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## Factors Associated with Juvenile Delinquency: A Case of Arusha Juvenile Remand Home in Arusha City-Tanzania

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### Keywords:

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Remand Home,  
Arusha City.

The assessment of factors related to juvenile delinquency was conducted at Arusha Remand Home in Arusha City. This study adopted a cross-sectional design and gathered both quantitative and qualitative data from various primary and secondary sources. A sample of 103 respondents was selected using a simple random sampling technique. Structured interviews using researcher-administered questionnaires were employed to collect primary data from the participants. In-depth interviews were conducted with selected juveniles to obtain insights into the delinquency in the city. Descriptive statistics and the Likelihood Ratio Chi-Square test were employed for quantitative data analysis, utilising IBM SPSS Statistics version 20. The findings indicated that theft offences accounted for a significant proportion of juvenile delinquency (45.6%), followed by abuse (29.1%) and vandalism (25.2%). The primary causes of delinquent behaviours were identified as poverty (67%), peer influence (28.2%), and family dysfunction (4.9%). Additionally, the study identified gender, household size, parenting style, and the causes of committing crimes as factors associated with juvenile delinquency. Based on these findings, it is recommended that the Arusha City Council, in collaboration with other stakeholders, develop targeted interventions and initiatives to address the specific challenges faced by juveniles. Government welfare officers in Arusha City should design educational programmes aimed at equipping families with the necessary knowledge and skills to create a nurturing environment for their children, thereby guiding juveniles onto a positive path. Implementing these recommendations aims to prevent and reduce juvenile delinquency and promote the overall well-being and positive development of young individuals in Arusha City.

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## INTRODUCTION

Juvenile delinquency is a complex phenomenon that affects communities worldwide, with detrimental effects on individuals, families, and society as a whole. This has existed in the world for many centuries and has been an issue of concern due to its detrimental effects on society (Hazra, 2021). It is defined as the criminal or antisocial behaviour of children (juveniles) below the age of 18 who engage in criminal activities (Neissl, 2020). Juvenile delinquency arises from various factors across societies, including poverty and family dysfunction. Family dysfunction such as parental neglect or abuse, contributes to a child's delinquent behaviour due to the absence of social bonds between juveniles and their parents (Kiche, 2020). Poverty, for instance, is a leading cause of delinquent behaviour, as it often leads to poor living conditions, domestic violence, lack of education, and limited opportunities for young people, especially in developing countries (Hazra, 2021). Substance abuse, mental health issues, peer pressure, and cultural and societal factors also lead to delinquent behaviours.

Some delinquent behaviours are influenced by the environment; for example, youths in the Middle East engage in such behaviours as a result of radicalisation by terrorist groups and exposure to wars with neighbouring countries (Ahmad, 2020). Moreover, juvenile delinquency rates may rise as

the country advances in technology and economic development and experiences social change. For example, records show Western Europe, the USA and Japan have high levels of juvenile delinquency. Harsh treatment of juveniles by parents exacerbates the problem of youths engaging in substance use and narcotics and other types of drugs, which have been indicated to be a relatively disturbing form of abnormality and are on the rapid increase (Bosk et al., 2021).

In Africa, juvenile delinquency is a growing concern, with an increasing number of young people involved in criminal activities. Juvenile delinquency has shown a sharp increase in rapidly developing countries of Africa like Ghana, Kenya, and Nigeria. The crimes include stealing from shops, houses, and cars; and unauthorised taking of cars, usually for joy-riding (Waruiz et al., 2021). Suggested causes of delinquency in Africa include poverty, lack of education opportunities, family dysfunction leading to poor control over juvenile decisions, and exposure to violence which contribute to the problem (Dakogyeke et al., 2020). These issues are aggravated by the lack of effective prevention and intervention programs, as well as the limited availability of resources and services for young people. Prevention efforts include controls on alcoholic beverages, police patrols, and special police juvenile units. While the management of juvenile offenders varies by country, most have their juvenile justice systems, including courts and

correctional facilities and services (Fufa et al., 2021)

In Tanzania, juvenile delinquency is a significant problem, with a high prevalence of young people involved in criminal activities. Crimes include targeting people carrying bags, backpacks, computer cases, cameras, purses, or items left in plain sight inside a vehicle. Analysis of the situation in Tanzania as of March 2017 indicated that the majority of juveniles arrested were linked to property theft and snatching away. In Arusha City, the crimes are home and property theft 35.9%, robbery 26.2%, vandalism and public property destruction 43.2%, verbal abuse 30.86%, drug dealing and street gang 31.02% (URT, 2017).

Arusha City, located in Tanzania, is renowned for its thriving tourism industry. However, the city is grappling with an alarming rise in delinquent behaviours among its youth population. These behaviours, which encompass theft, vandalism, drug abuse, and violent crimes, not only jeopardise the well-being of young individuals but also have adverse effects on the local economy, particularly the tourism sector, which serves as a significant source of revenue. Previous studies in Tanzania have primarily focused on the juvenile justice system, administration, the rights of detained juvenile delinquents, and the effectiveness of correctional measures (Haule, 2020; Kadilu, 2018; Mwihomeke, 2022). Limited literature exists on understanding the underlying factors contributing to delinquent behaviours from a societal perspective. Therefore, the objective of this study was to examine the nature and prevalence of delinquent behaviours among young people in Arusha City and investigate the associated factors. The findings will inform the development of targeted prevention and intervention strategies aimed at reducing delinquent behaviours, fostering community safety and prosperity, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the tourism industry in Arusha City.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### Theoretical Framework

This study was guided by the Anomie Theory, which was originally formulated by Robert Merton in the 1940s, building upon the concept of anomie introduced by French sociologist Emile Durkheim. Merton's theory posits that delinquency arises when individuals lack the means to achieve personal happiness through legal avenues, leading them to resort to unlawful methods to fulfil their goals (Bernburg, 2019). Essentially, the Anomie Theory suggests that most individuals strive to attain culturally recognised goals, but when access to these goals is blocked for certain groups or individuals, a state of anomie emerges. This state is characterised by deviant behaviour, including rebellion, retreat, ritualism, innovation, and/or conformity (Okafor, 2017).

The theory primarily focuses on utilitarian motives, suggesting that people engage in criminal acts because they lack alternative opportunities. This belief system contributes to an increase in juvenile delinquency when individuals face obstacles such as unequal social status and limited opportunities (Okafor, 2017). The Anomie Theory holds particular relevance in the context of developing countries regarding juvenile delinquency as it sheds light on the social and economic conditions that foster deviant behaviour among young people.

Factors such as poverty, limited access to education and employment opportunities, income inequality, and inadequate social support systems can create an environment conducive to anomie (Bernburg, 2019). Moreover, the theory extends to explain experiences of social disorganisation resulting from the breakdown of traditional social structures and cultural conflicts arising from clashes between traditional values and new societal expectations, thereby influencing delinquent behaviours. While the Anomie Theory does not directly address family dysfunction, it offers a relevant framework for comprehending delinquency behaviour, particularly

in the context of the study's setting in Tanzania. As a developing country, Tanzanian juveniles encounter various constraints such as poverty and other challenges. In this regard, the Anomie Theory provides a fitting lens through which to understand the dynamics of delinquency behaviour within the socioeconomic conditions prevalent in the country. By examining the impact of unequal social status, limited opportunities, and cultural conflicts on juvenile delinquency, the theory can effectively shed light on the underlying factors contributing to delinquent behaviours in Tanzania.

### **Empirical Review**

Juvenile delinquency encompasses a range of criminal behaviours committed by individuals under the age of 18, mirroring the criminal activities observed among adults (Kadilu, 2018). Similar to adult offenders, juveniles can engage in severe and violent crimes, including assault, robbery, and even homicide. Property crimes, such as graffiti and vandalism, also account for a significant portion of juvenile offences, constituting approximately 25 per cent (Hampton, 2020). Despite their young age, teenagers possess the capability to commit a wide array of criminal acts comparable to those committed by adults. Although offences like murder and other violent crimes are possible, the most prevalent types of criminal activities among juveniles include theft (e.g., shoplifting, stealing bikes, pilfering from backpacks), burglary (e.g., unlawfully entering a residence or building with the intent to steal), vandalism (e.g., graffiti, defacement of walls, damage to vehicles, puncturing tires), drug and alcohol offences (e.g., purchasing and possessing alcohol or marijuana), weapons possession (e.g., firearms, knives, brass knuckles, pepper spray), assault and battery (e.g., verbal bullying, physical altercations like pushing or hitting others), fraud (e.g., sending spam emails to obtain personal information, writing fraudulent checks, impersonation for personal gain), and unauthorised use of motor vehicles (e.g., driving

without a license or utilising someone else's vehicle without permission) (Christopher, 2018).

### **Social Factors Leading to Juvenile Delinquency**

Typically, the primary environment in a child's life consists of their parents, older siblings, and close relatives with whom they reside. This environment fosters their familiarity with the world and establishes daily patterns of interaction, thereby facilitating their initial socialisation process (Teshfami et al., 2020). Parents and the entire family bear the responsibility of shaping the attitudes and morals of children, aiming to steer them away from delinquent behaviours that could tarnish the family's reputation. Above all, the crucial aspect lies in how parents can instil the right character in their children, ensuring that their actions remain morally upright and compassionate (Berkowitz et al., 2019).

In essence, education serves dual purposes: to cultivate intelligence and to nurture individuals into becoming morally upright human beings. While enhancing intellectual capabilities may not be arduous, fostering good character development necessitates a challenging and intricate process (Ahmad Ali, 2020). The education provided to every child significantly influences their character, including their moral values. In the absence of adequate education, youths may resort to delinquency as a substitute for learning (Rodgers, 2019). A strong moral foundation in every child serves as a bedrock for effectively navigating the various challenges and experiences encountered in life. Generally, continued exposure to crimes and harsh environments coupled with a lack of guidance and proper education propels delinquent behaviours (Muhammad, 2018, Marsay, 2018).

### **The Economic Factors Leading to Juvenile Delinquency**

The scarcity of family resources within these communities has exerted a detrimental impact on the well-being of juveniles and young individuals.

Families grappling with hardships find themselves shouldering burdens without assistance, and unfortunately, some of this weight falls upon the shoulders of these adolescents. Consequently, many adolescents contend with an array of challenges within hostile and unsafe environments (Rodgers, 2019). In the case of low-income students, the absence of adequate educational resources often drives them towards criminal activities. With insufficient resources hindering their educational success, many youths lose interest in their studies and gravitate towards the streets. Moreover, low-income communities lack robust educational systems for nurturing the youth. The dearth of resources within these communities perpetuates an ongoing cycle of poverty and crime among young individuals (Berkowitz et al., 2019).

Typically, existing literature on juveniles in Tanzania has predominantly concentrated on aspects such as the juvenile justice system, administration, the rights of detained juvenile delinquents, and the effectiveness of correctional measures (Haule, 2020; Kadilu, 2018; Mwihomeke, 2022). As a result, there is a scarcity of literature that delves into understanding the underlying factors that contribute to delinquent behaviours from a societal perspective. Consequently, this present study aims to address this gap by examining the nature and prevalence of delinquent behaviours among young people in Arusha City while also investigating the associated factors. Through this research, a valuable contribution will be made to the existing body of knowledge in this field.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### Study Area

The research was carried out at the Arusha Juvenile Remand Home, located in Arusha City, a rapidly growing urban centre situated in northern Tanzania just below Mt. Meru. Arusha remand home serves as a correction centre for juveniles found guilty of committing an offence. Nestled at an elevation of 1,500 meters above sea level, Arusha serves as a

prominent gateway to East Africa's renowned tourist attractions, including national parks and the vibrant Masai culture. In recent years, the city has also emerged as a popular hub for international meetings, conventions, and conferences. Notably, Arusha has gained prominence as the primary trading centre for Tanzanite, a unique gemstone exclusively mined in the northern regions of Tanzania. The selection of Arusha City as the study location was driven by several factors. Firstly, the presence of a juvenile remand home facilitated access to juveniles who had committed a range of offences. Additionally, statistics from the Crime Rates and Safety Index in Arusha for the year 2017 revealed a concerning prevalence of various offences, such as property theft (35.9%), robbery (26.2%), vandalism and public property destruction (43.2%), verbal abuse in public spaces (30.86%), and involvement in drug dealing and street gangs (31.02%) (URT, 2017). Given the city's significance in national development and its integral role in fostering peace and tranquillity, it is imperative to address the issue of juvenile delinquency effectively.

### Research Design, Data Collection Methods, and Data Types and Sources

This study employed a cross-sectional research design, which allowed for the collection of data from respondents at a specific point in time. A mixed approach was utilised, combining both quantitative and qualitative methods for data collection and analysis. The target population consisted of juveniles residing in the Arusha Remand Home. The quantitative component involved the utilisation of a structured interview method, where data was gathered through a face-to-face questionnaire administered to the juveniles. This approach aimed to gather specific information and statistical data about the factors associated with delinquent behaviours.

In addition to the quantitative approach, the study incorporated a qualitative component, employing in-depth interviews. These interviews were

conducted with selected juveniles, community leaders, and law enforcement officials at the Arusha Remand Home. The purpose of these interviews was to delve into their perspectives and experiences, exploring the nuanced factors associated with delinquent behaviours. Furthermore, secondary data were collected from various official documents and unpublished materials specific to the study area. This included crime records and information regarding the state of juveniles in different urban areas across the country. The utilisation of secondary data aimed to provide additional context and a comprehensive understanding of the broader factors influencing delinquency among juveniles. By employing a mixed approach and utilising both primary and secondary data sources, this study sought to gather comprehensive insights into the factors contributing to delinquent behaviours among juveniles in the Arusha Remand Home.

### Sampling Frame, Sampling Procedures and Sample Size

The sampling frame utilised in this study comprised a comprehensive list of all juveniles currently residing at the remand home. The individual juvenile served as the sampling unit for the research. To ensure a fair and unbiased selection process, the simple random sampling technique was employed. This method provided an equal opportunity for any juvenile to be chosen and participate in the study. From the population of 227 juveniles in the Arusha Juvenile Remand Home, a sample size of 103 respondents was selected. The determination of the sample size took into consideration the known population, and the calculation followed the formula developed by Cochran in 1967 specifically designed for known populations. The formula employed for calculating the sample size is as follows:

$$n = \frac{Z^2 pqN}{e^2(N-1) + Z^2 pq}$$

Where  $n$  = sample size of older persons,  $N$  = Population of older persons (227),  $z$  = the value

of standard variate at a given confidence level and to be worked out from tables showing area under the normal curve ( $Z = 1.96$ ),  $p$  = sample proportion of older persons assumed to be cared for and supported by families (0.5),  $q$  = sample proportion of older persons assumed not cared for and supported by families ( $1-p$ ),  $e$  = given precision rate or acceptable error set at 7%

Therefore, the sample size for this study was;

$$n = \frac{(1.96)^2 * 0.5 * 0.5 * 227}{(0.07)^2(227 - 1) + 1.96^2 * 0.5 * (1 - 0.5)} = 103$$

### Data Processing, Analysis and Presentation

The collected data underwent systematic processing and analysis utilising IBM SPSS Statistics version 20. This involved several essential steps, such as data editing, coding, entry, and cleaning, to ensure accuracy and remove any errors or inconsistencies. These measures were undertaken to enhance the quality and reliability of the data. The analysis of the study encompassed both descriptive and inferential statistics. Descriptive statistics, including frequencies and percentages, were employed to summarise and present the characteristics of the collected data. These descriptive measures allowed for a comprehensive overview of the variables and their distributions within the study sample. In addition to descriptive statistics, inferential analysis was conducted using the chi-square test. This statistical test enabled the examination of relationships and associations between variables, allowing for the identification of any significant patterns or dependencies. To effectively present the analysed data, tables and figures were utilised, providing clear visual representations of the findings. Tables offered a concise summary of the descriptive statistics and inferential analysis, while figures graphically illustrated important trends and patterns.

### *The Chi-Square Test*

The chi-square test was employed in this study to examine the association between socioeconomic variables, namely age, gender, parental status, and delinquent behaviours. This statistical test was selected due to the categorical nature of both the dependent and independent variables. The chi-square test is a suitable choice for analysing categorical data as it allows for the evaluation of the observed frequencies against the expected frequencies, thereby determining if there is a significant association between the variables under investigation.

The mathematical formula for the chi-square test is as follows:

$$X^2 = \sum \frac{(O_i - E_i)^2}{E_i}$$

Whereby;  $X^2 = Chi - squared$ ,  $O_i = observed\ value$ ,  $E_i = expected\ value$

By calculating the chi-square test statistic using this formula, the study aimed to determine if there was a statistically significant relationship between the socioeconomic variables and delinquent behaviours. The selection of the chi-square test as the appropriate statistical method, given the categorical nature of the variables, enabled a rigorous examination of the association between these factors. This analysis provided valuable insights into the potential influence of socioeconomic variables on delinquent behaviours among the study population.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

This chapter presents the study findings and discussions based on the analysis of the factors associated with juvenile delinquency at the Arusha Juvenile Remand Home. The results presented include characteristics of respondents which are important in understanding the factors associated with juvenile delinquency. Also, the delinquent behaviours, parental style of respondents, place of residence, and reasons for engaging in delinquent

behaviours are presented. The results are organised and presented using texts, tables, and graphs. This part also shows the discussion of findings to show what they mean in the study area and in comparison, to similar studies conducted elsewhere.

### **Characteristics of Respondents**

*Table 1* presents the findings indicating the distribution of juvenile delinquents by gender. The results reveal that boys constitute a larger proportion (68%) of the delinquent population compared to girls. This suggests that a significant number of young males are involved in criminal activities, potentially driven by their quest to establish their identity. This observation may be particularly relevant in the context of African cultures, where patriarchal norms prevail and males are traditionally considered the heads of households. Consequently, young males may feel compelled to confront life challenges at an earlier stage than females.

Additionally, the findings from *Table 1* indicate that delinquent behaviours peak during the age range of fifteen to the end of the juvenile age. The data reveals that juveniles below the age of 15 accounted for only a quarter of the delinquent population, while the majority (74.8%) of delinquents belonged to the age group of 15-17. This suggests that delinquent behaviours escalate as young individuals approach the transition from childhood to adulthood. It is possible that juveniles from economically disadvantaged families start grappling with their basic needs during the ages of 15-17, seeking independence from their families. As a result, they may engage in various delinquent activities, such as drug abuse and early sexual experiences, as they search for their own identity, leading to the commission of offences.

Furthermore, the findings in *Table 1* reveal the educational background of the sample of young offenders. Approximately 30.1% of the delinquents had attended primary school education, 65% had received secondary school education, and the

remaining 4.9% had never been to school. These findings suggest that educational attainment is not a significant deterrent to delinquent behaviours among the studied population.

Moreover, it was discovered that the juvenile delinquents at the Arusha remand home did not solely originate from Arusha city but also from surrounding districts. About 37.9% of the delinquents hailed from neighbouring districts such as Meru, Babati, Monduli, Kiteto, Karatu, and Longido, often engaging in casual work like car washing and petty business.

Generally, the findings from *Table 1* shed light on the gender distribution of delinquent juveniles, the age group most prone to delinquent behaviours, the educational background of the offenders, and the geographical origins of the delinquent population. These insights contribute to a better understanding of the factors influencing juvenile delinquency in the studied context and emphasise the need for targeted interventions and support mechanisms to address the underlying issues contributing to delinquent behaviours.

**Table 1: Characteristics of respondents**

Variable	Response		
	Frequency	Percentage	
Sex of respondent	Male	70	68.0
	Female	33	32.0
	Total	103	100.0
Age (years)	11-14	26	25.2
	15-17	77	74.8
	Total	103	100.0
Household size	1-4	48	46.6
	5-9	55	53.4
	Total	103	100
Education level	Never attended school	5	4.9
	Primary education	31	30.1
	Secondary education	67	65.0
Place of residence	Within Arusha city	64	62.1
	Outside Arusha city	39	37.9
	Total	103	100.0

**Parenting Style of Juvenile Delinquents**

Juveniles who have committed offences come from various upbringings and living environments. *Figure 1* provides insights into the types of parenting styles experienced by these juveniles, which can be instrumental in explaining delinquent behaviours. *Figure 1* displays the distribution of juvenile delinquents based on their living arrangements. The findings indicate that a significant proportion (42.7%) of these juveniles live with a single parent, followed by those who live with both parents. Additionally, 19.4% of delinquent juveniles are living alone on the streets.

This finding highlights social issues within society, such as family instability and the presence of street children. Existing literature supports the notion that family dysfunction contributes to juvenile delinquency (Okpa et al., 2021). In this study, in-depth interviews revealed that some juveniles resorted to living on the streets to escape conflicts within their families, particularly between parents.

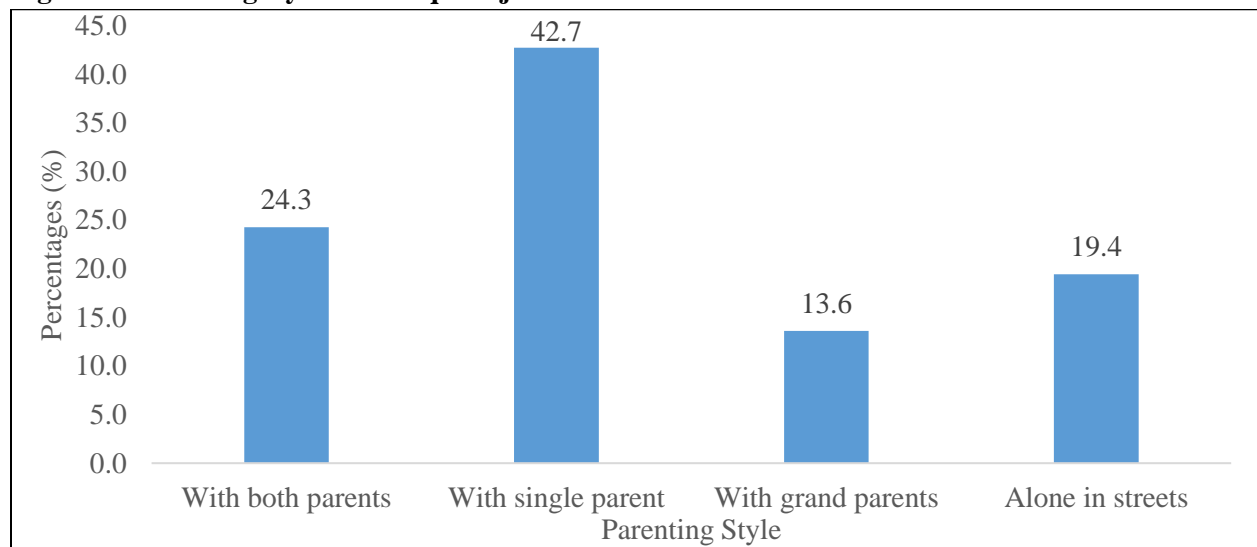
The research further revealed that the juveniles in the Arusha Juvenile Remand Home come from diverse backgrounds. For instance, some originate from dysfunctional families, including broken or separated families, while others come from



households headed by a single parent. More specifically, among those living with a single parent, 28.2% lived with the mother only, while 12.6% lived with the father only. These findings suggest that juveniles living with a single mother may be more prone to engaging in delinquent behaviour. Moreover, it was observed that most of these juveniles had little or no parental supervision, resulting in a lack of basic needs, parental love, guidance, and care, which, in turn, contributed to their involvement in delinquency (Tesfamichael et

al., 2020). Evidence from a study in South Africa confirms that fragmented families due to family conflicts create an unpleasant environment for youth and they decide to flee their homes or engage in delinquent behaviours (Marsay, 2018). These findings underscore the importance of addressing family dynamics and providing appropriate support and guidance for juveniles who may lack proper parental supervision or come from unstable family environments.

**Figure 1: Parenting style of delinquent juveniles**



**Offences Ever Committed by Juveniles at Arusha Remand Home**

The findings presented in *Table 2* highlight the diverse range of offences ever committed by juveniles in their life not necessarily leading to current remand. The delinquent behaviours mentioned include theft, drug abuse, sexual abuse, bullying, and vandalism. Among these, theft emerges as the most prevalent crime, accounting for 45.6% of the reported cases, while bullying represents the least common offence, comprising only 1.9% of the delinquencies. These findings are consistent with similar studies on child delinquency, such as the research conducted by Waruiz et al. (2021) in Nairobi, Kenya. The evidence suggested that the types of offences committed by juveniles

are comparable across different regions within the country. For example, the study by the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), encompassing various Tanzanian regions including Tanga, Kilimanjaro, Arusha, and Dar es Salaam, also identified theft as the most frequently committed offence among juveniles (Mwhomeke, 2022).

These results imply that many juveniles and young individuals find themselves in a struggle to meet their basic needs, leading them to engage in stealing and property crimes. Additionally, substance abuse plays a significant role in facilitating theft and robbery, as individuals seek to obtain money to support their drug habits and related substances (Okpa et al., 2021). Key informants from the Arusha Juvenile Remand Home corroborated this

information, indicating that the theft crimes committed by young offenders were often driven by the need to acquire funds for purchasing drugs. These findings underscore the importance of addressing the underlying factors contributing to juvenile delinquency, such as poverty, substance

abuse, and inadequate access to basic needs. Effective interventions should aim to provide support systems, rehabilitation programs, and educational initiatives to address these issues and guide juveniles towards more positive and productive paths.

**Table 2: Type of offences ever committed by juveniles (Multiple responses)**

Offence ever committed by juveniles	N	Percentage
Theft	47	45.6
Drug abuse	42	40.8
Sexual abuse	7	6.8
Bullying	2	1.9
Vandalism	10	9.7
Fighting	11	10.7
Armed robbery	5	4.9
Other offence	43	41.7%

Source: Field Data (2022)

**Juvenile Delinquency Led to the Remand**

The study’s results shed light on the specific delinquent behaviours that led to the current remand status of the juveniles. These behaviours, distinct from those previously committed, were the primary reasons for their remand. Analysis of the data presented in Table 3 highlights that the predominant offences were theft, abuse (including drug abuse and sexual abuse), and vandalism.

Theft emerged as a major crime, accounting for 45.6% of offences, indicating incidents involving the unauthorised taking of others’ belongings or property. Most of the studies conducted elsewhere in and outside Africa on juvenile delinquency conform to the findings of this study (Ahmad, 2020). Furthermore, instances of abuse, encompassing drug abuse and sexual abuse, were notable contributors to the juveniles’ remand status.

This suggests a concerning pattern of harmful behaviours inflicted upon others. Additionally, vandalism emerged as a prevalent issue, characterised by the destruction, defacement, or damage of public or private property without the owner’s consent. Such acts may encompass graffiti, the breaking of windows, damaging vehicles, or the destruction of various forms of property (Fufa et al., 2021). These findings emphasise the urgency of addressing these specific delinquent behaviours through comprehensive interventions. Efforts should focus on preventive measures, rehabilitation programs, and providing support systems that address the underlying causes of such behaviours (Mwihomeke and Jally, 2022). By tackling issues related to theft, abuse, and vandalism, society can work towards fostering a safer and more harmonious environment for all.

**Table 3: Delinquency behaviour which led to the remand**

Delinquent behaviour	Frequency	Percent
Theft	47	45.6
Abuse	30	29.1
Vandalism	26	25.2
Total	103	100.0

### Reasons for Engaging In Delinquent Behaviour

The study's findings reveal that juvenile delinquents had various underlying reasons that led to their involvement in delinquent behaviours. While multiple reasons were mentioned, the primary factors contributing to delinquency and subsequent remand were identified as poverty (67%), peer pressure (28.2%), and family dysfunction (4.9%). Poverty manifested itself in the juveniles' inability to fulfil their basic needs. The lack of sufficient food, and failure to obtain decent clothing and other essential items, such as school supplies, were challenging due to financial constraints (Hazra, 2021). The findings are also in line with findings from a similar study conducted in northern Ethiopia (Tesfamichael et al., 2020). These findings underscore the significant influence of poverty on the delinquent behaviours exhibited by juveniles. The struggle to meet their basic needs, including food, clothing, and educational materials, likely contributed to their engagement in stealing behaviours.

Furthermore, the study findings emphasise the significant influence of peer pressure on juvenile delinquency. According to the study, approximately 28.2% of juveniles in Arusha Juvenile Remand Home attributed their involvement in criminal activities and negative behaviours to the influence of their friends. Findings from a similar study conducted in Accra, Ghana, conform to these findings which reveal the role of peer pressure (Dako-gyeke et al., 2020). This was further exemplified by a poignant statement made by one of the interviewed juveniles:

*“My parents took good care of me, but when I started hanging out with a troublesome group of friends who were my age mates, they pressured me to drop out of school when I was in Form 1 at the age of 17. I joined my older friends in Namanga town, where we engaged in luring girls into our rented room and engaging in sexual misconduct. This eventually got us into trouble, and I found myself in the juvenile*

*remand home”* (Respondent No. 30, 16/7/2022).

Additionally, family dysfunction emerged as another contributing factor to juvenile delinquency, albeit at a lower rate of 4.9%. Family conflicts and parental neglect were identified as elements that played a role in the delinquent behaviours exhibited by juveniles (Boakye, 2020). This suggests that juveniles may not receive the necessary guidance and support during their transition to adulthood. Various similar studies found the same situation when exploring the possible causes of juvenile delinquency. For example, a study in Kenya concluded that one of the factors was the absence of social bonding between parents and juveniles (Kiche, 2020). A testimonial from one of the juveniles further supports this notion:

*“Both my parents were alive, but they decided to send me to live with my disciplinarian and strict grandmother. I ran away from her home and ended up on the streets, where I became involved in sniffing glue, smoking marijuana, and engaging in street lending”* (Respondent 19, 2022).

These findings shed light on the complex interplay between peer influence and family dynamics in shaping juvenile delinquency. They underscore the importance of addressing both peer pressure and family-related issues in interventions aimed at preventing and addressing delinquent behaviours among juveniles.

### Factors Associated with Delinquent Behaviour

The degree of association between the dependent and independent variables was assessed using the likelihood Chi-square ratio test, as depicted in Table 4. The results indicate a significant association between these variables. Specifically, gender ( $\chi^2 = 10.931$ , P-value = 0.004), household size ( $\chi^2 = 9.904$ , P-value = 0.007), parenting style ( $\chi^2 = 18.221$ , P-value = 0.006), and causes behind committing a crime that led to being remanded ( $\chi^2$

= 14.651, P-value = 0.005) were found to be significantly associated with juvenile delinquent behaviours, such as theft, abuse, and vandalism, in Arusha City. These findings align with a similar study conducted in South Africa on the relationship between substance use and delinquency among high school students, which found gender and socioeconomic status to be significantly associated with delinquent behaviours (Carney et al., 2013). Moreover, it has been consistently observed that boys exhibit a higher propensity for engaging in delinquent behaviours compared to girls (Hazra 2021). This suggests that specific challenges faced by boys during their transition from childhood to adulthood may contribute to this disparity, emphasising the need for gender-sensitive strategies to address juvenile delinquency.

Additionally, research conducted in Ethiopia on the social causes of juvenile delinquency has also indicated that juveniles involved in delinquent behaviours often hail from households with larger family sizes (Tesfamichael et al., 2020). This is particularly evident in economically disadvantaged households where limited resources are

insufficiently distributed among family members, leading to an inability to meet basic needs. Consequently, juveniles may resort to alternative means, such as theft, to survive. A similar study in India has further supported the link between poor parenting styles resulting from family dysfunction and juvenile delinquency (Hazra, 2021). This implies that a lack of close parent-child relationships may contribute to inadequate control and guidance, which can contribute to delinquent behaviours. Furthermore, the causes that led to remand, as highlighted in this study, have also been echoed in similar research conducted in different regions.

Poverty, peer pressure, and family dysfunction have consistently emerged as significant factors associated with juvenile delinquency (Kiche, 2020; Waruiz et al., 2021). These findings suggest that poverty serves as a foundational factor contributing to various forms of juvenile delinquent behaviours. The study's results underscore the importance of gender, household size, parenting style, and underlying causes as significant factors in understanding and addressing juvenile delinquency.

**Table 4: Factors associated with delinquent behaviour in Arusha City**

Variable		Likelihood Ratio Chi-square tests				
		Theft	Abuse	Vandalism	Chi-square	P-value
Gender	Male	30(42.9%)	27(38.6%)	13(18.6%)	10.913	0.004**
	Female	17(51.5%)	3(9.1%)	13(39.4%)		
Age	11-14	17(65.4%)	4(15.4%)	5(19.2%)	5.727	0.057
	15-17	30(39.0%)	26(33.8%)	21(27.3%)		
Household size	1-4	17(35.4%)	12(25.0%)	19(39.6%)	9.904	0.007**
	5-9	30(54.5%)	18(32.7%)	7(12.7%)		
Place of residence	Within the City	24(37.5%)	20(31.2%)	20(31.2%)	5.127	0.077
	Outside the city	23(59.0%)	10(25.9%)	6(15.4%)		
Parenting style	Both parents	8(32.0%)	10(40.0%)	7(28.0%)	18.221	0.006**
	Single parent	22(50.0%)	15(34.1%)	7(15.9%)		
	Grandparents	9(64.3%)	4(28.6%)	1(7.1%)		
	Alone in street	8(40.0%)	1(5.0%)	11(55.0%)		
Reasons for crime led to the remand	Poverty	37(52.9%)	13(18.6%)	20(28.6%)	14.651	0.005**
	Peer pressure	10(35.7%)	13(46.4%)	5(17.9%)		
	Family dysfunction	0(0.0%)	4(80.0%)	1(20.0%)		

Note: \*\* significant at 5%

## CONCLUSION

This study aimed to examine the factors related to juvenile delinquency in Arusha Juvenile Remand Home. The findings indicate that a significant majority of the delinquent juveniles were males, outnumbering females. Moreover, the age range of the juveniles mainly fell between 15 and 17 years. While a majority of the delinquents originated from Arusha city, a notable number also came from other districts within Arusha and Manyara regions. Furthermore, the study revealed that a considerable proportion of juvenile delinquents were raised by single parents, highlighting the limitations of this parenting style regarding juvenile behaviour. Additionally, it was evident that the delinquent juveniles had a history of engaging in various crimes before their remand. The specific offences that led to their detention were theft, abuse, and vandalism. Poverty, peer pressure, and family dysfunction were identified as significant factors contributing to the commission of these crimes. The study underscored the interplay of these factors as primary causes of delinquency and the relevance of the anomie theory to this study. It was also established that gender, household size, parenting style, and the underlying causes of criminal behaviour exhibited significant associations with juvenile delinquency in Arusha City. Lastly, this study shed light on the factors associated with juvenile delinquency in Arusha Juvenile Remand Home. The findings emphasised the importance of addressing poverty, peer pressure, and family dysfunction in efforts to prevent and mitigate juvenile delinquency. Furthermore, the study highlighted the significance of gender, household size, parenting style, and the causes of criminal behaviour as crucial factors in understanding and addressing juvenile delinquency in Arusha City.

## Recommendations

Given that delinquent behaviour tends to emerge early in life, this study proposes several recommendations. By acknowledging the connections between socioeconomic factors and

delinquent behaviours, policymakers and practitioners in the government can devise focused interventions and initiatives that target the unique challenges confronted by juveniles. These measures should aim to promote positive parenting practices and mitigate the impact of poverty on delinquent behaviours.

Parents, children, and the community must collaborate with the government in implementing early interventions to address this issue effectively. Government welfare officers in Arusha city should design educational programs that equip families with the necessary knowledge and skills to raise their children in a nurturing environment, ensuring that juveniles are guided onto the right path. By taking these proactive steps, stakeholders can contribute to the prevention and reduction of juvenile delinquency, fostering the well-being and positive development of young individuals in Arusha city.

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