

Citation: Mulinge, S. M & Muhindi, S. (2023). Effects of Social Structure on Youth Criminal behaviour in Kasarani Sub- County, Nairobi City County, Kenya. *Journal of African Interdisciplinary Studies*, 7(6), 162 – 180.

Effects of Social Structure on Youth Criminal Behaviour in Kasarani Sub- County, Nairobi City County, Kenya

By

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Abstract

Globally, youth involvement in crime has been on an upward trajectory in recent times. The United Nations Development Programme indicates that violent youth crime increased significantly by 39.53 percent in Sub-Saharan Africa for the period between 2003 and 2015. In the Kenyan perspective, youth involvement in crime is also said to be growing. The National Police Service in their annual report highlights a 13 %, 1.3% and 6% increase in crime in 2018, 2017 and 2016 respectively. The current study investigated the effect of social structure on criminal behavior among the youth in Kasarani Subcounty, Nairobi County, Kenya. Specifically, the study considered the effect of social economic status, family formations, cultural diversity and social support systems on youth involvement in crime in Kasarani Subcounty, Nairobi County, Kenya. The study was guided by the following objectives; To determine the effect of cultural diversity factors on youth involvement in Kasarani Subcounty, Nairobi County, Kenya. To assess the effect of social support systems on youth involvement in crime in Kasarani Subcounty, Nairobi County, Kenya. The key theories that guided the study include the strain theory, cultural deviance theory/ culture conflict theory and social disorganization theory. The study covered a three-year span between 2019 and 2021. Data was collected from both primary sources and secondary sources. Primary data was collected through semi-structured questionnaires which was administered to various respondents who include leaders of Nyumba Kumi, chiefs and assistant chiefs, youth leaders and the local police leadership. Secondary data was collected from the publications by authorities such as the National Police Service and the National Crime Research Centre. Quantitative data analysis was done through descriptive analysis and inferential analysis while qualitative data was analyzed through content analysis. The descriptive statistics include means and standard deviations. The findings suggest that while education and skill development are highly valued in the community, these factors may not be perceived as having a significant impact on youth crime.

Key words: Kenya, Social Structure, Youth Criminal Behaviour, Nairobi City County, Kasarani Sub-County

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Background to the Study

From a global perspective, youth involvement in crime has been a key discussion as the world continues to grapple with emerging 21st century challenges, key among them unemployment (Abdul Mutalib et al., 2018). There is growing concern on the burgeoning rate and gravity, of crimes committed by the youthful perpetrators. According to an analysis of official figures conducted by the Economic and Social Policy in Latin America Initiative, the number of young people involved in crime increased globally between 1997 and 2010 by 180. Both the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) and the British Crime Survey (BCS) have expressed concern about the growing involvement of young people in crime (Munyo, 2013).

In the United States of America (USA), data on crime usually published by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Justice Statistics indicate that youth engage in both violent and property crimes which may include motor vehicle theft, burglary, murder, rape, arson and assault. Crime rates vary depending on the type of community with Black Americans being arrested for more than average crimes; for instance, in Chicago (Gollnick & Chinn) was once declared the most dangerous zone in the United States (Gollnick & Chinn). This is an indicator to how social structure has influenced commission of crimes in the United States.

The high rates of unemployment in Africa also stands as a major contributor to crime (UN Habitat, 2019). In Nigeria, social structure has influenced youth to engage in various crimes including homicide, kidnapping, robbery, burglary, and sexual crimes and to some extent; some are recruited to join existing terrorist outfits. In Nigeria social disorganization is facilitated by wrong systems of government, unemployment, weak institutions, and corruption (Ukwayi et al., 2018).

In the Kenyan perspective, youth involvement in crime is also said to be growing. Leading in the list of areas reporting the highest number of crimes involving the youth are the counties of Nairobi, Kiambu, Meru, Mombasa, and Kisumu (Gollnick & Chinn). The National Police Service in their annual report highlights a 13 percent increase in crime between 2017 and 2018. This contrasts with a 1.3 percent increase in crime rate between 2016 and 2017. Between 2015 and 2016, there was a 6 percent increase in crime. The bottom line is that youth involvement in crime has been on the rise (House, J.S 2017).

According to House (2017), Social structure refers to the regular social structures in a society that both result from and influence the behavior of its members. In the context of sociological criminology, Gollnick et al., (2009) identifies key social structure components likely to impact on the individual behavior in the societal setting. Social structure theories have laid emphasis on the apparent relationship between social structure and criminal behavior, stressing that deprived socio-economic conditions and social status could be principal influential social factors in criminal activity. Social structure involves the patterns of social behavior that directly or indirectly have the potential to dictate the relationship of

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people and groups to one another. (Ukwayi 2018). studied socioeconomic factors and crime rates in Romania covering the period between 1990 and 2014. Numerous socioeconomic indicators, including income, unemployment, inflation, inequality, development, education, and population density, were taken into account in the study.

Violent crime, property crime, white-collar crime, organized crime, and consensual or victimless crime are only a few of the facets of criminal conduct (Carrabine et al., 2020). Crimes are divided into serious and non-serious offenses by the National Police Service of Kenya. Murder, robbery, burglary, rape, kidnapping, and arson are examples of serious crimes. The non-serious offences, on the other hand, include assault, minor theft (up to a value of USD 20), taking a neighbor's domestic animal, and breaking local and state laws.

Statement of the Problem

According to an analysis of official figures conducted by the Economic and Social Policy in Latin America Initiative, the number of young people involved in crime increased globally between 1997 and 2010 by 180 percent (Esmail et al., 2013). Both the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) and the British Crime Survey (BCS) have expressed concern about the growing involvement of young people in crime (Munyo, 2013). The African context is no different from the global perspective. The United Nations Development Programme, (Esmail et al., 2013). indicates that violent youth crime increased significantly by 39.53 percent in Sub-Saharan Africa for the period between 2003 and 2015. In the Kenyan perspective, youth involvement in crime is also said to be growing. Leading in the list of areas reporting the highest number of crimes involving the youth are the counties of Nairobi, Kiambu, Meru, Mombasa, and Kisumu (NPS, 2018). The National Police Service in their annual report highlights a 13 %, 1.3% and 6% increase in crime in 2018, 2017 and 2016 respectively.

Rapid increase in crime among the youth ranging from violent to property crime in Kenyan informal settlements is a matter of grave concerns Massenkoff & Rose, (2020). Failure to address the situation may adversely affect individual citizens and country in large. As individuals may suffer huge losses associated with crime, the country may not be able to attain the vision 2030 and even the Big Four Agenda, which is depends largely on National Security. The crime rates are still very high, pointing to other underlying causes of crime, despite the government of Kenya's efforts to address the problem through continued investment in internal security by arming the police, enhancing their welfare, and adopting a multi-sectoral approach to combating insecurity.

One of the contemporary discussions on how best to address crime among the youth has been on the role of social structure. While studies on this subject continue to attract the attention of scholars, a lot of unresolved gaps remain exposed. Therefore, to address these gaps, the current study investigated the effect of social structure on criminal behavior among the youth in Kasarani Subcounty, Nairobi County, Kenya.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study was to investigate the effects of social structure on youth criminal behaviour in Kasarani sub-county, Nairobi City County, Kenya.

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Objectives

The specific objectives of the study were;

1. To investigate the effect of social economic status on youth's criminal behavior in Kasarani Subcounty, Nairobi County, Kenya.
2. To determine the effect of cultural diversity factors on youth involvement in Kasarani Subcounty, Nairobi County, Kenya.

Significance of the Study

The study will be beneficial to stakeholders in security management. In particular, the National Police Service will be in a position to understand crime patterns and how different social structure impacts on crime. The Government of Kenya will be better equipped with empirical evidence on what can be done to reduce the level of crime among the youth. The citizens at their individual will be in a position to understand on the role they can play, either individually or collectively to address or control crime.

Review of Related Literature

Socioeconomic Status and Criminal Behavior among the Youth

In the United States, Connolly et al. (2017) conducted research on socioeconomic status and criminality in both urban and rural contexts. Although there have been studies on the topic, few have distinguished between rural and urban contexts in their analysis, which served as the basis for this study. The study used an examination of sibling pairs drawn from a nationally representative sample of young people in the United States that was informed by genetics. According to the research, common contextual factors contributed to 17% of the variation in urban adolescent delinquent conduct. Social economic status explained only 3 percent of variation in adolescent delinquency for urban youth. The study established no evidence to support a link between family-wide environmental factors on adolescent delinquency in the rural context. Conceptually, there are gaps that show the research has to take into account more aspects of social and economic status. The majority of studies on the topic are concentrated in foreign contexts, and there is little local empirical data.

The association between socioeconomic position and adolescent criminality was investigated by Rekker et al. (2015). The goal of the study was to ascertain how much changes in family social and economic standing among individuals affected criminal conduct. The study collected data from a sample of 503 boys and their caregivers. The study targeted the age between seven and eighteen years. Results established that changes in familial socioeconomic status results in variations in delinquent behavior. Low social economic status was linked to high delinquent behavior while high socioeconomic status was significantly associated with low delinquent behavior.

Results established a significant relationship between socio economic status and delinquent behavior. Specifically, as socioeconomic status increased, the study established a decreasing trend in involvement in crime and violence. However, increase in socioeconomic status increased the involvement in drug abuse and antisocial behaviors. Contextually, a considerable time period has elapsed since the study was done in the year 2016. Thus, gaps emerge on the need to undertake an up-to-date study.

Lobonț et al., (2017) studied socioeconomic factors and crime rates in Romania covering the period between 1990 and 2014. The study sought to explain the link, if any, between a variety of socioeconomic factors and crime. Income, unemployment, inflation,

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inequality, development, level of education, and population density were among the contributing factors. The co-integration theory and the causal links theory served as the guiding theories. According to the empirical data, there is a significant correlation between socioeconomic criteria like income and education and crime. The study also shows that domicile is a crucial factor in determining crime, with urban agglomeration standing out as a necessary condition for crime. Gaps are evident regarding the necessity to repeat the study locally as there is still a dearth of empirical data on the subject.

Cultural Diversity and Criminal Behavior among the Youth

Esmail et al., (2013) examines the impact of culture on criminal behavior. The study was based in Mexico. Data regarding adherence to religion was obtained from the Association of Religion. All other data was obtained from the 2007 County and City Data Book. Property crime, violent crime and total crime were the choice indicators of crime (the dependent variable). The independent variables were the different aspects of culture. These included religious adherence rates, net immigration, and percent republication. The study singles out religion as a key factor determining the level of crime in a given society. In specific, religious adherence is found to have a weak and negative relationship with total crime and property crime. The association between religious adherence and violent crime was weak but statistically insignificant. Proportion of urban migration was found to yield a positive and significant effect on crime, albeit moderate. Sex ratio demonstrated a weak, negative association with crime. Conceptually, the study focused on limited concepts of cultural diversity which will be expanded in the current study. Interestingly too, the study finds religion adherence as a prerequisite for crime, a condition that may require further probe as it is controversial.

Muzzatti, & Smith (2018) investigated the connection between culturally particular characteristics and teenage criminal involvement in China. Based on a sample of 402 teenage Chinese teenagers, the study was conducted. Both descriptive and inferential analysis were used to examine the data. Thematic content analysis was employed in the study of qualitative data. Results demonstrated that culture specific factors were useful determinants of youth criminal behavior. Studies on the influence of culture on criminal behavior among the youth are clustered in foreign settings with only a handful of such empirical evidence in Kenya.

Muzzatti, & Smith (2018) studied the relationship between ethnic diversity and violent crime. The study relied on data on global homicide rates and covered the time span between the year 1995 and 2013. The data covered a total of 140 countries across the globe. Results demonstrated that ethnic heterogeneity showed an inverse relationship with homicide rates. Findings further indicated that ethnic polarization and ethnic dominance have much more influence on criminal behavior than ethnic diversity. The study further provides empirical evidence to show that societal heterogeneity and income inequality does not necessarily lead to increased social dislocation. Contextually, there is need to consider a local analysis of the subject as local empirical evidence on the subject matter is still scarce.

Theoretical Literature Review

The key theories guiding the study include the strain theory, cultural deviance theory/ culture conflict theory and social support theory. The theories present a case for social structure components in controlling crime prevalence in the community.

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Strain Theory

The classical strain theory was developed by Robert Merton in 1938 and has its premises on the foundational argument that criminal behavior as legitimate opportunities become scarce for members to attain the typical success goals of a society. The proponents of the theory explain the ‘strain’ between societal cultivated goals and the means to attain those goals (Agnew, 2017). When achievement of such goals become potentially difficult, the straining members tend to resort to criminal activities to make ends meet. Strain theory has become a broadly applied theory in criminology as the world grapples with new security threats and rise in crime rates (Brezina, 2017).

According to Agnew (2017), the foundational arguments of the theory were based on analysis of the America context where the cultural system was founded on the ‘American Dream’ which entailed a set of meritocratic philosophies that guaranteed the members of the American community of equality of opportunity that doesn’t discriminate on the basis of either class, gender or ethnicity. Members were motivated to work towards a successful goal, often represented by attainment of wealth and material assets. The expectation was that, these goals would be pursued through legitimate means such as education and work. Thus, the principal cultural message was that pursuit of ambition would bring success Agnew (2017)

The theorists advance the concept of ‘anomie’ that represents the imbalance between cultural goals and institutionalized means (Walsh, 2017). The theory holds that an imbalanced society yields anomie, a condition where there exists a strain or tension between the goals and means to achieve unsatisfied ends. The theory explains five ways in which members of a society facing a strain between their goals and current status adapt. These include conformity, innovation, ritualism, retreatism and rebellion. Conformity represents a condition where the individuals relax their pursuit of cultural goals through socially accepted means (Walsh, 2017).

Innovation is used in reference to application of socially unaccepted or unusual methods to achieve culturally approved goals (Kaufman, 2017). Ritualism is about the use of socially accepted means in pursuit of less scaled down goals. Retreatism involves the rejection of both the cultural aspirations as well as the means set out to achieve them. Finally, rebellion is used in reference to members’ rejection of cultural goals and means and then working towards their replacement (Deflem & Triplett, 2018). The theory argues that social economic status, social support, family formations and culture are principal determinants of criminal behavior, factors that interests the current study. This explains the value of the theoretical framework to the current analysis.

Cultural Deviance Theory and Culture conflict theory

The cultural deviance theory was postulated by Sellers and Akers (2018) and is founded on the justification that criminal activity may result from conforming to the dominant cultural norms of lower-class society. While researching Chicago's criminal patterns in the early 1900s, the theorists established that violent engagements and criminal behavior was dominantly present in urban settings and tended to decrease in the suburbs and rural settings (Newman, 2017). Another observation is that as the urban population increased, the affluent members of the society moved to the suburbs and left behind the less privileged, explaining why crime proliferated.(Rodas et al., 2020)

According to Sellers and Akers (2018), the theorists also linked socio economic status and particularly income as determinants of criminal engagement. The argument is that new

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immigrants are often poor and deficient of knowledge. As opined by Warner (2019), ethnic differences, characteristic with urban settings and particularly linguistic diversity also have a negative implication on criminal behavior.

The Chicago observation indicated that most of the immigrants too lacked proficiency in use of the English language, a factor that made their socialization process even more difficult, ultimately becoming a recipe of crime (Newman, 2017).

According to Ilan (2019), the difference of cultural values and ethical guidelines resulted in a smaller society with dissimilar ideas of deviance which were carried forward along generations. While testing the cultural deviance theory, Robert Sampson and Byron Groves (1989) established that poverty, ethnic diversity, and family disruption has strong and positive relationship with social disorganization which then acts as a recipe for crime. The theory will find application particularly as it tries to explain the effect of family formations, ethnic diversity, and social economic status on criminal behavior.

Research Methodology

Research Design

A descriptive survey approach was used in the study. This approach is concerned with finding out aspects of the ‘what, when, how and how many’ of a research phenomenon (Bulmberg, Cooper, & Schindler, 2011). The descriptive survey was motivated by need to determine already existing patterns and relationships among variables. The descriptive survey approach was applicable as the current study seeks to determine the effect of social structure on criminal behavior among the youth. It sought to explain the state of social economic status, family formations, cultural diversity and social support systems and relate that with the condition of youth involvement in crime. This study therefore sought to determine the condition as it is without making any alterations or experiments.

Location of the Study

The study was based in Kasarani Subcounty, Nairobi County, Kenya. Kasarani is one of the sub-counties in Nairobi City County of Kenya. The sub county is demarcated administratively into five wards, namely Kasarani, Mwiki, Clay city, Njiru and Ruai. The study covered data on social structure and youth involvement in crime for a three-year span between 2019 and 2021.

Sample Size

The ideal sample size is computed as; $n = \frac{364}{1+364(0.05)^2} = 190.56 = 191$ participants. The ideal sample size is therefore 191 participants.

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Table 1a: Sampling Frame

S/NO.	Category/ Stratum	Population	Sample size= $nh=(Nh/N)Xn$	Sample size
1.	Nyumba Kumi Leaders	235	123.31	123
2.	Chiefs and Sub-chiefs	43	22.56	23
3.	Police Heads	30	15.74	16
4.	Youth Leaders	56	29.38	29
Total		364	191	191

Source: Field Data 2022

Findings

Response Rate Analysis

191 questionnaires were issued and 159 questionnaires were returned, out of which 9 questionnaires were not fully filled.

Table 1b: Questionnaire Response Rate

Category	Issued	Returned	Percentage R
Nyumba Kumi leaders	123	100	63
Chiefs/Sub-chiefs	23	20	13
Police	16	15	9
Youth Leaders	29	24	15
Total	191	159	100%

Source, Researcher (2023)

Social Economic Status on Youth's Criminal

The first objective was to investigate the effect of social economic status on youth's criminal behavior in Kasarani Subcounty, Nairobi County, Kenya. The study sought to investigate how social economic status affects youth criminal behavior and found the following results. The respondents were asked to tick on what extent they agreed with the following statements on a 5 Likert scale where 1 = Not at all, 2 = Little Extent, 3 = Moderate Extent, 4 = Great Extent, 5 = Very Great. The following were the findings.

The youth in the community have a good education background in various specialties.

The question on; the youth in the community had a good education background in various specialties had a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 5, a mean of 4.15 and a standard deviation of 0.745 indicating that the majority of the respondents appreciated the education background of the youth in the Kasarani community.

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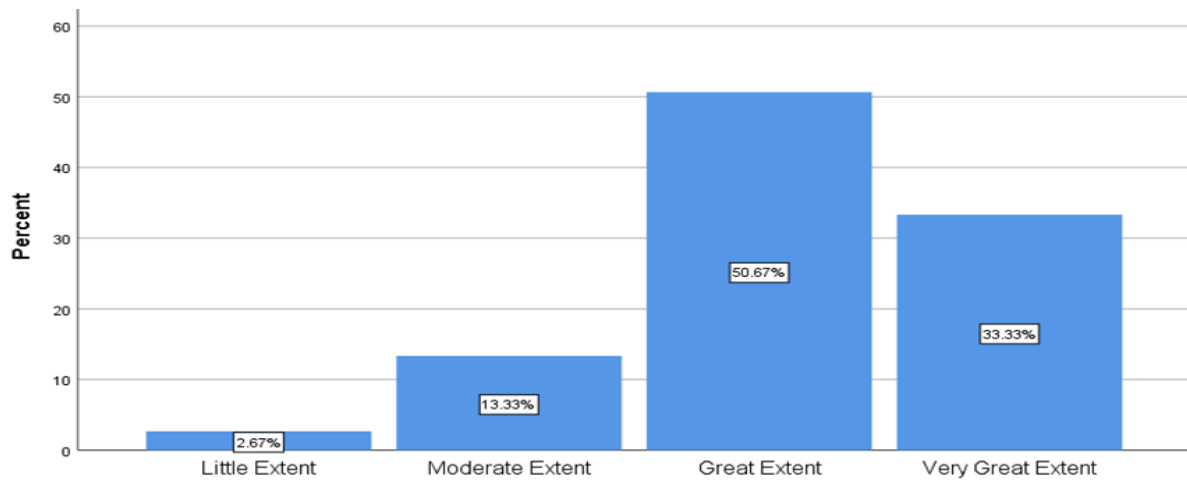


Figure 1: The youth in the community have a good education background in various specialties.

Source: Field Data 2022

The question on; the youth in the community had a good education background in various specialties, 33.33% selected very great extent, 50.67% selected great extent, 13.33% selected moderate extent and 2.67% selected to a little extent. Of the respondents, 33.33% selected "very great extent," indicating that they strongly agree that the youth have a good education background in various specialties. 50.67% selected "great extent," showing that they also agree that the youth have a good education background. 13.33% selected "moderate extent," indicating that they moderately agree with the statement. Lastly, 2.67% selected "to a little extent," implying that they have doubts about the education background of the youth in the community. The responses suggest that a majority of the respondents (83% - very great extent and great extent) believe that the youth in the community have a good education background in various specialties. The minority of respondents (16%) either moderately agree or have doubts about the statement. It is worth noting that the responses are skewed towards positive agreement, with only a small percentage of respondents expressing moderate agreement or doubts. This indicates that the Kasarani community generally values education and sees it as an important factor in the development of the youth.

The community has given keen attention and commitment to supporting youth through their academic endeavors.

The question on; the community has given keen attention and commitment to supporting youth through their academic endeavors had a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 5, a mean of 4.20 and a standard deviation of 0.983 indicating that the majority of the respondents agreed that the youth have received support on their education.

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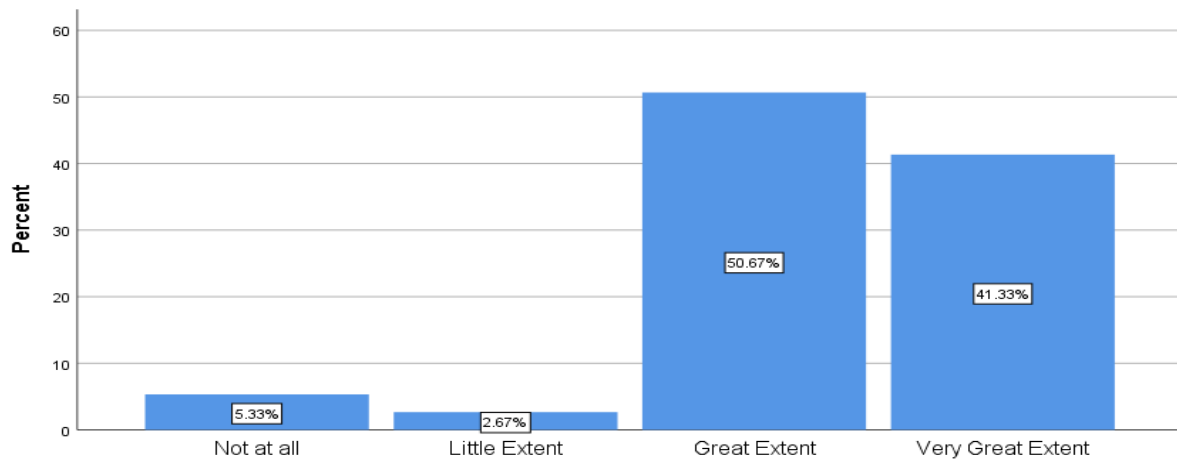


Figure 2: The community has given keen attention and commitment to supporting youth through their academic endeavors.

Source: Field Data 2022

The question on; the community has given keen attention and commitment to supporting youth through their academic endeavors, 41.33% selected very great extent, 50.67% selected a great extent, 2.67% selected to a little extent and 5.33% selected not at all. The graph (Fig presents statistical data on the responses to a survey question about the level of support given to youth in the community in their academic endeavors. The data shows that 41.33% of the respondents selected "very great extent," indicating that they strongly agree that the community has given keen attention and commitment to supporting youth through their academic endeavors. 50.67% selected "great extent," indicating that they also agree that the community has given attention and commitment to supporting the youth in their academic endeavors. 2.67% of the respondents selected "to a little extent," implying that they have some doubts about the level of support provided to youth. Finally, 5.33% of the respondents selected "not at all," indicating that they strongly disagree that the community has given attention and commitment to supporting youth in their academic endeavors. This information is useful in understanding the perspectives of the community regarding the level of support provided to the youth in their academic endeavors. The majority of the respondents (92%) either strongly agree or agree that the community has given attention and commitment to supporting the youth in their academic pursuits. The data will be useful in guiding policy decisions and interventions that seek to improve the educational outcomes of the youth in the community.

The youthful population in the community have reliable and sustainable source of income

The question on whether the youthful population in the community have reliable and sustainable source of income, 53.33% selected a little extent and 46.67% selected not at all. The data suggests that a majority of the respondents (53.33%) have doubts about whether the youth in the community have reliable and sustainable sources of income. Additionally, a significant proportion of respondents (46.67%) strongly disagree that the youth have reliable and sustainable sources of income. This data can be useful in guiding policy decisions and interventions that seek to address the economic needs of the youth in the community. The information presented highlights the importance of addressing the economic needs of the

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youth in the community. The data will be used to guide future research and interventions that aim to improve the economic status of the youth and promote their economic empowerment.

The youth in our community have been empowered with a wide range of skills and competencies to be productive

On whether the youth in our community have been empowered with a wide range of skills and competencies to be productive, respondents gave a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 5, a mean of 4.04 and a standard deviation of 0.947 indicating a strong support to the question by a majority.

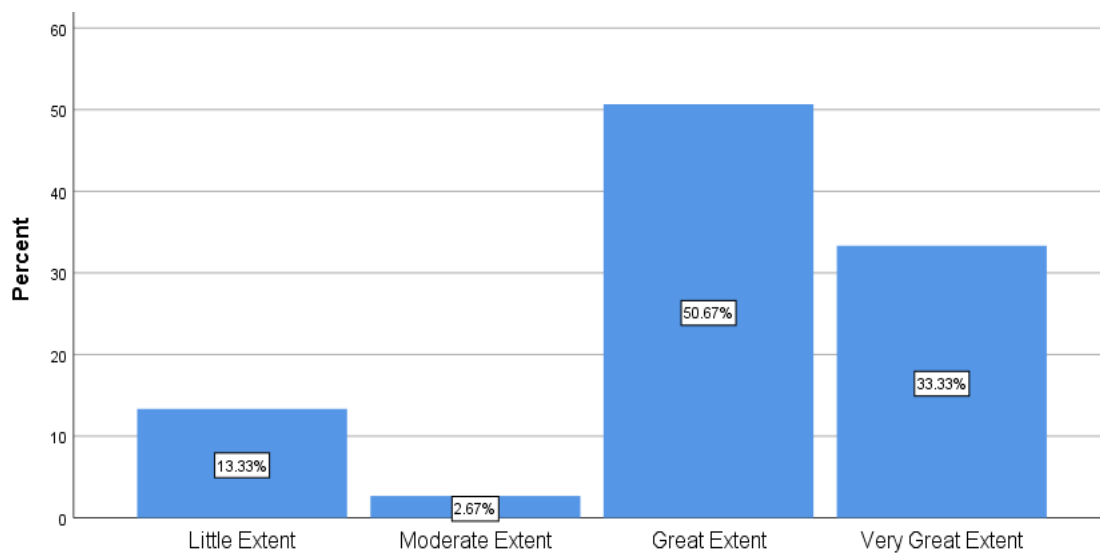


Figure 3: The youth in our community have been empowered with a wide range of skills and competencies to be productive

Source: Field Data 2022

On whether the youth in our community have been empowered with a wide range of skills and competencies to be productive, 33.33% selected a very great extent, 50.56% selected to a great extent, 2.67% selected to a moderate extent and 13.33% selected to a little extent. This information is useful in understanding the perspectives of the community regarding the empowerment of the youth with skills and competencies to be productive. The majority of the respondents (84.89%) either strongly agree or agree that the youth in the community have been empowered with a wide range of skills and competencies to be productive. The data will be useful in guiding policy decisions and interventions that seek to improve the productivity and economic status of the youth in the community. It is also worth noting that a small percentage of respondents have reservations or doubts about the level of empowerment of the youth. Further research can be useful in understanding the reasons behind these reservations or doubts and identifying areas for improvement.

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The community has strong and well-established value systems that controls the conduct of the youth.

On whether the community has strong and well-established value systems that controls the conduct of the youth, 50.00% selected great extent, 48% selected moderate extent and 2% selected a little extent. This information is useful in understanding the perspectives of the community regarding the existence of value systems that control the conduct of the youth. The data suggests that half of the respondents (50.00%) agree that the community has strong and well-established value systems that control the conduct of the youth. However, a significant proportion of the respondents (48%) have some reservations about the strength and establishment of the value systems. This data can be useful in guiding policy decisions and interventions that seek to improve the value systems and promote positive behavior among the youth in the community.

It is worth noting that a small percentage of respondents have doubts about the existence of strong and well-established value systems that control the conduct of the youth. Further research can be useful in understanding the reasons behind these doubts and identifying areas for improvement.

To what extent does population density influence youth involvement in crime in your community?

On whether a low population density influences youth involvement in crime in the community had a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 5, a mean of 2.85 and a standard deviation of 0.745 indicating a somewhat less influence.

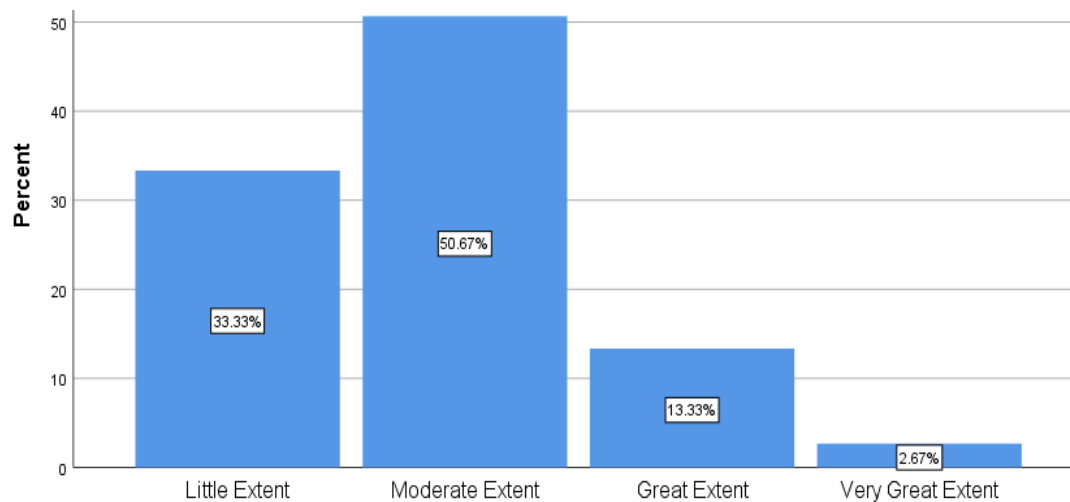


Figure 4: To what extent does population density influence youth involvement in crime in your community

The bar graph presents statistical data on the responses to a survey question about the influence of low population density on the involvement of youth in crime in a certain community. The data shows that only 2.67% of the respondents selected "a very great extent," indicating that they strongly agree that low population density has a significant influence on the involvement of youth in crime. 13.33% of the respondents selected "a great extent," implying that they also agree that low population density has some influence on the involvement of youth in crime. 50.67% of the respondents selected "a moderate extent," indicating that they believe that low population density has some degree of influence on the

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involvement of youth in crime, but to a lesser extent. Finally, 33.33% of the respondents selected "a little extent," indicating that they disagree that low population density has a significant influence on the involvement of youth in crime. This information is useful in understanding the perspectives of the community regarding the influence of low population density on the involvement of youth in crime. The data suggests that a significant proportion of the respondents (66.67%) do not believe that low population density has a significant influence on the involvement of youth in crime.

Cultural Diversity Factors on Youth Involvement

The third objective was to determine the effect of cultural diversity factors on youth involvement in Kasarani Subcounty, Nairobi County, Kenya. The study sought to determine how cultural diversity factors affect youth involvement and found the following results. The respondents were asked to tick on what extent they agreed with the following statements on a 5 Likert scale where 1 = Not at all, 2 = Little Extent, 3 = Moderate Extent, 4 = Great Extent, 5 = Very Great. The following were the findings.

Our community is largely cosmopolitan with many different ethnic communities forming part of the societal whole

On whether the community is largely cosmopolitan with many different ethnic communities forming part of the societal whole had a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 5, a mean of 4.26 and a standard deviation of 0.680 suggesting a majority support to the statement.

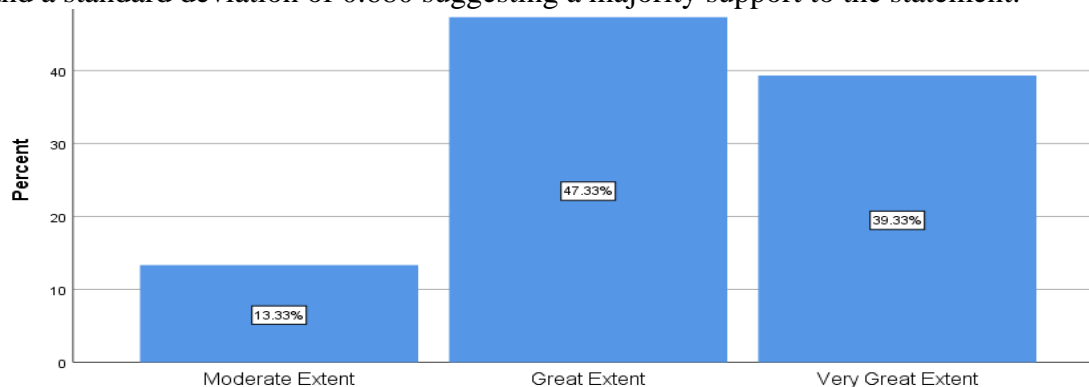


Figure 5: Our community is largely cosmopolitan with many different ethnic communities forming part of the societal whole.

On whether the community is largely cosmopolitan with many different ethnic communities forming part of the societal whole, 13.33% selected moderate extent, 47.33% selected great extent and 39.33% selected very great extent. The data shows that a majority of the respondents (86.67%) believe that the community is largely cosmopolitan, with 47.33% selecting "great extent" and 39.33% selecting "very great extent." Only a small percentage of respondents (13.33%) perceive the community to be moderately cosmopolitan. The data suggests that the majority of the respondents perceive the community to be cosmopolitan, indicating that the community is diverse and may have different cultural practices, beliefs, and values. This information is important in developing policies and interventions that promote social cohesion and integration, as well as addressing issues related to cultural diversity and social inclusion.

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The residents in our community speak many different languages which at times harbors effective communication.

On whether the residents in the community speak many different languages which at times harbours effective communication had a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 5, a mean of 4.11 and a standard deviation of 0.738 indicating a majority support to the question.

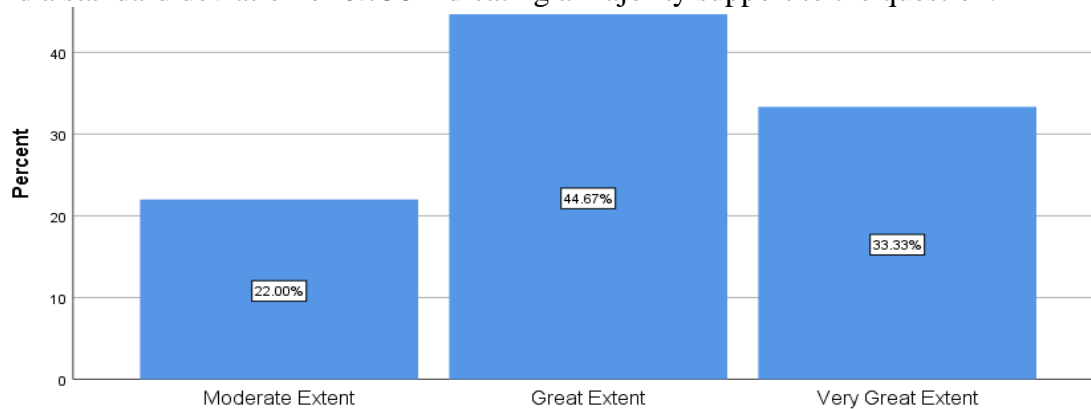


Figure 6: The residents in our community speak many different languages which at times harbors effective communication.

On whether the residents in the community speak many different languages which at times harbours effective communication, 20% selected moderate extent, 44.67% selected great extent and 33.33% very great extent. The data reveals that 77% of the respondents believe that the community speaks many different languages, with 44.67% selecting "great extent" and 33.33% selecting "very great extent." Only 20% of the respondents believe that the community has a moderate extent of language diversity. The results suggest that language diversity is a common characteristic of the community, which can potentially pose communication barriers. The data indicates that the majority of the respondents perceive the community's language diversity as a great or very great extent, indicating that effective communication can sometimes be challenging.

The Kasarani community is made up of people of different races.

On whether the Kasarani community is made up of people of different races had a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 3, a mean of 1.79 and a standard deviation of 0.641 indicating a little support to the statement.

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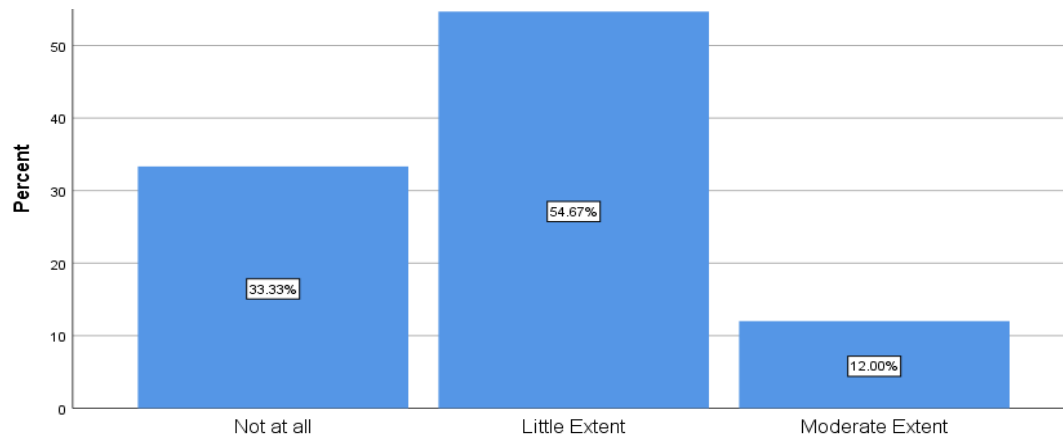


Figure 7: The Kasarani community is made up of people of different races.

On whether the Kasarani community is made up of people of different races, 33.33% selected not at all, 54.67% selected little extent and 12% selected moderate extent. The data reveals that 88.67% of the respondents believe that the community is not very diverse racially, with 54.67% selecting "little extent" and 33.33% selecting "not at all." Only 12% of the respondents believe that the community has a moderate extent of racial diversity. The results suggest that racial diversity is not a common characteristic of the Kasarani community. The data indicates that the majority of the respondents perceive the community's racial diversity as little or not at all, indicating that the community is not very diverse in terms of race. The findings highlight the need to promote diversity and inclusivity within the community. This can be achieved through various means, such as promoting cultural events that celebrate diversity or offering training and education programs that promote cultural awareness and sensitivity.

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The Kasarani community is characterized by a diverse subcultural value.

On whether the Kasarani community is characterised by a diverse subcultural value had a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 5, a mean of 4.04 and a standard deviation of 0.947 indicating a strong agreement to the question.

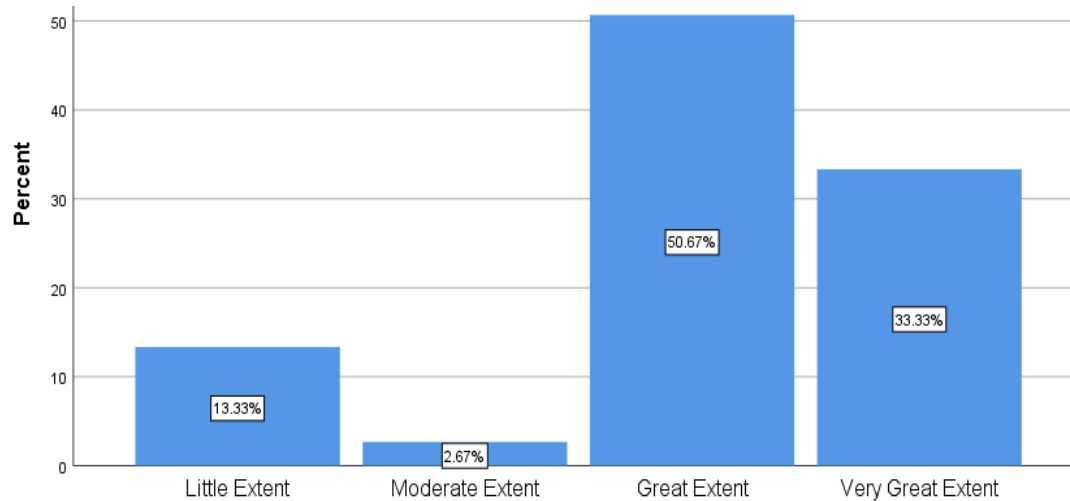


Figure 8: The Kasarani community is characterized by a diverse subcultural value

On whether the Kasarani community is characterised by a diverse subcultural value, 13.33% selected little extent, 2.67% selected moderate extent, 50.67% selected great extent and 33.33% selected very great extent. The results reveal that the majority of the respondents (83%) believe that the community is characterized by a great or very great extent of diverse subcultural values. Specifically, 50.67% of the respondents selected "great extent," while 33.33% selected "very great extent." Only 16% of the respondents believe that the community has a little or moderate extent of diverse subcultural values. The results suggest that the Kasarani community is perceived as having a high level of diversity in terms of subcultural values. This indicates that the community is home to people from various cultural backgrounds with unique values, beliefs, and practices. The high level of diversity can be attributed to the community's cosmopolitan nature and the presence of various ethnic communities.

To what extent does religious multiplicity influence youth involvement in crime in the community

On whether religious multiplicity influence youth involvement in crime in the community had a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 3, a mean of 1.36 and a standard deviation of 0.534 indicating minimal support to the statement.

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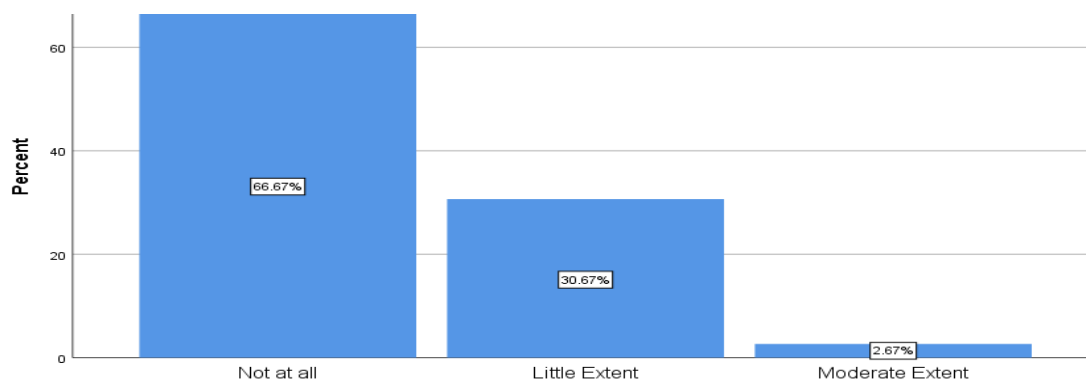


Figure 9: To what extent does religious multiplicity influence youth involvement in crime in the community

On whether religious multiplicity influence youth involvement in crime in the community, 66.67% selected not at all, 30.67% selected little extent while 2.67% selected moderate extent. The survey results provide insight into the community's perception of the influence of religious multiplicity on youth involvement in crime. A majority of respondents, 66.67%, believe that the diversity of religions does not impact youth crime rates within the community. This suggests that most people do not see a connection between religious differences and criminal behavior among young people. However, it is important to note that a significant percentage of respondents, 30.67%, feel that religious multiplicity has a small influence on youth involvement in crime. Additionally, a very small percentage of respondents, 2.67%, think that religious diversity has a moderate influence on youth crime. These minority opinions indicate that there might be some concerns within the community regarding the relationship between religious diversity and youth criminal behavior.

Conclusions

Based on the analyses done on the study, several conclusions can be drawn. Firstly, the majority of respondents appreciated the education background of the youth in the Kasarani community, and the community has given keen attention and commitment to supporting youth through their academic endeavors. However, the majority of respondents doubted whether youth had reliable and sustainable sources of income. The study found that the community has not established facilities towards emotional support to the youth such as free counselling facilities. These include the presence of father or mother in the family arrangement, occurrence of parental and domestic violence, level of kids' supervision and discipline, and availability of instrumental support facilities for youth. Additionally, the study found that the community's support for youth was generally strong, with a majority indicating that the community represented a supportive society to the youthful population. However, there were areas that needed improvement, such as the availability of emotional support facilities like free counseling. Furthermore, the study revealed that linguistic diversity and racial diversity had little to no influence on youth involvement in crime. However, ethnic diversity did have a small influence, albeit to a little extent.

Recommendations for Practice

- i. Increase investment in education: The government should increase its investment in education in Kasarani Subcounty, Nairobi City County, Kenya to improve educational

outcomes, reduce poverty, and provide more opportunities for youth to acquire skills and knowledge that can prevent them from engaging in criminal activities.

Collaborate with authorities: Other stakeholders should collaborate with authorities to develop and implement effective policies and programs that can prevent youth criminal behavior in Kasarani Subcounty, Nairobi City County, Kenya. This can be done by sharing resources and expertise, and working together to develop strategies that are evidence-based and culturally appropriate.

Invest in education: Beneficiaries should invest in their education by taking advantage of educational opportunities that are available to them. Education can provide them with the skills and knowledge necessary to improve their economic status and reduce the risk of engaging in criminal activities.

- ii. **Strengthen social support systems:** The authorities should collaborate with community-based organizations to strengthen social support systems for youth, including the family, peers, and community. This can be done through mentoring programs, counseling services, and community-based activities that can promote positive youth development.

Avoid criminal activities: Beneficiaries should avoid engaging in criminal activities by finding positive ways to spend their time and avoiding negative peer influence. They should also seek help if they find themselves in situations that may lead to criminal activities. **Promote positive social norms:** Other stakeholders should promote positive social norms that can discourage youth from engaging in criminal activities. This can be done through media campaigns, public education programs, and other outreach activities that highlight positive behaviors and values.

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