

**Protecting Women and Girls from Crime in Mombasa County:
What Can Be Done?**



**International Peace Support Training Centre
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POLICY BRIEF

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Foreword

The increasing participation of women and girls in criminal activities is a concern in today's society. Women traditionally provide social stability and are important security agents. Therefore, their participation in crime is bound to result to societal chaos. Consequently, there is an urgent need to contain the participation of women and girls in violent crimes. Arguably, they should become the central focus of peace and security policies and programs given their roles in the society.

Considering the contextual background highlighted, the International Peace Support Training Centre presents this policy brief to refocus traditional trends manifested in criminality discourse. Indeed, exploring gender nuances in crime management should be the contemporary orientation. The Centre also hopes to inform gender responsive policies and practise in the management of crime.

Brigadier J C Sitienei
Director, IPSTC

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Executive Summary

Psychological and family context risk factors explain women and girls' pathways to crime in Mombasa County. Principally, low self-esteem, poor self-efficacy, and dysfunctional impulsivity negatively impact on their self-regulation. Due to this, they tend to resort to antisocial decisions and/or actions. Further, incidences of teenage pregnancies and low education levels reinforce their negative self-perception. This promotes social detachment making them vulnerable to influence of criminal groups. Additionally, coming from low functioning families compels them to seek love, understanding and protection from unconventional individuals/groups ultimately resulting to criminal behaviour. Therefore, this calls for building of a gender responsive psychosocial environment to support development of prosocial women and girls. Specifically, practitioners should consider offering life skills education and psychotherapy focussing on esteem, self-efficacy, and impulsivity. In turn, the County Government of Mombasa should consider formulating Menstrual Hygiene Policy, Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy and inclusion of livelihood support programs for vulnerable women and girls in budgets. These actions and policies could help address psychosocial deficiencies which push them to crime.

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Introduction

Most crime discourses feature men and boys as active perpetrators while women and girls are viewed as victims. This de-emphasis on women and girls' engagement means that, among other things, there is less focus on gender specific individual and family context risk factors that predispose them to criminality. This, then, makes attendant programs and policies largely generic and nonresponsive to the needs of vulnerable women and girls.

In Mombasa County, empirical evidence points to increasing participation of women and girls in violent crimes. One in every five criminal gang members is a female (Mwachinalo, 2019). However, limited evidence-based knowledge exists on gender specific risk factors that premeditate them to crime. The net effect of this knowledge gap may have led to non-responsive interventions as indicated by increased participation of women and girls in crime. This policy brief thus outlines individual and family context risk factors that predispose women and girls to crime in Mombasa County. It further provides policy recommendations and implications for practitioners.

Method

This policy brief is based on a study carried out from 08 August 2021 to 07 September 2021 in the Sub Counties of Likoni, Mvita, Kisauni and Nyali in Mombasa County. It investigates 103 women and girls engaged in crime, but out of penal institutions, aged between 15 and 50 years. Focus is on how individual and family context risk factors contribute to their criminality. Inference on the role of these risk factors is based on a comparison of such features in female criminals' vis a vis non-offenders of the same sample size, sex, age group and area of residence using statistical techniques.

Eligible respondents had to show no visible signs of intoxication and ill mental health condition. Further, female offenders involved in any form of treatment/intervention were excluded to limit confounding factors. Moreover, the study's data collection tools are based on internationally validated and standardised questionnaires on constructs under investigation. These were translated from English to Kiswahili language to ensure optimal comprehension of research questions. In data collection phase, research assistants drawn from various entities with programs on crime prevention and rehabilitation of criminals in the chosen study sites,

were engaged. This is because they have contextual knowledge of the study area and have built trust particularly with female offenders.

Findings and Discussion

A. Individual Risk Factors

In this section, the influence of teenage pregnancies, levels of education, psychological factors, and mental health in explaining vulnerability to crime amongst women and girls in Mombasa County are outlined. All these factors are established as significant in informing pathways to crime. The detailed results are as follows.

i. Teenage pregnancy history premediates crime

A statistically significant relationship between age at first conception and crime status is established. In this regard, age at first conception has an effect of 23.5% in the variance of crime status. Specifically, there is a 95 % likelihood that vulnerable girls to crime will experience first conception at the age between 16.6 and 17.89 years. Their prosocial counterparts conceive in their 20s. Therefore, girls engaged in crime conceive in their teenage years. This is because, most vulnerable girls to crime come from poor functioning families that force them to make early debut to sex which later leads them teenage pregnancies and problem behaviours such as crime. In this regard, a Key Informant [KI] remarked:

Most of the offenders come from single parent families. They are mostly under care of single mothers who mistreat them by introducing them to prostitution at an early age. These single mothers send their daughters to solicit for cash to buy food (KI 4: August 2021).

The quote by KI 4 illuminates three things. First, most offenders are brought up in families consisting of single parents. However, this is not unique since non-offenders contend with similar circumstances as was established by study. Two, the quote by KI 4, shows the character disordered nature of their families. The phrase 'introducing them to prostitution at an early age' illustrates this shortcoming. The resultant sexual abuse committed by other adults, but under the subtle support of parents ends up increasing vulnerability of the girls to crime. Accordingly, Kotchick et al. (2001) observe that early sex initiation generally impacts on a child's self-control.

Further, they note that it alienates them from conventional peers and prosocial activities such as schooling. Three, the quote by KI 4 points to the criticality of poverty in catalysing disruptive behaviour amongst women and girls. The statement 'to solicit for cash to buy food' highlights the impoverished circumstances female offenders find themselves in. However, it is poor parenting practises that amplify the impact of poverty on disruptive behaviours. In this instance, the positive reinforcement of risky sexual behaviours by the mothers of female offenders is an example of negative parenting.

Be that as it may, incidents of teenage pregnancies amongst female offenders point to likely inaccessible and unfriendly sexual and reproductive health information and services. It denotes the lack of Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health [ASRH] Policy in Mombasa County. In absence of such a policy, the legal and socio-economic environment for enabling sexual and reproductive health information and services to teenagers becomes constrained. As such, vulnerable teenage girls are less equipped to handle the challenges of early sex debut hence unplanned teenage pregnancies and attendant disruptive behaviours.

ii. Educational level attainment influences crime

A statistically significant relationship between crime status and level of education is established. In this regard, female offenders are more likely to be of lower education levels particularly of primary schooling. Their prosocial counterparts are likely to be of secondary level or higher. The prevalence of low educational attainment amongst female offenders is hardly surprising. This is because, high educational attainment helps individuals question ideals and attitudes espoused by non-conventional peers/groups which then, leads to well-reasoned judgement and thus, prosocial behaviour (Cherney et al., 2018). Thus, with low education, vulnerable women and girls might have increased susceptibility to negative influences from antisocial peers/groups leading to disruptive behaviour.

To understand the reasons behind low educational attainment by female offenders in Mombasa County, a key informant observed:

Most of the offenders are primary level dropouts due to poor parenting and lack of supervision. They do not value education (KI 2: August 2021).

The quote by KI 2, seems to suggest that there is nexus between parenting style and academic achievement. It also implies a mismatch between education goals and social realities as demonstrated by the statement 'they do not value education'. In this regard, education might have lost value as it does not necessarily lead to employment. Indeed, youth in Mombasa County contend with joblessness (Security Research and Information Centre, 2018). Overall, the net effect of poor parenting, mismatch of education goals and social realities, and disillusion with the value of education, might explain the low academic achievement amongst female offenders in Mombasa County. This, then, results to poor problem-solving skills and generally deficient critical thinking which makes female offenders to engage in crime.

iii. Most female offenders are in dysfunctional romantic relationship

A statistically significant relationship between crime status and nature of romantic relationship was determined. In this case, 80.58% of the female offenders were either in sad romantic relationship or not all. On the other hand, 91.26 % of prosocial women and girls were likely to be in a happy love relationship or not all. The results therefore suggest that dysfunctional love relationships are prevalent amongst female offenders. Accordingly, dysfunctional love relationships among vulnerable women and girls result to poor emotional wellbeing (Moksnes & Espnes, 2012). In turn, poor wellbeing leads to poor self-perception, low esteem, detachment from mainstream society and general incompetence in mastery of environmental risks (Ryff, 1989). These inadequacies not only compel individuals to gravitate towards non-conventional others, but they also reduce one's resilience to non-conforming behaviours.

That said, most female offenders are pushed into sad relationships by their poor functioning families in exchange for monetary gains to sustain basic needs such as food. To buttress this view, a key informant remarked:

Some ill-advised parents use their girls as income generators. They usually send out their children to older men and boda boda (motorbike taxis) riders to solicit cash for food in exchange for sex (KI 10: August 2021).

The quote by KI 10, illustrates forced intimacy. This may result to girls to experiencing unhappy love relationships, which aggravates risk factors to crime. Moreover, the quote by KI

10, shows how vulnerable girls are sexually exploited to assist in providing household basic sustenance. This not only leads to dysfunctional love relationships, but also might result to antisocial disposition.

iv. Psychological factors underpin females' pathways to crime

A statistically significant influence of low self-esteem, poor self-efficacy, and dysfunctional impulsivity on crime exists among vulnerable women and girls. Self-esteem has an effect of 43.1% in the variance of crime status. This is to say, female offenders are likely to have relatively lower esteem compared to their prosocial counterparts. Accordingly, over 50% of female offenders have a low opinion of themselves, experience self-hate and feel worthless. These indicators of low esteem mutually reinforce hence, leading to low self-confidence and poor judgement of being socially acceptable and therefore general alienation from prosocial others. This creates opportunities for being influenced by antisocial others, hence, disruptive behaviours. Further, it can be argued that women and girls that perceive themselves as not important relative to others and feel challenged with general life experiences, will not be motivated to conform to expected social behaviour. This is because, for such persons, life has lost all its meaning and thus have low motivation for prosocial behaviour conformism.

Self-efficacy refers to trust on own innate competences to navigate issues within the social context and reach acceptable behavioural outcomes (Bandura, 1997). Individuals with poor self-efficacy have reduced self-control over their life circumstances and have a distrust on their own capacities to cope in prosocial way (Cherney et al., 2018). Accordingly, self-efficacy has a significant effect of 49.3% in the variance of crime status. In this regard, female offenders are more likely to have low self-efficacy relative to prosocial women and girls. Specifically, over 60% of female offenders cannot solve problems in prosocial ways, will not participate in public social events, have limited capacities to make and retain friends, generally feel incapacitated in handling issues/events in public congregations and are in unstable romantic relationships.

Further, social environments from which female offenders come are not supportive in nurturing competencies necessary to build self-confidence and innate capacities to navigate relational issues. A reformed female offender quipped:

Constantly being reminded by other relatives that you will end up as a drug addict just like your parent, was extremely hard to bear. Insults were the order of the day (KI 13: August 2021).

The words 'you will end up a drug addict just like your parent' implies toxic social environment that rarely gives words of encouragement. Moreover, it is indicative of negative labelling and installation of negative thoughts of self by the care givers who are supposed to provide hope. The affected women and girls internalise such negative perception, which then impacts on their trust to navigate relational issues and reach acceptable behavioural outcomes.

Impulsivity is a behavioural problem that manifests in the form risky decisions and/or actions for immediate satisfaction of whims without due contemplation (Weafer & de Wit, 2014). Accordingly, 51.5% in the variance of crime status can be attributed to dysfunctional impulsivity. This means female offenders have high impulsivity compared to prosocial women and girls. Over 58 % of female offenders are not self-controlled and careful thinkers. Further, they perceive themselves as not meticulous in planning their activities and that they act on spur of the moment. Accordingly, when impulsive female offenders are confronted with life challenges such as poverty, they resort to decisions that are not based on forethought. As such, they act on the spur of the moment to sometimes, disastrous consequences.

To explain dysfunctional impulsivity among female offenders, evidence of drugs and substances abuse was found. A reformed female offender remarked:

We do not think straight after taking bugizi (rohypnol) (KI 13: August 2021).

Rohypnol is a prescription only drug. That said, the statement by K13 indicates the use of drugs and substances of abuse amongst female offenders. This drives the affected women and girls to make rash decisions without caring about negative consequences (Poulton & Hester, 2020). Therefore, drugs and substances of abuse both develop and reinforce impulsive tendencies amongst female offenders.

v. **Female offenders have poor mental health**

A statistically significant influence of depression, anxiety, and stress on crime exists among vulnerable women and girls. About 56.8% in the variance in crime status can be explained by depression levels. In this case, offenders have high levels of depression compared to their prosocial counterparts. Over 60% of female offenders feel discouraged and sad, find life was meaningless, have nothing to look forward to, find no pleasure in doing anything and that they are overwhelmed by negativity. This denies them self-control over their actions (Ozkan et al., 2019). In this regard, when faced with challenging life events, they focus on how others contributed to the situation (Samenow, 2019). Therefore, as retribution, the scholar observes, they resort to crime to 'punish' the people they think are to blame for their situation.

That aside, about 57.5% variation in crime status is contingent on one's anxiety level. In this regard, female offenders have moderately severe anxiety levels compared to their prosocial counterparts who have low incidences. Specifically, over 60% of female offenders feel scared for no plausible reasons, experience body shivers regularly and have rapid heart palpitations without physical exertion. As such, they tend to overreact whenever they contend with challenges such as those posed by relational issues (Hodgins et al., 2010). In such instances, they resort to disruptive behaviours.

About 53% of the variance in crime status could be accounted by one's stress level. In this regard, female offenders have acute stress while prosocial women and girls have normal levels. Over 80% of female offenders are quick to anger, cannot withstand impediments placed on their way, tend to overreact, and find it difficult to relax. This is to say, negative circumstances trigger them to negative behavioural externalisation. In Mombasa County, vulnerable women and girls contend with negative circumstances such as poverty, teenage pregnancies, dysfunctional relationships, and low levels of educations. These are a sources of potential stress for female offenders and hence, commission of crime. Therefore, the commission of crime by the female offenders can be viewed as a retribution to the society for its role in these unpleasant circumstances. For instance, a reformed female offender said:

Some of us got pregnant while schooling and nobody wanted to look after our children so as we continue with our education (KI 13: August 2021).

The words 'nobody wanted to look after our children' underscores the disdain that parents have for teenage mothers. This in essence stigmatises early motherhood which has an implication on self-esteem of affected young adolescents, in this case, female offenders. Moreover, it shows failure to interrogate one's role in the predicament. Therefore, commission of crime is rationalised to mean retribution for parents' failure to look after their children. Besides, having been despised by their families, they adopt the values of deviant groups or individuals to boost their self-esteem.

B. Family Related Risk Factors to Crime

Focus is on examining the influence of family attachment, character, and childhood maltreatment in explaining crime amongst female offenders in Mombasa County. All these risk factors are established as significant. Findings are as outlined.

I. Family Attachment

About 57.5 % of the variance in crime status can be accounted for by one's family attachment. Female offenders feel disconnected from their families compared to their prosocial counterparts who feel well bonded. Approximately 70% of offenders experience rejection from their biological mothers. In the same vein, about 50% of offenders report rejection from their biological fathers. Therefore, it can be inferred that majority of female offenders have experienced rejection from one or both their parents. In this regard, a reformed female offender remarked:

I am hated, discriminated, untrusted and looked down upon in my family (KI 23: August 2021).

The quote by KI 23 symbolizes negative feelings that overwhelm vulnerable women and girls in families in which they don't experience love. That the respondent feels 'discriminated' opens an opportunity for us against them narrative. This, then, fuels an identity crisis and later identification with antisocial peers/groups hence, disruptive behaviours. That said, mothers are important in shaping behavioural outcomes of girls. To underscore this criticality, a reformed female offender quipped:

My mother died when I was young. In my puberty, money was not available for me to buy sanitary towels. Therefore, I had to get a boyfriend who met my menstrual hygiene needs in return for sex. Unfortunately, he was a bad boy friend as he introduced me to criminality (KI 6: August 2021).

Analysing the above quote, four issues can be discerned. One, mothers are primary caregivers particularly for girls and, in their absence, they receive little attention from their fathers, especially with respect to their menstrual hygiene. This is hardly surprising, since in most communities in Kenya the subject of menses is a taboo (Republic of Kenya, 2019). Two, the quote by KI6 points to a lack of means in affording sanitary towels as a risk to disruptive behaviour, in this case, demonstrated by promiscuous and/or risky sexual behaviour. By engagement in sex, it is hoped that money shall be obtained to meet the requirement for sanitary towels. In this regard, the quote upholds the criticality of poverty as a risk in ordinally affecting behavioural outcomes of girls (UNICEF, 2020). Further, it is indicative of lack of a policy on menstrual hygiene in Mombasa County that would have culminated to easy accessibility of sanitary towels amongst the poor.

Three, the quote points to the influential role of peer pressure as indicted by 'bad boy friend' in shaping behaviour. It also shows that when girls lack love and care of their mothers for diverse reasons, they may end up seeking it from non-conventional boys/men. Four, the quote points to intersectionality of contextual risk dynamics in this case mother's absence, poverty, and negative peer pressure in informing adoption of disruptive behaviour amongst female offenders in Mombasa County. However, since all study respondents emanated from the same abject poverty settings, impoverishment in isolation does not necessarily lead to poor decision making amongst female offenders. This is because, in the same environment prosocial women and girls exist. In this regard, poverty only adds to the potency of parental neglect and influence of non-conventional peers in influencing criminal behaviour.

That aside, about 40% of female offenders are in a hostile relationship with their siblings. Hostile relations amongst the siblings influence vulnerable girls to adopt disruptive behaviour as part of reinforced learning or in the alternate, as a defensive mechanism. Overall, poor family attachment creates opportunities for affected girls to seek 'love' and 'understanding' from unconventional individuals.

To underscore this deduction, about 66% of female offenders identify with gangs. This is indicative that perhaps they find 'comfort' in these gangs. A respondent remarked:

When women and girls are mistreated by their families, they find peace in these gangs (KI 4: August 2021).

'Mistreatment' is conceptualised by susceptible women and girls as being non-worthy to their families. This pushes them to identify with antisocial individuals and/or groups that value them. That they find 'peace in this gangs' shows acceptance and non-judgement that fragile girls experience while in gangs. Therefore, absence of well-functioning families, gangs do not only provide emotional support and sense of belonging to 'prejudiced vulnerable women and girls', but also, in some instances, meet their economic needs. In such a group setting, vulnerable women and girls become more susceptible to risk seeking and taking behaviour. Moreover, they become tolerant to commission of group crimes when facing challenging circumstances.

ii. Family Character

About 51.8 % of the variance in one's crime status could be accounted for by perceptions of family character. In this regard, female offenders are likely to report a low to moderate extent character disordered families. On the other hand, their prosocial counterparts are brought up in families with good character. That said, about 30% to 50% of female offenders in Mombasa County come from families with previous history of criminality of parents and siblings. Moreover, they emanate from families that abuse drugs and substances. This has a huge implication on offending since families have a primary role of influencing behaviours. Significant others within the family are critical in identities and values assumed by children. Therefore, when negative values pervade, these are learnt and reflected in negative behavioural outcomes

iii. Childhood Maltreatment

Approximately 50 % of the variance in one's crime status can be accounted for by childhood maltreatment. Female offenders experience moderate childhood maltreatment while their prosocial counterparts are brought up in families with low and/or insignificant incidences of victimisation. Accordingly, over 40% of female offenders report childhood maltreatment

relating to negative labelling by parents, parental neglect in provision of basic needs, incidences of violence being meted against them and restriction from accessing one of their biological parents. As earlier argued, negative labelling results to assumption of a negative view of oneself and isolation from prosocial others. In so doing, it creates opportunities for vulnerable women and girls to associate with non-conventional others. Later, they end up adapting the values and attitudes of these antisocial others. This, then, makes them to engage non-conforming behaviours such as crime.

Criminal behaviour is also an instrumental response to parental neglect with respect to provision of basic sustenance. Indeed, food, clothing, shelter, and medical care are critical for survival. Therefore, vulnerable women and girls who feel deprived of such necessities may resort to crime to satisfy them. This is more pronounced where social support systems are constrained. In Mombasa County, there is limited evidence of County Governments' social programs that provide basic sustenance to the needy. While evidence of initiatives by individuals and private companies to address this need exist, they are limited in reach.

Incidences of violence being meted against girls and being restricted from seeing one of their biological parents, influence crime through inter alia, reinforcement of negative behaviour, instilling of antisocial values and through denying opportunities for children to develop optimally in various psychosocial aspects. That aside, 20% of female offenders are sexually abused by their parents. To illustrate, a female offender remarked:

When my mother died, my father turned me into his wife. This forced me to run away from home and join a criminal group (KI 30: September 2021).

The quote by KI 30, first underscores the trauma that some of the female offenders contend with in their families. The words 'turned me into his wife' symbolizes sexual assault on a child by a father. Second, it shows the importance of mothers in moderating family character in households. In this case, in the absence of mothers, girls may have increased prospects of sexual abuse. Herrenkohl et al. (2017) explains that this form of victimisation leads to later criminality in three ways. First, it compels girls to learn unacceptable social conduct. Second, it makes the affected girl to withdraw from prosocial others. In so doing, creating opportunities for unconventional others to exert their influence. Indeed, the author explains

that in most cases, victims of sexual abuse seek love and care from antisocial boyfriends. As such, they adopt the values and attitudes of the antisocial boyfriends/peers.

Three, victimization leads to mental health conditions, such as depression and anxiety among the affected girls which then, makes them resort to crime to 'punish' the people they think are to blame for their situation.

C. Main Risk Factors to Crime

Overall, esteem, self-efficacy, and impulsivity cumulatively explain 72 % of the variance in criminal status and thus, are the main risk factors. Specifically, esteem, self-efficacy, and impulsivity account for 43 %, 17 % and 12 % respectively of the variance in adoption of criminal behaviour. The establishment of these individual level risk factors (esteem, efficacy, and impulsivity) as significant is hardly surprising. This is because, these traits have a great influence on self-regulation and agency in life. In this regard, low self-worth, persistent doubts on one's innate competences to navigate issues within the social context and reach acceptable behavioural outcome coupled with affinity for risky decisions and/or actions without due consideration, leads to a crime.

Further evaluation was carried out to ascertain how esteem, self-efficacy and impulsivity explained/predicted other risk factors not identified as main pathways to crime. In this regard, esteem loads very well with depression and impulsivity. This means that self-esteem is a significant determinant of one's depression and impulsivity level. Therefore, in terms of programming, initiatives that target the enhancement of self-esteem will also help in alleviation of impulsivity and severe depression.

It is also deduced that self-efficacy loads well with family character, attachment, and childhood maltreatment. This implies, self-efficacy development is a significant influence in helping one cope with challenges of character disordered family, weak family bonds and early childhood maltreatment in influencing disruptive behaviours. This is because, individuals with high self-efficacy exude a lot of control on their life risk dynamics such as manifested by negative family functioning (Bandura, 1997). Therefore, individuals whose self-efficacy is well developed will be resilient to negative influence of disordered family character, weak bonded families, and early childhood victimisation and thus, crime. Thus, for efficacious

programs and policies in the management of crime amongst women and girls in Mombasa County, the aim should also be the development of self-efficacy.

Lastly, impulsivity loads very well with anxiety and stress. Therefore, crime management programs that target alleviation of impulsivity, will have a huge influence in addressing mental health issues of offenders particularly with respect to anxiety disorders and acute stress. Generally, programs and policies should focus on esteem, self-efficacy, and impulsivity for effectiveness in addressing crime amongst women and girls. This, however, is specific to Mombasa County and therefore caution should be exercised before replication in other Counties.

Conclusions

Women and girls engaged in crime in Mombasa County contend with poor psychological capacities and mental health. As such, they hold a perception of low self-worth in the mainstream society. This motivates them to adopt values, beliefs, and behaviours of antisocial individuals/groups. Further, female offenders come from low functioning families which inadvertently teach and reinforce the adoption of negative values and attitudes. Besides, these dysfunctional families promote their detachment from mainstream society. Therefore, compelling their association with antisocial individuals/groups hence, criminality. Overall, effective policies and programs in management of crime in Mombasa County should be anchored on addressing esteem, self-efficacy, and impulsivity. These risk factors explain the largest variance in one's potential criminal behavioural outcome.

Policy Recommendations

Resulting from the findings, the following are policy actions are recommended to effectively address crime amongst women and girls in Mombasa County.

- i. The Mombasa County Government should consider formulating Menstrual Hygiene Management Policy.
- ii. The Mombasa County Government should consider the inclusion of targeted livelihood support program for vulnerable women and girls in their budget policy

- iii. The Mombasa County Government should consider formulating Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy.

Implications for Practitioners

- I. Should consider psychotherapy focused on esteem, self-efficacy, and impulsivity in the rehabilitation of female offenders.
- ii. Should consider Play and Arts Therapy in high-risk areas. This implies investment in sports, youth groups and girl educational programs. This will help develop sense of family attachment and critical thinking that girls in crime lack. In the alternate, practitioners can invest in conventional groups to only offer attachment to at risk girls and women but also modelling and peer support.
- iii. Should consider providing life skills education to vulnerable women and girls to enable them to effectively handle challenging life circumstances.
- iv. Should consider providing livelihood support and menstrual health package to vulnerable women and girls.
- v. Should consider providing accessible and friendly sexual and reproductive health information and services to teenagers in Mombasa County.
- vi. Should consider providing training on effective parenting to militate the influence of low functioning families on criminality.
- vii. Mombasa County Government should increase access to drugs and substance abuse rehabilitation facilities.
- viii. Should consider underpinning individual focussed rehabilitation initiatives based on psychological evaluations, mental health assessments, and appraisal reports of addiction to drugs and substance use amongst female offenders.
- ix. Mombasa County Government and other practitioners should consider targeted education transition programs for vulnerable girls.

- x. Should sensitise the community in Mombasa County to endeavour to build gender responsive psychosocial environment that can support development of female with prosocial behaviour.
- xi. Training institutions such as IPSTC should consider conducting Training Needs Assessment (TNA) and develop Training of Trainers (ToT) programmes on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), effective parenting and related life skills, to enhance the capacity of stakeholders on meaningful response to crime among female offenders.

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