

Influence of Youth Unemployment on Youth Involvement in Crime in Kakuma Refugee Camp

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ABSTRACT

Youth, constituting an estimated 70% of the total population, play pivotal roles in society due to their energy and dynamism. Conversely, a significant portion of the refugee population comprises young individuals who, despite being provided with various capacity-building programs, sometimes find themselves involved in criminal activities. The study sought to assess the influence of youth unemployment on youth involvement in Crime in Kakuma Refugee Camp. Employing a descriptive research design, the study was guided by Strain theory. The target population included refugees, host community members operating businesses within the study area, government officials, and officials from humanitarian agencies implementing projects in refugee settlements. Stratified random sampling was utilized to select South Sudanese sub-clans, while purposive sampling was employed to select security officers and stakeholders from various departments. Data collection involved the use of questionnaires and interviews, gathering responses from 125 and 20 respondents, respectively. Primary data was obtained through questionnaires and interviews with government officers working in the camp, such as those from the Department of Refugee Services (DRS), law enforcement officers, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), community peace and protection teams (CPPTs), and national and county government administrators overseeing the refugee camp's jurisdiction. Secondary data was sourced from scholarly journals, books, the internet, reports, newspapers, and treaties on refugees, aiding in achieving the study objectives. Data analysis employed descriptive statistics for quantitative data and content analysis for qualitative data, utilizing SPSS and NVIVO software, respectively. Results were presented through tables, charts, and figures. The study found that poverty was a significant factor contributing to youth involvement in crime. Additionally, societal treatment, characterized by suspicion, victimization, lack of recognition, and disharmony influenced youth criminal behaviour. To address these issues, the study recommends that humanitarian organizations and governments provide income-generating activities for youth, intensify initiatives to alleviate community involvement in crime, foster positive societal attitudes towards youth, and provide proper guidance on avoiding negative peer influence, thereby deterring youth from joining criminal groups.

Key Word: Crime, Intervention, Kakuma Refugee Camp, Poverty, Societal Treatment, Strain Theory, Unemployment, Youth

I. INTRODUCTION

One well-known and pervasive global tragedy is the refugee crisis. The refugee crisis has been mistakenly construed as a temporary phenomenon since the establishment of the international refugee regime, which was created to safeguard refugees in the aftermath of World War I (Gatrell, 2016). However, this belief has consistently been disproven, with studies showing that almost two-thirds of all refugees worldwide are entangled in long-term circumstances (Fotaki, 2019). These circumstances are frequently marked by protracted periods of exile, lasting several decades and occurring in a variety of settings, including camps, cities, and rural communities (Long, 2011).

A person is considered a refugee under the 1951 Refugee Convention if they are afraid of being persecuted because of their race, ethnicity, religion, or political beliefs and are either unable or unwilling to return to their country of birth. Humanitarian interventions, such as providing basic necessities for existence, are desperately needed for refugees, who have experienced hardships and horrific acts in their home countries as a result of conflicts, droughts, and starvation, among other issues (Rutinwa et al., 2003).

The Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya is home to many refugees and asylum seekers from several countries, including Somalia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, South Sudan, Burundi, Uganda, and Eritrea. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR, 2018), Kakuma has over 2,000 businesses and small shops with a total trade value of approximately \$6 billion. Furthermore, 50% of family income is spent on consumer items with an annual market value greater than US\$26 million.

Some sections in refugee camps are prone to crime, so very few investors inject their capital into businesses, leading to low economic growth compared to other secure sections (UNHCR, 2018). Many of the refugees who operate businesses in Kakuma refugee camp have invested little in modern security detection and deterrence equipment, making their flourishing businesses vulnerable to crimes such as burglary and theft, housebreaking, and robbery, among others. The lighting in the camp is inadequate due to a lack of power, and movement from one place

to another puts people at risk of crimes such as mugging, robbery, rape, and abduction (Tanza, 2014). This has not only positively affected the country's economy but also created channels for advancing unlikely criminal activities that are affiliated with refugees.

Refugees have often engaged in criminal activities or compromising situations that often lead them into crimes. Refugee involvement in crime has thus become a key matter within the refugee protection agenda. The existence of a connection between high rates of crime and the presence of refugees is widely implied and accepted; however, the nature of that relationship remains unclear (UNHCR, 2018). The objective of the study was to determine the influence of youth unemployment on youth involvement in crime in Kakuma Refugee Camp.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Theoretical Literature Review

The study is guided by strain theory. The strain theory was proposed by Robert Agnew in 1992. The theory argues that some stressors and/or strains induce individuals to engage in criminal activities. The main assumption states that when individuals are faced with certain situations, the pressures will kindle some deteriorating emotional reactions, such as fury and some form of vexation. These regressive emotions then together create correctional gravity, which forces them to initiate criminal activities. Equally, the theory insists that strains increase the commission of crime.

The more an individual is faced with stressors or strains in life, the more he or she is vulnerable to being engaged in crime. The theory goes further to denote that individuals engage in crime specifically to avoid strain, as a shortcut to overcoming the strain, or because they are revenging against a previous attack or the major cause of the strain. This can be attested to, especially when people experience chronic joblessness, which may result in theft and other forms of crime in order to meet their daily needs. Apart from this, stressed people may seek vengeance against people they perceive to have wronged them. However, Agnew (2001) argues that the core of the theory is simply emphasizing those only things that stress or strain individuals and can force them to respond with some felonies that may be punishable by law.

The weakness of this theory is that not all people engage in crime due to such factors alone. Despite many people being faced with strains in life, some do not engage in crime but look for alternative legal ways to make a living. For instance, those faced with unemployment may turn to businesses or other forms of generating income instead of crime. The theory, therefore, may lead to inaccurate conclusions. However, strains in life have been a factor that makes people engage in crime. The strain theory in this study will be fitting because there are strains in the refugee settlements that youth struggle with, such as lack of employment opportunities making them fail to meet some needs, inadequate facilities for tertiary education prompting them not to meet their career dreams, poor living standards in the camps exposing them to crime at a young age, among other strains in the settlements. Some challenges, such as shelter problems, scarcity of water, restriction of movements, inadequate supply of food, congestion, exploitation, and violence, including for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex (LGBTI) youth, family breakage, gender inequality, and discrimination, among others, often create strains or become stressors, compelling refugee youth to engage in crime.

Additionally, neglect of refugee youth by parents at a young age due to illicit brews and hardships of life, leaving them on their own, is another form of strain or stressor. To asphyxiate the above challenges, some youth get involved in crimes such as burglary, housebreaking, robbery, and stealing, among others, presumably to counter some of the inducers. This theory is thus relevant to the current study in explaining how stressors and strains, including unemployment and poverty, can push youth into crime.

2.2 Criminal Activities in Refugee Camps

Crimes can have large scale repercussions on societies because the victims suffer loss of lives, property, leaving them devastated and horrible misery (Hamid, et al., 2013). Over a long period of time, refugee settlements have been associated with high level of insecurity whereby various crimes are mostly perpetrated by youths drawn from both refugee and host community. A report in 2013 showed that a Jordanian refugee camp housing over 100,000 refugees from Syria was in the control of a criminal gang. Cheryl (2017) reported that Afghan refugees in Europe are the main instigators of most of the indiscriminate sexual abuses on women and girls frequently witnessed. The Iranian government has also claimed that Afghans are a threat to its national security because they possibly have contacts with revolutionaries and narcotic drug dealers at the Afghan border (Peter & Mwaruvie, 2012). A group of German activists Einzelfall (2016) found that around an Asylum reception center, an average of 476 sex crime cases had been

reported within about an area of 2sqkm and 11,154 (15.8% of all crimes) sex crimes cases within about 10km Kilometer radius. Evidently, there is a decline in sex crimes as you move away from the Asylum seekers centers.

In many refugee asylums in which the refugees are confined in closed camps, moral decadence normally occurs (Lawson, 2012; Gehrsitz & Ungerer, 2022). In many of such situation, refugee women and girls become more vulnerable to rape in the hands of individual or gang perpetrators of the vice. Unfortunately, efforts to punish the offenders are often thwarted by self-appointed leaders of the gangs. In some instances, some girls have been forced “protection marriages” to avoid sexual abuse (Harun et al., 2020). The exasperation within the camps can also instigate violence, and sexual abuse (Marija, 2015). Harrel-Bond (1994) felt that refugee camps or settlements act as incubators for profiling and planning of violence and terrorism.

Kirui and Mwaruvie (2012) noted that on some occasions, some refugees got themselves involved in terror activities and/or cross-border arms illegal business in collaboration with local gangs who host them in refugee camps. Kenyan Government has actively insisted that terrorist attacks witnessed in Kenya are planned in the refugee camps. It's believed that terrorists take advantage of refugee setup to disguise themselves as refugees, plan and make explosives such as Improvised Explosive Devices, then transport them to the targeted area (Langat and Wamalwa, 2018).

Prevalence of radicalization of youths in Refugee camps has been reported to rise overtime. Approximately 600 Somali youths who grew up in refugee camp ended joining the Somali terror group, otherwise referred to as Harakat Al-shabaab al-Muyahideen according to Gimode (2001). Equally, the Kenyan security authorities maintain that two of the assailants of Al Shabaab in 2013 attack on Westgate Mall lived in Kakuma refugee camp (Freeman, 2019). It has also been said that it is difficult for the law enforcement agencies to fight terrorism in refugee camps due to high population and lack of intelligence as many refugees shun sharing out information for fear of reprisal. Refugee camps have also been termed as the hot bed for radicalizing youths and luring them to join terrorism (Freeman, 2019). The harsh condition in the refugee camps makes most of them susceptible and easily lured into joining the outlawed groups, hoping to make their lives and those of their families better. Gatrell (2016) stated that many young people in the camps do not have sources of income within the refugee camps. The Kenyan government and UNHCR conduct screenings of asylum seekers before they are allowed to acquire refugee status, but these do not extensively reveal the individual criminal history of the country of origin, thus opening the window to recidivism.

According to Peter and Mwaruvie (2012), the main security threat in northeastern Kenya, including Dadaab, is the Al Shabaab. Al Shabaab was directly linked to the Garissa University College attack in April 2015, in which 148 people were shot dead. The Kenyan government asked the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to deport the refugees back to Somalia within three months (Mwakilishi, 2015). In March 2021, the Kenyan government, through the ministry of interior, gave the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees 14 days's ultimatum to close both Kakuma and Dadaab refugee camps, sighting national security concerns, and stated there was no room for negotiations. Several terrorism attacks have been witnessed in Kenyan territory before and after the Garissa University College attack, and the government has stated that refugee camps are used as breeding grounds for planning terrorism activities and radicalizing youths. This led to a number of measures by the government to avert the terrorist activities in refugee camps, mostly affecting the refugees. This included a sequence of measures by the Kenyan government to curtail the inflow of Somali refugees into Kenya and reduce their population in the country. The measures included closing the border between Kenya and Somalia in 2011 and freezing any further registration of refugees (Sarcha & Georgina, 2018). To further tighten the control of refugees, the government pursued tightening the control of refugees through restrictions and keeping them within the camp site. The building of a fence along the Somali border with Kenya was initiated to manage the inflow of Somalis into Kenya as a way of fighting terrorism and other criminal activities in the northeastern region, which hosts refugees and other parts of the country. The inflow of internally displaced Somalis into Kenya and the context of the “war on terror” forced the Kenyan government to request international intervention focusing on reasons for displacement in Somalia (Cynthia, 2015).

Steven (2009) states that crimes are different, with some involving physical attacks and others involving destruction or misappropriation of people's property. People acting alone commit some crimes, but some are perpetrated by a coordinated force of outlawed sects. Other crimes involve drug trafficking, while others are calculated to evoke dread. Researchers have put more effort into distinguishing the types of crimes occurring in society. For instance, Gimode (2001) differentiates between overt and covert crime. Covert crime refers to less noticeable crimes, such as corruption. In almost all weekly security reports, more than one burglary or theft incident is reported in the refugee community. The crime involves youth gangs armed with crude weapons, breaking into people's shelters and businesses, such as shops, and stealing non-food items and other commodities.

A significant factor contributing to insecurity and crime is that Kakuma is a far-flung place with insecure borders with South Sudan, Uganda, and Ethiopia. Violence at these borders is often linked to the trafficking of guns

into Kenya from these countries (Fotaki, 2019). The invasion of the camps by Britain is another cause of insecurity. The gangsters often invade the camps to seize any beneficial items they find. They particularly target those they suspect to own some valuable items or have received transmittals or rations. Vandalism is also rampant, and the perpetrators target installed solar panels, flood lights, tent poles, and other items made of metal (Tanza, 2014). These criminals also commit robbery and mostly target refugees who engage in businesses by attacking them while going back into their residing shelters after closing their businesses. The same clique of individuals targets motorcycle riders, robs them of their motorcycles, and proceeds. According to Crisp (2000), despite the installation of additional live fences, in-camp banditry attacks (including shootings and looting) occur almost daily. Occasional gun sounds are considerably the norm and deemed a negligible thing, and some shootings may go unreported to the police.

Lawlessness in Kakuma and Dadaab camps is a common problem, with occurrences of violence frequently occurring in and close to the camps (Crisp, 1999). Most of such incidents involve South Sudanese clans fighting against each other using stones and other crude weapons; for example, in June 1997, a fight between Dinka and Nuer left four dead and scores of others injured. Most of the fights are instigated by youth over a girl by two different clans in South Sudan. Others are reported after football matches, and some are reported as vengeance if one of them is wronged by a refugee from another extraction or from the host community. Fights between South Sudanese youths and the host community are also frequently reported in illicit brew dens in the camp. In 2014, eight people died following a deadly fight due to an accident in which a South Sudanese motorcyclist hit down a child in the Great Lake's region. The fight lasted about 24 hours before the security agents could restore calm (Tanza, 2014).

2.3 Influence of Unemployment on Youth Involvement in Crime in Kakuma Refugee Camps

In the Mathare slums, Omboi (2020) conducted a study on the relationship between unemployment and crime in the area. The scholar was interested in establishing the link between the two factors, usually thought to be interdependent. In the study, the scholar reached out to 200 young people aged between 18 and 35 years. Primary data was collected using structured questionnaires where various factors were listed as contributors to crime in the area. Data analysis was done using Microsoft Excel since much of it was descriptive. The findings revealed that 76% of the respondents' unemployment was linked to a high crime rate in Mathare. The findings are in line with those of Humphry (2018), who noted that unemployment compels the youth to seek alternative means of survival, which in most cases is through petty offenses or armed crime. The researcher concluded that there is a positive relationship between unemployment and crime.

According to Nur (2022), there is a direct relationship between unemployment and the high crime rate in Wajir County. The researcher conducted the study in Wajir County, targeting the youth in Wajir town. The scholar collected primary data using interviews and focus group discussions. A total of 100 youths were targeted in the study. Data analysis was done using descriptive means, while the findings of the presentations were presented in tables and graphs. The finding revealed that 86% of the respondents claimed that unemployment leads to the formation of estate gangs that steal from the locals. The findings of the study align with those of Koln (2016), who established that criminal gangs arise when there is unemployment and a lapse in security in their areas.

In Somalia, a study by Amal (2018) showed that there is a positive relationship between unemployment and crime rates in Bosaso city. The researcher targeted the city with the aim of establishing the common causes of crime. During the study, secondary sources of information were used. The researcher targeted the employment records of the city, spanning five years (2013–2017). The unemployment reports showed a steady increase in unemployment, from 23% in 2013 to 38% in 2017. In addition to this, reports on criminal cases such as burglary, armed robbery, carjacking, and kidnapping were on the rise as the number of unemployment cases rose. The researcher established that unemployment, especially for the educated youths in the town, resulted in serious criminal activities due to their ability to plan and execute them undetected.

III. METHODOLOGY

The research employed a descriptive research design guided by strain theory to investigate the influence of youth unemployment on youth involvement in crime in Kakuma Refugee Camp. Data collection involved both primary and secondary sources, with questionnaires and interviews used to gather information from refugees, host community members, government officials, and humanitarian agency representatives. Stratified random sampling was used to select respondents, ensuring representation from different segments of the population. A sample size of 145 respondents was targeted; with data analysis conducted using both quantitative techniques, such as SPSS for numerical data, and qualitative methods, including NVIVO for thematic analysis. The study site encompassed Kakuma Refugee Camp and Kalobeyei Integrated Refugee Settlement in Turkana County, Kenya. Ethical

considerations were prioritized, with measures in place to obtain consent, ensure confidentiality, and protect vulnerable respondents. Overall, the research methodology provided a systematic framework for data collection, analysis, and interpretation to address the study objectives effectively.

IV. FINDINGS & DISCUSSIONS

4.1 Demographic Information

The study sought respondent’s background information which included gender, age, marital status, highest formal education, religious affiliation, name of refugee camp, country of origin, place of work, the number of years they have been in the refugee camp and work experience. The results are presented in the subsequent sections.

4.1.1 Distribution by Gender

The study sought to determine the distribution of the respondents by gender. According to the findings as shown in Figure 1, most of the respondents (56%) were male while 44% of the respondents were females. These findings underscore the importance of considering gender dynamics when interpreting study results and designing targeted interventions in refugee settlement contexts. According to Bennett, Farrington and Huesmann (2023) gender differences have been observed in terms of both the prevalence and nature of criminal activities.

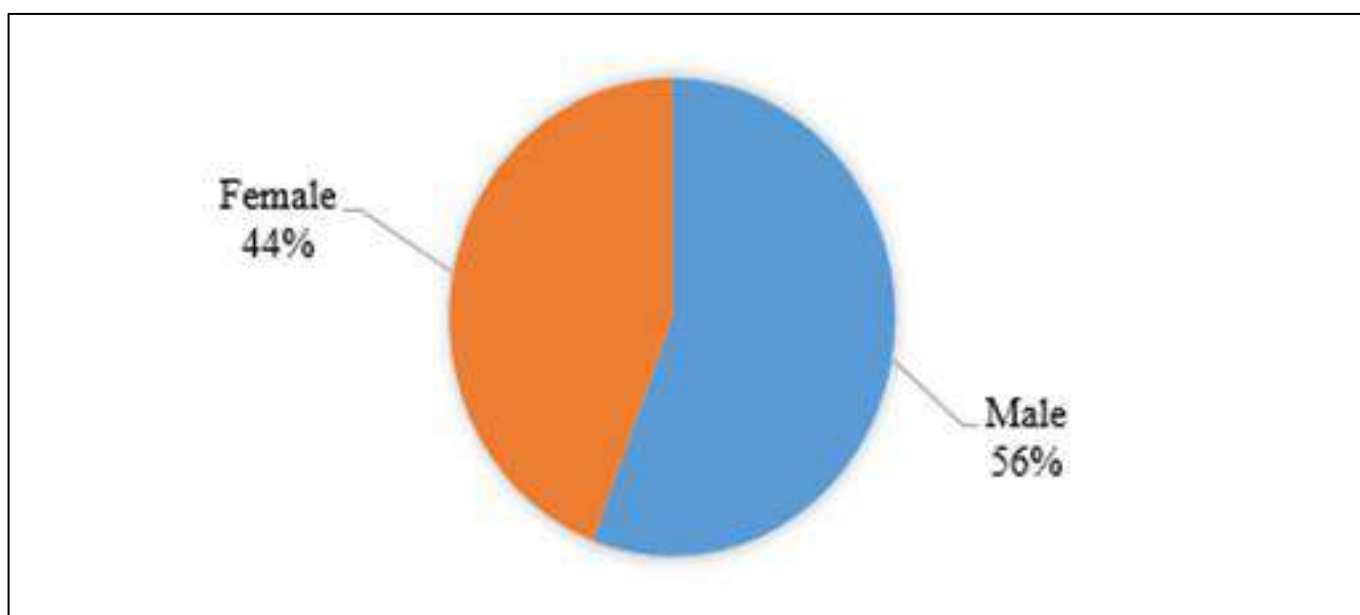


Figure 1
Distribution by Gender

4.1.2 Distribution by Age

The respondents were asked to state their age categories. The results show that half of the respondents were aged between 26 years and 40 years. The findings also show that 24.4% of the respondents were aged between 18 years and 25 years. Age can impact research outcomes as it is associated with different levels of experience, knowledge, and cognitive abilities (Harling et al. 2015) as shown in Figure 2.

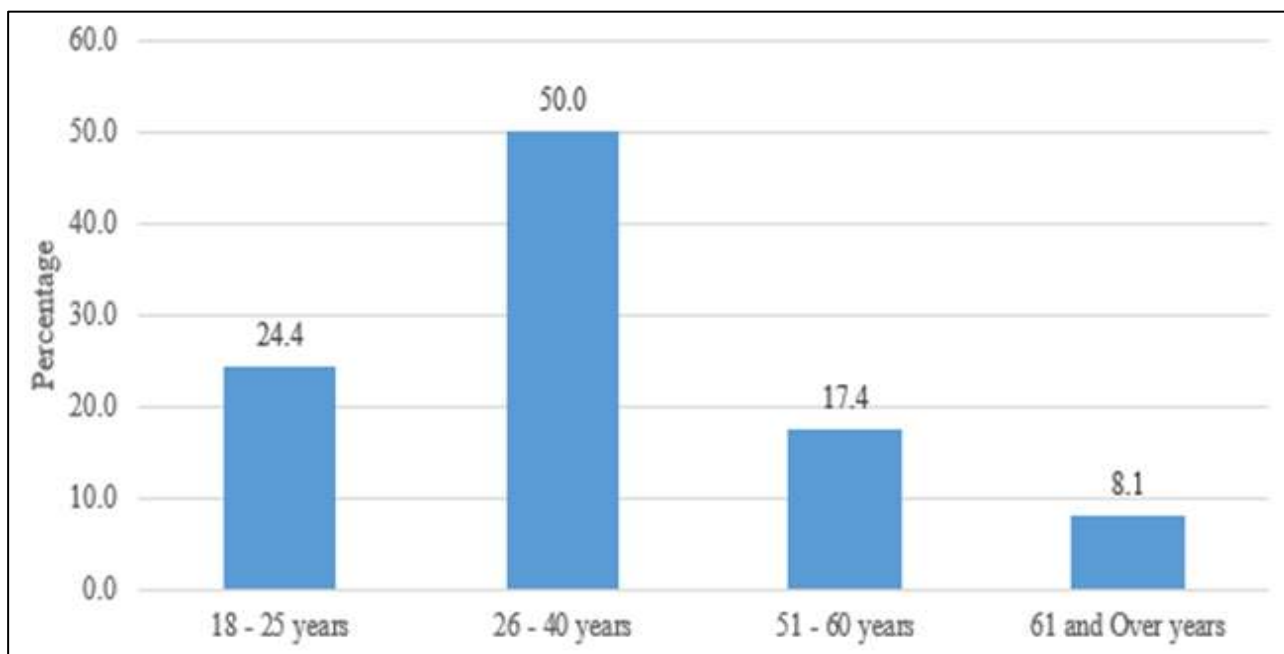


Figure 2
Distribution by Age

4.1.3 Distribution by Marital Status

The respondents were asked to state their marital status. The findings in Figure 3 show that 45.3% of the respondents were married. The results also show that 31.4% of the respondents were singles. The findings mean that most of the respondents were married. According to Franco and Piceti (2018) the high proportion of married respondents implies that family-related dynamics may be influential factors in the context being studied.

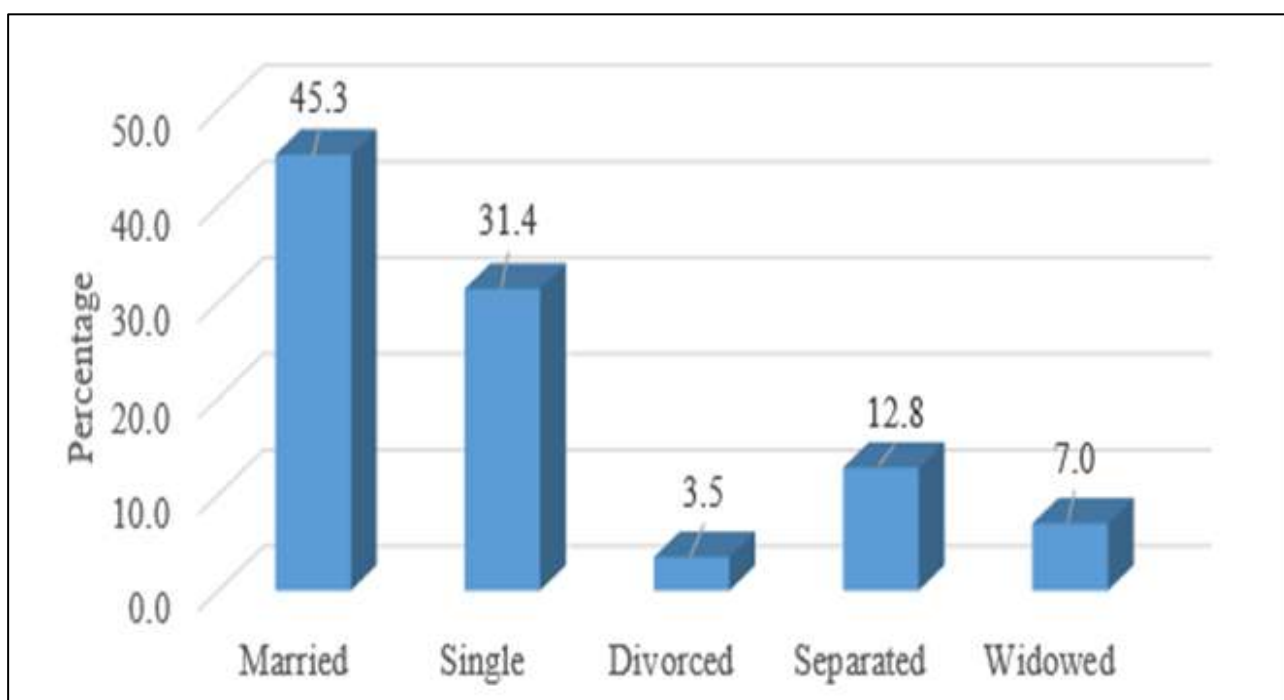


Figure 3
Distribution by Marital Status

4.1.4 Highest Formal Education Level

The respondents were asked to state their highest formal education level. According to the results of the study in Figure 4 most of the respondents (31.4%) have had primary school education. The results also show that 27.9% of the respondents had secondary education. The findings show that as the level of education rises, the number diminishes. This finding agree with the finding by Connelly et al. (2016) who found that the diminishing number of respondents as education levels increase suggests a gradient in educational attainment within the study population. This trend is commonly observed in many populations, where fewer individuals attain higher levels of education compared to lower levels.

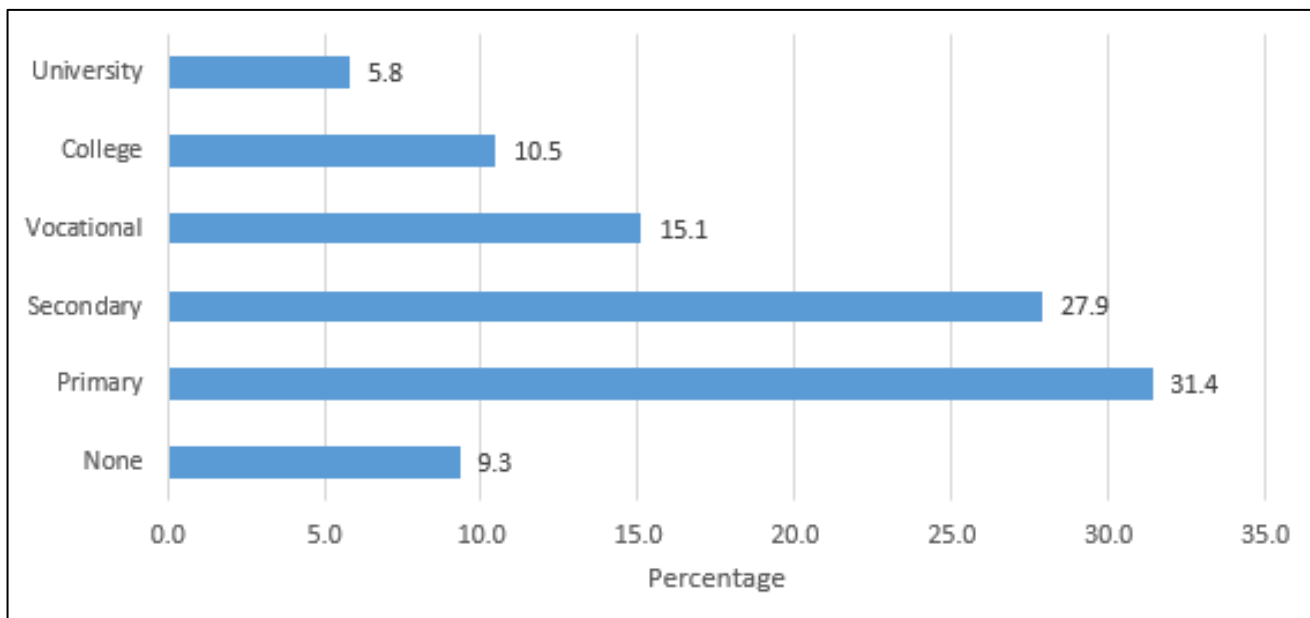


Figure 4
Highest Formal Education Level

4.1.5 Distribution of Respondents by Religious Affiliations

The respondents were asked to state their religious affiliations. The results in Figure 5 show that majority of the respondents (63%) were Christians while 27% were Muslims. This finding is in agreement with the finding by Riegel (2020) who found that Christians were the majority in Africa.

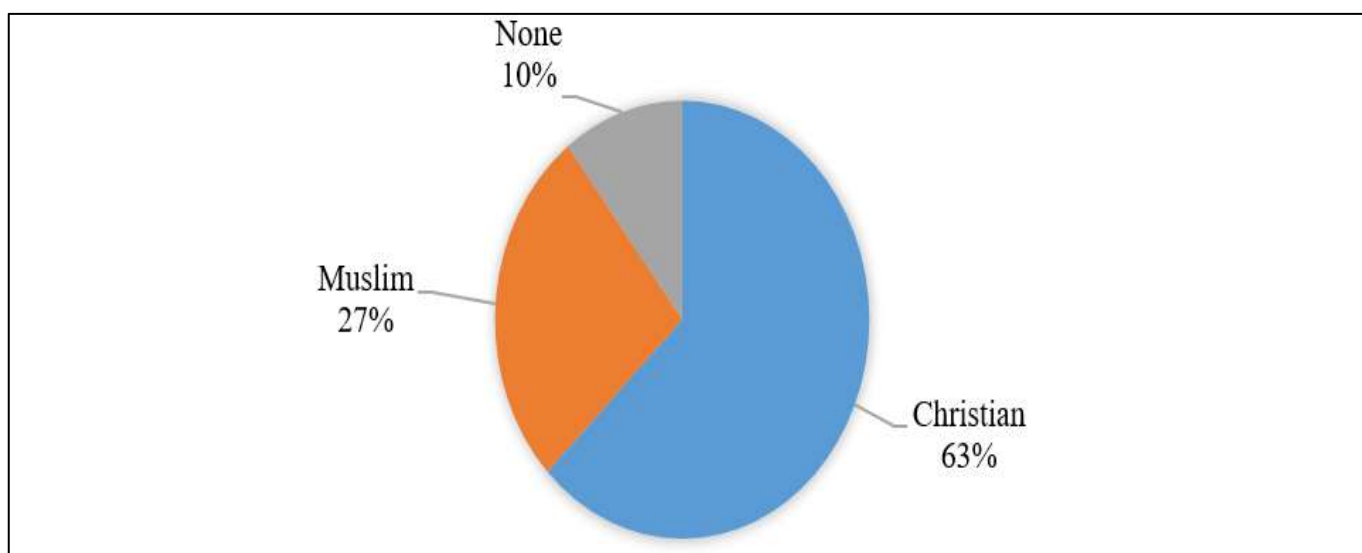


Figure 5
Distribution of Respondents by Religious Affiliations

4.1.6 Name of Residing Refugee Camp

The researcher sought to establish the respondents residing refugee camps. The results in Figure 6 revealed that most of the respondents (65%) were from Kakuma refugee camp and 35% were from Kalobeyei integrated refugee settlement. The results mean that most of the respondents have been drawn from Kakuma Refugee Camp. The finding is in agreement with the findings by UNHCR (2018) who found that Kakuma Refugee Camp is largest camp in Turkana County.

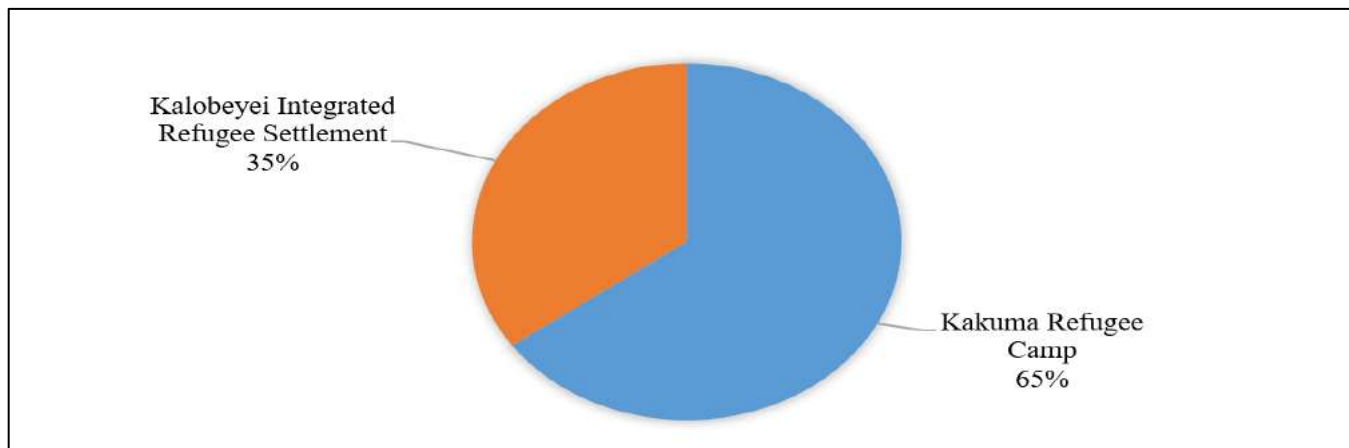


Figure 6
Respondents Residing Camp

4.1.7 Country of Origin

The researcher sought to establish the respondents' country of origin. The findings in Table 1 show that 28(32.6%) respondents were from South Sudan. The results show that 23(26.7%) are from Rwanda. The results also show that 20(23.3%) respondents are from Congo while 12(14.2%) respondents were from Burundi as reported by UNHCR (2018).

Table 1
Country of Origin

Country	Frequency	Percent
South Sudan	28	32.6
Rwanda	23	26.7
Burundi	12	14.0
Congo	20	23.3
Uganda	3	3.5
Total	86	100

4.1.8 Work Experience

The respondents were asked to state their work experience in years. According to the results in Table 2, 21(24.2%) respondents have work experience of between 5 years and 10 years. The results also show that 29(33.7%) respondents have worked for between 11 years and 15 years while 19(22.1%) respondents have worked for between 16 years and 20 years. The results mean that most of the respondents have been working for long enough. This improves the collected data quality (Christensen & Ladenburg, 2012).

Table 2
Work Experience

Experience	Frequency	Percent
Less than 5 years	8	9.3
5 - 10 years	21	24.4
11 - 15 years	29	33.7
16 - 20 years	19	22.1
Over 20 years	9	10.5
Total	86	100

4.2 Type of Crimes

The study sought to determine the types of crimes committed in Kakuma Refugee camp involvement in crime. The results of are presented in Table 3. The respondents were asked to state their level of agreement on the type of criminal activities the youths in Kakuma were involved in. This was on a five-point Likert scale of no extent, small extent, moderate extent, large extent, and very large extent. The score 0.0 to 1.0 represents no extent, score 1.1 to 2.0 represent small extent, score 2.1 to 3.0 represent moderate extent, score 3.1 to 4.0 represent large extent and score 4.1 to 5.0 represent very large extent. The results are presented in Table 4.3.

Table 3

Type of Crimes

	No extent		Small extent		Moderate extent		Large extent		Very large extent	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Rape	5	5.8	9	10.5	33	38.4	28	32.6	11	12.8
Terrorism	12	14.0	20	23.3	32	37.2	13	15.1	9	10.5
Theft	7	8.1	12	14.0	23	26.7	30	34.9	14	16.3
Assault	8	9.3	10	11.6	23	26.7	33	38.4	12	14.0
Robbery with violence	7	8.1	9	10.5	25	29.1	31	36.0	16	18.6
Burglary	6	7.0	10	11.6	22	25.6	33	38.4	15	17.4
Mugging	8	9.3	11	12.8	19	22.1	37	43.0	11	12.8
Drug and substance abuse	7	8.1	10	11.6	17	19.8	40	46.5	12	14.0

The results in Table 3 revealed that 28 (32.6%) respondents indicated that there was rape as a form of crime in the refugee camp to a large extent. The results show that 11 (12.8%) respondents indicated that rape was witnessed in the camp to a very large extent. The findings show that 33 (38.4%) respondents indicated that rape was a crime to a moderate extent. In general, the respondents noted that there was rape in the camp to a large extent.

Regarding terrorism, the results show that 32 (37.2%) respondents indicated that terrorism was a crime in the refugee camp to a moderate extent. The results show that 20 (23.3%) of the respondents indicated that terrorism was a crime only to a small extent. The study shows that 12 (14% of respondents) indicated that terrorism was a crime in the camp to no extent. The results thus mean that for most respondents, terrorism was a crime only to a small extent.

The study shows that 30 (34.9%) respondents indicated that theft was a crime to a large extent, while 14 (16.3%) indicated that theft was a crime to a very large extent. The results show that 23 (26.7%) respondents stated that theft was a crime in Kakuma refugee camp to a moderate extent. The result thus means that, according to most respondents, theft was a crime in the camp.

The study findings show that 33 (38.5%) respondents indicated that assault was a crime in the camp to a large extent. The study further shows that 12 (14% of respondents) indicated that assault was a crime in Kakuma refugee camp to a very large extent. The results also show that 23 (26.7%) indicated that assault was a crime to a moderate extent. The result means that to many respondents, assault was a crime in the refugee camp.

The study established that, according to 31 (36% of respondents), robbery with violence was a crime in Kakuma refugee camp to a large extent. The results show that 16 (18.6%) respondents indicated that robbery with violence was a crime in the camp to a very large extent, while 25 (29.1%) indicated that it was a crime to a very large extent. The study thus means that respondents generally agreed that robbery with violence was a crime in Kakuma refugee camp.

According to the results of the study, 33 (38.4%) respondents indicated that burglary was a crime in Kakuma refugee camp. Results also show that 15 (17.4%) respondents indicated that burglary was a crime to a very large extent. 22 (25.6%) respondents agreed that burglary was a crime to a moderate extent. The results mean that burglary was a crime in Kakuma Refugee Camp to a large extent.

The study findings show that most of the respondents (43%) agreed that there was mugging in the camp as a form of crime. The results show that 12.8% of the respondents strongly agreed that mugging was a crime in the refugee camp. The results thus mean that there was mugging in the refugee camp.

According to 46.5% of the respondents, there was indeed drug and substance abuse in Kakuma Refugee Camp. The results show that 14% of the respondents strongly agreed with drug and substance abuse in the camp. The results mean that, to a great extent, there was drug and substance abuse in the camp. The results of Vasic et al. (2021) who discovered that harmful alcohol and drug use is a common but frequently disregarded issue impacting numerous refugee groups across the globe, concur with these findings.

The interview question sought to find out the types of criminal activities in which the youth were involved in Kakuma Refugee Camp. To this end, one of the respondents said:



"The youth in Kakuma Refugee Camp are involved in various criminal activities such as theft, drug trafficking, vandalism, assault, and involvement in local gangs."

According to an examination of the UNHCR office's files, in and around the three refugee camps in Kenya, there are about twenty-four armed robberies reported in a typical month (Rotberg, 2017). The true number of armed robberies is most likely substantially greater. According to the study, at least one significant robbery incidence is reported per night on average. Based on the facts that are currently available, most armed robberies that occur in refugee camps happen at night. These criminals seem to be focusing on four main targets: refugees, particularly those with a business or cash income; aid agency facilities and installations, such as schools, pumping stations, and warehouses; vehicles traveling through the region, particularly those without the required police escort; and traders of miraa or khat, who deal in the mildly narcotic leaf that people chew throughout the Horn of Africa (Kagwanja, 2018).

4.3 Influence of Unemployment on Youth Involvement in Crime

The study sought to determine the effect of unemployment on the youth involvement in crime in Kakuma Refugee camp. The findings are presented in the subsequent sections.

4.2.1 Unemployment and Youth Involvement in Crime

The respondents were asked the extent to which they agreed with the statements regarding unemployment and youth involvement in crime in Kakuma Refugee Camp. This was on a scale of strongly disagree, disagree, neither agree nor disagree, agree, and strongly agree. The score 0.0 to 1.0 represents strongly disagreeing, the score 1.1 to 2.0 represents disagreeing, the score 2.1 to 3.0 represents neither agreeing nor disagreeing, the score 3.1 to 4.0 represents agreeing, and the score 4.1 to 5.0 represents strongly agreeing. The results were presented in Table 4.

Table 4
Unemployment and Youth Involvement in Crime

Statement	Strongly disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Strongly agree	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Lack of consistent employment opportunities by the organizations offering humanitarian services and government policy has deprived a majority of the youth's employment	4	4.7	11	12.8	23	26.7	33	38.4	15	17.4
When youth continue to hope for better chances in the future but lack opportunities, they resort to crime	3	3.5	9	10.5	25	29.1	35	40.7	14	16.3
Unemployment leads to unsustainable growth of the economy and limited youth production activities participation in production activities	2	2.3	7	8.1	19	22.1	40	46.5	18	20.9
Unemployment has numerous consequences of equity, social stability and self-esteem, poverty which leads to crime	5	5.8	10	11.6	18	20.9	38	44.2	15	17.4
Most of the unemployed youth remain idle and can easily begin to engage in petty criminal activities such as drug abuse, mugging prostitutions etc.	4	4.7	8	9.3	20	23.3	39	45.3	16	18.6
Unemployed youths are easily lured into terror gangs and violence	3	3.5	10	11.6	17	19.8	41	47.7	15	17.4

Table 4 shows that 33 (38.4%) respondents agreed with the statement that a lack of consistent employment opportunities by organizations offering humanitarian services and government policy had deprived the majority of youth of employment. The results further show that 23 (26.7%) respondents neither agreed nor disagreed with the statement, while 15 (17.4%) strongly agreed with it. The results mean that a lack of consistent employment opportunities by the organizations offering humanitarian services and government policy has deprived the majority of the youth's employment.

The study findings show that 35 (40.7%) agreed with the statement that when youth continue to hope for better chances in the future but lack opportunities, they resort to crime. The results also show that 14 (16.3%) strongly agreed with the statement. However, 25 (29.1%) of the respondents neither agreed nor disagreed with the statement. The findings, according to most respondents, indicate that when youths fail to get opportunities, they resort to crime.

Respondents were asked to state their level of agreement with the statement that unemployment leads to unsustainable growth of the economy and limited youth participation in production activities. The results show that 40 (46.5%) respondents agreed with the statement and 18 (20.9%) strongly agreed. The findings also show that 19 (22.1%) neither agreed nor disagreed with the statement. The findings mean that, according to a majority of the

respondents, unemployment leads to unsustainable growth, which limits the youth's participation in production activities, thereby leaving them with no option but to participate in crime.

Regarding the statement that unemployment has numerous consequences for equity, social stability, self-esteem, and poverty, which leads to crime, the results show that 38 (44.2%) of the respondents agreed with the statement. The findings further show that 15 (17.4%) respondents strongly agreed with the statement. The results mean that according to most respondents, unemployment has numerous consequences for equity, social stability, self-esteem, and poverty, which leads to crime.

The respondents were asked to state their level of agreement with the statement that most unemployed youth remain idle and can easily begin to engage in petty criminal activities such as drug abuse and mugging prostitution. The results show that 39 (45.3) respondents agreed with the statement. The results further show that 16 (18.6%) respondents strongly agreed with the document. The results mean that most of the respondents agreed that most unemployed youth remain idle and, as such, can easily begin to engage in petty criminal activities.

The results show that most respondents (41, 47.7%) agree that unemployed youths are easily lured into terror gangs and violence, while 15 (17.4%) strongly agree with the statement. The results mean that, according to the majority of the respondents, unemployed youths are easily lured into terror, gangs, and violence. These findings are in agreement with the findings by Nur (2022), who found that there is a direct relationship between unemployment and the high crime rate in refugee camps. Similarly, the findings align with those of Koln (2016), who established that criminal gangs arise when there is unemployment and a lapse in security in their areas.

V. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusions

The study established that a lack of employment opportunities deprived the majority of the youths' employment, which made the youths resort to crime. Unemployment caused social instability, lowered self-esteem, and led to poverty, which made the youth turn to crime. Thus concludes that unemployment influenced youth involvement in crime in the camp to a great extent.

5.2 Recommendations

The study recommends that organizations offering humanitarian services and governments should find income-generating activities for the youth to engage in to minimize youth involvement in crime in Kakuma Refugee Camp.

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