbreviation for each theme or category and alphabetise these codes.

7. Using the cut-and-paste method, assemble the data or material belonging to each theme or category in one place and do a preliminary analysis.

8. If necessary, recode the existing data. Otherwise start reporting your research findings. (The reporting on, or presentation of, the research findings and confirming and/or contrasting the former with appropriate literature will form a chapter on its own in your research report).

The above procedure was done after all the necessary data had been collected and this procedure formed part of the preparation for reporting what transpired during the collection of data.

This study was also based on interpretivism in which the researcher interprets the data by using various methods to analyse the data, such as identification of themes or categories as provided herein under.

Bachman and Schutt (2011:74–77) stated that, "Studies in which an interpretivist philosophy is followed aim to understand the meaning people give to reality and how their reality is shaped and influenced by their perceptions and interactions with others. The researcher actively participates in the research process by making use of interactive methods to collect data, such as interview and observation".

Maree (2010: 99) concurred with Bachman and Schutt when he mentioned that, "Qualitative data analysis is usually based on interpretative philosophy that is aimed at examining meaningful and symbolic content of qualitative data. Phrased differently, it tries to establish how participants make meaning of a specific phenomenon by analysing their perceptions, attitudes, understanding, knowledge, values, feelings and experiences in an attempt to approximate their construction of the phenomenon".

The researcher therefore, was motivated in establishing the uniqueness of the youth offenders of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban areas but this was done through suspending the researcher's preconceptions about youth offenders in order to avoid leading questions during the interviews with the participants. The approach used by the researcher was basically approaching the youth offenders in the Correctional Facility with a clean slate. This approached helped in learning new and unique information from the participants' frame of references based on their respective environments. The purpose of the study, among others was to make assumptions about the nature of youth and society in which they (youth) are part and the relationship between people and society".

For the purpose of this study, the use of the semi-structured interviews was meant to enable the interview to flow like a conversation and minimise formalities. This helped the study to gain the true reflections of the participants' inner experiences and each participant was allowed to elaborate about his unique criminal engagement without being interrupted by the researcher. Probes and follow-up questions were used in order to acquire in-depth information about the youth offenders' motives of their criminal acts.

The researcher also adopted the ideas of Huysamen (1994: 149) who mentioned that "Semi-structured interviews allow criminologists to get specific data from offenders, but also allow for exploration and collating important data which would not be captured with the use of structured interviews. During the semi-structured interview criminologists ask questions, but allow them to be led in the questioning by information that emerges in the course of the interview.

Due to the fact that participants for this study involved youth, open-ended interviews were also integrated as part of this study. Maree (2010:87) states that an open-ended interview often takes the form of a conversation with the intention that the researcher explores with the participant her or his views, ideas, beliefs and attitudes about certain events or phenomena. Open-ended interviews are normally spread over a period of time and consist of a series of interviews.

Two group interviews were conducted with the participants who agreed to participate voluntarily. The interviews were conducted on two different days; each group consisted of ten incarcerated youth participants. The researcher had to emphasise that participants should not use their actual names that could identify them. Their response to this suggestion was that they wanted to use their own names and they asked the researcher to call each one of them by those pseudonyms.

The fact of being set free to use the name of their choice, not their real names, helped in creating more rapport with the participants and the researcher could observe how they took ownership of the discussion.

The researcher and the participants were given a small but open room used by correctional services' wardens. The door was kept open so that the correctional facility's wardens could observe the behaviour of the offenders but could not hear the conversations between the researcher and the participants. It was still the obligation of the wardens to keep their eyes on the participants as they were still regarded as offenders and for the safety of the researcher.

The interview room was closer to the cells where the participants were being kept and in front of the door was an open space that offenders use for playing soccer and other youthful interactions.

4.4 Research Population
The target population for this study was drawn from Westville Youth Correctional Centre, Durban, KwaZulu-Natal. The researcher chose to conduct this study on the basis of convenience as the researcher resides in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal and is

familiar with the area surrounding the Westville Correctional facility. The Department of Correctional Services assisted the researcher during the selection of youth offenders who were incarcerated for theft, mugging, housebreaking and hijacking, even though other offences emerged during the course of the interviews.

Different areas of Durban were represented by individual participants. Some locations were represented twice while others were represented by one participant. This was because participation was voluntary and it could happen that those who did not want to participate were from other locations.

4.5 Sampling

For the purpose of this study, a sample is a representative group of participants selected from the population. The main purpose of sampling was to ensure that the elements which portray the total population exist in the sample. Dentzeker et al (2012:110) define sample as a chosen group from a target population to provide information sought.

Due to the fact that this study's target population were incarcerated individuals who were difficult to access or reach, the researcher began by applying snowball sampling. The researcher visited the correctional centre in Westville to discuss whether it would be possible to interview their offenders on the basis of offences of various theft, house breaking and other illegal material gains. The correctional centre officer outlined the procedure to be followed as determined by the Department of Correctional Services. This study then had to follow the procedures by first getting ethical clearance from UKZN (Appendix A), and then applying online to the Department of Correctional Services until the approval was obtained as indicated by the appendix B.

Maree (2007:177) defined snowball sampling as the technique that is often used when the researcher finds it difficult to locate the participant's he or she would like to interview. Dentzeker et al. (2012:115) defined snowball sampling as a technique where the researcher relies on the expertise of others to identify prospective units for

the sample. Snowball sampling begins with a person or persons who provide names of other persons for the sample.

After access to the potential participants was officially obtained, the researcher made use of the purposive sampling to select the participants who met attributes that was linked to this study's research topic. Dentzeker et al. (2012:114) defines purposive sampling as technique that is based on skills, judgments and needs of the target population. The researcher needs to decide who or what is representative of the phenomenon being studied.

Scholars differ on the size of a sample appropriate for qualitative research. Mason's (2010) research found that sample sizes are generally smaller in qualitative studies and have both practical and theoretical advantages. Firstly, they reduce statistical demands on the researcher and secondly, the rapport forged with participants is more humane, thus allowing them democratic space in which they are at liberty to talk at length and set the agenda for discussions (Davis, 2007: 139-140).

This study chose twenty (20) research participants with the assistance of the Department of Correctional Services' (DCS) officials. Participants who were incarcerated for criminal offences like theft, shoplifting, housebreaking, hijacking, purse snatching and all sort of mugging were requested to participate and informed consent forms were issued to those who agreed. Each sentence in the consent form was explained and the consent forms were written in English and isiZulu languages to accommodate English and Zulu language speaking participants.

 Morrison (1995:27) emphasises that interviewers should use language that interviewees can easily understand. To communicate effectively, interviewers should listen to interviewees' use of language and try to use it, provided they feel comfortable doing so. Details of the participants are presented in chapter 5.

The researcher had to use some of the slang language used by the participants and in instances where the researcher was unsure of the meaning of the slang word used, he would ask the participants to explain the unclear meaning of the word and they were happy to explain it. At the same time, these interactions and various use of languages enhanced the rapport with the participants.

The first group of ten participants were interviewed separately during the first day of interview. The second group (consisted of another ten members) interview took place within the interval of one week. The reason for not interviewing twenty participants simultaneously was based on the researcher's manageability of information and it was important that the researcher deal with manageable information, small enough not to overwhelm him.

4.6 Anonymity and confidentiality

Babbies and Mouton (2010:67) argue that a researcher guarantees anonymity when anyone who reads about the research cannot identify a given response with a given participant. A research project guarantees confidentiality when the researcher can identify a given participant's responses but essentially promises not to do so publicly. A norm in which participants base their voluntary participation in research project on a full understanding of the possible risks involved.

Participants were advised not to use their real names during the interviews for the purpose of protecting their identities. They were content with this suggestion and chose to use their own nicknames instead which they decided to use only during the interviews.

The researcher also ensured that information shared during the interviews would not be shared to any person outside the realm of the interviews except as a written document to his academic supervisor as the study was meant for academic purpose.

4.7 Validity, Reliability and Rigour

This study engaged in an endeavour of producing relevant data that would be accurate to the research topic as well as answering the study's research questions. In other words, it ensured that it reflected exactly what transpired during the interviews with the participants. This endeavour ensured that the audience would be able to create a broader picture of the research context where this study was conducted.

Dantzer and Hunter (2012:6) stated that validity is the term describing whether the measure used accurately represents the concept it meant to measure. From this study's point of view, the above idea of validity concurs with Hammersley (1992), Becker (1996) and Juros (2011:170), who mentioned that "Validity refers to the accurate representations of a studied phenomenon or its features. In qualitative adaptation, it usually includes assessing if the study examines what it purports to or providing checks for the evaluation of the evidence on which the interpretations are based".

The researcher made sure that efforts made to acquire information regarding all the objectives of this study did not produce any inconsistency which may lessen the validity and reliability of this study. This was done by asking each participant similar questions to those that other participants has been asked, with a view to gaining substantial realities of their individual experiences with crime. The aim was to see if different participants' response might produce related information as known by them. Dantzer and Hunter (2012:53) used two key components of reliability which are 'stability' and 'consistency'. Stability means the ability to retain accuracy and resist change. Consistency is the ability to yield similar results when replicated.

Hammersely (1992) and Lindlof and Taylor (2002) also concurred with this idea when they stated that "Reliability is related to the degree of consistency in the observation or categorization of the examined patterns".

The researcher chose not to interfere with each participant's response to the questions asked. The rationale for refraining from interfering or obstructing the participants when sharing their individual experiences was to avoid influencing their answers which could have not been genuine. In other words, what the participants shared was meant to reflect their true experiences as they were regarded by the researcher to be experts of their own experiences.

By so doing, the researcher enabled the audience to gain the actual and a broader picture of the context where participants reside and how they experience and cope with the issues of crime on daily basis. However, it was still up to each participant to

choose if he was comfortable to share about the environment where he resided and their place of residence was not coerced to be disclosed by the participants.

This idea was based on the perception by Shenton (2004:63) who mentioned that "In addressing credibility, investigators attempt to demonstrate that the true picture of the phenomenon under scrutiny is being presented. To allow transferability, they provide sufficient detail of the context of the fieldwork for a reader to be able to decide whether the prevailing environment is similar to another situation with which he or she is familiar and whether the findings can justifiably be applied to another setting".

The evaluations of research rigour, according to Juros (2011:168), "would benefit from two sets of information. At minimum, the information on research rigour should include a description of a method and a sample. The report on rigour would also benefit greatly from the discussions of more complex, but very important issues of generalizability, validity and reliability".

This study therefore outlined all the methods used from the sample and ensured the reliability of collected data and how the study has come to the generalisation of the research findings.

4.8 Limitations of the study

The study only used two groups of participants each consisting of ten participants. The researcher decided to use twenty research participants in order to be able to manage the data collected. Not all the areas of Durban, KwaZulu-Natal were represented by the participants who agreed to partake to this research project, and this study was confined to this area.

The study could not find youth participants in the YCC who were above the ages of 29 years old, taking into account that SA defines youth to be within the range of 14 and 35 years of age. It should also be mentioned that the white community were not represented in this study since the researcher did not find even one participant from the white community. Although the request from the CF was made that different

races were welcome to participate, none of the white youth wanted to consent to participate. Only the majority of black community, two Indian and one coloured participants could avail themselves for this study.

The collection of data with the participants was based on group discussion. The researcher suggested the rules to be followed with the groups of the participants so that each participant could be given enough time to share his experience and be respected. All participants agreed to the group rules and adhered to what was agreed upon.

4.9 Summary

This chapter has described the reason for using a qualitative approach and justified the use of the group interviews. It also described the sampling of the twenty participants. The next chapter presents the findings.

CHAPTER 5: DATA PRESENTATION

5.1 Introduction

According to Creswell (2007:150), data analysis in qualitative research is not a once-off process or governed by distinct steps. The steps in the data analysis process are interrelated and often happen simultaneously. In other words, data analysis already begins during the data collection phase. The researcher can form an initial understanding of a phenomenon during tasks such as data collection and coding, which are associated with data processing.

The data from each group that was interviewed will be presented separately. The first group of participants who participated in the interview consisted of ten participants, even though one participant did not participate up to the end the interview. He seemed to be an introvert and would utter few words and be silent when he was still with the other interviewees until he offered an excuse and was released from the interview. The remaining nine participants continued up to the end.

The participants were not ashamed or shy to share their criminal behaviours with the researcher. This was due to the fact that rapport between the participants and the researcher was created early and the researcher had to make it clear that the study was for academic purposes. Secondly, that the researcher was not an employee of the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) or working for any aspects of the criminal justice system.

According to Morrison (1995:23), the interviewee should feel comfortable, relaxed and willing to supply the required information with a few minutes after the interview has started. This will only happen if rapport has been established or, in other words, if a feeling of harmony and confidence exists between the interviewer and the interviewee.

The researcher had to create an atmosphere of harmony with the participants by not interacting with them as offenders but as members of the community like the researcher. In other words, friendly interactions seemed to work for this study, taking into account that the participants were youth.

The way interviewers project themselves in interviews is most important. Body position can easily convey the idea that they are tired, bored or disinterested. Interviewers who seem to be very energetic might give the impression that interviewees should hurry up, which could inhibit them to such an extent that they find it difficult to verbalise (Goodale, 1982:57). In this regard Morrison (1995:24) pointed out that a professional approach does not imply stiff formality. On the contrary, interviewers should convey an air of being relaxed and show interest and empathy.

When the researcher insisted that the participants should not use their real names the participants said they would use their own pseudonyms as shown in table below. The researcher therefore, decided to write the pseudonyms as uttered by the participants due to the fact that their true identities were not revealed during the interview and during documentation.

5.2 PROFILE OF THE FIRST GROUP OF PARTICIPANTS

The profile of the first group of participants may be seen in Table 5.1

Table 5.1 Profile summary of the first group of participants

PARTICIPANT	AGE	GENDER	LANGUAGE	RACE	LOCATION	EDUCATIONAL LEVEL
Number 26	26	Male	Zulu	African	Umlazi	Grade 9
Grey	25	Male	Zulu	African	Chesterville	Grade 7
Nongoloza	24	Male	Zulu	African	Mayville	Grade 8
Grey Hound	28	Male	Zulu	African	Kwamakhutha	Grade 10
Mabulala	21	Male	Zulu	African	Clermont	Grade 10
Jumba	20	Male	Zulu	African	Newlands West	Grade 11
Sabelo	24	Male	Zulu	African	Clermont	Grade 11
Govu	26	Male	Zulu	African	Clermont	None
Nomela	24	Male	Xhosa	African	Mayville	Grade 9
Twenty	20	Male	Zulu	African	Mayville	Grade 6

Note: None of these are their real names

Human behaviour does not take place without a measure of motivation. This is why it is imperative to give a comprehensive description and analysis of the environment or social context research participants. Contextualism emphasises the various macro

and micro contexts of the individual and how these contexts dynamically interact with one another (Struwing & Stead, 2001:12).

It is important to outline that these participants were raised in and had experience of various urban environments even though certain aspects of their location such as Clermont and Mayville could be identified as semi-urban areas.

The first group of participants were Africans (blacks) and the majority of them spoke Zulu. Only one participant was a Xhosa-speaking person. All of them did not complete high school and the grades indicated in the table above were grades that they completed, according to the information from the participants.

Some of the participants were incarcerated whilst they were in the middle of studying the grades above the indicated completed grades. This is why the researcher decided to present only the completed school grades and not the uncompleted grades.

Eight of the participants admitted to be biological fathers to one or two children, while two did not have children. The majority of the participants where raised by either a single parent (mother only) or grandparents. Five of the participants were raised by maternal grandparents and one by paternal grandparents. Four participants had both parents. Among the latter four participants, two had fathers who were also imprisoned because they made a living through criminal activities. The other two of these four participants had parents living separately.   They never married but the participants had relationships with their parents. However, the participants were incarcerated when they were in the custody of their mother which meant that they were not living with their fathers.

Below are the research questions from the researcher during the interview and the corresponding responses from the participants. After the researcher had outlined the purpose of the study to the participants and clear introduction was done, the interview went as follows:

"Where can the youth who use criminal methods be found spending most of their time?" [Researcher]

From the participants' perceptions on where they thought youth who use criminal methods could be found, the impression that they gave the researcher was that youth who uses criminal methods are all over the areas of Durban, KwaZulu-Natal. This also implied that the potential criminal is not based on a person's social status.

"Streets and dark places conducive for mugging can be places that are liked by young criminals". [Nomela]

"My brother I will tell you something, not all criminals can be found in dark places. I know criminals who wear smart expensive clothing and they can mug you because they create the impression that they are trustworthy members of the community whereas they are not."[Sabelo]

"The way I see it, crime has different levels. There are people who lives in sophisticated places and do sophisticated crimes. So criminals are everywhere my brother. It is just that some of them have never been caught."[Grey Hound]

The above narratives from the participants could also mean that some youth who chose to engage in criminal activities were not being socialised well by either their families or guardians. The institutions like schools or churches, if the participants were or had been affiliated with any of these institutions could have been disregarded by them when attempts were made to inculcate the importance of behaving in a socially acceptable manner.

The first principle of Sutherland, as mentioned by Fuller (2012:159) states that criminal behaviour is learned. Sutherland implies that criminality is learned in the same manner as any other learned behaviour, such as writing, painting, or reading. Criminal behavior is learned as a by-product of interacting with others.

This means that every environment has the potential to produce a youth criminal depending on the kind of a behaviour that a youth person learned. Fuller (2012:159) stated further that an individual does not start violating the law simply by living in a criminogenic environment or by manifesting personal characteristics associated with criminality, such as low IQ or family problems. People learn actively as they are

56

socialised and interact with other individuals who serve as teachers and guides to crime. Thus, criminality cannot occur without the aid of others.

The study also believe that youth who choose to associate themselves with criminals could do so a result of not getting adequate attention from parents or significant others.

Weak parental guidance also appears on the list of crime determinants in South Africa (De Wet, 2003; Frank, 2006; Nleya & Thompson, 2009). Parents are generally blamed for not playing their parental role in terms of guiding and preventing their children from pursuing illegitimate activities.

The researcher probed further in order to determine if there are particular places around Durban that produce criminals and are conducive places for them to engage in criminal activities. They seemed to agree that youth criminals can be found at any place:-

"Is that so guys? What do others think about that?" *[Researcher]*

"What do you think? (laughing) You should learn to differentiate between a real criminal and a low life criminal" [Sabelo].

"Yes like in this place we have criminals, who are arrested for stupid crimes and are regarded as oskhatheni (junkies), and we also have professional criminals and I guess majority of us want to meet their standard one day."[Grey]

Participants also gave the researcher the impression that they had a hunger for a particular level of social status, but due to their limited or even unavailable means to reach out to the level of social status and their individual aspirations, they considered criminal activities as their "best" alternative.

Cohen (1955:25), in his revised version titled *Delinquent Boys: The Culture of the Gang,* made several important observations: Delinquent gangs and the subcultural values they embrace are concentrated in urban slums. Moreover, the content of these subcultures is not only in a supportive of crime but also is "nonutilitarian,

malicious, and negativistic". Because slum youths learn and act on the basis of these values, they engage in delinquency that is contemptuous of authority and irrational to conventional citizens (Lilly et al, 2011:69).

"How can you describe the concept of criminal behaviour, from your personal knowledge or frame of reference? Or can you guys freely elaborate for me so that I can learn something on how does a younger person become involved in criminal activities in order to achieve their goals in life?" [Researcher]

The participants had different views on their descriptions of criminal behaviour, and the researcher tried not to interrupt as each one would just voice out his own understanding. Their individual accounts also helped this study in understanding each participant's environment where the participant was raised as they shared their location's unique crime dynamics.

The other element that emerged from the answers to the above research question was that the participants felt deprived of certain privileges that they felt entitled to, as youth who were still intending to experience some measure of prestige in their lives. The following participants' accounts attest to the researcher's perceptions:

"Drugs like whoonga and alcohol. One tends to have courage to do things he would not do should he not use drugs or drank alcohol. I use drugs as my working weapon to get what I feel I should have owned long time ago but could not afford it because I am poor." [Nongoloza]

"A peer influence plays a major role." [Jumba]

"Being faced with a situation of seeing other peers with tangible things like nice cloths and cell phones create envy and triggered me to look for alternative, criminal ways to obtain that which I can't have". [Number 26]

"Seeing a person that you grew up with in the same environment being successful in spite of him or her being raised in poor background too makes us angry and envious

and causes us to pursue criminal activities so that we can also have what they have."[Grey Hound]

"I am picking up that you always refer to your criminal activities to "us", instead of "me". [Researcher]

"This is because if I need lot of money to support myself. It's better to work with my crew (friends) because if I am alone I might gain a little out of my criminal attempts. So I need more power from others."[Grey Hound]

To account for these patterns, Cohen (1955) proposed that delinquent subcultures, like all subcultures, arise in response to the special problems that people face. Following Merton's (1938) insights, he noted that lower-class youths are disadvantaged in their efforts to be successful and achieve status in conventional institutions. Schools, which embody middle-class values, present a particular obstacle: Poor children lack the early socialisation and resources to compete successfully with their counterparts from more affluent families. Consequently, they are "denied status in a respectable society because they cannot meet the criteria of the respectable status system" (Lilly et al 2011:121).

On the other hand, the participants seemed to have been denying responsibility for their criminal acts. There were no signs of remorse in their expressions and sharing of their criminal acts. The impression they gave the researcher was that what they did was their only and best options to attain that which they could not afford to obtain legitimately.

The denial of responsibility extends the legal concept of intent to dismiss responsibility for deviant actions. The strategy is echoed in assertions that the outcome was "an accident," was "not my fault," or that "I couldn't help it." Other variables beyond the offender's control are interjected to deny or mitigate responsibility for the conduct. The strategy extends beyond circumstances immediately surrounding a particular incident, enveloping factors in the social environment "such as unloving parents, bad companions, or slum neighbourhood. In

effect, the delinquent approaches a 'billiard ball' conception of himself in which he sees himself as helplessly propelled into new situations (Sykes & Matza, 1957:667).

Can you be able to tell if a person is a youth offender or engages in any criminal acts by merely looking at him or her? [Researcher]

The majority of participants seemed to deny that it is easy to see a youth person who is a criminal and they stated different reasons. The researcher had to set the platform for sharing their own understanding and perceptions as another way to determine if they are methods that they use in order to conceal their criminal involvements. There was no interruption from the researcher as they owned the platform for telling their own views. It was clear that whatever they shared during the interview could be their ways of hiding suspicion from their victims when they want to commit their crimes. The following were their verbatim in answering the above research question:

"It is difficult and sometimes impossible to tell if a person is a criminal or not" [Twenty]

"Crime is something like a heart which is inside a person's body and not exposed outside for anyone to see it and you cannot tell if she or he feels like committing crime or not." [Govu]

"Suppose there are three of us walking together, I think you can be able to identify one of us as a criminal simply the way a person looks like, but still that doesn't means he is dangerous to you until he start to act dangerously." [Number 26]

"There are no ways you can tell if the person is a criminal; you can only suspect the person wrongly because most criminals hide being portrayed as criminals." [Mabulala]

"At times you will be shocked when I get arrested and find a person in prison cells who is trustworthy outside the community and whom I never thought or associate him with any kind of criminal activities." [Govu]

"At times you can tell by the person's use of language. In prison we use our own language that is mostly used by prisoners." [Twenty]

"What are the common attitudes and behaviours of younger persons who subsequently adopt criminal attitudes and behaviours and become a youth offender?" [Researcher]

"At times you can identify a criminal by the way a person speaks and the use of language". [Sabelo]

"Criminals use the prison's language and that is how you can tell that person is a criminal. Like us 'siyizisebenzi' (criminals with imprisonment experience) you can hear and identify that this person is a criminal through the use of prison language". [Govu]

"The use of tsotsi taal (prison criminal language) distinguishes a person who is a criminal from non-criminals" [Nomela]

"Drugs like whoonga and the love of money are common attitudes and behaviours that make us to become criminals". [Number 26]

"Who or what are common instigators regarding influencing the younger person in criminal behaviours that could be found in your respective environments?" [Researcher]

"Arosta (a slang word meaning craving for more drugs each day when suffering from addiction) is one of instigator that usually influences people into criminal behaviours. If I have a problem with arosta I can steal anything just to gratify my craving for whoonga". [Number 26]

"The love of money is the common cause to pursue criminal behaviour". For example, like if I like your jersey (pointing at the researcher's jersey) I can try to steal something so that I can also buy this jersey." [Grey]

Is there anyone who can say I am not a person who is too keen of money that much but found myself in this place due to criminal acts? [Researcher]

"We get addicted in pursuing money in such a way that even if I do have money but there would be urges to need more until you get caught and be arrested". [Mabulala]

"You see house breaking has financially sustained me significantly until I got arrested. At home we have more than seven DVDs, each room has its own television set, in my own room I got all the appliances you may think of. At first they didn't support my criminal activities but today they realised the importance of my theft and they respect me for that." [Govu]

"I suppose you must be enjoying the support you get from your family members. Do you live with your parents at home" [Researcher]

"I live with my mother and I last saw my father when I was too young…I was about nine if not ten or eleven years old. I even find it difficult to recognised how he looks like and I don't care where he lives by now. For me he does not exist". [Govu]

Surprisingly, there are some parents and adults who use or push children into criminal activities instead of guiding and deterring then from pursuing criminal activities. Children are encouraged to commit crime on commission or are shown how to commit crime, or are provided with means to commit crime (Frank, 2006).

Comparing fathers and mothers in how their parenting styles are linked to delinquency revealed several notable differences. Fathers' parenting styles were concurrently linked to boys' and girls' delinquency, even when the sex of the child, age group and family income was taken into account. Moreover, fathers' neglectful style was linked to their sons' delinquent behavior five years later, while maternal parenting styles were not linked to later delinquency. These findings indicate that fathers may have more lasting influence on the delinquent behavior of boys than of girls. This is noteworthy since boys engage more often in delinquency than girls. Delinquent behavior in males has also found to be more persistent than delinquency in females (Moffitt et al., 2001:211).

Many criminologists view disadvantaged economic class position as a primary cause of crime. This view is referred to as social structure theory. As group, social structure theories suggest that socio-economic forces operating in deteriorated lower-class areas push many of their residents into criminal behaviour patterns (Fuller, 2012:130).

"Is it the first time being arrested or imprisoned?" [Researcher]

"Yes it is the first time. I have been managing to escape arrest until recently because even people in my community were supportive of me. My neighbours have different appliances because of me and I sold them for cheap prices. White people cannot come to the township and look for their lost appliances and police do not have time to go around my neighbourhood searching for lost properties (laughing*) [Govu]"*

"Okay is there anyone of you who have been arrested more than once?" [Researcher]

"Yes I had…I also had…"

(Five participants admitted to having been arrested more than once). [Grey Hound, Mabulala, Jumba, Number 26, and Nongoloza]

"What other criminal methods do you use in order to get money if your usual method doesn't work?" [Researcher]

Participants used whatever criminal offence they could possibly do to gain anything of monetary value so that they could sell the stolen item in exchange for money. Criminal activities have become a norm for the participants and they expressed their criminal engagements as if there was nothing wrong with them.

Committing crime has been normalised in some communities. In fact, committing crime has become a way of acquiring status (Pelser, 2008). This study also took into consideration that the participants were incarcerated and such an environment could

be a contributing factor for participants to persevere with their criminal activities to achieve success.

The following utterances made by the participants attest this:

"I go for car breaking" [Mabulala]

"Most of the times we would break the car windows and steal whatever we may find inside the car and sell those stolen stuff." [Sabelo]

"Mugging those who own tuck shops on gun point like the foreign national". [Grey Hound]

"But we also mug South African shop owners if we desperately need money but you need to get a connection first before robbing them through gun point".[Nomela]

"Connection facilitates robbing the shop because we study how the security guard works, the daily routine when he works during working hours, during certain times he would sit in certain spot. I would then decide to break in when I am sure the security guard would not be around." [Twenty and Jumba agreed with him]

"When I need money, I don't care if you are a South African or not. I would wake up at around 4:h00 in the morning to target osdumbu (the people who are considered by criminals as weak with no criminal skills and experience, and are law-abiding citizens) and take whatever they could have. It's much easier when the target is a girl because I don't have to draw a knife or gun; I simply ask for that which belongs to me from her and disappear."[Grey Hound]

Blackburn, Fowler, and Pollock (2014: 302) cited Wooden and Ballan (1996) who mentioned that "Socialization begins with jail confinement, where prisoners move from the relative freedom of life on the streets to their first encounter with the correctional system. This important first step in the socialisation process was described as a school, with inmates and correctional officers serving as teachers.

The researcher also picked up two important lessons from the participants words in terms of their criminal methods they use for success in life. These two important "lessons" as the researcher sees it, are that, firstly, they implied that youth who were engaged in criminal activities did not target a particular group or race in order to achieve whatever material gain they wanted to achieve, and secondly, that if they found themselves in a situation of either material or economic need, they would use anything, without thorough planning of course, to grab forcefully whatever they thought would benefit them.

Such crime reality, as explained by the participants above was also mentioned by Bezuidenhout (2011:165) who argued that "The belief that certain ethnic groups are targeted more by criminals than other groups is rooted either in misinformation regarding criminal behaviour patterns or in a desperate attempt to make logical sense of crime. This is one of the side effects of high crime rates. There is a need to formulate theories and explanations for crime patterns and trends. This is done in an attempt to "make sense of crime" and to find a successful strategy or solution to high crime rates. Unfortunately this often results in inconclusive speculation and perceptions that are not based on facts. The fact remains that every person, at any social level, could become a victim of a crime."

"In essence are you telling me that most criminal acts are planned and you don't just go and commit without a plan?" [Researcher]

"We plan before committing except in cases where one is under influence of drugs or alcohol."[Grey Hound]

"Drugs gives us audacity in such a way that you tend to care less about your life…whether you could be shot at or die it doesn't matter."[Sabelo]

"We don't hustle only because we are under the influence. Most of the time I mug on my sober senses but when I start taking a rock (drug), everybody else becomes small like ants" (expressing cheerful face). [Govu]

"Our talents are disregarded in our community. For instance you may find that you are talented in playing soccer but the unfortunate part is that you don't get a support system that you deserve to take you to another level of your career". [Nomela]

"Social workers disregard us, they only care for those who have money and are respected by the community."[Twenty]

Although drugs may contribute to the commission of criminal acts, from the researcher's observations and the use of attentive listening, it was found that the motives for participants to engage in criminal activities were covered by the use of drugs. This means that the core motive that drives the commission of crimes could have been concealed by the participant's justifications for committing crimes under the influence of substances.

The mere fact that some participants would use drugs prior to the commission of crime implies that their motives for criminal activities preceded the use of drugs. In other words, they took drugs after they had already motivated themselves when they were still sober to commit crime and get what they wanted to get.

Regoli, Hewitt and Delisi (1996:124) mentioned Altschuler and Brounstein's study which reported that although drug use and drug trafficking were correlated with other delinquent activities, "still, for every type of crime reported in the past year, only a minority of offenders ever using drugs while committing the crime. Most youths appear to commit crime for reasons completely independent of drugs."

Regoli et al (1996:124) mentioned further that even though the most serious delinquents were found to be regular users of alcohol and drugs, the vast majority of their instances of drugs and alcohol use occurred without crime, and most crimes occurred without prior substance abuse.

However on the other hand, findings of different studies in South Africa have found that alcohol consumption and drug abuse contribute significantly to high crime rates in the country (Shaw & Louw, 1997; De Wet, 2003; Newham, 2005; Nleya & Thompson, 2009).

There were a lot of similarities in response to this study's research questions between the first ten participants and the second ten groups of participants. However, due to the fact that the interview dynamics could not be similar, each group expressed their own frame of reference with regards to understanding and their experiences of criminal engagements. The second group were not aware that the first group had already been interviewed, and they did not know each other and this could be due to the high population of youth incarcerated offenders in the Youth Correctional Centre.

5.3 PROFILE OF THE SECOND GROUP OF PARTICIPANTS

The profile of the second group of participants may be seen in Table 5.2

Table 5.2 Profile of the second group of participants

PARTICIPANT	AGE	GENDER	LANGUAGE	RACE	LOCATION	EDUCATIONAL LEVEL
Kevin	28	Male	Eng/Zulu	Coloured	Avoca Hill	Grade 11
Warren	24	Male	Eng/Zulu	Indian	Phoenix	Grade 12
Govender	27	Male	Eng/Zulu	Indian	Chatsworth	Grade 8
Sihle	27	Male	Zulu	African	Pietermaritzburg	Grade 12
I do	28	Male	Zulu	African	Uthongathi	Grade 9
Njabulo	29	Male	Zulu	African	Umlazi	Grade 12
Samkelo	25	Male	Zulu	African	Ezingolweni	Grade 8
Thobelani	24	Male	Zulu	African	Umlazi	Grade 9
Six	23	Male	Zulu	African	Inanda	Grade 9
Twenty eight	29	Male	Zulu	African	Ntuzuma	Grade 7

Note: None of these are their real names

The names reflected by the table above were not real. When the researcher informed the participants that they do not have to introduce themselves by using their real names, after the researcher had introduced himself, they said they would use pseudonyms. The researcher noticed that this group of youth offenders enjoyed

naming themselves like the first group of participants. Both groups wanted the researcher to call them by the names reflected above.

The second group of participants' ages ranged between 23 and 29 years old. They were slightly older than the first group and seemed to be more experienced in criminal activities than the first group of participants.

The majority of participants were blacks, with one coloured and two Indians. Both Indian participants and a coloured participant could understand and speak Zulu, even though not as fluently as the black participants. This study also noticed that, like the first participants, the majority of them did not finish high school and were from families that did not have both parents and others did not even knew their own parents.

The second group of participants also seemed to own the conversation in the interview and their research questions were presented slightly differently from the first participants although they still had similar elements. The following transpired during the interview:

"Where can the youth who use criminal methods be found to spend most of their time?" [Researcher]

"They can be found almost everywhere" [Samkelo]

"Every location has its criminals but it just that we do things differently."[Twenty eight]

"For me slum places are where things are happening. It is easy to escape the scene where mugging or theft took place in the mist of dense shacks". [Sihle]

During the interview, the participants seemed to concur with different studies who found that crime occurs in every society and that criminals can be found in almost every part of the community. The participants' words seemed to emphasise that

people should refrain from assuming crime to be only conducted by a particular group or race.

Bezuidenhout (2011:165) mentioned that the official SAPS statistics (Crime Analysis Centre (CIAC) Report, 2009) indicated that all communities in South Africa are affected by high crime rates. These deductions are based on police statistics, but are generally supported by other research into crime (Zinn, 2003; Du Plessis & Louw, 2005; Zinn, 2007; Gould, 2008; CSVR, 2008).

Although inadequate or poor parenting are linked in the literature to factors such as poverty, substance abuse, and minimum education, research suggest that a poor "fit" between a child and a significant adult can occur in any family , including those in which the adults are well educated, socially competent, and economically successful (Burns, Dunn, Brady, Starr, Blosser, & Garzon, 2013:14).

"How can you describe the concept of criminal behaviour, from your personal knowledge or frame of reference? Or "you can just freely tell me how young people hustle in order to succeed in their daily life?" [Researcher]

Participants gave their individuals accounts of the concept of criminal behaviour. Each one gave expression that fit with him as individual who come from different environment and gave impression of what he had learned. The following responses from the researcher's question were recorded:

"A person who hustle for most of his time." [Kevin]

"In many ways like stealing, and mugging people." [Govender]

"I rob those who go early to work. That is my best hustling (seeking) method I use when I desperately need money." [I do]

"You see the behaviour of hustling begins at home by stealing petty cash. It motivates me if no one complains about money that was lost and that is when I could see how careless they are about their possession. But still if they suspect me I would just deny the act." [Njabulo]

"I also deal with people who use public transport when they to go to work". [Sihle]

The experiences shared by the participants can be linked to the fifth principle of the theory Sutherland's differential association theory. According to the fifth principle of Sutherland (1937), Definitions favourable and unfavourable to violations of the law provide the key to differential association because they determine the values or mindset of the individual. We all are exposed to some mixture of definitions regardless of with whom we associate. Definitions favourable to violation of the law may be learned from law-abiding persons and, conversely, values supportive of legal codes may be acquired from convicted criminals (Brown, Esbensen & Geis, 2001:328).

"I may be wrong but it seems as if some of you do crime to get anything of monetary value." [Researcher]

"Exactly we are motivated to have money to be specific. We also need good things others have. It hurt to see a person of your age having fancy stuff that I cannot have or because my parents cannot afford."[Six]

"You see even if my mother can try to buy me fancy, expensive shoes like a carvella (shoe brand) I would still go and steal another one to have money."[Thobelani]

"How can one describe a person who can be regarded as behaving in deviant manner?" [Researcher]

"That is so easy because real criminals usually dress differently from the people who are not criminals and their language tend to deviate from a person's mother tongue."[Twenty eight]

"Yes criminals try to make sure that other people do not understand what they are talking about because they usually seek for people's possessions."[Warren]

"People are negligent of their possession sometimes and if I am accompanied by my friend who is also a criminal we can use any emerging chance through

communicating in a way that no one around would understand and people's possessions will definitely disappear with us (laughing)."[I do]

Theft; robbery; robbery with aggressive measured, love of material things, were mentioned by offenders. The use of drugs they called rock, tick, whoonga; button; was also mentioned and justified these from living under difficult situation; not afraid of being arrested and the need for material things outweigh the possibility of being arrested and/or risking ones' future.

Participants' views on how the environments influence a young person into criminal behaviour?"

The participants shared different views with the researcher on how they thought the environment influenced a young person, including them as youth, into criminal behaviour. During the interview, the impression that they expressed was that those who shared were telling their own experiences on how they got into criminal activities.

Beside the reality of being confined in the correctional facility (incarceration), the participants' viewpoints seemed to be benefiting some of them as they used the confinement opportunity as a learning moment for them to gravitate to other level criminal skills.

"Suppose a person is living in a rural area which does not cater for a young person's aspirations, that young person may resort to criminal behaviour to make a living by asking himself which criminal method I can try and hustle for material things that others have". [Njabulo]

"Other criminals who are older than us are successful and one would notice that they usually come back with good material things successfully and that inspires us."[Six]

"You see this place where we are (pointing to the prison with his hand)… it is not just a prison, it is a community which means we got any kind of people. People that you may trust when you see them outside the prison and yet they are the worst criminals". [Sihle]

"The home where one is raised could make a person become a criminal. You ask for a particular material thing that your peer from next door has and they will tell you we are not like them. So what if you want that one thing so badly?"[Six]

Hirschi (1969) examined "youths' attachment to parents and peers and engagement in juvenile delinquency. He discovered that strong attachment generally related to conformity while weak attachment related to delinquency. Although his theory was formulated with the intention of explaining juvenile delinquency, it has now been deemed suitable in explaining a wide range of behaviours since it is internally consistent, logically coherent, parsimonious, and non-tautological" (Akers, 1999). Other research has tested Akers's theoretical predictions on attachment and crime using different samples and relationships and produced similar findings (see, for example, Benda & Corwyn, 2002; Foshee, Bauman, & Fletcher Linder, 1999; Lackey & Williams, 1995).

"Can you be able to tell if a person is a youth offender or engage in any criminal acts by merely looking at him or her?" [Researcher]

"You can identify a criminal by looking at the people the person is associated with most of their time. A criminal would engage with people who are notorious in the community for instance."[Govender]

"My brother we got fathers with dignity inside here, who can manipulate you on the ATM machine in the manner that you won't even understand because they can approach you talking like an old person and not using prison language at all, yet robbing people on the ATM machine is their daily bread."[Njabulo]

Crime and fear of crime are rated by business owners as major challenges businesses face in South Africa (RSA, 2008). This view that South Africa is unsafe has an adverse impact on foreign investment in the country. Some foreign investors believe that South Africa is insecure environment to invest (Stone, 2006). On the flipside, crime costs the South African government a substantial amount annually

which is spent on administration of the criminal justice system and crime prevention programmes (Manaliyo 2014:596).

"Can anyone share your thought on how can we prevent choosing to engage into criminal activities in order to success in our lives" [Researcher]

The responses given by the participants seemed to imply that youth can do whatever they could in order to get what they desire. Listening to their words and how they expressed themselves, they had an underlying sense of entitlements about their aspirations as they also pointed out the gabs that needed to be filled.

"I think if people could be given equal chance to develop, not only us but our families as a whole. I am saying this because financial lack will always make one to resort to crime."[I do]

"I agree because financial problems could be the cause of not getting the support from our parents when we were still young and now look where we found ourselves into. Jail is not a nice place to be. We lost our girlfriends because we wanted to have things that our families couldn't afford to provide for us."

"If the government officials could work ethically and do what they are mandated to do, we would have gained assistance and proper guidance earlier before we even ended up in this situation. No one can endure starvation and crime helps me to own something but I know people in the communities would not understand that."

The global financial crisis notwithstanding, poverty, low levels of participation in local national decision-making process, poor infrastructure and conflicts had led thousands of young people to migrate from rural to urban areas. Many have crossed borders within Africa, and others have left the continent, in search of better educational opportunities and livelihoods. Dissatisfied youth are often more likely than older generations to challenge their situation actively and to become a socially destabilizing force, as evidenced by increasing demands for change on the continent (Vinzelts, 2018: 2).

"Can you do us a favour my brother. If I give you my cellphone number, would you be able to send us pornographic videos so that we can get to see the women's private part. It's been too long since I had a girl in my life."

"I thought the correctional facility does not allow using cellphone here." [Researcher]

"Yes it is not allowed but we do have one. Please my brother you will be helping us a lot."

"To be honest with you, I don't have those kinds of videos and my religion is against accessing such images. I can only wish for you the best and perhaps to be lucky enough for quick release so that you can see your significant people in your lives sooner. I cannot have enough words to thank you for sharing such information with me and I will acknowledge all of you for having to contribute in my career."[Researcher]

"I understand my brother I was just trying my luck but there is no problem if you can't. Please don't tell obaba (prison warden) what we asked for."

"No problem. As I told you everything we discussed stays with us and they don't ask me what we spoke about. Thanks again and I hope you can have the best in life." [Researcher]

Care should be taken to end the interaction between the interviewer and the respondents smoothly and in a friendly atmosphere, in a spirit of trust, cooperation and mutual respect, so that respondents feel that the contribution made to the research and to society in general has been appreciated (Sarantakos 2005:277).

5.4 Conclusion

This study analysis took into consideration the experiences of the participants they shared during these interviews, in conjunction with the literature as well as theory, in order to understand what could be taking place in their current lives. The effort was made not to manipulate the interviews to satisfy only the researcher's need for information. This was why at times the researcher had to enable the participants to

share without pointing to each participant to share so that they would talk freely, expressing facial expressions and gestures with each other and not only with the researcher.

The next chapter is the discussion of the findings as interpreted by the researcher. The discussion is designed to simplify what transpired during the interview as well as unfolding the underlying factors of the research participants' shared views and experiences.

Sarantakos (2005: 403) mentioned that "Findings are presented in a summary form so that a general impression of the trends is created. The presentation of the findings is followed by a discussion of the most important points. Such discussion takes place in a logical, theoretical, comparative and political context, and attempts to integrate the findings into theories, into the purpose of the study, and into the main hypothesis."

CHAPTER 6: DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

6.1 Introduction

The utterances in the previous chapter were recorded by the researcher as participants' expressions of their motives for engaging in criminal activities to achieve success in life. Babbie and Mouton (2001:565) advise researchers to "tell them what you're going to tell them; tell them; and tell them what you told them. The phrase "tell them what you told them" refers to the researchers' responsibility to integrate information in order to present a holistic report of the research.

This study therefore developed five themes summarising the participants' motives for engaging into criminal activities. The themes are regarded as central to the research questions and to exploring why some youth engage in criminal activities to achieve their goals in life.

This section describes various themes, sub-themes and categories as they emerged from the collected data. The findings were subdivided into following themes:

1) Participants' views on where youth who use criminal methods can be found.
2) Participants' views on common attitudes and behaviours of a younger persons who subsequently adopt criminal behaviours.
3) Participants' descriptions of their criminal behaviours in order to achieve success in life.
4) Participants' views on how the environment influences a young person into criminal behaviour.
5) Participants' views on how to identify a youth offender.
6) Participants' suggestions on how to prevent crime.

This study first made the following table to summarise the findings of this study, as well as the subsequent discussion unfolding the underlying factors analysed as observed by the researcher during the two interviews with the participants.

The themes, subthemes and categories outline both the explicit, common messages shared by the participants as well as the implicit messages that the research unfolded during a thorough consideration of the transcriptions.

6.1 The themes, sub-themes and categories are first summarised in Table 6.1 and then discussed.

Table 6.1 Themes, sub-themes and categories

THEME	SUB-THEMES	CATEGORIES
Theme 1: Participants' views on where youth who use criminal methods can be found.	• They can be found in dark, conducive places for mugging. • They can be found everywhere in sophisticated and slum places.	• No specific place should be regarded as criminal environment in KwaZulu-Natal, Durban surrounding but they should be expected everywhere. • Even trustworthy people are also potential offenders although this cannot be explicitly observed or identified.
Theme 2: Participants' views on common attitudes and behaviour of a younger person who subsequently adopt criminal behaviours.	• The use of criminal language invented in correctional facilities or peculiar communication for concealment of their criminal intentions when amongst members of the public.	• Association with peers having similar ambitions to conduct crime and targeting members of the public in order to illegally dispossess them of their belongings.
Theme 3: Participants' descriptions of their criminal behaviours in order to achieve success in life.	• Stealing • Mugging members of the public. • Breaking vehicles	• Illegal methods of appropriation of property from members of public in order to wrongfully

	windows and house breaking. • Use of drugs and weapons for Intimidation and assault.	achieve success in life.
Theme 4: Participants' views on how the environment influences a young person into criminal behaviour."	• Family or parental relationship breakdown. • Experienced criminals inspire and introduce youth to various crimes. • Material ambitions. • Lack of moral socialisation.	• Desperate need to own material things and money in order to be recognised and have prestige. • Desperate to reach to the level of experienced criminal and the belief that they would achieve success if they model the experienced criminals found in their environment.
Theme 5: Participants' views on how to identify a youth offender.	• Petty theft. • Peculiar language use which is difficult or cannot be understood by ordinary members of the community who have no experience in criminal activities.	• Criminals perceive themselves as living in their own world with its peculiar language and methods of acquisition of property opposite to the acceptable norms of the public.
Theme 6: Participants' suggestions on how to prevent crime.	• To have material things. • To gain status and recognition that others gained legally.. • Equal opportunities	• Wanting to gain public support and guidance in pursuing their talents as well as not being excluded from the mainstream

	and government officials' intervention.	of economy because of having criminal records.

6.2 Discussion of the research themes

Theme 1: Participants' views on where youth who use criminal methods can be found.

Participants shared different views on the usual settings where criminals like to spend their times targeting any potential victim. The purpose of discussing this theme was to understand which part of the Durban area is likely to be conducive to crime that would benefit perpetrators.

From this study's findings, participants gave the impression that members of the public should expect crime to take place anywhere, anytime even in the safety of their private properties. There is no place guaranteed to be a crime-free place. Both groups of participants attested to these as follows:

"Every location has its criminals but it is just that we do things differently."

"The way I see it, crime has different levels. There are people who live in sophisticated places and do sophisticated crimes. So criminals are everywhere my brother…"

Theme 2: Participants' views on common attitudes and behaviour of a younger person who subsequently adopts criminal behaviours.

This theme was meant to determine the motive that makes youth participate in conducting criminal activities after they have attempted to conduct crime for the first time. The researcher wanted to understand whether the participants applied a measure of conscience when they engaged in criminal activities which were against the law.

Participants seemed to agree with each other that crime happens everywhere. They could even express this through nodding their heads and gestures.

Theme 3: Participants' descriptions of their criminal behaviours in order to achieve success in life.

A lot of illegal criminal activities were mentioned by the participants. Amongst those mentioned were stealing, mugging members of the public, house-breaking, breaking vehicle windows and the use of drugs and weapons for intimidation, assault and murder.

In the second group of participants, three acknowledged that they had murdered their victims during house-breaking and another during mugging the victim. However in the first group they did not specify whether they murdered their victims or not, but only emphasised assaulting their victims. They shared their acts of assault remorsefully while justifying their acts of aggression during the assault by blaming it on the use of drugs and alcohol.

Theme 4: Participants' views on how the environment influences a young person into criminal behaviour.

When this theme was discussed, it became clear that the instigators were no stranger to the participants but were in the vicinity of their daily lives and they could be reached without difficulty. Their homes seemed to be the first place that facilitated the participants opting for criminal activities in order to achieve success in their lives.

For instance, certain participants had parents and relatives who were incarcerated like them. On the other hand, there were experienced offenders who were mentioned by the participants as inspiring them as the participants were willing to reach to their level of criminality. This was what they thought would be the best way to gain recognition and social status since the routine of pursuing school achievements had already been ruined by incarceration and a criminal record which seemed to deprive them of employment opportunities.

Other families seemed to have no choice but to support their youth who were engaged in criminal activities. Poverty could be blamed in this instance because, if the family could afford to buy material things for themselves, they would be likely to accept stolen goods from a young person who came and hid the items they could afford.

"You see house breaking has financially sustained me significantly until I got arrested. At home we have more than seven DVDs, each room has its own television set, in my own room I got all the appliances you may think of. At first they didn't support my criminal activities but today they realised the importance of my theft and they respect me for that."

South Africans live in a materialistic society where possessions and physical comfort are prized far above spiritual values. In a society where status comes from wealth and possessions, the very poor and marginalised are treated as a nuisance. Beggars and street children become the outcasts of society. Typically, those things that determine status and show a person's success are what you drives, what one buys, and where one lives. These materialistic yardsticks also apply to the poorest of the poor. Financial independence and the materialistic spirit of the South African society place a huge burden on everyone who is not in a position to compete on this level. One way of immediately improving one's position is to commit a crime and get an instance economic reward (Bezuidenhout, 2007:ii).

Theme 5: Participants' views on how to identify a youth offender.

From the participants' perceptions and knowledge of identifying a youth offender, breaking minor rules like stealing small items and making fun of it seemed to the behaviour that escalated gradually to the level of being a real criminal.

The participants seemed to imply that they had already made themselves outcasts who were excluded from general members of the community. This could be noticed from how they felt about government officials like the social workers whom they saw as not willing to intervene and unwilling to give them the attention they felt like they deserved in order to address their social challenges of being poor. They had an underlying sadness for being born into poor families and having parents who were separated from each other.

Theme 6: Participants' suggestions on how to prevent crime.

Participants sounded eager to have material things as their perceived solution and they considered this to be the most important thing amongst all those that were

mentioned. Equal opportunities and government officials' interventions as well as gaining social status sounded to be very important to them as well:

"If the government officials could work ethically and do what they are mandated to do, we would have gained assistance and proper guidance earlier before we even ended up in this situation…"

The mere fact that one participant had a desire for government officials to intervene in their difficult situations implies that they had lost faith in their own families, and that the families were broken in such a way that they was no hope for future family cohesion. The parents who were remote from their children could have encouraged them into criminal activities.

The absence of the parental figures in their daily lives created a situation that made the participants feel alienated from a sense of belonging to their families, unlike other youth who lived in healthy family cohesion and had both parents living together.

This study also found that participants had developed anger and envy against those living cohesive families in such a way that they saw those living in healthy families as targets to be mugged of their belongings.

In *Causes of Delinquency*, Hirschi (1969) predicted that attachment, defined as strong bonds of affection for conventional persons, would make one less likely to engage in a criminal act while weak or non-existing attachment would allow one to become involved in crime. In this study, parental and peer attachment were investigated, among other variables. Parental attachment was deemed to be most important for the emotional bond between parent and child, and was considered to help the child internalise norms. It comprised of close supervision and proper discipline, intimacy of communication, and affectional identification in the form of respect and trust. Peer attachment was also examined and involved affectional identification for conventional best friends. The results of Hirschi's (1969) study indicated that strong attachment served as a deterrent to committing crime.

There seemed to be a gap needing to be filled from the participants' perspective. There was underlying cry for help from either parents or elders or anyone in their respective communities who could inspire them to make informed decisions.

However, as young people, they seemed to lack the "know how" element in terms of getting guidance for their future and well-being.

What transpired during the interviews would require urgent intervention from various sectors of professionals who would take the initiative of addressing the problems as shared by the participants. The researcher therefore made his own recommendations and conclusions based on the research analysis made in this research project.

CHAPTER 7: RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Recommendations

Given the fact that it became clear that the participants were youth who felt deprived of the opportunity to be well nurtured by their parents or guardians as they felt they deserved, this study recommends that the youth phase of development requires multidisciplinary interventions in order to prevent youth crime. The intervention should be intensified more in poor communities where families have a lower income.

The family seem to be central in shaping the participants' career paths, and the fact that some of them had been raised in broken families implies that professionals like social workers or family counsellors should work closely with the families in need of their intervention.

It would not make things better if a youth would only consult a social worker or a psychologist when incarcerated while the family problems that such a youth experienced were not addressed. Judges, magistrates, police, prison wardens should not be seen as adequately capacitated to handle the problems of youth crime, nor are they able to prevent crime except when executing their respective duties of applying the law after a youth has been found to have committed criminal offences.

It seems as though youth who participated in this study cannot necessarily be compared with the youth of other South African communities where certain blacks, Indians and coloured communities are still living in lesser developed areas. This is not to say all white communities are living affluently, but the perception is only based on the acquired data from those who participated in this study.

This study is of the opinion that the age of 35 years which is the maximum age limit to define youth is too higher compare to other countries. This is however, understandable since it could have been established to include those youth who could not find time to make their life better after having been engaged in civic violence of the past, oppression and segregation policies.

One of the findings made by this study was that the participants were between the ages of 20 and 29 years old. These participants should have achieved better in terms of their respective career developments, but due to various challenges from their families, like poverty and poor socialisation derailing them from socially acceptable behaviours to becoming offenders, they ended up developing into criminals.

The generalisation is therefore that the participants were representatives of their respective communities and this study's research sample lived in more or less similar conditions. The researcher observed that in this Youth Correctional Centre (YCC) there was high concentration of black youth, and few Indians and coloured youth. This implied that the environment was a contributing factor in shaping these youth into criminality. When they are realised they would go back to the same environments that did not cater for good moral behaviour. Therefore, initiatives for developing the environment, especially within the context of the families where these youth are being raised are imperative.

One may argue that the high number of black youth in the YCC was proportionally correct because the SA demographic can confirm that black community is the majority, but still, initiatives to get closer to the grassroot level should be implemented. The study believes that the vantage point of understanding the people who are affected by social ills is by observing it from their frame of reference. This is why the qualitative approach was used to engage with the participants who were engaged in crime.

Social ecologists take the view that places shape people rather than people shaping places, and that bad places, not bad people, create crime. The quality of social relations, social networks and social institutions that make up communities can either produce crime-free or crime-prone communities. Integrated communities that are stable over time, with a balanced population of skilled and educated residents, affordable and well-maintained housing, with established well-functioning school systems, accessible healthcare, and having major employers offering moderate to well-paying employment opportunities tend towards lower crime rates (Henry & Lukas, 2009: xxvi).

On the other hand, Henry and Lukas (2009: xxvi) is of the opinion that "in contract, fragmented communities, divided by racial and ethnic division, poverty and social disorganization, with transient, high density population, living in poor and inadequately maintained housing stock, having low level of housing capital, poor performing schools, low to minimum wage jobs and high unemployment are likely to experience high crime rates.

The recommendation made by this study is that there is an urgent call for multidisciplinary interventions to converge and apply their professional skills to the youths who are subjected to disorganised environments and susceptible to criminal engagements. A literal closure to the youths, especially those who feels alienated because of being involuntary subjected to poor environments, should be made by human services professionals like the social workers, psychologists including law enforcement of the criminal justice system like the police and the courts.

7.2 Conclusion

Theories of criminology help researchers to understand the possible events of crime in the societies prior to conducting and during the conduction of empirical studies. The high crime rate that SA is experiencing requires constant investigation and researchers who are willing to get closer to people affected by social problems like crime.

For instance Merton's theory of anomies helps the researchers to understand the frustrations and strains that the youth could be going through when the legitimate opportunities to pursue their desires and talents seem to be inhibited from them.

Qualitative research seems to be able to observe and understand social events from the frame of reference of the people affected by the problematic situation. This works effectively if rapport is created with the participants and there is a level of trust between the researcher and research participants.

The study managed to achieve the objectives of the study and its goal, in spite of the limitations identified. Family became a focus of the study after the participants emphasised numerous shortcomings from their families. The study thought the

family issues need to be addressed because the community is made up of families. The family could also be conducive ground that can produce youth criminals, especially the broken families. This study found family to be central in shaping the participants' behaviours and family concerns would often emerge during the group discussion with the participants. Similar findings were made by Obioha (2014:2322) when he mentioned that "social (family) backgrounds play a crucial part in the development of a young person into adulthood and when the young person's upbringing is lacking, it may lead to multiple of bad activities being perpetrated by youth".

A very common claim about juvenile delinquency is that it is the result of a broken home. The departure of a parent, typically the father, is assumed to disrupt the life of the child and hamper the effective socialisation and supervision of children (Jensen & Rojek, 1998:254).

The study used the correctional facility to get information about this study's research topic. The researcher was convinced the participants would not be afraid to share their criminal engagements if they were already convicted for their criminal conducts, compared to investigating participants who were not convicted or were still attending court proceedings for their criminal conduct. The latter were likely to conceal their criminal engagements and the level of trust between the participants who were not convicted and the researcher would have been very low.

The researcher braced himself to use not only the listening skills but made sure he observed their facial expressions in relation to the words uttered in order to gain the authentic feelings and reactions to what could be the reasons for engaging in criminal activities.

The narratives of the participants were recorded and the decision was made by the researcher that all the narratives should be outlined and divided in the table that summarised the findings in a way of the themes, sub-themes and categories. It was important to unfold the themes that emerged during the interviews from two groups of participants. After all themes were listed, the sub-themes emerged which informed the important elements from the themes. Subsequently, the categories listed in the

table 6.1 in chapter 6 served as ultimate findings which this study believes the findings under categories were underlying factors that were not known prior to the conduction of the interviews.

Morse (2008:727) define theme as a meaningful "essence" that runs through the data. It is the basic topic that the narrative is about, overall. A category, on the other hand, is a collection of similar data sorted into the same place, and this arrangement enables the researchers to identify and describe the characteristics of the category.

The study believes there need to be multidisciplinary interventions in addressing the problem of youth crime. Putting the youth behind bars who were found against the law should not be the only means to address youth crime. There should be programs dealing specifically with the parents and guardians of the youth. Through addressing problems associated with broken and dysfunctional families, youth crime can be mitigated.

The study concludes that, there need to be multidisciplinary interventions in addressing the problem of youth crime. Putting the youth behind bars who were found against the law should not be the only means to address youth crime. There should be programs dealing specifically with the parents and guardians of the youth. Through addressing problems associated with broken and dysfunctional families, youth crime can be mitigated.

The study findings was important in a sense of revealing the crucial institution that have the potential to positively shape young persons' future, which is, the family structure. Prior to data collection from the participants, the researcher suspended all preconceptions about youth offenders in order to gain new information and the motives that shaped the participants to engage in criminal activities. During the data collection process, family as a potential breeding ground for offenders was revealed, compared and confirmed with previous studies that it should be the focus for understanding why some youth engage in criminal activities to achieve their goals in life.

The value of applying a qualitative approach to understand youth criminal engagements was proven to provide with sufficient information due to its ability to access a first-hand experience with participants appropriate for the study's research topic.

Local experience, what is felt and seen and understood of the way other people in the immediate environment do things, shapes one's own view of what is "normal", "routine" and "everyday". This then provides the framework for the development of self-identity and understanding of what is required to "connect" or "fit" or "achieve" in the "normal" environment. It is in this way that a "culture" develops and is replicated. In social development theory: "… when the processes of socialisation integrate opportunities for interactions with others with the necessary involvement, participatory skills and reinforcement, a social bond develops. … The creation of social bonds is set within a context whereby structural influences and individual characteristics make available differing opportunities both pro- and antisocial for young people" (Pelser, 2008:7).

References

Babbie, E. and Mouton, J. (2001). The Practice of Social Research. South Africa Oxford University Press, Cape Town.

Barkan, SE & Bryjak, GJ. (2004). *Fundamentals of criminal justice.* Boston: Pearson.

Bender, DL, Leone, B., Szumki, B, Wekesser, C, Biskup, MD, & Cozic, C. (1992). *Youth Violence*: Current Controversies.

Bello, M. (2017). International Journal of Scientific Research in Humanities, Legal Studies & International Relations. Vol. 2, No. 1

Bernstein A. (2012). *Centre for Development and Enterprise:* Coping with Unemployment.

Bezuidenhout, C. (2011). A South African Perspective on Fundamental Criminology. Pearson Education South Africa (PTY) LTD. Philippa van Aardt.

Blanchflower, DG & Freeman, RB (2000). *National Bureau of Economic Research. Disadvantaged Youth Men and Crime.* University of Chicago Press.

Booyens, K. (2011). The South African criminal justice system. In: C Bezuidenhout (Ed.): *A Southern African Perspective on Fundamental Criminology.* Cape Town: Pearson, pp. 57-90.

Brown, S.E., Esbensen, FA., & Geis, G. (2001). Criminology: Explaining Crime and Its Context. Fourth Edition. Anderson Publishing Co.

Burger, J. (2007). *Strategic Perspectives on Crime and Policing in South Africa.* Pretoria: Van Schaik.

Burger, J. (2007). South Africa in 2020: an internal crisis, in L. Le Roux (Ed.), *South African Army Vision 2020: Security Challenges Shaping the Future South African Army.* Pretoria: Institute for Security Studies (ISS).

Burns, C.E., Dunn, A.M., Brady, M.A., Starr, N.B., & Garzon, D.L. (2013). Pediatric Primary Care. Firth Edition. Elsevier Saunders.

Burton, P. (2007). Introduction. In P. Burton (Ed.), Someone stole my smile: An exploration into the causes of youth violence in South Africa (pp. 1–18). Cape Town: Center for Justice and Crime Prevention.

Burton P. Leoschut L., & Bonora, A. (2009). Walking the Tightrope: Youth Resilience to Crime in South Africa. Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention, *Monograph Series*, No 7, Cape Town.

Caneppele, S. & Calderoni, F. (2014). Organise Crime, Corruption and Crime Prevention: Essay in Honor of Ernetto U. Savana. Springer International Publication Switzerland.

Cheteni, P., Khamfula, Y., & Mah, G. (2018). Drug-Related Crime and Poverty in South Africa. Cogent Economics & Finance. North West University, South Africa.

Consortium Injobo ne Bandla, CSIR, IPT and IDASA: Kwamashu and Inanda Crime Prevention Programme. Report of first Phase.

Creswell, JW. 1994. *Research design: qualitative and quantitative approaches.* Thousand Oaks, Calif: Sage.

Cunliffe-Jones, P. (2013). A guide to crime statistics in South Africa: what you need to know. Africa Check. [Online] available:http://www.africacheck.org/reports/factsheet-crime-statistics-in-south-africa/ (October 31, 2013).

Dantzer, ML. & RD Hunter (2012). *Research Methods for Criminology and Criminal Justice.* Third edition. Jones & Bartlett learning Publishers.

Davis, M.B. (2007). *Doing a successful research project: using qualitative or quantitative methods.* New York: Palgrave MacMillan.

Demombynes, G., & Özler, B. (2005). Crime and local inequality in South Africa. *Journal of Development Economics*, 76(2), 265-292.

De Lannoy, A., Swartz, S., Lake, L., & Smith, C. (2015). SOUTH AFRICAN Child Gauge. Children's institute. Child Rights in Focus: university of Cape Town.

Department of Correctional Services South Africa. (2010). Statistics on incarceration levels in South Africa as on the last day of May 2010. Retrieved August 15, 2010, from http:// www.dcs.gov.za/AboutUs/StatisticalInformation.aspx

De Villiers, P., & Nel, S. (2009). The opportunity cost of the upkeep of the criminal justice system in South Africa from 1980 to 2006. *South African Journal of Economic and Management Sciences*, 13(4), 407-423.

De Wet, C. (2003). Eastern Cape educators' perceptions of the causes and the scope of school violence. *Acta Criminologica*, 16(3), 89-106.

Farrington, D.P., Ttofi, M.M., & Losel, F. (2016). Develomental and social prevention. In D. Weisburd, D.P. Farrington, & C. Gill (Eds.), What works in crime prevention and rehabilitation: Lessons from systematic reviews (pp. 15-75). New York: Springer.

Flick, U. (2006). An *introduction to qualitative research*. Third edition. Sage Publication LTD.

Frank, C. (2006). Abuse of a different kind – adults using children to commit crime. *South African Crime Quarterly*, 16, 13-18.

Green, J. & Thorogood, N. (2009). *Qualitative methods for health research.* 2nd edition. London: Sage.

Goodale, JG. 1982. The fine art of interviewing. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall.

Hennik, M. Hutter I, & Bailey A. (2011). Qualitative Research methods: Qualitative research humanizes science. Sage Publication.

Henry, S. & Lukas, A. (2009). Recent Development in Criminological Theory. Towards Disciplinary Diversity and Theoretical Integration. International library of Criminology, Criminal justice and Penology. Second Series. ROUTLEGE – Taylor & Fransis.

Hill, B. & Paynich R (2014). Fundamental of Crime Mapping. Second Edition. Jones & Bartlett Learning.

Huysamen, GK. (1994). Metodologie vir die sosiale en gedragsweten-skappe. Halfweghuis: Southern.

Institute of Security Studies (2012). Facts sheet: explaining official crime statistics for 2012/2013. [Online] available: http://www.issafrica.org/crimehub/uploads/Explaining-the-official-crime-statistics-for-2012-13-factsheet.pdf. (June 23, 2013).

Jantjies, J. & Popovac, M. (2011). Gender dynamics and girls' perceptions of crime and violence: *Centre For Justice and Crime Prevention*. CJCP Issue Paper No. 11.

Jeffery, C.R. Criminal Behavior and Learning Theory, 56 J.Crim. L. Criminology & Police Sci.294 (1965) 2008. Outsider**s:** *Studying in the Sociology of Deviance*: *FP* THE FREE PRESS.

Jensen G. F, & Rojel, DG. Delinquency Youth Crime. (1998) Third Edition. Waveland Press, Inc.

Kabat-Zinn, J. (2003). Mindfulness: The heart of rehabilitation. In Leskowitz, E.(Ed.), Complementary and Alternative Medicine in Rehabilitation (pp.xi-xv). Saint Louis: Churchill Livingstone.

Khan, S. and Singh, B**.** (2014) Youth in Conflict with the Law - A Study on the Psycho-socio and Criminogenic Factors of South African Youth in Detention in Durban *University of Kwazulu-Natal, Howard Campus, Durban, South Africa.*

Konch, K. & Borbora, J. (2013). In Involvement of Youth Attitudes in Crime: A Study Conducted in Four Jails of Upper Assam, India. *American International Journal of Research in Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences*.

Landau, LB. (2005). Urbanisation, nativism and the rule of law in South Africa's "forbidden" cities. *Third world quarterly*, 26(7): 1115 – 1134.

Leedy, PD. (1997). *Practical research: planning and design.* Columbus, Ohio: Merril.

Lilly JR, Cullen FT & Ball RA. (2011). *Criminological Theory: Context and Consequences.* 5th edition. Sage Publication Inc.

Mason, M. (2010). Sample size and saturation in PhD studies using qualitative interviews. *Forum Qualitative Social Research, Sozial Forschung,* 11 (3). ISSN 1438-5627. Available from: http://www.qualitativeresearch.net/index.php/fqs/article/view/1428/3027

Manaliyo, J. C. (2014). Townships as Crime 'Hot-Spot' Areas in Cape Town: Perceived Root Causes of Crime in Site B, Khayelitsha township. *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences,* 4(3), 569.vol. 5.8.

Mathoho M, Ranchod K 2006. Identity crisis? Youth, Social and Political Identity in South Africa. *Policy: Issues and Actors,* 19: 4. Johannesburg: Centre for Policy Studies.

Mattes R, Seekings J, & White H. (2012). *Coping with Unemployment.* Centre For Development and Enterprise.JHB.

McCarthy, P., Schiraldi, V., & Shark, M. (2016). The Future of Youth Justice: A Community-Based Alternative to the Youth Prison Model. National Institute of Justice. Harvad Kennedy School.

Moffitt, T. E., & Caspi, A. (2001). Childhood predictors differentiate life-course-persistent and adolescence-limited antisocial pathways among males and females. Development and Psychopathology, 13(2), 355–375.

Moffitt, T. E., Caspi, A., Rutter, M., & Silva, P. A. (2001). Sex differences in antisocial behaviour: Conduct disorder, delinquency, and violence in the Dunedin Longitudinal Study. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Morrison, J. (1995). The first interview: revised for DSM-IV. New York: Guidford Press.

Morse, J.M., (2008). Qualitative Health Research. Vol. 18 No. 6. Sage Publications. 727-728.

Mosavel, M., Ahmed, R., Port, K.A., & Simon, C. (2015). South African, Urban Youth Narratives: Resilience Within Community. Int J Adolesc Youth. 2015 June 1; 20(2): 245 – 255. Doi:10.1080/02673843.2013.785439.

National Offender Population Profile in the Department of Correctional Services: Using statistical data up to 20 June 2009. DIRECTORATE RISK PROFILE MANAGEMENT.

Ngabonziza O, Singh S (2012). Offender reintegration programme and its role in reducing recidivism: Exploring perceptions of the effectiveness of tough enough programmes. *Acta Criminologica,* Special Edition, 2: 87-102. NICRO. 2014.

Nirmala, G.K., (2009). Criminology Teaching Material. *Justice and Legal System Research Institute.*

Obioha, E. E., (2014). Crime and Youth unemployment in the Cato Manor Policing Area of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa. *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences.* DOI: 10.5901/mjss.2014.v5n23p2318

Patterson, EB. (1991). Poverty, income inequality, and community crime rates. *Criminology* 29(4).

Pelser, E. (2008). Learning to be lost: youth clime in South Africa. Discussion Paper for the HSCD Youth Policy Initiative, Reserve Bank, Pretoria. May 13, 2008.

Regoli RM, Hewitt JD, & Delisi M. (1996). *Delinquency in Society: Youth Crime in the 21st Century*. Seventh edition. Published by McGraw-Hill Companies.

Republic of South Africa (2008). The impact of crime on small businesses in South Africa. [Online] available: http://www.info.gov.za/view.

Sarantakos, S. (2005). Social Research. Third Edition. PALGRAVE MACMILLAN.

Shenton K. (2004). Strategies for ensuring trustworthiness in qualitative research projects: *Division of Information and Communication Studies, School of Informatics, Lipman Building, Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne, NEI 8ST,UK.*

Siegel LJ, (2011). Criminology: The Core. International Edition. Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

Sherman, LW (1998) Evidence-based Policing. *Ideas in American Policing*. Washington: Police Foundation.

Sherman LW, Gottfredson D, MacKenzie D, Eck J, Reuter P, & Bushway S, (1998) *Preventing Crime: What Works, What Doesn't, What's Promising*. Washington, D.C.: Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice.

Siegel L.J.2012. Criminology: International Edition. 11[th]edition. Wadsworth. Cengage learning.

Smith, C. 2006. Mbeki se kloof tussen ryk en arm al dieper. Ongelykheid veroorsaak globale krisis. *Beeld*, 20 September.

South African Police Services: An analysis of the national crime statistics: Addendum to the annual report 2013/14. RP number: RP283/2014.

South African Police Services. (2016). *Crime Statistics*. Pretoria: Government Printer.

Stone, C. (2006). Crime, justice, and growth in South Africa: toward a plausive contribution from criminal justice to economic growth. CID Working Paper No. 131, August2006. [Online] available: http://www.hks.harvard.edu/var/ezp_site/storage/fckeditor/file/pdfs.

Statistics South Africa. Mid-year population estimates: South Africa 2006. www.statssa.gov.za, accessed on 2017-02-17.

Struwing FW, & Stead GB. (2001). Planning, Designing and Reporting Research. 6th edition. Pearson Education South Africa.

Sykes, G.M. & D. Matza (1957). "Techniques of Neutralization: A Theory of Delinquency." *American Sociological Review*, 22:664-670.

Township Renewal. Kwamashu case study: *Department of National Treasury and Department of Provincial Local Government*. South African Cities Network.

Ungar, M. (2008). Resilience across cultures. British Journal of Social Work, 38, 218_235. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/ bjsw/bcl343

Ungar, M. (2011). The social ecology of resilience: Addressing contextual and cultural ambiguity of a nascent construct. American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, 81(1), 1_17. doi: http:// dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1939-0025.2010.01067.x

UNITED NATIONS: Office on Drugs and Crime, Crime and Development in Africa, 2005).

Vinzelts, J. (2018). Problems and Challenges facing youth in today's economy. Vol. 1. United Nations Document.

Voss, H.L., & David M. Petersen (eds.) (1971). *Ecology, Crime and Delinquency*. New York, NY: Appleton-Century-Crofts.

Ward, CL., van der Merwe, A., & Dawes, A. 2012). Youth Violence: Sources and Solutions in South Africa. Juta & Company LTD. UCT Press.

Ward, CL, Van der Merwe, A, & Dawes, A. (2012). Youth Violence: Sources and Solutions in South Africa. UCT Press.

APPENDIX A: ETHICAL CLEARANCE

UNIVERSITY OF
KWAZULU-NATAL ™

INYUVESI
YAKWAZULU-NATALI

29 April 2019

Mr Sibonelo Magwaza (216068499)
School of Applied Human Sciences – Criminology & Forensic Studies
Howard College Campus

Dear Mr Magwaza,

Protocol reference number: HSS/0752/018M
Project title: Exploring why some youth engage in criminal activities to achieve their goals in life

Approval Notification – Full Committee Reviewed Protocol

With regards to your response received on 19 March 2019 to our letter of 15 October 2018, the Humanities & Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee has considered the abovementioned application and the protocol has been granted FULL APPROVAL.

Any alteration/s to the approved research protocol i.e. Questionnaire/Interview Schedule, Informed Consent Form, Title of the Project, Location of the Study, Research Approach and Methods must be reviewed and approved through the amendment/modification prior to its implementation. In case you have further queries, please quote the above reference number. PLEASE NOTE: Research data should be securely stored in the discipline/department for a period of 5 years.

The ethical clearance certificate is only valid for a period of 1 year from the date of issue. Thereafter Recertification must be applied for on an annual basis.

I take this opportunity of wishing you everything of the best with your study.

Yours faithfully

....
Dr Rosemary Sibanda (Chair)

/ms

Cc Superivsor: Professor Nirmala Gopal
Cc Academic Leader Research: Dr Maud Mthembu
Cc School Administrator: Ms Ayanda Ntuli

1910 - 2010
100 YEARS OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
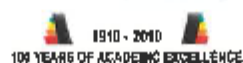
Founding Campuses: ■ Edgewood ■ Howard College ■ Medical School ■ Pietermaritzburg ■ Westville

APPENDIX B: CORRECTIONAL SERVICES APPROVAL

correctional services

Department:
Correctional Services
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X136, PRETORIA, 0001 Poynton's Building, C/O WF Nkomo and Sophie De Bruyn Street, PRETORIA
Tel (012) 307 2770

Mr SH Magwaza
G217 Mbuso Road
Ntuzuma
4359

Dear Mr Magwaza

RE: APPLICATION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES ON: "EXPLORING WHY SOME YOUTH OFFENDERS ENGAGE IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES TO ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS IN LIFE: A STUDY OF INCARCERATED MALE OFFENDERS IN THE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, WESTIVILLE PRISON"

It is with pleasure to inform you that your request to conduct research in the Department of Correctional Services on the above topic has been approved.

Your attention is drawn to the following:

- This ethics approval is valid from **13 March 2019 to 12 March 2022**.
- The relevant Regional and Area Commissioners where the research will be conducted will be informed of your proposed research project.
  Your internal guide will be **Ms N Dlamini: Area Coordinator Corrections, Durban Westville**
- You are requested to contact her at telephone number (031) 204 8947 before the commencement of your research.
- It is your responsibility to make arrangements for your interviewing times.
- Your identity document/passport and this approval letter should be in your possession when visiting the correctional centres.
- You are required to use the terminology used in the White Paper on Corrections in South Africa (February 2005) e.g. "Offenders" not "Prisoners" and "Correctional Centres" not "Prisons".
- You are not allowed to use photographic or video equipment during your visits, however the audio recorder is allowed.
- You are required to submit your final report to the Department for approval by the Commissioner of Correctional Services before publication (including presentation at workshops, conferences, seminars, etc) of the report.
- Should you have any enquiries regarding this process, please contact the DCS REC Administration for assistance at telephone number (012) 307 2770.

Thank you for your application and interest to conduct research in the Department of Correctional Services.

Yours faithfully

ND SIHLEZANA
DC: POLICY COORDINATION & RESEARCH
DATE: 15 03 2019

APPENDIX C: INFORMED CONSENT

LETTER REQUESTING PARTICIPANT'S PARTICIPATION IN THE RESEARCH PROJECT

Department Humanities in the Discipline of Criminology

University of KwaZulu-Natal (Howard College)

Dear research participant

Research project on **"exploring why some youth engage in criminal activities to achieve their goals*:" A study of incarcerated youth offenders in correctional facility (Westville).***

My name is Sibonelo Magwaza, and I am a Masters student at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Howard College. As part of my studies I have to undertake a research project and for this reason I have decided to do a research on why some offenders are engaged in criminal activities to achieve their goals in life.

The reason for undertaking this research project is because so little is known about this topic. Since you have personal experiences about this subject, I regard you as an expert who can provide me with valuable information about it.

- I would like to explain to you what your participation in this project will involve (if you agree to participate).This interview will not take longer than 90 minutes. If necessary, arrangements will be made with you for follow- up interviews. During the interview you will be asked the following questions: Who are those people (individual, group of people or community) who can be categorised as using criminal acts to achieve their goals in life?
- Where can the youth who uses criminal methods be found spend most of their time?
- How can the participants explain the concept of criminal behaviour, from their individual personal knowledge or frame of reference?

- How can one describe a person who can be regarded as behaving unconventionally or deviant? (contextual definition of criminal behaviour from respective research participants)?

- How does a younger person become involved in unconventional methods or criminal activities in order to achieve their goals in life?

- What is a typical criminal person and what make them different from the rest of persons who are of same age as theirs?

- Can you be able to tell if a person is a youth offender or engage in any criminal acts by merely looking at him/her?

- What are the common attitudes and behaviours of younger persons who subsequently adopt criminal attitudes and behaviours and become juvenile delinquents or youth offender?

- Who or what are common instigators regarding influencing the younger person in criminal behaviours that could be found in your respective environments?

- What other contributing factors facilitating the attitudes of engaging in criminal behaviours?

The Biographic questions to be answered (if willing to do so/ optional)

1. How old are you?
2. What is your main language?
3. How long have you been involved in criminal activities?
4. Have you ever been or do you know anyone who has been the victim crime? If YES, do you mind sharing to what extent they could have incurred criminal victimisation?
5. What is your marital status?
6. What is your level of education?

Since I would like to give you my full attention during the interview(s), and since I might forget some of the valuable information that you shared with me, I would like (with your permission) to record the interview(s) using my device (like cell phone and taking note on my notes books). After the interview, this audio- recording will be written out word to word. When the interview is written out, all the information that

might identify you personally will be removed so that no one will be able to link you to any of the information that you have shared during the interview(s). The audio-recording will then be erased. Some of the information that you have shared will be documented in a research report and nowhere will your name or any personal information be shared. This will make it impossible for anybody to identify you.

Please note that participation in the research is completely voluntary (you are free to participate or not participate). You are not forced in any way to take part in this research. Your decision to participate or not to participate, will not affect you in any way now or in the future.

If you agree to take part, you still have the right to change your mind at any time during the study and to withdraw from the study.

If I see that the information that you have shared has left you feeling emotionally upset, or anxious, I am required to refer you to a counsellor for debriefing or counselling (if you agree).

You have the right to ask questions about the study at any time. If you have any questions or concerns about the study, please contact the researcher's University supervisor at the following numbers:

Associate Prof. Nirmala Gopal

Acting Dean and Head of School: Applied Human Sciences

University of KwaZulu-Natal

Phone: (031) 206-2006

Email: Gopal@ukzn.ac.za

If you agree to participate in this study I would like you to sign the consent form that follows.

Yours sincerely

Mr. Sibonelo Magwaza   Date:

Researcher .

INFORMED CONSENT FORM

I, --- agree of my free will to participate in this research topic, which focuses on exploring why some youth engage in criminal activities to achieve success in life. I understand that the information that I will share will be used for research purpose only and that nowhere will my identity be made known in any research report or publication. I am also aware of the fact that I can withdraw at any time during the study without incurring any penalty.

Signature of the research participant

TRANSLATED CONSENT FORM (Zulu language)

Date: 02 March 2019

IFOMU LESIVUMELWANO LOKUBA INXENYE YOCWANINGO NGOBUGEBENGU

Mina…………………………….., ngiyavuma ekubeni yinxenye mayelane nemibuzo ehambisana nesihloko socwaningo esizobe imayelana nobugebengu obenziwa ulusha ngoba lufuna ukuphumelela empilweni yalo. Ngiyaqonda ukuthi ulwazwi engizokhuluma ngalo luzobe luzetshenziselwa izinhloso zocwaningo kuphela nokuthi angeke lidalulwe igama lami kulolucwaningo noma ikuphi nje esidlangalaleni noma emphakathini. Ngiyazi futhi angiphoqiwe ukuba inxenye kulolucwaningo futhi ngingahoxa noma inini ekubeni inxenye yaloliucwaningo bengizizwa ngingasathandi ngaphandle kokujeziswa kokuhoxa kwami.

_____

Ukusayina kozoba yinxenye yocwaningo