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COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
CENTRE FOR CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

**YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT AND PROPERTY CRIME IN
NAMIBIA: A CASE OF SAMORA MACHEL
CONSTITUENCY**

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requirements for the award of a Master of Arts Degree in Peace Studies and

Conflict Transformation

BY

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Musanze, May 2020

DECLARATION

This project is my original work and has not been presented before, in whole or in part, to qualify for any other academic award in any other university. Ethical procedures and guidelines have been followed.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

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DEDICATION

This dissertation work is dedicated to my wife Ndapandula Mariana MAYUMBELO and our son Mayumbelo Prince-Fidelis MAYUMBELO for always putting a smile on my face during the trying times of writing this research. It was due to their unwavering support and encouragement that I was able to pass my time and complete this project. Their daily phone calls made my stay away from home worth the while.

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May our good Lord bless you all abundantly.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ADB	: African Development Bank Group
COVID-19	: Corona Virus Disease 2019
FY	: Financial Year
ILO	: International Labour Organization
KRDP	: Khomas Regional Development Plan
NAMPOL	: Namibian Police Force
NCS	: Namibian Correctional Service
NGO	: Non-Governmental Organization
NLFS	: Namibia Labour Force Survey
NSA	: Namibia Statistics Agency
NYCS	: Namibia Youth Credit Scheme
TIPEEG	: Targeted Intervention Program for Employment and Economic Growth
SME	: Small and Medium Enterprises
UN	: United Nations

ABSTRACT

This study was an attempt at understanding the extent to which youth unemployment contributes to increases in property crimes in Samora Machel constituency of the CoW, Khomas Region, Namibia. The objectives of the study were: to find out how youth unemployment contributes to increases in property crime; to identify challenges in addressing youth unemployment and property crime and lastly, to make suggestions on how to address youth unemployment and property crime in Samora Machel constituency. The study followed a qualitative approach and primary data was collected through the use of telephonic interviews and the administering of questionnaires and secondary data was collected through the review of scholarly articles and relevant literature. The data was then analyzed through themes and presented through the use of narratives, pie-charts and tables. The study found that youth unemployment tops the list of factors that contribute to increases in property crime but besides that there is a myriad of other factors including alcohol and drug abuse and poverty. Additionally, the study found several challenges in addressing the problem and these include rapid population growth, high incidence of school dropouts as well as poverty. The study concluded that addressing the problem requires a multi-sectoral approach bringing Government and private sectors together in finding solutions to the phenomenon. Consequently, the study made some recommendations including: the establishment of vocational training centers, extension of the NYCS for income generating projects as well as the building of sports and recreational facilities in the area. The study contributes in filling the gap in literature and increasing knowledge in the area of youth unemployment and property crime in Namibia.

CHAPTER ONE

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

This study concerns youth unemployment and property crime in Samora Machel Constituency of the City of Windhoek (CoW), Khomas Region, Namibia. Its objective was to understand the extent to which youth unemployment contributes to the increase in property crime in Samora Machel constituency. This chapter sets out the background of the study, together with the statement of the problem that gave rise to the study being conducted. It further sets out the main research objective and outlines the specific objectives and research questions, the significance of the study, scope and concluding with the organization of the dissertation into different chapters.

1.2 Background of the study

Developing countries in the world have experienced massive growth in youth populations, with literature reporting that young people aged between 15 – 24 years now constitute about one fifth of the world's population (Idris, 2016, p. 2). With this massive growth in youth populations comes a demand for jobs in the labour market for this growing labour force, resulting in a huge and growing global youth unemployment problem. According to Idris (2016), the global youth unemployment rate was 13 per cent in 2014, with wide regional variations, the highest rates being in the Middle East and North America, and with an estimated 1 billion youth to enter the job market, around 600 million jobs need to be created just to keep unemployment rates constant. Idris also argues that deprived of any economic opportunities and facing a bleak future, this youthful population can be a source of insecurity, developing deviant behavior leading to criminality.

The African Development Bank Group (ADBG),(2016), states that youths are considered Africa's greatest asset, with youth population rapidly growing and expected to double to over 830 million by 2050. TheADBG further observe that if properly harnessed, this increase in the working age population could support increased productivity and stronger, more inclusive socio-economic growth and development across the continent. However, the ADBG (2016) argues that as matters stand, the majority of youths in Africa do not have stable economic opportunities, with one-third of the 420 million youths on the continent unemployed and only one in six is in wage employment. As at 2015 youth unemployment status in Africa was 31 percent unemployed and discouraged youths, 19 percent inactive, 35 percent were vulnerable (underemployed in harsh working conditions with low wages) whereas only 15 percent were in wage employment (ADBG, 2016). According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), (2019), South Africa, Angola and Namibia rank as the top three countries in Africa with high unemployment rates at 58, 56 and 46 percent youth unemployment rates respectively.

Namibia, a country in sub-Saharan Africa, gained its independence from minority white South African rule on 21 March 1990. It is located in the south-west of Africa, a country of 825,615 square kilometers with an estimated population of about 2, 5 million people (World Population Prospects, 2019).

During the minority white South African rule, the policy was that of segregation where the black Namibian population was cast away from the white population, the legacy of this policy still manifests today as Namibia is continuously struck by social and economic inequalities (Bigenius, 2014). These inequalities are told by many to be some of the most intense in the world today. New town-ships were built in the late 1950s and early 1960s to make sure the black population were excluded from the white society. This included the construction of Katutura, a well-known town-ship in Windhoek, placed kilometers away from white town-ships according to Ilcan and Lacey (as cited by Bigenius, 2014, p. 1).

As a young democracy, Namibia has enjoyed peace and political stability since independence with steady economic development, however, this environment is now

threatened by high unemployment rates and an upsurge in crime (Ashipala 2010). Ashipala also observes that unemployment can cause crime, alcoholism, family break ups and have other bad influences on different social phenomenon. It also has a general impact on poverty and homelessness, mostly affecting the youths. Since independence, black young adults have gotten their hopes up for achieving a good life, which was not the case before 1990 when the minority whites ruled the country. However, this hope seems to have slowly faded as there are not enough opportunities created for these young persons to get employment (Ashipala, 2010).

According to Ighobor(2013) Namibia has one of the youngest and fastest-growing populations in southern Africa. About 62 percent of the working-age adults in the country are between the ages of 15 and 34 and projections indicate that the number of 15 – 24 year-olds will have doubled by 2045. Ighobor further observes that this youthful population constitutes a vital resource, but deprived of sufficient job opportunities, it is a resource that will remain unexploited. The Namibia Labour Force Survey (NLFS) Report (2018) indicates that Namibia has an overall unemployment rate of 33.4 percent, and youth unemployment rate of 46.1 percent, with the City of Windhoek which is the capital city and the seat of government averaging 43 percent youth unemployment. This youth unemployment represents both extensive personal hardship for young individuals and a lost prospect for critical national and global economic development. High numbers of economically disadvantaged youths may also contribute to social instability (Mwinga, 2012).

On the crime front, the Namibian Police Force (Nampol) reported an upward trend in overall crime statistics for Wanaheda Police Station for a five year period from financial years (FY) 2014/15 - 2018/19 and this is represented in the table below.

Table 1.2 1Reported Cases Wanaheda Police Station 2014/15 – 2018/19

WANAHEDA POLICE STATION CASES REPORTED FOR THE LAST FIVE (5)					
FISCAL YEARS					
Financial Year	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Cases Reported	10913	10924	11776	11603	13170

Source: Nampol Crime Statistics 2018/19, p. 51

According to Nampol Crime Statistics (2018/19), of all the reported cases, the five most prevalent crimes reported in Khomas Region during the FY(from the highest to the lowest), are theft (not specified – 6030), assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm (3084), assault common (4284), housebreaking of residential premises (3347), and robbery (3250). All these cases are property crimes in exception of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm and assault common which are crimes against bodily integrity.

Further to the above, Samora Machel Constituency, being in the CoW, is one of the fastest growing constituencies in the country in terms of population as it houses the informal settlements of the City and with this growth comes a high rate of urbanization and high unemployment rate (Crush, Nicanor and Kazembe, 2018).Some quarters of the population hold the view that this high unemployment rate maybe influencing the rising crime rate (Sinvula, 2014; Mwinga, 2012; Martin, 2016). Martin further observes that the unemployment rate in Namibia is disconcerting, particularly in view of perceptions that the high unemployment rate among the youth is a contributing factor to the high crime rate, serving as a motivation for these youth to engage in offences such as house-breaking of residential premises, armed robberies and theft.It is in view of these observations, that there is a need to conduct a study seeking to understand the extent to which youth unemployment contributes to increases inproperty crime in Samora Machel Constituency.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

It is said by some scholars (Fougéreet *al*, 2009; Adebayo, 2013; Small &Obioha, 2014) that unemployed persons are more prone to committing crime in search of means for survival and that one of the ways to address this is for the labour market to create enough jobs to cater for the greater majority of the school leavers. Ideally, if there are job opportunities for the youth there would be less people roaming around with nothing productive to do, loitering and idling at street corners and shopping malls (Small &Obioha, 2014) as they would be engaged in productive work and thus contributing to socio-economic development. The government of the Republic of Namibia in trying to meet this ideal put in place a number of programs and strategies for job creation mainly targeting the youth who are severely affected by unemployment and one such program is the Targeted Intervention Program for Employment and Economic Growth (TIPEEG) and another one is the Namibia Youth Credit Scheme (NYCS) (Sisinyize&Shalyefu, 2015). Successful implementation of TIPEEG was supposed to result in the creation of about 104,000 direct and indirect job opportunities and the preservation of existing jobs related to Government projects (National Planning Commission, 2011; Mwinga, 2012). More so, Sisinyize and Shalyefu argue that the NYCS was aimed at catapulting the youth out of unemployment and poverty through the implementation of income generating projects.

However, the economic prospects of Namibia did not allow for the creation of enough opportunities for all to be gainfully employed (Mwinga, 2012) and TIPEEG and NYCS seem not to have achieved their intended objectives. The Namibian economy has not been able to sufficiently create permanent jobs, or dent the upward trend in youth unemployment (Namupala, 2016). Youth unemployment rate in Namibia remains disturbing; at 46.1 per cent and in the City of Windhoek it stands at 43 per cent and in Samora Machel constituency it stands at 37 per cent (Crush, Nicanor and Kazembe, 2018). The unemployment rate is said to be disturbing primarily due to the fact that it seems to be increasing unabated and also due to some views that persistent unemployment among the youth may be a contributing factor to the high crime rate especially on property crimes (Martin, 2016). According to the Nampol Crime Statistics (2018/19), among the top five most prevalent cases reported in Khomas Region, three are

property crimes ranging from theft (6030), robbery (3250), and housebreaking of residential premises (3347).

Further to the above, the Namibian Correctional Service (NCS) (2016) found that the majority of offenders incarcerated for these offences are youthful offenders and they were able to establish that 70 percent of the sample had Education Training and Employability as a high risk factor, which translates that lack of opportunity for employment disposed those offenders to offending (NCSas cited by Martin, 2016). Similarly, the NCS (2016) was able to identify that House Breaking with Intent to Steal and Stock Theft were respectively the offences mostly committed by offenders under its care. Both these classes of offenders can be linked to lack of employment (Martin, 2016).

As seen above, the phenomenon of youth unemployment is not unique to Namibia, it manifests in almost all the countries of the world including the most developed and advanced nations (Idris, 2016, p.2). Once this youthful resource is left hopeless without any glimmer of hope for a better life and a better future they can be easily manipulated to invest their time and energy into crime and criminality as this always seems to be a readily available alternative (ADBG, 2016).

According to Mwinga (2012) one of the hardships that all unemployed persons seem to contend with is the ability to afford something to eat, thus an alternative to this could be to venture into criminality alive to the fact that the long arm of the law will catch up with them and they will be put into prison where they will be guaranteed three meals per day with water and electricity. A synopsis of young offenders aged 14 to 17 identifies that their offences were largely economic in nature (Feris, 2013). From the available scholarship, the nexus between unemployment and crime seems all the more obvious across many jurisdictions (Small & Obioha, 2014; Fougéret *al*, 2009; Adebayo, 2013), however there seems to be a dearth in literature in Namibia that clearly studied these two phenomenon in order to understand the extent to which the one influences the other, especially in a populous and impoverished locality such as Samora Machel Constituency.

This is the gap that this research intends to contribute in filling thus adding to the body of knowledge on the phenomenon of youth unemployment and property crime.

Consequently, the consequence of limited job opportunities for the youths may be deviant behavior which can lead to criminality. If not addressed, this issue will continue to upset the socio-economic development, peace and stability in Samora Machel constituency in particular and Namibia in general. Thus, the problem that this research will focus on is to identify the extent to which youth unemployment contributes to increases in property crime in Samora Machel constituency. Understanding this phenomenon will contribute in providing answers that may assist in policy formulations that will address this phenomenon of youth unemployment and property crime in Samora Machel constituency.

1.4 Research Objective

The main objective of the study was to understand the extent to which youth unemployment contributes to increases in property crime in Samora Machel Constituency, Khomas Region, Namibia.

1.5 Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of the study were:

- i. To find out how youth unemployment contributes to increases in property crime in Samora Machel Constituency?
- ii. To identify challenges in addressing youth unemployment and property crime in Samora Machel Constituency?
- iii. To make suggestions on how to address youth unemployment and property crime in Samora Machel Constituency.

1.6 Research Questions

The research questions in this study were the following:

- i. How does youth unemployment contribute to property crime in Samora Machel Constituency?
- ii. What are the challenges in addressing youth unemployment and property crime in Samora Machel Constituency?
- iii. What suggestions can be made to address youth unemployment and property crime in Samora Machel Constituency?

1.7 Significance of the Study

This was an exploratory study, thus it was aimed at laying the foundation for more studies that may be aimed at explaining the phenomenon of youth unemployment and property crime in Samora Machel constituency, Khomas Region, Namibia. As earlier alluded, the study targeted Samora Machel constituency, because it is one of the most populous constituencies in the CoW housing the majority of informal settlements, with a high rate of youth unemployment and property crimes. Understanding how youth unemployment contributes to increases in property crime in Samora Machel constituency, may contribute significantly to the body of knowledge about the two variables and may assist policy makers to come up with possible policy interventions and strategies aimed at addressing the phenomenon of youth unemployment and property crime.

1.8 Scope of the Study

The study was concerned with understanding how youth unemployment contributes to increases in property crime in Samora Machel constituency despite government and the Nampol having employed strategies aimed at addressing this phenomenon. The study covered the period from 2015 to 2019 looking at the unemployment and crime statistics in Samora Machel constituency. This period was chosen because it showed a continuous increase in unemployment and property crime statistics year on year in Samora Machel

constituency, hence prompting the researcher to carry out a study covering the said period. Further to the above, covering a five year period gave a better understanding on the extent of the contribution of youth unemployment on the increases to property crime in Samora Machel constituency (Nampol Crime Statistics, 2018/19 p. 51). Moreover, the research chose Samora Machel constituency as the area of study because it is the most populous constituency in the City with a high incidence of youth unemployment and property crime rates as observed by Khomas Regional Council (KRDP, 2015).

1.9 Organization of Study

The study is structured in five chapters, chapter one deals with the general introduction of the study, covering the background, statement of the problem, research objectives and research questions as well as the significance and scope of the study. Chapter two deals with the literature review, providing outlines of the variables of the study being youth unemployment and property crime. Chapter two further discusses the theoretical framework used in the study covering the strain theory and the rational choice theory in explaining the phenomenon of youth unemployment and property crime. Chapter three goes on to discuss the research methodology of the study covering aspects of research design, target population, sampling method, data collection methods, ethical issues as well as limitation of the study. Under chapter four, the study discusses the presentation of data and analysis as well as the empirical results and findings and the study concludes with chapter five, which provides a summary of the study, general conclusion and recommendations.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter reviews scholarly and research work in the area of youth unemployment and property crime. In the first place the chapter provides definitions of key concepts that the study covered. Thereafter, the chapter gives an outline of the two study variables of youth unemployment and property crime, reviewing scholarly literature pertaining to the study objectives. Further, the chapter explains the theoretical framework that explains the phenomenon of youth unemployment and property crime covering strain and rationale choice theories to make for a better understanding of the two, closing with chapter conclusion.

2.2 Definitions of Key Concepts

This section provides operational definitions of key concepts such as youth, unemployment, youth unemployment, property crime and constituency that are used throughout the study.

2.2.1 Youth

According to the standard United Nations (UN) definition, “youth” comprises young people aged from 15 – 24 years inclusive (UN, 1992 as cited by O’Higgins, 2001), in practice however; the operational definition of youth or young people varies from country to country, depending on cultural, institutional and political factors. O’Higgins further observes that in many developing countries, Namibia included, there is often no minimum school leaving age and as such standard labour force reporting can start as early as 10 years of age and that this can undoubtedly have significant consequences for the early labour experiences of young people and can offset accurate statistics.

In Namibia, however, according to Namupala (2016) youths is defined as those aged 16 – 35 years, and the age of 15 years is considered as the lowest level and 34 years as the highest level for discussions on youth (un-) employment, as well as other official documents and surveys. The Revised National Youth Policy for Namibia (2004) defines youths to mean a person between the age of 16 and 30. Besides the above definitions, operationally, for the purposes of this study the age bracket will be extended up to the age of 35, thus any reference to youth will mean any person between the ages of 16 and 35 years.

2.2.2 Unemployment

Unemployment is a phenomenon that occurs all around the world and according to the ILO (2019) it occurs when a person who is actively searching for employment is unable to find work and the most frequent measure of unemployment is the unemployment rate, which is the number of unemployed people divided by the number of people in the labour force. According to Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA, 2018) unemployment is broadly defined as all those within economically active or working age groups that are without work but available for work and actively or not actively seeking work. This study will adopt the ILO definition of unemployment which refers to a person who is actively searching for employment but unable to find work.

2.2.3 Youth Unemployment

Youth unemployment is the situation of young people who are looking for a job, but cannot find a job, with the age range being that defined by the UN as 15-24 years old (O'Higgins, 2007). This definition combines the concept of youth and unemployment, both defined separately above, into one concept of 'youth unemployment' which is considered a single key concept for this study. According to Namupala (2016) the term 'youth unemployment' represents the number of unemployed young people aged 15 – 34 years, as a percentage of the total labour force, where the total labour force comprises the unemployed and the employed. In furtherance of the above, for the purposes of this study

and in line with the operational definition of youth adopted earlier, youth unemployment is defined to mean a situation of young people between the age of 16-35 who are actively looking for work but cannot find work.

2.2.4 Property Crime

Crime is generally defined as an intentional act or omission in violation of criminal law (statutory and case law), committed without defense or justification and sanctioned by the state as a felony or misdemeanor (Reid, 2000, p.6). The theoretical understanding of property crime is that it is a concept that puts together all crimes related to other people's property and it is usually divided into two groups, one being destroyed property and the other being stolen property (Sjoquist, 1973). The destroyed property category refers to crimes such as arson and vandalism, whereas the stolen property category refers to robbery, theft and housebreaking. Sjoquist further observes that property crime is aimed at obtaining money, property or some other benefit and in most cases it may involve violence or threats of use of force in its commission especially in cases of robbery or housebreaking. In the context of this study and drawing from the above general definition of crime and the theoretical understanding of property crime, any reference to property crime shall refer to a category of crime that includes housebreaking of private premises, theft, robbery and cellphone snatching/grabbing but excluding the category of damaged property. Further, in this study crime and criminality will be used interchangeably but both denoting a reference to property crime as defined herein.

2.2.4 Constituency

A constituency is an administrative unit of the Government at Regional Government level, with the administrative head being a Regional Councilor directly elected by the inhabitants of the constituency through secret ballot during Regional and Local Authority elections held every five years. The size of each constituency is influenced by the size and population of each Region. The administrative division of Namibia is determined by Delimitation Commissions and currently Namibia has 14 Regions and each Region is

further subdivided into constituencies, giving a total of 121 constituencies (Government of the Republic of Namibia, 2020).

2.3 Outline of Youth Unemployment in Namibia

As earlier indicated, the phenomenon of youth unemployment is not unique to Namibia. It is a phenomenon that affects a great many youth the world over and in general the effects of unemployment can be said to be cross cutting. Mwinga (2012) observes that the result of such phenomenon poses major social, political and economic risks, which can yield devastating effects on social exclusion, crime, and economic welfare, erosion of human capital, death, misery and social instability.

According to the NLFS Report (2018), Namibia has an overall unemployment rate of 33.4%, and a youth unemployment rate of 46.1%, with the CoW which is the capital city and the seat of government averaging 43% percent youth unemployment. This means that almost half of Namibia's economically active population is unemployed and it seems that not much has changed since Mwinga's research and publication of 2012. In Samora Machel constituency, situated in the CoW, in central Namibia's Khomas Region with an estimated population of about 49700 inhabitants and has an unemployment rate of 37 per cent (Crush, Nicanor and Kazembe, 2018).

Maquire (2012, p.495) posts that the major consequence of the phenomenon of youth unemployment is to extend and complicate the transition from depended childhood to independent adulthood, with the consequence that a small proportion of young people fall through the net, ending up outside education (often having been excluded), training and work. This was the group around which many concerns about criminal activity tended to merge according to Williamson as cited by Maguire (2012, p.495). Other scholars (Small and Obioha, 2014) argue that though no reasonable person would totally deny that unemployment may erode social restraints where they may exist, it would be unwise to make a generation that unemployment causes crime, as there may be a host of other factors that may lead to deviant behavior and ultimately criminality across societies.

2.4 Outline of Property Crime in Namibia

Property crime in Namibia is one of the categories of crime that dominate the crime statistics. According to Nampol Crime Statistics from 2014/15 to 2018/19, an upward trend in overall crime is observed in the statistics for Wanaheda Police Station in Samora Machel constituency. In FY2014/15 the overall crime reported was 10913; FY2015/16 it went up to 10924 and in FY2016/17 11776 cases were recorded; FY2017/18 11603 and in FY2018/19 crime reported was 13170. Three of the most prevalent of these crimes reported are property crimes, with theft topping the list at 6030; followed by housebreaking of residential premises at 3347 and robbery coming in last at 3250 cases (Nampol Crime Statistics, 2018/19).

As observed above, the theoretical understanding of property crime is that it is a concept that puts together all crimes related to other people's property and it is usually divided into two groups, one being destroyed property and the other being stolen property (Sjoquist, 1973). In the context of this study focus is on the stolen property group of property crime, which is aimed at the obtaining of money, property or some other benefit by the perpetrators. According to Nampol crime statistics (2018/2019) in most of the reported cases, the perpetrators employ violence or threats of use of force in the commission of cases of robbery or housebreaking. It is the researcher's opinion that the youth will do anything to have access to other people's property by employing criminal means.

Additionally, the great majority of scholarship such as Raphael (1998) suggests that there is a strong link between unemployment and crime, grounded in the basic notion that individuals respond to incentives. Conceptualizing criminal activity as a form of employment that requires and generates income, a rational offender should compare returns to time use in legal and illegal activities and make decisions accordingly and with high unemployment rates comes chronic poverty, which in turn spawns more predatory violent street crimes, illegal drug use and myriad of other injurious symptoms of aggressive capitalism in poor communities (Raphael, 1998; Burke, 2001; Walklate, 2007).

As to the rising crime rate, researchers proffer varying reasons and they seem not agreed on one or more of these. Unemployment and its relationship to crime at times come up to the fore in these discussions, with some scholars arguing that young unemployed persons see crime or criminality as an alternative to them competing on the regular labour market. Managing the crime rate and maintaining the rule of law are fundamental goals of any Administration the world over. Thus the rise in the unemployment rate and the fall in real income may create an untenable situation for thousands of unemployed individuals, who frequently must turn to illicit means to support their families (Hollis, 2011, p. 1).

2.5 Theoretical Framework

This study's theoretical background was drawn from two theories in sociology and criminology. The one is the strain theory and the other is the rationale choice theory.

2.5.1 Strain Theory

In sociology and criminology, strain theorists postulate that social structures within a given society may pressure individuals to commit crime. Strain Theory was advanced by Robert King Merton in 1938 following the work of Emile Durkheim and it evoked a lot of interest to criminologists over the years (Lilly, Cullen, & Ball, 1995).

This theory will be of much assistance to the researcher in analyzing the phenomenon of youth unemployment and property crime in Samora Mache constituency. Strain may either be structural or individual (Lilly, Cullen & Ball, 1995; Broidy & Agnew, 1997), with structural strain referring to the processes at the societal level which filter down and affect how the individual perceives his or her needs, i.e. if particular social structures are inherently inadequate or there is inadequate regulation, this may change the individual's perceptions as to means and opportunities. Individual strain on the other hand refers to the frictions and pains experienced by an individual while looking for ways and means to satisfy individual needs, i.e. if the goals of society become significant to an individual, actually achieving them become far important than the means adopted (Lilly, Cullen & Ball, 1995). Thus, in pursuit of the goal subject either to structural or individual strain

and in the absence of legitimate means to attain such goal the individual may resort to illegitimate and criminal means.

According to strain theory, unemployment can be considered one of the structural strains at societal level that may put pressure on individuals, particularly the unemployed youth to develop deviant behavior which may lead to criminality. More so, this manifests where individually they perceive that the attainment of their goals in comparison to their peers with equal attributes and skills have become unrealistic due to limited employment opportunity. This may lead them to adopt criminal means in attaining their goals. In thus acting, they are forced by structural or individual strain into criminality.

With structurally induced strain, poor people are not taught to be satisfied with their lot but rather induced to pursue higher goals in life, which Lilly (1995, p.53) when explaining structural strain in the context of the USA states that people are “instructed to pursue the “American dream”; through hard work, it is said that even the lowliest among us can rise from rags to riches. This widespread aspiration for success, however, has an ironic virtue, ambition, which can promote deviant behavior.”

Merton (1938) as cited by Lilly (1995, p.53) observed that the problem is that the social structure limits access to the goal of an individual to success through legitimate means (e.g. college education, corporate employment, family connections), thus this strain (the inability to attain success) is what produces deviant behavior which leads to criminality.

2.5.2 Rational Choice Theory

The assertion that high levels of unemployment result in an increase in property crimes and criminal activity is based in the economic principal that people are rational creatures who respond to incentives. Crime is thus an outcome of the opportunity to offend (Hollis, 2011, p.3; Burke, 2014, p. 64) involvement in crime – well, at least property crime – is the outcome of a career decision, it is a chosen way of life, a way of making your living, one of a range of options. The labor-leisure model provides a general framework through which to delve into this widely held assertion. The labor-leisure model expands the concept of a budget constraint to deal with how one spends hours in a day, given the

constraints on time. The model, when applied to criminal activity, assumes that a “person converts non-market time into income by engaging in either legitimate employment or income-generating criminal activity” (Hollis, 2011, p.3).

People are rational creatures who respond to incentives. As such, times of economic prosperity provide an increase in the opportunity to participate in legitimate employment, as an increasing number of jobs are created. As a consequence, people are less likely to participate in income-generating criminal activity (Hollis, 2011, p.4). The proposition that unemployment induces criminal behavior is intuitively appealing and grounded in the notion that individuals respond to incentives. Conceptualizing criminal activity as a form of employment that requires time and generates income, a “rational offender” should compare returns to time use in legal and illegal activities and make decisions accordingly. Holding all else equal, the decrease in income and potential earnings associated with involuntary unemployment increases the relative returns to illegal activity (Raphael & Winter-Ebmer, 2001, p. 262).

Burke (2014, p.65) sets out key premises of rationale choice theory and are enumerated here below verbatim:

- i. “Most criminals are normal-reasoning people. The mode of reasoning of all adult persons is rational.
- ii. Rationality is a mode of thinking in which individuals are able to accurately distinguish means and ends: what they want and the ways that are available to them to obtain those ends.
- iii. For each of the different means available to them, rational actors are also able to calculate the likely costs (things they do not want to happen) and benefits (how many or how much of their ends they can achieve) of following a course of action.
- iv. If benefits outweigh costs, do it. If costs outweigh benefits, don’t do it.
- v. So, according to rational choice theory, it is not necessary to consider prior causes, antecedents and structures. All that matters are the rational judgments and

calculations facing a given person, with particular set of ends and preferences, in a given situation.”

Accordingly, rational choice is all about calculating the risk and benefits associated with engaging in a criminal act. If the risk of being caught and sent to prison is high then the rational offender will not engage in a criminal act, however, if the reward or benefit is far much greater than the risk, the rational offender will most likely engage in a criminal act. Becker (1968) one of the early proponents of the rational choice theory proposed that the potential offender calculates the legitimate opportunities of earning income available, the amount of reward they offer, the amounts offered by illegal methods, the probability of arrest and punishment, and thus chooses the activity, legal or not legal, that offers the best return.

Moreover, the rational choice of an offender is more evident in Clark's (1987, p.118) definition of crime where he posts that crime is “the outcome of the offender's choices or decisions, however hasty or ill-conceived these might be.” From the rational choice perspective, crime is simply rational action performed by fairly ordinary people in response to a particular pressure, opportunities and situational inducements (Hough *et al.*, 1980; Transler, 1986; Burke, 2014, p.66).

Early variants of rational choice theory had considered the issue of offender motivation to be irrelevant, although later variations propose that offenders choose to act in a certain way because these actions appear to them rational in the circumstances in which they find themselves and in terms of their knowledge and cognitive thought process (Clark, 1987, 1999; Burke, 2014, p.67). It is Sutton's (1995, 1998) proposition for instance, that “it is the existence of stolen goods markets that provides the crucial motivation for theft. Indeed, much of the motivation for seeking out those markets is invariably provided by the large increase in drug addiction in recent years.” Furthermore, a central implication of understanding offending in terms of a rational calculation means that the criminal justice system is capable of controlling crime, that aggressive law enforcement and severe

punishments should deter offenders, and consequently, produce a notable reduction in criminal offending (Burke, 2014, p.74).

Additionally, Doob and Cesaroni (2004) as cited by Burke (2014, p.75) suggest that a distinction needs to be made between rational choice in the short term and consideration of long term implications, as the young do not consider the long term; they are impulsive and focus on the immediacy of the rewards associated with offending and even if they do think of the criminal justice consequences, they find them irrelevant as it is unlikely that they will be caught.

Consequently, the two theories are relevant in the analysis of youth unemployment and property crime as they both offer perspectives as to how social strains (unemployment being one) can lead people to develop deviant behavior. Rational choice theory offers an explanation that as rationale beings offenders weigh the cost and benefit of engaging in criminal conduct beforehand, hence the reason why not all unemployed youth are found committing property crimes to survive.

3.1 Conclusion

This chapter defined key concepts that are frequently used in the dissertation and gave overviews of both the independent and the dependent variables with a review of the literature on the subject. The chapter further reviewed literature relating to the theoretical framework that the dissertation makes use of, covering the strain theory and the rational choice theory and examining how these theories explain the relationship between youth unemployment and property crime.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

As previously stated, the objective of the study was to understand the extent to which youth unemployment contributes to increases in property crime in Samora Machel constituency. This chapter sets out the research design adopted for this study and the reasons why such design is deemed appropriate. The chapter describes the methods and procedures that were used in the study aimed at answering the research questions and ensuring that the research objectives are adequately addressed. Furthermore, the chapter outlines the target population and sampling as well as the data collection methods and data analysis methods used in presenting and explaining the results of the study. The chapter further outlines the ethical considerations the study took into account and it concludes by setting out the limitations of the study.

3.1 Research Design

Research design can be defined as a definite plan for obtaining a sample from the sampling frame, inclusive of the technique or the procedure the researcher would adopt in selecting sampling units from which inferences about the population is drawn (Kothari, 2004). For this study, the qualitative research methodology was deemed appropriate as the study is explorative in nature. Qualitative research is not concerned with the ability to generalize results from the sample to the population; the logic of the sample is to select representative cases of the population (Abdulla, 2010).

Samples in qualitative research are usually purposive, while participants selected to generate useful data for the research project, are credible, and cover the main groups. The qualitative research method gives more space for respondents to express themselves using their own words, therefore it is a powerful tool in gathering in-depth data and ensuring that data is natural, however, it is time consuming at the analysis stage (Michael

2002). The researcher emphasized on the qualitative method as it enabled the researcher to obtain credible information that helped to understand why there is a continuous increase in youth unemployment and property crime in Samora Machel constituency despite various programs and strategies by the government and the Namibian Police Force aimed at addressing this phenomenon.

3.2 Study Area

The study area was Samora Machel constituency situated in the CoW in Khomas Region of central Namibia. According to NSA (2016) Samora Machel Constituency's geographical area is 20.3 km² with a population density of 2,422 per km². Samora Machel constituency is one of the 121 constituencies in Namibia, with an estimated population of about 49700 inhabitants and a youth unemployment rate of 37 per cent (Crush, Nicanor and Kazembe, 2018).

Samora Machel constituency is one of the most populous constituencies in the CoW with a high youth unemployment rate and an increasing crime rate and it is located across four suburbs of the City: Wanaheda, Greenwell Matongo, Goreangab and part of Havana, in the mountainous north-western part of the City, with a combination of formal and informal settlements. Samora Machel constituency lies approximately 10km west of the city center and it is accessible by various main roads from the city center. There are no major industries in the constituency apart from the Gammams Water Reclamation Centre situated at the Goreangab Dam, which offers limited job opportunities for the inhabitants of the constituency. Crush, Nicanor and Kazembe (2018) observed that the majority of the residents of the constituency are formally unemployed and drive their income from informal employment and small enterprises such as shebeens and carwashes. This forms the majority of the economic activities in the constituency apart from one major supermarket and two open markets in the area.

The political administration of the constituency is in the hands of the Regional Councillor, who is the conduit between the residents, local authority council of the

CoWand central government. The Regional Councillor is an elected representative of the residents and serves for a period of five years, tasked with the responsibility of coordinating and implementing government projects in the constituency and ensuring socio-economic development (KRDP, 2015). The constituency is under the jurisdiction of the Wanaheda Police Station and one police post with strength of 258 police officers (Nampol Annual Report, 2018/19).

3.3 Target Population and Sampling

A research population is said to be a large collection of people with certain characteristics that are of particular interest to the researcher (Bougie&Sekaran, 2016). Thus, the target population for this study was 13 000 unemployed youth and unemployed youth offenders from Samora Machel constituency. Wanaheda police station is the station responsible for policing the constituency and it has a population of about 258 police officers and a capacity of around 170 inmates held in 8 police cells (Nampol Annual Report, 2018).

As regards sampling, Trochim (2002) describes it as the process of selecting populations of study that are of particular interest to the researcher, so that by studying the sample the researcher may be able to generalize the results to the rest of the population from which they were selected. The sample unit for this research was 33 respondents, consisting of 10 police officers, 10 youth offenders from Wanaheda Police Station holding cells, 10 unemployed youth from the area of study and additional 3 respondents from the Ministry of Labour and Employment Creation, the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service and the Counselor of Samora Machel Constituency.

Since this study was exploratory in nature, the researcher used non-probability sampling technique in selecting the sample size. Non-probability sampling provides a number of alternative techniques to select samples based on subjective judgment and Saunders *et al* (2009) argue that for all non-probability sampling techniques other than for quota samples the issue of sample size is ambiguous and unlike probability sampling, there are no rules. That said, therefore, the sample size was dependent on the research questions and objectives – in particular, what the researcher needed to find out, what would be

useful, what would have credibility and what could be done within the available resources, and this was particularly so as the researcher intended to collect qualitative data through the use of interviews (Saunders *et al*, 2009, pp.233-234).

As to the size of the sample, Saunders *et al* (2009) suggest that for a general qualitative study a sample size of 25 – 30 respondents for interviews should suffice. For this study the researcher used the purposive sampling technique in selecting respondents for the study. Purposive sampling enabled the researcher to use own judgment in selecting the cases that would best enable the researcher to answer the research questions and meet the study objectives (Saunders *et al*, 2009, p.237). Purposive sampling was more appropriate for this study due to the fact that it saved time and money in data collection by targeting specific respondents. Further to that it was easier to identify respondents for the sample size guided by the research questions as compared to random sampling for instance, where not all the participants have the same characteristics being studied. Furthermore, purposive sampling was deemed appropriate for this study due to its convenience to the researcher and the sample was chosen because they are at the right place at the right time (Acharya *et al*, 2013) being Wanaheda Police Station in Samora Machel constituency which is the area of study, which again saves time and money.

Thus, the choice of sampling techniques was highly dependent on the feasibility and sensibility of collecting data to answer the research questions and to address the objectives from the entire population. The sample size and technique used were also influenced by the availability of resources, in particular financial support and time available (Saunders *et al*, 2009) for selection of sample, collection of data, entering the data into a computer and finally analyzing the data.

3.4 Data Collection Methods and Procedures

There are several methods of collecting data for research purposes and these include: observation; interview; questionnaires; documentary review; schedules and distributive audits to mention but a few (Kothari, 2004, p.96). In this study the researcher used the

interview method and the questionnaire method to collecting primary data as well as documentary method to collect secondary data.

3.4.1 Interview Method

The researcher conducted telephonic interviews with three identified respondents from the Ministry of Labour and Employment Creation; Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service and a representative of the councilor of Samora Machel constituency using semi structured interviews. This approach was adopted due to the fact that the researcher could not travel to the study area for the conduct of the interviews. Additionally, the most important reason for conducting semi-structured interviews was due to the fact that the selected respondents are experts in their respective fields and are assumed to possess valuable information which can be elicited more clearly through interviews.

Owing to the shortage of time and resources for the conduct of this study, semi-structured interviews proved very useful as they guided the respondents in focusing their responses on the relevant matters thus providing answers to the research questions and meeting the objectives. The use of semi-structured interviews allowed the process to remain flexible resulting in the researcher other important data that arose from the discussion (Dawson, 2002, p.22). Furthermore, the semi-structured interview saved the researcher much needed time due to the ease they present in analyzing data resulting from their design of guided nature in questions.

3.4.2 Questionnaire Method

As earlier alluded to, the researcher also collected primary data through questionnaires that were administered by a research assistant, again owing to the fact that the researcher could not travel to the study area for purpose of data collection due to the travel restrictions as a result of the covid-19 pandemic. The questionnaires were used because they are convenient and require little or no supervision and they are easy to administer owing to their design of question and provision for a response and they are also very

economical, saving both time and money (Kothari, 2004, p.101). The open-ended questions enabled the researcher to get detailed qualitative data from the sample of respondents that covered 10 police officers, 10 unemployed youth offenders at Wanaheda Police Station and 5 unemployed youths from the area of study. Moreover, the collected data provided intimate accounts of the lived experiences of unemployment and crime in the area from the perspective of unemployed youth; unemployed youth offenders and police officers that normally patrol the streets of Samora Machel and interact with these youths on day to day basis.

3.4.3 Documentary Method

In addition to the primary data that was collected using the interview and questionnaire methods of data collection, the researcher also used the documentary method by reviewing statistical data on youth unemployment as well as police records in the form of crime statistics. Document analysis proved to be an effective and efficient way of gathering data given that documents are manageable and practical resources (Bowen, 2009 p.31). This process gave the researcher the much needed background information for the study and it further provided a baseline with which the collected primary data results could be compared with. As a source of secondary data, during document analysis the researcher was able to treat the documents like a respondent or informant that provided the study with relevant information (O'Leary, 2014).

3.5 Data Analysis

After the data was collected, the next step was for the researcher to get insights from it. The researcher had to transcribe the interview data and thereafter it was read and re-read and the researcher re-visited the research to identify the questions that can be answered by the data. Consequently, the data was then grouped into themes, interpreted and analyzed. There was no need for follow-up interviews in this research as the responses were satisfactory and saturation had been achieved as evidenced by the repetitive

responses from various respondents. Saunders *et al* (2009) define saturation as the point at which additional data do not lead to any new emergent themes.

3.5 Ethical Considerations

According to Bryman (2012, p.129) ethical issues arise at a variety of stages in social research. Thus researchers are bound by ethical considerations not to carry out research that will in any way cause harm, which is understood to take such different facets as physical harm; harm to participants' development; loss of self-esteem; stress; and inducing subjects to reprehensible acts as Diener and Crandall (as cited by Bryman, 2012) put it.

Ethical considerations bound researchers not to conduct research without having obtained informed consent from the participants for them to freely and voluntarily participate in the research. Informed consent encompasses explanations to the participants about the reasons for the interview, whether there are any benefits to participants and avoidance of false promises. However, Homad (1991) (as cited by Bryman, 2012, p.139) observed that implementing the principle of informed consent is easier said than done and this he says is because it is extremely difficult to inform all prospective participants about all the information pertaining to the research that they may require before giving their informed consent and in some instances researchers deal with a wide spectrum of respondents making the principle of informed consent rather impractical. However, these observations should not be seen as obviating the principle. Researchers should still endeavor to obtain consent from all prospective participants, thus these observations should be exceptions to the rule (Bryman, 2012, p.139).

Prior to carrying out the research, the researcher had to request clearance and permission from the University of Rwanda to carry out this research. This clearance enabled the researcher to have the requisite authority to carry out the research taking into account ethical considerations.

3.6 Limitations of the Study

The first and major limitation of this study was time as the researcher did not have time to go down to Windhoek, Namibia to collect data and analyze same in real time and therefore the researcher used the aid of a research assistant to administer questionnaires. This also came with added financial costs to support the movement of the research assistant when collecting the data on the ground. The second limitation was that the study area of Samora Machel constituency, though it is located in Windhoek, there is no correctional facility in the constituency thus; the researcher did not have access to interview prisoners sentenced for property crimes. However, this limitation was mitigated by the fact that Wanaheda Police Station has police holding cells housing remand prisoners and this is one of the target population that the researcher used to collect data answering the research questions and objectives. Additionally, due to covid-19 pandemic which triggered the Government of Namibia to declare a state of emergence and impose movement restrictions and restrictions on gatherings of more than 10 people, the researcher could not proceed with focused group discussions with the inmates and had to employ the use of questionnaires to collect the data.

3.7 Conclusion

The study followed qualitative approach with a target population of police officers, unemployed youth and unemployed youth offenders as well as policy experts from the Ministry of Labour and Employment Creation; Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service and the Councilor of Samora Machel constituency. Data collection was done by means of telephonic interviews with the policy experts as well as through questionnaires. Despite the limitations set out, the study managed to collect relevant data for analysis and generation of findings. Throughout the study, the researcher was bound by research ethics.

CHAPTER FOUR

EMPIRICAL RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.0 Introduction

The objective of the study as earlier indicated in the general introduction chapter was to understand the extent to which youth unemployment contributes to increases in property crime in Samora Machel constituency. The current chapter, therefore, presents the empirical data, research findings and their analysis. It sets forth the demographic characteristics of the respondents and the response rate of the interviews and questionnaires. It further analyses the empirical data collected from the study area and presents the findings in the form of narratives, tables and charts.

4.1 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

The sample size for the interview and questionnaire was 33 respondents, 3 (three) of which were earmarked for interviews and 30 were to give their views through completion of questionnaires. Out of the total of 33 respondents, 3 interviews were conducted and 25 questionnaires were completed and submitted as required, giving a total of 28 respondents who participated in the data collection exercise. The general characteristics of the respondents show that 1 female and 2 male were interviewed whereas 8 female and 17 male gave their views through questionnaires. It is also apparent that 1 of the interviewees was the representative of the Councilor of Samora Machel Constituency; the other one is from the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service and the third one is from the Ministry of Labour and Employment Creation. As for the questionnaire respondents 5 were unemployed youth; 10 were unemployed youth offenders and 10 were police officers from Wanaheda Police Station in the study area.

The demographic data is important for the study as it provides for the determination of whether the individual respondents who participated in the study are a representative sample of the target population, thus giving credence to their responses in answering the research questions and objectives. The demographic characteristics of the respondents are set out in the table below.

Table 4.1 1 General Information of Respondents

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	19	68%
	Female	9	32%
	Total	28	100%
Years of Experience	0 – 4	12	43%
	5 – 9	6	21%
	10 – 14	7	25%
	15 – 19	1	4%
	20 and more	2	7%
	Total	28	100%

Source: Research data (April, 2020)

4.2 Interview Response Rate

The interviews targeted 3 respondents, 1 of each from the Ministry of Labour and Employment Creation, Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service and a representative of the Councilor for Samora Machel Constituency. All three respondents participated in the interview which the researcher conducted via the telephone since the researcher could not travel to Windhoek for data collection.

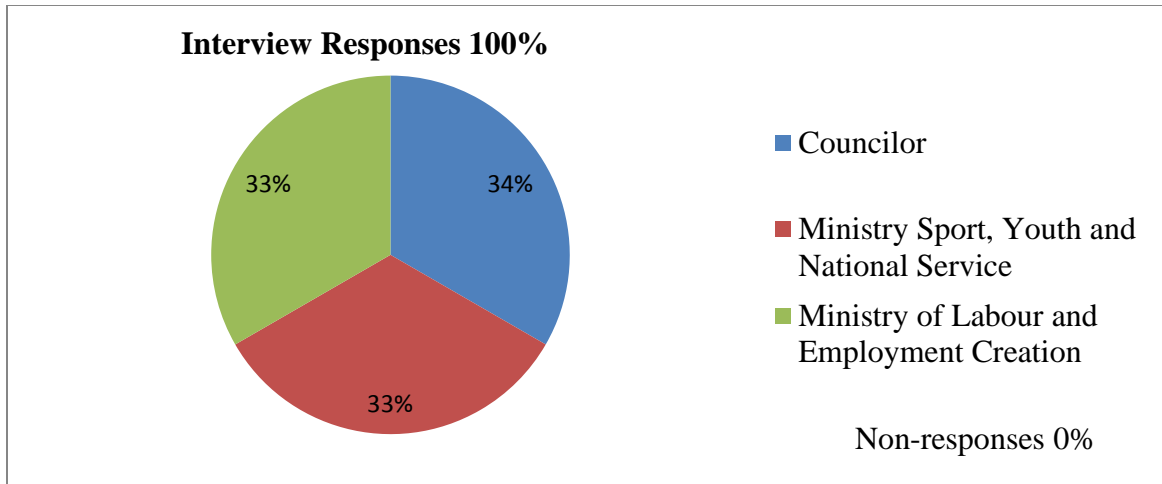


Fig 4.2 1 Interview Response Rate

Source: Research data (April, 2020)

4.3 Questionnaire Response Rate

The questionnaires that were administered were 30 and out of that, 25 respondents completed and submitted the questionnaires as required and 5 did not respond. The summary of the responses and non-responses is represented in the figure below.

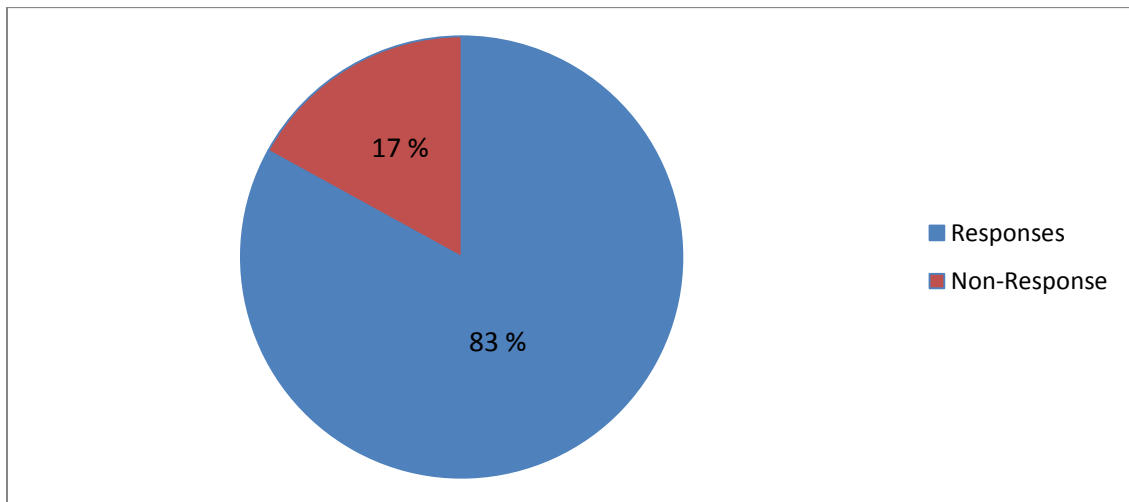


Fig 4.3 1 Questionnaire Response Rate

Source: Research data (April 2020)

4.4 Summary of Interview and Questionnaire Response Rate

A total of 28 respondents took part in the data collection for this study, where the response rate for the interviews was achieved at 100% which is representative of all 3 interviewees participating. On the questionnaire part, the target was 30 respondents, but a response rate of 83% was achieved, which is representative of 10 police officers; 10 unemployed youth offenders and 10 unemployed youths. Five (5) non-responses were recorded from the category of the unemployed youth.

4.5 Findings

This section sets out the key themes of the research and presents the findings resulting from the interview process, questionnaires and the consequent data analysis. The main themes which emerged following the data analysis process, and aligned to the research questions were the following: contribution of youth unemployment to property crime; challenges in addressing youth unemployment and property crime and lastly, suggestions for addressing youth unemployment and property crime. For ease of interpretation of the findings, the researcher divided the respondents into four categories, being police officers, unemployed youth offenders, unemployed youths and policy implementers being the representative of the constituency councilor, a representative from the Ministry of Labour and Employment Creation and the representative from the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service. These categories are classified as A, B, C and D respectively. Category A, B and C gave their views through questionnaires whereas category D gave interview responses. Of the three interviewees, they are further marked as Interviewee 1 being the representative from the Ministry of Labour and Employment Creation, Interviewee 2 being the representative from the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service and Interviewee 3 being the representative of the Councilor of Samora Machel constituency, respectively. As for the questionnaire respondents, for ease of reference they are numbered Respondent 1 to 25 across the three categories A, B and C.

4.5.1 Contribution of Youth Unemployment on Property Crime

On the contribution of youth unemployment on property crime, all respondents interviewed and the majority of those who completed questionnaires believe that there is a direct relationship between youth unemployment and property crime. However, some respondents are of the view that several other factors contribute to property crime in the area of study other than youth unemployment, one of which is poverty and lack of education. Due to the incidence of unemployment which leads to a lack of income to support one's life people are driven into the life of crime to earn an income. As Interviewee 3 from Category C put it:

There is an existing and rapidly growing problem of property crimes in Samora Machel constituency of Windhoek City. This is the largest constituency of informal settlers and majority are unemployed uneducated unskilled to semi-skilled. Due to lack of income as a result of lack of jobs or lack of education and skills, the constituency has continued to be fertile ground for petty crimes like cellular phone snatching, housebreakings and theft, including robberies. The area is so densely populated that crowded roads with slow-moving traffic is daily scenery a situation which makes bag and phone snatching pretty easy. These crimes also provide quick money in that they can easily be sold as they are in great demand within the same informal settlements (Windhoek, 29 March 2020).

According to the above response, a lack of education coupled with lack of jobs and a lack of income lead to the commission of property crime because this gives the culprits quick access to money as there is seemingly a market for stolen property in the same informal settlement. Moreover, youth unemployment creates a large pool of idle youth, confined to the streets without any hope for the future and because they need money they become easily motivated to commit property crimes as they can quickly sell their loot and earn some money to buy food and clothes. Thus, in the absence of job opportunities or any other activities to keep them away from idling in the streets, crime becomes their best option and this, unfortunately, grows as the number of unemployed youth increases. All the respondents are of the view that the most prevalent crimes in the area are housebreakings, theft, robberies, cellular phone snatching and the snatching of handbags. All these crimes fall under the category of property crimes as seen earlier on in this study.

Furthermore, some of the respondents hold the view that youth unemployment contributes to increases in property crime mainly because of a life of envy. As other youths in the same age bracket acquire nice and flashy gadgets and clothes, their unemployed counterparts also want to match up to them but cannot afford to acquire such items through legitimate means, thus they resort to illegitimate criminal means. Respondent 5 from Category A explained it as follows:

Some unemployed youth and even those who are employed in the low paying jobs want to copy the lifestyle of others and they want to have the same nice clothes and expensive cellphones and watches. But because they do not have the means to acquire such things and yet still being driven by the desire to fit in that category and show their friends that they are also living in time, they do illegal things like snatching people's cellphones in town and even robbing people just to fit in. When they need something the other youth in the same age group have it is like they are pressured by circumstances to do anything to get it and this is where they commit all types of property crimes (Windhoek, 05 April 2020).

This explanation is an indication of the type of strain that the youth find themselves in. It is usually this strain which according to the respondent could be due to unemployment or at times underemployment and the desire to want to fit into the lifestyles of others that drive the youth to commit property crimes. In support of this, respondents from Category A expressed the view that majority of the offenders that are caught for property crime are in the youth category, though not all of them are necessarily unemployed as others are caught in the web as a result of being in gangs. Respondent 1 put it as follows:

About 95% of the offenders that are arrested for property crime in Samora Machel are youth offenders between the ages of 16-29 or so. Majority of them are unemployed but some of them are in low paying jobs and they commit crimes because they are part of some criminal gangs in the location trying hard to maintain and portray a certain level of lifestyle. When they go out they want to be flashing money around and show their peers that they have made it in life and to maintain such a lifestyle they need to find other sources of making money. Engaging in illegitimate means gives them what is considered easy money. It is all

a gamble and you just hope that you do not get caught and most at times they do get away with it (Windhoek, 05 April 2020).

Additionally, the dominant view from both categories of respondents is that youth unemployment is the leading contributor to increases in property crime in the area of study. However, there is a myriad of other factors that contribute to the rise in property crime and these are not limited to the youth but affect almost everybody in the area of study. The factors that were highlighted by the respondents include the following: alcohol and drug abuse; teenage pregnancy; high level of school dropouts and high failure rate; family dysfunction; poverty; lack of funding to further studies; lack of amenities and peer pressure. Almost all the respondents across the three categories are of the view that there is a high incidence of school dropouts which results in a lot of youth in the street, idling and loitering around without any opportunities to undertake any productive work which then leads them into the life of criminality.

On the other hand, the views of the unemployed youths who have not found themselves on the wrong side of the law paint a different picture. Though they seem to agree that a host majority of offenders in prison are young people, they contend that there are a lot of them who strive to make a living through legitimate means no matter how difficult the situation may be. Respondent 10 and 11 from Category C put it this way:

There are some of us who try to make money through legitimate means such as engaging in small businesses of selling sweets, recharge vouchers and boiled eggs in the streets and though this type of trade is not very appealing for the majority youths especially those who grew up in town with their parents and were used to an easy life. As for me and my friends we grew up in the rural areas where we had to walk for long distance to get to school and after completion of Grade 12 we came to the City in search of a better life. We walk long distances every day to stand at the robots looking for piece jobs and on a good day I can make N\$ 200.00 to buy something to eat (Windhoek, 09 April 2020).

People choose to do criminal activities. We are all looking for some money to buy something to eat or clothes. When I first arrived in the City in 2013 I was lucky to have found hardworking friends, who encouraged me to always go looking for

work and through that struggle of walking long distances every day I found a gardening job where I was cleaning someone's yard in Hochland Park twice a week. I was making a little money that kept me going. Unfortunately, the person I was working for was transferred to the North so I lost that job. But I did not choose to steal or take people's property I went back to the street every day looking for job. I am a registered member of the group called Men on the Side of the Road. Anyone who requires someone to do something small for them like cleaning the yard or carrying some furniture they come to us at the street corners and I make a little money from there, but its not easy sometimes you go days without being lucky (Windhoek, 09 April 2020).

Apparent from the above responses is that different individuals handle strain in different ways, where others would want a quick fix to get easy money through engaging in illegitimate criminal means, others soldier on and endure daily struggles to make the little they can to put food on the table or buy a piece of clothing. It is also apparent that not all unemployed youth engage in illegitimate criminal means to make ends meet, other engage in small ventures like selling sweets, boiled eggs and recharge vouchers earning themselves some money and staying out of trouble.

Moreover, the respondents to the questionnaires all held the view that it is not only youth unemployment that contributes to a rise in property crime in the area of study, though it is listed as the top contributor there are several other factors as listed above. Below is an extract of what Respondent 15 said on the issue:

Alcohol and drug abuse is one of the contributing factors to rising property crime rates in Samora Machel constituency. Many youths want to copy the lifestyle of others and show off to their friends at the bars that they can also afford to drink expensive drinks and wear nice clothes. So to finance their lifestyles, they resort to committing crimes so they can fit in. As Samora Machel is predominantly an informal settlement, the levels of poverty in the area are too high and apart from youth unemployment, there are also what appear to be underemployment issues, since most youth occupy low paying jobs or perform odd jobs just to make a few dollars to keep the family going. This level of poverty puts extra pressure on the youth and adults alike to look for other ways to gain extra income and one of the ways is to steal and break into other people's houses (Windhoek, 07 April 2020).

Apparent from the above is the fact that the contributing factors to increases in property crime rates in the area of study are not limited to youth unemployment. What comes out is that alcohol and drug abuse is also one of the contributing factors, as the youth do not have an income to support their addiction they resort to robbing people of items such as cellular phones and sell these for cheap just to get money to buy alcohol and drugs. Another factor cited is family dysfunction where many of the youths are raised in broken families thus they do not grow up with very good moral values. Some are raised by single parents, others grow up in families where both parents abuse alcohol and drugs and this leads them to run away from home, joining their peers in gangs and start leading a life of crime on the streets.

Respondent 9 had the following to say regarding the above issue:

There are many broken family units around Samora Machel constituency. Parents simply do not have any control over the raising of their children and these kids especially boys, end up joining gangs in the streets and start to terrorize residents. There is a particular gang calling themselves 'Boko Haram' that rob people of cellular phones and snatch hand bags from women. This is because these young men have nothing to do and they can't stay in their homes because they don't get along with their parents. It's a big problem in Samora Machel (Windhoek, 8 April 2020).

What comes to the fore here is that the absence of family cohesion and parental control over the children also leads to these young people joining gangs and idling around street corners targeting people and robbing them of their properties. There appears to be a myriad of factors that contribute to increases in property crime and these are not limited to unemployment.

4.5.2 Challenges in addressing youth unemployment and property crime

The main challenges that were identified by the respondents are as follows. Firstly, there is rapid population growth in the area of study due to a high rate of rural to urban migration. The high population growth does not match up with the rate of development in

the study area and the city at large resulting in limited job opportunities. Furthermore, the study area is mostly made up of informal settlers, thus almost all those migrating to the city in search of a better life are settling in the study area. Secondly, there is a high incidence of school dropouts and a high failure rate. This makes it difficult for government implementation of any youth programs due to lack of skills by the youth because they dropped out of school. The result of which is many youth roaming streets and idling at street corners and shops without anything meaningful to do. Moreover, policing informal settlements that are less organized with more temporary structures is challenging for the police efforts especially where the area is densely populated. It was also said that this results in frustration of the criminal justice system as many of the youths offenders are not being processed quick enough through the system leading to a vicious cycle where crimes are committed, perpetrators apprehended and then released on bail only to reoffend again. Thirdly, there is a high level of poverty and lack of parental guidance, which results in parents being unable to send their children for further education in situations where they happen to complete their secondary school. This adds to the high number of youths in the streets without any opportunities.

Interviewee 3 expressed this in the following manner:

It is very difficult for the government to implement youth programs aimed at improving the lives of young people because these school dropouts lack education and skills so they are more susceptible to commit petty property crimes for quick cash. Also, poverty which has led to massive rural to urban migration in search of a better life, as well as unemployment and lack of facilities (recreational, educational) are some of the challenges confronting the youth in the constituency (Windhoek, 29 March 2020).

In addition to the above, it was further stated that there is limited support from the government inclusive of local, regional and central government, in the implementation of programs aimed at reducing youth unemployment and property crime in the area. Some youth programs such as the NYCS have not been rolled out in the area to encourage youth entrepreneurship, thus there is no motivation for youths to start any meaningful businesses. The police have also stopped the tracing of stolen cellphones in the area

which then makes cellphone snatching a lucrative venture for the unemployed youths in the area. Another challenge identified is the mushrooming of shebeens in the area, which do not fully comply with the laws and restrictions on alcohol supply to persons under the age of 18. This results in increased incidents of alcohol and drug abuse since these alcohol outlets are easily accessible. This, in turn, leads to increased incidents of robberies, housebreakings and cellphone snatching mainly perpetrated by the youths to get easy money to feed their addictions.

In support of the above, Interviewee 2 expressed the following view:

Several challenges affect the youth in Samora Machel constituency as large pools of idle youth, confined to the streets easily get opportunities to carry out such property crimes and since they are in need, in need of money, they are motivated to commit such crimes as they are quickly able to sell stolen household items. The crimes are not limited to stealing personal property like phones and money only but clothing apparel as well. Victims are literally undressed and stripped off items like shoes, pants, shirts and even caps that they are wearing, which items are then sold for negligible amounts to other destitute unemployed people within the constituency, making the problem cyclical in the area (Windhoek, 29 March 2020).

Apparent from the above is the fact that there seems to be easy access to a market for stolen property in the area which makes it a challenge to address the problem of property crime. If the buying of stolen property was not as easy it would discourage the youth from indulging in the commission of property crimes as there would be no buyers for their stolen loot and this would lead to a reduction in such crimes. More so, if the criminal justice system was able to process offenders through trials leading to convictions and the meting out of appropriate sentences, the incidence of property crime would be reduced as the criminal justice system would be deterring would be youth offenders. However, as matters stand the system is not coping and the youth seem to be taking advantage of the slow criminal justice process and continue to commit crimes as it seems that a lot more are getting away with it.

4.7.4 Suggestions for addressing youth unemployment and property crime

Addressing youth unemployment and property crime in the area of study is said to be challenging due to a wide range of factors such as rapid population growth, alcohol and drug abuse and high incidences of school dropouts. To this end, the respondents gave suggestions on how to address these issues. The most prevalent view from the respondents is that the youth are many and they have little to nothing to keep them busy and distracted, thus they just idle around shopping centers and roam the streets, which leads them into engaging in criminal acts. Therefore, in an apparent effort to keep the youth busy, there is a need for the government to invest in sports and recreational facilities, which will keep the youth occupied and away from the streets.

On this point Interviewee 2 had the following suggestion to make:

These young people should be provided with means to have what they are stealing for themselves by providing educational training (especially vocational training) so that they gain skills to be self-employed and be competitive on the job market. Secondly, a public funding scheme for the youth to start small businesses coupled with the provision of incubation services to guide business growth. These strategies will keep the youth in Samora Machel constituency working and give them better lives than crime (Windhoek, 29 March 2020).

Suggestions on how to deal with youth unemployment and property crime are a lot and majority of them lean towards keeping the youth out of the streets and equipping them with skills that will assist them to make a living. Support is needed in the area of business development for the youth, thus putting up an Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) incubation center in the area would be of much assistance to the many unemployed youth idling around without opportunities as this would teach them entrepreneurial skills and support business growth. As a result of the high incidence of school dropouts the views on the ground point towards the introduction of more vocational skills training institutions in the area that will offer youth skills development as opposed to conventional education which is proving too difficult for many youth to cope with. Other suggestions included the need for some services such as rubbish collection combined

with the recycling of waste materials to be contracted at the constituency level as this could be combined with training of youth in areas of e-waste sorting and processing aimed at helping the community through income generation for the youth as well as helping to keep the environment clean.

Besides, looking at the rapid population growth rate which puts pressure on already existing structures, such as the one outdoor gym and recreational park in the areas, respondents agreed that there was need for government to put up a lot of sports and recreational facilities such as soccer fields, volleyball, netball and basketball courts and community swimming pools as these facilities would help keep the youths busy and out of the streets. This view was expressed as follows by Interviewee 2 from Category D:

Investing in sport is one of the avenues to reduce unemployment as we have seen in many countries where governments have invested heavily in sport, they are encouraging more and more young people to make a career out of the sport and many from poor backgrounds have become successful sports personalities and this has lifted them from poverty. In this regard the many youth that have dropped out of school could be engaged in deliberate and targeted sports programs by the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service working with professional coaches to produce athletes in various sports codes that can represent the country at the Olympics and many other sports events in the world. In other constituencies, there are even boxing clubs and soccer academies keeping the youth busy, but no such things in Samora Machel constituency (Windhoek, 29 March 2020).

It is apparent from the above views that investment in sport would go a long way in addressing some of the youth unemployment issues in the area of study. It is apparent that if the youth are kept active and engaged in sports it would keep them away from the streets and ultimately away from falling into the life of criminality as a result of sitting idle. It was a dominant view from the respondents that solving the socio-economic issues in the area would see a direct impact on crime reductions.

Another view is that there is a need to put up more policing infrastructure and Court houses in the area to enable the criminal justice system to cope with the high number of cases in the area which is a result of the rapid population growth. It was the dominant

view of the respondents that there must be an increase in policing infrastructure in the area as well as addition of court houses to be able to cope with the crime situation in the area.

Respondent 8 expressed this in the following manner:

Policing services in Samora Machel constituency simply cannot cope with the fast growing population in the area. When Wanaheda Police Station was opened in the early 1990s it was servicing a reasonably small population, but over the years the area has grown so much more especially the informal settlement where the vast majority of people in Samora Machel reside. One police station is just not coping in policing this big area. To make matters worse, the whole Wanaheda Policing area, including the area of jurisdiction of Katutura Police Station and the newly opened Otjomuise Police are all served by Katutura Magistrates' Court and it cannot cope with the volume of cases from these populated areas. To me things would be better if they could put up additional police stations and courts in the area. Windhoek has grown it is not like back in the 90s (Windhoek, 08 April 2020).

It was said that CoW is growing fast especially in the area of Samora Machel constituency as a result of rural to urban migration and this growth is not matched by development in the area. The result being that the provision of services cannot cope with the growing population. The current policing facilities in the area are limited to one police station with a population of 258 police officers charged with a responsibility of policing a vast area with a population of almost 50 000 inhabitants. All the cases in the area are processed and taken to Katutura Magistrate's Court, which is responsible not only for Wanaheda Police Station but covers two other bigger stations like Katutura and Otjomuise Police Stations with bigger populations. The result is an overwhelmed criminal justice system unable to deliver swift justice. It might be worthwhile for policy makers and policy implementers to consider these suggestions as they speak to the ways in which crime in the area could be addressed. Furthermore, such development would also come with job opportunities for the youth in the form of policing jobs, clerical and cleaning jobs at the Court houses to mention but a few, thus addressing both the youth unemployment issue and the crime issue in the area.

4.8 Conclusion

The purpose of this chapter was to set out the findings that arose from the data analysis of the interviews and questionnaires. It is now evident that increases in property crime in Samora Machel constituency are not limited to youth unemployment. There is a myriad of other contributing factors such as alcohol and drug abuse, high incidence of school dropouts and high failure rate, family dysfunction, poverty and peer pressure. The study also found that some of the challenges in addressing youth unemployment and property crime in the area of study include the high population growth rate which results in limited job opportunities for youth as some cannot cope with the influx of people. Further findings relate to the suggestions in addressing this phenomenon which include investing in sports and recreational facilities to keep youth away from the streets as well as vocational training centers and SME incubation centers for entrepreneurial development as well as the putting up of additional police stations and Court houses in the area aimed at fast tracking cases through the criminal justice system.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

The objective of the study was to understand the extent to which youth unemployment contributes to increases in property crime in Samora Machel Constituency. This chapter therefore, concludes the study and in so doing it provides a summary of the previous chapters and discussion of the research findings covering the objectives of the study. The chapter then provides a general conclusion of the study and lastly provides recommendations emanating the research findings and concludes with a suggestion for further studies.

5.2 Summary

Youth unemployment remains one of the biggest challenges confronting countries the world over and Namibia is no exception. The objective of this study was to understand the extent to which youth unemployment contributes to increases in property crime in Samora Machel constituency of the CoW, Khomas Region, Namibia. Notwithstanding government strategies and initiatives to address the phenomenon of youth unemployment and property crime, there is a noted upward increase in both youth unemployment numbers and property crimes in the area of study. This compounded with a dearth in literature in Namibia that clearly studied these phenomenon to see how the one influences the other prompted the researcher to undertake this study as an attempt to understand the extent to which youth unemployment contributes to increases in property crime in Samora Machel constituency.

The study achieved its objectives in view of the findings made, as the responses were in line with the research questions as will be demonstrate below in the summary and discussions of findings.

In an effort to meet the study objective, the researcher reviewed literature on youth unemployment and property crime, which included a theoretical review of the strain theory and the rational choice theory. The theoretical framework assisted in understanding how social and individual strain can influence the youth into committing crimes. Rational choice theory also assisted in developing an understanding that despite social and individual strain, the commission of crime still remains subject to a choice by the individual after weighing the costs and benefits of their action.

The study was qualitative in nature and the study population was composed of police officers, unemployed youth offenders, unemployed youths and officials from the Ministry of Labour and Employment Creation, Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service as well as the Councilor of Samora Machel constituency. A total of 30 respondents out of a targeted population of 33 respondents participated in the study through interviews and questionnaires. These respondents provided the primary data for the study. Three respondents being officials from the Ministries of Labour and Employment Creation and that of Sport, Youth and National Service as well as a representative of the Councilor of Samora Machel constituency were interviewed while the rest of the respondents gave their views through the completion of questionnaires. As for the secondary data of the study, this was obtained through a review of relevant literature on youth unemployment and property crime. This review of literature allowed the researcher to have an understanding of the two variables and to make necessary inferences.

As regards the demographic characteristics of the respondents, a total of thirty (30) respondents participated in the study; of which nine (9) were female and twenty one (21) were male. Of this number ten (10) were police officers ranging in rank from Chief Inspector, Inspectors, Warrant Officers and Sergeants, whereas fifteen (15) were unemployed youths, ten (10) of which were youth offenders at Wanaheda Police Station and the other five (5) were unemployed youth offenders in the area of study and three (3) are the officials from the Ministries of Labour and Employment Creation; Sport, Youth and National Service and a representative of the councilor respectively. Five (5)

unemployed offenders did not respond to the questionnaires that were administered on them. In terms of years of experience, the study revealed that two (2) of the police officers had twenty (20) years of experience; one (1) respondent had between 15 – 19 years; seven (7) had between 10 – 14 years; six (6) had 5 – 9 years and the rest of the respondents being the twelve (12) unemployed youth had 0 – 4 years of experience. These individual respondents who participated in the study are a representative sample of the target population and their responses provided satisfactory responses and answered the research objectives and questions.

The findings of the study reveal that youth unemployment is cited as one of the leading contributors to increases in property crime in the area of study. This is said to be as a result of the unemployed youth having enough time on their hands, idling and loitering around street corners and shopping centers without anything meaningful to do and in that process they target people to rob and identify houses that are unoccupied while people are at work and break into those houses. Besides the above, another key finding is that the increases in property crime and crime in general are not limited to youth unemployment alone but other factors such as alcohol and drug abuse; teenage pregnancy; high incidence of school drop outs and high failure rate; poverty; family dysfunction; lack of funding for further studies; lack of amenities and peer pressure also play a significant role in contributing to increases in property crime in the area of study.

Further to the above, the study also found that individual youth cope differently with individual and social strain of unemployment. Whereas some youth would buckle under pressure and resort to criminal means to make ends meet such as housebreaking, robbery and theft, others manage the pressure and find ventures to make some little money to keep them going. This gives credence to the rationale choice theory which argues that people are rationale creatures who respond to incentives and that crime is thus an outcome of a thought process of weighing the benefits of engaging in a criminal act against the cost of punishment if one is to get caught. In applying this thought process, it appears to some that getting on the wrong side of the law is not worth the risk, while for

others this has become their chosen career path in the face of unemployment and a bleak future.

The above findings demonstrate that much as youth unemployment contributes to increases in property crimes in the area of study, there are several other factors that contribute to this. Foremost among these factors is alcohol and drug abuse. This is of particular concern because it exacerbates the already difficult situation in the sense that the very youth that are battling the strain of unemployment are incentivized to become deviant and fall into criminality through the abuse of alcohol and drugs. This may come as a solution to them to try and forget the stigma of their unemployment status, however, it propels them deeper into trouble because it is addictive and to sustain it requires one to have income, which the unemployed youth do not have, thus the end result is the commission of crimes such as robberies, housebreakings, theft which enables them to make quick money. This money is not for self-sustenance; rather it is to fuel the alcohol and drug addiction creating a vicious cycle.

The study identified a number of challenges in addressing youth unemployment and property crime in the study area. Chief among the challenges is rapid population growth due to a high rate of rural to urban migration, with the result of which being limited job opportunities for the youths, as this high population growth rate does not match up with the rate of development in the area of study. Another challenge identified is a high incidence of school dropouts and a high failure rate, which makes it difficult for government to implement any youth programs due to a lack of skills by the majority youths in the area. Furthermore, there is a high level of poverty and lack of parental guidance, resulting in the young people joining criminal gangs, thus adding to the number of youths idling and roaming the streets, resorting to committing crimes to make ends meet.

In view of the foregoing, the study concludes that increases in property crime in Samora Machel are not limited to youth unemployment alone. However, there is a myriad of factors that are equally contributing to the increase. These factors include among others,

alcohol and drug abuse; teenage pregnancy; high incidence of school drop outs and high failure rate; poverty; family dysfunction; lack of funding for further studies; lack of amenities and peer pressure. Therefore, addressing these social issues can have a bearing on the reduction in property crime in the area of study.

Accordingly, the study suggests that a way to address youth unemployment and property crime in the area of study requires a multi-sectoral approach which will see Government Offices, Ministries and Agencies as well as the private sector and NGOs taking collective action in addressing these issues. The suggestions made include the establishment of vocational training institutions in the area that will allow for skills development for the youth; support for small businesses through the establishment of SME incubation centers and the establishment of sports and recreational facilities as well as additional policing as well as additional court houses.

5.3 General Conclusion

Based on the research questions, the study made three conclusions. In the first place, though youth unemployment is listed as the top contributor to increases in property crime, there is a myriad of other factors in Samora Machel constituency that contribute to increases in property crime and these include alcohol and drug abuse, teenage pregnancy, high incidence of school dropouts and high failure rate, family dysfunction, poverty and peer pressure. Apparent is that individual youth cope differently with individual and social strain of unemployment. Whereas some youths would buckle under pressure and resort to criminal means such as housebreaking, robbery and theft to make ends meet, others manage the pressure and find ventures to make some little money to keep them going. This explains why it is not all the unemployed youth that are engaged in criminal activities as a means to earn a living, as some are occupying their time with small legitimate ventures even if they are not as rewarding as the criminal ventures.

Secondly, the high incidence of school dropouts and high failure rate in the area of study means that there are a lot of youth on the streets with virtually nothing productive to

occupy their minds with. The majority of the respondents are of the view that vocational training opportunities could be a better alternative to equip the youth with skills as opposed to formal or conventional education. Due to the educational system in place, many youth are not progressing well in the formal education system and they tend to drop out of school but with no alternative to fall back on, hence the need for vocational education that will provide skills development enabling these youth to work with their hands. Therefore, addressing the skills gap may help to youth to be self-reliant and start their own business ventures which would keep them out of the streets and give them something productive to do.

Lastly, addressing the problem of youth unemployment and property crime requires collective action by both Government and the private sector. The police alone cannot solve the problem through the employment of crime prevention strategies because it is apparent that the root causes of the property crime problem are socio-economic which may be outside the domain of policing. Equally, the Ministry of Labour and Employment Creation or the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National service may not be able to solve the problem acting alone. Consequently, there is need for a multi-sectoral approach to be adopted to address the issue of youth unemployment and property crime in Samora Machel constituency. To that end Government Ministries, Offices and Agencies together with the private sector and NGOs must work together to find solutions to these issues.

5.4 Recommendations

Following the findings of the study, the researcher recommends that a multi-sectoral approach be adopted in an effort to address the issue of youth unemployment and property crime in Samora Machel constituency. Youth unemployment and property crime issues are cross cutting and affecting social cohesion in any given locality, hence the need to have a multi-sectoral approach in addressing them. Government Ministries, Offices and Agencies as well as the private sector including NGOs must come together to device programs aimed at addressing the problem of youth unemployment and property crime in the area of study. To that end four main recommendations are made.

Firstly, the establishment of vocational training institutions in the area of study aimed at skills development. It is apparent that the conventional education system has proven to be challenging for many of the youths leading to a high incidence of school dropouts and high failure rate. Hence, the need for vocational training which will equip the youth with skills to work with their hands and give them an opportunity to make a living while contributing to the development of their area.

Secondly, is the rolling out of youth programs in the area such as the NYCS aimed at assisting the youths in coming up with income generating projects. The main aim of NYCS is to catapult the youth out of unemployment and poverty by funding their projects, thus if this can be combined with vocational training it would solve a number of socio-economic issues in the area. It is apparent from the research that some youths are eager to venture into some income generating initiatives, albeit at a small scale. Hence, with the necessary support from Government and the private sector this will power can be nurtured and supported through funding and business coaching that can allow for business growth.

Thirdly, the construction of additional police stations and court houses in the area. This is aimed at improving service delivery in terms of the provision of policing services given that the area has grown so much in terms of area and population there is thus a need for additional police stations that will allow for policing services to reach all corners of the area with ease. This coupled with additional court houses may improve the turn-around time in terms of the provision of justice through the criminal justice system which is currently buckling under pressure as the current policing and court infrastructure is not coping with the numbers due to rapid population growth in the area as a result of rural to urban migration. The construction of additional police stations and court houses will mean development in the area and may provide some job opportunities for the youth in the form of policing jobs as well as some jobs at the court house.

Fourthly and last but not least, is the construction of sports and recreational facilities such as soccer fields, netball, volleyball and basketball courts as well as swimming pools. These sports and recreational facilities would be aimed at keeping the youths busy and off the street. Through these facilities the youth would be assisted by professional coaches to develop their skills and nurture their talent in various sports disciplines, with the result that some could find a career in sport given them hope and restoring meaning to their life and future. Once the youth are so occupied, the result would be less youth on roaming the streets and idling at shopping centers without anything to do, which could ultimately lead to a reduction in property crime rates.

5.4 Suggestion for Further Research

Since this study was exploratory in nature, it was restricted to understanding the extent to which youth unemployment contributes to increases in property crime in the area of study, with a limited focus and target population. The researcher had limited time to do a comprehensive study on youth unemployment and crime, thus the study was limited to youth unemployment and property crime. Thus, having other studies that would comprehensively cover a wider scope and target population could bring out deeper insights on how youth unemployment contributes to increases in crime in general.

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APPENDICES

Date: _____

INTERVIEW GUIDE

Gender:

(Tick as appropriate)

Male	
Female	

1. **Property crime is understood to be a category of crimes that involves private property and includes house breaking, theft, robbery and cell phone snatching.** With the above understanding, do you believe that there is a problem of property crime in Samora Machel constituency? **Please explain your answer.**
2. In your opinion, are the unemployed youth involved in the commission of property crime in Samora Machel Constituency? **Please explain your answer.**
3. In your view, does youth unemployment contribute to the rise in property crime in Samora Machel constituency?
4. Why are there continuous increases in unemployment among the youth in Samora Machel constituency?
5. Why is there a continuous increase in property crimes in Samora Machel constituency?
6. What are the causes of youth unemployment in Samora Machel constituency?
7. How do the youth cope with unemployment in Samora Machel constituency?
8. What are the causes of property crime in Samora Machel constituency?
9. What are the challenges in addressing youth unemployment Samora Machel constituency?
10. Are you aware of any strategies in place to address youth unemployment and property crime in Samora Machel constituency?

Thank you for your time.

QUESTIONNAIRE

PART A

GENERAL INFORMATION

Please answer all questions in this section as it is applicable to you

Gender	Male		Female		
Ministry/Institution					
Department/Office					
Position/Rank					
Years of experience	0 - 4 years	5 - 9 years	10 - 14 years	15 - 19 years	20 years and more

PART B

Please write down your views based on, but not limited to, the questions below. If the space provided in the questionnaire is not sufficient, feel free to use separate sheet of paper and mark it accordingly.

1. Property crime is understood to be a category of crimes that involves private property and includes house breaking, theft, robbery and cell phone snatching. With the above understanding, do you believe that there is a problem of property crime in Samora Machel constituency? **Please explain your answer.**

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2. In your view, why is there a continuous increase in unemployment among the youth in Samora Machel constituency? Please elaborate on your answer.

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3. In your opinion, are the unemployed youth involved in the commission of property crime in Samora Machel constituency? Please explain your answer.

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4. From the statistics, property crime seems to be on the increase in Samora Machel Constituency. In your opinion, what could be the contributing factors to the continuous increase in property crime in Samora Machel Constituency? **Please explain your answer.**

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5. What effect does youth unemployment have on property crime in Samora Machel constituency? **Please explain your answer.**

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6. How do the youth cope with unemployment in Samora Machel constituency? **Please explain your answer.**

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7. In your opinion, how does youth unemployment contribute to the rise in property crime in Samora Machel constituency? **Please explain your answer.**

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8. What challenges do the unemployed youth face in Samora Machel constituency?

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9. What could be the best strategies to address youth unemployment and property crime in Samora Machel constituency?

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PLAGIARISM CHECK

Youth Unemployment and Property Crime in Namibia: Case of Samora Machel
Constituency

ORIGINALITY REPORT

20%

13%

2%

17%

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