

**UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**

**INSTITUTE OF STATISTICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC  
RESEARCH**

**THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL SUPPORT ON THE REHABILITATION  
AND REFORMATION OF YOUNG OFFENDERS: A STUDY OF  
SENIOR BOYS' CORRECTIONAL CENTRE, ACCRA**

**BY**

**ALICE AHENKORAH**

**(11008101)**

**THIS DISSERTATION IS SUBMITTED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF  
GHANA, LEGONIN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE  
REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF MASTER OF ARTS IN  
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES DEGREE**

**DECEMBER 2023**

**INTEGRI PROCEDAMUS**

**DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that the work presented is entirely my own work produced from research carried out at the Institute of Statistical, Social, and Economic Research (ISSER) under the supervision of Dr Kofi Takyi Asante and no part or whole of this work has been produced elsewhere for the award of any degree. Every significant contribution and quotation have been duly acknowledged, cited, and referenced in this dissertation.



ALICE AHENKORAH  
(Student)

14/12/2023

Date



DR. KOFI TAKYI ASANTE  
(Supervisor)

14/12/2023

Date



## ABSTRACT

The main objective of the study is to investigate the rehabilitation and reformation of young offenders, with focus on the Senior Boys' Correctional Center in Accra. The social support theory was relevant to this study as it allowed the research to explore how rehabilitation and reformation programmes at the Senior Boys' Correctional Centre can effectively leverage both individual transformation and social connections (social support theory) to facilitate the development of young offenders. It highlighted the significance of social connections in the rehabilitation and reformation process. The research used a qualitative methodology with the phenomenological approach which helped the researcher to explore participants' perspectives and ascribe meanings to their experiences. The study involved two categories of participants namely Officers working at the Correctional Center, and young offenders in detention at Correctional Centers. A sample size of fifteen participants namely three Officers and twelve young offenders at the Correctional Centre was adopted.

The study observed that the rehabilitation services available at the Correctional Centre were categorized into education and vocational training. The reformation activities at the Correctional facility included counselling, religious services, sports and/recreational activities and health services. Altogether, these activities provided support and guidance to young offenders aiding their moral and ethical development and helping them to maintain their emotional wellbeing. The pivotal role of formal and informal relationships combined these tailored rehabilitation and reformation programmes with a strong social support system to yield the most positive outcomes for young offenders. The study recommends that family contact and institutional support should be encouraged to influence positive conduct for effective rehabilitation and reformation of young offenders in the Correctional Centre.

### **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this work to my extraordinary mother Charity Biney and my supportive family; and to my lovely daughter Stacey Yaa Ocansey, always remember to: DESIRE, BE DETERMINED, AND FOCUS, AND YOU WILL WIN.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Honour and Glory go to God, the Creator for giving me wisdom, perseverance, and strength to embark on this journey. It was not easy, but it was worth it.

I wish to convey my deepest appreciation to my Supervisor Dr. Kofi Takyi Asante for his commitment, priceless guidance, understanding, patience, support, and input throughout this study. Without his expertise, this journey could not have been successfully completed.

Special thanks are accorded to the Ghana Prisons' Service for allowing me to undertake my study at the Senior Boys' Correctional centre, Accra. I appreciate the Officers at the Correctional Centre for their outstanding support, and to inmates for their time-sharing and input. Without you this study could not have been a success.

I also extend my gratitude to Madam Jessie Dzokoto and Madam Josephine Dzokoto, words escape me. My pursuit of education felt like a walk in the park due to your words of encouragement, advice, and overall support.

My gratitude goes out to all my classmates, and friends who worked together with me for great success in all assignments and projects given. To Derrick Asamoah, I do not have the words to convey my heartfelt appreciation for your wonderful friendship.

A special appreciation to Dr Ernest Foli for your time, concern, and input in my work. I am most grateful.

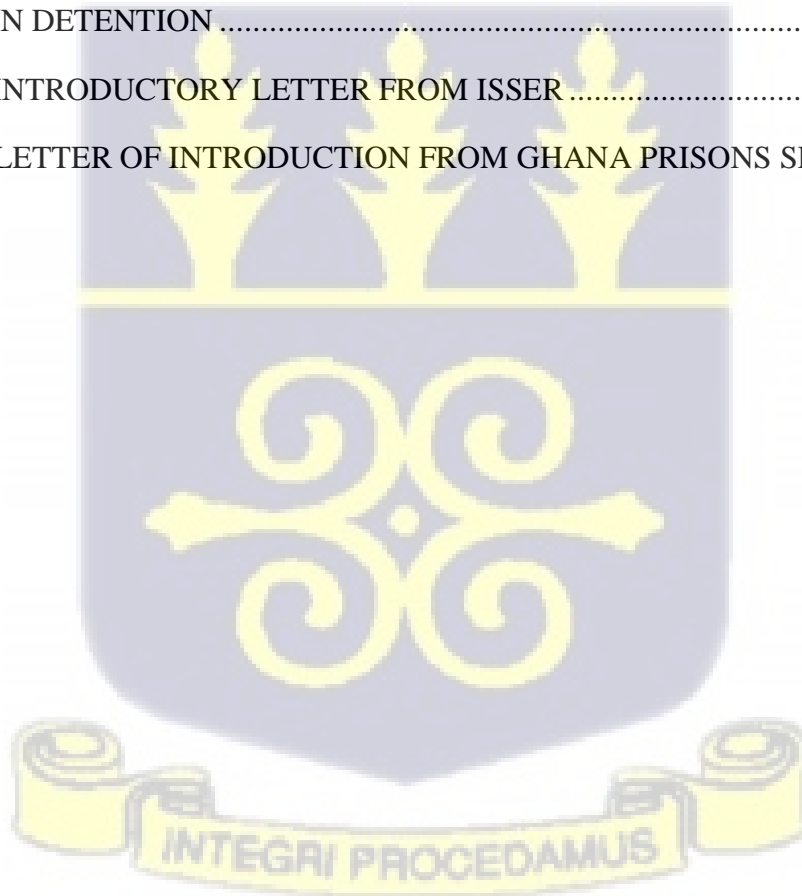


**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

ABSTRACT .....	3
DEDICATION.....	4
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	5
TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	6
CHAPTER ONE.....	1
INTRODUCTION .....	1
1.1 Background of Study .....	1
1.2 Problem Statement.....	3
1.3 Objectives of the Study.....	5
1.4 Significance of the Study.....	5
1.5 Organization of the Study.....	7
CHAPTER TWO .....	8
LITERATURE REVIEW.....	8
2.1 Introduction .....	8
2.2 Brief background of Juvenile Justice in Ghana.....	8
2.3 Factors that Lead to Youth Delinquency .....	13
2.4 The Effectiveness of Rehabilitation and Reformation Process .....	16
2.5 Theoretical Framework .....	24
2.5.1 Social support theory.....	24
2.6 The Role of Social Support on the Rehabilitation and Reformation of Young Offenders .....	25
2.7 Conceptual framework.....	29
CHAPTER THREE.....	31
METHODOLOGY.....	31
3.1 Introduction .....	31
3.2 Study site.....	31

3.3 Research Design .....	32
3.4 Study Population.....	33
3.5 Sampling Technique .....	33
3.6 Sample size.....	34
3.7 Data Collection Instrument and Procedure .....	35
3.8 Data Analysis.....	35
3.9 Ethical Consideration.....	36
CHAPTER FOUR.....	37
PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS .....	37
4.1 Introduction .....	37
4.2 Demographic Characteristics.....	37
4.3 Examining the nature of current programmes at the Senior Boys Correctional Centre. ....	41
4.3.1 Rehabilitation .....	42
4.3.2 Reformation .....	44
4.4 Analysing the impact of programmes on young offenders. ....	48
4.4.1 Acquisition of skills.....	48
4.4.2 Educational attainment .....	50
4.4.3 Positive adjustment.....	51
4.5 Exploring the role of social support.....	53
4.5.1 Formal support .....	54
4.5.2 Informal Support .....	57
CHAPTER FIVE .....	61
SUMMARY CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION.....	61
5.1 Introduction .....	61
5.2 Summary of Key Findings .....	61
5.3 Conclusion.....	65

5.4 Recommendations.....	66
5.5 Limitation.....	67
REFERENCES .....	68
APPENDIX .....	76
UNIVERSITY OF GHANA .....	76
Research Title: Rehabilitation and Reformation of young offenders: A Study of Senior Boys’ Correctional Center Accra. ....	76
INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR OFFICER-IN-CHARGE AT CORRECTIONAL CENTER .....	77
INTERVIEW .....	77
APPENDIX B: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR YOUNG OFFENDERS IN DETENTION.....	78
EXPERIENCE IN DETENTION .....	78
APPENDIX C: INTRODUCTORY LETTER FROM ISSER.....	79
APPENDIX D: LETTER OF INTRODUCTION FROM GHANA PRISONS SERVICE .....	80



## CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of Study

A young offender is a person between the age of eighteen to twenty-one years who is in conflict with the law and has been convicted of an offense for which the court may impose a sentence of imprisonment for one month or upward without the option of a fine, and a juvenile is person below eighteen years who is in conflict with the law (Juvenile Justice Act 2003 Act 653). The Juvenile Justice Act protects and provides for both juveniles and young offenders. This study focuses on young offenders and terms such as young offender and offender would be employed interchangeably. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, humans were considered 'inherently evil' and as such those who engaged in crime were punished to deter them (Mushlin, 2002). As time progressed, most states recognized the need to separate young offenders from adult offenders within the Criminal Justice system (Lambie & Randell, 2013; Guarino-Ghezzi, 2017) and, in addition, improve their treatment in detention and establish a system to assist in their reintegration into their communities after release (Kendall et al., 2018).

The objective was to enhance the process of rehabilitating and reforming young offenders. According to Mousourakis (2021), the prevailing philosophy during that period was centred around the notion that it was imperative to shield young individuals from the punitive measures typically imposed by criminal courts on adult wrongdoers. To date, numerous countries have adopted the incorporation of a youth justice system into their respective legal frameworks. England and Wales have a separate Youth Justice System (YJS) and youth custody service for children, which operates as a distinct arm under Prison and Probation Service (Price, 2020).

The conduct of engaging in crime exhibited by the young population imposes a significant burden on the nation's resources, encompassing expenses related to law enforcement and judicial proceedings, as well as costs associated with rehabilitation and confinement. According to Bosomprah (2023), the period in which these individuals serve their sentences or confront the repercussions of their actions is characterised by a lack of productivity and a squandering of their youth. While other children are attending school and being prepared for the future, these offenders must remain in Correctional facilities. Research indicates the likelihood of individuals who have engaged in delinquent behaviour during their youth to exhibit a history of unemployment and reliance on welfare as adults (Verbruggen & Van der Geest, 2016; Carter, 2019; Gypen et al., 2017)). According to Kopak et al. (2016), there is a significantly higher likelihood for individuals to experience rearrest at some juncture in their lifetime.

Given that the youth demographic constitutes approximately 38.2% of Ghana's population (Ghana Statistical Service, 2021), the younger generation represents a significant reserve of human capital, and the implementation of effective educational and developmental strategies by governmental institutions will play a crucial role in fostering and maintaining Ghana's progressing economy. Based on an analysis of the youth justice systems in various countries, it is evident that the primary focus of rehabilitation and reformation is typically centred within correctional facilities, both in Ghana and Western nations. Research, however, has demonstrated that the majority of these correctional facilities have a detrimental effect on offenders, leaving them in a worsened state upon release and posing a greater social threat upon their return to their homes (Dejene Tolla, 2021). This phenomenon is commonly attributed to the inadequate training provided to young individuals during their stay in Correctional homes, as well as the negative experiences they encounter upon their release when attempting to secure means of livelihood. In such circumstances, individuals are compelled to revert to reoffending (Bergman & Fondevila, 2021). Russia has a notable prevalence

of recidivism among the youth, with rates ranging from 34.2% to 36.2% (Wang, 2020;Pierce & Fondevilla, 2020). The recidivism rate for the United States is 70% while that of Norway is at 20% (Hayden, 2023). While the US focused on punishment, Norway focused more on rehabilitation and reformation of offenders.

Graña Gómez et al. (2022) posits that there exist numerous limitations that hinder the achievement of objectives related to facilitating an offender's reintegration into society and their ability to assume a productive role following their release. One of the factors identified was the substandard quality of education provided at the Correctional facilities. According to King (2021), despite the extensive array of programmes, opportunities, and committed personnel available at the Youth Centres, the atmosphere within the facilities may isolate young individuals from their community and foster a heightened understanding of criminal activities. Education and training provided at the Correctional centres may be insufficient for offenders and this may be attributed to insufficient financial resources, a scarcity of social workers, and a reluctance on the part of the government to make substantial investments in this particular field. According to Hassan & Rosly, (2021) the offenders receive only fundamental instruction in social education and no additional educational opportunities.

## **1.2 Problem Statement**

The primary goal of Ghana's Correctional System has been to reform individuals involved in criminal activities, with a focus on their rehabilitation (Addae, 2020). Rehabilitation aims to equip offenders with skills and capabilities that will decrease their likelihood of reoffending and enable them to live a productive life (Culen and Gundreau, 2000). Reformation, in the context of young offenders, typically denotes the procedure of transforming an individual's character and values to conform to societal norms and legal standards. The terms rehabilitation and reformation would be

used interchangeably and independently in the study. Formerly called a Borstal Institution, a Correctional Centre is a place where an offender, as the court may determine, may be detained (Juvenile Justice Act 653/2003). The key objective behind the establishment of Correctional Centres in Ghana is to facilitate the development of responsible citizenship and address the need to rescue young individuals from a potential life of criminality (Addae, 2020). The Juvenile Justice Act, 2003 (Act 653) of Ghana, establishes the Juvenile Justice System, which aims to safeguard the rights of young individuals and provide a suitable approach for addressing offenders (Ame, 2017; Boakye & Akoensi, 2021). Typically, young offenders in Ghana are housed within Correctional Centres. These facilities serve as establishments entrusted with the responsibility of implementing corrective measures, as mandated by the Juvenile Justice Act, in order to nurture these young ones during their period of detention and simultaneously equip them with the skills necessary to become productive and accountable individuals within society.

However, there exists a pressing need to comprehensively examine the nature of current programmes of the rehabilitation and reformation processes, with a particular focus on the Senior Boys' Correctional Centre, in Accra. Barriers to rehabilitation and reformation of young offenders such as overcrowding, lack of resources and proper infrastructure, insufficient access to medical treatment, inadequate staff training, stigmatisation and discrimination can all impact a conducive environment to rehabilitation and reformation. Studies have been conducted by researchers on offenders, with some focusing on factors contributing to their delinquency (Dako-Gyeke et al., 2020), while others have explored the nature of state correctional centres (Acheampong et al., 2022). It is of importance, however, that further research is conducted to study impact of social support in the reformation and rehabilitation of young offenders from Greater Accra and Ashanti Regions in detention at the Senior Correctional Centre. The research will examine the nature of current programmes at the Centre and analyse the impact of these programmes in reforming and

rehabilitating young offenders during detention. Additionally, the role of social relationships in the rehabilitation and reformation of offenders in detention will be explored, particularly those from other regions apart from Greater Accra. Social support theory, which would be the theoretical framework employed for this study, ideally should begin even before conviction and right after incarceration of young offenders. This is important because offenders, who do not receive social support through their detention and subsequently after their release, may form negative associations and be led further into a life of crime. According to Bohmert et al. (2018), social support can be given formally by agencies and institutions and expressed through counselling and helping an offender to achieve a goal; and informally by family and friends. This study seeks to shed light on how the rehabilitation and reformation of young offenders in correctional centres safeguard the present and future well-being and welfare of young people involved in the youth justice system.

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

The broad objective of the study is to investigate the rehabilitation and reformation of young offenders, with focus on the Senior Boys' Correctional Center in Accra. The study was directed by the following specific objectives.

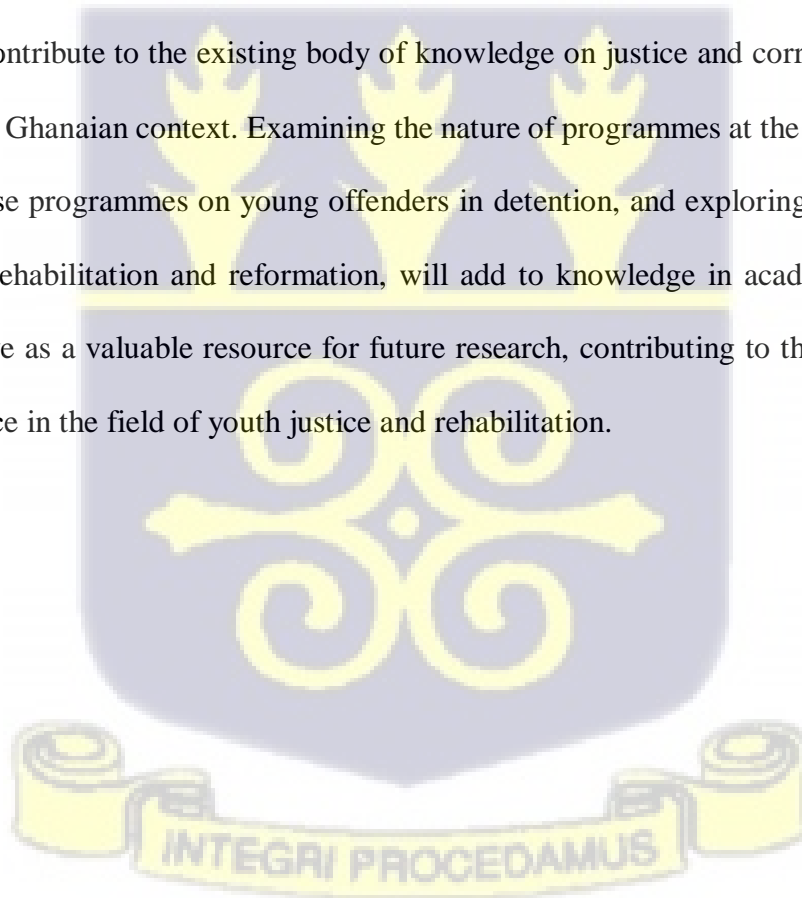
1. To examine the nature of rehabilitation and reformation programmes at the disposal of young offenders at the Senior Boys Correctional Centre.
2. To analyse the impact of these programmes on the young offenders.
3. To explore the role of social support in the reformation and rehabilitation of young offenders.

### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

By exploring the programs and interventions offenders receive at the Centre, this research can bring

to light the structures in place at the Correctional Centre to reveal the nature of reformation and rehabilitation of young offenders. The study's findings will be instrumental as information gathered would offer a valuable insight for Social Welfare Officers and other professionals in issues regarding the reformation and rehabilitation of young offenders in Ghana, particularly in the Greater Accra and Ashanti Regions. By exploring the role of social support in young offenders' reformation and rehabilitation, relevant parties can gain a deeper understanding of the existing gaps and areas for improvement. The study's insights can help shape guidelines to prioritize the well-being and welfare of young individuals, with the ultimate goal of reducing recidivism rates and creating safer communities.

This study will contribute to the existing body of knowledge on justice and correctional practices, specifically in the Ghanaian context. Examining the nature of programmes at the facility, analysing the impact of these programmes on young offenders in detention, and exploring the role of social support in their rehabilitation and reformation, will add to knowledge in academia. The study's findings will serve as a valuable resource for future research, contributing to the advancement of theory and practice in the field of youth justice and rehabilitation.



### **1.5 Organization of the Study**

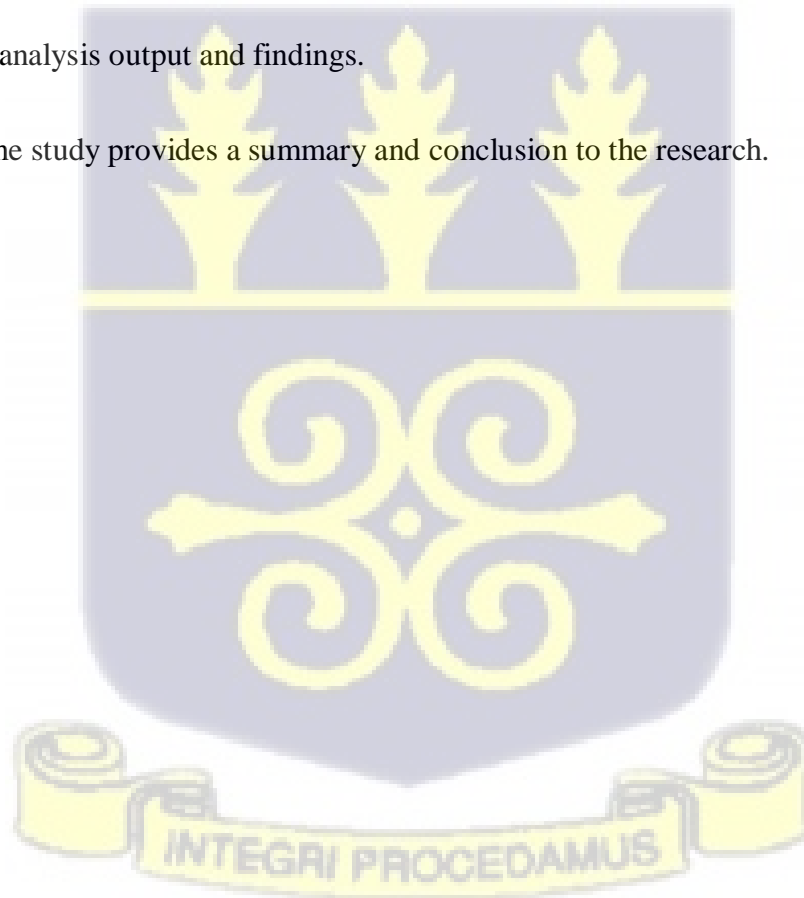
Chapter One of the study provides the background, problem statement, research objectives and significance of the study.

Chapter Two reviews the existing literature, which covers the theory underpinning the study and its empirical reviews. The conceptual framework of the research is also presented in this chapter.

Chapter Three presents the research methodology, study population, sample size, and data analysis approaches.

Chapter Four of the study presents the demographic characteristics of the respondents and details the research data analysis output and findings.

Chapter Five of the study provides a summary and conclusion to the research.



## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 Introduction

This chapter explored the subject of rehabilitation and reformation of young offenders by studying the relevant theory pertaining to the research. Literature was reviewed by explaining the administration of Juvenile Justice in Ghana, how the youth come into conflict and contact with the law, and the impact and effectiveness of rehabilitation and reformation activities on youth justice system. It also looked at the role of social support and the challenges affecting rehabilitation and reformation.

#### 2.2 Brief background of Juvenile Justice in Ghana

The recognition of juvenile justice as an independent component within a nation's criminal justice system is vital, particularly due to the prevailing local and international standards that emphasize the distinct treatment of young offenders in comparison to adult criminals (Hoffmann & Baerg, 2011). The juvenile justice system is an integral component of the broader judicial framework inside the nation. According to Ame (2019), the inclusion of the valued system in our legal and historical processes is vital. The legal framework of Ghana does not have specific provisions on the treatment of young offenders under its traditional or customary laws (Ame, 2018). Prior to the era of colonization, the governing bodies of our society consisted of chiefs and elders who operated in accordance with the prevailing traditional values and norms. This approach was also extended to the treatment and management of young individuals (Kiye, 2015; Ame, 2019). It can be inferred from the aforementioned information that there may have been a lack of clearly recorded legislations. However, when a case was presented to them, they have the knowledge and ability to implement

appropriate actions to rectify the behaviour of the young individual in question. Furthermore, they would use this opportunity to impart valuable lessons to other young individuals to reform their behaviour.

The administration of juvenile justice in Ghana relies on many legislative measures to effectively fulfil its duties. The legislative statutes encompassing the legal framework for addressing criminal offenses include the Criminal Offences Act 1960 (Act 29), the Juvenile Justice Act 2003 (Act 653), and the Children's Act 1998 (Act 560). The legislative framework of Ghana is influenced by many international conventions and treaties to which the country is a signatory. The Criminal Offences Act encompasses all those who have committed criminal acts, without exclusive emphasis on young offenders. The enactment of the Juvenile Justice Act was a direct response to the need for specialized intervention for individuals under the age of majority who engage in criminal behaviour. This population, due to their youthfulness and developmental differences, cannot be subject to the same treatment as adults (Boakye & Akoensi, 2021; Anku, 2022; Golo, 2018). The Juvenile Justice Act of 2003, also known as Act 653, comprehensively delineates several facets of the Ghanaian system. Additionally, the establishment had two correctional facilities, namely the Junior Correctional Centre and the Senior Correctional Centre. There are, nevertheless, several areas of this legislation that need scrutiny due to existing gaps (Hoffmann & Baerg, 2011).

The Children's Act, which aims to safeguard and enhance the well-being of children, is also used. Consequently, in accordance with the stipulations outlined in the Children's Act, these individuals may be classified as minors. This grants them eligibility for the privileges afforded to children as stipulated in the Children's Act, notwithstanding their involvement in legal transgressions. The current legislation pertaining to the juvenile justice system in Ghana lacks a comprehensive framework. According to Hoffmann and Baerg (2011), it is worth noting that there are juvenile

courts established in all 10 regions of the nation. The juvenile court in Accra is situated inside the Ministries area. A designated space is used for the conduct of formal processes. According to Golo (2018), the Juvenile Justice Act stipulates the need for the segregation of the juvenile court from other court procedures. The proceedings conducted in the juvenile court exhibit an informal nature that distinguishes them from those seen in other judicial systems. According to the Juvenile Justice Act of 2003, specifically Act 653, it is stipulated that police personnel acting as prosecutors in juvenile court proceedings should refrain from wearing their official uniforms. In contrast to other courts, the judge or magistrate in the present context does not don the customary robe, as stipulated by the Juvenile Justice Act of 2003, specifically Act 653. This demonstrates the distinctiveness of the juvenile court in comparison to the adult court or any other court.

Within the context of a juvenile court, it is customary for several key individuals to be present. These include a judge who presides over the proceedings, a court clerk responsible for administrative tasks, a social worker who also serves as a probation officer, a police officer who assumes the role of prosecutor, the parent or guardian of the offender, a two-member panel typically consisting of at least one educationist, and a Social Welfare Officer (Juvenile Justice Act 2003, Act 653). The panel members are responsible for offering counsel to the court and engaging in collective deliberation on the matter at hand. The judge, in accordance with the Juvenile Justice Act 2003, Act 653, is not obligated to adhere to the opinions expressed by others but has the discretion to evaluate them. Ame and Ayete-Nyampong (2020) conducted research whereby they observed that the procedures and requirements outlined in the Juvenile Justice Act, Act 653, did not align with the actual practices seen at the juvenile court in Ghana. The researchers observed a deficiency in organizational practices, noting instances when certain court documents were absent during morning sessions, necessitating the impromptu handling of a case. On many instances, the court's docket was shown to be inaccurate. Instances have been observed when social inquiry reports

conducted by probation officers have been documented as being absent or unaccounted for. The presiding judge assumed the responsibility of personally documenting the legal processes, sometimes interrupting the proceedings to ensure accurate recording before continuing forward. The presence of material across many volumes resulted in challenges for the court when attempting to access records of prior sessions, leading to significant time wastage. These factors contribute to the prolongation of legal proceedings and hinder the expeditious resolution of trials. Offenders undergo many court appearances prior to the final adjudication.

The issue of juvenile justice may be more comprehensively elucidated through the lens of legal frameworks and principles. According to the Juvenile Justice Act of 2003, also known as Act 653, the term "juvenile" refers to a youthful individual who is engaged in legal offenses. It is not permissible to subject a minor to trial as an adult. Consequently, legislation establishes provisions about the course of action to be taken when an individual encounters legal conflicts. The categorization of an individual as a young delinquent is contingent upon their age and conduct. However, the specific age thresholds for qualifying as a delinquent differ among countries. The Juvenile Justice Act of 2003, Act 653 in Ghana, provides a juvenile justice system for juveniles (below the age of eighteen years), and young offenders (between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one years) who engage in unlawful activities or delinquency to protect their rights and ensure appropriate response. Adolescents and young people together comprise a significant proportion of the population in the majority of nations. According to Burfeind and Bartush (2015), these entities are often seen as the driving force that may effectively address the growing socio-economic and political obstacles encountered by several nations, hence facilitating their progress towards attaining national objectives. Consequently, several governments and international organizations have emphasized the need of implementing policy solutions that facilitate the acquisition of essential skills by young people. One prominent supra-national instance, among other others, has

included the global appeal for all countries to "attain universal primary education."

The phenomenon of delinquency is not exclusive to Ghana alone (Ibrahim, 2015). Nevertheless, it is important to note that the characterisation of a youth offending might differ among nations. The definitions of a young delinquent person are provided in policy papers of several nations. According to Act 653 of Ghana's Juvenile Justice legislation, a young delinquent is legally defined as an individual between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one who has engaged in behaviour that violates the law. This individual is subjected to distinct treatment compared to an adult criminal, unless there are extraordinary circumstances.

Ghana like other countries continuously confront the issues connected with addressing the matter of young offenders. In the pursuit of resolving these difficulties, it is important to note that juvenile justice is not an isolated domain, but rather an integral component of the broader court system. A sequence of legislative measures has been implemented in Ghana in order to tackle the issue of young persons in conflict with the law. The first noteworthy legal provision was delineated in the 1936 Ordinance (Child and Reformation). According to Baffour and Abass (2016), the legislation granted judges and magistrates the authority to detain individuals under the age of sixteen in a boys' training school managed by the Salvation Army in Mampong-Akwapim. This measure was applicable in cases where these individuals were convicted of offenses that, if committed by adults, would result in imprisonment without the possibility of a fine. Subsequent legislations included the Probation of Offenders Ordinance (1944), the Probation Officers and Committee Regulation (1945), and the Industrial Schools and Institutions Ordinance of 1945 (Duah, 2021). At present, the only approach to addressing the behaviour of offenders presented before Ghana's judicial system is via the use of custody (Hoffman & Baerg, 2011).

### **2.3 Factors that Lead to Youth Delinquency**

The participation of minors in criminal activities that contravene societal and legal norms is influenced by several variables operating at different levels (Dako-Gyeke et al., 2022). Research has shown a rising prevalence of delinquent conduct among young individuals and adolescents in several nations, mostly attributed to the prevailing social, economic, and cultural circumstances within a given country. According to the World Bank Report (2007, pages 61), there are many variables identified that contribute to the engagement of young people in behaviours that are deemed unacceptable, particularly within industrialized nations. This phenomenon is attributable to several factors, some of which are discussed subsequently. The aforementioned characteristics have resemblance to those seen in underdeveloped nations, including Ghana.

Nyarko et al. (2019) have identified that the occurrence of delinquency may be attributed to the confluence of social and economic elements. According to Atilola (2013), the depletion of economic resources is a significant contributing factor to the prevalence of adolescent delinquency in Ghana. According to Atilola (2013), the rise in the young population may be attributed to the occurrence of youthful criminality. The insufficiency and inadequacy of economic resources available to minors compel them to engage in different criminal activities. The insufficiencies of the available resources may be attributed to the continuous growth of the young population.

In the preceding three decades, Ghana has shown a consistent state of political stability, suggesting that the presence of political instability may not be a contributing factor to the occurrence of young delinquency within the country. Nevertheless, it is plausible that the decline of social institutions might be a contributing factor. There is a strong correlation between socio-economic instability and the prevalence of prolonged unemployment and low wages among young individuals. This association has been shown to heighten the probability of their engagement in criminal behaviour, as demonstrated by Gyansah et al. (2015). According to Hirschi (2017), delinquency may be

attributed to economic and familial related difficulties in some cases. Pressure from peer groups has been highlighted as an additional social component contributing to the occurrence of adolescent criminality. One perspective, such as the differential association theory, posits that delinquency may be attributed to associations with peers (Kratcoski et al., 2019). It might be argued that actions of delinquency have the potential to be acquired via peer association. The level of pressure experienced by youngsters may be very significant, particularly in situations where they are coerced into conforming to the behaviours of their peers under the fear of exclusion. According to Young et al. (2017), young ones may sometimes be influenced to engage in delinquent behaviours.

Individuals sometimes have a need to get affiliated with gangs, which might occasionally include participation in criminal activities. According to the World Youth Report of 2003, individuals see it as an integral aspect of the maturation process or the transition into adulthood. These relationships may provide individuals with a feeling of protection, security, and belonging. Certain individuals possess the capacity to acquire social interaction skills and exhibit desirable traits such as loyalty and leadership. Some social organisations serve as a means of compensating for deficiencies seen within the family, educational institutions, and other societal groupings (Kennedy et al., 2020). Certain adolescent individuals see these gang members as their familial unit. Within a given neighbourhood, it is possible that certain teens may rely only on this particular method of safeguarding. According to Nisar et al. (2015), in some locations, teenagers who are not affiliated with gangs may experience bullying in public spaces or educational institutions.

Urbanisation is well recognized as a contributing factor to the occurrence of youth delinquency. According to Mwangangi (2019), a geographical study examining the relationship between urbanization and crime reveals that nations characterised by greater levels of urbanisation tend to exhibit elevated rates of recorded crime compared to those with robust rural lifestyles and

communities. Rural communities exhibit traditional characteristics and possess distinct mechanisms for regulating behaviour, mostly due to the shared ethnic origins of its inhabitants. Conversely, urbanisation engenders the establishment of contemporary communities characterized by diverse socio-cultural origins. The paper highlights the correlation between urbanization processes in emerging nations and the increased likelihood of youth engagement in criminal activities. This phenomenon might perhaps be ascribed to the variations in social control and social cohesiveness. According to Shoemaker (2017), rural communities mostly depend on family and community mechanisms to address antisocial behaviour, resulting in significantly reduced crime rates. The phenomenon of rural-to-urban migration in developing nations is widely seen among young individuals, and it is well acknowledged that this migration pattern significantly contributes to the occurrence of youth delinquency. Urban settings are characterised by high population density, a diminished presence of fundamental social relationships, limited regulatory mechanisms, and increased exposure of young individuals to novel behaviours (Thompson & Bynum, 2016).

There is a growing trend of individuals experiencing increasing levels of exclusion, which has resulted in a corresponding increase in behaviours that impede or impede societal advancement. Consequently, social connections are deteriorating, and younger individuals are encountering difficulties in establishing their own identities. According to Siegel and Welsh (2016), there has been an increase in the rate of unemployment. Several scholars have posited the existence of welfare systems inside societal frameworks. However, these systems have been unable to effectively address the barriers resulting from exclusion in order to help (Bates & Swan, 2019; Garbarino & Plantz, 2017). The phenomenon described has been seen to have resulted in the emergence of a socio-economic group often referred to as the "new poor" in several regions (Thompson et al., 2016). The presence of welfare systems may serve as a disincentive for individuals to participate in lawful economic endeavours as a means of generating income. The welfare systems facilitate the

provision of a favourable quality of life for those experiencing poverty, allowing them to have a sense of well-being. In the absence of consistent access to these benefits, it is more probable that the recipients, who are economically disadvantaged, may resort to engaging in illegal behaviours, ultimately resulting in their social marginalisation. The exclusion of delinquents who have engaged in minor transgressions by society poses challenges for these individuals and has ramifications for the progression of their offending trajectories. According to Rathinabalan and Naaraayan (2017), it is seen that young individuals perceive themselves as being labelled, leading them to adopt a delinquent image, which subsequently reinforces the labelling process.

#### **2.4 The Effectiveness of Rehabilitation and Reformation Process**

Based on the analysis of juvenile justice structures in various countries, it is evident that the primary focus of rehabilitation occurs within correctional facilities, both in Ghana and Western countries. Studies have shown that many of these correctional facilities actually have a negative impact on offenders, making them more of a social threat when they return home. In Russia, for example, the rate of youth recidivism is reported to be high, ranging from 34.2% to 36.2%. This is believed to be a result of inadequate education provided to young people in correctional facilities and the negative experiences they face upon their release while trying to find employment. When faced with such circumstances, individuals may find themselves compelled to engage in delinquent behaviour once more (UNICEF, 2008).

Gast (2001) highlights numerous challenges that hinder the achievement of the objectives of facilitating young offenders' rehabilitation and their ability to contribute positively to society upon release. One of the issues identified was the subpar quality of education provided at the detention centres. According to Gast (2001), despite the wide array of programmes and dedicated staff at the Youth Centre, the environment has the potential to isolate young men from their community and

expose them to the world of crime. When examining the correctional facilities in Ghana, it becomes evident that the education provided and the opportunities for training are lacking. This can be attributed to the limited financial resources, shortage of social workers, and the government's reluctance to make substantial investments in this field. According to Baergg and Hoffman (2011), the offenders receive only a basic education in social education, with no additional subjects. Education is widely recognized as a powerful catalyst for change, as it has the ability to shape perspectives and its absence has been identified as a significant factor in the rising rates of recidivism in the mentioned countries.

In the United States of America, the situation in correctional institutes remains essentially the same. The glaring injustice is evident in the lifetime imprisonment of a young offender without the possibility of parole. Nevertheless, their system for young offenders was established with the belief that they possess the capacity to develop and transform, necessitating the creation of a suitable environment for such growth. According to The Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of the Youth (2012), nearly 2,500 young individuals have been deprived of the chance to demonstrate their rehabilitation, reformation and subsequently reintegration into society.

Reducing recidivism rates is a fundamental objective of rehabilitation and reformation interventions implemented inside correctional systems. The efficacy of these measures has been proved in several nations. The juvenile justice system in Norway has adopted a rehabilitative and reintegrative strategy, which prioritizes education and treatment. This method has been shown to result in much reduced rates of reoffending when compared to punitive models, as evidenced by studies conducted by Pappas and Dent (2023), Mears et al. (2015), and Sankofa et al. (2018). The results highlight the potential efficacy of rehabilitation and reformation activities in preventing recidivism among young persons involved in criminal conduct.

According to Azam et al. (2021), there exists a perspective that posits a negative relationship between restorative justice and youth delinquency. This viewpoint is based on the argument that restorative justice does not primarily aim to dissuade future offending and that not all manifestations of restorative justice are designed to influence recidivism. The observation is a matter of worry, as it pertains to the issue of recidivism, which is known to contribute to the worldwide problem of overcrowded correctional facilities and the subsequent challenges that arise from such circumstances. The substandard conditions of jails and detention centers, exacerbated by the formal criminal justice system's emphasis on punishment, deterrence, and rehabilitation, have emerged as a significant challenge for countries. Therefore, the incorporation of rehabilitation and reformation justice ideas into state legislation is a persuasive proposition for many states, since it has the potential to decrease recidivism rates (Thielo et al., 2016; Henning et al., 2018).

According to Dignan, a renowned scholar in the field of Criminology and Restorative Justice, restorative justice offers a distinct approach to addressing the consequences of an offense. This approach encompasses a diverse range of practices that aim to address crime in a more constructive manner compared to traditional punitive measures (Weisburd, 2015). The major emphasis of the procedure is inherent in its nomenclature. The objective of this approach is not centred on seeking revenge or simply rehabilitation, but rather on restoring the involved parties, including the offender, victim, and community, to their pre-offense status. According to Morrow et al. (2015), the likelihood of future offending behaviour is reduced under certain conditions as compared to current criminal justice methods. Although restorative justice does not primarily address recidivism, it may be an associated factor, as defined by the Merriam-Webster dictionary, referring to the propensity to go back to a former state or pattern of behaviour. Hence, it is essential to conduct an empirical investigation to examine the effects of restorative justice on those involved.

Several analytical reviews have been published within the past two decades proposing the implementation of rehabilitation programs for young delinquents. These reviews have presented substantial evidence indicating that interventions aimed at reducing re-offending have resulted in an overall positive net gain when comparing treated groups to non-treated groups. In a study conducted by Oluoch (1993), an examination was undertaken to investigate the relationship between adolescents and stealing, as well as the efficacy of interventions implemented by the juvenile courts. The research conducted by the author focused on incarcerated young offenders who were engaged in major and violent criminal activities. According to his analysis, the most effective intervention programs shown the ability to decrease recidivism rates by up to 40 percent. The individual saw this statistic as a noteworthy achievement with significant practical implications, particularly in relation to the financial costs and societal harm linked to the misconduct shown by these young offenders.

Kikuvi (2011) conducted a study that focused on the obstacles and implications of counselling in the context of rehabilitating delinquent teenagers in Kenya. The objective of this study was to determine the qualifications of staff members, examine the perceptions of rehabilitees towards rehabilitation schools, identify the existing rehabilitation programmes, evaluate parental involvement in the rehabilitation process, and ascertain the extent to which the school environment supports rehabilitation efforts. The results of the study indicated that none of the schools examined exhibited complete class non-continuity in both the counselling and subsequent rehabilitation processes. The teenagers exhibited a deficiency in comprehending the rationale for their enrolment in rehabilitation programmes. The primary programmes implemented inside educational institutions included guidance and counselling, educational instruction, vocational training, and spiritual development. Simultaneously, the staff members expressed that parental engagement in the rehabilitation process with their children was below average, and they also observed that the school

atmosphere was not favourable to facilitating rehabilitation.

The use of rehabilitation and reformation programmes within detention institutions has been shown to significantly enhance the behavioural outcomes of young offenders. The common thread seen in these instances is that when offenders are equipped with appropriate rehabilitation resources and get enough assistance, they exhibit notable improvements in their conduct, therefore establishing a favourable foundation for successful reintegration. The process of reintegrating into society after confinement is a crucial component of the juvenile justice system. The use of rehabilitative and reformatory activities has shown its capacity to facilitate this shift. As an example, Canada has adopted a reformatory justice framework inside its correctional facilities, with an emphasis on community reconciliation and reintegration strategies for young offenders (Scott et al., 2015). This methodology increases the probability of successful reintegration and reduced involvement in criminal activities among young persons. In addition, the juvenile justice system in New Zealand is distinguished by its restorative approach and focus on Maori culture and community links, which have been shown to be associated with increased rates of successful reintegration (George, 2015; Fraser, 2016; Drewery, 2016). The instances illustrate that placing emphasis on rehabilitation and reformation inside correctional facilities not only yields advantages for offenders during their period of incarceration, but also facilitates their successful reintegration into the broader community.

The effectiveness of offender rehabilitation programmes is closely linked to the expertise and capabilities of the staff members involved. Limited training opportunities and a lack of continuous professional development can greatly hinder staff's ability to apply evidence-based practices, effectively interact with young offenders, and address the complex needs of those under their supervision (Haqanee & Peterson-Badali, 2015). Inadequately trained staff members may face difficulties in implementing effective rehabilitation methods, which can hinder the successful reintegration of offenders into society (Braithwaite & Mugford, 2017). A study conducted by

Mitchell and Anderson (2019) highlights the crucial role of staff training in effectively engaging and positively impacting the rehabilitation of young offenders. Therefore, it is crucial to have ongoing and thorough training programmes in place to improve staff skills and maintain a consistent level of high-quality interventions. This will ultimately lead to better outcomes in rehabilitation efforts.

Lack of adequate resource allocation poses a significant challenge to the effectiveness of young offenders' rehabilitation programs. The limited resources available result in overcrowded facilities, inadequate staffing, and a lack of essential resources like educational materials, vocational training equipment, and mental health services. The scarcity of these essential resources hinders the delivery of comprehensive and efficient rehabilitation programs, thereby reducing their capacity to effectively rehabilitate offenders (Decker, 2017). In their study, Fox et al. (2015) highlights the lack of resources as a major obstacle in rehabilitation efforts. They argue that this scarcity not only affects the quality of interventions but also hinders the overall effectiveness of addressing the diverse needs of young offenders.

The lack of proper infrastructure and facilities poses a major challenge in the rehabilitation of offenders. Many rehabilitation centers face challenges when it comes to providing a comprehensive range of interventions due to limited physical spaces. These limitations include the absence of dedicated living spaces for different age groups, insufficient recreational facilities, and inadequate vocational training workshops (Monahan et al., 2015). The lack of appropriate infrastructure limits the potential of rehabilitation interventions, hindering their ability to contribute to the overall growth of young offenders. According to Asscher et al., (2015), inadequate infrastructure not only hampers the range of rehabilitation activities, but also hinders the ability of rehabilitation centers to effectively address the complex needs and challenges of offenders.

Reintegrating young offenders into society is a challenging task due to the presence of societal stigma and discrimination. The stigmatisation and categorisation of ex-convicts can severely hinder their chances of obtaining education, employment, and secure housing options. The social exclusion experienced by individuals not only hinders their chances of successfully reintegrating into society, but also contributes to a continuous pattern of engaging in criminal activities (Fortune, 2018). Research conducted by Young et al., (2017) and Shoemaker (2017) highlights the enduring effects of societal stigma on young offenders and the difficulties they encounter in accessing necessary resources and opportunities after being released. It is crucial to address these societal obstacles and cultivate a sense of community acceptance and support in order to effectively reintegrate offenders. It is crucial for rehabilitation and reformation programmes to incorporate a comprehensive strategy that involves active participation from the community and efforts to foster positive attitudes and diminish the stigma surrounding offenders (Bower, 2018). This proactive approach fosters an environment that promotes successful reintegration of former offenders into society, enabling them to lead law-abiding lives. This, in turn, benefits both the individuals and the community as a whole. Many young offenders grapple with various mental health issues, such as trauma, substance abuse, and emotional disorders. Unfortunately, the availability of mental health professionals and specialized mental health services within rehabilitation programs is quite limited. Lack of sufficient mental health support can hinder the effectiveness of rehabilitation efforts, as untreated mental health issues can contribute to ongoing delinquent behaviour and impede successful reintegration into society (Williams et al., 2015). It's important to note the urgent need for mental health services, as emphasized by studies conducted by Wilson and Brown (2019). These studies highlight the importance of addressing mental health issues in the young offender population and the negative consequences of limited access to suitable services.

The lack of collaboration and coordination among stakeholders is a significant challenge in the field of rehabilitation programmes. The effectiveness of the rehabilitation process can be compromised when there is a lack of cooperation and information sharing among government agencies, non-governmental organisations, schools, and other service providers. This fragmentation and disconnection of services can hinder the desired outcomes (Kratcoski et al., 2019). In order to establish a comprehensive and well-coordinated continuum of care for young offenders, it is crucial to adopt a collaborative approach that involves all relevant stakeholders. Research conducted by Scott et al. (2015) highlights the significance of promoting collaboration and communication among stakeholders to enhance rehabilitation outcomes.

The implementation of rehabilitation and reformation programmes is faced with unique challenges due to the diverse cultural and regional context. The acceptance and efficacy of interventions can be greatly influenced by the variations in cultural beliefs, norms, and practices observed in different states and communities. For these programmes to be effective, it is crucial that they show cultural sensitivity and tailor their approaches to fit with the local contexts, values, and customs (Kumar & Sharma, 2019). Patel and Das (2020) emphasize the importance of customizing rehabilitation strategies to honour and accommodate the distinct cultural and regional diversity within India, ultimately enhancing the effectiveness of rehabilitation efforts.

One area of concern in the realm of young offender rehabilitation programmes is the lack of ongoing support and follow-up after they are released. Without ongoing support systems, young individuals may face challenges in sustaining the positive behavioural changes they made during their detention. They may also encounter difficulties in accessing employment, education, and community resources (Mallett, 2017). The lack of extended assistance heightens the likelihood of relapse and puts the successful reintegration of these individuals into society at risk. Understanding

the importance of ongoing assistance, it is essential to establish post-treatment programmes, mentorship opportunities, and support systems to facilitate a smooth transition and minimize the likelihood of relapse (Garcia & Rodriguez, 2020).

## **2.5 Theoretical Framework**

The social support theory is highly relevant to this research. This theoretical underpinning allowed the research to explore how rehabilitation and reformation programmes at the Senior Boys' Correctional Centre can effectively leverage both individual transformation and social connections (social support theory) to facilitate the development of young offenders. By exploring the interplay between the social support theory, this theory contributes to a more holistic understanding of the factors influencing the rehabilitation and reformation outcomes in the context of the Senior Boys Correctional Centre in Accra.

### **2.5.1 Social support theory**

The social support theory affirms the value of rehabilitation and reformation justice. It emphasizes that formal and informal supports reduce the likelihood of delinquency and crime (Leahy-Warren, 2014; Feeney & Collins, 2015; Bohmert, Duwe & Hipple 2018). Social support fosters resiliency and legitimate coping in the face of strain, promoting prosocial adaptations to strain. This theory also speaks to the value of community-based programs that serve at-risk youths and emphasizes interventions directed at young offenders, aligning with the rehabilitation approach (Kong & Wertheimer, 1994; Nurullah, 2012). The social support theory highlights the significance of social connections in the rehabilitation and reformation process. Research indicates that strong social

support networks can positively influence the behaviour of young offenders (Schwarzer & Leppin, 1999). Research has further shown that social support plays a significant role in the reintegration of formerly incarcerated individuals and in reducing recidivism rates (Siegert, et al, 2010; Alsufyani, 2020). Family-involved treatment programmes have been successful in fostering positive social integration, highlighting the importance of social support in the rehabilitation and reformation of young offenders. In the case of the Senior Boys' Correctional Centre, understanding and enhancing social support systems can be crucial for the successful rehabilitation and reformation of young offenders. Feeney et al, (2014) stated that the social support theory emphasizes the role of family, peers, and community in providing a supportive environment that encourages positive change. There exists the need to provide treatment and support to young offenders to prevent a life of crime and promote their successful reintegration into society (Samurai, et al, 2013; Fortune; 2011).

Rehabilitation and reformation of the juvenile justice system aims to promote accountability, prevent reoffending, and treat youth fairly, with a focus on maximizing the potential of young offenders to become law-abiding adults (Ganapathy, 2018, Mutschler, et al, 2018). This approach aligns with the importance of providing educational, vocational, and therapeutic programs to support the developmental needs of young offenders (Forsberg & Douglas, 2022; Casey, 2019).

## **2.6 The Role of Social Support on the Rehabilitation and Reformation of Young Offenders**

The process of rehabilitating and reforming offenders is complex and has many aspects. It is greatly impacted by the quality and type of their social ties. Social interactions are key in facilitating the rehabilitation and reformation of young persons who have engaged with the criminal justice system. Family ties are crucial in the lives of offenders and are widely acknowledged as one of the most important factors in the process of reintegrating them into society. The family is the main social

unit for most people, significantly impacting their attitudes, actions, and decisions throughout life. The research extensively documents the importance of informal support through robust and encouraging family ties in the context of promoting effective rehabilitation and afterward reducing recidivism rates (Braithwaite & Mugford, 2017; Mowen & Visher, 2015). Positive family contacts are crucial in facilitating reformation and decreasing the probability of reoffending among young offenders (Liem & Weggemans, 2018; Hawkins & Weis, 2017; Fox et al., 2015). These interactions help provide a stable and loving environment. Within such contexts, familial persons provide crucial emotional assistance, advice, and organization, which play a pivotal role in aiding young individuals in their reintegration into society. These interactions facilitate the development of pro-social beliefs and behaviours, creating an environment in which the young offender is motivated to reflect on previous errors and adopt constructive life choices. A cohesive family unit may serve as a protective barrier, fostering a feeling of acceptance and diminishing the propensity to participate in criminal behaviour (Vidal et al., 2015).

Strained or dysfunctional family interactions may create a continuous pattern of criminal activity, making it difficult to rehabilitate and reintegrate young offenders (Weaver, 2015). These partnerships often exhibit tensions, neglect, or inconsistent support. They do not provide the necessary emotional and social support needed for young persons to effectively reintegrate into society. During such circumstances, young offenders may encounter a dearth of emotional equilibrium and direction, rendering it exceptionally arduous for them to disentangle themselves from illicit conduct and acclimate to a lawful way of life. Additionally, tense familial connections might exacerbate sentiments of exclusion and seclusion among offenders, further reducing their chances of successful reintegration. In such cases, the family, which ideally serves as a provider of emotional stability and direction, instead becomes a cause of anguish and strife. This may increase the probability of committing another crime since these young persons may turn to delinquent peer

groups or engage in illegal activities to fill the perceived emptiness in their life (Young et al., 2017; Vitopoulos et al., 2019; Weaver & McNeil, 2015).

Recognizing the crucial significance of formal support in the rehabilitation and reformation process of young offenders, many agencies have been dedicated in helping offenders in detention. These initiatives seek to facilitate the transition from incarceration to community life by establishing connections with positive role models, counsellors, and engaged community members who can effectively guide and empower offenders through the complex process of rehabilitation and reintegration (Hawkins & Weis, 2017).

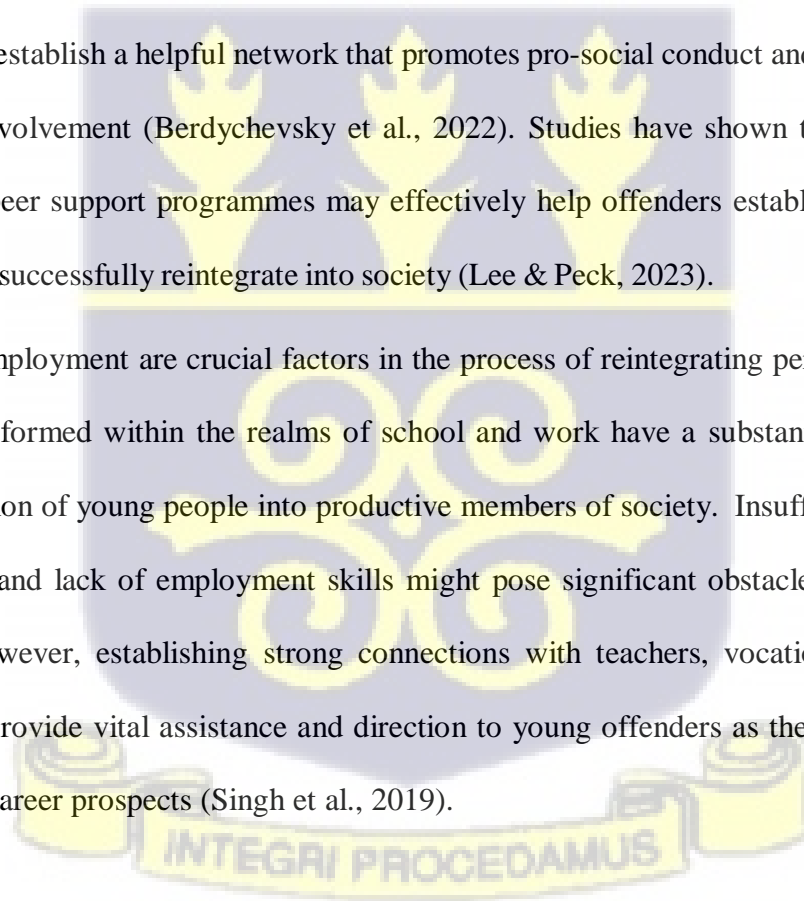
Young offender mentoring programmes often include providing young persons with supportive networks which acts as a guiding influence and a source of incentive during the process of reformation and rehabilitation into society. These networks often originate from many backgrounds, such as churches, community figures, institutions, or volunteers, and they fulfil a crucial function in assisting young adults in navigating the difficulties of reintegration (Nixon, 2020). The mentor-mentee connection provides a vital system of support, where the mentor gives attentive listening, direction, and assistance to young offenders in establishing and accomplishing objectives for a life free from crime (Hanham & Tracey, 2017).

Extant research has repeatedly shown that formal support programs have the ability to induce profound and lasting transformation in the lives of offenders. These initiatives have been linked to significant advancements in several areas, such as decreased rates of repeat offenses, heightened educational achievement, and improved career opportunities (Menon & Cheung, 2018). Networks have a beneficial impact on the reintegration process, enabling young persons to effectively move into society by unleashing their potential. A significant decrease in recidivism rates among young offenders is a prominent result of assistance programmes as this is beneficial in strengthening pro-

social behaviour and cultivating a feeling of accountability and responsibility. Under the mentorship of an experienced guide, young people exhibit reduced propensity to engage in criminal behaviour, therefore fostering safer societies and facilitating more favourable life paths (Keller et al., 2020; Stacer & Roberts, 2018).

Peers and social networks play a crucial role in the process of reforming and rehabilitating young offenders. Peer interactions have a substantial impact on the behaviours and attitudes of young persons, and this effect may be either beneficial or detrimental (Lopez-Humphreys & Teater, 2018). Forming connections with delinquent peers might intensify criminal proclivities and heighten the likelihood of engaging in more criminal behaviour (Creaney, 2020). On the other hand, good peer interactions may establish a helpful network that promotes pro-social conduct and provides chances for productive involvement (Berdychevsky et al., 2022). Studies have shown that implementing mentorship and peer support programmes may effectively help offenders establish positive social relationships and successfully reintegrate into society (Lee & Peck, 2023).

Education and employment are crucial factors in the process of reintegrating persons into society. The connections formed within the realms of school and work have a substantial impact on the successful transition of young people into productive members of society. Insufficient educational accomplishment and lack of employment skills might pose significant obstacles to reintegration (Gill, 2016). However, establishing strong connections with teachers, vocational trainers, and businesses may provide vital assistance and direction to young offenders as they strive to pursue educational and career prospects (Singh et al., 2019).

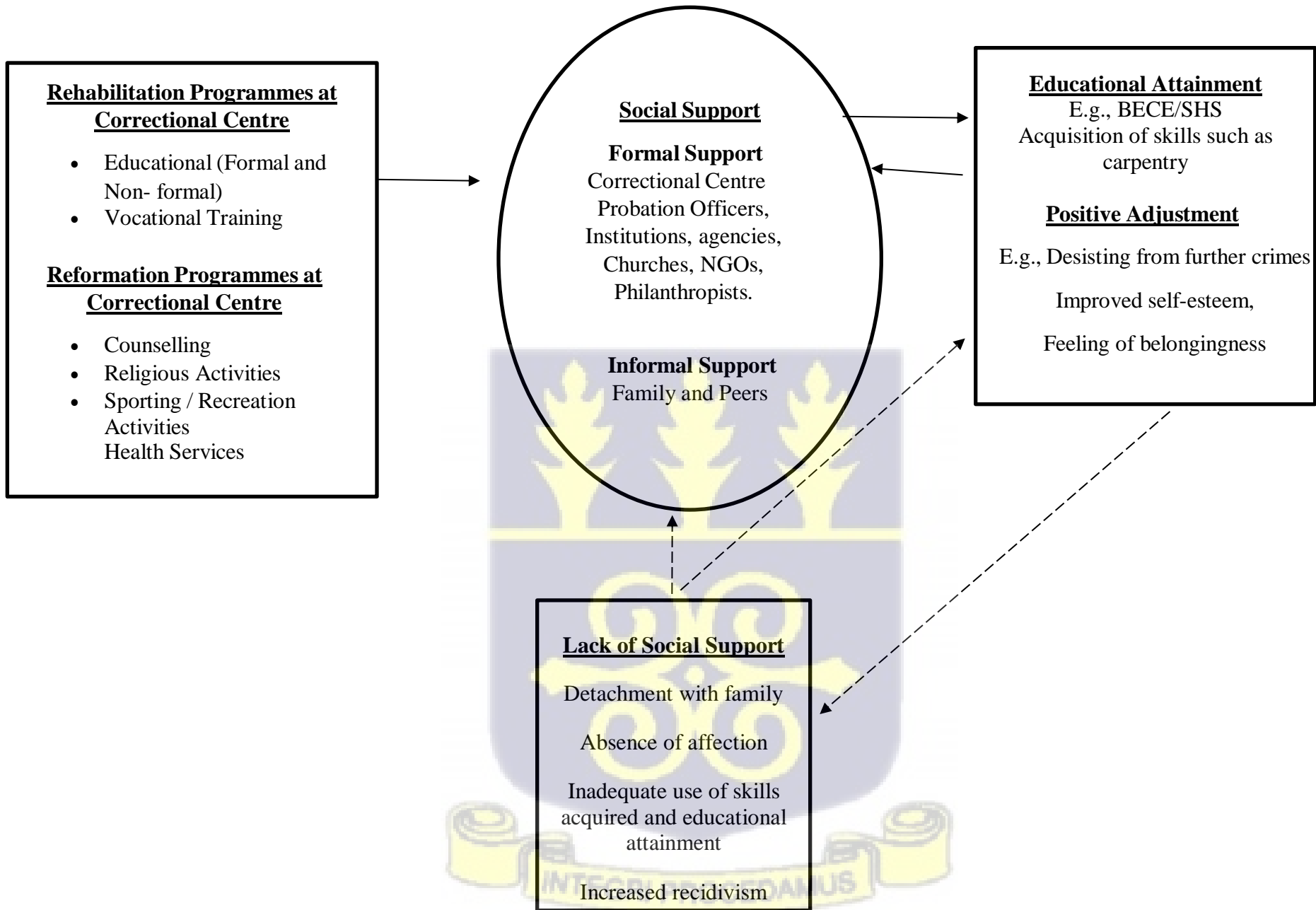


## 2.7 Conceptual framework

The conceptual framework centers on the rehabilitation and reformation of young offenders within the framework of detention programmes. At its core, the framework identifies three key components. First, it delves into the nature of detention programmes, meticulously examining the programmes available to young offenders. This involves a comprehensive probing of the content, structure, and overarching objectives of these programmes. The second component focuses on the impact of these programmes, evaluating their efficacy on the young offenders. This entails a thorough study of how these programmes contribute to behavioural changes and the development of essential skills among the individuals undergoing rehabilitation and reformation. The third critical component integrates the social support theory into the framework, underscoring the pivotal role of formal and informal relationships.

This element examines the influence of social support networks on the rehabilitation and reformation process within the confines of the Senior Boys' Correctional Centre in Accra. Ultimately, the expected outcomes of this conceptual framework are multi-faceted. It aspires to identify detention programmes and their influence on rehabilitation and reformation. It also seeks to discover the role of social support networks in sustaining positive behavioural changes. It aims to generate recommendations for optimizing the interplay between detention programmes and social support to enhance the overall rehabilitation and reformation process for young offenders.





## CHAPTER THREE

### METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Introduction

The methodology is a significant aspect of the research since it influences the quality of the data collected, as well as the results and interpretation of the data. This chapter provides a comprehensive account of the research instruments and methods used in the data collection process. The study area and population, as well as how the research sample was chosen are detailed in this chapter. Data analysis and ethical considerations are also discussed.

#### 3.2 Study site

The study was conducted at the Senior Boys Correctional Centre in Accra. At the main entrance of the all-male Senior Boys Correctional Centre in Accra, the following inscriptions would be found on the four-sided Resurgam; “Dedicated to the belief that in training for citizenship lies the Hope for the future” and “Dedicated to the determination to save the young and careless from a wasted life of crime”. The Centre was established on 19<sup>th</sup> May 1947 and called the Ghana Borstal Institute (Bosiakoh and Andoh, 2010). It was under the Department of Social Welfare until 1958 when its administration was taken over by the Ghana Prisons Service (Bosiakoh and Andoh, 2010). It has a different philosophy from adult prison, laying emphasis on vocational training of inmates. In 2003, the Juvenile Justice Act (Act 653) changed its name from Borstal Institute to Senior Correctional Centre, which is its present name. As a result, its operational functions widened and centred on reformation, rehabilitation, and reintegration of inmates.

Under the Juvenile Justice Act (JJA), the period of sentences for various offenses range between three months to three years, which is dependent on the degree or gravity of offence by the juvenile

or young offender. The JJA stipulates the following detention orders; three months for a juvenile offender under the age of sixteen years, six months for a juvenile offender of or above sixteen years but under eighteen years, twenty-four months for a young offender of or above the age of eighteen years, or three years for a serious offence. The Act also states that juvenile offenders under the age of eighteen years shall be detained in a Junior Correctional Centre. However, it also states that the following shall be detained in a Senior Correctional Centre; a young offender above the age of eighteen years and a juvenile offender under the age of fifteen years who has been convicted of a serious offence. There are currently two hundred and forty-three inmates at the facility. The ages range between thirteen years to twenty-one years. Juvenile offenders are aged between thirteen to seventeen years while young offenders are aged between eighteen to twenty-one years. Stealing is the highest offence currently at the Senior Correctional Centre. A total of about three hundred and sixty-one officers are currently working at the facility, with about sixty-one being senior officers.

### **3.3 Research Design**

Research design is the broad framework of the methodology and processes used to attain the overall research objectives and goal (Creswell, 2013). Research design demonstrates a logical framework for inquiry that specifies how data will be gathered, measured, and analysed to address the objectives of the research. Depending on the nature and goals of the study, the research design can be quantitative, qualitative, or mixed (Van Wyk & Taole, 2015).

The research used a qualitative methodology. Qualitative research, as described by Waller, Farquharson, and Dempsey (2015), entails the examination of the quality or essence of a certain subject. Qualitative research, as defined by Crossman (2020), is a kind of social science research that focuses on gathering and analysing non-numerical data. Its objective is to interpret the

meanings derived from this data in order to gain insights into social life within certain groups or locations. The phenomenological approach helped the researcher to explore participants' perspectives and ascribe meanings to their experiences. This approach also helped the researcher to garner comprehensive data about the rehabilitation and reformative processes young offenders go through, which are all concentrated efforts to influence their reintegration into society.

### **3.4 Study Population**

The whole groups that are significant to a research study and from which a sample could be drawn is referred to as the "population" (Kumar, 2018). To achieve the study's objectives, the population must share certain traits. Accordingly, for this study, population comprised Officers at the Correctional Centre and young offenders in detention between the ages of eighteen to twenty years.

### **3.5 Sampling Technique**

The study involved two categories of participants namely Officers working at the Correctional Center, and young offenders in detention at the Correctional Center. The quota sampling and purposive sampling approaches were employed for this research.

Purposive sampling involves purposeful selection of participants with direct experience and expertise and based on specific criteria and characteristics relevant to the study. This sampling method ensured that the various participants selected provided valuable insights due to their lived experiences. In depth focus and assessment based on the characteristics made this sampling technique appropriate for the study. Officers and young offenders possessed the knowledge, experience, and characteristics relevant to the study.

Quota sampling is a non-probability sampling method where subjects are selected based on certain mutually exclusive criteria. This means they only qualify for one category and thus cannot be included in more than one subgroup. In the case of Officers at the Correctional Centre, quota sampling was applied by selecting participants to meet specific quotas according to pre-defined characteristics. These characteristics included sex, rank, and the number of years spent at the facility. This approach ensured that each officer fell into a distinct category, contributing to a representative sample for the study. The Deputy Director of Prisons is the highest rank at the Correctional Center and the Officer-In-Charge who oversees the affairs of the facility. The Officer-In-Charge delegated three senior officers, one male and two females, to conduct the interview. These key informants provided valuable information on the rehabilitation and reform of young offenders at the Correctional Centre. The pre-defined characteristics employed for young offenders at the Centre were age at entry, current age, type of offence, educational background, duration of sentence, length of stay and region of abode. Young offenders between the ages of eighteen to twenty years from Greater Accra and Ashanti Regions were selected for the study. These characteristics provided valuable information for the study. The quota and purposive sampling ensured an adequate representation of participants for the research.

### **3.6 Sample size**

A sample size of fifteen participants namely three Officers and twelve young offenders at the Correctional Centre was adopted. The Officers had worked at the facility for over a year at the Guidance and Counselling unit of the facility and were Senior Officers with various ranks. This unit engages with the young offenders extensively on a daily basis. They had the relevant knowledge and experience required for the study. Six young offenders from Greater Accra and six young offenders from Ashanti region who had spent at least one year at the Correctional facility were interviewed.

### **3.7 Data Collection Instrument and Procedure**

The interview guide was used to collect primary data for the study through a semi-structured interview with open ended questions based on the objectives of the study. These questions offered participants the opportunity to express themselves freely and permit the researcher to probe participants' responses for elaboration (Gyeke et al. 2019). Observation data collection was also employed as the researcher noticed the physical gestures of inmates in answering questions. Data was gathered from key informants and participants to document the findings obtained and relevant for the study. Data collection continued until the point of saturation when there was no new information from participants (Bowen 2008). Data saturation occurs when the researcher's data collection reaches a point of diminishing returns, where no new data is being added and additional input from new participants does not generate new information, themes, or contribute to a deeper understanding of the study topic (Aguboshim, 2021). Based on the preference of each participant, the face-to-face interviews were conducted in English and Twi. The objectives and research questions of the study informed the structure of the interview. On average, each in-depth interview lasted 50 minutes.

### **3.8 Data Analysis**

A thematic analysis technique was used for analysing the qualitative data. Field notes were written, paraphrased, and summarized as audio recordings and pictures are not permitted at the Correctional facility. In a methodical and iterative way, the interviews were thoroughly checked, and categorized per the main interview guide areas. The themes that emerged from the data were formed using the respondents' words. As a result of the possibility for open-ended inquiry, case study research may utilize the inductive approach (Amaratunga et al., 2002). For emphasis, direct quotes from

respondents were paraphrased to create a mental picture or emphasize what was said rather than drawing conclusion which might not effectively reflect the message relayed by the respondents.

### **3.9 Ethical Consideration**

The Ghana Prisons Service is the main body which oversees the affairs of prisons and the Senior Correctional Centre in Ghana. Therefore, the researcher contacted the Ghana Prisons Service with a letter from The Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER) to be allowed to carry out the research at the Centre. An Officer at the Human Resource department directed that a pre-assessment of the interview guide should be carried out with the Officer-In-Charge at the Senior Correctional Centre before approval could be given for data collection. After the purpose of the study was explained and the necessary amendment to the interview guide had been made at the Correctional Center with the Officer-In-Charge, an updated interview guide was presented to the Human Resource Department of the Ghana Prisons Service. The Ghana Prisons Service issued a letter indicating that permission had been given for the researcher to conduct the study at the Senior Correctional Centre. The letter was subsequently delivered to the Officer-In-Charge at the facility. An appointment date was scheduled for data collection.

Officers at the Correctional Centre introduced the researcher to participants at the beginning of every interview. Interviews were conducted in the presence of the Officers, and each interview started with explanation of the purpose of the study. Participation was voluntary, and young offenders were notified of their right to withdraw from the interview at any point. They were also assured of the utmost confidentiality concerning any information provided. Acceptance and informed consent were obtained from participants respectively prior to commencing each detailed interview. Misleading information or communication was avoided.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS

#### 4.1 Introduction

The results of the research are presented below, along with a discussion of the results. The first part looks at the study site and demographic data of the participants. The result of the study is also presented in this section.

#### 4.2 Demographic Characteristics

The study recruited a total of fifteen participants made up of three Officers and twelve young offenders. The Officers included one male and two females. Alphabets were used to represent Officers. The ages of the offenders at the time of the interview ranged from eighteen to twenty years, and they had been in detention at the Correctional Centre for more than a year. The offences with which they had been charged were as follows; seven for defilement and five for stealing. In terms of educational background, six participants had attained Junior High School level, one had attained primary school level and five were school dropouts. Two young offenders who were school dropouts had continued their education at the facility and were currently in JHS 3 preparing to write the BECE Examinations. Two other school dropouts were engaged in beadmaking, and one school dropout was also learning carpentry. The young offenders learning beadmaking have acquired the National Vocational Training Institute (NVTI) I certificate while at the Correctional Centre. In all, six are schooling, two in tailoring, two learning beadmaking, and two are in carpentry at the facility at the time of the interview. The above information has been represented

in the table below. Pseudo names were used for inmates.



Table 1: Representation of Demographics

<b>Participants</b>	<b>Age at Entry</b>	<b>Current Age</b>	<b>Educational Level</b>	<b>Type of Offence</b>	<b>Duration of Sentence</b>	<b>Length of Stay</b>	<b>Current activity at SCC</b>	<b>Region</b>
Agbey	16	18	JHS	Defilement	3 Years	2 Years	Schooling (JHS 3)	Greater Accra
Osei	18	20	School Dropout	Stealing	3 Years	2 Years	Beads making	Ashanti
Kodjovi	16	18	JHS	Defilement	3 Years	2 years	Tailoring	Greater Accra
Bernard	16	18	JHS	Defilement	3 Years	2 Years	Schooling (SHS 1)	Greater Accra
Mustapha	17	19	School Dropout	Stealing	3 Years	2 Years	Carpentry	Ashanti
Jehoida	16	18	Primary School Level	Defilement	3 Years	2 Years	Carpentry	Ashanti
Kamil	16	18	JHS	Defilement	2 Years	2 Years	Schooling (JHS 3)	Greater Accra
Paa	17	19	JHS	Defilement	3 Years	2 Years	Schooling (SHS1)	Ashanti
Zani	16	18	School Dropout	Stealing	3 Years	2 Years	Schooling (JHS 3)	Greater Accra

Cann	17	18	School Dropout	Stealing	2 Years	2 Years	Beads making	Ashanti
Ziggy	18	20	JHS	Defilement	3 Years	2 Years	Tailoring	Greater Accra
Oshey	16	18	School Dropout	Stealing	3 Years	2 Years	Schooling (JHS 3)	Ashanti

Source Field data 2023



#### **4.3 Examining the nature of current programmes at the Senior Boys Correctional Centre.**

The research identified that when young offenders are newly admitted at the facility, they serve a probationary period which is usually based on the length of their detention (Officer A, Senior Boys Correctional Centre Accra). This probationary period is to serve as an assessment stage where offenders are engaged extensively in order to be placed in the appropriate service based on their background and other factors which may come up. They are housed separately from old detainees. The probationary period, which is based on the years of conviction are as follows; (a) six months for a detention of three years, (b) four months for a detention of two years and (c) two months for a detention of one year. After probation period, offenders are dispersed to other dormitories. With a detention period below one-year, young offenders are enrolled in shorter services which are not time exhaustive. An average of thirty-two offenders occupies a dormitory with bunk beds. All dormitories have washrooms attached.

In examining the nature of programmes at the Senior Correctional Centre research findings were classified into two themes namely “Rehabilitation” and “Reformation”. Rehabilitation encompasses a deliberate intervention that includes activities such as education, vocational training, and employment. Reformation focuses on addressing attitudes and ideas that could potentially lead to criminal activity, with the goal of fostering a profound change in the individual's ethical development, beliefs, and principles (Officer A, Senior Boys Correctional Centre, Accra). Rehabilitation programmes frequently incorporate educational opportunities and vocational training. The objective is to provide offenders with the essential abilities and resources to live a more constructive and compliant lifestyle. Reformation initiatives often encompass psychotherapy, character education, mentorship, and additional support services that specifically address the fundamental attitudes and ideas that may contribute to criminal behaviour. The primary

focus is to cultivate a strong sense of responsibility, empathy, and ethical decision-making. In practical use, both terms are frequently used interchangeably. The primary objective is to offer young offenders the necessary assistance and resources to facilitate constructive transformation and seamless reintegration into the community. They are both grounded in the notion that individuals possess the capacity for transformation and that society reaps greater advantages by facilitating the effective reintegration of criminals, rather than relying solely on punitive actions. Reintegration is the process of re-entry into society by young offenders who have been incarcerated, including activities and programming conducted to prepare them to return safely to the community, having their freedoms reinstated and live as law abiding citizens (UNICEF Ghana and Judicial Service Ghana, 2019).

#### 4.3.1 Rehabilitation

The study identified that the rehabilitation services available at the Correctional Centre were categorized into education and vocational training. Education and vocational training are an important component of rehabilitation (Azam et al 2021; Esa, Salleh, and Mohamad, 2017). There were two forms of education at the facility namely formal education and non-formal education. Under the formal education component, an Officer at the facility threw more light on it below.

The facility runs a Junior High School known as Reformers JHS. With the exception of French all subjects which are taught in mainstream Junior High Schools are also done here and classes are held from Monday to Friday. JHS Three students write their BECE examinations. As you have noticed, there is no Senior High School at the correctional centre, so we have partnered with five schools which are outside but close to the facility that is Labone Senior High School, St. Thomas Aquinas Senior High School, Armed Forces Senior High School, and Accra Technical Training College. Offenders who wish to further their education are admitted into these schools. (**Officer A, Senior Boys Correctional Centre, Accra, 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023**)

The facility has a bus which commute young offenders who attend the Senior High Schools to the schools and back every day. When offenders are discharged whilst still in school, hostel facilities outside the correctional centre are provided for them funded by their families and other sponsorships. Furthermore, young offenders who may not have been admitted due to poor performance are able to attend these schools. The non-formal education at the facility offers basic skills in literacy or adult education to young offenders who are school dropouts and do not want to continue with formal education. In addition to learning a vocation, they are taught basic skills in reading and writing to equip them with the requisite knowledge.

The other rehabilitation service available at the Correctional Centre is vocational training. In the realm of rehabilitation and reintegration, vocational training plays a pivotal role in equipping young offenders with valuable technical skills, thereby enhancing their employability prospects upon release. The responses reveal the diverse range of vocational training opportunities available to these individuals, encompassing fields such as beadmaking, electrical work, carpentry, mechanics, welding, agriculture, ceramics, bamboo craft, and tailoring:

Vocational training is also an important aspect of providing rehabilitation for young offenders because it provides them with technical skills, and this would increase their employability after release. As such there are workshops here where various trades are taught. We have beadmaking, electricals, carpentry, mechanic, welding, agriculture, ceramics, bamboo craft and tailoring. We used to have a plumbing workshop, but it is no more functioning as the facilitator has retired. Those who are in formal education do not engage in any vocational activities, although those who are awaiting their BECE results enrol in a short training in barbering. (**Officer C, Senior Boys Correctional Centre, Accra, 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023**)

The findings underscore the variety of vocational training programmes within the rehabilitation for young offenders. There is a wide array of vocational fields, from trades like carpentry and mechanics to other areas such as ceramics and bamboo craft, to offer a comprehensive approach

to skills development. This diversity accommodates the varied interests and aptitudes of the inmates. One notable observation is that young offenders engaged in formal education are excluded from vocational activities. This separation is to adapt to the specific needs and aspirations of young offenders. Some individuals may prioritize their formal education while others would seek to acquire immediate technical skills. This adaptive approach therefore reflects an understanding of the complex and evolving needs of young offenders within the rehabilitation context.

Additionally, inmates awaiting BECE results engage in short-term barbering. To acknowledge that vocational training can be a valuable pursuit for individuals in a state of uncertainty, this initiative potentially paves the way for alternative career pathways if academic outcomes do not meet their expectations. It highlights both the diversity of vocational opportunities offered and the program's flexibility in catering to the unique circumstances and aspirations of its participants. This adaptive approach is to contribute to the overarching goal of preparing young offenders for successful reintegration into society upon their release.

#### **4.3.2 Reformation**

The Senior Boys Correctional Centre also offer reformatory services, in addition to the rehabilitation services described above. Reformation plays a pivotal role in addressing the diverse emotional and psychological needs young offenders in detention. This study offers valuable insights into the structure and approach of the reformation programme. It highlights both group and individual sessions, emphasizing open communication and referrals to other specialized services. The provision of the services stands as a critical pillar in supporting the holistic development and successful reintegration of young offenders into society. The study found out

four reformatory activities namely counselling, religious services, sports and/recreational activities and health services. To elaborate the counselling services, an Officer remarked as follows:

We hold group counselling for all new admissions within a particular period. This also serves as a form of orientation for them. After the group counselling, individual assessments are also done for the offenders. They can also walk in for individual counselling services; meetings can also be scheduled. Counselling sessions depend on the nature of an issue. The guidance and counselling unit try to encourage offenders to share their issues so that they can get the needed assistance. Based on the nature of an offender's issue during counselling, referrals can be made to other services such as Chaplain or infirmary. **(Officer B, Senior Boys Correctional Centre, Accra, 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023)**

The provision of counselling services is a fundamental component of the rehabilitation program for young offenders. It begins with group counselling sessions, which serve the dual purpose of providing orientation for new admissions and creating a platform for individuals to share their experiences and concerns in a supportive group setting. Young offenders acclimate to the rehabilitation environment and establish a foundation for subsequent individual assessments through this initial group counselling phase to represent a personalized approach to understanding the unique needs and challenges faced by each offender. There are scheduled individual counselling sessions and walk-in services to ensure offenders access to tailored support when required. This flexibility reflects a commitment to addressing the diverse range of issues that young offenders may grapple with during their rehabilitation. Open communication in the counselling sessions is to encourage offenders to share their issues openly and honestly to create a safe space for them to express their concerns, fears, and aspirations, forming the cornerstone of effective counselling and support services.

Religious and spiritual support is a significant component of the rehabilitation environment, setting the stage for a deeper examination of its role in the rehabilitation process and its potential impact

on character reformation (Madumarovna et al., 2020). The facility caters to the religious diversity of its population by organizing both Christian church services and mosque prayers for Muslims. This inclusivity acknowledges the importance of accommodating the religious beliefs and practices of the offenders, promoting an environment that respects their individual faiths. Furthermore, external religious groups periodically visit the facility to hold services and offer advice to the offenders. The research offered a glimpse into the religious services and spiritual support available within a correctional or rehabilitation facility. The Correctional facility has made available church services for Christians and mosque prayers for Muslims, as well as occasional visits from external religious groups seeking to provide guidance and advice to the offenders. These external visits serve as opportunities for character reformation, aligning with the broader goal of rehabilitation. The guidance and advice provided during these religious services can play a crucial role in helping offenders reflect on their actions and work towards personal transformation.

Sports and recreational services serve as a vital component of the rehabilitation process, offering a range of benefits for young offenders. It fosters a sense of responsibility and leadership among the young offenders and facilitates positive interactions and relationship-building between them and the facility's staff (Creaney, 2014). The regular sports events, typically held on Fridays, provide an avenue for physical activity and recreation. It features popular team sports like volleyball, basketball, and football to encourage physical fitness and promote teamwork and camaraderie among the offenders. A noteworthy aspect highlighted is the involvement of young offenders in setting up teams and participating in matches that include both offenders and officers. Sporting activities play a significant role in the rehabilitation facility to foster team spirit, identify, and nurture talents, and promote positive interactions between offenders and officers. The Officer sets the stage for a more detailed discussion of the nature of sports in the reformation process:

Usually, sports are held on Fridays at the facility where games such as volleyball, basketball and football are played. Young offenders are trained to set up a team. Matches are organized between teams where a team is made up of offenders and Officers. Talents of offenders are often identified and nurtured through such games. It is always a fun time for the offenders as playing alongside their officers usually boosts their confidence levels (**Officer A, Senior Boys Correctional Centre, Accra, 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023**)

Such interactions can contribute to improved communication and mutual understanding, which can be beneficial for the overall rehabilitation process. Developing the skills and abilities of young offenders is essential for their personal growth and reformation. Nurturing talents can provide young offenders with a sense of accomplishment and purpose, potentially reducing the likelihood of reoffending upon release.

Healthcare services within the facility play a crucial role in addressing the medical needs of the incarcerated youth. The study provides insights into the healthcare infrastructure within the correctional or rehabilitation facility, highlighting the presence of an infirmary with a limited bed capacity. Additionally, it provides information on the healthcare professionals on staff, including a resident Medical Doctor, Pharmacist, and nurses, and the facility's response to disease outbreaks and emergency cases:

The facility has an infirmary with a bed capacity of five. We have a resident Medical Doctor, Pharmacist, and some nurses. During an outbreak of a disease, we convert one dormitory to house patients. Emergency cases are referred to 37 Military hospital or Police Hospital (**Officer A, Senior Boys Correctional Centre, Accra, 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023**).

An infirmary provides on-site medical care for offenders. The facility has a resident Medical Doctor, Pharmacist, and nurses who diagnose and treat various medical conditions to ensure that offenders have access to healthcare professionals. The study also highlights the facility's response to disease outbreaks. In the event of an outbreak, one dormitory is converted into a patient area, allowing for the isolation and treatment of affected individuals. This adaptive approach is to managing health

crises within the confines of the facility, limiting the spread of diseases among the incarcerated population. The facility liaises with hospitals to refer emergency cases, specifically the 37 Military Hospital or Police Hospital. This referral system is to ensure that offenders receive timely and appropriate medical attention in cases that cannot be adequately addressed within the facility's infirmary.

#### **4.4 Analysing the impact of programmes on young offenders.**

This section which addresses the second objective of the study which is to analyse the impact of the programs at the Senior Boys Correctional Centre on the young offenders. From the research the following themes were derived: (i) acquisition of skills, (ii) educational attainment, and (iii) positive adjustment.

##### **4.4.1 Acquisition of skills**

The vocational training available at the Correctional Centre has enabled offenders to gain lifetime skills which would be useful to them in their reintegration after release. Some young offenders who were school dropouts have been enrolled in a vocation for their rehabilitation. Others who were in Junior High School before detention opted to be in vocational training after their probationary period at the facility. An inmate describes how beadmaking has helped him to discover and nurture his talent:

I had dropped out of school and was not learning any trade. Since I enrolled in beadmaking here, it has helped in identifying and nurturing my talent. I make very nice beads and I have already acquired NVTI 1 Certificate. I am hoping to acquire NVTI Certificate 2 also, and I believe it would help me a lot when I leave here. I want to set up a shop and make bead products when I am released. **(Osei, 20 years, stealing)**

Ability to acquire an NVTI 1 Certificate, indicated by the inmate would give them a recognized level of proficiency in their chosen craft, further validating their skills and enhance their prospects for gainful employment upon release. The research highlights the rehabilitative potential of vocational programs by providing individuals with practical skills and a sense of purpose to empower offenders to envision a productive and self-sufficient future. This, in turn, contributes to reducing the likelihood of recidivism and reintegration challenges upon their release. Personal accounts from young offenders emphasize the impact of vocational training in recognizing and nurturing talents, obtaining certification, and fostering aspirations for a productive future beyond their time in the facility.

I was in school before my conviction, but I opted to learn tailoring. I want to be a tailor, so this is a good opportunity for me to learn the vocation. I can sew a trouser and shirt now. This vocation would help me greatly when I get released and go back home. I will continue to sew.  
**(Kodjovi, 18 years, defilement)**

According to Officers, although some offenders are able to utilise the vocation training well, others approach it lackadaisically and as such are not able to fully acquire the skill for their benefit. Eighteen-year-old Jehoida did not take the training seriously and as such had not been able to adequately learn the skill. After spending two years in detention, he is still at the beginner level in carpentry and has not been able to advance. The responses provide a glimpse into the potential impact of vocational training within a correctional or rehabilitation facility. It showcases how participation in such programs can foster a sense of accomplishment, personal growth, and skill development, all of which are crucial elements in the rehabilitation journey. The responses offered a perspective on the transformative power of vocational training on young offenders, although some may be resistant to change.

#### 4.4.2 Educational attainment

As the Correctional Centre is of the belief that in educating (training) the offenders lie hope for the future, the formal education it offers has been able to significantly yield transformation. Offenders who were in school prior to their detention are able to continue their education while at the facility. Others who were out of school before detention are also able to go back to school. They are also able to enrol in good Senior High Schools which they would otherwise not have had access to. Some participants made the following remarks.

I was not doing well in school before my detention but here I am doing very well in class. I am happy about that as I want to be a lawyer in future. I think the education here has helped me (**Agbey, 18 years, defilement**)

The offender's testimonial highlights the impact of education within the detention facility on their academic progress and personal aspirations, considering their backgrounds and diverse needs. However, the individual's experience within the facility has been notably positive, as they report doing very well in their classes. This academic improvement reflects the rehabilitative potential of education, providing individuals with opportunities for personal growth and skill development. The contrast between their past struggles and current success emphasizes the transformative nature of the educational programs available within the facility. The individual's aspiration to become a lawyer in the future underscores the significance of education in shaping their long-term goals. This ambition represents a powerful commitment to personal and professional growth, and it demonstrates how access to education can inspire individuals to aim higher and envision a more promising future.

Eighteen-year-old Bernard also stated that he was able to continue his education from Junior High School form two. He wrote the BECE and got enrolled in a good school which he would not have been able to attend if he had not been in detention. He is currently in Senior High School Form One

and will continue to attend school from home when he is released. Whiles some young offenders utilize their educational training and opportunities well, others do not show any excitement about continuing their education. They have no future plans and do not focus on life after detention. One offender had this to say:

I do not like being here. The food is not enough. Back home I could skip some classes but here I have to go to class from Monday to Friday. I do not know what I want to be in the future (Kamil, 18 years, defilement).

Offenders placed in correctional, or detention facilities often share common experiences and challenges. Their dislike for being in the facility may stem from various factors, including the loss of personal freedom, the unfamiliarity of the environment, and separation from their communities and loved ones. This sentiment is a common reaction to the restrictive nature of detention.

The structured nature of educational programs, which require attendance from Monday to Friday, is a characteristic feature of many Correctional facilities. While this structure may pose challenges for some, it is designed to provide educational opportunities and skills development for offenders. Mandatory attendance can help them acquire knowledge and skills that may benefit their future. Detention can provide a period of reflection and exploration for offenders who did not have clear career goals before conviction. It offers them the opportunity to consider their interests and potential career paths, fostering self-discovery and personal growth.

#### **4.4.3 Positive adjustment**

This pertains to the process whereby young offenders undergo positive transformation in their behaviour and attitudes as a direct effort of rehabilitation and reformation. Negative behaviours can be transformed by teaching young offenders skills to make better choices and avoid criminal

activities. An Officer made the following remarks:

The services offered here all play a significant role in the lives of the offenders. I tell you that those who are determined to change and allow the facility to groom them always have good results. The religious activities, as well as the sports and recreational activities, also enable them to cope with stress and manage anxiety. When we come together to have sports programmes, they have the opportunity to exercise and also manage their stress levels. Playing with their peers also helps them to develop their social skills and build positive peer relationships. Some offenders even seek counselling from Officers while games are ongoing. It creates a different atmosphere for them, they feel bonded and loved. When they fall sick, a medical Doctor attends to them and those with serious and emergency cases are transferred to the hospital. All these experiences impact their reintegration positively (**Officer A, Senior Boys Correctional Centre, Accra, 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023**).

A young offender described his positive adjustment experience in the following remarks:

I was not happy when I was brought here. Being here has made me think and reflect on my life. I do not want to steal anymore. I have been able to go back to school, I am even one of the best students in class. I want to be a journalist in future so I will learn hard. Even here some boys give me bad advice but the training I receive helps me to be a good person (**Oshey, 18 years, stealing**).

Nineteen-year-old Mustapha also made the assertion that being in detention had made him realise that stealing was not a good way to live. He had heard stories about young boys who had been killed through stealing. He has decided to focus on the carpentry he was learning at the correctional centre so that when he is released, he can have a job to do. Positive adjustments help to develop resilience in young offenders which has the capacity of reducing recidivism among them. It builds their self-esteem, self-awareness, and emotional intelligence while helping them to make better life choices.

#### 4.5 Exploring the role of social support.

Social support plays a crucial role in the rehabilitation and reform of young offenders, exerting a profound and multifaceted influence on their capacity to reintegrate into society and live law-abiding lives. This vital element of support, which includes familial, community, and institutional networks, has the potential to either facilitate or impede their successful transition from a life of crime to one of positive adjustment. In this context, social support serves as the basis for effective rehabilitation and reformation strategies, addressing the complex needs of these individuals and substantially influencing their chances of long-term rehabilitation and desisting from criminal behaviour. This section examines the far-reaching implications of social support within the realms of rehabilitation and reformation, illuminating its indispensable role in transforming the lives and futures of young offenders. According to Officers at the facility, social support is a vital component in the rehabilitation and reformation of young offenders. The following themes were derived from the study: (i) formal support, and (ii) informal support.

Formal support, within the realm of studying the rehabilitation and reformation of young offenders, pertains to structured and well-organized aid offered by professional entities and institutions. Its purpose is to facilitate the process of rehabilitating offenders (Hassan, 2020). This assistance is often planned, controlled, and intended to meet the diverse needs of young individuals who have participated in delinquent activity. Formal support, in this study, denotes the concrete and practical aid given to address the specific requirements or difficulties encountered by young delinquents undertaking rehabilitation and reform (Eryalcin & Duyan, 2020). This form of assistance centres on providing young offenders with the essential tools, training, resources, and abilities to permit their effective reintegration into society and decrease the probability of committing further offences. It encompasses a range of methods aimed at fostering healthy conduct, self-reliance, and individual growth.

Informal support encompasses the unstructured and frequently personal relationships that play a vital part in the rehabilitation and reformation process (Martinez & Abrams, 2011). This form of assistance acknowledges the importance of social connections and interpersonal relationships in promoting beneficial transformation and reintegrating young offenders into society. Restoring and fortifying familial connections is frequently essential for the effective reformation of young delinquents. Informal family assistance entails establishing a secure and nurturing domestic setting, wherein the family and peers actively engage in the reformation process. An element of this support is the provision of psychosocial assistance.

#### **4.5.1 Formal support**

In the context of the study, formal support means support given to offenders in detention by the facility, agencies, and institutions. The facility provides counselling for offenders, which have been extensively discussed in a previous section. The facility provides the offenders with three meals a day, that is breakfast, lunch, and supper. According to an Officer, the facility, led by the Officer-In-Charge, periodically organises a food bazaar where they personally cook different types of food for the offenders on that day. This event is usually made possible when there are enough donations from Philanthropists, agencies, and other institutions overtime to share to everyone. They interact with offenders and make it a fun day for them. This helps to boost the self-esteem of the offenders and make them feel loved. The facility also follows up on released offenders. This is done quarterly post-release. The Officer also continued that they have instances where some offenders have become family due to the rapport they build. Some offenders after they have been released, including their families, call the facility for guidance and advice. The facility also calls to check on their progress as well.

Other agencies and institutions such as Probation Officers from the Department of Social Welfare,

Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs), churches, corporate bodies, and Philanthropists supplement the efforts of the Correctional Centre through donations, visits, sponsorships among others. Some Officers made these assertions:

Visits by Probation Officers has a positive impact on young offenders. Follow ups on offenders helps to check their progress and give them a sense of belongingness. In some instances, some offenders may take Probation Officers as family which also positively impact their rehabilitation and reformation. The offenders become familiar with officials at the facility so visits from Probation Officers help offenders to feel refreshed. **(Officer C, Senior Boys Correctional Centre, Accra, 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023)**

Some churches help offenders to acquire NVTI Certificates 1 and 11 in order to boost their employability after release. The facility has an Admission and Pre-discharge Board which assesses the progress of offenders. Through this board, needs of offenders are identified. Offenders who may need special services are linked with the requisite resources through these agencies and institutions. Some Philanthropists also adopt offenders and bear any cost pertaining to their rehabilitation. Some offenders have been set up in trades after release, while others' Senior High School educational costs have been taken up by these agencies. **(Officer B, Senior Boys Correctional Centre, Accra, 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023)**

Probation Officers provide supervision and guidance to young offenders, which assists them in their reintegration. Some local churches are also involved in offender rehabilitation. These churches actively engage in assisting offenders financially to acquire NVTI Certificates 1 and 2, which enhances the employability of offenders once they are released back into society. The involvement of churches highlights the significance of community and faith-based organizations in contributing to the skill development and reintegration of offenders.

Philanthropists adopt offenders and bear the costs associated with their rehabilitation. Their involvement extends beyond the confines of the facility, reflecting the importance of community engagement in offender reintegration. Such support not only provides financial assistance but also signifies a commitment to the well-being and reintegration of offenders. Education and vocational training serve as cornerstones of the rehabilitation process. Setting offenders up in trades after

release and covering the costs of their Senior High School education are concrete steps toward equipping individuals with practical skills and educational opportunities. This investment in offenders' futures aims to reduce recidivism and promote self-sufficiency, ensuring that they are better prepared for life beyond detention.

The findings share a story of personal growth and transformation within a rehabilitation or correctional facility, highlighting the pivotal role of a philanthropist in assisting the individual to obtain an NVTI Certificate 1. This study sets the stage for a deeper discussion of the profound impact of external support and determination on an individual's journey toward personal improvement and becoming a valuable contributor to society. He had this to say.

A Philanthropist helped me to acquire the NVTI Certificate 1. This support has helped me greatly as I came here from Kumasi and do not have anyone to help me. I also got the help because I am determined to become a better person and useful to society. (**Osei, 20 years stealing**)

The individual's response begins with the invaluable assistance of a philanthropist who facilitated their acquisition of an NVTI Certificate 1. This act of philanthropy not only represents a helping hand but also symbolizes the belief in the individual's potential for positive change. The Demographic sheds light on the individual's background, emphasizing the distance from their hometown in Kumasi and the absence of a support network in the facility. This context underscores the challenges faced by individuals who may be far from home and without familial or social support. In such circumstances, external support, like that provided by the philanthropist, becomes even more crucial in enabling rehabilitation. In all, formal support has been phenomenal in reforming and rehabilitating young offenders. Although some offenders may not utilize these opportunities well, those who are determined usually have positive outcomes. The results of this study exemplify the positive influence of external support and personal determination in the

rehabilitation process.

#### **4.5.2 Informal Support**

Informal support in this setting refers to support given to offenders by family members and peers.

The study underscores the pivotal role of family in the process of reform and rehabilitation of offenders within a correctional or rehabilitation facility. It emphasizes the stark contrast between the impact of family support and the absence thereof on an individual's behaviour and progress toward rehabilitation. Family support influences behaviour, provides emotional sustenance, imparts guidance, and fosters a sense of belonging among incarcerated individuals. Recognizing the significance of these familial ties, correctional facilities aim to facilitate communication and maintain family connections as essential components of the rehabilitation process.

The study highlights the crucial influence of family in shaping the behaviour and rehabilitation progress of offenders. It draws a clear distinction between those who receive support from their families and those who do not. Offenders with family support are described by Officers at the facility as being more inclined to behave positively, largely driven by their desire to avoid negative reports reaching their families. This demonstrates the accountability and sense of responsibility that family connections can instil in offenders, encouraging them to stay on the path of rehabilitation. Family visits emerge as a significant source of support and motivation for incarcerated individuals. These visits provide emotional reinforcement, as offenders feel a sense of belonging and support from their families. This emotional support translates into positive outcomes for their rehabilitation, as it helps boost their morale and determination to reform. According to an Officer at the correctional centre, the importance of this support cannot be overemphasised.

Family plays a very important role in the reform and rehabilitation of the offenders; there is a noticeable difference between those who receive support from family and those who do

not. The former is put in check and behave positively as they do not want their family to receive negative reports about them. Visits by family members help them to feel supported and this reflects positively in their rehabilitation. Advice from parents and guardians give them a sense of belonging and helps them to behave well. However, the latter do not have anything to lose as they do not have any family support and may not adequately utilize the opportunity to rehabilitate and reform at their disposal. Offenders are scheduled to make phone calls to their family members twice in a month. Nevertheless, in peculiar situations, there are exceptions to this schedule. **(Officer A, Senior Boys Correctional Centre, Accra, 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023)**

The advice and guidance offered by parents and guardians are cited as instrumental in shaping the behaviour of offenders. Familial wisdom and influence contribute to the reformation process by instilling values and providing a moral compass for offenders to follow. Conversely, individuals without family support are portrayed as having less motivation to make use of the opportunities available to them. The absence of family connections can lead to a sense of detachment and hopelessness, potentially hindering an offender's progress toward reform.

The structured communication system in place at the facility allow offenders to make phone calls to their family members twice a month although some offenders do not utilise this service as indicated by one inmate. This system serves as a vital means of maintaining family connections and support. However, the acknowledgment of exceptions to this schedule highlights the flexibility needed to address unique situations, ensuring that offenders can maintain vital ties to their families when circumstances require it.

Here are some excerpts from inmates.

I was living with my mother in Kumasi before detention. I did not tell my mother where I was going because she is weak, and I did not want to make her feel sad. I came alone and would go back to Kumasi alone when I am released. I have not made any calls nor received any visits since I came here two (2) years ago. I am determined to be better, so it does not bother me. Some people helped me to get an NVTI Certificate 1. I am hopeful of getting help to acquire NVTI Certificate 2 so that I get work with it when I leave here. (Osei, 20 years, stealing)

My family does not visit me, but I call them on phone. Although they may not be able to send money to me sometimes, I feel ok when I talk to them. It makes me feel I am still part of them. (Kodjovi, 18 years, defilement)

One inmate had this to say,

Some of my friends here say that they have nowhere to go when they are released because their families do not care about them. They say they will go back to their 'paddies' when they are released. As for me my mother visits me, and I will go back home when I am released. (Kamil, 18 years, defilement)

Offenders also form associations with other offenders in detention, which also provides them with psychosocial support. Positive associations with other offenders help them to create a sense of family in detention. Negative peer support can plunge young offenders further into a life of crime. Peer association is important in the reformation of offenders as it can impact their reintegration.

Here are some excerpts from some participants during the interview.

I have good friends here; we go to church and learn together. Some other offenders try to advise me to steal and fight but I do not pay attention to them. (Bernard, 18 years defilement)

I do not go to the counselling unit. I usually talk to my friends; they give me good advice. (Osei, 20 years, stealing).

The Senior Correctional Centre provides rehabilitation programmes through education and vocational training for inmates. These programmes provide short term results for young offenders in the form of educational attainment and acquisition of skills. Some offenders have been able to write the BECE and furthered their education in any of the five Senior High schools the facility works with. Others who did not wish to continue with their formal education have been able to acquire skills in vocations such as carpentry, electricals, ceramics, tailoring among others. Th

facility also provides reformation programmes such as counselling, religious activities, sports and/or recreation and health services. these reformative programmes aim to transform offenders' mindset and values in order to promote positive behaviour and adjustment. In all, the formal and informal support is essential to contribute to the effective rehabilitation and reformation of young offenders. Support from the facility, Probation Officers, institutions and agencies, churches, Philanthropists, family, guardians, and peers provide effective strategies and practical support to young offenders, creating a supportive and nurturing environment. Social support increases the likelihood of sustained positive outcomes, recognising the strengths and needs of young offenders. This would enhance the chances of successful reintegration of young offenders, providing prospects for employment and stability.



## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

#### 5.1 Introduction

This chapter summarizes the findings of the study, drawing conclusions based on the results, and recommendations based on the findings.

#### 5.2 Summary of Key Findings

The research sought to study the rehabilitation and reformation of young offenders at the Senior Boys Correctional Centre in Accra. By so doing, it examined the nature of programmes at the Correctional Centre, to find out the impact of these programmes on offenders and also to explore the role of social support on their rehabilitation and reformation.

In light of the findings, the study has revealed that the Senior Correctional Centre has a holistic approach in the rehabilitation and reformation of young offenders caught up in the juvenile justice system. The programmes offer young offenders with prospect to acquire the knowledge and skills needed for growth. Interests and strengths of young offenders are discovered by the facility when they are taken through probationary period after being newly admitted. Factors such as type of offence, background, and specific needs are taken into consideration during the probation period to allow for maximum utilization of offenders' abilities.

The study revealed that some offenders who were school dropouts when they were convicted were able to go back to school in detention. Offenders who hitherto could not have been able to attend

any of the five Senior High School the facility works with are able to do so while in detention irrespective of their examination results. Offenders who were also school dropouts without any hope of education were enrolled in vocations of their choice. They are also able to receive adult education to provide them with basic literacy skills. Altogether, the availability of counselling, religious, sports and recreation and health services at the Correctional facility provides support and guidance to young offenders. Religious services provide young offenders with moral and ethical development and help them to maintain their emotional wellbeing. The inclusion of sports and recreational amenities enhance the overall atmosphere inside institutions, fostering a constructive and rehabilitative culture that prioritize individual development and progress, rather than relying only on punitive measures. All these services enhance young offenders' ability to live independently after release which helps their reintegration.

Social support combines these tailored rehabilitation and reformation programmes with a strong system to yield the most positive outcomes for young offenders. The formal support from the Correctional Centre, Probation Officers, agencies, and institutions proves to have a positive impact on the progress of young offenders.

Probation Officers play an indispensable role in the rehabilitation and reformation of young offenders. Their visits and interactions with young offenders help to assess the unique needs risk of offenders, while developing individualized case plans for offenders. The study discovered that some offenders took Probation Officers as family, more so for those who do not receive visits from their family members. Praise and incentives for compliance and progress from Probation Officers helps offenders to engage in and maintain good behaviour.

They give offenders access to resources which help them in their vocational and educational activities. Support from Correctional Centre Officers played a significant role in the progress of

offenders. Psychosocial support helped to provide young offenders with guidance and care, nurturing talents and effecting positive change in the lives of offenders. Post-release follow ups are done for offenders who can be reached after release, as some of them change their residences and could not be contacted after release. Offenders are able to acquire vocational and educational certificates through the sponsorship of Non-Governmental Organizations, corporate bodies, churches, and Philanthropists. The commitment of these agencies and institutions to addressing the needs of young offenders at the Correctional Centre helps to promote their successful reintegration after release.

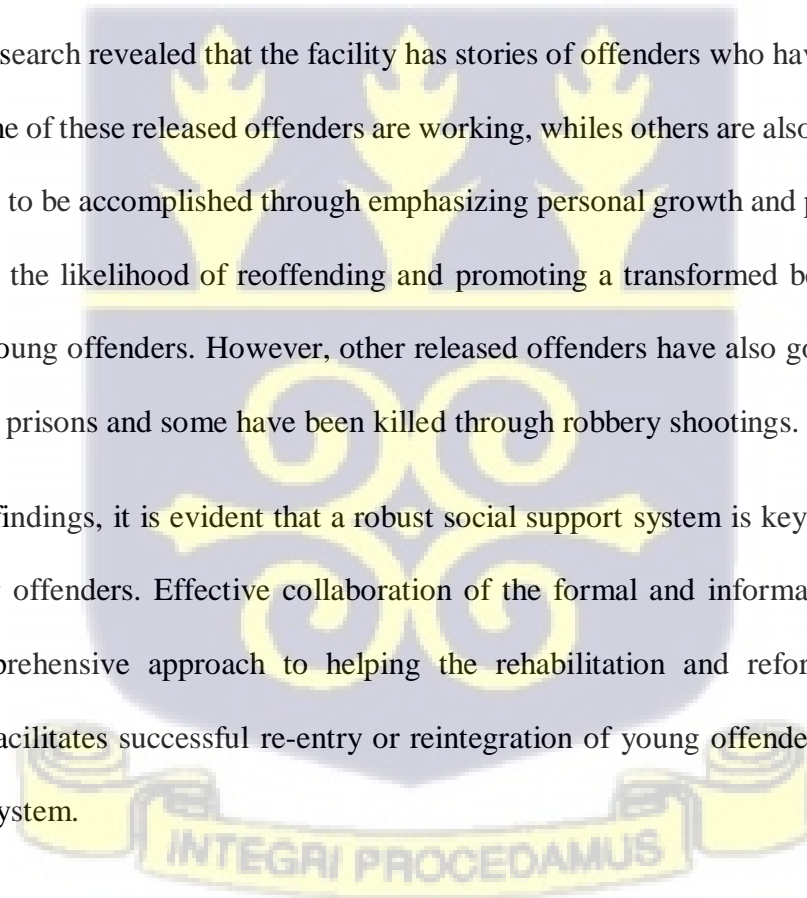
Informal support from families is also one area that the study found to be critical in the rehabilitation and reformation of young offenders. Contact from family is especially important to help offenders both during and after detention. Strengthening family bonds during incarceration is critical to the successful rehabilitation and reformation of young offenders. Visits by family members help offenders to cope with detention challenges. For some of those offenders whose families are unable to pay visits, the offenders explained that phone calls helped them to feel loved and wanted. Although some offenders do not communicate with their families because of deprivation and financial difficulties at home, it is important to keep the relationship going. Families of offenders from Ashanti region whose families could not visit due to distance but communicated through phone calls had a positive effect on them. Support from family discouraged offenders' further involvement in delinquent behaviour. It improved their self-esteem and motivated them, as such it made them inclined to behave well. This positively influenced their conduct, reducing the likelihood of recidivism after release.

Peer group support was also found to be of great influence. Some offenders relied on their friends for advice. Young offenders faced a delicate balance when interacting with their peers, as they

offered a sense of inclusion and potential material support, but also exposed them to temptations and chances to resume illegal behaviour. Whiles some stated that they received bad advice, others also explained that some of their peers give them good advice. Positive peer relationships are essential in contributing to the rehabilitative and reformative services. Sharing experiences, successes, and challenges with each other fostered positive connections and understanding, which contributed to their reformation.

The Correctional Centre rehabilitates, and reforms young offenders caught up in the juvenile justice system, who are willing and determined to change. Social support makes available resources and opportunities that provides tangible skills to make offenders contribute to the positive development of society. The research revealed that the facility has stories of offenders who have been successful after release. Some of these released offenders are working, whiles others are also schooling. Social support helps this to be accomplished through emphasizing personal growth and positive behaviour change to reduce the likelihood of reoffending and promoting a transformed behaviour, attitude, and lifestyle of young offenders. However, other released offenders have also gone back to crime, ended up in adult prisons and some have been killed through robbery shootings.

In light of these findings, it is evident that a robust social support system is key in producing best results for young offenders. Effective collaboration of the formal and informal support systems provides a comprehensive approach to helping the rehabilitation and reformation of young offenders. This facilitates successful re-entry or reintegration of young offenders involved in the criminal justice system.



### 5.3 Conclusion

In conclusion, this research has assessed the critical area of the rehabilitation and reformation of young offenders within the Senior Boys Correctional Centre in Accra. Through a comprehensive examination of the programs and the role of social support within the facility, the study has unveiled several important insights.

The Senior Correctional Centre adopts a holistic approach to the rehabilitation and reformation of young offenders, providing them with a structured environment to develop essential knowledge and skills. Notably, this approach has empowered some offenders to return to education, even enabling school dropouts to access formal schooling or vocational training. The availability of counselling, religious, sports and/recreational, and health services has contributed significantly to the emotional and moral development of young offenders.

However, it is evident that the linchpin in the rehabilitation and reformation process lies in the robust social support system. Both formal and informal support mechanisms, including support from agencies, families, and peers, play pivotal roles in the progress of young offenders. The support from Correctional Centre Officers and Probation Officers is also contributory in nurturing talents and effecting positive change in the lives of offenders.

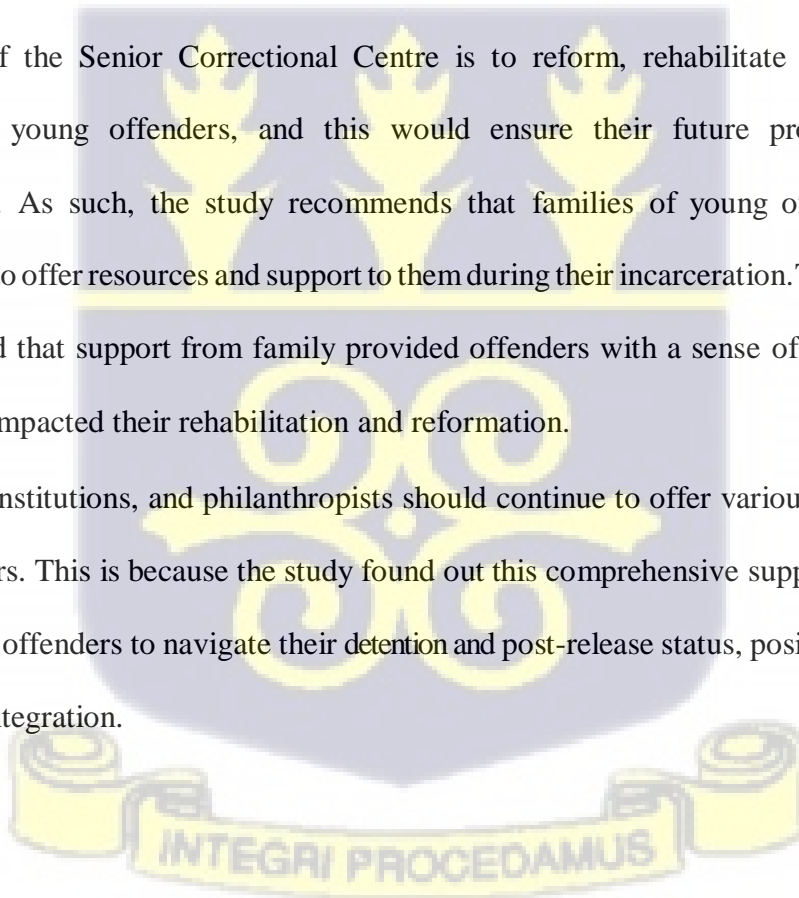
While the Correctional Centre has successfully transformed the lives of many young offenders, it is essential to acknowledge that some have faced challenges post-release, including recidivism and even tragic outcomes. Nevertheless, the overarching message from this study is that a well-structured social support system remains a cornerstone in achieving positive outcomes for young offenders. It provides the necessary resources and opportunities for personal growth, thereby reducing the likelihood of reoffending and promoting a transformed behaviour, attitude, and lifestyle among this

vulnerable demographic.

Considering these findings, continued emphasis on the development and enhancement of social support mechanisms is key to achieving the best results in the rehabilitation and reformation of young offenders. This rounded approach, coupled with unwavering support, holds the potential to create lasting positive change and contribute to a successful reintegration of released young offenders.

#### 5.4 Recommendations

- The aim of the Senior Correctional Centre is to reform, rehabilitate and subsequently reintegrate young offenders, and this would ensure their future prospects and self-sufficiency. As such, the study recommends that families of young offenders should be encouraged to offer resources and support to them during their incarceration. This is because the study found that support from family provided offenders with a sense of belonging, which positively impacted their rehabilitation and reformation.
- Agencies, institutions, and philanthropists should continue to offer various support services for offenders. This is because the study found out this comprehensive support and continuity would help offenders to navigate their detention and post-release status, positively contributing to their reintegration.



## 5.5 Limitation

Given the importance of social support, a broader sample would have been useful. However, further studies should be expanded to consider the economic background of offenders' families, and other external support systems such as clergy, institutions, and philanthropists.



## REFERENCES

- Al Adib Samuri, M., Mohd Kusrin, Z., Aziah Mohd Awal, N., Husin Bin Mohd Nor, A., Binti Hanin Hamjah, S., & Bin Ab Rahman, Z. (2013, October 29). The Rehabilitation Theory in Adjudicating Child Offenders and Its Application in Malaysia. *Asian Social Science*, 9(15). <https://doi.org/10.5539/ass.v9n15p156>
- Alsufyani, A. M. (2020, July 14). Role of Treatment Theory and Enablement Theory for Restoring Health and Rehabilitation in Saudi Arabia. *Cureus*. <https://doi.org/10.7759/cureus.9180>
- Ame, R. (2019). Towards a relevant and sustainable juvenile justice system in Ghana. *Journal of Global Ethics*, 15(3), 250-269.
- Ame, R. K. (2018). The origins of the contemporary juvenile justice system in Ghana. *Journal of Family History*, 43(4), 394-408.
- Ame, R., Ayete-Nyampong, L., & Gakpleazi, D. A. (2020). Ghana's juvenile justice system: Assessment of selected formal juvenile justice institutions and agencies. *Ghana Social Science Journal*, 17(2), 24-24.
- Asamoah, J. M. (2021). *Juvenile Justice Administration in Ghana* (Doctoral dissertation, Walden University).<sup>?</sup>
- Baffour, F., & Abass, A. (2016). It All Has to Do with Poor Parental Care: Exploring the Predisposing Factors of Juvenile Delinquency in Ghana. *International Journal of Sciences: Basic and Applied Research*, 30(2), 151-166.
- Bates, K. A., & Swan, R. S. (2019). *Juvenile delinquency in a diverse society*. Sage Publications.

- Boakye, K. E., & Akoensi, T. D. (2021). Doing time: Young people and the rhetoric of juvenile justice in Ghana. In *The Palgrave International handbook of youth imprisonment* (pp. 77-103). Cham: Springer International Publishing.
- Bower, C., Watkins, R. E., Mutch, R. C., Marriott, R., Freeman, J., Kippin, N. R., ... & Giglia, R. (2018). Fetal alcohol spectrum disorder and youth justice: a prevalence study among young people sentenced to detention in Western Australia. *BMJ open*, 8(2), e019605.
- Braithwaite, J., & Mugford, S. (2017). Conditions of successful reintegration ceremonies: Dealing with juvenile offenders. In *Restorative Justice* (pp. 3-35). Routledge.
- Buchanan, M., Castro, E. D., Kushner, M., & Krohn, M. D. (2020). It's F\*\* ing Chaos: COVID-19's impact on juvenile delinquency and juvenile justice. *American journal of criminal justice*, 45, 578-600.
- Burfeind, J., & Bartusch, D. (2015). *Juvenile delinquency: An integrated approach*. Routledge.
- Casey, S. (2019, April 3). Offender Rehabilitation and Theories of Behaviour Change. *The Wiley International Handbook of Correctional Psychology*, 354–373. <https://doi.org/10.1002/9781119139980.ch22>
- Clone, S., & DeHart, D. (2014, September 16). Social Support Networks of Incarcerated Women: Types of Support, Sources of Support, and Implications for Reentry. *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*, 53(7), 503–521. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10509674.2014.944742>
- Creaney, S. (2014, July 8). The benefits of participation for young offenders. *Safer Communities*, 13(3), 126–132. <https://doi.org/10.1108/sc-02-2014-0003>

- Dako-Gyeke, M., Adam, A., & Mills, A. A. (2022). The Quagmire of Juvenile Delinquency: Perspectives of Inmates and Officers in a Correctional Facility in Accra, Ghana. *Deviant Behaviour, 43*(2), 241-257.
- Decker, S. H., & Marteache, N. (Eds.). (2017). *International handbook of juvenile justice*. Springer International Publishing.
- Duah, E. (2021). *Bullying victimization, health strains and juvenile delinquency in Ghana* (Doctoral dissertation, The University of Akron).
- Duah, E. (2023). Bullying victimization and juvenile delinquency in Ghanaian schools: the moderating effect of social support. *Adolescents, 3*(2), 228-239.
- Eryalçin, M., & Duyan, V. (2020, January 29). Perceived social support of juvenile delinquents and young offenders on probation. *Toplum Ve Sosyal Hizmet, 31*(1), 1–21. <https://doi.org/10.33417/tsh.681830>
- Feeney, B. C., & Collins, N. L. (2014, August 14). A New Look at Social Support. *Personality and Social Psychology Review, 19*(2), 113–147. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1088868314544222>
- Forsberg, L., & Douglas, T. (2020, October 3). What is Criminal Rehabilitation? *Criminal Law and Philosophy, 16*(1), 103–126. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11572-020-09547-4>
- Fortune, C. A. (2018). The Good Lives Model: A strength-based approach for youth offenders. *Aggression and violent behaviour, 38*, 21-30.
- Fortune, C. A., Ward, T., & Willis, G. M. (2012, November). The Rehabilitation of Offenders: Reducing Risk and Promoting Better Lives. *Psychiatry, Psychology and Law, 19*(5), 646–661. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13218719.2011.615809>

- Fox, B. H., Perez, N., Cass, E., Baglivio, M. T., & Epps, N. (2015). Trauma changes everything: Examining the relationship between adverse childhood experiences and serious, violent, and chronic juvenile offenders. *Child abuse & neglect, 46*, 163-173.
- Ganapathy, N. (2018, July 3). Rehabilitation, reintegration, and recidivism: a theoretical and methodological reflection. *Asia Pacific Journal of Social Work and Development, 28*(3), 154–167. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02185385.2018.1501416>
- Garbarino, J., & Plantz, M. C. (2017). Child abuse and juvenile delinquency: What are the links?  
In *Troubled youth, troubled families* (pp. 27-40). Routledge.
- Golo, H. K. (2018). The Court and Police Protection of the Rights and Welfare of Juvenile Offenders During Arrest, Detention and Trial in Ghana. *Global journal of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, 6*(5), 48-67.
- Gyansah, S. T., Soku, R., & Esilfie, G. (2015). Child Delinquency and Pupils' Academic Performance in Fumesua Municipal Assembly Primary School in the Ejisu-Juaben Municipality, Ashanti Region, Ghana. *Journal of Education and Practice, 6*(12), 107-120.
- Haines, K., & Case, S. (2015). *Positive youth justice: Children first, offenders second*. Policy Press.
- Haqanee, Z., Peterson-Badali, M., & Skilling, T. (2015). Making “what works” work: Examining probation officers’ experiences addressing the criminogenic needs of juvenile offenders. *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation, 54*(1), 37-59.
- Hassan, N. (2020, February 28). The quality of life of young offenders in juvenile justice institutions. *International Journal of Psychosocial Rehabilitation, 24*(4), 4193–4206. <https://doi.org/10.37200/ijpr/v24i4/pr201529>

- Hayden, Madalyn, "Recidivism Rates in the United States versus Europe: How and Why are they Different?" (2023). Honors Theses. 3665
- Henning, K. (2018). The challenge of race and crime in a free society: The racial divide in fifty years of juvenile justice reform. *Geo. Wash. L. Rev.*, 86, 1604.
- Hirschi, T. (2017). Causes and prevention of juvenile delinquency. In *The Craft of Criminology* (pp. 105-120). Routledge.
- Ibrahim, S. (2015). A binary model of broken home: Parental death-divorce hypothesis of male juvenile delinquency in Nigeria and Ghana. In *Violence and Crime in the Family: Patterns, Causes, and Consequences* (Vol. 9, pp. 311-340). Emerald Group Publishing Limited.
- Kiye, M. E. (2015). The repugnancy and incompatibility tests and customary law in Anglophone Cameroon. *African Studies Quarterly*, 15(2), 85.
- Kong, S. X., & Wertheimer, A. I. (1994, January). Social Support: Concepts, Theories, and Implications for Pharmacy Research. *Journal of Pharmaceutical Marketing & Management*, 9(1), 63–90. [https://doi.org/10.3109/j058v09n01\\_06](https://doi.org/10.3109/j058v09n01_06)
- Kratcoski, P. C., Kratcoski, L. D., & Kratcoski, P. C. (2019). *Juvenile delinquency: Theory, research, and the juvenile justice process*. Springer Nature.
- Madumarovna, A., Esonalievna, N. D., Makhmudovna, S. Z., & Mukhutdinovich, A. N. (2020, February 28). The role of religious and secular views in the spiritual and moral education of the young generation. *International Journal of Psychosocial Rehabilitation*, 24(04), 3162–3168. <https://doi.org/10.37200/ijpr/v24i4/pr201426>

- Mallett, C. A. (2018). Disproportionate minority contact in juvenile justice: Today's, and yesterdays, problems. *Criminal justice studies*, 31(3), 230-248.
- Marfo, S., Musah, H., Bamora, F. N., & Aniagyei, W. (2023). Policing the Delinquent Child in Ghana: Talk or Action? *International Annals of Criminology*, 1-17.
- Mark T. Berg & Beth M. Huebner (2011) Reentry and the Ties that Bind: An Examination of Social Ties, Employment, and Recidivism, *Justice Quarterly*, 28:2, 382-410, DOI: 10.1080/07418825.2010.498383
- Martinez, D. J., & Abrams, L. S. (2011, November 17). Informal Social Support Among Returning Young Offenders. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 57(2), 169–190. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0306624x11428203>
- Martinez, D. J., & Abrams, L. S. (2011, November 17). Informal Social Support Among Returning Young Offenders. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 57(2), 169–190. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0306624x11428203>
- Mears, D. P., Pickett, J. T., & Mancini, C. (2015). Support for balanced juvenile justice: Assessing views about youth, rehabilitation, and punishment. *Journal of quantitative criminology*, 31, 459-479.
- Monahan, K., Steinberg, L., & Piquero, A. R. (2015). Juvenile justice policy and practice: A developmental perspective. *Crime and justice*, 44(1), 577-619.
- Mutschler, C., Rouse, J., McShane, K., & Habal-Brosek, C. (2018, June 13). Developing a realist theory of psychosocial rehabilitation: the Clubhouse model. *BMC Health Services Research*, 18(1). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-018-3265-9>

- Mwangangi, R. K. (2019). The role of family in dealing with juvenile delinquency. *Open Journal of Social Sciences*, 7(3), 52-63.
- Nisar, M., Ullah, S., Ali, M., & Alam, S. (2015). Juvenile delinquency: The Influence of family, peer and economic factors on juvenile delinquents. *Applied Science Reports*, 9(1), 37-48.
- Nyarko, N. Y. A., Aikins, L. V., Nyarko, N. A. A., & Aboagye, E. A. (2019). Juvenile delinquency: Its causes and effects. *JL Pol'y & Globalization*, 88, 166.
- Pappas, L. N., & Dent, A. L. (2023). The 40-year debate: a meta-review on what works for juvenile offenders. *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, 19(1), 1-30.
- Rathinabalan, I., & Naaraayan, S. A. (2017). Effect of family factors on juvenile delinquency. *International Journal of Contemporary Pediatrics*, 4(6), 2079-2082.
- Sankofa, J., Cox, A., Fader, J. J., Inderbitzin, M., Abrams, L. S., & Nurse, A. M. (2018). Juvenile corrections in the era of reform: A meta-synthesis of qualitative studies. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 62(7), 1763-1786.
- Scott, E. S., Bonnie, R. J., & Steinberg, L. (2016). Young adulthood as a transitional legal category: Science, social change, and justice policy. *Fordham L. Rev.*, 85, 641. Haines, K., & Case, S. (2015). *Positive youth justice: Children first, offenders second*. Policy Press.
- Shoemaker, D. J. (2017). *Juvenile delinquency*. Rowman & Littlefield.
- Siegel, L. J., & Welsh, B. C. (2016). *Juvenile delinquency: The core*. Cengage Learning.
- Siegert, R. J., Ward, T., & Playford, E. D. (2010, January). Human rights and rehabilitation outcomes. *Disability and Rehabilitation*, 32(12), 965–971. <https://doi.org/10.3109/09638281003775360>

Thielo, A. J., Cullen, F. T., Cohen, D. M., & Chouhy, C. (2016). Rehabilitation in a red state: Public support for correctional reform in Texas. *Criminology & public policy*, 15(1), 137-170.

Thompson, K. C., Morris, R. J., Thompson, K. C., & Morris, R. J. (2016). *Juvenile delinquency and disability* (pp. 31-39). Springer International Publishing.

Thompson, W. E., & Bynum, J. E. (2016). *Juvenile delinquency: A sociological approach*.

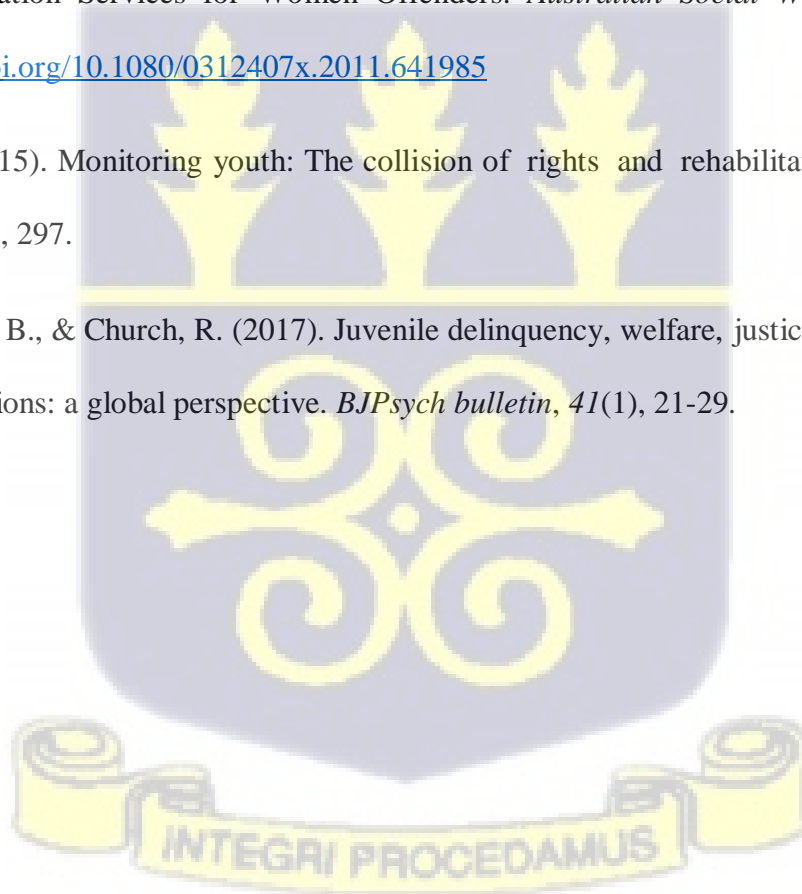
Rowman & Littlefield.

Trotter, C., McIvor, G., & Sheehan, R. (2012, March). The Effectiveness of Support and Rehabilitation Services for Women Offenders. *Australian Social Work*, 65(1), 6–20.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/0312407x.2011.641985>

Weisburd, K. (2015). Monitoring youth: The collision of rights and rehabilitation. *Iowa L. Rev.*, 101, 297.

Young, S., Greer, B., & Church, R. (2017). Juvenile delinquency, welfare, justice, and therapeutic interventions: a global perspective. *BJPsych bulletin*, 41(1), 21-29.



**APPENDIX**

**APPENDIX A: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR KEY INFORMANTS AND PARTICIPANTS**

**UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**

**INSTITUTE OF STATISTICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH**

**Research Title: Rehabilitation and Reformation of young offenders: A Study of Senior Boys' Correctional Center Accra.**

I am Alice Ahenkorah, an MA student at the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research, University of Ghana, Legon- Accra. This study is being conducted to examine the nature of programmes, analyse the impact of the programmes on young offenders and explore the role of social support in their rehabilitation and reformation. I would be grateful if you could take time out of your busy schedule to answer some questions. Be assured that the information provided will be treated confidentially and used for academic purposes only. Your participation in this study is very important but voluntary and you can withdraw at any point without any consequences. Thank you.

START OF INTERVIEW \_\_\_\_\_

END OF INTERVIEW \_\_\_\_\_

DURATION OF INTERVIEW \_\_\_\_\_

## **INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR OFFICER-IN-CHARGE AT CORRECTIONAL CENTER**

### **DEMOGRAPHIC DATA**

1. Briefly describe yourself.
  - a. Age
  - b. Sex
  - c. Rank
  - d. Number of years spent at the Correctional Center

### **INTERVIEW**

1. What are the reformatory services available at the Correctional Center for young offenders?
  - a. Do you conduct a needs assessment for young offenders before assigning training?
2. What other services are available to young offenders?
3. What is the impact of counselling services on offenders.
  - a. What is the nature of counselling services?
4. In addition to general reformatory services, is there a specific program for offenders who are about to be released from detention?
  - a. Are there any measures to enhance their employability.
  - b. Are there measures to ensure continuity of education?
  - c. What collaborative efforts exist between the Correctional facility and Probation officers to ensure support and smooth transition after release?
5. Do you think the Correctional facility helps in rehabilitating and reforming young offenders?



## **APPENDIX B: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR YOUNG OFFENDERS IN DETENTION**

**(Offenders between the age of eighteen and twenty-one**

### **years)DEMOGRAPHIC DATA**

1. Age at entry into SCC
2. Current age
3. Educational level
  - a. Were you in school before detention?
4. Type of offence
5. Duration of sentence
6. Region

### **EXPERIENCE IN DETENTION**

1. What were the training options you were presented with to choose from?
  - a. Why did you choose option...?
  - b. How effective has the training program been for your development?
2. What are your personal goals and aspirations?
  - a. Do you perceive your training to help you to achieve them after release?
3. Describe your relationship with other offenders.
  - a. Positive associations
  - b. Negative associations
4. Do you receive visits?
  - a. Probe more for specific people who visit.
  - b. How is the nature relationship with your family and friends during your detention.
5. Describe your relationship with your Probation Officer?
  - a. Number of visits
  - b. Duration of visits
  - c. What is the impact of your relationship with your Probation Officer?
6. What are the services available to you?
  - a. How has it addressed your needs?
7. Do you feel prepared for life after release based on the training you have received?

**APPENDIX C: INTRODUCTORY LETTER FROM ISSER**



INSTITUTE OF STATISTICAL, SOCIAL  
AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Ref No.: ISSER-AC 5/6

July 6, 2023

The Director-General  
Ghana Prisons Service  
Accra

Dear Sir/Madam,

**LETTER OF INTRODUCTION: MS. ALICE AHENKORAH (11008101)**

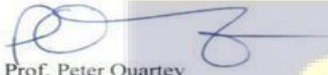
The Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER), wishes to introduce to you Ms. Alice Ahenkorah, an MA student in Development Studies with ID number 11008101.

Ms. Ahenkorah's research topic is 'Reform and Reintegration of Juvenile Offenders: A Case Study of Senior Boys Correctional Center, Maamobi'. She will therefore need the assistance of your establishment to collect data for the research work. All data collected will be used solely for academic purposes and treated with the strictest confidentiality. Please find attached, the data collection instrument for the research.

All correspondence should be made directly to Ms. Ahenkorah on +233 24 3334 457 or [aaahenkorah@st.ug.edu.gh](mailto:aaahenkorah@st.ug.edu.gh). If you have any queries about this, please do not hesitate to contact the MA Coordinator on +233 26 8363 281 or [ktasante@ug.edu.gh](mailto:ktasante@ug.edu.gh).

We hope we can count on your kind co-operation.

Yours faithfully,




Prof. Peter Quartey  
Director

cc: MA/MPhil Coordinator, ISSER

**APPENDIX D: LETTER OF INTRODUCTION FROM GHANA PRISONS SERVICE**

In case of reply the number and date of this letter should be quoted



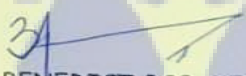
HEADQUARTERS  
GHANA PRISONS SERVICE  
P. O. BOX 129, ACCRA  
GHANA WEST AFRICA  
TEL: 760093/760094  
Fax: 233-302-772865  
Email: [info@ghanaprison.gov.gh](mailto:info@ghanaprison.gov.gh)

Your Ref: No.....  
My Ref. No: HRG/0183/V. 5/23/12/639<sup>u</sup> Date 24<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2023

**RE: LETTER OF INTRODUCTION: MS. ALICE AHENKORAH (11008101)**

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter quoted above and inform you that permission has been given to the above-named student of your institution to conduct research at the James Camp Prison on the topic: "Reform and Reintegration of Juvenile Offenders: A Case Study of Senior Boys Correctional Center, Maamobi".

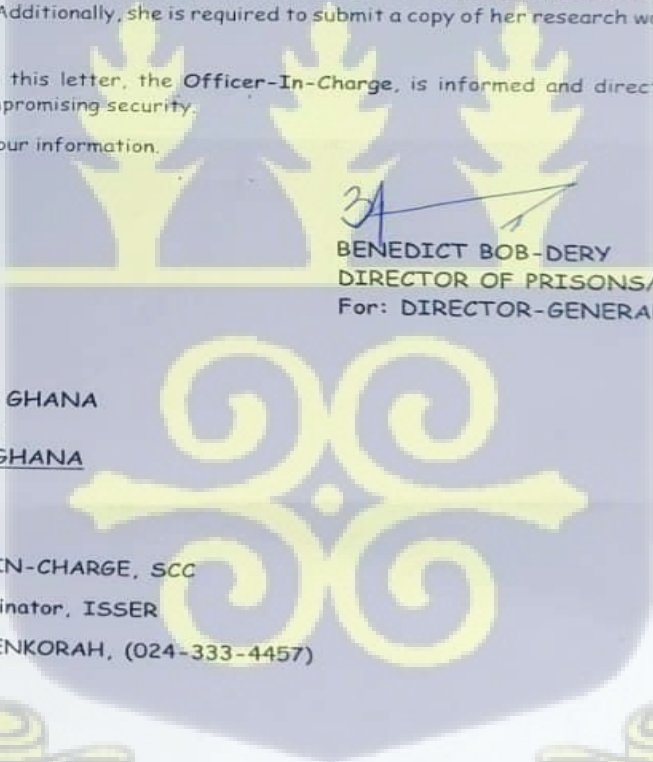
2. The student is to liaise with the Officer-In-Charge of Senior Correctional Centre, SCC to discuss the modalities of the data collection before the commencement of the research.
3. She is also required to show evidence of COVID-19 Vaccination before she will be allowed to enter the Prison. Additionally, she is required to submit a copy of her research work to the Service for study.
4. By a copy of this letter, the Officer-In-Charge, is informed and directed to assist the student without compromising security.
5. Accept for your information.

  
BENEDICT BOB-DERY  
DIRECTOR OF PRISONS/HRD  
For: DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF PRISONS

THE DIRECTOR  
UNIVERSITY OF GHANA  
P. O. BOX LG 74  
LEGON, ACCRA-GHANA

Cc:

1. THE OFFICER-IN-CHARGE, SCC
2. MA/MPhil Coordinator, ISSER
- ✓ 3. MS. ALICE AHENKORAH, (024-333-4457)

  
INTEGRI PROCEDAMUS