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**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND PUBLIC MANAGEMENT**

**DISSERTATION TOPIC**

**An analysis of the role played by NGOs in promoting peace in Zimbabwe's prisons: Case study ZACRO 2008 TO 2017.**

**BY**

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*A dissertation submitted to the Department of Politics and Public Management, Midlands State University in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Peace Studies Honours Degree.*

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DECLARATION

I FUNGAI SHEBA CHOOFAMBA (145545a) do hereby declare that the work contained in this dissertation is my own work with only the exception of quotations and references that have been attributed to their sources. I further declare that this work has never been previously submitted to any university and is being submitted in the partial fulfillment of the Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Politics and Public Management at Midlands State University.

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## ABSTRACT

Crime offenders need to require skills in different trades while in custody through rehabilitation services. This case study seeks to show whether rehabilitation programs available in prisons are best at serving the interests of both inmates and crime offenders. The population of the study consisted of 200 male inmates and 5 prison officers out of which twenty inmates and ten prison officers were randomly selected. The study traced how the prison system's efforts to transform in line with regional declarations and regional instruments that promote peace. The study highlighted that drafted policies have not been followed by supportive activities to promote rehabilitation services in prisons. Agricultural activities and performing arts are the most popular programs at Kentucky prison which grew in popularity through the officer's unilateral initiatives than through the assessed needs of inmates. The researchers recommended that crime offenders need rehabilitation services that equip them with relevant skills for employment or self-projects as well as to be functional citizens in the society. They mostly prefer training in trades that require mastery of skills. Rehabilitation programs must be informed by needs assessment done in a collaborative manner by officers, crime offenders and other stake holders. Strategies such as private public partnerships on prison rehabilitation programs must be adopted. Rehabilitation support must go beyond prison walls to also serve sustainable livelihoods for those that acquire skills while in prison.

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## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this dissertation to my mother Mrs. Mavis Choofamba who struggled so hard for me to reach this far. She has played a two in one role of being a parent. I love you mom. I also dedicate this dissertation to my late father Mr. Smart Anhuaone Choofamba.

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**ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>ALoz</b>	Adult Literacy Organization of Zimbabwe
<b>MDC</b>	Movement for Democratic Change
<b>NAC</b>	National Aids Council
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization

<b>TORI</b>	Texas Offenders Reentry Initiative
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>YMCA</b>	Young Men’s Christian Association
<b>ZACRO</b>	Zimbabwe’s Association for Crime Preventing of Offenders
<b>ZANU PF</b>	Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front
<b>ZPCS</b>	Zimbabwe Prison and Correctional Service

## **CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

This section introduces the research by the provision of the background of study, statement of problem, objectives of the study and research questions. Significance, justification and limitations of the study are also explored in this chapter. All the issues covered and explored in detail in paragraphs to follow are expected to give relevance to the whole study and provide a framework to the specific phenomenon which is being explored in this research.

#### **1.2) BACKGROUND OF STUDY**

Non- governmental organizations once had a very good reputation in Zimbabwe. This was made possible by the role they played during the liberation war. However the good old friendship has heavily deteriorated due to different reasons and NGOs have failed effectively to deal with the promotion of peace due to the policies and attitude of the same government they assisted to attain independence. There are many roles that NGOs play according to their objectives which include Adult Literacy Organization of Zimbabwe( ALOZ) in provision of education to the old aged people in prison National AIDS Council (NAC) offers medical aid and counselling to inmates and Young Men's Christian Association(YMCA) that brings religious morals to the incarcerated just to mention a few. These NGOs have to be applauded for their great service during the liberation struggle. Though to note is that these organizations has thus failed to yield any meaningful contribution after that. The emergency of other international organizations such as international amnesty gave a new dimension to issues of peace in meeting international standards.

However their roles have been heavily compromised by the political situation in Zimbabwe. The ruling party ZANU PF after the emergency of Movement for Democratic Change blamed NGOs that they were working with the opposition party to push for a regime change agenda and as a result the government crafted the NGOs bill meant to control and de-register organizations they seemed to be working with or they suspected to be involved in politics. This did not only affect those NGOs that deal with peace but as well as humanitarian organization. The role of these

organizations failed to be fully noticed though it cannot be ignored in promoting peace in Zimbabwe. The 2008 presidential and parliamentary elections were marred with irregularities and NGOs and other organizations played a very important role in reducing the effect of the bloodshed by preaching the gospel of peace that is to use nonviolent measures and even involved in peace processes such as mediation and negotiation and others. It is paramount to look into detail the extent to which NGOs has managed to promote peace in Zimbabwe. Bohm and Haley (2009) argued that, globally detention has shifted from penal policy to rehabilitation of offenders before and after re-integration into the society. African prison's punitive systems were largely inherited from the colonial powers, (Dissel, 2001). However, around the nineteenth century, there was progress from brutality towards a system that provided opportunity for offenders to realize their wrong and reform their behavior Patrick and Marsh, 2001). In other words, correctional institutions introduced a system of justice that recognized reformation of criminals. Prison authorities have realized that their approach to dealing with inmates has an impact on the inmates' ultimate long-standing potential to alter their manners, as well as on recidivism rates Staples, (1992). There is substantiation that African countries such as South Africa and Botswana, have evidently included rehabilitation in the objectives of their prison services (Frongpon, 2001 cited in Dissel, 2007). For example, Botswana Prison Services states that one of the purposes of its prison system is to train and rehabilitate all classes of sentenced prisoners in skill and social actions so that there is improvement in their social resettlement into the community upon their release (Frongpon, 2001 cited in Dissel, 2007). Prisons now sought to handle offenders with complex manners in a more beneficial and rehabilitative way because of the pessimistic long-term effects of punitive prison practices. Therefore, the objective now is to transform offenders into law-abiding, productive members of society upon their release back into the community. According to Lambert and Hogan (2009), jail sentence in adult prisons has many aims including justice, general deterrence, specific deterrence, and incapacitation, but rehabilitation remains one of the major goals of corrections.

According to Hoffman (2008) cited in McAree (2011 ), rehabilitation can be defined as a process of learning to be oneself and to be known as a unique person, meaningful to others because of both differences and common ground. Therefore, quality rehabilitation programs can create a sense of self for the participant and inspire a belief that controls ones destiny (Hoffman, 2008

cited in McAree, 2011). In the same line of argument, Muntingh (2005) outlines a more operational definition stating that, a rehabilitation intervention targets some specific aspects pertaining to inmate, with the aim of reducing the chances of recidivism. Cullen and Gendreau (2000) cited in Dissel (2007) present a broader definition of rehabilitation which incorporates social relations with others, employment, education and vocational skills with the purpose of the intervention proposed to make the offender less likely to break the law in the future. Muntingh (2005) further explained that the vital goal of rehabilitation should be the reintegration of offenders back into society. This reintegration does not merely entail education, life skills training and self-control, but also employment, mental and physical health, housing and family relationships

Rehabilitation Policy Document (2005), states that rehabilitation seeks to accomplish the offenders full functioning ability. Therefore this improved the capacity of a person to function in various social situations towards the fulfilment of his or her needs and the right to the greatest participation in society.

On a specific note it has been discovered that crime offending has been one of the major causes of conflicts since the crime rate is increasing rapidly and is one problem NGOs are trying to fight. The Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services (ZPCS) fall under the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs. Its creation is provided under the constitution of Zimbabwe and its main motive being to protect society from criminal elements through rehabilitation and reintegration of convicted persons back into the society after independency discrimination and marginalization was abolished and equal treatment among ex-prisoners was progressively introduced. Ex-convicts were seen as objects of disgust and were marginalized by the community. The community resented the inmates and did not take up an active role towards their rehabilitation and reintegration. The community, including the victims of the crimes did not want to associate with ex-offenders and even refrain from providing the required support to add the reformation of inmates without discouraging incarceration. The ZPCS rehabilitation document (2005) states that the rehabilitation seeks to accomplish the offenders full functioning ability. Therefore this improved the capacity of a person to function in various social situation towards the fulfilment of his or her needs and the right to greatest participation in society.

The ZPCS adoption of rehabilitative approach had encouraged all communities to work together to ensure successful reintegration of offenders in the society. The community is now contributing to improving inmates quality of life for their successful rehabilitation and reintegration. This

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amounts to the collective responsibility of both, the prison and external stakeholders such as NGOs, the cooperate word and individuals, these being components of both the target and action systems. Programs such as education, horticulture, farming, piggery, poultry tailoring, sports and recreation have been introduced to ensure that inmates will not revert to criminal activities when they are released but to become law abiding and productive members of the community

However this research sake to mainly focus on Zimbabwe Association of Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of Offenders (ZACRO). This Non-Governmental Organization is non-profit making since 1923. It is an organization which works to prevent crime and promote rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders. ZACRO operated through a network of country wide volunteer members. The organization's vision is to create crime free society in which men, women and children enjoy safety and security.

ZACRO's mission is to reduce crime by provision of support and rehabilitation programs targeted at men and women convicted of crime, ex-offenders and survivors of crime. ZACRO also endeavors to assist the dependents of jailed offenders. The activities of ZACRO as an organization are based on its mission statement which is to prevent crime and promote rehabilitation and re integration of offenders in order to have peace in societies while advocating for justice in prisons of Zimbabwe. Some of its objectives include facilitating reintegration of prisoners in Zimbabwe back into the mainstream society, to promote rehabilitation of offenders and ex-prisoners and to study and seek further penal reform based on rehabilitative legislations while stimulating public interests within.

### **1.3) STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

The research is an analysis of the effectiveness of rehabilitation by ZACRO (Zimbabwe Association of Crime Prevention Rehabilitation of Crime Offenders) in reducing recidivism among ex-offenders in Zimbabwe and the tools employed to achieve the concept. The shocking statistics of recidivism are contrary the mission statement of ZACRO whose main agenda is to rehabilitate and reintegrate offenders back into the community .Increasing numbers of reconvicted offenders after their release is a cause of concern .The Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services provides various rehabilitation programs to prison inmates in order to empower convicts to lead sustainable livelihood upon release from prison. Despite the



involvement of offenders in rehabilitation programs; still ex-convicts continue to commit new offences after incarceration and are rearrested, reconvicted and re-imprisoned for new offences, thus the rate of recidivism is rising.

#### **1.4) RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

- 1) To explore the challenges faced by ex-offenders after release
- 2) To analyze the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs offered by ZACRO
- 3) To evaluate the underlying factors behind the repeat of criminal offences by released prisoners.
- 4) To proffer recommendation to improve the rehabilitation skills in a prison set up.

#### **1.5) RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

- 1) What are the challenges faced by ex-offenders after release?
- 2) What are the effects of rehabilitation services offered ZACRO?
- 3) What is the underlying factor of recidivism?
- 4) What are the suggested recommendations to improve rehabilitation skills in a prison set up?

#### **1.6) JUSTIFICATION OF THE STUDY**

The filled literature gaps by analyzing the role played by NGOs in promoting peace in Zimbabwe's prisons. There is need to explain and contribute more to the current wisdom and knowledge on the issue of prisoners. The research study also suggested recommendations on how to improve rehabilitation skills in NGOs. The study will be of great help to all NGOs that deal with prisoners, as it applies more convenient strategic plans and significant measures for management that will derail these challenges and its effects.

In the face of political instability in Zimbabwe for the past decade this research seeks to bring to light the role that ZACRO has played in Zimbabwean prisons in relation to rehabilitation and promoting peace, and how successful it has been and the challenges they face. This research also serves to provide insight into the factors hampering the successful operations of ZACRO in

Zimbabwe and as well as internal challenges they are facing in trying to execute an effective mandate. The research will also be beneficial to NGOs so that they will be aware of the challenges and effects that can be encountered during rehabilitation processes. In addition, this study will be of great importance to academic students who are going to undertake researches in accordance to this study. This research is also going to assist Peace Institutions in giving them deeper knowledge on the role played by ZACRO in peace promotion in prisons. However, it is the researchers hope that the study will explore the realities on the ground.

### **1.7) DELIMITATIONS**

By definition, according to Simon (2011), delimitations are those characteristics that limit the scope and definition and define the boundaries of your study, also they are in control. They also describe the boundaries the researcher has set for the study. Since the research was conducted in the capital City of Zimbabwe which is also the researcher's home town, the resources to move around were available, no huge amounts of travelling inquired. The population included in the research include govern mere illiterate citizens since there was either partial or guessing ending up in giving bias information towards the research.

### **1.8) LIMITATIONS**

According to Monett et al. (1990) most researchers face a number of constrains and as such the current study is no an exception. Time was limited as the researcher was balancing current study and the research. In a prison set up women are viewed as sexual objects by inmates so it was quite difficult to interview them since the researcher was prone to rape and they would pass obscene comments that would disturb the progress of the discussion. In addition the limitation of added hostility, this can be seen when interviewees reserve their information as they can be intimidated by fellow prison mates to review information.

### **1.9) ORGANISATION OF THE STUDY**

The study is comprised of five chapters. Chapter one is the introduction and is considered as the research background, problem statement, research objectives and research questions, significance

of the study, delimitations and limitations. In other words, chapter 1 introduced what is going to be discussed in the study.

Chapter two is a detailed review of related literature written by others scholars. Theoretical framework is also in this chapter whereby the theories that support the study were discussed. Literature written by other scholars was also reviewed and it is related to the study which is the challenges faced by NGOs in peace promotion in Zimbabwe's prisons. In this chapter the researcher discussed the related themes to the study in great detail.

Chapter 3 is comprised of the research methodology that gives the research design, sampling techniques, methods used for data collection, data analysis methods and the ethical considerations that were maintained in the study. Therefore in this chapter the researcher defined the above terms and gave the advantages and disadvantages of each and every technique used.

Chapter 4 encompasses the presentation and analysis of data collected by the researcher throughout the course of the research. In this chapter the researcher discussed all of the information linking the study findings with the relevant studies that have already been undertaken by other scholars.

Chapter 5 gave the summary of the study that is the summary findings, conclusions and the recommendations. The recommendations were proffered to the non-governmental organizations that deal with prisons, to the government and to society. The recommendations are meant for those factors that hinder the implementation of peace in prisons.

## **CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1) Introduction**

This chapter serves to establish the sources of information that contributed to the compilation of this documents and its findings, in this section, the major findings are analysed and discussed. Thematic analysis was used to analyses qualitative data. Interviews were thematically analyzed in order to obtain an accurate description of the participants lived experiences of rehabilitationn. The presentation and analysis of data in this chapter is in line with the research objectives. The objectives of this study were to examine and analyze the challenges faced by inmates after release, to aanalyse the effectiveness of rehabilitation offered by ZACRO and to identify the underlying factors behind the repeat of criminal offences by released prisoners and to give suggestions on the possible way to improve rehabilitation skills in a prison set up.

#### **2.2.1) EFFECTS OF REHABILITATION SERVICES IN PRISONS**

According to Austin & Hardyman, (2004) education is an important tool in rehabilitating criminals and introducing them back into society. However, the Parliament of Zimbabwe Report, 2011states that there is shortage of studying material and stationery for educational programmes in prisons and thus it is hard to empower inmates educationally. The researcher views it significant that education and training activities must be properly funded in order to effectively reduce recidivism among prisoners. In accordance with Tenibiaje (2006), it is vital that prison inmates are properly educated about vocational and educational activities and they are enlightened on the essence of vocational skills for self-sustenance and productive employment. Therefore, education is important in transforming offenders from immoral behaviour to functional well behaving persons upon release from prison. Muchena 2014 propounds that

agricultural oriented rehabilitation programmes such as cattle ranching, maize production, poultry, vegetable gardening, and technical courses like, motor mechanics carpentry and welding are offered to prison inmates in an attempt to promote the good value system of prisoners to reduce recidivism. Diesel, 2007 begs to differ saying farm labour may serve as deterrence to recidivism as imprisonment in hard labour; though it does little to change criminal behaviour as agricultural labour does not serve the purpose of rehabilitation. Prisoners need to be trained in these skills and receive certificates in order to transform and reintegrate them into society. Austin & Hardyman, 2004 education is an important tool in rehabilitating crime offenders and introducing them into the community. However, there is limited learning material and stationery for educational programs. The researcher views it significant that education and training programmes must be properly funded in order to effectively minimise recidivism among prisoners. Therefore, education is significant tool in transforming offenders from immoral behaviour to effective and productive persons upon release from prison.

### **2.2.2) CAUSES OF RECIDIVISM**

Clear, 2007 and Leo, 2014 agree that the Singapore Prison Service has an assessment framework conceptualised and designed to guide the prison in the assessment processes for inmates throughout their incarceration. The knowledge gathered through this assessment was applied in educational, vocational, prisoner management and rehabilitation planning hence exactly matched the inmates to suitable rehabilitation programmes. Andrews et al, 2006 and Leo, 2014 argue that the process identifies specific risk of recidivism behaviours, skills and abilities that the offender will need to make a successful transition back into society and thus providing sound management of offenders. The assessment process also ensures that quality is maintained through supervising rehabilitation activities in order to effectively reform and reintegrate ex-prisoners into society. According to Frongpon, (2001) and Diesel, (2007) the Botswana Prison Services trains and rehabilitates all classes of sentenced prisoners in skill and behaviour so that there is improvement in their social resettlement into the community upon release. The Kenyan Prison Services legislation states that every convicted prisoner is obliged to engage in useful programmes so that they learn new skills that can enable them to gain employment. Diesel (2007) states that Kenya Prison Services rehabilitation programmes are aimed at reforming, training and counselling prisoners. However, both the Botswana Prison Services and Kenya Prison Services do not state

how they engross prisoners in rehabilitation programmes. The researcher notices that there are no assessment processes involved in rehabilitating prisoners, hence there are no supervision instruments to quality assure the rehabilitation services. In accordance with report of the Auditor General on the Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Prisoners, 2014 this contradicts with the Zambia Prison Services where upon admission into prison, an offender is chosen, allocated appropriate accommodation, assessed for form of training and labour. The prison inmates are engrossed in vocational skills training in order to reduce repeat the committing of crimes and assist them to secure employment.

The ZPCS as an organization lacks assessment of the rehabilitation programmes and thus the skills, abilities and behaviours of the inmates are not assessed in order to synthesize them for re-entry into society. According to the Report of the Auditor General on the Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Prisoners, 2014 there is no formal assessment done to match the needs of the offenders rehabilitation activities available in the correctional centres. Rupande & Ndoro, 2014 hence suggest that this calls for the support of the ZPCS and ZACRO system through standard practical activities to promote rehabilitation to offenders.

Looking at the American prison set up it is believed that incarceration is not meant to be fun. America has become a strict sentencing nation with negative guidelines, budget shortcomings and punitive correctional philosophy that are not pleasing instead of rehabilitating they are actually causing recidivism. As a result according to Criuze 2016, as a result, the United States now has more than 2 million people behind bars. A higher percentage of the population is involved in the criminal justice system in the United States than in other developed countries. Many ex-offenders have serious mental illnesses due to the severe punishment experienced during incarceration time.

### **2.2.3) CHALLENGES FACED BY EX OFFENDERS AFTER RELEASE FROM PRISON**

When prisoners are released from prison they face an environment that is challenging and it limits them from becoming productive members of society. Due to systemic legal and societal barriers once ex-prisoners are released it is difficult for them compared to the general populace in the finding of gainful employment, secure a good house and generally functioning in the community offenders are affected in both micro and macro levels.

### **2.2.3.1) Micro**

The livelihood of the ex-offenders is hard in the sense that many prisoners have limited education and work experience, which makes it hard for them to be employed after release. According to Wall 2009 about 70% of offenders or ex-offenders are high school dropouts. As a result of this, many former criminals enter into the society with a tag already that they are failures in life or rather they end up feeling condemned and useless to the society.

### **2.2.3.2) MACRO**

In the prison discourse collateral consequences are legal limitations unrelated to the original crime that apply to ex crime offenders .This includes cases like inability to vote , lack of access to food stamps and inability to work in government . The collateral consequences of incarceration in Brazil states that tens of thousands of legal restrictions are imposed on ex inmates .Some are intense and permanent such as an inability to apply for federal grants. Most of the challenges faced by ex-offenders are systemic and require policy changes .There is need of a shift from the attitude of some of the punishment after sentences have been served.

### **2.2.4) REHABILITATION PROGRAMS OFFERED TO EX OFFENDERS**

Ex-offenders that have been released out of prison often encounter immediate barriers to a smooth re-entry into society. These barriers are usually found in the social and employment sectors. It often happens when there is lack of family support and very limited financial resources. There is an organization called Texas Offenders Re-entry Initiative (TORI) in America that is dedicated to assist ex-offenders to get back on their feet and become independent and financially stable. It deals with shelter, housing programs and employment links.

Furthermore, there are various programs offered by Goodwill Industries in Algeria. The Algerian Rehabilitation Commissioner for Prisons provides training in job attainment skills and even hand skills to ex-offenders. They make a good follow up for all the recent ex-offenders in their

homesteads and monitor their way of living and make one on one interviews with the family of the ex-inmate.

Moreover, there is also the Kampala declaration of 1996 on prisons during and after incarceration. The declaration was held from 19 to 21 September 1996 under the influence of the African commission. Although it had many terms and objectives its main focus was to proffer services and solutions to the problems faced by ex-offenders. The declaration advocated for wide reforms such as the reconciliation facilities between the ex-offender and his family and community, rights of prisoners and adoption of prison rehabilitation programs and provision of employment. Of particular interest to the study are the action intentions that came out of the declaration, two of which are; "Prisons in Africa should be considered in the context of economic development, social and cultural values and social change. Emphasis should be placed on providing education; skills based training and a work programme that is in the interest of the offenders while incorporating elements of self-sufficiency and sustainability of both the prison institution and the detainees as a community". "Secondly, Governments were also advised to review penal policy in light of the Kampala declaration and call other national and international agencies (Governmental and non-governmental to assist them in this task". It was probably the Kampala declaration that caused the enthusiasm for rehabilitating prison inmates in Zimbabwe .Hence the Kadoma declaration followed in 1997.

### **2.3) THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

According to Walsh and Hemmens (2011) a theory is a set of assumptions that attempts to explain and predict relationship between phenomena. There are many theories that are propounded to explain the effectiveness of rehabilitation and factors that contribute to recidivism among ex-prisoners such as biological and psychological theories. In this study, the researcher used the social learning theory.

#### **Social Learning Theory**

Social learning theory is one of the sociological theories that try to set up the effectiveness of rehabilitation in th the re reduction of recidivism by released prisoners.In 1990, Andrews and Bonta proposed the "What Works" theory which forms the theoretical framework for rehabilitation of offenders. Andrews and Bonta launched the Risk-Need-Responsively Model



(RNR) of crime offender management, which is underpinned by a general personality and social learning theory of criminal behaviour, mainly looking on modelling and behavioural reinforcement. The overall objective of this approach to inmate rehabilitation is to reduce an inmate's opportunity of re-offending and thereby protect the society from more harm.

Criminal Justice and criminological theories have a complex and intricate past that a lot of researchers have delved deep into to discover mysteries and causes of recidivism. The Social Learning Theory is also one of many which have marked a lasting impact on society and the field of criminology. Robert Burgess and Ronald Akers were the first to investigate on the theoretical ideas of criminology and portray the aspects and significance of the Social Learning Theory and its application to deviance in community. As Akers describes this, "social learning is complementary to other sociological theories and could be used to integrate extant aspects of criminology".

Social learning theory is a vital crime theory that can be used for avoiding purposes. With the background of sociology and psychology, the theoretical premise has many different ways that it may be adopted for prevention. The sociological background came from Sutherland's developments of differential association theory. Burgess and Akers (1966) further developed the theory to include emphasis

According to Akers (1985), social learning theory is valid, and the prevention efforts built from it also have shown some future. The methods used are vital. The most useful methods are drawn from cognitive-behavioural approaches that looks on the interrelationship between behaviour, feeling and thought. This is also in line with the program's integrity. Programs are supposed to be delivered by appropriately trained staff who have skills to deliver intervention in its designed format. The aforementioned attributes are also supported by Howells and Day (1990) who state that programs that are well grounded in psychological theory are likely to result in better outcomes than those that are not. They propound that programs must be designed in such a way which they have the power to target psychological factors that are responsive to change through various treatments and have a sound relationship with the criminogenic needs. In the researcher's view, this has given rise to programmes that focus on issues like violent behaviour, the use of drugs, and sexual offending, just to mention a few.

According to O'Connor and Perreyclear (2002), social learning theory asserts that criminal behaviours are learned behaviours in a given cultural and social context and therefore, offenders are capable of learning non-criminal behaviours and that should be their context of change. For example, if an ex-inmate is involved deeply in a religious setting in society surrounded by chaplains and volunteers attached to the major social institutions of life and very committed to pro-social learned behaviours such an inmate is more likely to learn and adapt to these new behaviours. Furthermore, O'Connor and Perreyclear (2002) state that the social learning theory works together with the Social Attachment Theory which affirms that the more attached a person is to the major social institutions of life such as family, politics and religion, the less likely they are to commit crimes. This means that if offenders have role models, family members who model good behaviour or positive advocates in their lives who they are attached to, they are less likely to have criminal behaviours. Therefore, according to O'Connor and Perreyclear, 2002 rehabilitation programs that build on positive family and role models would be ideal for ex-inmates. In Wilkinson thus suggests that addressing criminal risk factors is the primary goal of offender rehabilitation.

Furthermore, in the social learning theory, the mere capability to be out in public can have influence over someone and his or her vulnerability to commit a crime. Akers (1985) does a great job of combining a plethora of ideas and putting them into a well formulated theory. Crime offending throughout history and even today is a huge problem our society is facing, and researchers and criminologists such as Akers (1985) have been working tirelessly to try and give some answers to how and why crime continues to persist. Reinforcing Akers claims, " Brauer, (2012) says "differential reinforcement is the central causal mechanism in Akers' theory, since differential association, definitions, and imitation/modeling all affect one's probability of committing deviance in relation to a process of differential reinforcement".Pratt, 2012, "Differential association with others, shapes the individual's definitions of one's own attitudes or meanings that one attaches to given behavior". Who you hang around with and who you associate yourself with fully influences your behavior, attitudes, and thought processes more than one might think. When working with society and crime, this is where social learning comes into play to analyze why recidivism is still holding steady and how they vary from time to time.

A criminogenic risk factor can be defined as something that has been demonstrated to be associated with offending behaviour. Therefore, according to Howell and Day 1999, assessment of an offender's criminogenic risk factors leads to a clear specification of treatment goals that can be targeted through the rehabilitation programs.

Overall, the social learning concepts still govern the learning process, although the social structure has some influence over them. Akers (1998) argued: The social structural variables are indicators of the primary distal macro-level and micro-level causes of crime, while the social learning variables reflect the primary proximate causes of criminal behavior that mediate the relationships between social structure and crime rates. With this in mind, Akers (1998) suggests that four dimensions of social structure provide the contexts that the social learning concepts exist and the learning process takes place. They are as follows: differential social organization, differential location in the social structure, theoretically defined structural variables, and differential social location. Differential social organization focuses on the larger community. Akers (1998) argued that this is based on the structural correlates of crime in the larger community or society. For example, these can be the population density, age composition, or other community demographics that seem to move societies toward higher crime rates. Differential location in the social structure looks on the stratification of individuals within their societies. In other words, Akers (1998) emphasized that the sociodemographic characteristics that placed individuals and social groups in their specific categories. Akers (1998) has taken the perspective that other theoretically relevant variables are important social structural forces. Examples of these forces included anomie, class oppression, social disorganization, and patriarchy. Differential social location refers to the membership to social groups. These groups include membership to groups such as churches, gangs, family, or other peer groups. In addition, prevention programs may be used as a way of differential social location. Moreover, time and relative importance of these groups increase the likelihood of organizing social learning that will influence behavior.

## **2.4) Country Experiences**

### **2.4.1) CASE OF UGANDA**

The majority of prisoners throughout the world comes from the most disenfranchised sectors of the community, where they often have a low level of educational attainment and access and low levels of literacy. This is pronounced in many countries in Africa which have very low education and literacy programs, however are limited in most countries or are available only to a small percentage of the sentenced prisoner population.

Schooling is available in some Ugandan prisons that prisoners complained that access to a higher education was lacking. No school or educational programs existed in Masindi Prison despite the fact that it was a cited model prison. The country also experienced problems with low school attendance in the general prison population due to short terms of imprisonment.

Education classes are available only at juvenile facility in Benin while Maputo Central Prison in Mozambique provides academic and vocational training to prisoners. In the latter case education is made available to students up to grade seven but young adults are given preference in access to classes. Schooling to limited grade is available in many Ethiopian prisons although classes are often taught by prisoners.

#### **2.4.2) CASE OF SOUTH AFRICA**

In South Africa where skills development is a national priority, the Department of Labour provided R13 million for occupational skills training benefiting approximately 9% of the prison population during the 2003 academic year. Vocational skills training was also made available to prisoners in terms of which prisoners are assessed and issued with qualifications by the sector education and training authority such skills training include the building, metal and electrical trades. 25% of the sentenced prisoners were also involved in production workshops and agricultural activities aimed at supporting the development of their employment related skills (DCS2004:32-33).

#### **2.4.3) CASE OF TANZANIA**

Vocational skills and training are also offered in Tanzania, prisoners serving long term sentences may receive vocational training at prison training college. The boasts that over 6000 prisoners took various trade tests in a 25 year period. On return to prison they can practice their building

skills as part of the prisons building brigade which carries out building contracts. In addition, approximately 52% of convicted prisoners participate in agricultural training and 24% in industrial works. However, these programs exclude female prisoners, those convicted of life sentences and those awaiting the execution death penalty (pers.comm, ACP of Tanzanian Prison Service, 6November 2006.

## **2.5) CHAPTER SUMMARY**

Research data in this study shows that the rehabilitation programs appear to be helpful to the ex-offenders of Glen Norah Community. Some kind of rehabilitation like counseling, sports and recreation played a pivotal role in relieving stress. Counseling sessions are serving a purpose to deal with their emotions and feelings. Recreation relieves tension brought about by being in prison. Moreover, some of the programs are also accomplishing their purpose of promoting growth in the respondents, for instance, the spiritual programs. In the writer's opinion, religion brings spiritual growth, good principles and values. Therefore, the acceptance of good morals and values can empower offenders to make sound judgments regarding what is right and what is wrong after their release thus reducing recidivism. The study proved that a number of rehabilitation programs offered in Glen Norah are designed to transform the life of ex-prisoners and to equip them with the necessary skills needed in life. The rehabilitation programs seem to be benefiting. However other ex-prisoners are failing to benefit from them and have greater chances to end up committing other crimes hence resulting in an increase in the reoffending rates.

In the author's opinion, spending time with someone results in one learning the other's behaviors and the priests have had that influence. Furthermore, the ex-inmates that have managed to stay out of prison act as a good example to the respondents that a person can change and become a better person. Social Learning Theory asserts that criminal behaviors are learned behaviors in a given cultural and social setting. Offenders are also able to learn that anti-criminal behaviors should be their context of change. Therefore, if an inmate is immersed in a religious setting surrounded by pastors and volunteers committed to pro-social learned behaviors the ex-inmate is most likely to learn and adapt to these new behaviors. The study shows that religion is an

important part of a person's existence and therefore could play a crucial part in the rehabilitation of offenders.

In the researcher's point of view there is need for specific programs to be aligned to specific offences for example, provide psychosocial therapeutic programs like cognitive-behavioural therapy for those who have committed sexual offences. If this is not done, this may lead to re-offending. The author believes that such an approach to rehabilitation programs could lessen recidivism amongst offenders in Zimbabwe.

### **3. CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1) INTRODUCTION**

Mouton (1996) stated that methodology is the analysis of how research should proceed. It includes discussions of how theories are generated and tested, and what kind of logic is used. Furthermore, Mouton (1996) also states that methodology involves what criteria theories have to satisfy, what theories are like and how particular theoretical perspectives can be related to particular research problems. This section consists of research design, target population, sample size, sampling techniques, research instruments, data presentation and analysis procedures, ethical issues and feasibility to the study.

#### **3.2) RESEARCH DESIGN**

A research design is a strategic framework for undertaking the research (Tutty, Rothery and Grinnell, 1996). The study used a qualitative research paradigm in the form of a case study, to be able to explore subjective experiences of rehabilitation programs as perceived by ex-inmates. According to Mouton (1996), the main aim of qualitative research is to describe and understand

rather than explain and predict human behavior. Furthermore, Babbie and Mouton (2001), state that a case study is an intensive investigation of a single unit and it takes multiple perspectives into consideration while attempting to understand the influences of multilevel social systems on subjects' perspectives and behaviors. The main advantage of Qualitative research approach is that it gives meaning to life experience hence it helped the researcher to find factors contributing to recidivism among ex-prisoners after rehabilitation. This type of research further focused on subjectivity which allowed personal thoughts, ideas and concepts to be incorporated into the findings. It also offered rich explanation on things that cannot be easily quantified. However, this research design had its own weaknesses in that subjectivity lead to procedural problems which was time consuming to the researcher. It can also be argued that in-depth, comprehensive approach is labour intense in that the researcher had to use more of open ended questions in data collection. Therefore, having considered the researched topic, a qualitative exploratory approach was deemed the most appropriate.

### **3.3) SAMPLE SELECTION**

#### **3.3.1) Target population**

Gravetter and Forzano (2009), postulate that target population is the entire group of organisms, units or characteristics of interest to the researcher. Population can therefore be referred to as the entire group with specific information relevant to the study. The study targeted all the ex-offenders in Glen Norah which consisted of a number 200 ex-offenders. 6 key informants were also used as target population for the research. These key informants include 4 relatives of the ex-offenders, and 2 Rehabilitation Officers.

#### **3.3.2) Sample size**

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

which are 40% of the entire population as a representative sample for the study so as to ensure high representativeness of the data and to have a fair coverage to enhance overall outcome.

### **3.3.3) Sampling techniques**

When conducting the research, non-probability sampling technique was used. According to Neville (2007), non-probability sampling is where the researcher has little initial control over the choice of who is presented or where controlled selection of participants is not a critical factor. The reason why this technique was used is that only prison officers were aware of the ex-offenders who had background challenges during their conviction period. The Rehabilitation Officer made use of snowball sampling whereby he only chose one ex prisoner and gave room for the informant to make up the sample by suggesting the next informant since they best know each other and their probability to return to prison due to character judgment after conviction. He chose the participants for the researcher because it was risky for her to enter into the community to choose the ex-offenders who were to participate in the research. Moreover the ex-prisoners were mixed with their facilitators so it was hard for the researcher to identify ex-offenders among other prisoners that is why snowball sampling was effective since they share their stories amongst themselves. Purposive sampling technique was also used in selecting the key informants such as the Rehabilitation Officers because of the knowledge that they have about ex-offenders since they work with them. David and Morgan (2008) postulate that snow balling is a non-probability sampling technique where existing study subjects recruit future subjects from among their associates. David and Morgan (2008) stated that snowball sampling uses a small pool of initial informants to nominate, through their social networks, other participants who meet the eligibility criteria and could potentially contribute to a specific study. This sampling technique is often used in hidden populations which are difficult for researchers to access.

## **3.4) DATA COLLECTION**

### **3.4.1) In-depth interview**

By definition, in accordance with Neville (2007) in-depth interview is a technique designed to elicit a vivid picture of the participant's perspective on the research topic. The researcher used an interview guide as a research instrument to collect data from the key informants who were the relatives of the ex-offenders. The researcher also conducted some interviews with the Facilitators



and Rehabilitation Officers. In this case the researcher met the key informants face to face with the aim of drawing much information as possible regarding the research topic. The researcher used different types of questions such as open ended questions, closed questions as well as probing questions where it was necessary. In-depth interview was used for its advantage of giving the researcher the opportunity to clarify some questions that seem to be unclear to the respondents. Moreover, this research was most suited for the illiterate and semi-illiterate group, which constituted the majority of the respondents. However, this method is time consuming and a bit expensive. The researcher had to move from one place to another to conduct the interview with the informants.

### **Semi- structured interview**

Neville (2007) defines a semi structured interview as a qualitative method of inquiry that combines a predetermined set of open questions with the opportunity for the interviewer to explore particular themes or responses further. According to Brewerton and Millward (2001), through the use of semi structured interview schedules as a data collection tool, data is generally easy to analyse, while allowing interviewees to explain their responses and to provide more in-depth information where necessary. The interviewer had a list of themes and areas to be covered and a few of standardised questions and was able to omit and add to the questions depending on the response provided.

Record of thoughts that emerged was only undertaken through note taking because The Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services as a system does not allow any audio or video recording. The interviews were conducted in both Shona and English since some prisoners were not good at speaking in English. Each interview took an average of 45 minutes to 1 hour.

### **3.5) DATA ANALYSIS**

In this section, the major findings are analysed and discussed. Thematic analysis was used to analyse qualitative data. Interviews were thematically analyzed in order to obtain an accurate description of the participants' lived experiences of rehabilitation. The presentation and analysis of data in this chapter is in line with the research objectives. The objectives of this study were to examine and analyze the challenges faced by inmates after release, to analyse the effectiveness

of rehabilitation offered by ZACRO and to identify the underlying factors behind the repeat of criminal offences by released prisoners

### **3.6) ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

According to Polit and Hanger (2009), ethical considerations are the reasons for acting or refraining from acting; for believing or denying something about virtuous or vicious conduct or good or evil rules. When human beings are used as subjects in scientific investigations, great care must be exercised in ensuring that the rights of those human beings are protected. De Vaus (2008), noted that regardless of the research design, social research should conform to four broad ethical principles which are voluntary participation, informed consent, no harm to participants and anonymity and confidentiality. In this study the researcher conformed to the ethical issues which are informed consent, voluntary participation anonymity and confidentiality. Firstly following the principles of Informed Consent, the researcher first sought permission to conduct the research from the Community Rehabilitation Service. The researcher ensured that the rights of participants are protected by obtaining their consent. The researcher explained fully the objectives of the study to the participants and the intentions were made known and clear, by explaining that the information was to serve academic purpose only. Therefore the researcher first highlighted the nature of the study to the respondents before interviewing them, hence the respondents were given the room to decide whether to participate or not in the study. Confidentiality and anonymity was also used. Confidentiality and privacy was ensured by not documenting the participants' names on data collecting instruments and by using the data collected only for learning purpose without sharing it with anyone.

Using voluntary participation, participants were informed by the researcher that there were free to withdraw at any stage from participating in the study if they no longer felt comfortable or if they so wished. Therefore, the research that the researcher conducted was very feasible. The researcher had access to the key informants who provided data in relation to the topic under study, the primary respondents were also available for consultation at accessible places. Most of the key informants were found in Glen Norah community at the rehabilitation office hence they made the research much easier to conduct. The place where the researcher carried out her research was her area of residents hence it was easy to conduct the research.

### **3.7) CHAPTER SUMMARY**

The chapter has elaborated and discussed the methodology and research design used in the study. The methods of data collection used were discussed including advantages and disadvantages. The effects of the challenges faced by the researcher were mentioned. The researcher hinted on the way how the data was analyzed and the ways of data analysis and presentation,

## **CHAPTER 4: PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS**

### **4.1 INTRODUCTION**

In this chapter the researcher has gathered all the finding collected in research field in various places of Zimbabwe such as Kentucky satellite prison in Harare, Glen Norah community and ZACRO premises as well. The information in this chapter is portrayed in a qualitative manner. However it also comprises of the challenges, suggestions and factors that lead to recidivism and the efforts made by NGOs in peace promotion in Zimbabwean prisons.

#### **4.2.1.) CHALLENGES FACED BY EX-OFFENDERS**

##### **4.2.1.2) Lack of accommodation**

Quite a number of ex-convicts are affected by problems of proper housing and accommodation. These people are mostly squatters and live in shanty houses. In places such as Kuwadzana and Glenview accommodate illegal settlers mostly the ex-convicts. A 36-year-old man is also one of the several needy people who have found a home at Mukuvisi riverbank in the capital. His trial is compounded by the name of being an ex-convict. This man was a beneficiary of the Presidential Amnesty and is one of several ex-prisoners who have found a home along the river bank. He said,

*I found myself back in prison because each time I got out, I was broke and had no one to turn to. My family disowned me at a time I needed them most, they rejected me. Since I had been convicted of rape, I was a danger to their daughters. My relatives said painful words to me.*

Another 39 year ex-convict has found family among the homeless people living in Rugare said,  
*My parents died while I was in prison and I became homeless when I was released. I had no choice but to resort to my old ways for survival.*

Out of the responses the researcher gathered from the study on the challenges faced by ex-offenders in Zimbabwe, it clearly shows that lack of accommodation is a real problem. A growing body of evidence has portrayed a close link between homelessness, crime and imprisonment, this factor is complemented by Rosie Meek March 2012 Ex-prisoners fail to communicate with their families, landlords and friends that will cost them a decent accommodation after release to the extent of living in shacks. However it is not the ex-offender's fault because in most cases their families tend to disown or condemn them before their release thus causing them to be homeless. Therefore ZACRO in line with this verdict a person's successful re-entry into the community can be viewed on how adequately they are to meet the six basic life needs that is health, criminal justice compliance, livelihood, social connections, residence and family. That is why the ZACRO officials gather the relevant information about a crime offender before his release so they will be able to trace his or her whereabouts.

### **Economic hardships**

Ex-offenders who have benefited from the ZPCS rehabilitation programs have found the ongoing tough due to poverty and unemployment. A (43) year old man studied mechanics during his time at Chikurubi Maximum Prison said,

*“I have failed to secure a job because of my criminal record and people treat me with suspicion.”*

It is noted that, President Mugabe pardoned more than 2 000 inmates across Zimbabwe to decongest national prisons and promote better living conditions. The amnesty was extended in terms of Section 112 (1) (a) and (d) of the Constitution of Zimbabwe. However, due to poverty these ex-offenders end up being involved in criminal offenses like theft, shoplifting, house breaking, and robbery. Therefore, they might be found back in prison.

Responses show that unemployment is one serious problem faced by most ex-offenders despite them having the necessary qualifications and skills. It is evident participants’ account that securing a job after serving time in prison is a major challenge according Muntigh (2005) propounds that he community is unforgiving when it comes to giving second chances and offering employment to ex-prisoners. For example the case of Zimbabwe all the ex-offenders are denied the opportunity to be civil servants. According to the statistics carried out by ZACRO about 70% of ex-offenders are unemployed .50% of them have been convicted more than twice which clearly shows that being idle is the main reason they are committing other crimes as their state of mind is occupied .

### **Family hostility**

Zimbabwe Prison and Correctional Services (ZPCS), acting public relations officer Priscilla Mthembo said,

*“Family hostility towards the ex-inmates compounds the challenges they face. Rejection by family members, mainly due to the fact that the ex-offender would have committed the initial offence within the family set-up thus upon release family members refuse to forgive and accept them back.”* Henceforth, the family set-up is expected to act as a support system for the ex-inmates.

Deducing from the responses above most ex-offenders barely receive support from their families Zondi(2012) compliments this assertion that the greatest challenges ex inmates face is the issue of mending broken relationships with their relatives , family and friends most of the ex-prisoners interviewed come from rural areas which are characterised by close bonds between families and community members so in most cases if one commits a crime the entire community will surely know about it and with the influence of the community the family will end up being hostile to the ex-offender after release however with severe experience in prison facing hard treatment from the fellow inmates ex-offenders tend to ignore and isolate themselves from the community hence they will be prone to commit another crime. However, keeping consistent contact with the family of the ex-offender is one of ZACRO's objectives .Studies carried by ZACRO have shown that prisoners who maintain contact and connections with their family during their time of incarceration have a lower recidivism rate than the ones who do not.

### **Banishment**

These ex-offenders find themselves with nowhere to go after banishment. At this point it is easy for an ex-prisoner to be tempted to commit crime. One of the respondents said that:

*My real home is in Seke. When I got released from prison my parents chased me out of their lives. Right now I'm living with a friend but things outside here are worse than life in the custody.*

Therefore taking from the researcher's viewpoint, interaction within families of the respondents and victims, is important because it represents a critical component in the offender's reintegration into society. From the information gathered it is evident that ex-offenders face rejection from their community they re-enter into the society with a tag already that bears the name of the crimes they committed and they get to be banished .Stin(2007) states that after banishment from their home community ex-prisoners after they are stereotyped they are most likely to contact their fellow criminals therefore peer pressure and influence from their friends will lead to recidivism .According to Cecilia Mukondya the Secretary of ZACRO, banishment for life need not to be and in fact never has been imposed for offences warranting life imprisonment .The ex-

offender is still guilty of the crime that has already been served and that of returning .This is an unfair act that ZACRO is still trying to fight .

#### **4.2.2) REHABILITATION OF EX-OFFENDERS AT THE COMMUNITY**

The following information is on institutions and organisations found in Zimbabwe that are making an effort to rehabilitate ex-offenders so as to reduce recidivism. It operates on both inmates and ex-offenders. The information was gathered for the ZACRO premises in Mbare Harare.

##### **Zimbabwe Association for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of the Offender (ZACRO)**

ZACROs mission includes reducing crime through providing support and rehabilitation programmes targeted at men and women convicted of crime, ex-offenders, victims and survivors of crime. The activities of ZACRO as an organization are based on its mission statement which is to prevent crime and promote rehabilitation and re-integration of offenders in order to have peace in society while advocating for justice in prisons of Zimbabwe. Some of its objectives include, facilitating re-integration of prisoners in Zimbabwe back into the mainstream society, to promote rehabilitation of offenders and ex-prisoners and to study and seek further penal reform based on rehabilitative legislations while stimulating public interest therein. ZACRO is offering a number of projects for instance rabbit keeping, piggery, broiler keeping and many others to mention a few.

*I'm a peer educator but I have just joined the group. I teach my fellow members about how to cope with HIV/AIDS. I work with the rehabilitation officers with the help that we get from ZACRO. ZACRO assisted us to start rabbit rearing and we are enjoying the profits.*

The members told the researcher that the community services lack enough resources to fulfil rehabilitation needs hence they would expect to see more NGOs and civil society taking part in the rehabilitation of ex- offenders. Just like in most African countries, NGOs and civil society groups are the ones that provides services to inmates during and after incarceration as the systems lack the capacity or resources to offer. According to the researcher's point of view it is

however straining ZACRO to cater for all the challenges faced in all of the Zimbabwean prisons. In accordance with the information collected, ZACRO maintains peace in different dimensions these include:

### **Legal Concerns**

During the period under review, ZACRO noted with concern that the majority of prisoners in Zimbabwe were relatively poor people. These often lacked resources or funds to cater for legal representation. Some of them sent to prison committed minor crimes but can not be released. This was because they did not have lawyers to represent them. Some remanded inmates could spend over two years without trial. Given this situational analysis of the prisons in Zimbabwe ZACRO had to emerge as a force to reckon regarding sourcing and rendering humanitarian assistance to the target group who included the inmates, ex-offenders and relatively to their families too. This was besides being engaged in other programs and activities involving prison visits, rehabilitation, restoration, the half way home and lobbying work in its interventions during the period under review.

### **Educational Needs**

Despite that Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that, “everyone (including prisoners) has the right to education, this universally acknowledged right was not enjoyed by many prisoners. This was due to break down of social relations and support hence they lacked resources to fully pursue education in the prisons. This saw ZACRO intervening towards boosting educational needs and development for prisoners mainly by supplying them with learning materials such as text books and stationery while the organization paid examination and trade tests fees for inmates. Only disturbing was that there were no check and balances on educational development in the prisons. The ZPS education department was not doing justice to this cause by not channelling committed prison officials who are teachers to teach the inmates. In fact prisoners were teaching themselves.

### **Medical and Drug Supply**

Influencing conditions such as poor food preparation, overcrowding, poor sanitation, and inadequate washing facilities made prisoners seriously vulnerable to common diseases for instance typhoid diarrhoea, malaria, cholera, TB and HIV/Aids. In the face of shortage of



medicines and medical equipment, crime offenders are obliged to buy their own medicines through their families. But the honest truth is that only those with money afforded the drugs. On the other hand a high proportion of the general population in the prisons was affected with HIV/AIDS which explains why ZACRO had to intervene and make efforts towards fighting against HIV/AIDS in prisons. Most appreciated is that although in Zimbabwe Anti – Retroviral Tablets (ARVs) were expensive they were available in prisons. The main problem was that of nutritious food was not available which was necessary to boost the immunity of inmates affected by the pandemic. The scarcity of food in most prisons remained a scenario undermining disease mitigation programs in the prisons.

#### **4.2.2.2)Contributions of Rehabilitation Programs offered in Kentucky Community.**

There are a number of rehabilitation programs that are offered in Kentucky. These rehabilitation programs are aimed at equipping ex-prisoners with various skills as well as nurturing their gifts so that they have somewhere to start from rather than continuing with their criminal activities. According to the Commissioner of ZPCS the rehabilitation programs offered at the community level include agricultural, vocational, spiritual, psychosocial therapy, life skills, recreational activities and educational activities. However the community rehabilitation officers of Kentucky seem to concentrate much on agricultural and vocational rehabilitation as compared to other activities. Though a variety of rehabilitation programs are available, some of the ex-inmates are not having access to these programmes. The respondents were thus asked if they had taken part in any rehabilitation programs and what those programs were.

#### **Agricultural programs**

Most of the respondents said that they were involved in activities that were agriculturally Oriented during the time they were in the prison. Agricultural programs involved horticulture farming crops and vegetables that they sell to people of the community. They are also involved in projects like broiler and rabbit keeping. One respondent said,

*"I'm interested in rabbit rearing and at the same time I also keep broilers."*

Another said,

*"I'm involved in horticulture. Right now I am doing a potato project and also growing butternuts."*

A group of 10 work as a cooperative and said,

*"We are doing different farming projects like growing green vegetables, onions, tomatoes and potatoes. We supply the whole community and we are earning a lot from the projects. As you can see now we are very happy because all these people are here to buy and place some orders."*

On average, these respondents told the researcher that their community is very small. Therefore it makes sense that it would only manage to provide a limited space for small projects though rehabilitation programs in Zimbabwe are mostly agriculturally oriented. In comparison with other nations, the researcher found that in most African countries for instance Kenya ex-inmates are mostly engaged in farm work. It would therefore seem that the agricultural programs are merely there to rehabilitate the ex-offenders hence offering them with the chance to change their criminal behavior. According to the Herald agricultural programs may serve as deterrence to re-offending, knowing that imprisonment results in hard labour therefore the researcher agrees with this assertion since they do not get any food after harvest.

### **Vocational activities**

Some of the respondents mentioned that they were occupied in motor mechanics, carpentry, sewing and building: A thirty two year old male ex- convict said,

*"I am really enjoying auto- mechanics, even if I couldn't manage to get a job after my release I'm still surviving and earning a living as I do part time jobs."*

A female aged 40 said,

Filled with enthusiasm, a thirty six year old respondent said:

*" ... I have learnt another skill from the programs here.....! I know how to build a house! I have been involved in building courses and I'm planning to apply and seek a job in Construction industries"*

The research information seems to allude to the fact that the community rehabilitation service is trying their level best to provide as much vocational training to the respondents as they can. This

is evidenced by the number of projects mentioned by the respondents. The programs seem to be oriented towards blue collar skills learning, that is, the skills that can be utilized in blue collar and/or informal sectors. These programs are relevant to the respondents because, as stated earlier in the profile on the respondents, prior to incarceration, most of them were working in blue collar jobs in the informal sector. The community service is thus equipping the respondents with skills while at the same time keeping them occupied to make them forget about committing crimes again. The researcher observed that chairs, tables and bars are found everywhere in the community needs fixing. Therefore Pentos (2014) suggests that vocational training would possibly provide the ex-prisoners a chance to learn skills such as metal works and wood work that they can use to find occupation. Some of the respondents were unemployed at the time of arrest. For those who were employed, imprisonment may also have resulted in the interruption or loss of employment. Therefore, existing skills can be eroded or become outdated and vocational skills training will allow for the existing skills to be upgraded.

### **Recreational programs**

Some of the respondents mentioned that they took part in recreational activities as part of their Rehabilitation: Three respondents said,

*"Poetry 'is wonderful, for the past two years I have been writing poems and I recently got published in the local newspaper! I love doing poetry with others."*

*"... and I also play soccer for the Kentucky team. We even get a chance to play in a league With other teams from other communities and teams and we are having soccer tournaments and We enjoy it so much."*

The research data indicates that the community rehabilitation service offers soccer and drama as recreational activities. It shows that the community services have made some attempts to ensure that the ex- prisoners are involved in some recreational activities, although only a few. Lack of facilities may be due to the fact that other sports would require more facilities and resources like courts for tennis and basketball, a swimming pool and even a hockey field and staff personnel to facilitate these. The researcher's viewpoint concludes that this requires finances, resources and trained qualified staff. The research data also shows that the facilitator of the sports goes the

extra mile in order to make the event better for all concerned. With the few resources available, he is able to organize tournaments for soccer. Frongpong says that regardless of inadequate facilities, some warders go to great lengths to organize recreational activities for ex-convicts. Recreational activities such as poetry writing, offer a chance to the respondents to explore and develop talents that they otherwise may not have known.

### **Spiritual programs**

Some of the respondents reported that they were also involved in spiritual Programs: One of the ex-offenders turned his life around after serving 14 years at Chikurubi Maximum Prison for rape. He was homeless temporarily before registering Prodigal Sons and Daughters, an organization which rehabilitates ex-inmates. He has since recorded two gospel albums since his release. He has also dedicated time to assist ex-prisoners through the Prodigal Sons and Daughters. He said,

*When I left prison, The Kentucky rehabilitation club helped me to reintegrate back into the society and my aunt welcomed me. I started doing menial jobs as I saved money to record music and the project become successful. If it was not for their hospitality things would have turned out badly as they were my only hope out of prison. My next album is due for release by the end of this year.*

A 29 year old female ex- convict said,

*Before I got into prison I was a terrible person. I started attending church services when I was imprisoned and the pastor would come and deliver the message about doing good and being saved. Other people of my character showed love and inspired me and we are together now assisting others after being released from jail. I felt that I considered necessary change and find God so I transformed into a Christian. Now I'm the leader of the choir, I would describe it a church choir. I have been in this choir for four years now. There were some well-wishers who came to hear our songs and I was offered a contract to record an album which I'm expecting to release next month.*

Spiritual programs mentioned by some participants are in the form of church services, bible study, mentorship by the pastor and also a choir in which they sing religious songs. It would

seem that the religion manifests itself in the presence of priests and ex-inmates who have had an impact on some of the respondents. Expression of religion may be due to the fact that there is a greater presence of priests and other spiritual people in the community. Cullen et al 2000 agrees with this sentiment because he states that it is important for one to be spiritually upright since there are many dark forces that fight people. On the contrary Robinson et al 2008 and ZACRO argues to this assertion that it does not have to be a must to spread the gospel or to uplift people's spiritual lives because people belong to different religions, values and norms. That is why ZACRO is never involved in spiritual programs since it acknowledges the rights of people to any religion of choice.

### **Psychosocial therapeutic programs**

Sixty percent of the respondents cited programs related to psychosocial needs such as support groups and individual counseling. They stated that there is a support group at the rehabilitation center for those who have difficulties coping with HIV/AIDS after release. Some of the respondents mentioned that they were involved in some form of counseling. They highlighted the following comments:

*At first it was difficult for me to join this group as I fear to be given names. The Rehabilitation Officer is the facilitator who encouraged me after we have discussed various issues of life and it helps.*

*When I discovered that I was HIV positive, I was so distressed and I decided to go for counseling. It is helping me a lot.*

The participants noted that the community is providing a good service in running a support group and individual counseling for those who are finding it hard to cope with HIV/AIDS. However some of the respondents reported that they do not attend this group because of fear of being labeled 'varwere (the sick) ' by their peers. The ex-inmates are unwilling to attend the support group because of misrepresentation that they have. Due to the fact that support groups focus on feelings and thoughts, they are efficient in rehabilitating the ex-offender. Dissel 2007

compliments this verdict because support groups are a major tool to deal with psychotherapeutic challenges since ex inmates will be interactions. Over the period under review ZACRO saw the desire to have a fully-fledged counseling program. There were many ex-offenders which had issues which could be addressed by counseling. This could also go a long way towards influencing behavior change and rehabilitation. However due to shortage of resources and need to have more specialization in this program it could not fully take off the ground though remaining as one of ZACRO's major intervention area s.

#### **4.2.3) FACTORS BEHIND THE REPEAT OF CRIMES**

The study sought to establish factors that made the ex-offenders to repeat the criminal offences. The factors behind the repeat of criminal offences are interrelated. The data findings revealed that one factor can also lead to the emanation of another. There are several factors that contribute to the reconviction of people after they have been rehabilitated and from the study carried unemployment, poverty and stigmatisation proved to be the major key drivers. According to the research conducted the researcher noted that 60% of the ex-offenders find their way back into the prison just after a few months of their release because of the following.

##### **Poverty**

Eighty percent of the respondents asserted that poverty is the main reason for one to reoffend. They complained that it is very hard to find a job in Zimbabwe and with the economic hardships that are being experienced they are forced to indulge into criminal activities in order to earn a living. These participants are mostly affected by poverty committed crimes such as theft, robbery, fraud and house breaking. One of the respondents said:

*My sister, things are hard in Zimbabwe and it is not only me who is facing these hardships. Others even doing thievery crimes as what I did in order to earn a living but because of their lucky they do not get apprehended.*

Out of the response the researcher obtained from the study the researcher found that the target group faced a severe humanitarian crisis during the period under review. The situation characterized with economic hardships encompassing hyperinflation and low budgetary

allocations to the Zimbabwe Prison Service, the ZACRO secretariat staff is strategizing and programming again in June this year in bid to meet the relevant needs of prisoners, ex-offenders and their dependents. During this period of humanitarian crisis there was need of humanitarian intervention to be re-engineered - mainly looking on provision of basic needs and facilitating all the reasons that make up the welfare of the prisoners or ex-inmate and to restore their human dignity. However, according to the researcher while the humanitarian program offered to cover most basic needs such as food, bedding material, clothing and provision of medical drugs and equipment most vital the organization had to employ strategies for the humanitarian assistance to impact positively.

### **Unemployment**

Statistics gathered from respondents showed that 65% of the ex-offenders are of the view that unemployment is a major factor behind one's reconviction after being rehabilitated. Unemployment is a factor which prompted most of the ex-offenders to be involved in criminal activities. Ex-convicts are of the view that one may resort to thievery and house breaking. One of the respondents reported:

*In Zimbabwe there are no jobs and the government continue to encourage indigenization yet we don't have inputs to start a project of any kind. I think it will be better if the government provide us with small loans or find donors for us who may assist with money to start small project*

The researcher was told that the economic and political environment in Zimbabwe is causing companies and factories in the country to shut down leaving many Zimbabweans jobless and a sharp increase in unemployment. Roberts 2008 said that when prisoners got released into the community it is even harder for them to secure a job because of their criminal record. Most of the well-paying jobs in the formal sector now require a police clearance first.

### **Stigmatization**

Another 60% of the respondents stated that stigma was the main reason for their recidivism. Some of them said when they were first arrested it was a mistake but when they were released from the prison they were changed people but the society failed to accept them. Some members

of the community would go to an extent of giving them names and labelling them as undesirable elements in the society. The respondents even experience the stigma whilst they were still in the prison. One of the respondents said that life in prison was much better than life outside. One of the respondents said,

*Where ever I go I could hear people saying hold your bags tightly that thief has arrived. Life in prison is much preferably than outside where people do not love me. When I got released from prison people were afraid of me and did not want to associate with me. Life in prison was much better because people in prison accept each other and understands each other better than other people in the society.*

These respondents claimed that stigmatisation was a major factor behind one's recidivism because when they were released from the prison people tend to treat them like social outcasts and even go to the extent of blocking opportunities for them. One of the respondents said:

*After I was released from prison I managed to secure a job but whenever people who knew my past passed through the shop where I was working would always pass negative comments. One day these comments were overheard by the owner of the shop and he got fired.*

Deducing from the responses above the society gives ex-offenders an individualised inclusion or separation to handle which they want to upkeep as 'this is me' the comfort they get from this psychologically can be profound and is especially relevant toward a cause for recidivism. Pentos 2013 states that often is the case whereby once the criminal enters into the judicial system they will albeit derogatory suffer the loss of this identity compounded by the proposition to adopt a differing one such as recovering junkie. This compromise is/can be a lesser ranking holding no great impact amongst his fellows or to himself. Therefore the name tagging is a serious problem ex-offenders are facing that will lead to recidivism.

### **Lack of education**

Seventy five percent of the respondents claimed that education was the main reason behind one's recidivism. The respondents reported that due to lack of education they faced a major challenge in securing jobs so as to earn money. According to them, money was the only



important thing that they needed in life and the only way to get the money without committing crimes was to get employed of which there are no jobs. The following comments were highlighted by one of the participants:

*Where can I go to find a job without any qualification? As you know even security guards nowadays they consider people who have five 'O' levels. I always go there but can't find a job. I tried to do some extra lessons some time ago but I couldn't manage to write the exams because money is always a problem to me. Right now I have got a family, I'm the father to support the children so how am I going to survive without education.*

The responses show that lack of education is a vital cause of the repeat of committing crimes. Many ex offender are street kids, have a rural background or school dropouts. According to the researcher's point of view despite the stigmatization they face most of the ex-offenders lack the educational qualifications to secure jobs because of lack of knowledge. Kinstone agrees with this verdict that even though there are educational facilities in prisons many inmates do not take part in them because they all lie to the fellow inmates that they are educated so this means they will remain uneducated and it will result in recidivism.

### **Influence of drugs and alcohol**

Respondents representing 35% of the participants said that one might be forced to reoffend because he/she might be under the influence of either drugs or alcohol. One of them said:

*When I first got incarcerated I was charged of murder after I caught my wife cheating with another man so I got angry and beat the man in question. We started fighting and my wife came in the midst to separate us so by mistake I hit my wife on the head with a stool and she fell down. I hurried her to the hospital, upon her arrival she was confirmed dead. This issue traumatized me so I found it better to find solace in alcohol and drugs. Because of these drugs, I always found myself being involved in many criminal activities such as public fighting, public indecency and assault. However, it is hard for me to stay sober in the society because of stress and the way people treat me.*

These respondents stay under the influence of drugs or alcohol because of stress and some find it difficult to stop using the drugs or alcohol once they got addicted to them. The influence of drugs or alcohol cause other ex-prisoners to re-engage in criminal activities after they are released from

the prison. Hannah 2015 suggested that psychological help is really needed to the ex-offenders who are into drugs. The habit of living under the influence of drugs is becoming the order of the day to the youths of today whether being an ex-offender or not. According to one the MSU nurses, “when one is under the influence of drugs, one is capable of doing anything, anywhere and anyhow”. Therefore due to the interviews taken most of the crimes committed were done under the influence of alcohol and drugs.

### **Heredity and evil spirits**

Information from the key informants especially the relatives of the ex-offenders showed different ideas about what cause their relatives to re-offend. The key informants had two main factors which they attributed as the causes behind the repeat of criminal offences by their relatives. These factors include heredity and evil spirits. They said that crime was something that was running within the family. The relatives were also of the view that evil spirits were behind the repeat of criminal offences by their relative. Information from the key informants highlighted the following:

*This child has a similar character with that of his father. Even the way he do his things is not even clear and straight. His father was a crook and used to do that when he was still alive.*

*It's very clear that evil spirits was behind all this, it was the work of the devil! I really know that my daughter might not have been involved in such an activity. I think by that time she was possessed with a demon because she doesn't want to go to church.*

The statements implied that their relatives had inherited criminal elements from the family. The respondents reported to have a history of someone in their family who got incarcerated before them hence supporting the relatives' idea that heredity is a major factor contributing to the recidivism of ex-prisoners. Also, the participantssaid that their relative was always involved in the criminal activities because she had disappointed the ancestors and as a way to punish her. She was supposed to engage in criminal activities and got apprehended to rot in jail. According to Elias Chigwedere on a television show Toringepi, many crimes committed are caused by issues such as ngozi or they are inherited from the forefathers.

### **4.3) CHAPTER SUMMARY**

From the research conducted one can safely conclude that to a greater extent rehabilitation programs are effective in rehabilitating ex-prisoners because of the positive perception that they have towards various rehabilitation programs. Most of the ex-prisoners believed that most of the rehabilitation programs like farming, mechanics, broiler keeping, rabbit rearing and sewing are to a larger extent beneficial to them whilst other rehabilitation programs like sporting are of no benefit because one cannot generate money from it. Therefore they do not take them seriously whereas others do not even want to participate. The study concluded that although there are a number of rehabilitation programs available at the community center the programs are not up to standard. It seems as if they are done for the sake of fulfilling the Zimbabwe Prisons and Correction Services mission statement which state that they are responsible for the protection of the society from criminal elements through the incarceration and rehabilitation of offenders. The programs are not up to standard because of lack of resources instead of prisoners to learn new things they concentrate on mending old things. Henceforth, it is clearly evidenced that rehabilitation is not a complete failure. Several numbers of ex-prisoners have benefited from these rehabilitation programs but a very small number might be tempted and forced to reoffend after they are rehabilitated because of poverty, unemployment, stigma, false accusations and evil spirits.

## **CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **5.1 INTRODUCTION**

This chapter seeks to highlight the research findings and in the process to give recommendations to the mentioned issues that are affecting the effective rehabilitation of ex offenders. It is of utmost importance to note that the research focused on finding the actual effects of the challenges faced by NGOs in peace promotion in prisons, and Zimbabwe Association of Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of Offenders ZACRO) was used as the case study.

## **5.2 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

In this study, the researcher is giving the summary of the challenges faced by ex offenders in the effectiveness of rehabilitation services, the effects of rehabilitation services offered by ZACRO and the underlying factor of recidivism. The challenges faced by ex offenders are therefore in line with the causes of the recidivism. In other words those challenges are the causes of recidivism although in the last column it is of great importance to highlight the underlying factor of recidivism.

### **5.2.1 CHALLENGES FACED BY EX OFFENDERS AFTER RELEASE**

#### **5.2.1.1 Stigma**

As an attribute that extensively discredits an individual, reducing him or her “from a whole and usual person to a tainted discounted one” stigma have really discouraged reformed ex offenders because it is more of a tag or a bad name that one is given. In most cases a person with a stigma is not quite human. It is usually understood that stigmatized ex convicts are devalued and discredited and often suffer from social exclusion. Stigma can affect the hiring desirability of an ex –convict and it really disadvantage them for they bear the name “ex-prisoner”.

#### **5.2.1.2 Heredity and Evil spirits**

In this contemporary world it is the most neglected or rather ignored discourse that really needs attention for it is a major cause of recidivism. As human beings live physically every human being has a soul but it is according to one’s belief where his or her soul belongs. Evil spirits do exist and

they really cause people to engage in many crimes for instance murder. The researcher's view on this dispensation is that the devil targets those with a brighter future and tries to steal people's destinies. By so doing people end up committing crimes after crimes until one gets old.

### **5.2.1.3 Barnishment**

As defined before barnishment is more of a punishment inflicted upon criminals, by compelling them to quit a city, place, or country for a certain period of time, or for good. Ex offenders usually suffer the banishment for life from their families or even the community, this is typical in rural areas. Without much consideration or knowledge barnishment is almost warranting life imprisonment to the ex offender. The reason why these offenders are barnished it is because he or she would have committed more than two crimes and the society will be at risk or rather unsafe. Since home is always best, the barnished ex offenders end up wondering and trying to make ends meet thus they engage into another crime.

### **5.2.2 EFFECTS OF REHABILITATION OFFERED BY ZACRO**

ZACRO as an NGO has played a pivotal role in the prison service for it has maintained or rather built peace in offenders during and even after incarceration. It has provided in many areas that include counselling, hygiene and sanitation, uniform and bedding needs, medical and drug supplies and the reduction of overcrowding in cells. There was a huge need for adequate bedding and uniform requirements in prisons. There was also shortage of uniforms as a major cause of concern. Many times prisoners were seen wearing tattered and torn uniforms, but ZACRO always come to their rescue. Poor hygiene and sanitation in the prisons was also noted by the researcher. Water cuts were frequent for about a week without water. Most cells in the country's prisons with toilets were not flushing due to unavailability of water and malfunctions, thus health hazards increased in the prisons but it is ZACRO's responsibility to ask for donor aid from other NGOs for it to drill boreholes.

Furthermore, Many of the prisons remained too small and very old after converted by government from farm houses into prison. Other prisons like Mazoe farm prison and Chikurubi

female prison which were made of corrugated metal structures during the colonial days remained not expanded and refurbished. In these prisons - inadequate floor space in cells further resulted in overcrowding which relatively did not match United Nations standard minimum rules of treating prisoners to which Zimbabwe is a signatory. In this predicament ZACRO intervened and worked hand in glove with ZPCS in the restructuring of the prison and proposed the expansion of prisons such as Kentucky, Harare Central and Chilurubi Female Farm. Therefore in summation ZACRO has made effective services prisons and it a force to reckon with in the maintainance of peace during and after the incarceration of crime offenders.

### **5.2.3 THE UNDERLYING FACTOR OF RECIDIVISM**

Deducing from the discussion above, the researcher gathered many causes of recidivism be it of that during the incarceration and even after. These causes include, lack of education, stigmatization, drugs and alcohol, unemployment, banishment, heredity and evil spirits just to mention a few. According to the researcher unemployment has scooped to be underlying factor of recidivism since without a job it is hard for to earn a decent living. Besides the fact of earning a living through unemployment it is also due to the idleness of one that leads in the committing of different crimes. Unemployed serves to be the major reason why many ex offenders repeat committing crimes because the easy ways of getting money are through dirty work for instance murder and and thievery. Therefore unempolymnt as economic crisis is the underlying factor of recidivism.

## **5.3 CONCLUSIONS**

### **5.3.1 The role of ZACRO in peace promotion in Zimbabwean prisons**

ZACRO as an organization carries many activities in the prison setting which include prison oversight visit (this involves prison conditions assessments visits) Lobbying and advocating for justice, ( respect and promotion of prisoners' rights), prisoner rehabilitation that is offering educational support (examination fees, trade tests, library books and stationary). health and welfare peer education training and other HIV and AIDS programmes for inmates and officers including support groups, psycho social supportive counseling. Reintegration Supervision and counselling of community service inmates. (including victim offender mediation) is also carried

out by ZACRO. It gives aid in almost all spheres or peace promotion although it also faces many challenges since it is the only NGO in Zimbabwe that has all its attention on prisons.

### **5.3.2 The challenges of crime offenders after incarceration**

From the needs assessment conducted by ZACRO crime offenders need support to secure employment or engage in livelihood projects, others need assistance education, spiritual support and transport to go back to their homes. The inmates expect to meet challenges upon release with their families in terms acceptance and also economic challenges. It is a great challenge to female inmates for they agree that upon release some children may find it difficult to respect their mothers. It is also hard for them to instil good behaviour upon their children on release since they now have a criminal record. Some lament the fact that they will not be accepted by their relatives since they committed the crime within the family radius. The researcher noted that divorce is inevitable especially for women with longer sentences and those who will have committed infanticide.

### **5.3.3 The efforts of stakeholders in the provision of rehabilitation services**

The results of the study portrays that counselling services are held to teach offenders about the importance of rehabilitation programmes, before they take part in the rehabilitation programmes, the Zimbabwe prison systems hold workshops to train the prison officers how to carry out guiding and counselling and even rehabilitation activities. Although it has trained a few officers per prison it is unfair to discredit ZPCS of its efforts. NGOs such UMFIC, ZACRO and ZIMCHE just to mention have played a pivotal role in reducing recidivism in Zimbabwe. This is due to food provisions, rehabilitation programmes, facilitation of reconciliation programmes between the offender and his or her family. Churches also donate to prisons in kind, monetary form and spiritual uplift.

## **5.4 RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **5.4.1 RECOMMENDATIONS TO COMMUNITIES**

The communities hosting ex offenders are recommended to reintegrate them without name calling or isolation for it is a major cause of recidivism. There is need to embrace them and accept them in the society. Family members are also recommended to become more involved in

the rehabilitation and reintegration process. In order to comprehend what interventions the offender has gone through, the families concerned should also go through some counselling and family group sessions to prepare for the offender's release. After-care is very important and it should be offered to ex offenders. Since heredity and evil spirits are also causes of recidivism, Family members are also required to pray for such issues.

#### **5.4.2 RECOMMENDATION TO ZPCS**

The Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services should create a mechanism for supervising the recidivism rate over a period of time. The Department of Correctional should use an integrated electrical system to access information more easily and improve service delivery because in most satellite prisons in Zimbabwe, they do not possess a single computer. The Department of Correctional Services should liaise with businesses for employment opportunities, specifically for the parolees/probationers. Skills development, short courses, business skills, entrepreneurial skills, and trades such as plumbing, carpentry, and brick-laying should form part of the rehabilitation programmes requested by the participant. The organization should offer correctional programmes that are relevant to the inmates not just to prevent idleness. IT also needs to minimise agricultural programmes for this serves as punishment or labour rather than skills training. The ZPCS administrations is recommended to build atleast on rehabilitation office for it is not easy to carry rehabilitation activities such as counselling under a tree. It is not confidential.

#### **5.4.3 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT**

In this study, the researcher recommend the Zimbabwean government to take its responsibility in the funding of the rehabilitation projects than to always depend on the NGOs. It also should be in a position to set goals maybe annually for the reduce of recidivism for it has been noted that it



ignores this dispensation. The government should improve its relations with NGOs as at times it lacks trust and negative political perceptions about the NGO Sector. This will then limit or rather discourage to work tirelessly towards their mission since no one appreciates or acknowledge. Consequently, the researcher recommend the government to cease politicizing every association that has to do with NGOs. It is also required of the government that it must try to give grants to NGOs when the economy recovers from its intensive economic crisis so that they do not solely rely on foreign funding.

## **5.5 CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, the agenda of the study was to examine the challenges that offenders face that contribute to recidivism after release. The research found that most offenders are, uneducated unemployed, impoverished and, by reason of their social, economic and demographic challenges, often find themselves driven to a life of crime. The ex offenders lack positive role models and social support from family and the society. This makes it crystal clear that recidivism is multifaceted in its causation. Consequently, the significant reintegration of prisoners after their release is dependent on a joint partnership of all the stakeholders, including the NGOs, , cluster departments, family, businesses, communities, FBOs, CBOs and the other partners in the criminal justice system. However it is then of great importance to conclude that due to the socio-economic challenges the offenders face after realise, the prison system and other stakeholders including the government to certain extent fail to provide effective rehabilitation services during and after conviction.

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