

**INFLUENCE OF SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS ON RECIDIVISM IN KENYA: A
CASE OF NAIVASHA MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON IN NAKURU COUNTY,
KENYA**

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**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE IN SECURITY
STUDIES AND CRIMINOLOGY OF
MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY**

MAY 2025

DECLARATION AND APPROVAL

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This proposal is entirely original with no submissions for a degree or for any other award in any university.

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my loving wife, Vane Osebe together with my two children Amos and James, whose wisdom, love, and unwavering support have been the cornerstone of my academic journey. Their sacrifices and teachings have instilled in me the values of hard work, perseverance, and compassion. This achievement is a testament to the strong foundation they have provided. I also dedicate this work to my mentors and professors, who have provided invaluable guidance and inspiration throughout my studies. To my friends and colleagues, who have shared both their challenges and triumphs, I extend my heartfelt thanks.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I want to thank my supervisor, Dr. Judy W. Mwangi (PhD) for her continuous support, insightful feedback, and patience throughout the course of this research. Her expertise and guidance have been helpful in facilitating this project.

I remain indebted to the faculty and staff of the department of Sociology, gender and Development Studies at Mount Kenya University for providing the resources and support needed to complete this study.

My great appreciation to the officer in charge of Naivasha Maximum Prison, Assistant Commissioner General of Prisons(ACGP) Mr. Joseph Saitoti for his unwavering support during my data correction in the penal institution and not forgetting the staff of the facility.

Lastly, I owe a great deal of gratitude to my wife, Vane Osebe, for the constant assistance and understanding throughout the lengthy research and writing sessions. Her love and encouragement have been my driving force.

ABSTRACT

Recidivism, the propensity of those who have served time in prison to commit crimes again, poses a challenge to criminal justice systems worldwide. In Kenya, the recidivism rate is estimated to be two-thirds, meaning that following their release, two-thirds of prisoners are back behind bars. Consequently, a substantial portion of current and future crimes are committed by former prisoners alone, undermining efforts to rehabilitate offenders and ensure public safety. This study investigated the influence of socioeconomic factors on recidivism in Kenya, with a focus on Naivasha Maximum Security Prison in Nakuru County. The objectives of the study were to examine the influence of social factors on recidivism, to examine the influence of economic factors on recidivism, and to identify the measures that can be put in place to address the socioeconomic factors for reduced recidivism in Naivasha maximum security prison. Guided by the strain theory, the study employed a descriptive research design using a mixed methods approach to offer a thorough comprehension of the factors influencing recidivism. The target population included 2,000 current inmates, 1,200 former inmates and 350 prison staff. A sample size of 355 participants was selected using stratified random sampling techniques. Additionally, key informants were selected purposively to include the Officer commanding the station, four Chaplains for all denominations (Catholic, SDA, Islam and protestant churches), five Prison administrators who are the section heads for tailoring, carpentry, mechanics, formal education and health/hospital facility sections. They provided in-depth knowledge and unique experiences related to recidivism. Data was collected using two data collection tools, that is, questionnaires for prison staff, current and former inmates, and interviews guide for key informants. While quantitative data was examined using descriptive statistics, qualitative data was subjected to thematic analysis to identify patterns and themes. Findings were then presented using tables, bar charts, and narrative summaries. The findings of the study revealed that strengthening family relationships and providing community support systems including mentorship programs and faith-based groups enhance successful reintegration and reduces the likelihood of re-offending. Social stigma was found to be a major challenge, limiting employment and reintegration opportunities for ex-inmates. The study also revealed that limited access to employment post-release is a key driver of recidivism. High unemployment rates caused by a lack of organized job placement programs for ex-offenders have been linked to some of them reverting to criminal activity. Programs for vocational training were deemed necessary, but they need to be expanded, enhanced, and certified. Community-based reintegration initiatives should be increased to assist ex-offenders and lessen societal stigma, and the government should establish organized family reunion programs to improve ties between inmates and their families. To guarantee that prisoners receive top-notch instruction, prisons should work with recognized vocational schools. Standardization of vocational training program certification would improve the employability of prisoners. Inmates should be permitted to preserve a percentage of the money earned from income-generating hobbies like tailoring and carpentry, which can serve as seed money after they are released from prison. The government should provide startup grants to rehabilitated inmates for small business ventures.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ANOVA	:	Analysis of Variance
CBD	:	Central Business District
FGD	:	Focus Group Discussion
KPS	:	Kenya Prison Service
MoJ	:	Ministry of Justice
OLS	:	Ordinary Least Squares
SPSS	:	Statistical Package for the Social Prison
VET	:	Vocational Education and Training
WHO	:	World Health Organization
NGOS	:	Non-Governmental Organizations.
US	:	United States
KNBS	:	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Recidivism, the propensity of those who have served time in prison to commit crimes again, poses a significant challenge to criminal justice systems worldwide. It can also be defined as the relapse into criminal activities where former prisoners go back to prison for another committed crime (Gendreau et al., 2016).

Globally, scholars have been examining the factors contributing to recidivism and the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs in mitigating it. Research has increasingly focused on the multifaceted nature of recidivism, emphasizing the requirement for all-encompassing plans that handle social, economic, and psychological dimensions of re-offending. For instance, Gendreau et al. (2016) accentuated the importance of evidence-based rehabilitation programs tailored to individual needs, which remarkably decrease rates of recidivism. Similarly, a report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC, 2018) highlighted the global challenge of recidivism and recommended the implementation of holistic rehabilitation programs that include vocational training, psychological support, and post-release assistance. In Australia, Day and Casey (2019) explored the impact of therapeutic interventions in prisons, finding that cognitive-behavioural therapy (CBT) and other therapeutic approaches substantially lower the likelihood of re-offending.

Several meta-analyses have synthesized findings from numerous studies worldwide, offering insights into the most significant factors affecting recidivism. One of the most robust findings is the strong link between employment and recidivism. Visser et al. (2005) did a meta-analysis and found that ex-offenders who gain stable employment are significantly less likely to re-offend. This relationship is consistent across various regions, indicating that economic stability and access to

legitimate income sources are critical for successful reintegration. Another meta-analysis by Tripodi, Kim, and Bender (2010) confirmed that employment programs for ex-offenders reduce recidivism rates, emphasizing the need for job training and placement initiatives.

Educational and vocational training programs within correctional facilities have been shown to significantly reduce recidivism rates. A comprehensive meta-analysis by Davis et al. (2013), conducted for the RAND Corporation, found that inmates who participated in rehabilitation programs had 43% lower odds of recidivating than those who did not. This finding underscores the essence of providing inmates with the intellect and skills necessary for post-release employment and societal reintegration.

Strong social support systems, including family relationships and community networks, have been found to be critical in reducing recidivism. A meta-analysis by Duwe and Clark (2014) indicated that family-based programs, which maintain and strengthen family connections during incarceration, significantly lower recidivism rates. Additional research has shown that strong family ties and supportive community networks can significantly reduce the likelihood of re-offending (Visher & Travis, 2011). Similarly, studies conducted in the United States by Bales and Mears (2008) found that inmates who maintained close contact with their families during incarceration were less likely to re-offend upon release. In contrast, social isolation and estrangement from family and community can exacerbate the vulnerability of ex-offenders, increasing their risk of re-offending.

Recidivism remains a challenge across the African continent, influenced by various socioeconomic factors. A study by Muntingh and Ballard (2012) on recidivism in South Africa highlighted the critical role of post-release employment in reducing re-offending. The research found that ex-offenders who secured stable employment upon release were significantly less likely to return to

criminal activities. However, high unemployment rates and limited job opportunities, particularly for those with criminal records, posed substantial barriers to successful reintegration. Similarly, Ajayi and colleagues (2015) in Nigeria examined “the impact of vocational training programs on recidivism rates among inmates”. Their study revealed that inmates who took part in vocational training have high chances to secure employment post-release and hence reduced probability to re-offend. This finding underscores the importance of equipping inmates with practical skills that enhance their employability.

Adjorlolo et al. (2016) conducted a study in Ghana focusing on the psychological and social factors influencing recidivism. The research revealed that social stigma and discrimination against ex-offenders significantly hindered their reintegration into society. Ex-offenders faced substantial challenges in accessing housing, education, and employment, which increased their risk of re-offending. The study called for societal change to reduce stigma and support the successful reintegration of ex-offenders. Mwizabi Simasiku’s (2021) research in Zambia explored the social factors contributing to recidivism among discharged prisoners. The research employed a qualitative descriptive survey design, involving 100 participants: 65 recidivists and 35 correctional officers. Data collection methods included self-administered questionnaires, personal data questionnaires for male recidivists, and interviews for participants with low literacy levels. The study found that former inmates face multiple challenges when attempting to reintegrate into society, which can hinder successful re-entry.

Within east Africa, Nuwagaba et al. (2018) in Uganda investigated the role of educational programs in reducing recidivism. The research indicated that inmates who participated in educational programs were better equipped with the mastery and skills required to get employment and avoid re-offending upon release. The study highlighted the need for comprehensive

educational initiatives within the prison system to tackle the underlying causes of criminal behavior.

According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS, 2020), recidivism rates in Kenyan prisons remain alarmingly high, with many offenders returning to incarceration within a short period of their release. This persistent issue indicates systemic shortcomings in tackling the underlying causes of criminal behavior and the reintegration of former offenders into society. The high rate of recidivism undermines efforts to rehabilitate offenders and ensure public safety

Local studies exemplified by Dr. Ruth Prinsloo's research on rehabilitation programs in Kenyan prisons has highlighted how important the support of family and community is in the reintegration process (Prinsloo, 2017). She found that effective rehabilitation programs, which include vocational training, education, and psychological support, are key for equipping inmates with the skills and resilience needed for successful reintegration into society. Prinsloo argues that the lack of adequate rehabilitation services, often due to resource constraints, hampers the ability of prisons to reduce re-offending rates. She added that improving these programs can significantly lower recidivism by furnishing inmates with the basic tools to lead productive and crime free lives after serving time.

According to research into governance and socioeconomic disparities in Kenya by professor Karuti Kanyinga, marginalized communities, including, ex-offenders face many challenges in overcoming stigma and finding opportunities for social and economic integration (Kanyinga,2013). He emphasizes that these socioeconomic disparities often lead to higher crime rates as these individuals are more prone to indulge in illicit activities due to inadequate access to acceptable ways of making income.

The economic environment in Kenya has high unemployment rates, especially among the youth, who constitute a significant proportion of the prison population (KNBS, 2019). Dr. Winnie Mitullah's work on urban policy and governance has underscored the link between economic deprivation and crime, particularly in urban areas with high youth unemployment rates (Mitullah, 2014). Her research indicates that high rates of unemployment, inadequate access to education, and limited economic opportunities create an environment where people are attracted to offense as a means to survive. She emphasized that addressing these issues is crucial for reducing crime rates and improving overall social stability in urban areas.

A 2019 report by the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) highlights that Nakuru County has one of the highest unemployment rates in the country, worsening the difficulties ex-offenders encounter in finding stable jobs. Additionally, the effectiveness and accessibility of prison rehabilitation programs are key factors in influencing recidivism rates. Well-designed rehabilitation initiatives that offer vocational training, education, and psychological support can empower inmates with the skills and resilience necessary for successful reintegration into society. However, many prisons in Kenya, including Naivasha Maximum Security Prison, face resource constraints that limit the effectiveness of such programs. According to a report by the African Prisons Project (2018), inadequate funding and staffing shortages hinder the delivery of comprehensive rehabilitation services in Kenyan prisons.

Studies conducted in other Kenyan prisons have provided insights into the issue of recidivism. Research by (Ruteere, 2016) on human rights and security in Kenyan prisons has highlighted the adverse effects of overcrowding and inadequate rehabilitation services on inmate behavior and recidivism rates. Similarly, research in Kamiti Maximum Security Prison and Shimo la Tewa Prison has revealed similar challenges related to overcrowding, inadequate rehabilitation

programs, and limited post-release support. For instance, a study by Mwangi (2018) on Kamiti Maximum Security Prison highlighted the importance of vocational training and educational programs in reducing recidivism. Another study by Ndeti et al. (2019) in Shimo la Tewa Prison emphasized the need for psychological support and counseling services to address the mental health issues that contribute to re-offending.

Given the importance of addressing recidivism for the holistic effectiveness of the criminal justice system and societal well-being, this study focuses on the influence of social and economic factors on recidivism in Naivasha Maximum Security Prison. By focusing on the specific social and economic dynamics within Nakuru County, this study will provide localized insights that are crucial for the development of targeted strategies. The findings will advance knowledge of the difficulties experienced by ex-offenders and the elements that recommit them to criminal activity.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Globally, recidivism has been increasing at an alarming rate, posing significant challenges to criminal justice systems worldwide. Studies have shown that despite extensive efforts to rehabilitate inmates, including the allocation of substantial resources to correctional facilities and rehabilitation programs, the rates of re-offending remain persistently high. Governments across the world, both in developed and developing countries, have committed considerable resources to inmate rehabilitation, recognizing its importance in reducing recidivism and enhancing public safety. However, despite these concerted efforts, recidivism continues to escalate, particularly in developing countries where resources are not adequate to cater for the needs in prison and even out of prison.

At the local level, the Kenyan government has demonstrated a strong commitment to the rehabilitation of inmates. Kenya is a signatory to both international and regional protocols,

conventions, and agreements that emphasize the importance of inmate rehabilitation to curb recidivism. Furthermore, the Constitution of Kenya 2010 advocates for equal rights for all citizens, including those who are incarcerated, ensuring that they are provided with the necessary support and opportunities for successful reintegration into society.

Reports from the Kenya Prisons Service (2022) indicate that approximately 38% of inmates at Naivasha are repeat offenders, signaling a critical failure in reintegration efforts. This trend not only burdens the correctional system but also undermines public safety and rehabilitation goals. Previous studies have explored the general causes of recidivism in the country, but few have focused on maximum-security settings like Naivasha Maximum Security Prison, where inmates often face more complex and prolonged incarceration. There is a noticeable gap in localized, evidence-based research examining how specific socioeconomic factors such as poverty, unemployment, lack of family support, and social stigma, affect recidivism in such high-risk environments thus the need for this study that aimed at investigating the influence of socioeconomic factors on recidivism at Naivasha Maximum Security Prison in Nakuru County, Kenya.

1.3. Purpose of the study

The study investigated the influence of socioeconomic factors on recidivism at Naivasha Maximum Security Prison in Nakuru County, Kenya.

1.4. Objectives of the Study

- i. To examine the influence of social factors on recidivism in Naivasha maximum prison in Nakuru county.

- ii. To determine the influence of economic factors on recidivism in Naivasha maximum prison.
- iii. To identify the measures that can be put in place to address socio-economic factors for reduced recidivism in Naivasha maximum prison.

1.5. Research Questions

Three questions as listed guided the study:

- i. What is the influence of social factors on recidivism in Naivasha maximum prison?
- ii. What is the influence of economic factors on recidivism in Naivasha maximum prison?
- iii. What measures can be put in place to address socio-economic factors for reduced recidivism in Naivasha maximum prison?

1.6. Significance of the Study

The findings of the study will have practical implications for policymakers and practitioners in the criminal justice system. By identifying the socioeconomic factors influencing recidivism, the study will inform the design and implementation of effective rehabilitation programs and policies aimed at reducing re-offending rates. The study will also contribute to the broader discourse on recidivism and reintegration, providing insights that can be applied to other prisons in Kenya and beyond. The recommendations generated from this research can serve as a model for similar interventions in other regions, thereby enhancing the overall effectiveness of criminal justice system.

Through providing detailed perspective on the connection between socioeconomic factors and recidivism, the research will enhance the body of knowledge in academia. It will contribute to the corpus of consciousness in criminology, sociology and community development by offering a case study that further research can build upon and reference

1.7. Scope of the study

The study aimed at examining the social and economic factors that influence recidivism among inmates in a prison. The focus is Naivasha maximum prison in Nakuru County. The study covered a period of 11 months, from January 2024 to capture recent trends and developments in recidivism and the socioeconomic environment of Nakuru County. Primary data was collected through interviews and surveys with inmates, prison staff, and other relevant stakeholders. Secondary data was sourced from existing literature, reports, and statistical data.

1.8. Limitations of the study

- i. Generalizability: The inferences from this study may not be applicable to all prisons or regions in Kenya, as the study focused specifically on Naivasha Maximum Security Prison in Nakuru County.
- ii. The reliance on self-reported data from inmates and prison staff may result in biases like social desirability bias and recall bias. Efforts were made to mitigate these biases through careful questionnaire design and data triangulation.
- iii. The study faced challenges in accessing certain data due to confidentiality and security concerns. Negotiations with prison authorities and adherence to ethical requirements ensured the availability and integrity of the data.

1.9. Delimitations of the study

The study deliberately focused on socioeconomic factors and excluded other potential influences on recidivism, such as psychological and behavioral factors. This allowed for a concentrated examination of the economic and social dimensions of re-offending. Additionally, the study was confined to Naivasha maximum security prison, intentionally excluding other correctional

facilities. This ensured that an in-depth analysis of the unique context of Nakuru county and avoids the dilution of findings across different environments.

1.10 Assumptions of the Study

The study assumed that:

- i. Honest and accurate responses will be provided by respondents during interviews and surveys.
- ii. The data collected will be representative of the broader population of inmates in Naivasha maximum prison.
- iii. That the socioeconomic factors identified in the study will have a significant impact on recidivism, consistent with findings from other regions and contexts.

1.11. Operational definition of terms

- Recidivism:** The tendency of convicted criminals to reoffend and return to criminal behavior after serving time in detention.
- Socioeconomic conditions:** The social and economic factors that influence individuals' quality of life, including their income, employment status, education, housing conditions and access to healthcare and other essential services.
- Economic factors:** The financial and employment related conditions that may affect an individual's likelihood of reoffending. This encompasses employment opportunities, financial stability and economic opportunities such as employment status, income levels, access to vocational training and overall financial security.
- Social factors:** Refer to the conditions and influence stemming from the individual's social environment that may impact their behavior and of reoffending. This includes family relationships, peer influences, community support, and social networks.
- Maximum security prison:** A kind of prison intended to hold the most dangerous and high-risk offenders. The strictest safeguards are in place to prevent escapes and guarantee the safety of both personnel and inmates, making these institutions the most secure.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

Literature review examines the already available studies and identifies relevant information to this study. This chapter therefore provides a comprehensive review of both empirical and theoretical literature on the influence of socioeconomic factors on recidivism. The review will provide a solid foundation for this study, highlighting the importance of addressing both social and economic factors to reduce re-offending. The conceptual framework developed will guide the analysis and interpretation of data, ensuring a more profound comprehension of the factors influencing recidivism in Naivasha Maximum Security Prison.

2.2 Empirical Literature

Recidivism, as used in the judicial system, is a term used to describe a person's return to criminal activity following a prior offense conviction, sentencing, and likely correction (Maltz, 1981). Recidivism is described by Verbrugge et al. (2002) as being brought back into detention for any cause, including technical violations. Others perceive it as re-arrest (Benda, 2005). The term "recidivism" is technical and, if used too narrowly, bypasses the important problem it represents, the problem of persistency in criminal behavior.

2.2.1 The influence of social factors on recidivism

Globally, social factors such as family relationships, social networks, and community support significantly influence recidivism rates. Strong family ties and positive social networks are crucial for successful reintegration into society. Bales and Mears (2008) conducted a study in the United States, finding that inmates who communicated regularly with their families were less likely to re-offend. The study reiterated the significance of support from family members in reducing recidivism, as families often provide emotional support, housing, and financial assistance during

the reintegration process. Strong familial bonds have been associated with reduced recidivism, hence the necessity of keeping family connections active during and after incarceration (Visher & Travis, 2003).

Social stigma associated with a criminal record also affects recidivism. Ex-offenders frequently experience discrimination in many areas of life, including employment, housing, and social interactions. This marginalization can lead to feelings of isolation and hopelessness, increasing the likelihood of reoffending (Pager, 2003). Effective reintegration programs that address social stigma and promote acceptance of ex-offenders within communities are essential in reducing recidivism rates (Petersilia, 2003). In Scandinavian countries, progressive policies aimed at reducing stigma and supporting ex-offenders' reintegration have been successful in lowering recidivism rates (Andersen, 2016).

Moreover, community-centered programs and social support play a vital role. Programs that involve community members in the reintegration process, such as mentoring and peer support groups, have been shown to reduce recidivism. These programs provide ex-offenders with role models and a sense of belonging, which are critical for building self-esteem and fostering positive behaviors (Shinkfield & Graffam, 2009). Additionally, restorative justice programs that focus on repairing harm and reintegrating offenders into the community have shown promise in reducing recidivism by fostering social bonds and accountability (Braithwaite, 2004). Visher and Travis (2011) found that community-based programs offering social support, mentoring, and employment assistance were effective in reducing recidivism rates in the United States. Peer influence is also a factor in criminal behavior. Ex-offenders who associate with criminal peers are more likely to re-offend. A study by Warr (2002) highlighted that peer pressure and the influence of criminal networks play a critical role in recidivism. He found that youth who associate with delinquent

peers are prone to engage in criminal activities. The presence of delinquent peers can exert substantial pressure, often encouraging recidivism. In a similar study conducted in Kenya by Karuti Kanyinga in 2013, it was found that youth offenders are highly susceptible to the influence of their peer networks. The study detailed how peer pressure operates through mechanisms such as group reinforcements, social validation, and the desire for acceptance. These mechanisms can drive youth to conform to behaviors and norms of their peers.

In the continent of Africa, social factors influencing recidivism are worsened by broader societal challenges, including poverty, inequality, and weak social infrastructure. Family support is a crucial determinant of successful reintegration. In many African cultures, extended family networks play an important role in providing support to ex-offenders. However, economic constraints and social stigma can limit the ability of families to offer adequate support (Muntingh, 2005). For instance, in South Africa, strong family support has been found to greatly reduce recidivism, but economic hardship often hinders ability of families to provide necessary assistance (Dissel, 2008).

The stigma in society associated with incarceration in many African societies can be particularly severe. Ex-offenders often face rejection and discrimination from their communities, making it challenging to reintegrate and find stable employment (Sarkin, 2008). Community-based rehabilitation programs are less prevalent, and where they exist, they are often underfunded and lack the necessary resources to be effective (Alemika, 2013). In Nigeria, for instance, the lack of community support and persistent stigma contribute to high recidivism rates among ex-offenders (Ajibade, 2020). Additionally, the role of informal social control mechanisms in African communities cannot be overlooked. Traditional leaders and community elders often help in the reintegration process. Their support and endorsement can facilitate acceptance and reduce

recidivism (Olowu, 2009). However, these mechanisms are not uniformly effective, and their impact can vary significantly across different communities and regions.

In Kenya, the role of family and community support is critical reducing recidivism. Many inmates in Naivasha Maximum Security Prison come from backgrounds characterized by broken family structures and weak community ties, which exacerbate the challenges of reintegration (National Council for Law Reporting, 2019). Upon release, these individuals often lack the social support necessary to navigate the challenges of reentry, increasing their likelihood of reoffending. The stigma associated with a criminal record in Kenyan society further complicates reintegration efforts. According to Mutiso (2014), family estrangement and the stigma associated with incarceration highly obstruct reintegration. Ex-offenders frequently face discrimination in employment and social interactions, which can lead to social isolation and economic hardship (Wanjohi, 2020). Community perceptions of ex-offenders are often negative, and this social ostracization can drive individuals back to crime as a way of coping with rejection and economic instability (Mwenje, 2016). In his paper, Martin Ngunyi (2015) noted that social stigma and discrimination against ex-offenders in Kenyan communities pose significant challenges to their reintegration. He continued that the stigma manifests in various forms, including negative public perception and societal rejection which could see even landlords not willing to rent houses to ex-offenders and they may be excluded from certain public assistance programs. The stigma and discrimination experienced can lead to severe psychological effects, including low self-esteem, depression, hopelessness. These psychological barriers further complicate their efforts to reintegrate.

Moreover, the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs within prisons is often limited by insufficient resources and lack of follow-up support upon release. Programs that aim to foster

social bonds, such as family visitation schemes and community reintegration initiatives, are crucial but underdeveloped in many Kenyan prisons (Kamande, 2018). It has been illustrated by studies that ex-offenders who participate in comprehensive rehabilitation programs that include social support components are less likely to reoffend (Nyaga, 2019). Vocational training and education programs within prisons can significantly reduce recidivism by equipping inmates with skills that increase their employability after release from prison. According to Gaes (2008), inmates who take part in learning and training programs are least exposed to re-offence. Nonetheless, the readiness and quality of these programs in Kenyan prisons, including Naivasha Maximum Security Prison, are limited (Prinsloo, 2017).

The role of community-based organizations and NGOs in Kenya cannot be overlooked. These organizations often fill the gap left by inadequate state support, providing crucial services such as counseling, job training, and peer support networks (Agutu, 2020). For example, initiatives like the Clean Start program, which supports women ex-offenders in Kenya, have shown promising results in reducing recidivism by addressing both economic and social reintegration challenges (Clean Start Kenya, 2020). Addressing these social issues through comprehensive support and rehabilitation programs is essential for reducing recidivism and promoting social stability.

2.2.2 The influence of economic factors on recidivism

Economic instability is closely linked to higher rates of recidivism world over. Studies indicate that individuals released from prison face significant economic challenges that contribute to their likelihood of reoffending. These challenges include unemployment, lack of access to social services, and insufficient financial support (Visher & Travis, 2003). Employment is a critical factor; individuals with stable employment are less likely to reoffend, as work provides financial stability, social ties, and a sense of purpose (Uggen, 2000).

Economic disparities also play a role. Research shows that people from lower socioeconomic conditions are more likely to reoffend due to systemic barriers such as restricted access to education and employment opportunities (Western, 2006). Moreover, the stigma of a criminal record further hampers their ability to secure stable employment, perpetuating a cycle of poverty and crime (Pager, 2003). Additionally, lack of access to housing and social support networks can exacerbate economic vulnerabilities, making reintegration more challenging (Geller & Curtis, 2011).

Another significant factor is the quality of post-release programs. In countries with well-funded and comprehensive reentry programs, recidivism rates tend to be lower. Programs that offer vocational training, job placement services, and financial assistance have been shown to remarkably reduce the tendency of relapse into crime (Mears & Cochran, 2015). For example, in Sweden, a robust welfare state and comprehensive rehabilitation programs contribute to lower recidivism rates compared to countries with less supportive systems (Andersson, 2016).

In Africa, high unemployment rates, widespread poverty, and inadequate social services are prevalent across its many countries, contributing to higher recidivism rates. For instance, in South Africa, studies have shown that economic hardships and lack of employment opportunities are significant predictors of recidivism (Muntingh, 2005). African countries often lack comprehensive rehabilitation programs that address the economic needs of ex-offenders. Many prisons are under-resourced, and reintegration programs are either non-existent or insufficiently funded (Sarkin, 2008). This lack of support exacerbates the economic vulnerabilities of ex-offenders, increasing their likelihood of returning to misdemeanor as a means of survival. In Nigeria, for instance, the absence of structured post-release support systems leaves many ex-offenders without the necessary resources to reintegrate into society, leading to high recidivism rates (Ajibade, 2020).

The Informal economy also plays a role. In many African countries, most people work in the informal sector, which offers no job security, legal protection, and benefits. Ex-offenders often find themselves excluded from even these precarious opportunities due to stigma and discrimination (Alemika, 2013). Moreover, the lack of access to microfinance and entrepreneurial opportunities limits their ability to start small businesses or engage in self-employment, further hindering their economic stability (Oduola, 2014).

In Kenya, the influence of economic factors on recidivism is particularly pronounced. The high rate of unemployment in the nation, particularly among young people, makes reintegration extremely difficult (National Council for Law Reporting, 2019). Former inmates often return to the same impoverished conditions that contributed to their initial criminal behavior, making it difficult to break the cycle of recidivism. Specifically, in Naivasha Maximum Security Prison, economic deprivation is a critical issue. Many inmates come from poor backgrounds, and upon release, they face numerous barriers to economic stability. The lack of job opportunities, coupled with the stigma associated with imprisonment, limits their ability to find employment (Agutu, 2020). Furthermore, the absence of robust support systems, such as vocational training and job placement services, hampers their reintegration efforts.

A study conducted at Naivasha Maximum Security Prison highlighted that economic support and employment are crucial for reducing recidivism rates. The research suggested that providing ex-offenders with skills training and job opportunities significantly lowers their chances of reoffending (Nyaga, 2019). However, the implementation of such programs remains inconsistent and underfunded, undermining their effectiveness. The study also emphasized the importance of providing budgeting and finance education to help ex-offenders manage their finances and avoid the economic pitfalls that might lead them back to crime (Wanjohi, 2020).

Another factor is the role of community and family support. Ex-offenders who receive economic and social support from their families and communities are more likely to successfully reintegrate and less likely to reoffend. However, in many cases, families of ex-offenders in Kenya face economic hardships themselves, making it difficult to provide the necessary support (Mwenje, 2016). Community-based organizations and NGOs can assist in bridging this gap by offering support and resources to help ex-offenders reintegrate (Kamande, 2018).

2.2.3 Measures that can be put in place to address socioeconomic factors for reduced recidivism.

Various social and economic factors affect recidivism at different degrees and if left unchecked, can be a thorn in the flesh to the goals of correctional facilities, one of which is to curb re-arrest. These factors may be addressed by the following.

2.2.3.1 Strengthening Family and Community Support

Reinforcing the support systems of family and community is essential for reducing recidivism. Programs that facilitate family visits and community engagement during incarceration can enhance social support for inmates. Research by Bales and Mears (2008) suggests that family-oriented interventions can significantly reduce re-offending rates. In Kenya, initiatives aimed at improving family relationships and community integration show promise in reducing recidivism (Ngunyi, 2015).

2.2.3.2 Enhancing Employment Programs

Increasing access to job training and employment opportunities is critical for reducing recidivism. Partnerships with resident businesses and organizations to create job placements for ex-offenders can significantly reduce re-offending rates. According to Visser and Travis (2011), employment

programs that provide job readiness training and placement services are effective in reducing recidivism. In Kenya, enhancing vocational training programs within prisons can improve the employability of ex-offenders. Inmates who obtain vocational training have low probability of returning to prison after their release and their probability to secure employment increases in contrast to those who do not receive vocational training. (Prinsloo, 2017).

2.2.3.3 Improving Rehabilitation Programs

Expanding and improving the quality of rehabilitation programs within prisons is essential for reducing recidivism. Effective rehabilitation programs that provide vocational training, education, and psychological support can furnish inmates with the skills and resilience required for successful reintegration. Research by Gaes (2008) highlights the importance of comprehensive rehabilitation services in reducing re-offending rates. His study found that effective rehabilitation programs should address multiple aspects of an offender's life. In Kenya, addressing the resource constraints that limit the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs is crucial. Rehabilitation programs should be tailored to take care of distinct needs of inmates. (Ruteere, 2016). Ruteere advocated for integrating educational and vocational training, mental health and services, and substance abuse treatment. The research underscored that successful rehabilitation requires comprehensive support and ongoing evaluation to ensure the programs are effective in helping inmates reintegrate into society and avoid reoffending hence solving the issue of overcrowding in prisons.

2.2.3.4 Addressing Economic Inequalities

Addressing the underlying economic inequalities that contribute to crime and recidivism is essential for creating a more equitable society. Policies aimed at reducing unemployment, improving access to education, and providing social services can help mitigate the socioeconomic

factors that drive recidivism. According to Mitullah (2014), addressing economic deprivation through targeted interventions can reduce crime rates and improve social stability in urban areas. In Kenya, implementing policies that address these economic disparities is crucial for reducing recidivism. There is need for inclusive economic policies, equitable distribution of resources, and effective governance to address underlying structural issues and reduce crime and recidivism rates in Kenya. (Kanyinga, 2013).

2.3 Research gaps.

Name of the Researcher	Year of the Study	Topic of the Study	Purpose of the Study	Findings of the Study	The Gap
Karuti Kanyinga	2018	Socioeconomic Inequalities and Crime in Kenya	To analyze the impact of socioeconomic inequalities on crime rates	Identified socioeconomic inequalities as a key driver of crime, with limited access to resources being a major factor	Did not focus specifically on recidivism or the role of specific interventions in reducing re-offending
Dr. Winnie Mutilla	2019	Economic Deprivation and Crime in Urban Areas in Kenya	To examine the link between economic deprivation and crime rates in urban areas	Found a significant correlation between economic deprivation and increased crime rates in urban areas	Focused only on urban areas and did not specifically address recidivism or prison-specific contexts
Dr. Ruth Prinsloo	2020	Rehabilitation Programs and Recidivism in Kenyan Prisons	To evaluate the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs in reducing recidivism	Rehabilitation programs showed varying levels of effectiveness; vocational training was most effective	Did not explore the influence of broader socioeconomic factors outside of rehabilitation programs
L. N. Muriuki	2023	Rehabilitation Programmes and Recidivism by Criminal Offenders in Nakuru Main Prison, Kenya	To examine the impact of rehabilitation programs on recidivism rates among offenders	Found that comprehensive rehabilitation programs can significantly reduce recidivism	Limited to Nakuru Main Prison and did not consider Naivasha Maximum Security Prison or broader socioeconomic factors

2.4 Theoretical Framework

This study is guided by the Strain Theory, first introduced by sociologist Robert K. Merton in 1938. The theory offers a macro-sociological explanation of deviant behavior by positing that crime and deviance emerge when there is a discrepancy between goals defined culturally and the socially structured methods to achieve them. In many societies, success is measured by material wealth, social status, and economic prosperity. However, not all individuals have equal access to education, employment, or economic resources necessary to attain these socially endorsed goals. This discrepancy creates what Merton termed “strain,” a condition of psychological pressure and frustration. When legitimate avenues to success are blocked, individuals may resort to deviant or criminal alternatives to attain these goals. In such contexts, crime becomes a rational adaptation to a system perceived as unjust or inaccessible.

Merton classified individual responses to strain into five adaptive strategies: conformity, innovation, ritualism, retreatism, and rebellion. Of these, innovation is most applicable to the present study. Individuals who accept the cultural goals of wealth and success but lack access to legitimate means often resort to illegitimate methods, such as crime, to achieve them. For many inmates in Kenya, this theory helps explain how socioeconomic disadvantages—such as poverty, unemployment, and lack of education—lead to initial criminal behavior and eventually to recidivism. Upon release, former offenders frequently go back to the same unfavorable environments that initially contributed to their deviance. With few job opportunities, limited education, and continued social exclusion, these individuals remain under strain, increasing the likelihood of reoffending.

Despite its relevance, Strain Theory is not without criticism. It has been faulted for underestimating personal agency and the diverse ways individuals respond to hardship. Not all individuals who

face economic strain become criminals; some may seek lawful alternatives, resist deviance, or find meaning in non-material goals. Additionally, the theory heavily emphasizes material success as the primary societal goal, overlooking other motivators of crime such as psychological distress, addiction, or the need for belonging, which may also contribute to criminal behavior. It also inadequately addresses gender differences, as women often experience similar strains but exhibit lower crime rates, suggesting that the theory lacks sensitivity to gendered experiences of strain. Furthermore, it does not adequately account for white-collar crime, where offenders often have full access to societal goals and means.

Nevertheless, the application of Strain Theory to this study is both justified and valuable. It highlights the structural barriers that prevent offenders from successfully reintegrating into society and underscores how economic deprivation and social exclusion fuel recidivism. The theory offers a robust foundation for comprehending the ways in which structural inequality—such as unequal access to employment, training, and social support—create conditions that perpetuate criminal behavior. It also supports the study's focus on proposing socioeconomic interventions to reduce recidivism, including vocational training, community support, and post-release monitoring. By adopting Strain Theory, the study emphasized that recidivism is not merely a consequence of individual failure but a reflection of broader social and economic systems that disadvantage specific populations. This theoretical perspective enriched the study's analysis of recidivism at Naivasha Maximum Security Prison and strengthened its policy and practice-oriented recommendations.

2.5 Conceptual Framework

Independent variable

Dependent variable

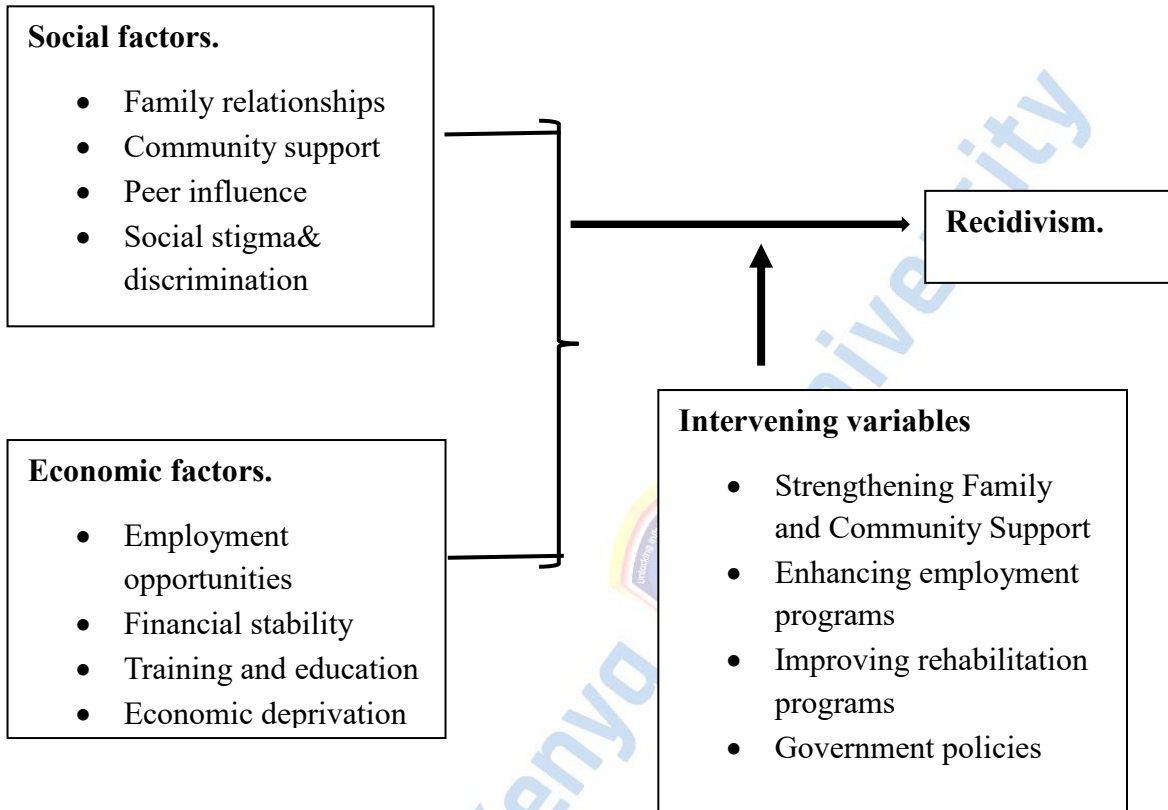


Figure 2. 1: Conceptual Framework

Source: Researcher (2024)

Recidivism which is the dependent variable in this study, refers to the tendency of a convicted criminal to reoffend after being released from prison. Empirical literature has consistently demonstrated that socioeconomic conditions play a significant role in influencing recidivism. According to Travis et al., 2014, the post-release environment, particularly in relation to access to employment and stable housing, directly shapes an ex-offender's likelihood of reintegrating successfully or returning to criminal behavior. The Conceptual framework depicts two independent

variables: economic factors and social factors, while also examining the intervening or mediating variables.

Economic factors such as unemployment, low income, and lack of job readiness are prominent determinants of criminal relapse. Several studies have reported that released prisoners often face immense challenges in securing meaningful employment due to limited education, lack of job skills, and employer stigma (Visher et al, 2011). For example, Durose et al, (2014) observed that unemployment among ex-prisoners is higher compared to that of the general population, and those without income are more susceptible to resorting to criminal activities as a means of survival. In Kenya, Muthoni (2018) reported that inadequate income opportunities were one of the key drivers of reoffending, with former inmates often expressing frustration over the lack of structured post-release support to enable financial independence.

Social factors, including the strength of family bonds, peer influence, societal stigma, and community support, also have a substantial impact on recidivism. The absence of meaningful relationships and community ties creates a void that increases the risk of deviant behavior. For instance, Petersilia (2003) emphasized that reintegration is more successful when former inmates receive emotional and psychological support from their families and communities. Conversely, social rejection and labeling can hinder reintegration and trigger feelings of hopelessness, thereby encouraging a return to crime. A recent study by Wanjala and Okello (2021) in Nairobi County further demonstrated that lack of community acceptance and peer pressure were central to the reoffending cycle among young male offenders.

Rehabilitation programs and government policy serve as critical intervening variables in this framework. Effective prison-based vocational training, psychological counseling, and life-skills education have been shown to significantly reduce recidivism (Lipsey & Cullen, 2007). These

programs not only equip inmates with employable skills but also help transform their outlook and self-perception, fostering a sense of purpose. However, the success of these interventions is largely dependent on their quality, duration, and post-release follow-up mechanisms. According to Rotich and Wambugu (2020), rehabilitation efforts in many Kenyan correctional facilities are often hampered by limited resources, poor implementation, and lack of coordination with community re-entry support systems.

Government policy is very pivotal in shaping both the economic and social environments into which inmates are released. Policies that promote job creation, facilitate access to microfinance or seed capital for ex-offenders, and encourage public-private partnerships in offender reintegration can alleviate the harmful consequences of poverty and social exclusion. Furthermore, policy-driven efforts to reduce the stigma associated with criminal records can open doors for housing and employment opportunities that are otherwise closed to former inmates (Clear, 2007).

2.6. Recap of literature review

A comprehensive analysis of previous research highlights the interplay between economic and social factors in shaping reoffending behaviour. Economic deprivation is a significant predictor of recidivism. Unemployment, low income, and financial instability create an environment where former inmates struggle to meet basic needs through legitimate means, often resorting to crime as a survival strategy. Merton's Strain Theory (1938) explains how limited access to societal goals through legitimate avenues leads individuals to innovate through criminal activities. Research by Mbuba (2012) on the financial impact of prison overcrowding and Petersilia (2003) on the challenges of prisoner re-entry further underscores the economic pressures faced by former inmates.

Social support plays a crucial role in reducing recidivism. Strong family ties, positive peer influences, and community support networks provide the necessary resources and encouragement for former inmates to reintegrate successfully. Dr. Ruth Prinsloo (2007) notes the importance of family and community in reducing reoffending, while Sampson and Laub (1993) emphasize the role of social bonds in shaping life-course trajectories. Wacquant (2009) discusses how social inequality and punitive policies exacerbate the challenges of reintegration.

The availability and quality of rehabilitation programs within prisons significantly impact recidivism rates. Studies by Gikandi (2019) on the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs in Kenyan prisons and Mutuma (2015) on correctional education emphasize the need for comprehensive rehabilitation to equip inmates with skills and support for post-release life. Broader systemic issues, such as prison overcrowding and inadequate funding for rehabilitation programs, hinder efforts to reduce recidivism. The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (2016) and the Kenya Prisons Service Annual Report (2020) provide critical insights into the structural challenges within the Kenyan prison system.

Overall, the literature identifies a clear need for targeted interventions addressing both economic and social factors to reduce recidivism. Effective rehabilitation programs, coupled with strong social support networks, are essential for breaking the cycle of reoffending and facilitating successful reintegration. Several gaps have been identified such as the need for more limited localized studies on the specific social and economic dynamics within different regions of Kenya, there is also insufficient research on the long-term effectiveness of rehabilitation programs in Kenyan prisons, and there is a need for more studies to explore the impact of social stigma and discrimination on the reintegration of ex-offenders. The study aimed to bridge the research gap by

specifically directing attention on the interplay of these factors in Naivasha Maximum Security Prison, providing a nuanced understanding of the local context and informing policy development.



CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter entails the research design and methodology that will be used in conducting the study. It goes on to detail the target population, the methods used for sampling, including how the sample size was chosen, the nature and source of the data, and the procedures for gathering and analyzing the data.

3.2 Research methodology

The research philosophy guiding this study was pragmatism, which emphasizes the practical application of research to real-world problems by integrating multiple methods of inquiry. Pragmatism, as articulated by Creswell and Plano Clark (2011), encourages the use of both quantitative and qualitative approaches to answer complex research questions, particularly when a single method may be insufficient. The choice of pragmatism was informed by the multidimensional nature of recidivism, which involves economic, social, and institutional dynamics that are best explored through diverse methodological lenses.

The study adopted a mixed-methods approach, integrating both numerical and narrative data to comprehensively assess how socioeconomic factors such as poverty, unemployment, peer influence, and stigma affect recidivism. Quantitative data was collected through questionnaires administered to inmates and prison staff, providing measurable indicators of key variables such as levels of education, employment status, and income prior to incarceration. In contrast, qualitative data was collected via interviews with key informants, which provided rich, contextual insights into lived experiences and perceptions regarding reintegration challenges and institutional support.

According to Morgan (2007), the strength of a pragmatic approach lies in its flexibility and responsiveness to the research context. In this study, this flexibility allowed for the triangulation

of findings, where qualitative narratives were used to enrich and explain patterns revealed in the quantitative data. This approach was also consistent with the theoretical framework of Strain Theory, which requires understanding both measurable indicators of strain (e.g., income levels) and subjective interpretations of how individuals respond to structural barriers (e.g., lack of opportunities).

The appropriateness of the pragmatic approach was also underscored by its alignment with the study's objective of generating practical recommendations. As Patton (2015) emphasizes, pragmatic research aims not only to understand phenomena but also to suggest actionable solutions. In this context, the study sought to inform policy, practice, and theory by identifying interventions that could reduce recidivism and improve reintegration outcomes, based on empirical evidence from both statistical and narrative data.

3.3 Research Design

William G. Zikmund (2003) defines research design as a comprehensive plan that delineates the methodologies and procedures for gathering and analyzing the necessary information in a research study. It outlines the framework for obtaining answers to the research questions and serves as a blueprint for the research process, making sure that collected data is relevant, accurate, and adequate for the research objectives.

This study utilized a descriptive survey research design; this was chosen as it allows for collection of data that outlines characteristics of the study population, such as inmates and staff of Naivasha Maximum Security Prison. The descriptive survey design was chosen for its ability to capture a broad range of data that aligns with the study variables, particularly economic deprivation, social stigma, peer influence, and the availability of rehabilitation programs.

The design incorporated both quantitative and qualitative components, making it suitable for the mixed-method approach. Quantitative data was collected using closed-ended questionnaires that measured the prevalence and intensity of socioeconomic challenges faced by inmates prior to incarceration and post-release. This data provided statistical correlations between variables such as income levels and recidivism tendencies. Meanwhile, qualitative data, collected through interviews, enabled the exploration of underlying motivations and barriers that may not be evident from numerical data alone.

This design was particularly appropriate for analyzing independent variables, intervening variables, and the dependent variable. It allowed for the comparison of patterns across different demographic categories such as age, education, marital status, and the exploration of causal inferences through thematic content analysis.

Furthermore, the use of descriptive statistics, thematic analysis, and triangulation helped ensure the reliability and validity of the findings. By employing this design, the study was able to produce a nuanced and evidence-based understanding of recidivism.

3.4 Location of the study

This study was done in Naivasha maximum security prison, located in Naivasha, a town in Nakuru County (**Appendix IX**), Kenya, chosen because it is one of the Kenya's high security prisons designed to hold inmates convicted of serious crimes. The prison is equipped with stringent security measures and facilities to manage high risk offenders. Naivasha is situated northwest of Nairobi, approximately 90 kilometres from the capital city. The prison is specifically located along the Naivasha-Kirima Road, near the southern shore of Lake Naivasha with geographical coordinates of approximately -0.7149 latitude and 36.4343 longitude. It is a few kilometres from the central business district of Naivasha town, making it relatively accessible from the town centre.

Naivasha maximum security prison’s unique combination of diverse inmate population, proximity to relevant socioeconomic environments, existing rehabilitation programs, and access to comprehensive data makes it ideal for conducting in-depth research on socioeconomic factors affecting recidivism. The prison houses inmates from various backgrounds offering a broad spectrum of data points for understanding how different social and economic factors influence recidivism. Naivasha town provides a relevant local community context, with varied economic activities and social structures, ideal for examining how these factors influence reintegration of inmates. The prison’s programs aimed at rehabilitating inmates through education and vocational training offer a practical basis to study their impact on reducing recidivism.

3.5 Target Population

A population of 3550 was targeted, including current and former inmates of Naivasha Maximum Security Prison, and prison staff (prison wardens, rehabilitation officers, and social workers) as shown in table 3.1. Additionally, key informants such as Prison commanding officer, five prison administrators, five section heads, and four Chaplains were included.

Table 3. 1

Target population

Category	Target population
Current inmates	2000
Former inmates	1200
Prison staff	350
Total	3550

Source: Researcher 2024.

3.6 Sampling procedures and techniques.

To choose participants, a multi-stage sampling procedure was employed. The population that was targeted was separated into strata according to factors like present and previous inmates and prison staff using stratified random sampling. To guarantee that each subgroup is fairly represented, participants were chosen at random from within each stratum. Purposive sampling was used to select key informants of the study to include the Officer in charge, deputy officer in charge, four Chaplains for all denominations in the facility (Catholic, SDA, Islam and protestant churches), five Prison administrators of the various sections that includes; tailoring section, carpentry, mechanics, formal education and health/hospital facility section. They provided in-depth knowledge and unique experiences related to recidivism.

3.7 Sample size

The study's sample size was determined using Cochran's formula for sample size determination:

$$n = Z^2 \cdot p \cdot (1-p) / e^2$$

Where:

- (n) = sample size.
- (Z) = z-value (1.96 for a 95% confidence level).
- (P) = estimated proportion of the population (assumed to be 0.5 for maximum variability).
- (e) = margin of error (0.05).

Based on this formula, the study sampled approximately 355 participants, distributed as follows. 200 current inmates who are directly experiencing the conditions of incarceration and are crucial for understanding immediate factors influencing recidivism. 120 former inmates to provide

insights into post-release challenges and factors that contributed to their reoffending or successful reintegration, and 35 prison staff members that include wardens and counsellors to offer a different perspective on the institutional and programmatic factors affecting recidivism.

Table 3.2

Sample size

Category	Target population	Sample size
Inmates	2000	200
Former inmates	1200	120
Prison staff	350	35
Total	3550	355

Adding the 11 key informants of the study including the officer in charge, deputy officer in charge, four chaplains for all denominations in the facility (Catholic, SDA, Islam and protestant churches), and five prison administrators of various sections that includes tailoring section, carpentry, mechanics, formal education and health/hospital facility section made a total of 366 sample size.

3.8 Construction of research instrument

The research instruments for this study consisted of two questionnaires (**Appendix III**) and (**Appendix IV**) administered to inmates and prison staff respectively, to collect quantitative data on socioeconomic factors affecting recidivism, and an interview guide (**Appendix V**) for in-depth interviews with key informants to collect qualitative data on individual experiences and perspectives.

The construction process of the questionnaires involved several key steps: The first step being a comprehensive analysis of existing literature on recidivism and socioeconomic factors. This helped to identify the key variables and indicators relevant to the study, ensuring that the questionnaire captured comprehensive data on these aspects. The questionnaires were therefore designed into several sections, each section corresponding to a different aspect of the research objectives.

Demographics section gathered basic details of the respondents, such as age, marital status, and educational background. Questions on economic factors focused on the respondent's employment status, income level, and access to financial resources before and after incarceration. Social factors section included questions on family relationships, social support networks, community integration, and the stigma experienced by former inmates.

The questionnaires consisted of closed-ended questions, allowing for straightforward data analysis. Likert scale questions (e.g., rating levels of agreement or frequency) were used to measure perceptions and attitudes towards socioeconomic factors and recidivism. Multiple-choice questions were included to gather categorical data, while some yes/no questions helped establish the presence or absence of specific factors.

Before finalizing the questionnaire, it was tested prior with a small sample of former inmates and prison staff to assess its clarity, relevance, and comprehensiveness. Feedback from the pilot test was used to twist the questions, ensuring that they are clear, unbiased, and easy for respondents to understand.

The interview guide was developed with the aim to explore the participants' experiences, perceptions, and insights into how socioeconomic factors influence recidivism and to gather

detailed narratives that provide context to the quantitative data collected via the questionnaire. It was planned into parts that reflects the study's objectives:

The interview guide was semi-structured, allowing the interviewer the flexibility to probe deeper into certain responses and explore new topics that may arise during the conversation. This flexibility ensured that the interviews captured a wide range of perspectives and insights. It was pilot-tested with a small group of participants to assess the flow of questions, the appropriateness of the language used, and the depth of responses elicited. Adjustments were then made to refine the questions and improve the overall effectiveness of the guide.

Both the questionnaire and the interview guide were constructed with careful attention to the study's objectives, ensuring that they effectively captured data needed to answer the research questions.

3.9. Testing for validity and reliability

Validity refers to the degree to which a test or instrument measures what it purports to measure (Robert, 1977). Reliability refers to the consistency of a measure. A measure is considered reliable if it produces consistent results under consistent conditions.

To ensure validity of the data collection tools, content validity was used to review the research instruments. The questionnaire and interview guides was developed based on a thorough examination of existing literature on recidivism and socioeconomic factors. The researcher consulted with subject matter experts to review the instruments to ensure that all relevant aspects were covered. Construct validity was used to ensure that the constructs of social factors and economic factors were clearly defined and to confirm that the survey items correctly load onto

their respective constructs. Recidivism rates were cross validated with official prison records to ensure that self-reported recidivism data is accurate.

Cronbach's alpha was calculated for each construct (social factors and economic factors) to ensure internal consistency reliability. A Cronbach's alpha value of 0.70 or higher was considered acceptable. For test-retest reliability, some respondents completed the survey at two different points in time. The interconnection between the two sets of responses was analyzed to evaluate the consistency of the measures. This study also consulted with colleagues in research field to review the methods, interpretation and findings.

3.10 Data Collection Methods and procedures.

Questionnaires were administered to prison staff, current and former inmates, to collect data on socioeconomic factors and recidivism rates. The questionnaires were designed to gather information on objectives of the study and they were distributed to the selected sample of inmates and prison staff. Trained research assistants administered the questionnaires in person to ensure a high response rate and assisted respondents in case of any difficulties. Respondents completed the questionnaires independently, but research assistants were available to provide clarification if needed. Completed questionnaires were collected immediately to avoid loss of data.

Interview guides were conducted with key informants over a three-week period. Participants for the in-depth interviews were purposively selected according to their role in the prison system or their experience with recidivism. Each interview lasted approximately 30 to 60 minutes done in private for confidentiality and open communication. The interviews provided detailed narratives and insights into personal experiences, perceptions, and the contextual factors influencing recidivism. Interviews were scheduled at the participant's offices or via video conferencing, depending on their availability and preferences.

Participants were informed about the aims, utilization of their data, and their entitlement to confidentiality and anonymity. Trained assistants conducted data collection, to ensure that standardized procedures are followed. All collected data were securely stored, and access limited to authorized personnel only to maintain confidentiality.

By employing these methods and following these procedures, the study gathered a robust and comprehensive dataset that captured both the statistical trends and personal experiences related to recidivism and socioeconomic factors in Naivasha Maximum Security Prison.

3.11 Data Analysis techniques and procedures

According to Baily (2006), data analysis procedure includes the process of packaging the collected information, putting in order, and structuring its main components in a way that findings can easily and effectively be communicated. Data analysis was done using qualitative and quantitative techniques and presentation done using tables, bar charts and line graphs. Quantitative data analysis technique such as descriptive Statistics were used to summarize demographic data and key variables, including frequencies, means, and standard deviations to provide an overview of socioeconomic factors and recidivism rates. Data from interviews were transcribed and analyzed using thematic analysis. Coding was done to identify key themes and patterns related to socioeconomic factors and recidivism. The qualitative data from thematic analysis was presented through narrative summaries, direct quotes, and thematic tables.

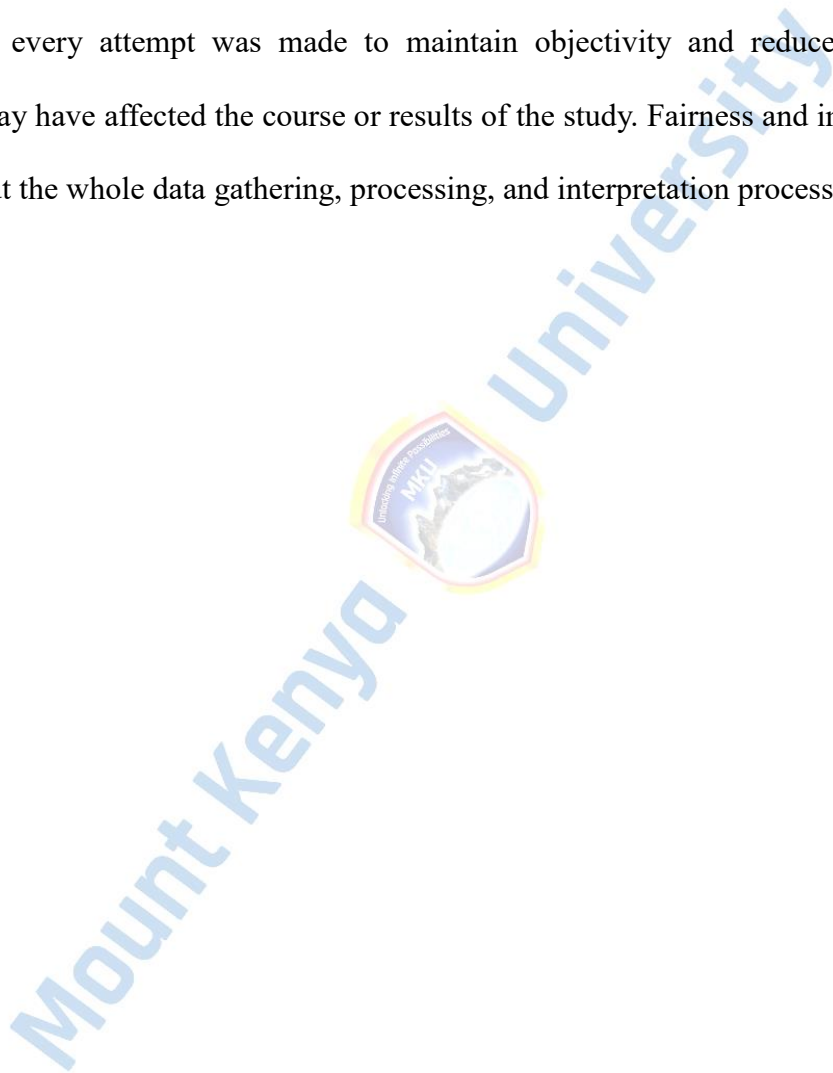
3.12 Ethical Considerations

Informed Consent: Every participant was properly informed about the study, detailing its purpose, procedures, possible risks, and benefits. All participants filled informed consent form (**Appendix II**) before data collection.

Confidentiality: Transcripts of interviews and survey replies were given distinct codes to guarantee this. To guarantee anonymity, personal identifiers were eliminated from the data.

Voluntary Participation: Participants were advised that their participation in the study is without coercion and their withdrawal from it at any moment will not have any negative effects.

Researcher bias: every attempt was made to maintain objectivity and reduce any personal prejudices that may have affected the course or results of the study. Fairness and impartiality was upheld throughout the whole data gathering, processing, and interpretation process.



CHAPTER FOUR

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

This chapter deals with analyzing, presenting, and interpreting the data collected using questionnaires and interview guides to address the research objectives. It details the results obtained from questionnaires administered to inmates and prison staff, as well as insights gathered from interviews guides with key informants, including the Officer in Charge, Deputy Officer in Charge, chaplains of various denominations, and section administrators. The data is presented in the form of tables, charts, and thematic analyses.

4.2 Response Rate

According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), a response rate of 50% is adequate, 60% is good, and 70% or more is excellent. The study targeted a total of 366 respondents comprising inmates, prison staff, and key informants. Responses were received from 339 respondents including all the 11 key informants, giving a response rate of 92.4% for questionnaires and 100% for interview guides. This high response rate was facilitated by the use of efficient data collection methods and trained enumerators.

Table 4. 1

Response rate

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Returned questionnaires	328	92.4
Unreturned questionnaires	27	7.6

Conducted interview	11	100
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Note: This table shows the response rate calculated after collection of data

4.3 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

The demographic characteristics included the age, education level, and years of service for the prison staff. This section provides insights into the background details of the participants, which is crucial for understanding the population under study and the context within which the data was collected.

4.3.1 Age of respondents

Table 4.2

Age distribution of inmates

Variable	Frequency (N=304)	Percentage (%)
Age Group		
18-29 years	73	24.0
30-39 years	100	33.0
40-49 years	79	25.9
50 years and above	52	17.1

As shown in table 4.2, most of the inmates (33%) fell within the 30–39 age bracket, trailed by 25.9% aged 40–49. A significant proportion (24%) were young adults aged 18–29, while the least at 17.1% were aged above 50 years. The predominance of younger inmates aligns with prior studies by Ngugi (2017) and Makori & Otieno (2019), which found that younger individuals are

more susceptible to criminal behavior due to socioeconomic vulnerabilities such as unemployment, peer influence, and lack of stable income

Older inmates (50+ years) represent the smallest group, their underrepresentation among inmates, aligns with Sampson and Laub's (2005) observation that criminal behavior naturally declines with age, a phenomenon known as desistance. These findings highlight the need for targeted rehabilitation efforts, particularly vocational training and reintegration programs for younger offenders to reduce recidivism

Table 4.3

Age distribution of prison staff

Variable	Frequency (N=35)	Percentage (%)
Age Group		
18-29 years	10	28.5
30-39 years	12	34.3
40-49 years	08	22.9
50 years and above	05	14.3

Among the prison staff, the majority (34.3%) are aged between 30–39 years, followed by those aged 18–29 at 28.5% and 40–49, each at 22.9%. Staff aged 50 years and above constitute 14.3% of the workforce. This distribution suggests a balanced mix of younger and experienced staff, which can be beneficial in handling rehabilitation programs. However, the relatively high proportion of staff nearing retirement age may indicate a need for capacity-building initiatives and succession planning.

Previous research by Githongo and Mugo, (2020) suggests that correctional institutions benefit from staff with diverse age groups, as younger officers bring new energy and adaptability, while older staff contribute valuable experience. However, the presence of a considerable number of younger officers may also pose challenges, such as a lack of experience in dealing with high-risk offenders. Githongo and Mugo (2020) suggest, aging staff may also face challenges in adapting to new correctional philosophies, including restorative justice or trauma-informed care. This age range suggests a relatively experienced workforce, particularly those aged 40–49 years, who bring expertise but are also nearing retirement and may face challenges in adapting to evolving correctional practices. Continuous training and mentorship programs could help bridge this gap and enhance the effectiveness of rehabilitation efforts.

4.3.2 Education level of respondents

Table 4.4

Education level of inmates

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Primary	122	40.1
Secondary	91	30.0
Tertiary	30	9.8
None	61	20.1
Total	304	100

From table 4.3, the majority of inmates were found to have low educational attainment, with a significant proportion amounting to 40.1% having only primary education, while 30% secondary education. A smaller percentage of 20.1% had no formal education, while an even smaller group, 9.8%, had attained tertiary education. These findings indicate a correlation between limited

educational attainment and criminal behavior, as individuals with lower education levels often face economic instability and limited employment opportunities, which increases their likelihood of engaging in crime then and again. A few inmates were found to have tertiary education indicating that higher education attainment exposes one to better opportunities and therefore lowers criminal behavior. This observation supports previous findings by Travis et al. (2014), who noted that low educational attainment is both a risk factor for initial incarceration and a barrier to successful reintegration. The implication is that without improving inmates' literacy and employability skills, recidivism is likely to persist

The prevalence of low education levels observed aligns with the study by Ngugi (2017) which found that limited education contributes to higher crime rates and recidivism. The study indicated that poor educational backgrounds often limit employment opportunities, making individuals more susceptible to criminal activities as a means of survival. The finding also aligns with Prinsloo (2021), who highlighted education as a critical factor influencing recidivism

These findings highlight the need for robust prison education programs that provide inmates with employable skills and certifications. Collaboration with educational institutions and employers can enhance the effectiveness of these programs.

Table 4.5

Education level of prison staff

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Secondary	12	34.3

Diploma	11	31.4
Degree	8	22.9
Post graduate	4	11.4
Total	35	100

From table 4.5, the education level of prison staff is significantly higher than that of inmates. Most staff members have at least a secondary education (34.3%), with a substantial proportion holding diplomas (31.4%) or higher academic qualifications. 22.9% were found to have degree education and 11.4%, post graduate level. This reflects the professional requirements for working in correctional facilities.

The presence of diploma and degree holders among prison staff suggests that they have the necessary knowledge to facilitate inmate rehabilitation programs. However, continuous professional development and specialized training in areas such as psychology, rehabilitation techniques, and offender behavior management are essential to improve prison staff effectiveness in reducing recidivism.

4.3.3 Years of Service of prison staff:

The study revealed the following distribution of years of service among the prison staff as shown in table 4.6

Table 4.6

Years of service of respondents

Years of service for prison staff	Percentage
Less than 5	20

Between 5 to 10	35
Over 10	45
Total	100

As shown in table 4.6 majority of the prison staff served the prison for more than 10 years at 45% trailed by the ones who had served for a period between 5 and 10 years at 35% while least had served for less than 5 years at 20%. This diversity in years of service ensured a balanced perspective from both new and experienced staff, enriching the study's insights into recidivism and rehabilitation strategies. The distribution suggests that the prison has a mix of relatively new and experienced staff, allowing for a balance of fresh perspectives and institutional knowledge.

Research indicates that experienced correctional officers play a crucial role in influencing inmate behaviour and implementing effective rehabilitation programs (Liebling et al., 2011). Long-serving staff members are more familiar with institutional policies, inmate behaviour, and intervention strategies, which enhances their ability to manage and rehabilitate offenders effectively (Travis et al., 2014). However, new staff members bring fresh perspectives, adaptability to evolving correctional policies, and openness to innovative rehabilitation approaches (Clear & Frost, 2015).

The high turnover rate among staff with less than five years of service (20%) suggests potential challenges such as job stress, inadequate remuneration, or limited career growth opportunities, which are common concerns in correctional facilities globally (Schaufeli & Peeters, 2000). High staff turnover can disrupt rehabilitation efforts, as inconsistency in program implementation weakens inmate rehabilitation outcomes (Griffin et al., 2012).

Given these findings, targeted training programs should be designed for both new and experienced staff to ensure consistency in delivering offender-focused interventions. Studies suggest that continuous professional development and mental health support for correctional officers significantly improve their job satisfaction and effectiveness in rehabilitation efforts (Finney et al., 2013).

4.3.4 Marital status of respondents

The study sought to establish whether marital status of respondent could influence recidivism in Naivasha maximum prison. The results are given in table 4.7

Table 4.7

Marital status of inmates

Marital status	Frequency	Percentage
Single	167	55
Married	107	35
Widowed/divorced	30	10
Total	304	100

A significant proportion of respondents were single (55%), followed by married (35%), with widowed/divorced respondents constituting 10%. Marital status data show that most inmates are single, highlighting the potential role of weak family support systems in recidivism. This supports findings by Uggen et al. (2012), who argued that family instability and lack of strong social ties increase the risk of recidivism. Single inmates were found to lack stable family support systems, which perhaps fuels their involvement in criminal activities and subsequent recidivism. Family structures are known to provide emotional and economic stability, and their absence exacerbates

vulnerabilities among single offenders. This aligns with Mutilla (2020), who emphasized the role of family connections in successful reintegration and reduced recidivism.

Studies indicate that single individuals have higher recidivism rates than married individuals (Makori & Otieno, 2019). They often lack stable family support upon release, making reintegration into society difficult. The absence of strong social ties may increase reliance on criminal networks for survival. Marriage is often a protective factor against recidivism, as family obligations and emotional support can provide motivation for desistance. However, incarceration strains relationships, and some married inmates return to find broken families or separation, increasing stress and the likelihood of reoffending.

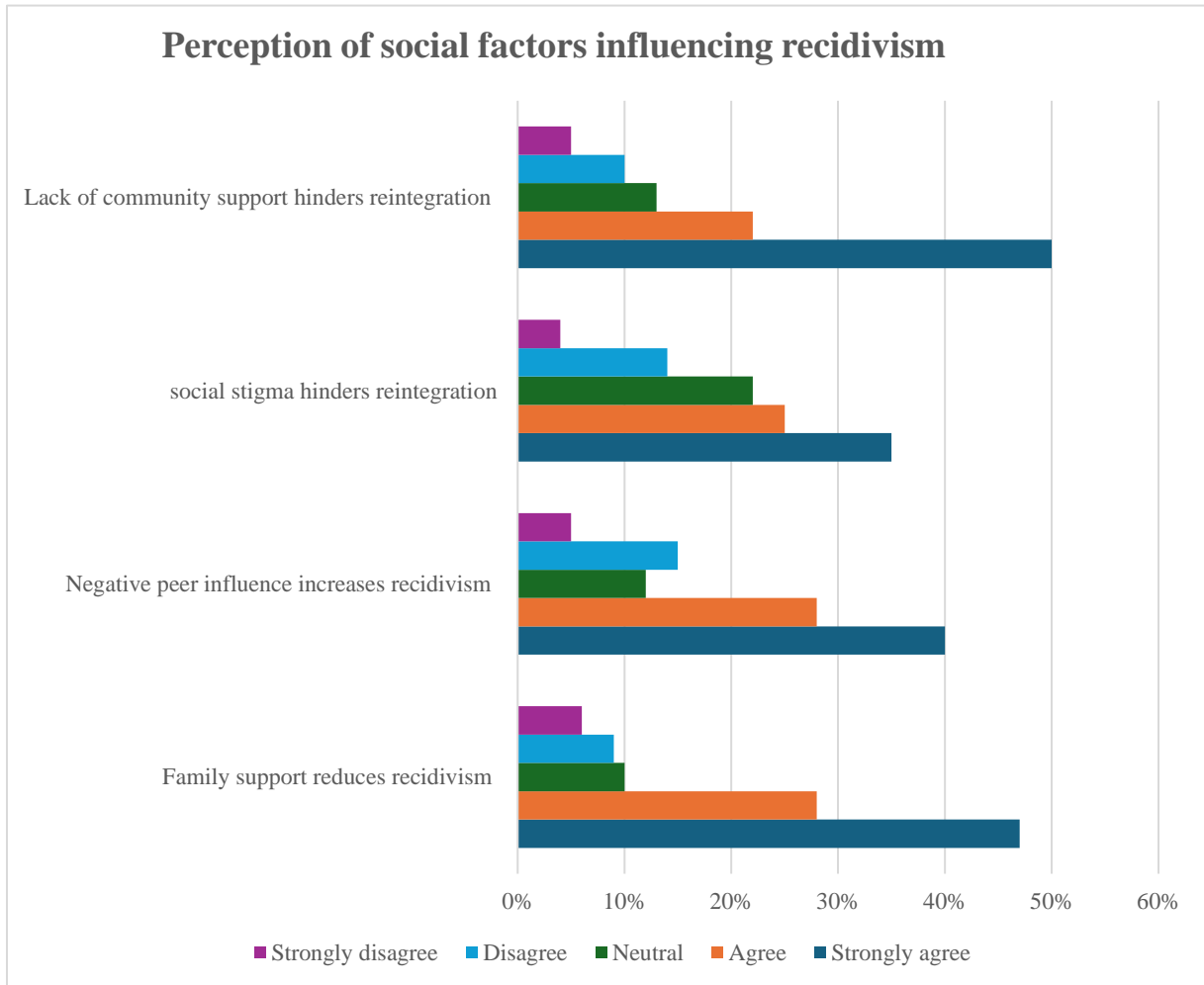
Married individuals may have more to lose and stronger community anchors, which act as protective factors against reoffending. These findings highlight the importance of supporting inmates in maintaining family relationships during incarceration, as strong familial bonds can serve as a stabilizing force post-release.

4.4 Influence of Social Factors on Recidivism in Naivasha Maximum prison in Nakuru County.

The first objective sought to assess the influence of social factors such as family support, peer influence, and social stigma & discrimination on recidivism. Data from the questionnaires and interviews were used to gauge the extent to which these factors contribute to reoffending. The results are as shown in figure 4.1.

Figure 4.1

Perception of respondents on the influence of social factors on recidivism



4.4.1 Influence of Lack of Family support on recidivism in Naivasha Maximum prison in Nakuru County.

As shown in figure 4.1, the findings indicate 75% of respondents agreed that lack of family support significantly contributes to recidivism. Majority of recidivates reported strained relationships with family members, citing stigmatization and lack of acceptance upon release. Only 15% of the respondents disagreed and felt that lack of family support does not increase recidivism, they

mentioned different social challenges that they have encountered. Other respondents which accounts for 10% remained neutral.

The study found that the ex-offenders who do not maintain solid family connections frequently face emotional and financial instability, significantly raising their chances of returning to criminal behavior. This result corroborates prior research by Mutilla (2020), Muriuki (2023), and Prinsloo (2018), all of whom emphasize the exacerbating effects of neglected familial relationships on post-incarceration recidivism. The findings indicate that family support plays a pivotal role in providing emotional stability and aiding reintegration, as inmates with strong family ties often benefit from a structured support system that facilitates their adjustment after release.

Conversely, the respondents reported that absence of family support leads to isolation, frustration, and eventual re-engagement in criminal activities. Most respondents emphasized that inmates who maintain strong family ties are highly likely to be incorporated successfully into society. They cited that families provide a vital support system, reducing feelings of isolation and offering a safety net.

The results from the interviews supported the findings. The Officer in Charge of the station stated that:

“Family support acts as an anchor that stabilizes inmates post-release, reducing the temptation to revert to crime.”

One key informant explained: *“Most of the inmates who return are those who had no meaningful contact with their families while inside. Once they’re released, they go back to the same communities that rejected them. The cycle continues.”* (Deputy officer in charge)

Another informant noted:

“We try to involve families through counseling and reintegration sessions, but many of them have completely given up on the inmate. This emotional isolation contributes to the inmate feeling like they have no place in society.” (Key Informant 3, Chaplain – Protestant)

Some of the key informants strongly suggested that efforts to strengthen family bonds should include family counseling sessions and opportunities for regular visitation during incarceration. That programs that support family reunification post-release, such as transitional housing for inmates and their families, could further enhance reintegration outcomes.

Merton’s theory recognizes social relationships as critical buffers to strain. The absence of family support denies the former inmate both emotional and structural support, increasing susceptibility to reoffending as a maladaptive coping strategy.

4.4.2 Influence of Negative Peer Influence on Recidivism in Naivasha Maximum prison in Nakuru County.

As indicated in figure 4.1, about 68% of respondents identified negative peer influence as a major driver of recidivism. Despite the strong agreement on the role of negative peer influence, 19% of respondents disagreed, while 13% remained neutral on the matter. Inmates reported that while incarcerated, individuals often develop associations with peers engaged in criminal behavior, forming networks that extend beyond prison and facilitate continued involvement in crime. These connections perpetuate a cycle of criminal activity, particularly when inmates lack access to alternative positive influences. Prinsloo (2021) observed similar trends, where ex-offenders often find it easier to reintegrate into familiar criminal circles than to establish legitimate relationships

in society. Theoretical frameworks such as Social Learning Theory (Bandura, 1977) support this finding, asserting that behavior is learned through observation, imitation and modeling.

Those who disagreed argued that personal choice and self-discipline play a more significant role in determining whether an ex-inmate reoffends. Others felt that family support is a stronger determinant of successful reintegration than peer influence, as a supportive family can help them avoid criminal networks. Those who were neutral suggested that the impact of peer influence varies from individual to individual, meaning it cannot be considered the sole driver of recidivism. They further argued that not all peer interactions are negative—some inmates form positive networks with fellow rehabilitated individuals who encourage lawful behavior.

To deepen understanding, key informant interviews were conducted with chaplains and prison administrators who work closely with inmates and observe their behavioral patterns both inside prison and upon release.

One prison administrator in charge of tailoring section remarked:

“We’ve seen it time and again — an inmate is released, but within weeks, they reconnect with the same group that got them into crime. Without strong support to resist that pull, they relapse.”

A chaplain echoed this concern:

“Peer pressure is strong, especially for younger inmates. When they leave here, they often return to the same neighborhoods, where criminal groups welcome them back. Some even feel they belong more with their peers than with family.” (Chaplain – Catholic)

The findings indicate that young offenders are especially vulnerable to peer pressure, with many being recruited into gangs or organized crime during incarceration. Majority of inmates reported that they had been influenced by peers to engage in illegal activities after release, highlighting the strong impact of social networks in reinforcing criminal behavior. Similarly, prison staff observed that many repeat offenders tend to reconnect with criminal peers, which hinders their reintegration efforts.

Research has shown that negative peer influence is one of the strongest predictors of recidivism. Melde & Esbensen (2016) found that former inmates who maintained ties with delinquent peers had significantly higher chances of reoffending within the first year of release. Another study by Schubert et al. (2018) highlighted that the need for group belonging often leads ex-offenders back into criminal associations, reinforcing deviant behavior patterns. In the context of Naivasha Maximum Security Prison, these findings underscore the challenge of breaking the cycle of recidivism. Without targeted interventions to disrupt negative peer associations, rehabilitation efforts may have limited success.

Addressing this challenge would require targeted interventions, such as mentorship programs and exposure to positive role models within correctional facilities. Additionally, structured rehabilitation programs can help inmates sever ties with criminal networks and develop new, law-abiding relationships. According to Prinsloo (2021), effective community-based reintegration strategies should include structured support groups aimed at fostering accountability and encouraging positive social interactions for ex-offenders.

4.4.3 Influence of Social Stigma on Recidivism in Naivasha Maximum prison in Nakuru County.

The data from figure 4.1 reveals that 60% of respondents acknowledge stigma as a barrier to successful reintegration. Most respondents emphasized that societal rejection and discriminatory attitudes toward ex-offenders often limit their opportunities for employment, housing, and social reintegration. These challenges heighten their vulnerability to reoffend. As Karuti Kanyinga (2021) highlighted, the stigma surrounding ex-offenders often labels them as “perpetual criminals,” undermining rehabilitation efforts.

Some respondents mentioned having experienced housing discrimination against them as ex-offenders stating that some landlords are unwilling to rent to individuals with criminal records, pushing them into homelessness or unstable living conditions. Research by Harding et al. (2019) shows that lack of stable housing is one of the strongest predictors of recidivism, as individuals without secure home face difficulties in maintaining employment and reintegration into society.

Survey participants also highlighted familial stigma and rejection as significant obstacles, particularly for offenders whose actions directly impacted their relatives. Inmates reported difficulties in reconnecting with their children, spouses or extended family members due to prolonged incarceration. According to a study by Bahr et al. (2010), ex-prisoners who lack family support upon release are more likely to relapse into criminal behavior compared to those who reintegrate into a supportive family structure. The emotional and psychological impact of being rejected by loved ones often leads to social isolation, increasing susceptibility to negative peer influences.

The study established that one of the most significant impacts of stigma is the difficulty ex-offenders face in securing employment. Many employers hesitate to hire individuals with criminal records, fearing potential risks or reputational damage. As a result, former inmates often struggle to find stable income sources, increasing the likelihood of returning to crime as a means of survival. Studies by Pager (2003) demonstrated that individuals with a criminal record are 50% less likely to be called back for a job interview compared to applicants without records, even when their qualifications are identical.

Data from key informant interviews further supported the findings. One of the chaplains interviewed described the emotional toll of rejection by society:

“Some of them [ex-inmates] come out transformed, ready to start over. But when they are labeled, avoided, and denied jobs just because they are ex-prisoners, it breaks them. Some say, ‘What’s the point of changing if no one believes I can change?’” (Chaplain – Protestant)

A prison administrator shared a similar observation:

“Stigma is a silent killer. Employers won’t hire them, families keep their distance, and even churches sometimes don’t accept them. It’s not long before some of these individuals lose hope and return to crime.” (Administrator – Vocational Section)

Stigmatization can lead to self-perception as a criminal, which reinforces criminal identity and limits rehabilitation efforts. Psychological studies indicate that social exclusion can result in stress, depression, and anxiety, all of which can contribute to poor decision-making and increased recidivism rates (Uggen et al., 2014). The findings aligns with Strain Theory which posits that individuals who experience blocked opportunities, such as employment and housing

discrimination, may turn to crime as an adaptive response to their marginalized social status. The barriers created by stigma reinforce the socioeconomic disadvantages that push ex-offenders back into criminal activities. This reflects how anomie or normlessness can emerge when society excludes ex-inmates from reintegration. The stigma acts as a structural barrier, fueling strain and marginalization. The rejection leads individuals to feel detached from societal norms, thus reinforcing deviant behavior.

The findings also align with Labeling Theory (Becker, 1963), which suggests that societal perceptions shape individual identities and behaviors. Once individuals are labeled as criminals, they may find it difficult to shed this identity, even after serving their sentences. This theory explains why stigma can create a self-fulfilling prophecy, where former inmates struggle to reintegrate due to societal rejection and eventually reoffend.

These barriers emphasize the need for public awareness campaigns to educate communities about the importance of reintegration. Government policies should encourage employers and landlords to provide opportunities for rehabilitated individuals. Initiatives such as tax incentives for businesses that hire former inmates have proven effective in other countries.

4.4.4 Influence of Weak Community Reintegration on Recidivism in Naivasha Maximum Prison in Nakuru County.

As shown in table 4.1, approximately 72% of respondents agreed that challenges in community reintegration are significant contributors to recidivism, with most citing challenges such as insufficient transitional support, weak community assistance frameworks, and skepticism from local residents as frequent disruptors of the reintegration process for former inmates. Findings

align with Dr. Winnie Mitullah's observation that economic deprivation in urban areas amplifies social marginalization, leading to re-offense.

The study found that former inmates often encounter stigma and mistrust from community members, which hampers their ability to secure employment, housing, and social support. This aligns with the study by Kanyinga (2020) which underscores the role of community perception in shaping the reintegration process, noting that positive community attitudes can significantly reduce recidivism rates. Additionally, Social Bond Theory (Hirschi, 1969) suggests that strong community ties deter individuals from engaging in criminal activities. When former inmates lack meaningful community bonds, they are more likely to relapse into criminal behavior due to the absence of positive societal influences.

Participants emphasized the importance of community-based programs, such as mentorship and reintegration support groups, to bridge the gap between ex-offenders and their communities. One chaplain noted:

“Rehabilitation efforts within prisons are often undone by the lack of community reintegration programs outside prison walls.”

A chaplain elaborated on the gap between release and reintegration:

“When someone is released, that's not the end of the journey. It's the beginning of a new struggle. Most of them are released into communities that are not ready to receive them. No support, no guidance, no one checking on them.” (Chaplain – Catholic)

Another informant, an officer in charge of the rehabilitation unit, noted:

“There’s a missing link between prison and society. Reintegration should be a process, not an event. Unfortunately, there are no formal structures to follow up and help these individuals settle back. Without a support system, they return to crime just to survive.” (Officer- in charge of the station)

These sentiments are echoed in studies by Gifford et al. (2019) and Omboto (2013), who found that reintegration challenges such as lack of housing, employment opportunities, and social networks are among the leading causes of recidivism. Community leaders, faith-based groups, and non-governmental organizations hold a crucial responsibility in promoting social acceptance and mitigating stigma toward ex-offenders. Mentorship programs involving community volunteers could help ex-offenders build trust and establish new social connections.

4.5 Economic Factors Influencing Recidivism in Naivasha Maximum prison in Nakuru county.

The second objective focused on the role of economic factors such as employment status, vocational training, and access to financial resources in determining the likelihood of re-offending.

4.5.1 Influence of Employment Status on Recidivism in Naivasha Maximum Prison in Nakuru County.

The study sought to investigate the influence of employment status as an economic factor on recidivism. The outcome is as in figure 4.2

Figure 4.2

Employment status of inmates before incarceration



Figure 4.2 shows that over half of the inmates (52%) reported being unemployed before incarceration, indicating that lack of employment opportunities is a significant factor influencing their likelihood of reoffending. The data also showed that only a small proportion (26%) were engaged in stable employment, emphasizing the need for effective economic interventions.

The findings indicate that lack of employment opportunities is a significant driver of recidivism. This finding reflects systemic challenges, such as employer stigma, limited vocational training, and inadequate preparation for job markets during incarceration. Prinsloo (2021) found similar patterns, emphasizing how unemployment fosters feelings of frustration, which may lead ex-offenders to revert to crime. Inmates noted that existing training programs in the prison are either

outdated or lack certification, making them less competitive in the job market. Prison staff echoed this concern, highlighting the need for partnerships with industries to provide meaningful skill development. Prison staff indicated that Inmates in the prison often complete sentences without participating in meaningful vocational programs, exacerbating their employment challenges.

4.5.2 Influence of Poverty on Recidivism in Naivasha Maximum Prison in Nakuru County.

The study sought the respondents’ perception on the influence of poverty on the chances of re-offending and the results were tabulated as shown in table 4.8

Table 4.8

Influence of poverty on recidivism

Response	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Frequency	169	102	34	24	10	339
percentage	50	30	10	7	3	100

As reflected in table 4.6, poverty which results from financial instability, emerged as a key factor, with 80% of participants associating it with a higher likelihood of recidivism. 10% disagreed while the rest 10% were neutral. Majority of respondents indicated that the inability to meet basic needs—such as food, shelter, and healthcare—pushes them toward criminal activities for survival. Kanyinga (2020) underscores this, noting that poverty creates a cyclical pattern where individuals are trapped in crime due to limited resources and opportunities. This is supported by routine activity theory (Cohen & Felson, 1979) which states that economic deprivation creates situations where individuals are more likely to engage in crime due to a lack of guardianship (support systems) and increased exposure to criminal opportunities.

Some respondents who disagreed felt that even when given economic opportunities, some ex-offenders choose to return to crime because it offers quick and easy money compared to legal employment, which requires patience. Those who were neutral believed that not all offenders engage in criminal activities due to poverty. Instead, they suggested that some individuals commit crimes out of greed, thrill-seeking, or personal choice rather than financial desperation. They emphasized that many law-abiding citizens also face economic hardships but do not resort to crime.

The majority of the inmates stated that they lack savings or financial assistance upon release. They highlighted that even those who wish to start small businesses face challenges in accessing credit or startup capital. One respondent noted:

“If the government or NGOs gave us something small to start a business, we wouldn’t go back to crime.”

Prison staff echoed this concern, with one officer stating:

“Most of these inmates don’t have family or support systems. If they get out with nothing, they come back in no time.”

Respondents also emphasized that the struggle to afford housing, food, and medical care pushes ex-inmates back into criminal behavior. One inmate explained:

“When you leave prison, you have nowhere to sleep, no food, no clothes. What do you do? You steal to survive.”

Prison staff further indicated that many former inmates return to a cycle of homelessness, which increases their chances of reoffending. Several inmates reported that their families expect them to contribute financially upon release, yet they have no means of doing so. This economic pressure, coupled with social stigma, forces many to resort to crime to meet these expectations.

Inmates and prison staff alike acknowledged the stress and frustration that comes with financial struggles. Many respondents described how this mental burden increases the likelihood of reoffending. One inmate confessed:

“You feel hopeless and worthless. It’s easier to go back to the old ways because at least then you can survive.”

The findings were corroborated by responses from key informants during interview. The inability to meet the most fundamental requirements such as food, shelter, and healthcare was reported to push many ex-prisoners back into criminal behavior soon after release. One key informant from the carpentry section explained:

“Many of these men come from extreme poverty. After they’re released, they return to the same environment—no job, no food, no shelter. It’s not long before they find themselves back here, mostly for theft or related offenses.” (Prison Administrator – Carpentry)

A chaplain also echoed similar concerns, emphasizing the desperation faced by former inmates:

“Poverty forces people into hopelessness. They come out with no money and nowhere to go. Society isn’t always ready to help them. They end up stealing just to survive. It’s not because they want to, but because they have no other option.” (Chaplain – Protestant Church)

These observations are consistent with existing literature, including studies by Githongo and Mugo (2020), and Makori and Otieno (2019), which found a strong correlation between economic deprivation and recidivism. Individuals from impoverished backgrounds often lack access to legal income-generating opportunities, rendering crime a survival strategy to them.

Poverty, therefore, leads to stress, depression, and feelings of hopelessness, which can increase the likelihood of relapse into criminal behavior. According to Agnew’s (1992) General Strain Theory, financial strain and frustration can push individuals toward criminal activities as a coping mechanism.

4.5.3 Influence of Economic Deprivation on Recidivism in Naivasha maximum prison in Nakuru County.

The study sought the respondents’ perception on the influence of economic deprivation on the chances of re-offending and the results were tabulated as shown in table 4.9

Table 4.9

Influence of economic deprivation on recidivism

Response	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Frequency	136	94	51	34	24	339
percentage	40	28	15	10	7	100

As shown in table 4.7, economic deprivation emerged as a significant theme with 68% strongly supporting that economic deprivation increases chances of reoffending. One prison administrator commented:

“The inability to secure a stable income after release pushes many inmates back into criminal activities.”

For instance, respondents highlighted cases where they as former inmates returned to theft or petty crime due to immediate financial pressures after release. Many inmates noted that economic deprivation strips them of their independence, making them reliant on friends or family who may not always be supportive. Some shared that without financial means, they are often forced to rejoin criminal networks that provide them with money and shelter. One inmate explained:

“When you have no money and nowhere to go, you return to the people you knew before – and most of them are criminals.”

Prison staff echoed this sentiment, noting that a lack of economic stability makes reintegration almost impossible. Several inmates noted that upon release, they face debt and financial obligations they are unable to meet. This pressure, they argued, often pushes them back into illegal activities. One respondent stated:

“People expect you to come out and start providing for your family, but how do you do that with nothing?”

Prison staff further indicated that financial stress leads to mental strain, desperation, and, ultimately, reoffending.

A few inmates mentioned that economic deprivation makes them vulnerable to exploitation by criminal groups. Some explained that without financial stability, they are easily recruited into drug trafficking, theft, and other illegal activities. One inmate admitted:

“When you are broke, someone will always offer you ‘a job’—but that job is usually crime.”

A prison officer also noted that some former inmates become repeat offenders due to financial incentives from organized crime. One of the prison administrators highlighted how economic hardship drives released individuals back into crime:

“Most of these inmates come from very deprived backgrounds. Once they are out, they have no source of income. Even the little skills they have don’t get them jobs. With no way to provide for themselves or their families, some see crime as their only way out.”

(Prison Administrator – Tailoring Section)

A chaplain also observed how systemic economic barriers erode the hopes of rehabilitation:

“You can train an inmate and change his attitude, but when he gets out and the society offers no job, no support—he loses hope. The poverty outside is worse than the prison itself. That’s why many end up reoffending.” (Chaplain – SDA)

The Officer in Charge further elaborated:

“We have inmates who genuinely want to reform. But when they are released, economic deprivation kicks in. Some lack shelter, food, or fare to go home. Society expects them to survive without giving them the tools. That cycle drives many back to crime.”

(Key Informant 1, Officer in Charge)

The findings align with the study by Travis et al. (2014) which found that the absence of financial support systems increases the likelihood of reoffending, as former inmates may return to crime to sustain themselves. Strain Theory (Merton, 1938) has it that when individuals lack legitimate

means to achieve economic success, they may turn to crime as an alternative. Poverty creates conditions that make criminal activities seem like the only viable option.

4.5.4 Influence of Financial Dependence on Recidivism in Naivasha Maximum Prison in Nakuru County.

The study sought the respondents' perception on the influence of financial dependence on the chances of re-offending and the results were tabulated as in table 4.10

Table 4.10

Influence of financial dependence on recidivism

Response	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Total
Frequency	119	86	50	50	34	339
percentage	35	25	15	15	10	100

From table 4.8, 60% of respondents agreed that dependence on others contributes to recidivism, but a notable percentage (25%) were neutral or disagreed. This suggests that financial dependence alone might not directly lead to re-offending but could exacerbate other economic pressures.

Strain Theory supports these findings, emphasizing that economic hardships, such as poverty and unemployment, create frustration and drive individuals toward deviant behavior to fulfill unmet needs. Policy Implications would be expanding prison vocational training programs to equip inmates with employable skills and strengthening post-release employment support systems to reduce economic vulnerabilities. Meanwhile, interviews with prison administrators emphasized the need for better vocational programs. A chaplain stated:

“We’ve seen cases where former inmates go back to their families, but the burden they place becomes too much. If they were jobless before, they return without any better means. Some family members even reject them outright, saying they can’t feed another mouth.”

(Chaplain – Protestant Church)

Another administrator noted how this dependency can push one toward illegal activities:

“Most of them are released into poverty. They don’t want to beg from their families, so they resort to crime again. Financial dependence becomes unbearable especially for grown men who feel they should be supporting others, not being supported.”

(Prison Administrator – Formal Education Section)

The Deputy Officer in Charge emphasized the psychological burden of dependency:

“Even if an inmate is determined to reform, the shame of being dependent weighs heavily. Many express frustrations because they can’t even afford personal items. This desperation often leads them back to crime just to regain control over their lives.”

(Key Informant 2, Deputy Officer in Charge)

These views support the findings by Visher and Travis (2011), who noted that financial instability and overdependence post-release significantly increase the probability of recidivism. The inability to attain financial independence compromises the dignity and decision-making of former inmates.

These findings point to the need for structured economic empowerment programs, including transitional financial support and training in self-reliance skills, to help former inmates achieve

independence and avoid returning to crime. Governments and NGOs could develop micro-loan schemes to support ex-offenders in initiating small businesses. Poverty alleviation must be approached holistically, combining financial literacy programs with transitional housing to ensure stability during the critical post-release period. This aligns with recommendations by Prinsloo (2021), who highlights the importance of economic empowerment in reducing recidivism. Furthermore, employer sensitization campaigns could help mitigate stigma, encouraging businesses to hire ex-offenders and provide them with second chances.

4.5.5. Influence of The Effectiveness of Vocational Training Programs on Recidivism in Naivasha Maximum Prison in Nakuru County.

The study sought to determine how effective are the vocational training programs offered during prison time since the economic stability that necessarily require employability, is greatly determined by the effectiveness of a training program to be able to impart useful skills to the learners. The results of the findings are represented in table 4.11

Table 4.11

Perception on the effectiveness of vocational training programs

Vocational Training Program	Very Effective (%)	Effective (%)	Neutral (%)	Ineffective (%)	Very Ineffective (%)
Carpentry	28	31	18	17	6
Tailoring	30	35	15	16	4
Mechanics	21	27	16	23	13
Formal Education	18	20	12	28	22

The findings suggest that tailoring (65%) and carpentry (59%) are considered the most effective vocational training programs in equipping inmates with employable skills, while formal education is rated as least effective (38%). These findings may reflect the immediate applicability of tailoring and carpentry skills in generating income.

A significant proportion of respondents acknowledged that vocational training enhances employability for inmates. This indicates a broad recognition of the potential for such programs to provide practical skills that can facilitate post-incarceration job opportunities. Programs such as carpentry, tailoring, and mechanics equip inmates with hands-on skills that align with labor market demands.

These findings were further supported by the conducted interviews. Vocational training programs were cited as a key rehabilitative tool in reducing recidivism, but their effectiveness was viewed as inconsistent. While many inmates undergo training while in prison, the applicability, relevance, and post-release support for these skills are often questioned by both staff and chaplains.

One vocational officer expressed concern over the mismatch between training and market needs:

“Yes, inmates are trained, but what are they trained in? Carpentry, tailoring... but the world out there has changed. If the skills we offer don’t align with current job demands, they will still be jobless after release.”

(Prison Administrator – Carpentry Section)

The Officer in Charge emphasized the importance of follow-up:

“Vocational training must be connected to reintegration. If we train and release without a support mechanism — no employment links, no toolkits, no startup support — then it’s just a formality. We lose them back to recidivism.” (Officer in Charge)

These statements align with empirical literature indicating that vocational training must be market-oriented and supported by reintegration mechanisms to be effective (Latessa & Lovins, 2019). When vocational programs are practical, well-equipped, and linked to post-release support, they enhance employability and reduce the likelihood of reoffending.

The findings also align with Prinsloo (2021), who emphasized the transformative role of vocational training in reducing recidivism by improving inmates' socioeconomic outcomes post-release. However, the extent to which these programs translate into real employment opportunities depends on external factors, including societal stigma, the availability of supportive networks, and collaboration with employers.

4.6 Measures to Address Socioeconomic Factors for Reduced Recidivism in Naivasha Maximum prison in Nakuru County.

The objective three was to identify measures that could address the socioeconomic challenges faced by former inmates. The data collected from the respondents offered valuable insights as shown in table 4.9.

4.6.1 Strengthening Family Support as a Solution to Recidivism in Naivasha Maximum Prison in Nakuru County.

The study sought to determine the Perception of respondents on how strengthening of family support can solve recidivism. Data collected from respondents highlighted the critical role of family support in preventing recidivism as summarized in table 4.12

Table 4.12.

Strengthening Family Support as a solution to Recidivism.

Response	Inmates (n=304)	Prison Staff (n=35)	Total (N=339)	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	155	22	177	52.2%
Agree	64	10	74	21.8%
Neutral	43	2	45	13.3%
Disagree	29	1	30	8.8%
Strongly Disagree	13	0	13	3.8%

When inmates were asked about the importance of family in their reintegration, 72% of them agreed that family support significantly influences their ability to stay out of crime. Over 52% of respondents strongly agreed that family support plays a crucial role in preventing reoffending, while an additional 21.8% agreed with this statement. A minority (3.8%) strongly disagreed, suggesting that while family support is essential, other factors such as employment and societal acceptance also contribute to successful reintegration. Prison staff responses aligned with inmates' perceptions, with a majority acknowledging the need for strong family ties in rehabilitation.

The findings indicate that strengthening family bonds can be an effective measure in reducing recidivism. Many inmates reported that having a stable home environment upon release significantly reduces their chances of reoffending.

Strengthening family support emerged as a key theme from the interviews with key informants, who repeatedly emphasized the critical role that family plays in the reintegration of ex-offenders and prevention of repeat offenses. Many of the key informants observed that a lack of familial support often leaves former inmates isolated and vulnerable to reoffending.

The Officer in Charge highlighted the emotional and psychological need for family acceptance:

“Most of our repeat offenders tell you they had nowhere to go after release. The family disowns them, and society follows. Without that support system, they lose hope and return to crime for survival.”

(Key Informant 1, Officer in Charge)

A chaplain from the Protestant denomination underscored the emotional toll of family rejection:

“You can see it in their eyes when they realize no one will visit or receive them. Family rejection cuts deeper than the sentence itself. It breaks them mentally.”

(Chaplain – Protestant Church)

Similarly, a prison staff member in charge of the hospital section stated:

“We’ve had cases where inmates fall sick from depression, especially when no one checks on them. Family support, even just regular visits, can be a lifeline.”

(Administrator – Health Section)

These insights are consistent with previous findings by Laub & Sampson (2020), that strong family bonds provide social and emotional stability for ex-inmates, helping them reintegrate successfully. Also, Travis & Western (2019) argue that prisoners who maintain contact with their families while incarcerated have a higher chance of reintegration success than those who lose family ties. The implication from the findings is that policies and rehabilitation programs must prioritize reconnecting inmates with their families through counseling, mediation, and structured visitation. Strengthening these bonds during incarceration and after release is not just humane—it is strategic in reducing recidivism.

Most respondents felt that family members often serve as a moral and emotional anchor, helping ex-offenders rebuild their lives. However, strained familial relationships, stigma, and economic hardships often weaken this support system. Kanyinga (2020) highlighted that family reintegration programs must address these challenges through counseling and structured mediation sessions. Strengthening family support is a cornerstone of successful reintegration. Programs such as family counseling sessions and support groups should be introduced to rebuild trust and address any emotional or financial strains affecting family dynamics.

4.6.2 Expanding Vocation Training to address Recidivism in Naivasha maximum prison in Nakuru County.

How expanding vocational training within the prison system would address recidivism was also explored and the outcomes tabulated as in Table 4.13

Table 4.13*Expanding Vocation Training to address Recidivism*

Response	Inmates (n=304)	Prison (n=35)	Staff	Total (N=339)	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	140	18		158	46.6%
Agree	92	9		101	29.8%
Neutral	35	4		39	11.5%
Disagree	25	3		28	8.3%
Strongly Disagree	12	1		13	3.8%

46.6% of respondents strongly agreed that expanding vocational training programs can reduce recidivism, while 29.8% agreed, bringing total approval to 76.4%. Only 12.1% (Disagree & Strongly Disagree) of respondents felt that vocational training is not a major factor in reducing reoffending. Prison staff responses aligned with those of inmates, indicating that both groups recognize vocational training as a key factor in reintegration.

Findings from the study indicate that vocational training programs are essential in reducing recidivism by equipping inmates with employable skills. However, a significant proportion of respondents believe that these programs are currently inadequate and need improvement. The study also found that current programs in Naivasha Maximum Security Prison focus on traditional skills, such as tailoring and carpentry, which are often insufficient in modern job markets. Prinsloo (2021) stresses that vocational programs should include emerging fields, such as technology and renewable energy, to improve employability.

Key informants felt that current rehabilitation programs are not sufficiently tailored to the needs of inmates and emphasized the need for expanding vocational training programs to ensure inmates acquire skills that make them employable upon release. Many former inmates struggle to find employment due to a lack of skills, pushing them back into criminal activities. The Deputy Officer in Charge remarked:

“We need to shift from generic programs to more personalized interventions that address individual challenges”.

The Deputy Officer in charge added:

“Most of those who leave here without a skill usually come back. But those trained in tailoring or carpentry, for example, often find something to do, even if informal. We need more programs and better tools.” (Deputy Officer in Charge)

A chaplain from the SDA denomination pointed out the mismatch between available training and market demands:

“Some of the training is outdated or too limited. We need to equip them with skills that can help them survive outside, such as plumbing, hairdressing, welding. Otherwise, we set them up to fail.”

(Key Informant 6, Chaplain – SDA Church)

An administrator in charge of the tailoring section added:

“We’ve seen inmates become productive tailors, but our capacity is low. If we had more machines, materials, and space, we could reach many more and truly rehabilitate them.”

These reflections align with empirical literature indicating that effective vocational training significantly reduces recidivism by promoting employability and economic independence (Davis et al., 2013). The limited nature of current training programs, both in content and capacity, undermines this potential. The implication is clear: expanding vocational training with modern, relevant, and market-driven skills, supported by adequate resources and infrastructure, is vital. Such efforts will empower former inmates to reintegrate productively and reduce their reliance on crime for survival. These aligns with Prinsloo (2021) which stresses that vocational programs should include emerging fields, such as technology and renewable energy, to improve employability.

4.6.3 Community Sensitization Programs to Address Recidivism in Naivasha Maximum Prison in Nakuru County.

The study sought to find out the usefulness of community sensitization program to address recidivism. The results are as in table 4.14

Table 4.14

Community sensitization programs to address recidivism

Response	Inmates (n=304)	Prison (n=35)	Staff	Total (N=339)	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	132	16		148	43.7%
Agree	98	10		108	31.9%
Neutral	40	5		45	13.3%
Disagree	25	3		28	8.3%

Strongly	9	1	10	2.8%
Disagree				

43.7% of respondents strongly agreed that community sensitization programs are essential in preventing recidivism, while 31.9% agreed, bringing total support to 75.6%. Only 11.1% (Disagree & Strongly Disagree) felt that community awareness had no major impact on recidivism. Prison staff also showed strong agreement, emphasizing the need for structured programs to educate communities about ex-offender reintegration.

Findings from the study indicate that community sensitization programs play a crucial role in reducing recidivism by addressing stigma, discrimination, and misconceptions about ex-offenders. Respondents highlighted the need for targeted awareness campaigns to educate society on the importance of accepting and supporting reintegrated individuals.

Key informants, including chaplains and prison administrators, strongly emphasized the importance of public education in fostering societal acceptance of ex-offenders. One of the chaplains from the Protestant denomination highlighted this:

“We preach hope and change here, but when inmates go back home, they face cold treatment and judgment. Communities need to be educated that change is possible and support is essential.”

(Chaplain – Protestant Church)

The Officer in Charge emphasized the role of public awareness in changing perceptions:

“We need deliberate community programs to talk about reintegration. People must understand that these individuals are not animals—they’re citizens who deserve another chance.”

An administrator from the health section echoed similar sentiments:

“Many released inmates relapse into crime because they feel like outsiders. If local leaders and churches held community forums, it would help in accepting them back.”

(Administrator – Health Unit)

Community sensitization programs was found to have potential to reduce recidivism by reducing stigma and discrimination, educating the public about rehabilitation and the potential for positive change in ex-offenders, motivating families, religious groups, and employers to provide reintegration opportunities, and enhancing community relations to create a more accepting social environment. Respondents identified several challenges: Lack of structured awareness programs – no formalized efforts to educate communities on ex-offender reintegration; negative media portrayal – the media often focuses on repeat offenders, reinforcing stereotypes about ex-convicts being irredeemable; low public engagement – many community members remain reluctant to participate in reintegration initiatives.

The findings reflect the previous research which have demonstrated the importance of community sensitization in reducing recidivism. According to Maruna (2017), ex-offenders who receive community support are twice as likely to successfully reintegrate compared to those facing stigma. Uggen et al. (2020) found that societies with active reintegration programs report lower reoffending rates due to increased community engagement. In Kenya, Wekesa (2022) highlighted that former inmates face widespread discrimination, making it difficult to secure jobs or housing. However, community-based awareness programs in Nairobi and Mombasa have led to improved reintegration outcomes, with lower recidivism rates recorded among supported ex-offenders.

4.6.4 Post Release Monitoring to Address Recidivism in Naivasha Maximum Prison in Nakuru County.

The study sought to determine whether post-release monitoring programs could help reduce recidivism by providing continued support, supervision, and guidance to ex-offenders. The results are as in table 4.15

Table 4.15

Post release monitoring to address recidivism

Response	Inmates (n=304)	Prison (n=35)	Staff	Total (N=339)	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	125	18		143	42.2%
Agree	110	10		120	35.4%
Neutral	40	4		44	13.0%
Disagree	20	2		22	6.5%
Strongly Disagree	9	1		10	2.9%

Respondents acknowledged that lack of follow-up and reintegration programs contributes to reoffending. From table 4.13 above, it shows that a total of 77.6% (Strongly Agree & Agree) of respondents supported post-release monitoring as an effective measure to prevent recidivism. Only 9.4% (Disagree & Strongly Disagree) believed post-release monitoring was unnecessary. Inmates and prison staff agreed that structured follow-up programs can enhance reintegration efforts by addressing challenges faced after release.

These findings were supported by interviews with the key informants. They pointed out that the absence of structured follow-up and support after release leaves many former inmates vulnerable to relapse into crime. The Deputy Officer in Charge noted:

“Once someone is released, there’s no system that follows up to check on their progress, challenges, or how they’re coping. We need some form of structured monitoring that links them to services and mentorship.” (Deputy Officer in Charge)

A chaplain from the Islamic faith shared similar concerns:

“Some of these men come out changed, but they’re just left to survive. There’s no one to check if they got a job, if their families accepted them, or if they’re struggling. That’s when they fall back.”

(Chaplain – Islam)

These responses reflect literature that emphasizes the role of aftercare and community supervision in successful reintegration (Njenga & Mutua, 2019). Without a monitoring mechanism, ex-offenders are left to navigate reintegration alone, increasing their likelihood of reoffending. The findings suggest that establishing post-release monitoring systems, possibly through collaboration between prisons, probation officers, NGOs, and local leaders—could provide the needed support, guidance, and accountability that reduce recidivism.

Effective post-release monitoring provides continuous supervision, counseling, and social support, ensuring that ex-inmates do not relapse into criminal activities. It involves regular check-ins by probation officers, counseling and mentorship programs, job placement assistance, and family reintegration support. Respondents identified several challenges affecting post-release monitoring

programs, one being limited government resources which make it difficult to track all released inmates. Weak probation systems results to probation officers being overwhelmed, leading to poor follow-ups. Low ex-offender participation was found to be another challenge as some ex-inmates avoid supervision due to fear of stigma or lack of interest. Lastly, negative societal perceptions discourage ex-offenders from seeking support.

Post-release monitoring has been widely recognized as a key factor in reducing recidivism. Visher & Travis (2019) argue that supervision and structured follow-ups reduce the likelihood of reoffending by providing ex-offenders with necessary guidance and support. According to Petersilia (2021), jurisdictions with well-structured post-release programs experience lower recidivism rates compared to those with weak supervision systems. A study by Ndeti & Kigen (2022) on Kenyan ex-inmates found that lack of follow-up and supervision contributed significantly to reoffending. The study emphasized the need for strong probation and parole systems, as well as community-based monitoring.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This section captures the summary of the study findings, conclusions drawn from the research, and recommendations to address the problem of recidivism in Kenya, specifically in Naivasha Maximum Security Prison. The chapter also highlights areas for further research. The study sought to investigate the influence of socioeconomic factors on recidivism. The primary objectives were to examine the influence of social factors on recidivism, to examine the influence of economic factors on recidivism, and to identify the measures that can be put in place to address socio-economic factors for reduced recidivism in Naivasha maximum prison.

5.2 Summary of The Findings

The study findings were based on data collected through questionnaires for inmates and prison staff, and interview guide used on the key informants such as the Officer in Charge, Deputy Officer in Charge, chaplains, and section administrators. The following is a summary of the key findings according to the research objectives:

The study found that various demographic characteristics, including age, marital status, and education level influenced recidivism rates among inmates at Naivasha Maximum Security Prison. The findings revealed that younger ex-inmates (18–35 years) had higher recidivism rates compared to older individuals. This aligns with criminological theories suggesting that younger offenders are more likely to reoffend due to limited life experience, peer influence, and difficulties in securing employment.

Married ex-inmates were found to have lower recidivism rates than their single or divorced counterparts. Respondents highlighted that strong family support systems contributed to successful reintegration, reducing the likelihood of reoffending. However, those with strained or broken family ties faced higher risks of recidivism due to lack of emotional and financial support. Marriage was found to be an insulating factor against recidivism, as family obligations and emotional support can provide motivation for desistance.

The study found that inmates who are less educated, have high affinity to recidivate. Those without formal education or vocational skills struggled to secure employment post-release, increasing their chances of reoffending. On the other hand, inmates who had acquired education or vocational training while in prison demonstrated better reintegration outcome.

In line with the first objective the findings indicate that social dynamics, such as the level of family involvement, peer group associations, and the degree of societal reintegration, play a critical role in influencing recidivism rates. Inmates who sustain meaningful family connections throughout their incarceration and after release are notably less prone to re-engage in criminal behavior than those without such support systems. Family visits, phone calls through welfare office, and other forms of communication help to cultivate optimism and a feeling of belonging and, which in turn reduces the chances of reoffending. The findings supports Merton's Strain Theory, which posits that strong social institutions, including family, serve as buffers to societal strain. When these supports are absent, individuals experience emotional and material isolation, increasing their vulnerability to deviance. Without familial ties to reinforce social norms and offer economic or emotional support, former inmates may find themselves with no alternative but to resort to criminal activities to cope with strain and social alienation

Additionally, the study highlighted that negative peer influence within prison and the absence of positive role models outside the prison environment significantly contribute to recidivism. A large proportion of inmates indicated that they are often stigmatized by community members upon release, making reintegration difficult. This lack of acceptance often forces former inmates back into criminal activities as a way of coping with rejection and isolation. The stigma experienced by former inmates limits their access to jobs, housing, and community reintegration, all of which are necessary to meet societal expectations of success. Merton's Strain Theory explains that this exclusion from societal institutions creates normlessness (anomie), compelling individuals to pursue alternative, often illegitimate, ways of meeting their needs. The rejection reinforces their deviant identity and diminishes motivation to reform, hence increasing recidivism.

In relation to the second objective of the study the economic factors were found to be one of the primary drivers of recidivism. The study established that lack of stable employment, inadequate vocational training, and limited access to financial resources are major obstacles for released inmates. Majority of the previous inmates revert back to crime for the lack of means to support themselves and their families. Poverty emerged as a key socioeconomic factor driving recidivism. Merton's Strain Theory argues that economic inequality prevents equal access to culturally approved goals, such as financial success. In response, individuals experiencing poverty may resort to crime as a survival tactic. This direct correlation between poverty and deviance reflects the strain adaptation model, particularly innovation, where individuals accept societal goals but pursue them through nonconventional means.

Vocational training programs, such as tailoring, carpentry, and mechanics offered at Naivasha Maximum Security Prison, were found to be effective to some extent in equipping inmates with

skills. However, the absence of structured post-release job placement support undermines the impact of these programs. Most former inmates find it challenging to secure stable employment after release, leading to frustration and, ultimately, reoffending. From a theoretical lens, vocational training offers legitimate avenues to accomplish societal goals such as employment and self-sufficiency. This aligns with the conformist mode of adaptation in Merton's theory, where individuals pursue accepted goals through accepted means. When training programs are poorly implemented or under-resourced, however, ex-inmates are pushed back toward innovation—seeking success through deviant means.

In tune with the third objective of the study, several potential measures to reduce recidivism through socioeconomic interventions were identified. Enhancing familial relationships stood out as a vital step, with a significant portion of participants emphasizing its importance. Further strategies, such as broadening the scope of vocational programs and implementing structured job placement initiatives post-release, were also identified as crucial for ensuring the smooth reintegration of former inmates. From the Strain Theory perspective, strong familial ties offer social and emotional capital that counteracts the frustration associated with blocked opportunities. Family support thus fosters conformity and serves as a stabilizing institution that helps former inmates reintegrate and pursue goals legitimately.

Additionally, the study noted that community-based rehabilitation programs and housing assistance could catalyze the smooth transition of former inmates back into society. These measures would help create a supportive environment that encourages former inmates to pursue lawful means of earning a living, reducing the temptation to revert to criminal activities. According to Strain Theory, when communities support reintegration, the structural barriers that cause strain

are reduced, thus lowering the incentive for criminal adaptations. Such programs enhance conformity by enabling ex-offenders to pursue legitimate means of achieving success.

5.3 Conclusions

The study concludes that demographic characteristics, to an extent, influences recidivism rates among inmates at Naivasha Maximum Security Prison. The findings indicate that younger ex-inmates, from eighteen years to mid-thirties, are more prone to reoffending due to challenges such as negative peer influence, lack of stable employment, and social reintegration difficulties.

Additionally, the study concludes that marital status and family support are crucial in reducing recidivism, as inmates with strong family ties were less likely to reoffend. Conversely, those with strained or broken family relationships faced increased reintegration challenges. Education and vocational skills significantly impacted post-release outcomes, with higher education levels and prison-acquired skills contributing to lower recidivism rates.

In relation to the first objective of the study, the study concludes that social factors such as family relationships, stigma, peer influences, and community support systems significantly influence recidivism among inmates at Naivasha Maximum Security Prison. Strong family ties and supportive communities were found to lower the chances of re-offending by providing emotional and material support for reintegration. Conversely, stigmatization and weak social bonds contribute to feelings of isolation and a return to criminal behaviors. These findings underscore the need for interventions that promote familial and community involvement in the rehabilitation process.

In line with the second objective of the study, economic factor such as unemployment, lack of vocational skills, and poverty, were identified as major contributors to recidivism. The study found that inmates who lack economic opportunities can easily engage in criminal activities post-release as a survival mechanism. While vocational training programs exist, resource constraints and outdated curricula limit their effectiveness in equipping inmates with marketable skills. Addressing these issues requires comprehensive economic empowerment strategies, such as modernizing prison training programs and fostering public-private partnerships to create job opportunities for released inmates.

In relation to the third objective of the study, the study highlights the importance of targeted measures to mitigate the socioeconomic drivers of recidivism. These include strengthening family support, enhancing vocational training programs, providing post-release support such as mentorship and job placement, and implementing community-based reintegration initiatives. Effective measures also involve reducing stigma through public awareness campaigns and fostering collaborative efforts between prison authorities, policymakers, and local communities. The findings suggest that an integrated approach addressing both social and economic factors can substantially reduce recidivism rates and support the successful reintegration of former inmates.

5.4 Recommendations

Drawing from the study findings, following recommendations are suggested:

5.4.1 Policy Recommendations

- i. The government and prison authorities should implement structured family support programs that encourage frequent and meaningful contact between inmates and their families. This could include organized family visitation days and counseling sessions aimed at restoring broken relationships.
- ii. Vocational training should be diversified by the Kenyan Government (State Department of correctional services in the Ministry of Interior & National Administration, & Ministry of Education) to include skills that are in high demand in the labour market. Moreover, partnerships with private sector organizations should be established to provide job placements and internships for former inmates.
- iii. Community sensitization programs should be launched by a collaborative effort involving government agencies, religious institutions and community leaders such as chiefs and elders to reduce stigma and encourage the acceptance of former inmates. Such programs could involve community leaders, local businesses, and religious organizations in providing support and mentorship to released inmates.
- iv. Income-generating programs within the prison, including carpentry and tailoring, should be scaled up. Inmates should be permitted to retain a portion of the earnings, which can serve as start-up capital when they are released.

5.4.2 Recommendations for Further Research

1. Future studies should focus on understanding the impact of mental health conditions on the likelihood of reoffending.
2. A longitudinal study tracking former inmates over a 5-year period to evaluate the long-term effectiveness of rehabilitation programs.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: INTRODUCTION LETTER


Mount Kenya University

DIRECTORATE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

MASSC/2023/52267

04th December, 2024

*National Commission for Science Technology & Innovation (NACOSTI)
Off Waiyaki, Upper Kabete
P.O Box 30623- 00100
NAIROBI, KENYA*

Dear Sir/Madam,


RE: PAUL BAKORA NYANCHOKA - REGISTRATION NO. MASSC/2023/52267


The purpose of this letter is to introduce the above named student who is pursuing **Master of Arts in Security Studies and Criminology** in the **Institute of Security Studies, Justice and Ethics** in the **School of Social Sciences**.

The title of the research is **"Influence of Socioeconomic Factors on Recidivism in Kenya: A Case of Naivasha Maximum Security Prison in Nakuru County, Kenya."** It has been cleared by the University's Ethics Review Committee (Certificate attached) and now has to proceed to the field to collect data between **December, 2024 and February, 2025**.

Any assistance accorded to the student will be highly appreciated.

Thank you.


Dr. Samuel M. Karenga, Ph.D
Director, Graduate Studies


Mount Kenya University
P.O. Box 342 - 01000, THIKA
Office of the Director,
Graduate Studies

Enc.

Main Campus, General Kago Road, P.O. Box 342-01000 Thika.
Tel: +254 700 452 000 / +254 700 452 200

APPENDIX II: INFORMED CONSENT FORM

I, fully comprehend that the reason for this study is to investigate the **INFLUENCE OF SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS ON RECIDIVISM IN KENYA: A CASE OF NAIVASHA MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON IN NAKURU COUNTY, KENYA.**

I acknowledge my right to express my views freely and to request anonymity if I believe that taking part in the study could jeopardize my personal or professional safety. Additionally, I am aware that I can reach out to the researcher, Paul Bakora, or the supervisor, Dr. Judy W. Mwangi, for further assistance or information.

I am aware that my participation in this study does not offer any immediate benefits to me, and my opinions may not necessarily reflect those of others involved in the research. However, I recognize that by taking part in this study, I am contributing to a deeper understanding of the factors that influence recidivism at Naivasha Maximum Security Prison.

I agree that all data collected will be kept strictly confidential and responses will be coded to ensure anonymity, and data will be stored securely, accessible only to the research team. No personal identifying information will be included in any reports or publications resulting from this research

I am aware that Paul, the researcher, is a student at Mount Kenya University. He is working toward a Master of Arts in Security Studies and Criminology in the Department of Security Studies and Criminology, School of Social Sciences, Mount Kenya University, under the guidance of Dr. Judy W. Mwangi.

Signature of research participant: Date:

I, Paul, as the researcher, confirm that the participant has given informed consent to participate in this study.

Signature of researcher:Date:

Should you need further clarification, do not hesitate to contact: Dr. Judy W. Mwangi Supervisor
Department of Security Studies and Criminology School of Social Sciences Mount Kenya
University

APPENDIX III: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR INMATES.

Thank you for participating in this study on the influence of socioeconomic factors on recidivism at Naivasha Maximum Security Prison. Your responses are crucial for understanding and addressing the factors that contribute to reoffending. All the given data will be kept private and only made used of academically.

Section A: Demographic Information

1. Gender (Tick appropriately)

Male Female

2. Age bracket

18-25 26-35 36-45 46-55 56 and above

3. Marital Status

Single Married Divorced/Separated Widowed

4. Level of Education

No formal education Primary education Secondary education
 Vocational training Tertiary education

5. Employment Status Before Incarceration

Employed Self-employed Unemployed Student

6. How many times have you been incarcerated before?

None (first time) Once Twice
 Three times More than three times

7. Rehabilitation Programs: Did you participate in any rehabilitation programs while incarcerated?

Yes No

- If yes, which programs did you find most helpful? (Check all that apply)

Vocational training Counseling and therapy

Educational programs Life skills training

Other (please specify): _____

Section B: The influence of social factors on recidivism in Naivasha Maximum security prison in Nakuru County.

8. How often did you receive support from your family while incarcerated?

Never Rarely Occasionally Frequently

9. To what extent did peer pressure influence your involvement in crime?

Not at all Slightly Moderately Significantly

10. How supportive is your community towards former inmates?

Not supportive Slightly supportive Moderately supportive Highly supportive

11. What kind of support did you receive upon release? (Check all that apply)

Job placement assistance Financial aid

Counseling and support groups Family support

Community support None

Other (please specify): _____

Please describe any other social challenges you faced after being released from prison.

Section C: The influence of economic factors on recidivism in Naivasha maximum security prison.

12. Did you have a job or means of earning an income upon release?

Yes No

13. What was your monthly income before incarceration?

No income Less than KSh. 5,000 KSh. 5,001 – 10,000

KSh. 10,001 – 20,000 More than KSh. 20,000

14. Did you receive any vocational training while incarcerated?

Yes No

15. How financially stable do you feel upon release?

Not stable at all Slightly stable

Moderately stable Very stable

16. Reasons for Reoffending: What do you believe are the main reasons for reoffending?

- Lack of employment Financial difficulties
 Peer pressure Lack of family support
 Other (please specify): _____

Please describe any other economic challenges you faced after being released from prison.

Section D: The measures that can be put in place to address socioeconomic factors for reduced recidivism in Naivasha maximum security prison.

Instructions:

Please respond to the following questions by ticking the option that best reflects your opinion or providing detailed answers where applicable.

1. What additional measures can the government implement to reduce recidivism among rehabilitated inmates?
 - a) Provide seed capital or loans to start small businesses
 - b) Offer job placement services (locally or abroad)
 - c) Establish halfway homes for reintegration into society
 - d) Increase access to vocational training during incarceration
 - e) Others (please specify): _____

2. Do you think offering financial support (e.g., seed capital, loans, or grants) to rehabilitated inmates will reduce the likelihood of reoffending?
 - a) Strongly agree
 - b) Agree
 - c) Neutral
 - d) Disagree
 - e) Strongly disagree

3. Should the government partner with private companies to ensure job placement for former inmates upon release?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Not sure

4. What role can the community play in supporting former inmates to reduce recidivism?
(Select all that apply)

- a) Mentorship programs by community leaders
- b) Community education to reduce stigma against former inmates
- c) Offering apprenticeships or job opportunities
- d) Setting up community-based support groups
- e) Others (please specify): _____

5. Do you believe enhancing family support systems (e.g., counseling, reunification programs) would significantly help reduce recidivism?

- a) Strongly agree
- b) Agree
- c) Neutral
- d) Disagree
- e) Strongly disagree

6. What additional policies can the government introduce to improve post-release support for inmates?

7. What challenges do you foresee in implementing these measures, and how can they be addressed?

8. Community and Family Support: How important do you think community and family support is in helping former inmates reintegrate into society and avoid re-offending? (**Tick appropriately**)

Very Important

Important Neutral

Unimportant

Very Unimportant

9. What suggestions do you have for reducing recidivism among former inmates?

Further Comments:

APPENDIX IV: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PRISON STAFF.

Thank you for participating in this study aimed at finding out the influence of socioeconomic factors on recidivism at Naivasha Maximum Security prison. Your responses will be invaluable.

Instructions:

Answer all questions honestly. Tick or circle the most appropriate response or write your answer where applicable. Your responses will remain confidential.

Section A: Demographic Information

1. Gender: (Tick or circle most appropriately)

- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to say

2. Age:

- 20-29 years
- 30-39 years
- 40-49 years
- 50-59 years
- 60 years and above

3. Level of Education:

- Certificate
- Diploma
- Bachelor's Degree
- Master's Degree

- [] Doctorate
- [] Other (please specify): _____

4. Years of Experience in Correctional Services:

- [] Less than 1 year
- [] 1-5 years
- [] 6-10 years
- [] 11-15 years
- [] 16-20 years
- [] More than 20 years

5. Current Position/Role:

- [] Correctional Officer
- [] Rehabilitation Program Coordinator
- [] Counselor
- [] Administrator
- [] Other (please specify): _____

Section B: Social Factors Influencing Recidivism

1. In your observation, how do family relationships influence the likelihood of recidivism among former inmates?

- [] Strong influence
- [] Moderate influence
- [] Minimal influence
- [] No influence

2. How significant is the function of communal support in the reintegration of former inmates?

- [] Very significant
- [] Significant
- [] Neutral
- [] Insignificant
- [] Very insignificant

3. To what extent do you believe peer influence contributes to recidivism?

- [] Very high extent
- [] High extent
- [] Moderate extent
- [] Low extent
- [] Very low extent

4. How often do you encounter former inmates who struggle with social stigma after their release?

- [] Very often
- [] Often
- [] Occasionally
- [] Rarely
- [] Never

5. What social factors do you believe are the most challenging for inmates upon their release?
(Please describe)

Section C: Economic Factors Influencing Recidivism

1. How does unemployment affect the likelihood of former inmates re-offending?

- [] Strongly increases likelihood

- Moderately increases likelihood
- Slightly increases likelihood
- No effect

2. How would you rate the effectiveness of vocational training programs in reducing recidivism?

- Very effective
- Effective
- Neutral
- Ineffective
- Very ineffective

3. Do you believe that access to stable housing impacts the chances of re-offending?

- Yes, greatly impacts
- Yes, somewhat impacts
- No, does not impact
- Not sure

4. What economic challenges do former inmates face that contribute to recidivism? (Select all that apply)

- Lack of employment opportunities
- Insufficient financial resources
- Lack of access to housing
- Debt from previous offenses
- Other (please specify): _____

5. In your opinion, what is the biggest economic hurdle for inmates trying to reintegrate into society? (Please describe)

Section D: Measures to Address Socioeconomic Factors to Reduce Recidivism

1. What measures do you think are most effective in addressing social factors to reduce recidivism?

(Select all that apply)

- Strengthening family relationships
- Enhancing community support systems
- Reducing social stigma
- Providing counseling and peer support
- Other (please specify): _____

2. How can the prison system improve its vocational training programs to better prepare inmates for employment?

- Increase training options
- Partner with external vocational institutions
- Offer certification programs
- Provide post-release job placement assistance
- Other (please specify): _____

3. What policies would you recommend to address the economic challenges faced by former inmates? (Please describe)

4. In your opinion, how can the community be more involved in reducing recidivism?

5. What additional support services should be provided to former inmates to reduce the likelihood of re-offending?

We appreciate your participation.

APPENDIX V: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR KEY INFORMANTS

Introduction

1. Welcome and Introduction:

- Introduce yourself and the research study.
- Brief them on the reason for the interview and its significance.
- Guarantee the respondent of confidentiality and anonymity.
- Obtain informed consent for participation and recording the interview (if applicable).

Background Information

2. Position and Experience:

- Can you please state your current position and the duration you have served in this role?
- What are your main responsibilities in your current role?

Understanding Recidivism

3. Perceptions of Recidivism:

- How do you define recidivism in the context of your work?
- Based on your experience, what are the common reasons for recidivism among former inmates?

Influence of Socioeconomic Factors

4. Social Factors:

- In your opinion, how do social factors (e.g., family relationships, community support, peer influence, social stigma) influence recidivism rates among former inmates?
- Can you provide specific examples or cases where social factors played a significant role in an inmate's likelihood of re-offending?

5. Economic Factors:

- How do economic conditions (e.g., employment status, financial stability) impact the likelihood of former inmates re-offending?
- What challenges do former inmates face in securing employment and financial stability after release?

Current Measures and Programs

6. Rehabilitation Programs:

- What rehabilitation programs are currently available for inmates in Naivasha Maximum Security Prison?
- How effective do you believe these programs are in reducing recidivism? Can you provide examples of successful cases?

7. Post-Release Support:

- What types of post-release support services are available for former inmates?
- How accessible are these services to former inmates, and what improvements could be made?

8. Community Integration:

- What initiatives are in place to help former inmates integrate back into their communities?
- How can community attitudes towards former inmates be improved to support their reintegration?

Policy and Recommendations

9. Policy and Government Role:

- What policies do you believe are most effective in reducing recidivism?
- Are there any policy gaps or areas that need more attention to effectively address recidivism?

10. Recommendations:

- Based on your experience, what measures or interventions would you recommend to address socioeconomic factors and reduce recidivism rates?
- How can the prison system, community organizations, and government agencies collaborate more effectively to support former inmates?

Conclusion

11. Additional Insights:

- Is there something you would like to add that we haven't covered in this interview?
- Do you have any questions about the study or the interview process?

12. Closing:

- Avail contact information for follow-up questions or additional information if needed



APPENDIX VI: ETHICAL CLEARANCE



REF: MKU/ISERC/4628

Date: 04 December 2024

TO: PAUL BAKORA NYANCHOKA

REG: MASSC/2023/52267

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: INFLUENCE OF SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS ON RECIDIVISM IN KENYA: A CASE OF NAIVASHA MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON IN NAKURU COUNTY, KENYA.

This is to inform you that **Mount Kenya University** has reviewed and approved your above research proposal. Your application approval number is **3350**. The approval period is **03/12/2024 - 02/12/2025**.

This approval is subject to compliance with the following requirements;

- i. Only approved documents including informed consents, study instruments, MTA will be used
- ii. All changes including amendments, deviations and violations are submitted for review and approval by **Mount Kenya University**
- iii. Death and life-threatening problems and serious adverse events or unexpected adverse events whether related or unrelated to the study must be reported to **Mount Kenya University** within 72 hours of notification
- iv. Any changes, anticipated or otherwise that may increase the risks or affect the safety or welfare of study participants and others or affect the integrity of the research must be reported to **Mount Kenya University** within 72 hours
- v. Clearance for export of biological specimens must be obtained from relevant institutions
- vi. Submission of a request for renewal of approval at least 60 days prior to expiry of the approval period. Attach a comprehensive progress report to support the renewal
- vii. Submission of an executive summary report within 90 days upon completion of the study to **Mount Kenya University**

Prior to commencing your study, you will be expected to obtain a research license from National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) <https://research-portal.nacosti.go.ke> and also obtain other clearances needed.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Alfred Owino, PhD
Chairman, Mount Kenya University ISERC



APPENDIX VII: RESEARCH PERMIT



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

Ref No: **800357**



**NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION**

Date of Issue: **30/December/2024**

RESEARCH LICENSE



This is to Certify that Mr., PAUL BAKORA NYANCHOKA of Mount Kenya University, has been licensed to conduct research as per the provision of the Science, Technology and Innovation Act, 2013 (Rev.2014) in Nakuru on the topic: INFLUENCE OF SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS ON RECIDIVISM IN KENYA: A CASE OF NAIVASHA MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON IN NAKURU COUNTY, KENYA. for the period ending : 30/December/2025.

License No: **NACOSTI/P/24/414764**

800357

Applicant Identification Number

**Director General
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY &
INNOVATION**

Verification QR Code



**NOTE: This is a computer generated License. To verify the authenticity of this document,
Scan the QR Code using QR scanner application.**

See overleaf for conditions

APPENDIX VIII: APPROVAL TO CONDUCT RESEARCH

**MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR CORRECTIONAL SERVICES
KENYA PRISONS SERVICE**

Telegrams 'OC PRISON' Naivasha,
Telephone Naivasha
Mobile No: 0771304425
Email: NaivashaMain@prisons.go.ke
When replying please quote,



The Office of the Officer in Charge,
Naivasha Maximum Security Prison,
P.O. Box 146-20117,
NAIVASHA- KENYA.

REF: PF/41475/2015152117/43

DATE: 02/01/2025.

SSP Paul Bakora,
Naivasha Maximum Security Prison,
P.O. Box 146,
NAIVASHA.

RE: REQUEST FOR AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT ACADEMIC RESEARCH

Receipt of your above application dated 30/12/2024 is hereby acknowledged.

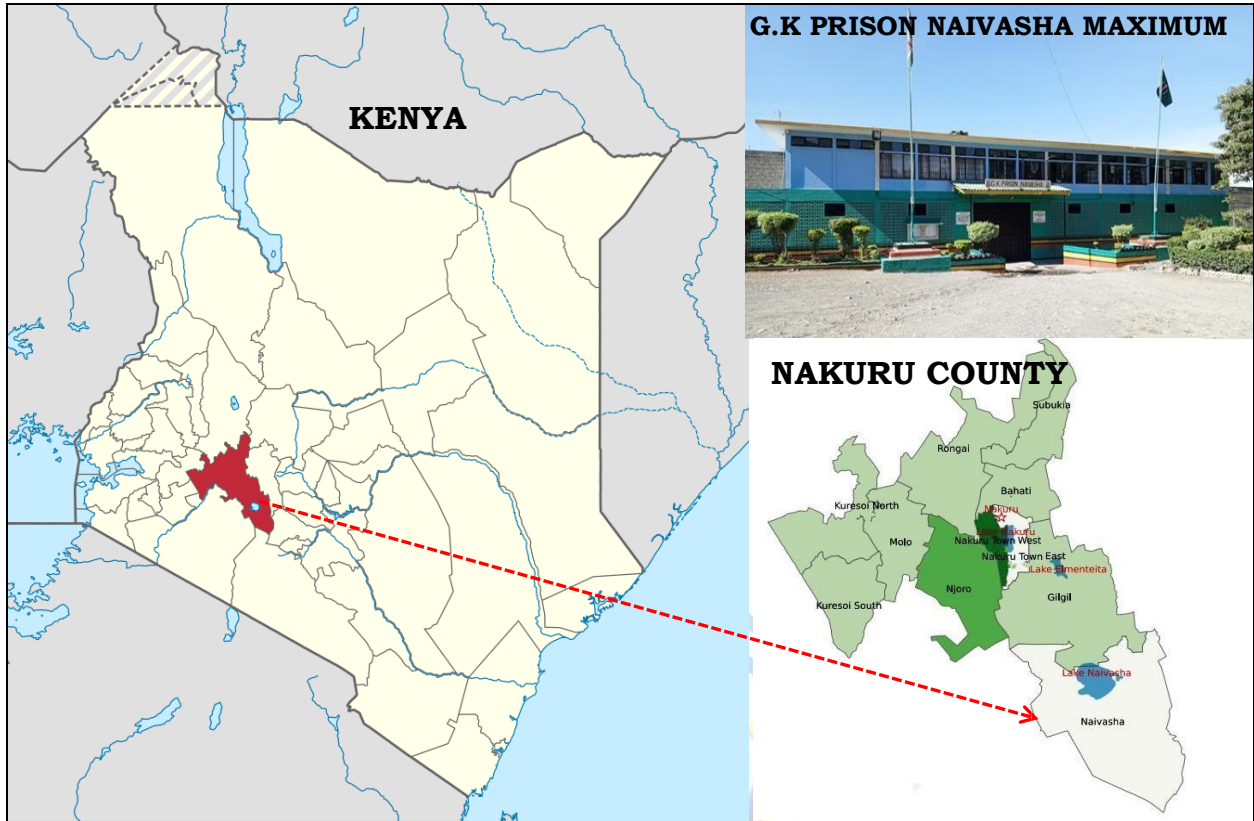
I wish to inform you that your request to conduct academic research in this institution is hereby approved. However, you will be required to provide this office with the research report before submission to the university.

I take this opportunity to wish you all the best during your research period.

Thank you.

Joseph Saitoti Kirui, ACGP,
Officer in charge,
NAIVASHA MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON.

APPENDIX IX: MAP OF THE STUDY AREA



Mount Kenya