FACTORs CONTRIBUTING TO REOFFENDING AMONG EXPRISONERS IN ZIMBABWE AFTER REHABILITATION. A CASE OF BINDURA PRISON.

BY

MUCHENA TINOTENDA
(B1128157)

A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK HONOURS DEGREE

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APPROVAL FORM

Supervisor

I certify that I have supervised MUCHENA TINOTENDA (B1128157) for this research titled, “FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO REOFFENDING AMONG EXPRISONERS IN ZIMBABWE AFTER REHABILITATION. A CASE OF BINDURA PRISON” in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Social Work Degree and recommend that it proceeds for examination.

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PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS:
196 JUMBE STREET
CHIPADZE
BINDURA
DEDICATION

This research is dedicated to my lovely parents Mr & Mrs Muchena together with my siblings Tabeth Gazille Nyengeterai Muchena and Tanyaradzwa Faith Muchena. Thank you for the encouragement, moral and financial support and the love that you have shown me. I would also want to dedicate this to Tatenda Tunhuma, Dumisani Boyiwa, Tapiwa Takundwa and Tinotenda Mapurazi for their unwavering support, you made this dissertation a success. I love you guys.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU
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I would also want to thank the participants that is the reoffenders, relatives of the reoffenders, community service rehabilitation officers, prison officers and rehabilitation officers. Lastly I would also want to thank the Zimbabwe Prison and Correctional Services staff at Harare Headquarters and at Bindura Prison as well as the Judicial Service Commission.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU
ABSTRACT

The overall aim of the study was to investigate into the causes of reconviction and readmission of offenders in prison after they had been rehabilitated. The study was carried out at Bindura Prison, Mashonaland Central, Zimbabwe. The study was triggered by the people who continue to reoffend after serving a jail sentence and having being rehabilitated. This study employed phenomenology, a qualitative research approach as the main research design. Phenomenology was selected as an effective tool for studying structures of conscious experience as experienced from the first-person point of view, along with relevant conditions of experience. The researcher employed phenomenology research design which triangulated qualitative and quantitative research approaches. A sample of twenty reoffenders from a population of 67 reoffenders in Bindura Prison was used. Key Informant interviews were also used as another data collecting tool in order to allow one-to-one probing and asking questions from relatives of the reoffenders, community service rehabilitation officers, prison officers and rehabilitation officers who are familiar with the reoffenders. The total number of key informants’ interviewees was 10. Thematic analysis was used to analyse qualitative data. Questionnaires were thematically analysed in order to obtain an accurate description of the participants’ lived experiences of reoffending. The respondents reported that due to economic hardships, such as poverty, unemployment and lack of education there were forced to engage in criminal activities so as to earn a living. From the findings of the research it was concluded that government should legalise gold panning to curb the unemployment rate and alleviate poor living conditions. The major drawback of the study was that a small sample was used and all participants were drawn from one prison, which may however compromise the validity of this research. Future research in this area must use a large sample in order to ensure great external validity.
**ACRONYMS/ ABBREVIATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DCS</td>
<td>Department of Correctional Services.</td>
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<td>UCR</td>
<td>Uniform Crime Report.</td>
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<td>ZACRO</td>
<td>Zimbabwe Association of Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation.</td>
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<td>ZPCS</td>
<td>Zimbabwe Prison and Correctional Services.</td>
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<td>ZPF</td>
<td>Zimbabwe Prison Fellowship.</td>
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<td>FBI</td>
<td>Federal Bureau of Investigations.</td>
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<td>USA</td>
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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY

1.0 Introduction
This chapter consists of the background information and the statement of the problem. The chapter further outlines the aims and objectives of the research. Assumptions and significance to the study are also outlined.

1.1 Background to the study
Reoffending which is also called recidivism, backsliding or falling back into a previous criminal behaviour refers to repetitions of criminal activities. According to Ssebuggwawo (2010) in legal terminology, reoffending refers to any case in which a criminal repeats a crime, despite being punished for it with fines or jail term. However, the characteristic that cuts across all definitions is the reoccurrence of a crime after punishment, the offender must be the same person and he or she must have gone under punishment or rehabilitation.

Recidivism is a serious problem because it is hurtful to victims and most people would like to avoid it. According to Ssebuggwawo (2010) administrators within the penal system believe that people will not repeat crimes after they have been punished. Hence a repetition suggests a need for new approaches designed to prevent recidivism while at the same time reforming offenders with therapy and support programs. However, scholars do not have an agreed approach to recidivism and there are no standard measures put in place to determine recidivism.

Ssebuggwawo (2010) stated that punishment of wrongdoing is as old as wrongdoing in society. Society punished offenders because they alarm its conscience and threaten its ethics and integrity. Ssebuggwawo (2010) went on to say that as such society had the duty to avoid criminality by prescribing punishments that would deter, provide retribution to victims, rehabilitate offenders and prevent crimes from recurring. In traditional Africa, the nature of punishments handed out to offenders included fines, cautions, death, compensation, corporal punishment and castigating or chasing one out of the clan or community but not imprisonment. Every African tribe had its own established mechanisms of handling offenders depending on the gravity of the crime committed.
Ssebuggwawo (2010) noted that despite the African systems of punishment, the penal system in Zimbabwe introduced punishment in order to punish offenders especially those who resisted colonial policies. The aim of colonialists was to keep offenders away from the community and prevent them from repeatedly resisting their rule and recommitting offences. Prisons as opposed to other punishments were viewed as most suited to deter criminals from resisting colonial rule and committing offences because offenders were separated from the community and would thus not commit other crimes or resist colonial policies.

Prior to the invention of prisons, according to Matthew 5 verse 38 which says, “an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth,” it was believed that revenge is the best way to deal with criminals as well as issues to do with reoffending. According to Sykes in Growther (2007) imprisonment came in the 19th century and replaced other modes of punishment such as transportation, torturing and killing of criminals. Sykes in Growther (2007) also noted that globally imprisonment has shifted from penal policy to rehabilitation of offenders before and after re-integration into the society. The type of crime, length of sentence and programs offered at the correctional institutions determine reconviction rates and varies at local and regional levels.

It has been reported by the Prison that Bindura as a prison has registered several cases of crime committed. Major cases of crimes recorded include robbery, illegal gold panning, murder, rape, fraud, theft, bribery, assault, public fighting, forgery of licenses and touting. Illegal gold panning and theft are the crimes that are on the fore front. Bindura is a town that is rich with gold deposits and because of high rate of unemployment being experienced in Bindura people have resorted to engage themselves in illegal gold panning whilst others decide to engage themselves into robbery.

Bindura Prison was officially opened in 1920. It is estimated to have a holding capacity of 300-350 prisoners. There are 283 staff members. The Prison use the Prisoners Act to guide them on their day to day conducts at the prison. The prison has got two subdivisions which are Chawagona and Perdina. Chawagona was built because that is where the Bindura Prison farms are located. They wanted to reduce transport cost and believed that it was risky to move with prisoners from one place to another on daily basis. Perdina was also built as a result of reducing transport cost, because there is a court there where people are tried and given appropriate sentence.

According to chapter II section 227 (i) (a) of the Zimbabwean constitution (2013), ‘the Prisons and Correctional Service will be responsible for the protection of the society from criminals
through incarceration and rehabilitation of convicted persons and others who are lawfully required to be detained. This is also the mission statement of the Zimbabwe Prison Service.

Reconviction after release from prison is a common phenomenon both in developed and developing countries although imprisonment is believed to be the society’s instrument of coercive control. As noted by Ssebuggwawo (2010) that administrators within the penal system believe that when prisoners are released from the correctional institutions, the hope is that they will not return to criminal activities as a result of deterrence and rehabilitation. The escalating numbers of recidivism rates leads one to question if incarceration is really a solution.

According to Nuñez-Neto (2010) regardless of what definition is used, reoffending is a difficult subject to study. Tracking reoffending involves following the cases of individuals for a number of years and relying on state or national level data sets that contain inherent inaccuracies. For example, if an offender is released in California but commits a new crime in Maine, the researchers must be able to match those two records together to make a definitive statement about reoffending. This match is typically done by consulting the FBI’s master database of convictions; however, this database contains omissions that may affect the results of reoffending studies. This is also the same case with Bindura Prison, it is evident that the number of reoffenders are increasing but it is very hard to come up with the statistics. A number of studies have been conducted on this issue, and most states have calculated their own recidivism rates. According to the April 2011 report by the Pew Centre on the states, the average national recidivism rate for released prisoners is 43, 3%. According to research carried out by the Bureau criminal justice of USA in 2005 it was found out that 67,8% of the released prisoners were rearrested within three years of their release and 76,6% were rearrested within five years.

The increase in the numbers of reoffenders result in crime becoming one of the biggest threats to humanity and economic growth. According to Adler, Muller and Laufer (2007) in the early 1970s, the general assembly of the United Nations requested the secretary general to conduct a survey on the prevalence of crime in member states. According to Adler et al (2007), governments may had various reasons for wanting to know the amount of crime in the world, but they all seemed to agree that crime impedes national development and imposes great burden on individual victims.
1.2 Statement of the problem

The alarming figures of recidivism are contrary to the mission statement of the Zimbabwe Prison Service whose main thrust is to rehabilitate and reintegrate offenders back into the society. It is submitted that there are checks and balances to make sure that the prison system adhered to its objectives of rehabilitation and successful reintegration back into the society. Escalating numbers of reconvicted offenders after their release is a cause for concern. Despite having undergone skills in rehabilitation and psychological pressure posed by prison life, reconviction indicates that there are hidden factors. Reoffenders are a threat to humanity and economic growth and they impede national development. This research therefore seeks to uncover factors that motivate released offenders to repeat criminal offences.

1.3 Aim

To investigate the causes of reconviction and readmission of offenders in Bindura Prison.

1.4 Objectives

The aim was achieved through the following objectives:

- To identify the underlying factors behind the repeat of criminal offences by released prisoners at Bindura Prison.
- To ascertain whether the rehabilitation offered at Bindura correctional institute is rehabilitative enough.
- To explore the link between age and the repeat of criminal offences.

1.5 Assumptions

The researcher is of the view that the information collected shall convince the hearts of the authorities to take action in reducing the rate of reoffending. It is the researcher’s assumption that there is authentication, accuracy and no bias in the data gathered. Moreover, the researcher assumes that the participants cooperated enough giving accurate information. It is also assumed that the information from the small sample generalize or represents the whole population. The researcher assumes the results obtained from this study are reliable to form the bases of policy formulation.
1.6 Significance to the study

It is the researchers hope that the study benefits many people worldwide. The data collected in this study, gives authorities a roadmap of the actions that they can take in order to reduce reoffending rate. Organisations such as Zimbabwe Prison Fellowship and Zimbabwe Association of Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation (ZACRO) among others can also benefit from this research because areas which require attention would have been unmasked. It is also the researchers hope that the study is of benefit to the following:

**The Government:** The study might also help the government to come up with effective policies in deploying resources to help the reoffenders to develop their skills and abilities rather than pursuing with criminal acts due to various factors that are explored by the research. It also gives the legislature the platform to revisit the enacted laws and make amendment that suits the current changes in the setup of the society.

**The Correctional Services (Zimbabwe Prison and Correctional Services):** As some of the root cause of the problem have been identified, it becomes easy to come up with rehabilitative measures that enhances the transformation of reoffenders into acceptable law abiding individuals when they re-enter the society. It also helps the rehabilitation section in knowing the problems that are causing people to reoffend and the results obtained from this study can be the data base that helps them come up with corrective measures without dwelling much on research hence time serving and quick problem solving.

**The reoffender:** The study also benefits the recidivist, as the causes behind their reoffending were addressed. Discovery of factors behind reconviction help released prisoners to successfully reintegrate back into the society and become law abiding citizens.

**The community:** The society at large especially the victims also benefits from the study as it is the researchers hope that various solutions which were drawn from the research conducted help to reduce the recidivism rate hence those who were victims will no longer be victims again.

The study therefore contributes to the debate of whether incarceration deals with the problem of reoffending.
1.7 Definitions of terms

The following terms have got operational definitions:

1.8.1 Crime: Any act that regarded by the society as an offence and may result in the offender being prosecuted and is punishable at law.

1.8.2 Reoffending: A situation whereby a person repeat criminal offences.

1.8.3 Recidivism: The reoffending tendency among ex-offender of relapsing into criminal behaviour despite having been rehabilitated. It can also refer to the repetition of criminal behaviour.

1.8.4 Deviance: Behaviour that is contrary to the norms and values or social expectations of a given society or community.

1.8.5 Rehabilitation: The process of transforming offenders into good or tolerable behaviour by the society.

1.8.6 Legislature: People who make the laws within the justice system.

1.8.7 Court: Legal structures where crimes are tried and given the appropriate sentences.

1.8.8 Community: The area or place in which the offender lives.
CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

Literature review endeavours to discuss and analyse existing literature that is relevant to the problem being studied. It helps one to find out what others have already researched and reported on. Using theoretical insights and concepts as well as studies in different regions the researcher will be able to identify gaps and weaknesses in prior studies so as to justify a new investigation.

2.1 Theoretical Framework

According to Walsh and Hemmens (2011) a theory is a set of assumptions that attempts to explain and predict relationship between phenomena. There are many theories that are propounded to explain the factors that contribute to reoffending among exprisoners such as biological, psychological and environmental factors. In this study two theories were used, the labelling theory and a biological theory of family, heredity and genes.

2.1.1 Labelling theory

Labelling theory is one of the sociological theories which try to establish the underlying factors behind repeat of criminal offences by released prisoners. According to Champion (2008), labelling theory is linked closely with the work of Edwin Lemert (1951), although Becker (1963) and Kitsutse (1962) were among its early advocates. According to the labelling theory, a criminal is whomever a society labels as criminal. Walsh and Hemmens (2011) noted that labelling theory pertains to the social definitions of criminal acts rather than the criminal acts themselves. Growther (2007) stated that the American sociologist Becker (1963) introduced labelling theory to show how people are not offenders until they are labelled as such. According to Champion (2008) the basic assumption of labelling theory are that people become criminals by social labelling or definition, getting caught begins the labelling process and people defined as criminal will develop a criminal self-definition. The labelling theorist (lemert, Becker and Kitsutse) noted that persons who react to social labelling by defining themselves as deviant or criminal will not only engage in further criminal activities, they will also seek out others like
themselves and form criminal subcultures. In contrast to both classical and positivist perspectives, labelling theorists are not interested in identifying the criminal mind or a criminal gene. In actual fact they do not look at the offender at all or to be more accurate, their stance is that offenders only exist when that status is applied to them by another person. Taken to its logical extreme this means criminality is not an inmate characteristic nor is offending behaviour a rational choice taken by offenders themselves, thus according to Growther, 2007. According to champion (2008) the offenders’ acceptance of the label criminal results in them committing various crimes without any fear.

According to Bernard, Snipes and Gerould (2010) labelling theory is of the view that people act toward themselves according to the meanings they have for themselves. They went on further to note that symbolic interactionism argues that each person’s self-image is constructed primarily through social interactions with other people what Mead termed “the self as a social construct” and what Cooley called “the looking-glass self.”

Bernard et al (2010) noted that in 1938, Frank Tannenbaum used the symbolic interactionism ideas as a basis for a “labelling theory” of crime that arises from the conflicts between youths and adults in urban neighbourhoods. He argued that the youths see themselves as participating in playgroups on the streets, as they have been doing since they were young children. This is their “definition of the situation,” to use the term from symbolic interactionism. But as the youths become teenagers, their playgroups increasingly engage in exciting and adventurous and dangerous and threatening activities that provoke the hostility of the adults in the neighbourhood. Adults initially “define the situation” as “good kids” doing “bad actions.” As the conflict between adolescents and adult persists, adults eventually define the youth themselves as bad. The youths then begin to identify with these definitions, to view themselves as bad, and they begin to act the part. Tannenbaum concluded, “The person becomes the thing he is described as being,”

In 1951, Lemert presented a general theory of deviance that incorporated this basic labelling process thus according to Bernard et al (2010). Lemert argued that criminal and deviant behaviours originate in a number of biological, psychological or social factors in the person’s life. Thus, for example, Tennenbaum had described delinquency as originating in juvenile playgroups in urban neighbourhoods. Lemert called people who engage in such criminal or deviant behaviour “primary deviants,” According to Bernard et al (2010) this deviant behaviour then generates a negative reaction from other people, and that reaction tends to transform from
a negative definition of the act into a negative definition of the person. He went on to say people who are unwilling or unable to stop the offending behaviour will at some point tend to recognise their self-images to incorporate the new negative definitions of themselves. This is the process described by Tannenbaum, as adults transform the definition of the youths’ action as bad into a definition of the youths themselves as bad, where upon the youths tend to reorganise their self-images to incorporate these negative definition of themselves. This transformation of the self-image is a self-protective move, since those who already define themselves as criminals or delinquents are less threatened when other people define them that way. Lemert called a person who has taken on a deviant self-image a “secondary deviant.” According to Bernard et al (2010) the redefinition of self opens the door to full participation in the deviant life and allows the person to make a commitment to a deviant career. At this point, Lemert argued, the criminal and deviant behaviour is no longer generated by the various biological, psychological or social factors in the person’s life, but is generated directly by the person’s self-image.

2.1.2 Biological theory: Family, Heredity and Genes

According to Burton, Pelser and Gondwe (2005) biological theories of crime tend to be amongst the most fundamental and also contain some of the oldest arguments regarding offenders within criminological theory. They went on to say that simply, these paradigms hold as the central tenet that criminal behaviour is biologically oriented: offenders inherit certain characteristics that predispose them to commit crime. Burton et al (2005) noted that biological theories originate in the work of Lombroso, a nineteenth criminal anthropologist, who posited that criminals were the product of a genetic configuration unlike that found in non-offending ‘normal’ individuals. Recognition, over the following decades, of inherent flaws in this argument, such as the acceptance that crime, criminal behaviour, or criminal acts are socially defined rather than behavioural, has led to a more complex understanding of the role of genetics in predisposing individuals to commit crime. Rowe in Burton et al (2005) argues that “the human nervous system is clearly the organ of behaviour, and its structure is organised by genetic inheritance”, thus suggesting that genetic inheritance has an important role to play in determining behaviour.

According to Barkan (2012) biologists and medical researchers have long noticed that crime tends to “run in families” and they assume that criminal tendencies are inherited. To these researchers, crime is analogous to disease and illness. Just as many cancers, high cholesterol and heart diseases, and other medical problems are often genetically transmitted, so, they say,
is criminal behaviour and, for that matter, other behavioural problems such as alcoholism and schizophrenia. He further notes that work on heredity, genes and crime now occupies a central place in biology and crime research, with much of it using sophisticated techniques from the field of molecular genetics.

Bernard et al (2010) noted that explanations of human behaviour in terms of heredity go far back in antiquity and are based on the common-sense observation that children tend to resemble their parents in appearance, mannerism and disposition. Bernard et al (2010) went on to say scientific theories of heredity originated about 1850 and were more extensively worked out over the next fifty or seventy-five years.

2.2 Factors behind the repeat of criminal offences by released prisoners.

Roberts (2008) noted that conforming to Mertons` earlier sociological theories, a survey of inmates in prison showed very low education levels. Many could not read or write above elementary school levels, if it all. According to Merton, the most common crimes committed by these inmates were robbery, burglary, automobile theft, drug trafficking and shop lifting. He also noted that, because of their poor educational backgrounds, their employment consisted of mostly low wages jobs with frequent periods of unemployment. In addition to this statement, champion (2008) stated that the available statistics indicate that the young workers are particularly subject to unemployment and are more prone than older people to engage in crime when blocked in efforts to procure a legitimate income. Ssebuggawo (2010) concluded that, “In view of these results it would appear that it is true that little or no education is partly responsible for influencing criminal behaviour”.

Kibuuka in Ssebuggawo (2010) studied sociological aspects of juvenile delinquency in Kampala and found a significant correlation between the level of education of his respondents and employment and juvenile delinquency when he observes that: “An offender’s occupation is significantly associated with his level of educational attainment. The higher the level of education attained the greater the chances one has of being gainfully occupied”. He also observed that “the greater percentages of offenders were idle and it is quite likely as others have already indicated that the idleness greatly contributes to their temptation to commit offences, which consequently leads them to imprisonment”. He also revealed that urban areas produced more delinquents. His results indicated that: “Out of 723 young offenders, 252 (35%) were living in rural areas, while the other 65% lived in Kampala”.

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In addition, according to Roberts (2008), the lack of education makes ex-inmates qualify for low-skill, low wage employment. He said that, in addition to lack of education, many inmates report a difficulty in finding employment prior to incarceration and after incarceration it will be even worse. In support of Roberts’s idea, according to the chief justice of USA Gleissner, it is no secret that one of the main causes of the reoffending is lack of opportunities for recently released prisoners. People are hesitant to hire ex-convicts because of stigma. He also noted that if ex-convicts who are willing to make a change in their lives, who want to make that change, are not given any opportunities, then they will get lumped in with those that have no such aspirations. According to Roberts (2008), if an ex-inmate served a long prison sentence, they have lost an opportunity to gain work experience or network with potential job employers. He went on to say that because of this ex-inmates cannot obtain or maintain employment.

In support of the above idea, according to report on the Open Society Foundation for South (2010), when a prisoner has been released, families tend to spoil that person by providing money, clothing and support. But after four months, financial pressures return and that person starts to look for a job. A person with a criminal record has virtually no chance of being employed and has learned no useful skills in prison. According to champion (2008) some employers are not able or willing, to hire ex-inmates due to their criminal histories. Champion also stated that owners of business will often refuse to hire a convicted felon and are at best hesitant especially in any position entails even minor responsibility of the handling of money especially those convicted of thievery.

Sykes in Ssebuggwawo (2010) studied the painful conditions prisoners go through and found that of all painful conditions imposed on prisoners, none is more immediately obvious than the loss of liberty. The loss of liberty is a double one, first by confinement to an institution and second by confinement to a limited part of the institution. What makes this pain of imprisonment bite most deeply according to his respondents (58%) is the fact that the confinement represents a deliberate moral rejection of the criminal by the free community, thereby making many prisoners fear to go back to their places of abode before they were imprisoned. The stigma attached to ex-prisoners by the society itself may be a strong factor as far as reoffending is concerned.
According to report on the Open Society Foundation for South (2010), the vast majority of ex-offenders, especially those with criminal records, face a myriad of roadblocks to their re-entry into mainstream society. According Bohm and Haley (2009), many are handicapped by stigmatisation inherent in the incarceration experience, together with negative public attitudes about former inmates. Prisoners lose conduct with family and friends especially during longer sentences and invariably find that things have changed while they were away. According to Bohm and Haley (2009), it is very difficult for these inmates to fit back into a normal life. They have to re-establish ties with their family, return to high risk place and secure formal identification. The reoffending rates suggests that the harsh attitude of society is destructive and boosts the rate of reoffending. The reality is that such treatment not only leaves them angry and resentful, but with very little opportunity to get hooks into the concept of decency. They will, nine (9) times out of ten return to crime upon release from prison. They often have a poor work history and now have a criminal record to deal with thus according to Roberts (2008).

In support of the above idea, according to McLaughlin, Muncie and Hughes(2008) ex-convicts face too much stigmatization, many countries such as America they say, those found guilty of even a minor misdemeanour are disqualified from receiving all government funded educational loans and financial aid.

According to Roberts (2008), for people to understand why reoffending rate is high, they also have to consider that when people go to prison, they may learn how to be better criminals. The Sunday mail in-depth (2013), noted that over the years, the correctional facilities have been labelled as outdated, a situation which has reportedly made inmates hard-core criminals instead of rehabilitating them. Dijk (2008) stated that some observers labelled prisons and jails as institutions of higher criminal learning, where more seasoned criminals teach first offenders how to avoid being apprehended the next time. According to champion (2008) in some jurisdictions, first offenders are not placed in the same cells with more seasoned offenders.

In addition to the causes behind people’s reconviction, Mugenyi (1990) in Ssebuggwawo (2010) studied the relationship between the woman offender and the law, he found out that when prisoners go to prison, they enter into a process called „prisonisation”, similar to assimilation, this is stated to be gradual more or less unconscious forces during which the new inmate learns enough of the culture of the prison as a social unit into which he is placed. This later makes the prison become like a home for the prisoner and as such he would not mind reoffending and going back to the place he would consider his other home. According to him,
prisonisation as a process seems not to affect all prisoners equally in that male prisoners appear to adapt faster to the prison culture than their female counterparts. This was why he found that there lower rate of reoffending among female prisoners compared to their men counterparts.

2.3 Rehabilitation at the correctional institute

According to report on the Open Society Foundation for South (2010), the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) White Paper on Corrections has explicitly identified levels of reoffending as the primary measurement of success of rehabilitation efforts. According to the Criminal Rehabilitation Journal (2009) different forms of rehabilitation can help to reduce the number of repeat offenders who return to jail after being unable to adapt to life outside the jail. This can also help to solve some of the more serious cases, such as sexual offenders who may continue in their ways after being released, preying on women or children. Criminal rehabilitation can help to solve the problem of overcrowding in most prisons. The criminal population continues growing, and the state would need to spend more on facilities to house criminals. According to the offender re-entry journal by Nuñez-Neto (2010) despite the relative lack of research in the field of offender re-entry, an emerging “what works” literature has shown that programs focusing on work training and placement, drug and mental health treatment, and housing assistance have proven to be effective.

McLaughlin et al (2008) stated that as reported on BBC radio 4 on 2 September 2005, the reoffending rate for released prisoners in USA is 60% compared with 50% in the UK. The report attributed the lower reoffending rate in the UK to a focus on rehabilitation and education of prisoners compared with the focus on punishment, deterrence and keeping potentially dangerous individuals away from the society. The Sunday Mail In-depth (2013) noted that Harare-based psychologist and rehabilitation expert said prisons in Zimbabwe were more of punishing institutions because of the inheritance of colonial systems. He also said that, these institutions are not indigenous to Zimbabwe and Africa, they were instituted with a view to effect punishment and this has resulted in high reoffending rates being experienced in Zimbabwe. Bohm and Haley (2009) noted that prisons are there for the transformation and reformation of offenders.

According to the offender re-entry journal by Nuñez-Neto (2010) offender re-entry includes all the activities and programming conducted to prepare ex-convicts to return safely to the community and to live as law-abiding citizens. Re-entry programs are typically divided into
three phases: programs that prepare offenders to re-enter society while they are in prison, programs that connect ex-offenders with services immediately after they are released from prison, and programs that provide long-term support and supervision for ex-offenders as they settle into communities permanently.

According to Raynor and Robinson (2009) rehabilitation is meant to change offenders for the better. Raynor and Robinson (2009) also noted that the correctional model assumes that positive change, however conceived, can be brought about by subjecting offenders to particular interventions, programs or regimes; with the right to intervention, offenders can be brought into line with a law abiding norm. According to Bohm and Haley (2009) the goal of rehabilitation has been to return offenders to society as law abiding citizens. However, the goal of rehabilitatating offenders has been challenged on the grounds that people simply do not know how to correct or cure criminal offenders because the cause of crime are not fully understood.

Kagambo (1995) in Ssebuggawo (2010) studied the attitude of prisoners towards the rehabilitation programs in Luzira group of prisons and discovered that lack of freedom for the inmates to do some activities on their own, led them to be more unruly and extremely cunning. Secondly, the sheer monotony and emphasis placed on petty and arbitrary ways of doing things in prison made the whole exercise meaningless and therefore resented by prisoners. Prisoners were particularly irked by not receiving guidelines or explanations as to why psychological isolation within the prison wall is not enough and why they are still subjected to an elaborate scheme of rules designed primarily to simplify the work of their guards. His study revealed that the majority of the respondents both inmates and prisons officials, felt that the current prison rules and regulations are outdated in relation to the prevailing environment and therefore meaningless and are meant to benefit the government and not them. As result they do little to change the offender and this leads to reoffending.

According to the offender re-entry journal by Nuñez-Neto (2010) a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report also suggests that post-release planning should begin as early as possible, ideally as soon as an inmate is admitted into prison or even immediately after sentencing. Such planning could include helping the offender to develop the skills and knowledge base necessary to find a well-paying job and have access to education, such as General Equivalency Degree classes for those who have not completed high school, and either vocational training or college classes for those that have completed high school but have not settled on a career.
Roberts (2008) said that in a memorable speech entitled “prisons without fences”, the former chief justice of USA Burger (1983) expressed concern regarding the failure of correctional institution to adequately prepare inmates for their return to the free community. He cautioned that it is predictable that a person confined in a penal institution for two, five, or ten years and the released, yet still unable to read, write, spell and do simple arithmetic and not trained in marketable vocational skill, will be vulnerable to return to a life of crime. And very often the return to crime begins within few weeks after release. Burger emphasized that there are no job opportunities for unskilled, functional illiterate who has a criminal record.

According to the offender re-entry journal by Nuñez-Neto (2010) as offenders approach their release date, the research suggests that re-entry planning focus on connecting offenders with the community and workplace resources they will need to get established. Again, a good job and access to education has been cited by many studies as two of the most important aspects contributing to the successful reintegration of ex-offenders into society.

According to report on the Open Society Foundation for South (2010), some prisoners are qualified people, teachers, accountants, and so on and the DCS officials allow them to do warders’ work, for example facilitate rehabilitation programmes and hand out medication (which may encourage other inmates to relate to such a prisoner as if he is a doctor). Inmates know one another’s real names, so they have valuable information for warders. All of these things make prisoners feel comfortable in prison. The report went on to say that, the implementation of rehabilitation programmes should be subject to inspection to make sure DCS staff do not delegate their work to prisoners. Many prisoners don’t fear the consequences of reoffending because prison is a comfort zone for many of them. According to Report on the Open Society Foundation for South (2010), Community-based organisations like REALISTIC are doing most of the work of reintegrating ex-prisoners. Prisoners come from communities, and when they are released, they need to go back into communities. Reintegration programme participants need to be selected on the basis of a proper assessment, and must run for at least six months.

However, in as much as prisons may try to rehabilitate inmates, Roberts (2008) noted that some prisoners got worse over time by learning sick prison values, the process of prisonization. The gang culture thrives in prison, sometimes recruiting new members there or simply continuing previous gang membership.
In addition according to the offender re-entry journal by Nuñez-Neto (2010) other Kinds of Programs. The “what works” review concluded that other programs were either not effective or had not been studied enough for firm conclusions to be drawn. Education programs, for example, were found to raise educational achievement scores but not to reduce reoffending. Pre-release programs and programs focusing on violent offenders and sex offenders showed some evidence that they were effective in reducing recidivism, but few of these kinds of studies made it through the selection process. This precluded any firm conclusions from being drawn about these kinds of programs and pointed to the need for more evaluations.

According to Bohm and Haley (2009), globally imprisonment has shifted from penal policy to rehabilitation of offenders before and after re-integration into the society. However, Champion (2008) noted that with current recidivism rate around 40% nationwide, it seems that few classes, treatment of skills have much effect on whether people will return to prison.

2.3.1 Rehabilitation of offenders in Zimbabwe

The following information is on institutions and organisations found in Zimbabwe which are making an effort to rehabilitate offenders so as to avoid reoffending:

2.3.2 Zimbabwe Prison and Correctional service (ZPCS)

Commissioner-General of Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services Retired Major-General Mr Zimondi (2013) said the country’s prisons started aligning their programmes with the provisions of the new Constitution. He said that the country’s prisons had adopted a paradigm shift towards ensuring that the inmates were fully equipped with survival skills after serving their sentences. Mr Zimondi (2013) said the signing into law of the new Constitution by President Mugabe in May and the President’s subsequent inauguration on August 22 (2013) paved way for the transformation of the prison services.

According to Mr Zimhondi (2013) Zimbabwe Prison Services in line with the new Constitution is now recognised as the Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Service (ZPCS). The new name clearly spells out the major roles that the organisation stand for. He went on further to state that “The prisons aspect looks at both the physical and mental security facets whereas the correctional dwells on the rehabilitation thrust.” Mr Zimondi (2013) said ZPCS’ thrust goes beyond correctional services as it was mandated to enhance improved food production and self-sustenance. He said prisons have the capacity to generate their own income through cash crop production and commercialisation of workshop activities that relieve pressure on the fiscus.
Mr Zimondi (2013) also said prisons had the mandate to maintain peace and tranquility by ensuring safety through the safe custody of offenders underpinned by sound rehabilitation of inmates. He said the rehabilitation programmes were meant to ensure that inmates lived productive lives as law abiding citizens after serving their sentences.

According to Mhlanga (2013) the ZPCS is empowering inmates as a way of ensuring offenders leave the institution “better” people who can fit and contribute to society. He said the institution is offering numerous skills to inmates varying from tailoring, construction or building, plumbing, mechanics, welding, farming, piggery, carpentry among other skills which would help former offenders upon their release from prison.

2.3.3 Zimbabwe Association for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of the Offender.
ZACRO is a non-profit making organisation which was founded in 1923. It is an organization which works to prevent crime and promote rehabilitation and re-integration of offenders. ZACRO operates through a network of country-wide volunteer members. The Organisation’s vision is to create a crime-free society in which men, women and children enjoy safety and security.

ZACRO’s mission includes reducing crime through providing support and rehabilitation programmes targeted at men and women convicted of crime, ex-offenders, victims and survivors of crime. ZACRO also endeavours to assist the dependants of jailed offenders. The activities of ZACRO as an organization are based on its mission statement which is to prevent crime and promote rehabilitation and re-integration of offenders in order to have peace in society while advocating for justice in prisons of Zimbabwe. Some of its objectives include, to facilitate re-integration of prisoners in Zimbabwe back into the mainstream society, to promote rehabilitation of offenders and ex-prisoners and to study and seek further penal reform based on rehabilitative legislations while stimulating public interest therein.

2.3.4 Rehabilitation of offenders in South Africa.
BOSOSA giving back- offender rehabilitation programmes
According BOSASA IFM (2013), their philosophy has always encompassed helping those in need. They said they are committed to social upliftment, a concept entrenched in their ethos as a company. Their aim is to provide previous offenders with a second chance, give them confidence and allow them the opportunity to participate in the growing economy of South
Africa. In doing so, they seek to provide these individuals with the professional skills they need to enter into the job market and transform themselves into productive members of society.

According BOSASA IFM (2013) their approach to this process is a holistic one. Each person in one of their offender rehabilitation programmes is not only a valuable individual, but part of a greater system. It is only by contributing positively to this system on a number of levels that they said they are able to break the cycle of poverty and crime, making an impact on the wellbeing of our country as a whole. Based on the principles of education and drawing on the strengths of each participant, BOSASA IFM believe that these programmes facilitate the lasting rehabilitation of previous offenders, granting them a new opportunity to succeed in life.

BOSASA IFM (2013) stated that the process of rehabilitation is a trying one and the rehabilitation of ex-offenders is implemented worldwide with varied degrees of success. They went on to state that they believe that providing them with valuable job skills is absolutely critical to the successful reintegration of prisoners into society. Equipping offenders with the personal capacity for re-socialisation means providing them with recognised qualifications and job opportunities; these principles are the foundation of all their programmes.

Drawing on past experiences with ensuring that the health and nutritional needs of inmates are met in prisons across SA, BOSASA IFM developed a programme of rehabilitation that trains deserving offenders as qualified chefs. Aligned with the prestigious HTA School of Culinary Arts certification, the chef school focuses on training participants with the practical skills that, once rehabilitated, will ensure they have an opportunity at finding employment.

According BOSASA IFM (2013), in addition to the widely recognised qualification, new chefs are given much sought after opportunities to gain important working experience. At hotels, restaurants and other top establishments in Gauteng, graduates will train in a quality environment with other professionals. Moreover, after completion of the programme, chefs are given a membership with the South African Chefs Association. This enables them to network and enhance their reputations, as well as gain experience in the food industry.

BOSASA IFM (2013) noted that The Child Justice Act states that disenfranchised children between the ages of 14 and 17 years old, who have found themselves in conflict with the law, must be diverted from the Criminal Justice System. Since 1995, BOSASA’s Youth Development Centres have provided thousands of children with havens of safety across South Africa. Providing a safe environment of character building and education, these centres are integral to the rehabilitation of vulnerable youths.
BOSASA IFM (2013) stated that offering much more than a bed, food, and schooling, the centres provide experienced counsellors who manage the holistic development of each child. The purpose is to give children a second chance at building successful futures. According to BOSASA IFM (2013) to do that, they provide accredited education as well as personal development courses, producing balanced and accountable young people.

According to BOSASA IFM (2013) effective reintegration of previous offenders requires an investment in each individual, but it also takes a community to knit-together to support these people in pursuit of a new life. They further noted that Hlumani is a corporate social responsibility model and one of its offender rehabilitation programmes. It provides solutions for the community acceptance of rehabilitated offenders, implementing a holistic and successful system of reintegration through restorative justice.

According to BOSASA IFM (2013) by focusing on the positive attributes of every individual in the programme and developing their unique talents, offenders are able to build on a sense of self-worth and take pride in their achievements. They are able to develop useful skills and contribute to the communities in which they were once outcasts. This in turn eases the process of acceptance and facilitates reintegration.

BOSASA IFM (2013) also noted that technology is a vital part of interacting with modern society. Training in this area can equip previous offenders with the skills required to secure valuable employment. One of their most successful achievements, is the provision of computer training facilities at the East London Female Prison Computer Centre, which has been one of the simplest yet most transformational programmes they have implemented. Providing more than just the necessary skills, this centre uplifts the women who use it by giving them the confidence to achieve their goals.

2.4 The link between age and the repeat of criminal offences

According to Alder et al (2007), the younger an inmate is at the time of their first offence that results in a commitment to the department of corrections, the more likely that inmate will be to return to prison. He also stated that the older an inmate is at time of release, the less likely he is to return to prison. According to Barkan (2012), involvement in crime diminishes with age. He stated that one of the crimes which are mainly committed by young people is street crime. Barkan (2012) noted that crime peak at ages 17 or 18 and then declines, especially beyond young adulthood. According to report on the Open Society Foundation for South (2010), as criminals become older they tend to engage in less criminal activity, start to marry and have
children, and their interest in crime diminishes but pressures to raise a family may make breadwinners go back to committing crime. Barkan (2012) went on further to say that white collar crime is once again a different matter because older people commit most of it, teenagers and young adults are too young to be in a position to commit such crime.

In support of Barkan’s idea, Alder et al (2007) noted that crime decrease with age even among people who commit frequent offences. According to Alder et al (2007) all offenders commit fewer crimes as they grow older because they have less strength and less mobility. According to James, Wilson and Herrnstain in Alder et al (2007) the aging out phenomenon is a natural part of the life cycle. Teenagers may become increasingly independent on their parents yet lack the resources to support themselves; they bond together with other young people who are equally frustrated in their search for legitimate ways to get money, sex, alcohol and status. Together they find illegitimate sources. According to Alder et al (2007) with adulthood, the small gains from criminal behaviour no longer seem so attractive. They learn to delay gratification. Alder et al (2007) went on to say that petty crime is no longer adventurous for old people; it is at this time that the aging out process begins for most individuals. Even the ones who continue to commit offences will eventually slow down with increasing age.

Steffensmeier and Streifel (2008) studied sex differences in the age-crime relationship. They found out that although age-crime parameters differ there appears to be considerable similarity in the age-crime relationship between males and females. Uniform Crime Report (UCR) arrest statistics from the 1930s to the 1990s show that the age curves of male and female offenders are very similar within any given period and across all offences, with the exception of prostitution. To the extent that age differences between the sexes exist, the tendency is for somewhat lower peak ages of offending among females apparently because of their earlier physical maturity and the likelihood that young adolescent females might date and associate with older delinquent male peers. Overall, although male levels of offending are always higher than female levels at every age and for virtually all offences, the female-to-male ratio remains fairly constant across the life span (Steffensmeier and Streifel, 2008). Also, the trend toward younger and more peaked age-crime distributions holds for both sexes.

Steffensmeier and Streifel (2008) went on to say that the single major difference in the age curves of males and females is for prostitution with females having a much greater concentration of arrests among the young. Although this difference may be due in part to more stringent enforcement of prostitution statutes when young females are involved, the younger
and more peaked female age curve is also a function of the extent to which opportunity structures for sexual misbehaviours differ between males and females. Clearly, sexual attractiveness and the marketability of sexual services are strongly linked to both age and gender: Older women become less able to market sexual services, whereas older men can continue to purchase sexual services from young females or from young males (Steffensmeier and Streifel, 2008).

2.5 Summary

The above section was a presentation of literature related to factors contributing to reoffending among exprisoners after rehabilitation. According to the existing literature, there are various factors that cause people to reoffend such as being labelled as criminals, low education levels and stigmatization. The rate of reoffending can be used as a measurement of success of rehabilitation efforts. The next chapter will highlight the methodology that was employed in the research.
CHAPTER 3

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction
This chapter consists of research design, target population, sample size, sampling techniques, research instruments, data presentation and analysis procedures, ethical issues, feasibility and possible limitation and delimitation.

3.1 Research design
This study employed phenomenology a qualitative research approach as the main research design. Zahavi (2012) defines phenomenology as the study of structures of consciousness as experienced from the first-person point of view. Phenomenology was used for its advantage of exploring lived experiences of the respondents. The researcher also decided to use phenomenology qualitative research design since it investigates data and describe it. The researcher employed phenomenology research design which triangulated qualitative and quantitative research approaches. Triangulation in research enables a more holistic view of the problem and it increases the credibility of the research by drawing on multiple viewpoints. In addition according to Creswell (2008) researchers triangulate among different sources of data to enhance accuracy of their study. Qualitative research approach gives meaning to life experience hence it helped the researcher to find factors contributing to reoffending among exprisoners after rehabilitation. This type of research further focused on subjectivity which allowed personal thoughts, ideas and concepts to be incorporated into the findings. It also offered rich explanation on things that cannot be easily quantified. However, this research design had its own weaknesses in that subjectivity lead to procedural problems which was time consuming to the researcher. It can also be argued that in-depth, comprehensive approach is labour intense in that the researcher had to use more of open ended questions in data collection. According to Gravetter and Forzano (2009) quantitative research approach is a research approach that is based on measuring variables for individual participants or subject to obtain scores, usually numerical values that are submitted to statistical analysis for summary and interpretation. According to Blanche, Durrheim and painter (2009) the function of these research approaches is to ensure that the evidence obtained enables us to answer the initial question as unambiguously as possible.
3.2 Target population

Gravetter and Forzano (2009) postulate that population is the entire assemblage of organisms, units or characteristics of interest to the researcher. Population can therefore be referred to as the entire group with specific information relevant to the study. The study targeted all the reoffenders at Bindura Prison which consisted of 67 reoffenders. 10 key informants were also used as target population for the research. These key informants include 4 relatives of the reoffenders, 2 Community Service Rehabilitation Officers, 2 Prison Officers and 2 Rehabilitation Officers.

3.3 Sample size

The total number of elements that would be considered representative (at least 10%) of the total population in a given area can be referred to as a sample size thus according to Blanche et al (2009). According to Babbie and Rubbin (2009) 10-15% of the entire target population can be used to make up a sample that represents the whole target population. Gravetter and Forzano (2009) state that the decision for an appropriate sample size rested entirely on that sample representativeness and not on the quality of data it produces. The researcher used 20 people which is 30% of the entire population as a representative sample for the study so as to ensure high representativeness of the data and to have a fair coverage to enhance overall outcome.

3.4 Sampling techniques

When conducting the research, purposive sampling technique was used. The Chief Superintendent of Bindura Prison made use of simple random sampling a probability sampling technique whereby he randomly chose the reoffenders among other offenders in the prison who were to be participants of the study. The Chief Superintendent chose the participants for the researcher because it was risky for the researcher to enter into the prison to choose the reoffenders who were to participate in the research. Moreover the prisoners were mixed, the first offenders and the reoffenders so it was hard for the researcher to identify reoffenders among other prisoners. Purposive sampling technique was also used in selecting the key informants such as Community Service Rehabilitation Officers, Prison Officers and the Rehabilitation Officers because of the knowledge that they have about reoffenders since they work with them. Snow balling was applied when the researcher was selecting key informants who were to participate in the research study such as the relatives. David and Morgan (2008) postulate that snow balling is a non-probability sampling technique where existing study subjects recruit future subjects from among their acquaintances. David and Morgan (2008)
stated that snowball sampling uses a small pool of initial informants to nominate, through their social networks, other participants who meet the eligibility criteria and could potentially contribute to a specific study. This sampling technique is often used in hidden populations which are difficult for researchers to access.

3.5 Research instruments

The researcher used in depth interviews, questionnaires and observations to collect the data that was needed for the research.

3.5.1 In-depth interview

The researcher used an interview guide as a research instrument to collect data from the key informants who were the relatives of the reoffenders, (see appendix 4). The researcher also conducted some interviews with the Police Officers and Rehabilitation Officers. In this case the researcher met the key informants face to face with the aim of drawing much information as possible regarding the research topic. The researcher used different type of questions such as open ended questions, closed questions as well as probing questions where it was necessary. In-depth interview was used for its advantage of giving the researcher the opportunity to clarify some questions that seem to be unclear to the respondents. Moreover, this research was most suited for the illiterate and semi-illiterate group, which constituted the majority of the respondents. However, this method is time consuming and a bit expensive. The researcher had to move from one place to another to conduct the interview with the informants.

3.5.2 Questionnaires

The researcher made use of questionnaires to collect data from respondents in which 20 questionnaires were administered to the respondents. This research employed self-administered questionnaires (see appendix 5). Questionnaires can be referred to as tools used for data collection with a series of written questions in a fixed, rational order which are used by the researcher as guidelines for drawing information from the respondents thus according to Babbie and Rubbin (2009). These questionnaires were administered to the reoffenders who were in Bindura Prison. Most of the questions on the questionnaire were open ended questions. The researcher used open ended questions because they offer a set of exhaustive responses to a question. The questionnaires were pre-tested before they were administered to the participants. First the researcher gave all the research tools to the supervisor to mark and make some corrections. The researcher also gave 2 Prison Officers, 2 Rehabilitation Officers and 1
Community Service Officer who were not part of the research to make some adjustments were necessary before the questionnaire was administered to the participants. To ensure 100% response rate, the researcher assisted those who could not read or write by reading and interpreting the questions to them and filling the questionnaires for some of the reoffenders.

Section A of the questionnaire covered the demographic data or the background information. Section B was concerned with issues surrounding the incarceration process. Section C focuses on life outside the prison. The last section, section D was designed to evaluate the rehabilitation programmes at Bindura Prison.

3.5.2.1 Advantages

The advantages of these questionnaires are that they were cheap and easy to administer, preserves confidentiality since the respondents did not write their names on the research instrument and are completed at respondent’s convenience.

3.5.2.2 Disadvantages

The disadvantage of self-administered questionnaire is that only literate persons made use of it. The researcher had to read the questions for the participants, translate it in shona. To those who could not write she would write what they would have said on the questionnaire. They are also costly to design. The researcher printed one copy of the questionnaire and then photocopied other 19 copies.

3.5.3 Observation

The researcher used an observation checklist as a research instrument to guide her when making observations on the information that was relevant to the study. The researcher used this research instrument to observe the various activities or programs that were available at the Bindura correctional institution for the successful rehabilitation of the offenders. The researcher paid special attention to the numbers of offenders who were participating in the various rehabilitation programs available at Bindura Prison, the nature of the rehabilitation programs offered, the way the Rehabilitation Officers conducted their research and the relationships between the Rehabilitation Officers and the prisoners as well as the relationship between the prisoners themselves, (see appendix 6).
3.6 Data presentation and analysis procedures

According to Babbie and Rubbin (2009), data analysis can be referred to as the systematic transfer of data from the gathering instrument so as to qualify and quantify information that would have been collected. The function of data analysis is to make data gathered communicable. Information gathered from respondents using interviews were sorted out manually for the purpose of quantifying the data. The data collected from the questionnaires were analyzed and presented in the form of graphs, pie charts, tables and verbatim quotes. The presentations were done using Microsoft excel. Quantitative data was however analyzed using Microsoft excel packages.

3.7 Ethical issues

According to Polit and Hangler (2009), when human beings are used as subjects in scientific investigations, great care must be exercised in ensuring that the rights of those human beings are protected. De Vaus (2008), noted that regardless of the research design, social research should conform to four broad ethical principles which are voluntary participation, informed consent, no harm to participants and anonymity and confidentiality. In this study the researcher conformed to the ethical issues which are informed consent, voluntary participation, anonymity and confidentiality.

3.7.1 Informed Consent

In this study, the researcher first sought permission to conduct the research from the Chief Magistrate and Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Service headquarters. The researcher ensured that the rights of participants are protected by obtaining their consent. The researcher explained fully the objectives of the study to the participants and the intentions were made known and clear, by explaining that the information was to serve academic purpose only. Therefore the researcher first highlighted the nature of the study to the respondents before interviewing them, hence the respondents were given the room to decide whether to participate or not in the study.

3.7.2 Confidentiality and Anonymity

Confidentiality and privacy was ensured by not documenting the participants’ names on data collecting instruments and by using the data collected only for learning purpose without sharing it with anyone.
3.7.3 Voluntary Participation

Participants were informed by the researcher that there were free to withdraw at any stage from participating in the study if they no longer felt comfortable or if they so wished.

3.8 Feasibility to the study

The research that the researcher conducted was very feasible. The researcher had access to the key informants who provided data in relation to the topic under study, the primary respondents were also available for consultation at accessible places. Most of the key informants were found at Bindura Prison and Magistrate Court hence they made the research much easier to conduct. The place where the researcher carried out her research was just a few kilometres away from the researchers place hence it was easy to conduct the research.

3.9 Limitations

The researcher faced challenges in carrying out the research due to scarcity of resources. Money was needed to procure stationery, typing and photocopying the proposal, research project and also research tools such as the questionnaires, interview guide and the observation checklist. Due to scarcity of resources, the researcher was forced to submit some of her work on softcopy for marking. Money was also needed to cover transport costs. The researcher sometimes had to walk to Bindura Prison so as to cover for the transport costs.

The researcher also faced a big challenge in getting permission from the authorities to conduct research in their premises. Information to do with prisoners is believed to be highly private and confidential hence it should not be tempered with. The researcher was denied permission to conduct the research at Bindura Magistrate court, the letter strictly stated that, we do not take Social Work students, (see appendix 1). The researcher then sought permission from the Chief Magistrate in Harare to conduct the research of which the permission was granted to the researcher after a protracted struggle with the responsible authorities. (See appendix 2)

The researcher also sought permission to conduct the research from Bindura Prisons where she was referred to Zimbabwe Prisons Correctional Service headquarters in Harare. Though it took a long time before the researcher was replied, finally she was granted the permission, (see appendix 3). However, the researcher went through some thorough interrogation before she was granted the permission to proceed with the research. The researcher explained clearly the motive of the research that it was going to serve academic purposes only and that it was not
going to be shared with anyone. The researcher was made to sign a contract which was to guide her in carrying out her research which also contained the dos and don’ts as well as the date for the termination of the contract.

3.10 Delimitation

The research was restricted to the reoffenders at Bindura Prison, however, Bindura Prison is not the only Prison with reoffenders in Zimbabwe. Bindura Prison has different structures from other prisons as well as staff members so the factors that may be causing the prisoners at Bindura Prison to reoffend may differ a bit from other Prisons. Bindura Prison is estimated to have a holding capacity of 300-350 prisoners and there are 283 staff members. The prison has got some subdivisions. The rehabilitation programmes offered at Bindura Prison might be different from the ones being offered in other prisons due to availability of resources and the way these rehabilitation programmes are carried may also differ depending with staff members facilitating the programmes.

3.11 Summary

This chapter outlined the research methodology that was used in order to gather information about the factors contributing to reoffending among exprisoners after they had been rehabilitated. The chapter explained the tools that were used to gather the data and how the researcher came about to have the participants who took part in the study. The data that the researcher obtained was analysed and the results are presented and discussed in the next chapter.
CHAPTER 4

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.0 Introduction

In this chapter, the major findings are analysed, presented and discussed. Data from the research were analysed quantitatively and qualitatively. Microsoft Excel package was used to construct graphs, pie charts and tables in data presentation. The presentation and analysis of data in this chapter is in line with the research objectives. The objectives of this study were to identify the underlying factors behind the repeat of criminal offences by released prisoners at Bindura Prison, to ascertain whether the rehabilitation offered at Bindura Correctional Institute is rehabilitative enough and to explore the link between age and the repeat of criminal offences.

4.1 Response rate

4.1.1 Questionnaires

The researcher obtained 100% response rate. The responses were satisfactory as the respondents managed to cooperate and provide useful information for the research. The researcher managed to obtain a 100% response rate because the researcher was always available when the participants were answering the questionnaires so as to explain to the participants where they did not understand as well as to translate some of the questions into shona where necessary. The graph below shows the distribution of the respondents with regards to their background information. The information include sex, age, marital status, level of education and employment history of reoffenders who participated in the study. The demographic characteristics of respondents has got some findings in it because most of the demographic data collected answered partially the research topic.
4.1.2 Demographic characteristics of respondents

4.1.2.1 Distribution of respondents by sex

Fig. 1: showing the sex ratio in relation to reoffenders.  \[ N= 20 \]

Eighteen of the respondents (90%) were males. Female reoffenders were very few constituting of only 10% (n=2) compared to their male counter parts. Female reoffenders are very few compared to their male counter parts and this can be explained by Mugenyi (1990) in Ssebuggwawo (2010) who studied the relationship between the woman offender and the law. According to Mugenyi, he found out that when prisoners go to prison, they enter into a process called prisonisation. According to him, prisonisation as a process seem not to affect all prisoners equally in that male prisoners appear to adapt faster to the prison culture than their female counter-parts. According to the rehabilitation officers who were the key informants for the study, another reason why female reoffenders are very few in Bindura prison is that Bindura prison is not supposed to be keeping many female offenders in the prison since there are prisons designed for woman in Harare Chikurubi maximum prison and Shurugwi. They refer the female offenders to Chikurubi female prison and Shurugwi female prison especially those who will be serving longer sentence as well as the habitual reoffenders.
4.1.2.2 Distribution of respondents by age

Table 4.1 showing demographic data of sampled reoffenders regarding age.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age range</th>
<th>Number of respondents</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20-30</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-40</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41-50</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51-60</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61-70</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>20</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N=20

The age groups of reoffenders who were used in the research ranged from 20 to 70 years. From this study the mode age range is 31-40 years which consist of eight (8) respondents representing 40% of the total sample size. This age range consist of respondents who had once been married or who are in marriages. Seven (7) of the respondents were between the age of 20-30 years, this age range consists of the young re-offenders. The lowest number of reoffenders were in the age ranges of 51-70 years and it consisted of two (2) respondents. The age ranges consist of the old people. From the research carried out, it can be inferred that old people rarely engage themselves in criminal activities because of age. These findings support Alder et al (2007) who noted that, crime decrease with age even among people who commit frequent offences. They also noted that (Alder et al) all offenders commit fewer crimes as they grow older because they have less strength and less mobility.
4.1.2.3 Distribution of respondents by marital Status

Fig 2: showing marital status of the reoffenders

Responses from the respondents showed that divorced males constitute the majority (n=9) of the reoffenders found at Bindura prison. About 45% of the male reoffenders are divorced. According to these type of a group they are divorced and normally they have a family to look after and many responsibilities such as general upkeep of the children, paying maintenance and looking after themselves. Five of the respondents claimed that they are forced to engage into criminal behaviour so as to make ends meet in order for them to be able to pay for the maintenance. One of the respondents in the prison was actually serving a jail term of 3 months for failing to pay maintenance. Responses from the respondents also indicated that three males are affected by the disintegration of their families so they try to manage their stress by abusing drugs and alcohol and end up committing various crimes. Married males also constitute a higher number of reoffenders, 35% (n=7) respondents are married. According to the respondents being married means a lot of responsibilities and even if one goes to work the salary is not enough for one to take care of his own family. According to the research conducted, it can be noted that divorced females and widows are more prone to engage in criminal activities because they have no one to look after their children or take care of them. These woman are not employed so they are left with no option except to be involved in illegal activities such as illegal gold panning, prostitution and fraud.
4.1.2.4 Distribution of respondents by level of education.

![Bar Chart: Level of Education Attained by Respondents at Bindura Prison](chart.png)

**Fig 3: showing level of education attained by the reoffenders at Bindura Prison.**

*N=20*

At Bindura Prison only 10 out of 20 respondents which is 50% of the sample had attained secondary level education. According to the respondents out of the 10 reoffenders who managed to go to secondary school, 7 did not manage to finish their O’ Level. The main reason why they did not manage to finish their O’ Level education was because of financial difficulties. One reoffender out of the 20 had managed to attend tertiary education. The respondent who had managed to attain tertiary education level reported of failing to secure a job. The respondent said that since he finished his studies he had never been employed. He was said to be over qualified and many companies said they were not able to pay him. On the other side those who would not have finished their secondary education level also find it difficult to get employed. These findings tally with Roberts (2008) findings who noted that, because of poor educational backgrounds, the employment of these reoffenders consisted of mostly low wages jobs with frequent periods of unemployment. From the study conducted it can be concluded that low education levels contribute to high reoffending rates.
4.1.2.5 Employment History

Fig 4: showing employment history of the reoffenders before they were incarcerated

\[ N = 20 \]

Statistics gathered from the respondents shows that 55% (n=11) of reoffenders who participated in the research were unemployed. Information gathered from the respondents indicate that their level of education was a major barrier in securing jobs. These findings tally with the findings of Burton et al (2005) who noted that those with little or no education are likely to experience greater difficulties finding or generating employment opportunities, thus at times making it difficult for individuals to generate sustainable livelihood strategies. They went on to note that it has been argued that this is likely to force some to commit crime in order to survive. The respondents reported of facing several difficulties in making ends meet in life. Five of the reoffenders who were unemployed reported of trying to make ends meet by being involved in illegal mining. Thirty percent (n=6) of the reoffenders at Bindura Prison are employed in the informal sector. Respondents reported that informal sector cannot sustain one’s life hence they were forced to indulge in illegal activities such as selling drugs and illegal gold panning. The formal sector has the least number of respondents 15% (n=3). These reoffenders who were employed were employed as a garden boy, a teacher and a combi driver. The reoffenders who were employed in the formal sector were of the view that the salaries given to people are just too little for one to take care of himself and the family so they said they had to have other deals that can give them money such as selling drugs.
4.2 FACTORS BEHIND THE REPEAT OF CRIMINAL OFFENCES

The study sought to establish factors that made the reoffenders to repeat the criminal offences. The factors behind the repeat of criminal offences are interrelated. One factor can also lead to the emanation of another. There are several factors that contribute to the reconviction of people after they have been rehabilitated and from the study carried unemployment, poverty and stigmatisation proved to be the major key drivers. According to the research conducted the researcher noted that 70% of the reoffenders find their way back into the prison just after 3 months of their release because of the following reasons:

4.2.1 Poverty

Twenty-five percent (25%) (n=5) of the respondents asserted that poverty was the main reason for their reoffending. They complained that it was very hard to find a job in Zimbabwe and with the economic hardships that were being experienced they were forced to indulge into criminal activities in order to earn a living. One of the respondents said, "Ahanzvadzi zvinhu zvakaoma muZimbabwe ende hazvina kuomera inini chete vanwe vanongoitawo zvandoita nekudawo kweropa ravo havo rakanaka havabatwe." (My sister things are hard in Zimbabwe and it is not only me who is facing these hardships, others even do what I did in order to earn
a living but because of their lucky they do not get apprehended - male 33 years) The research findings revealed that these participants who are affected by poverty committed crimes such as theft, robbery, fraud, house breaking and illegal gold panning. Illegal gold panning became a preoccupation for many since the town is endowed with rich gold deposits. These findings support Dijk (2008) who stated that crime rates tend to be on average somewhat higher in poor and less developed countries. Roberts (2008) also pointed out that some people in poverty stricken areas are more prone to commit crimes in order to cater for their needs. He also stated that for those living in abject poverty, a life of crime presented a tempting escape route.

According to the responses of the reoffenders who claimed that poverty is the main driving factor behind their reoffending, the researcher noted that 20% (n=4) of the respondents committed crimes out of the desire to gratify their basic needs. When they got apprehended they were given sentences commensurate with crimes committed in accordance to the justice system of the country, without addressing the root cause which caused the person to commit a crime in the first place. After serving their sentences, these convicts are released back into the community inadequately equipped to deal with their socio-economic needs. When they get back to their homes upon release from prison the same unmet needs will be waiting for them forcing them to commit other crimes in an effort to meet their socio-economic needs. This is one of the reasons for the prevalence of reoffenders in Bindura.

4.2.2 Unemployment

Statistics gathered from respondents showed that four (4) of the reoffenders are of the view that unemployment is a major factor behind their reconviction after they had been rehabilitated. Three of the respondents who said unemployment was the major factor behind their reoffending said they had resorted into illegal mining. They reported that in Zimbabwe there are no jobs yet the government continue to illegalise the mining activities. They also said that the procedures to own a mine is just but tiresome and involves a lot of corruption hence they were left with no option but to practice illegal mining. Unemployment is a factor which prompted most of the reoffenders to be involved in criminal activities in the first place. These findings tally with those of Roberts (2008) who found out that many inmates reported difficulties in finding employment prior to incarceration and after incarceration it will be even worse. The findings also tally with those of theorists such as Merton (1938) who argued that the strain between the goal for money and the lack of legitimate opportunities leads to frustration, innovation and ultimately criminal behaviour. Economic theorist supports this, theorists such
as Becker (1968), have argued that unemployment leads to crime. Becker (1968) also noted that unmet needs or wants can lead a specific agent in a specific circumstances to commit illegitimate activity for personal economic gain.

In 2008, the political environment in Zimbabwe saw several companies and factories in the country shutting down leaving many Zimbabweans jobless and a sharp increase in unemployment was witnessed and Bindura Town was not spared.

When prisoners got released into the community it is even harder for them to secure a job because of their criminal record. Most of the well-paying jobs in the formal sector now require a police clearance first. These research findings support champion (2008) findings who stated that some employers are not able or willing, to hire ex-inmates due to their criminal histories. In support of the findings, according to report on the Open Society Foundation for South (2010), a person with a criminal record has virtually no chance of being employed and has learned no useful skills in prison. Champion (2008) in support of the findings also stated that owners of business will often refuse to hire a convicted felon and are at best hesitant especially in any position entails even minor responsibility of the handling of money especially those convicted of thievery.

Tripoli, Kim and Bender (2010) noted that most research regarding reoffending indicates that those ex-inmates that obtain employment after release from prison tend to have lower rates of reoffending. They went on to say that in one study, it was found that even if marginal employment, especially for ex-inmates over the age of 26, is offered to ex-inmates, those ex-inmates are less likely to commit crime than their counterparts. Uggen (2008) stated that another study found that ex-inmates were less likely to re-offend if they found and maintained stable employment throughout their first year of parole. According to Makarios, Steiner and Travis (2010) although research is clear that obtaining employment can reduce recidivism, one must closely examine the ability of ex-inmates to obtain employment once released from prison.

4.2.3 Stigmatization

Another 20% (n=4) of the respondents stated that stigma was the main reason for their reoffending. Some of them said when they were first arrested it was a mistake but when they were released from the prison they were changed people but the society failed to accept them. Some members of the community would go to an extent of giving them names and labelling them as undesirable elements in the society. One of the respondents said, “pese pandasvika
Where ever I visited I could hear people saying hold your bags tightly that thief has arrived- male 28years). This tallies with the labelling theory. According to Champion (2008), the basic assumption of the labelling theory is that people become criminals by social labelling or definition, getting caught begins the labelling process and people defined as criminal will develop a criminal self-definition. The labelling theorists (Lemert, Becker and Kitsutse) noted that persons who react to social labelling by defining themselves as deviant or criminal engage in further criminal activities.

The respondents even experience the stigma whilst there were still in the prison. Thirteen (13) respondents reported that no one came to visit them whilst there were in prison. Three of the prisoners said that they asked the prison officers to communicate with their family members so that they could come and see them but the response from the family members was that, that is where they belong and they would not bother themselves to visit them.

One of the respondents said that life in prison was much better than life outside. He actually said, “kalife kekutogara hangu munomu ndotokakuza pane kugara panze pandisingadiwe.” (Life in prison is much preferably than outside where people do not love me- male 27 years.) He claimed that when he was first released from prison people were afraid of him and did not want to associate with him. He went on to say that at the end he discovered that life in prison was much better because people in prison accept each other as they are and understands each other better than other people in the society. The respondents also reported that they experience much stigmatization when they got released from the prison. They said people have got a mixed reaction when they first saw them after they were released, most of the people especially the neighbours and members of extended families were said not to be happy. These four respondents also reported of failing to make friends after there were released as a result of stigma. People have the wrong perception about people who were once incarcerated.

According to three (3) respondents out of the four who claimed that stigmatisation was a major factor behind their reoffending said that when they were released from the prison people tend to treat them like social outcasts and even go to the extent of blocking opportunities for them. One of the respondents said after he was released from prison he managed to secure a job for himself but whenever people passed through the shop where he was working they would always pass negative comments. One day these comments were overheard by the owner of the
shop and he got fired. This incident is supported by the findings of Roberts (2008) who stated that ex-inmates cannot obtain or maintain employment due to their criminal history.

4.2.4 Lack of education

Three out of the 20 respondents claimed that education was the main reason behind their reoffending. The respondents reported that due to lack of education they faced a major challenge in securing jobs so as to earn money. According to them, money was the only important thing that they needed in life and the only way to get the money without committing crimes was to get employed of which there were no jobs. The findings from respondents are in line with Ssebuggwawo (2010) who concluded that in view of the results from the research that he carried out it appeared that it is true that little or no education is partly responsible for influencing criminal behaviour.

4.2.5 Influence of drugs and alcohol

Two respondents representing 10% of the participants said that they were forced to reoffend because they were under the influence of either drugs or alcohol. One of the respondents said that when he first got incarcerated he was charged of murder. He said that he caught his wife with another man so he got angry and beat the man in question. They started fighting as they were fighting the wife came in their midst to separate them so by mistake he hit his wife on the head with a stool and the wife fell down. They rushed her to the hospital, upon arrival she was declared dead. He said that this issue traumatized him as well as the attitude of people towards him so he found it better to find solace in alcohol and drugs. He said being drunk has resulted in him being involved in many criminal activities such as public fighting, public indecency and assault. He also said that it is hard for him to stay sober in the society because of stress and the way people treat him.

From the findings of the research these respondents stay under the influence of drugs or alcohol because of stress and some find it difficult to stop using the drugs or alcohol once they got hooked to them. The influence of drugs or alcohol cause other expressinors to engage in criminal activities after they are released from the prison. This findings are in tandem with McKean and Ransford (2004) findings who noted that substance abuse is wide spread problem among the prison population, with re-addiction after release a frequent cause of recidivism and a barrier to obtaining stable employment. In support of these findings, Champion (2008) noted that those reentering the community after a period of incarceration are especially vulnerable to drug dependencies during the first six months following their release. Champion (2008) also noted
that drug and alcohol are highly correlated with criminal conduct. However from the observations carried by the researcher, from a mere look she observed than more than 10% of the respondents were involved in the use of drugs and alcohol.

4.2.6 False accusation

According to 10% of the respondents false accusation is also a dominant factor which caused them to be reoffenders. They said that although they committed crimes that resulted in them being imprisoned that did not mean they had turned into hard core habitual criminals. According to these respondents the community took advantage of their criminal record and falsely accused them of crimes they did not commit. They complained bitterly that they were currently in prison for crimes that they had not committed but since they had a criminal record it was very difficult for them to prove their innocence beyond any reasonable doubt. According to this study conducted at Bindura Prison, the researcher noted that people who complained of being falsely accused has got a history of having committing the same crime or a similar crime before.

4.2.7 Factors behind the repeat of criminal offences according to key informants.

The key informants especially the relatives of the reoffenders had different ideas from reoffenders about what cause their relatives to reoffend. The key informants had two main factors which they attributed as the causes behind the repeat of criminal offences by their relatives. These factors include heredity and evil spirits.

4.2.8 Heredity

Two of the respondents claimed that the factor behind the reoffending of their relative after they had been rehabilitated was heredity. They said crime was something that was running within the family. These findings from the relatives tally with those of biological theorist and according to Barkan (2012) biologists and medical researchers have long noticed that crime tends to “run in families” and they assume that criminal tendencies are inherited. One of the respondents said that, “mwana uyu atodza ruoko rwababa wake.” (This child has a similar character with that of his father- female 35 years.) The statement implied that their relative had inherited his father’s character of stealing. From the findings of the study, the researcher noted that out of the 20 respondents who participated in the study, 17 respondents reported to have a history of someone in their family who got incarcerated before them hence supporting the relatives’ idea that heredity is a major factor contributing to the reoffending of exprisoners.
4.2.9 Evil Spirits

The relatives were also of the view that evil spirits were behind the repeat of criminal offences by their relatives. One of the respondents said that their relative was always involved in the criminal activities because he had disappointed the ancestors and as a way to punish him, he was supposed to engage in criminal activities and got apprehended to rot in jail. Another respondent who claimed that evil spirits was behind the repeat of criminal offences of their relatives claimed that it was the work of devil. One of the respondents said, “hanzvadzi yangu ine dhimoni chairo rakamugara apa haadi zvekuenda kuchechi.” (My brother has got a demon yet he does not want to go church).

4.2.10 Jail sentence

According to the Community Service Rehabilitation Officers as well as Prison Officers jail sentence is one of the key factor that contribute to reoffending amongst exprisoners. They stated that very light sentence does not give enough time for rehabilitation of the prisoner. They also said light sentences causes reoffending mainly due the fact that the jail sentence was not punishable enough to stop reoffending. One of the Community Service Officer said that, “kana mutongo wakareruka sekuti mwedzi miviri munhu ari mujeri anobuda asina chaadzidza saka hazvitore nguva kuti apere imwe mhosva”. (If the sentence is very light say two months it is not enough for rehabilitation to take place, hence it does not take time for a person to reoffend).

4.3 Effectiveness Of Rehabilitation Programmes Offered at Bindura Correctional Institution.

There are a number rehabilitation programmes that are offered at Bindura Prison. These rehabilitation programmes are aimed at equipping prisoners with various vocational skills as well as nurturing their gifts so that when they are out of the prison they have somewhere to start from rather than continuing with their criminal activities. The rehabilitation programmes offered at Bindura Prison include sewing, shoe making, mechanics, car washing, soccer, choirs, building, and farming. Counselling is also offered as part of the rehabilitation programmes mainly focusing on casework, however the Prison concentrate much on vocational rehabilitation. Though a variety of rehabilitation programmes are available at Bindura Prison due to large numbers of inmates at any given time not every prisoner has access to these programmes.
Fig 6: Showing access to the available rehabilitation programmes by reoffenders. \( N = 20 \)

Fourteen respondents (70%) indicated that they underwent certain rehabilitation programmes before they were released from prison. After a few months or years they were incarcerated again. This is a clear sign that the rehabilitation offered at the correctional institute was not successful. These findings are in line with the report on the Open Society Foundation for South (2010), which states that the Department of Correctional Services White Paper on Corrections has explicitly identified levels of reoffending as the primary measurement of success of rehabilitation efforts.

A greater number 70% \( (n=14) \) of the respondents went through rehabilitation yet they got reconvicted. When prisoners are released from the correctional institutions, the hope is that they will not return to criminal activities as a result of rehabilitation. According to the 14 respondents who got access to the rehabilitation programmes the previous time they were incarcerated, there were so many reasons that caused them to reoffend.

One of the reasons was that the rehabilitation programmes were not taken seriously. Six respondents out of the fourteen reoffenders who managed to have access to the rehabilitation programmes available at Bindura Prison complained that not enough time is allocated to these programmes offered for practice. They said there is no timetable for these programmes. The reoffenders also stated that the programmes are carried out when the officers are willing because they are supposed to be protected when doing these programmes. Three (3) respondents out of the fourteen (14) said that they play soccer as way of participating in the rehabilitation programmes and they were of the view that the way they are trained cannot help
them to develop the necessary skills needed for them to become professional players. One of them said, “*hha kamutambiro katinoita mutambo wemakumbo uyu handifungi kuti vanhu vangatotarisirawo kuti tingatozotambawo sechikwata chinenge chakamirira nyika.*” (The way we play soccer in here people cannot expect us to become players who will represent the country.)

Another reason why these prisoners were reconvicted after they had been rehabilitated is because of the nature and quality of the rehabilitation programmes offered at the correctional institute. According to two (2) respondents the rehabilitation programmes were not up to standard. They said that the rehabilitation programmes available are not carried out sometimes because of shortage of materials. For example the car wash is not functioning effectively because of shortage of chemicals needed for the car wash. Three respondents said that there were interested in sewing but they were discouraged to take up sewing seriously because there were no sewing materials. The respondents also said that in sewing they faced a big challenge in that they were not taught new skills of sewing. They even suggested that the prison was supposed to even employ facilitators who would come and teach them new skills in sewing since fashion is advancing, for example the reoffenders want to be taught how to make outfits instead of concentrating on mending people’s clothes. One of the respondents said “*munongoziva nzvimbo yatiri, zvinhu zvacho ndezvekungokiya kiya, sekusona uku munhu unongopihwa hembe yemunhu yangozvibvarukirawo achiita zvaanga achiita hanzi sona. Kana shungu dzavo chokwadi dziri dzekuti titewo vasoni tikwanise kuzogadzirawo nhumbi dai hawo vachtideedzera vanamasvikokota vanoziva zvavanota votipawo machira ari nani kwete zvigamba.*” (You know the place we are in, things are not done in the proper way, like in sewing you are just given someone’s clothing that would have been torn doing whatever he or she was doing. If truly they want us to become tailors who can be able to design clothes, if possible they should call expertise who know what they are doing and provide us with better materials not peoples old clothes- male 36years)

Another reason why ex-convicts reoffend after they had been rehabilitated is because of the way the rehabilitation programmes are conducted. According to four (4) respondents out of the 14 that had access to the rehabilitation programmes that were offered by the prison during the time they were incarcerated, the rehabilitation programmes were carried out in a manner that discouraged them from participating. They said some of the officers were tough on them and treated them in a way that they felt they had committed serious offences. The respondents said that they usually got this kind of treatment in farming and this forced them not to participate in
other rehabilitation programmes to avoid further embarrassments because every activity is done under the watchful eye of an officer who will be guarding them. As a result they did not have the freedom to do what they want or experiment to discover new things on the various rehabilitation programmes offered by the Prison. The above findings are in tandem with what Kagambo (1995) in Ssebuggwawo (2010) found in his studies. He studied the attitude of prisoners towards the rehabilitation programmes in Luzira group of prisons and discovered that lack of freedom for the inmates to do some activities on their own, led them to be more unruly and extremely cunning.

Unavailability of capital is a major challenge which had resulted in these reoffenders reoffending after they had been rehabilitated. According to 20% (n=4) of the respondents the skills that they would have been taught were enough for them to start their own projects like shoe making, mechanics or even farming. The major challenge according to the respondents is that when they have been imprisoned for a long time and then released it is very hard for them to find capital to establish their own businesses. One of the respondents said, “kana vambogara mujeri kwekanguva ukazongobuda chete mari inonetsa kutamba.” (If you have stayed in the prison for a long time when released it is very hard to find money- male 42years) Rehabilitation is deemed to be a failure when ex-convicts turn to reoffend after they had been rehabilitated but the problem is that these ex-convicts cannot apply what they have been taught in the prison outside because they do not have finances to sponsor themselves. Money is needed for the materials hence they are forced to engage into criminal activities again.

Six respondents out of 20 who participated in the research, never had a chance to get access to these rehabilitation programmes. They said that they were only involved in general cleaning and farming. They also said that the main reason why they were not involved in the rehabilitation programmes was that since the prison has got many prisoners they could not all have access because the programmes were few and sometimes resources were not available. According to two (2) respondents, they failed to participate in the rehabilitation programmes offered at the correctional institute because the programmes offered were not in line with their gifts or what they want to do in life. One of the respondents said that I am a combi driver and the prison should give us a chance to drive some of the prison vehicles instead of persuading us to take part in choir. He went on to say, “kuimba ndokuitisei, kunounza chikafu here kumba kwangu?” (What can I achieve with singing, does singing bring food to my home- male 37years.) These respondents saw their participation in such rehabilitation programmes as a wastage of time.
The researcher also used an observation checklist to observe the rehabilitation programmes offered at Bindura Prison. The researcher observed that rehabilitation programmes offered seem to be failing to rehabilitate prisoners because of the perception that the prisoners have towards the rehabilitation programmes. The researcher observed that about 40% of the prisoners who participated in the rehabilitation programmes offered by Bindura Prison regard some of the rehabilitation programmes as punishment. These prisoners regard farming as a punishment and they complained that the work was painful. The hours spent by the prisoners in the farm made them to conclude that it was a punishment instead of a rehabilitation programme. One of the reoffenders actually said, “aah basa racho iri rinorwandza sekurima zvako.” (The work is painful especially farming- male 28years.) Prisoners especially the reoffenders had negative attitude towards various rehabilitation programmes offered. Some these reoffenders (40%) did not even want to take part in rehabilitation programmes such as car washing, mechanics, sewing and shoe making because they had the perception that the programmes are designed to benefit the officers and the staff members.

However, from the research conducted it cannot be concluded that rehabilitation at Bindura Prison is a complete failure. There is a certain percentage though it is not known of prisoners who benefited from these rehabilitation programmes. According to the rehabilitation officers who were the key informants some prisoners are fast learners, though there are not adequate resources they just concentrate on getting the necessary skills that will help them do various activities in life that can help them to sustain their lives.

Another reason which makes the rehabilitation programmes a success is the positive attitude that the prisoners had towards the rehabilitation programmes. According to the rehabilitation officers when these prisoners participated in the rehabilitation programmes they took it seriously and they programmed their minds in such a way that they learn a lot from the rehabilitation programmes for their benefit. Most of these prisoners have the perception that the rehabilitation programmes are meant to transform them and equip them with necessary skills needed in life. Positive attitude towards the rehabilitation offered at the correctional institute has resulted in proving that successful rehabilitation can reduce reoffending rate.
4.4 The Link between age and the repeat of criminal offences

Information presented and discussed here is drawn from table 4.1. The majority 40% (n=8) of the reoffenders fall in the age range of 31-40 years. The second highest percentage 35% (n=7) is registered within the age range of 20-30 years. From the research carried out at Bindura Prison the age range from 20-40 consist of highly active people and most of them are married or divorced.

From the study carried out at Bindura Prison it can also be noted that to a larger extend age has an influence in reoffending rates. Seventy-five percent of the respondents were first incarcerated between the ages of 18-25. These findings are in line with Steffensmeier and Allan’s (2005) findings, who studied age-crime patterns for the U.S., they noted that today, the peak age (the age group with the highest age-specific arrest rate) is younger than twenty-five for all crimes reported in the F.B.I.’s UCR program except gambling. The findings also tally with that of Farrington, (1992) in Tierney (2010) who stated that it was also discovered that first convictions occurred on average at 17.5 years of age, with those convicted during an earlier pre-adolescence stage most likely to persist in offending. The age range of 18-25 is when a person becomes independent and assumes many responsibilities. Thirteen respondents at this age were involved in various forms of marriages the main one being cohabitating. Nine out of the 13 respondents said that when they enter into marriages they were not even employed or had a stable source of income. According to the respondents since they were married they had many responsibilities and they were now forced to be involved in criminal activities so as to fend for their families.

The age range of 18-25 also consist of people who were never married. According to the respondents these people are affected by peer pressure mostly. It is at this age that most of people especially males start to form gangs. Two of the respondents claimed to have been members of certain gangs. They feel more secure and a sense of belonging when they are in gangs. Normally these gangs constitute people of almost the same age. According to the respondents they commit crimes as a result of defending themselves from dangerous people. Other crimes that they commit are caused by economic hardships so they are left with no option except to organise themselves and perform a criminal activity that can make them earn money. Some of the crimes that they commit include robbery, house breaking, car hijacking, fraud and theft. One of the respondents showed that when he committed a crime of robbery he was not alone they were many but he claimed that he did not know who the others were. It is not only
within this age range that gangs are formed but this is the most prominent age group where gangs are formed and most of them are a product of peer pressure.

From the study conducted it can be noted that as the age increases the rate of reoffending decrease. From the age 51 to 70 there are only two people. Crime decreases with age. These findings tally with Barkan (2012) findings, according to Barkan involvement in crime diminishes with age. According to the research carried out, the researcher observed that when people are old they do not have the skills of committing crimes without being apprehended. As people grow old the strength to do various activities diminishes hence they are forced to refrain from criminal activities. These findings are in line with Alder et al (2007) findings, who noted that crime decrease with age even among people who commit frequent offences. According to Alder et al (2007) all offenders commit fewer crimes as they grow older because they have less strength and less mobility. Alder et al (2007) went on to say that even the ones who continue to commit offences will eventually slow down with increasing age.

Other ex-convicts continue to commit crimes in their old age because they have been in the criminal activities for a very long time. One of the respondents said that, “zviri nyore kutanga katsika so but kuti uzokaregedze zvakaoma.” (It is easier to start a habit but very difficult to stop it- male 62 years.) He said that there was no major reason to commit the crime that he is now serving sentence for but just found himself indulging in such a crime. The respondents who are in the old age who took part in the study reflected that they were in the prison because of petty crimes like stealing maize from someone’s field and stealing a hen from someone’s compound. These findings differ from Alder et al (2007), who cited that petty crime is no longer adventurous for old people, it is at this time that the aging out process begins for most individuals.

According to the research findings, the researcher noted that age also determine the type of crimes committed. Eighty percent (n=16) of the respondents show that young people are related with crimes that involve a lot of thinking and activities. People aged 50 and below are involved in crimes such as robbery, car hijacking, house breaking and fraud. Old people like the ones in their late 60s find it hard to perform crimes such as car hijacking and robbery but resort to committing petty crimes.
4.5 Summary

This chapter has highlighted the data gathered from reoffenders at Bindura Prison, the key informants and the observations. The data was analysed and discussed basing on the objectives of the research unpacking the factors contributing to reoffending among exprisoners in Bindura Prison after they had been rehabilitated. The researcher found out that the main key drivers for reoffending was poverty, unemployment and stigmatisation. The preceding chapter will therefore look at the main summary, conclusions and recommendations.
CHAPTER 5

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter provides a summary of the major findings which had been represented in chapter 4 in the form of graphs, pie charts and tables. It presents the major research conclusions drawn and the recommendations to the findings. The summary highlighted the main points of the study whilst the conclusion revealed the main findings. The recommendations were lastly presented to conclude the research.

5.1 Summary of findings

The study examined the factors contributing to reoffending among exprisoners in Zimbabwe after they had been rehabilitated. A case of Bindura Prison. The study was triggered by the people who continue to reoffend after serving a jail sentence and having being rehabilitated. A sample of twenty reoffenders from a population of 67 reoffenders in Bindura Prison was used. The researcher employed phenomenology research design which triangulated qualitative and quantitative research approaches. Purposive and simple random sampling techniques were used in the study to select relatives of the reoffenders, community service rehabilitation officers, prison officers and rehabilitation officers who were to be the key informants for the study.

One of the research objectives was to identify factors behind the repeat of criminal offences by released prisoners at Bindura Prison. The researcher found out that there are several factors which cause exprisoners to reoffend. The study findings highlighted that there are three main contributing factors which are poverty, unemployment and stigmatization. Other factors that cause exprisoners to reoffend is lack of education, influence of drugs and alcohol, false accusations, heredity, evil spirits and jail sentence. The above factors leave people with no option except to be involved in criminal activities.

Another objective of the study was to ascertain whether the rehabilitation offered at Bindura correctional institute is rehabilitative enough. The findings portrayed that there a number of rehabilitation programmes offered at Bindura Prison. These programmes are meant to equip the inmates with necessary skills that they will need in life in order to make a living. From the study carried out, the researcher observed that a number of reoffenders portray a failure of these rehabilitation programmes. Some of the crimes that these reoffenders commit, like robbery,
fraud, house breaking and car hijacking can be prevented if they apply what they have learned from the prison in their real life when they are released.

The third objective was to explore the link between age and the repeat of criminal offences. The study highlighted that there is a close relationship between age and the repeat of various criminal offences. Mostly people who are 50 years and below commit crimes that are highly dangerous and violent which require a lot of activities and strategic planning such as robbery and car hijacking. From the research conducted it can be noted that crime diminishes with age. As people grow older they tend to perform less criminal activities because they have less strength and poor skills on how to commit crime without being apprehended. According to the study, those that commit crimes in their late ages, they tend to commit petty crimes and are easily apprehended.

5.2 Conclusions

5.2.1 The study concluded that, there are several factors that motivate exprisoners to get into various criminal activities. The major factor being poverty. Majority of people are earning salaries which are far below the poverty datum line including majority of civil servants. As such disposable income is not sufficient for their daily needs. There are also other factors that contribute to reoffending among exprisoners such as lack of education, influence of drugs and alcohol, false accusations, heredity, evil spirits and jail sentence.

5.2.2 Unemployment is another factor which contribute to reoffending amongst exprisoners. Majority of the reoffenders from the sample were uneducated making it very difficult for them to get employment hence they were involved in illegal gold panning.

5.2.3 Stigmatization is a serious and vibrant factor that also cause exprisoners to reoffend even after they had been successfully rehabilitated. Due to stigmatization, exprisoners face challenges in securing jobs and making friends in their societies because of their criminal record and as a result these exprisoners fail to suit in the society and are left with no option except to pursue with the criminal activities.

5.2.4 The study concludes that there are a number of rehabilitation programmes offered at Bindura Prison that are designed to transform the life of prisoners and to equip inmates with the necessary skills needed in life. However, these rehabilitation programmes are very few as compared to the number of prisoners at the correctional institute and they are not talent based. The rehabilitation programmes seem to be benefiting other prisoners whilst other prisoners are
failing to benefit from them. To a greater extent those who fail to benefit from them end up committing other crimes hence resulting in an increase in the reoffending rates.

5.2.5 From the research conducted one can safely conclude that to a greater extent rehabilitation programmes are failing to rehabilitate prisoners because of the negative perception that prisoners have towards various rehabilitation programmes. Many prisoners believe that most of the rehabilitation programmes like farming are designed to punish them whilst other rehabilitation programmes like sewing, mechanics and car wash are meant to benefit the Prison staff members, so they do not take them seriously whereas others do not even want to participate.

5.2.6 The study concluded that although there are a number of rehabilitation programmes available at the Prison the programmes are not up to standard. It seems as if they are done for the sake of fulfilling the Zimbabwe Prisons and Correction Services mission statement which state that they are responsible for the protection of the society from criminal elements through the incarceration and rehabilitation of offenders. The programmes are not up to standard because of lack of resources instead of prisoners to learn new things they concentrate on mending old things.

5.2.7 However, it cannot be concluded that rehabilitation is a complete failure. There are other prisoners who would have benefited from these rehabilitation programmes but they are forced to reoffend after they are released from the prison because of lack of capital to start their own projects on what they would have learnt.

5.2.8 The results of the study indicated that there is a link between age and the repeat of criminal offences. Most of the crimes that are committed by prisoners are determined by age. Seriously dangerous and violent crimes are usually performed by young people. From the study it can be noted that majority of the reoffenders were first incarcerated between the age of 18-25. As the age increases the rate of reoffending decreases because old people have lesser strength and skills to perform criminal activities and their responsibilities decrease as they are looked after by their family or the government.

5.3 Recommendations

5.3.1 The study found out that the major factors contributing to reoffending amongst exprisoners is poverty which is caused by salaries which are far below poverty datum line.
Prisoners upon release should be educated and encouraged to start their own consortiums or cooperatives with family members or friends so as to cab poverty.

5.3.2 The study found out that another cause for reoffending amongst exprisoners is unemployment which is caused by lack of education and illegality of gold panning. Prisoners who would have participated in various rehabilitation programmes should be given certificates of what they would have done in the prison in order for them to be able to secure jobs. The government should legalize gold panning and also the prison should provide ordinary level education and where possible up to tertiary education as part of rehabilitation program.

5.3.3 The study also found out that stigmatization is another vibrant factor that caused exprisoners to reoffend, therefore the government in collaboration with the Zimbabwe Prison and Correctional Service should launch awareness campaigns whereby they educate the society about exprisoners so that people will not have negative attitude towards exprisoners. The prison should also have other professionals like Social Workers and Psychologist who are specifically meant for counselling and follow ups of released prisoners to help them integrate into the society and help them deal with the challenges that they will be facing in the society. They should also identify prisoners at higher risk for re-offending and develop an appropriate service plan for them.

5.3.4 The study found out that not all prisoners are benefiting from the rehabilitation programmes offered at the Prison because the programmes are few and not talent based. The prison should provide a wide range of rehabilitation programmes that accommodates every inmate in the prison and the programmes should tally with the with prisoners talents such as acting, basketball, cricket, carpentry and poultry.

5.3.5 It was also found out that negative perception of prisoners towards various rehabilitation programmes offered by the prison has resulted in rehabilitation being a failure causing exprisoners to reoffend, therefore prisoners should be educated about the importance of these rehabilitation programmes. They should be given full information as to why they should participate and explain fully the objective of the rehabilitation programmes before the prisoners took part in any of these rehabilitation programmes.
5.3.6 The government together with the Public Private sector Partnership should sponsor prisons with the resources and materials that are needed in order to have quality rehabilitation programmes such as sewing materials, chemicals needed in car wash and tools box. The Zimbabwe Prison and Correctional Services should also evaluate programmes and replicate those that are successful and cost-effective.

5.3.7 The study also found out that there are other prisoners who would had been successfully rehabilitated and are able to start their own projects or businesses from the skills that they would have learnt, however, due to lack of capital to start their own projects they are forced to reoffend. The Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Service should create links for released prisoners with the banks so that those who are ready to start their projects or businesses can be given loans.

5.3.8 It was found out that there is a link between age and the repeat of criminal offences. Most of the crimes that are committed by prisoners are determined by their age. According to the research carried out it can be noted that majority of the reoffenders were first incarcerated between the age of 18-25. The Zimbabwe Prison and Correctional Services should device mechanisms that cater for the young offenders to prevent them from reoffending such as avoiding mixing the first offenders with habitual criminals or other criminals and should have programmes that are specifically designed for them like education programmes.
REFERENCES


The Sunday Mail In-depth (December 1-7 2013) Rehabilitation is as vital as punishment. Zimbabwe.

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Miss Tinotenda C. Muchena
Bindura University Science Education
BINDURA

Dear Madam,

REQUEST TO UNDERTAKE RESEARCH PROJECT AT BINDURA COURT

Reference is made to your application to undertake your research project at this court.

Please be advised that we do not take social work students, but you may apply through our head office for authority or approval.

Thank you for showing interest in our organization.

Yours faithfully,

D. NGWINDIMA

FOR: PROVINCIAL MAGISTRATE: MASH CENTRAL
16 August 2013

Tinotenda C. Muchena
Stand 196, Jumbe Street
Chapadze
Bindura

Re: REQUEST FOR AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT RESEARCH PROJECT:
T.C. MUCHENA: BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND
EDUCATION: BINDURA MAGISTRATES COURT

Your letter dated 26th July 2013 on the above matter refers.

Please be advised that authority for you to conduct research on your chosen topic is hereby granted at Bindura Magistrates Court.

For: CHIEF MAGISTRATE

c.c. Provincial Head – Mashonaland Central – Attention: Mr Singano
ZIMBABWE PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICE

Telephone : 706501/2/3/4, 777384
Telegrams: "PENAL", HARARE
Fax : 754157
E-Mail : znp@zim.gov.zw

Tinotenda C Muchena
196 Jumbe St, Chipadze
Bindura

24 February 2014

APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH IN THE ZPCS

1. The above subject refers

2. Your application for permission to conduct research at Bindura Prison entitled: "An investigation on the causes behind people’s reconviction after they have been rehabilitated" was approved.

3. You can therefore make arrangements to visit Bindura Prison at your convenient time during working hours.

4. On completion of your research, you are required to submit both hard and soft copies of your findings to the Research and Development office for the Commissioner General’s information. During your data collection, you are required to observe all the necessary rules and regulations including ethics appertaining to your study and you shall not be allowed to divulge any information regarding the operations of the ZPCS.

5. By copy of this letter, the OC Mashonaland Region and OIC Bindura Prison are advised of the approval.

F. Mukamangana (CHIEF PRISON OFFICER)
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Action
SO- Security
Info
OC- Mashonaland Region
OIC- Chikurubi Female Prison
SO- Personnel
SO- Admin
Research and Development

File
ZIMBABWE PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICE

DECLARATION FOR RESEARCH/ATTACHMENT IN THE ZIMBABWE PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

I, Chirita C. Muchena, I.D Number: 16-16445032, a student at Chinhupa University, am subject to the conditions prescribed in the OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT Chapter 11:09 part 4(2)(b) which states:

Any person who publishes or communicates such model, article, document or information to any person in any manner or for any purpose prejudicial to the safety or interests of Zimbabwe; shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding twenty thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding twenty years or both such imprisonment.

I am fully aware of the serious consequences which may follow on breach of these provisions.

I further understand that those provisions apply not only during my period of research in the Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Service but also after my period of research has ceased.

I acknowledge that my research will commence from April 2014 to August 2015.

This done at PCSS, PCST, in Zimbabwe, this 30th...day of March 2014.

Signature: ____________________________

Witness: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________
Appendix 4

INTERVIEW GUIDE

THE INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR THE FAMILY MEMBERS OR RELATIVES OF THE REOFFENDERS.

My name is Muchena Tinotenda. I am a student undertaking a degree in Social Work at Bindura University of Science Education. I am carrying out a research on the factors contributing to reoffending among exprisoners in Zimbabwe after rehabilitation. A case of Bindura Prison. The research is carried out in partial fulfillment of the requirements of a social work degree. You are kindly requested to answer the following questions as it may indirectly or directly benefit many people, policy formulators and organizations such as ZACRO, ZPF and IPF among others to take action in addressing the factors that causes people to reoffend.

Please note that you have the right to decide whether you want to participate in the research or not. You also have the right to withdraw from participating if you feel uncomfortable when answering the questions. All the information that we are going to discuss will be kept private and confidential. The information will not be shared with anyone but will be used for academic purposes only.

1. Is your relative a male or a female?
2. How old is your relative?
3. What is his/her marital status?
4. What is the highest level of education that your relative attained?
5. How many people did he/she look after before being incarcerated?
6. Was your relative employed before incarceration? Yes/No.
   a) If not what was his/her source of income?
7. Why is your relative currently in custody?
8. How frequent do you visit to see your relative?
   a) Are there any other people who visit your relative besides you the family members? 
      Yes/No.
9. What was the first crime committed?
   a) How old was he/she when first incarcerated?
   b) What do you think was the reason for the crime committed?
   c) What type of punishment was given for the crime committed?
d) Do you think the punishment or the sentence was fair? Yes/NO
   i. If No, what are your reasons?
   ii. What do you think is the suitable punishment for such crime?

10. What was the reaction of the following people like when your relative was released from the prison?
   a) The spouse?
   b) The children?
   c) Close relatives?
   d) Neighbours?
   e) Church members?

11. When your relative was released from the prison, did you notice any change in behavior or character?
   a) Did you notice any new skills?

12. After the release from the prison, did your relative manage to make any friends in the society? Yes/No.
   a) If Yes do you know how many?
   b) If No, what do you think could be the reason?

13. Did your relative manage to secure a job after being released from the prison? Yes/No.
   a) If yes, what type of a job did your relative managed to secure?
   b) If No, what do you think could be the reason?

14. When your relative was released from the prison, did he/she get involved in any community development?

15. How long did it take before your relative was incarcerated again?

16. What was the second crime committed?
   a) What do you think could be the reason that caused your relative to commit another crime?

17. Is there any history of someone or people in your family being incarcerated? Yes/No.

18. From your own perspective what can you say about the rehabilitation of Bindura prison?
   a) Are there any recommendations that you can make.

Thank you for your participation
Appendix 5

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE REOFFENDERS

My name is Muchena Tinotenda. I am a student undertaking a degree in Social Work at Bindura University of Science Education. I am carrying out a research on the investigation behind people’s reconviction after rehabilitation. The research is carried out in partial fulfilment of the requirements of a social work degree. You are kindly requested to answer the following questions as it may indirectly or directly benefit many people, authorities and organisations such as ZACRO among others to take action in addressing the factors that causes people to reoffend.

Please note that you have the right to decide whether you want to participate in the research or not. You also have the right to withdraw from participating if you feel uncomfortable when answering the questionnaire. All the information that you will give will be kept private and confidential. Information gathered will mainly serve academic purposes.

SECTION A

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Sex Male [ ] Female [ ]
2. Age [ ]
3. Marital status Never married [ ] Married [ ] Widow [ ] Divorced [ ]
4. Level of education Primary [ ] Secondary [ ] Tertiary [ ] None [ ]
5. Home area …………………………………………………………………………………………………………
6. Number of dependents ……………………………………………………………………………………………
7. Were you employed before you were incarcerated Yes/ No
   a) If you were employed what type of a job did you do?
      …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….
b) If you were not employed what was your source of income?
..........................................................................................................................................

SECTION B

THE INCARCERATION PROCESS

8. Why are you in prison currently?
..........................................................................................................................................

9. How frequent do people visit to see you?
..........................................................................................................................................

10. What was the first crime that you committed?
..........................................................................................................................................

11. How old were you when you were first incarcerated?
..........................................................................................................................................

12. Could there be a reason(s) for committing such a crime? If yes can you please explain?
..........................................................................................................................................

13. What type of punishment were you given for the crime committed? (Duration)
..........................................................................................................................................

14. How long did you take before you were incarcerated again?
..........................................................................................................................................

15. What was the second crime that you committed?
..........................................................................................................................................

a) Could there be a reason for committing another crime? Yes/ NO

b) If yes what could be the reason?
..........................................................................................................................................

16. In your family, do you have history of someone who was incarcerated before? Yes/ No

a) If yes, if you can remember how many? ...........................................................................
SECTION C
LIFE OUTSIDE THE PRISON

17. What was the reaction of your family members like after you were released from the prison?
   a) Your spouse
       .................................................................................................................................
   b) Your children
       .................................................................................................................................
   c) Your parents
       .................................................................................................................................
   d) Your brothers and sisters
       .................................................................................................................................

18. What was the reaction of other people such as friends, close relatives, church members and your neighbours when they first saw you after your release?
   a) Your close relatives
       .................................................................................................................................
   b) Your friends
       .................................................................................................................................
   c) Your neighbours
       .................................................................................................................................
   d) Your church members
       .................................................................................................................................

19. The first time you were released from the prison did you manage to get a job? Yes/No
   a) If yes, what type of a job?
       .................................................................................................................................
   b) If No what could be the reason?
       .................................................................................................................................

20. Did you manage to make any friends in the society when you were released from the prison? Yes/NO
   a) If Yes, how many friends did you manage to make in the society? ......................
   b) If No, what do you think could be the reason?
       .................................................................................................................................
SECTION D

REHABILITATION

21. During your stay in prison what would you spend most of your time doing?
   ……………………………………………………………………………………………
   ……………………………………………………………………………………………

22. Are there any rehabilitation activities or programs that were offered by the prison during your stay in the prison? Yes/No
   a) If yes, can you please outline them
      ……………………………………………………………………………………………
      ……………………………………………………………………………………………
      ……………………………………………………………………………………………
      ……………………………………………………………………………………………
   b) Which activity did you take part in?
      ……………………………………………………………………………………………
      ……………………………………………………………………………………………
   c) Did you enjoy the rehabilitation activities that were offered to you? Yes/No.
      i. If yes, what do you think are the benefits of participating in such activity?
         ……………………………………………………………………………………………
         ……………………………………………………………………………………………
      ii. If No, what could be the reason?
         ……………………………………………………………………………………………
         ……………………………………………………………………………………………

23. Did you manage to make friends whilst you were in prison? Yes/ No.
   a) If yes how many?
      ……………………………………………………………………………………………
   b) If No what could be the reason?
      ……………………………………………………………………………………………
      ……………………………………………………………………………………………

24. What can you say about the rehabilitation programs offered at Bindura Prison?
   ……………………………………………………………………………………………
   ……………………………………………………………………………………………

66
a) What are your recommendations?

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..........................................................................................................................
..........................................................................................................................
..........................................................................................................................
..........................................................................................................................

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION
Appendix 6

OBSERVATION GUIDE

The observation guide is for the researcher. It has been designed so as to guide the researcher when conducting her observations. The researcher is going to use this research tool to focus mainly on rehabilitation. In this case prisoners mainly refer to the reoffenders. Below is what the researcher has got in mind.

1. The various rehabilitation programs offered at Bindura Prison.
2. The number of prisoners who participate in the various rehabilitation programs or activities available at Bindura Prison. (The percentage of the recidivist who participate out of the total number of the entire recidivist.)
   a) The number of women and men who participate in the rehabilitation programs or activities offered at Bindura Prison.
3. The way the rehabilitation officers’ conduct the rehabilitation programs.
   a) The relationship between the prisoners and the rehabilitation officers.
4. The attitude of prisoners towards the rehabilitation programs offered. (Do the prisoners have positive attitude or negative attitude)
   - Are there any signs of fear?
   - Any signs of discomfort?
5. The relation between the prisoners themselves.
6. Of all the rehabilitation programs available at Bindura Prison, which one is the most preferred?