

# Effects of Farming Rehabilitation Programmes on Short Term Offenders Serving in Shikusa Farm Prison in Kakamega County, Kenya

Kathryn Chepkemoi Langat

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**Abstract:** This study focused on effects of farming rehabilitation programme on short term offenders incarcerated in Shikusa farm prison. The purpose of Kenya Prison Service is to provide rehabilitation programmes aimed at changing the criminal behaviour of offenders to become better citizens. The prison farm was set up for short term offenders with agriculture being the core rehabilitation programme. The objective of the study was to establish the effect of farming programme as rehabilitation on short term offenders. The literature reviewed included some farming as a rehabilitation programs from global, Africa and Kenya context. The study was guided by Strain and Mezirow transformation theory. The study utilized qualitative and quantitative research methods. The target population comprised of 339 short term offenders and 180 prison officers. Sample size was of 50 offenders and 20 prison officers were interviewed with Purposive sampling being used to select 2 prison officer's in-charge who were key informants. Simple random sampling was used to sample the target group. The study used descriptive research design. The research instruments included interview schedule, questionnaires, and focused group discussion. Data collected was analyzed using descriptive statistics in form of percentages, frequencies by computing using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 20. The findings indicated that there was need to revamp prison farms by introducing new farming methods to attract short term offenders to engage in agribusiness. Findings revealed that there was high rate of recidivism among the short term offenders. The study recommended that modern methods of farming should be embraced and alternative sentences such as Community Service Order was better option to incarceration. It is hoped that the findings would assist correctional institutions and criminal justice to come up with policies and strategies useful in improving new farming methods in prison farms.

**Keywords:** Prison, short term offenders, rehabilitation, correctional, farming, recidivism and incarceration.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the study:

The idea of prison farms in the world dates back to 1948 after the Second World War, while America prison farms dates back to the origins of America's penitentiaries. Though initially the farms were meant to be discipline and reform prisoners through hard labor, after abolition of slave trade, the farms became a means to harness newly liberated black labour power. According to Mackenzie (2006), prisoners that worked outdoors in a farm prison were healthier, and less aggressive. Throughout the next century and the major prisons that came up, many countries maintained farms as cost effective started to feed prison populations as farming programs by the prisoners had proven success. However from the 1970s to the 1980s, prison farms in Africa started gaining fame because it was seen as cheap labour and sufficient food supply for other prison institution (Njeru, 2009). Reagan's policies brought change in rebirth of rural America prison farms during unipolar period. During cold war prison farms contributed to industrialization and globalization which led to economic growth. Likewise, crimes increased and America's rural prison industry was set up. According to Jiler (2006),

prison farms had vanished due to the disappearance of local farming infrastructures. Former independent farms became prisons in a self-perpetuating cycle that wiped out agricultural traditions. In this context agriculture was born in farm prisons and for centuries the American prison system was self-sustaining.

Prison farms and gardens served not only as an affordable way to feed prison populations, but also as a disciplinary and rehabilitative work program integral to the 19th century idea of the penitentiary. Work was the mode by which prisoners enacted their penance, so their labor was long and harsh but despite this severity, correctional officers noted that prisoners who worked outdoors and ate healthfully and were better behaved (Mackenzie, 2006). As the years went on, the purpose of prison farm work shifted from penance to rehabilitation. Prison farms supported community food security within, between prison and local rural populations where community around come to purchase food from prison farms. Excess prison farm food was donated to neighboring prisons to supplement government's process budgets. Prison agriculture has grown in Europe countries from local agricultural infrastructure by purchasing farm machinery, seeds, and other supplies to highly mechanized farming. Others have hired local farmers and educators to teach inmates basic farm skills. Farm for prisoners had to feed them through hard work and dedicated effort, and use these generalized job skills and newfound self-esteem post-release to break the vicious cycle of recidivism (Jiler, 2006).

Penal Reform International (PRI) is an international non-governmental organization. Founded in London, UK, in 1989, PRI has members in five continents and in over 80 countries. Penal Reform International seeks to achieve penal reform, recognizing the hundreds of inmates working in the farm program learn employment and trade skills such as agriculture (which includes a diversity of tasks such as plant and animal care and crop rotation planning), food processing, equipment operation and repair, metal fabrication, computer skills, inventory tracking, shipping and receiving, (PRI, 2012). The idea of prison farms began in Finland in the 1930s, with a new type of labour colony being introduced to the Finnish prison system in 1946. Inmates are paid according to the normal wage, it was common for prisoners to be pay taxes, buy food, give money to their family, saving for their release. Open prisons hold between 20 % (Sweden) to 40 % (Denmark) of the Scandinavian prison population and in nearly all cases when a prisoner is reaching the end of their sentence they are moved to an open prison. Communal style living is largely adopted in these facilities, with some prisons being entirely self-catering. Bastoy prison in Norway is example of an operational self-sufficient prison which is demonstrating the immense value prison farms can produce (Crewe, 2005).

Prison farms can provide prisoners with useful, productive work outside instead of enforced idleness inside; nutritious diet; experience of good farming practices; a more 'normal' working day in a more open environment; financial compensation for their work. They also learn teamwork, punctuality and reliability. The program provides nutritious food for the prison system which has numerous untold benefits in terms of inmate health and their ability to work, educate and rehabilitate themselves. Farming provides rehabilitation and therapy through working with and caring for plants and animals. The evidence on the positive impact working with plants, dogs, horses, cows and other living creatures, is growing exponentially at present. Based on this, prison farms in New York and New Jersey are expanding their horticultural and animal therapy programs (Jiler 2006).

According to Sullivan, (2008), when prison farms labor serves as a means to corporate profit, or institutional cost-cutting in a vacuum that neglects the needs of the laborers themselves, it is exploitative. Without a foundation of education, job-training, these kinds of labor offered by short term offenders is nothing for their hard work, except maybe a meager 50 cents per hour that is paid when the offender leaves prison in line with Kenya prison Act 90. While this kind of labor, it gives the prisoner something to do during imprisonment, these jobs are often unstimulating intellectually and physically. The work is effectively "discipline dressed up as treatment" rooted in the old penitentiary notion of hard labor as penitence. Furthermore, exploitative prison labor reinforces the tribalism that exists between the prison population and the prison workers that discipline in Kenya perspective according to (Gerezani, 2015).

Prison services throughout Africa, the main expense set aside from staff salaries is food for the prison ration which is invariably purchased from outside contractors. The funds allocated for these rations are often only sufficient for one meal per day which is inadequate both in terms of quantity and quality. Again, most prison services in Africa have access to substantial areas of land, but this land is either unproductive or under-producing while others have been grabbed through corruption (Gerezani, 2015). Farm prisons are constrained by lack of resources. Farming appear low down the list of prison budgeting priorities for example, Uganda has 21 prison farms largest producers of maize in the country. The farms

are used to impart modern farming skills to prisoners to ensure that they create employment upon discharge, (Lyons, 2012).

Kenya Prison Service was established in 1911. During which 319 staff members supervised 6,559 inmates. Currently Kenya has 99 correctional institutions and 89 prisons, 2 Borstals and one youth corrective training Centre. The Kenya Prison Service is in the Ministry of Interior and Co-ordination of National Government. The mission of the prison service is to contain offenders in humane safe condition in order to facilitate responsive administration of Justice, Rehabilitation, Social Integration and Community protection while the vision is to be a correctional service of excellence in African and beyond. It contributes to public safety and security by ensuring there is safe custody of all persons who are lawfully committed to prison facilities, as well as facilitating the rehabilitation of custodial sentenced offenders for community reintegration. In Kenya, farm prison faces many challenges such as corruption, land grabbing of prison farms by past regimes, revenue intended for inmate training on the farms, and that expenses incurred in other programs are allocated to other activities because the farms are known to produce fresh vegetables especially kales, cabbages and beans, which is shared to other prisons in their region. (Kenya Prison Service 2013)

Shikusa farm prison is a Government correctional institution located 6 Km north of Kakamega town in Malava constituency Kakamega County. It is a Farm prison with extensive farm produce with more than 1,000 Hectares of Land used for maize plantations, tea, and horticultural crops and cattle rearing. Each of these rehabilitation services targets specific groups of people with specific needs for reform. The prison was started in 1951 as a detention camp by the colonialists. It was a preferred detention camp in 1950s, because the farm is located next to Kakamega forest environment sharing the same compound with Shikusa Borstal institution which is a youthful corrective centre that caters for boys between ages below 15 years who are in conflict with law. The population of the institution keeps changing but during the research study the population of the offenders was 339. The prison farm houses only offenders serving short term sentence serving below 5 months sentence. Farming is practiced in the farm such as tea farming, dairy, pigs, and vegetables. The prison receives short term offenders from Kakamega maximum prison which is about 6 kms far apart. Among the NGOs working with the institution is Road Kenya, catering for offenders affected with HIV/AIDS by assisting in farming especially kitchen garden. Short term offenders are trained in various agricultural disciplines namely: horticulture and field crops, livestock, poultry and soil conservation which has resulted farm products being self-sufficient and generating revenue. It was the government's idea to start prison farms whose main objectives include training and equipping inmates with agricultural skills both in crop and livestock production, production of high quality fruit tree seedlings and generation of government revenue. Farming rehabilitation provides education in agriculture skills and various aspects of life. These are useful for getting inmates prepared for life outside the prison system while serving in the community. The place of rehabilitation services in the reformation and transformation of prison inmates have continued to be on the front burner of public discourse in recent time according to (Tanimu, 2010).

The general philosophy about farm prison is that it is not only a place to restrict those that went against societal norms but a place where offenders are reformed so that they become better citizens. A good reformation programme will therefore reduce the rate at which previous offenders will return to prison yards and more importantly prepare them to face life after sentence (Jasilia et. al, 2011). It was for this reason that this study sought to find out the effects of farming rehabilitation programmes on short term offenders.

### **1.2 Statement of the Problem:**

Kenya's prison Service has continued to offer inmates farming skills as rehabilitation programmes for those serving short term jail below 5 month in a prison farm. The purpose of farming skills is to help them be reintegrated into the society and actively participate in positive socio-economic engagements upon release. The service has moved from punishment to interventions based on treatment in the form of setting up agricultural farms as means to reforming short term offenders during their sentence. Shikusa farm prison serves as an overflow of Kakamega main prison for short term offenders. The skills gained enhance their chances of engaging in gainful employment and minimize their chances of returning to criminal activities. Farming training exposes them to livestock production, which encompasses dairy production, rearing of cattle, rabbits, pigs, fish, poultry bees keeping, vegetable production, fruit production, sericulture (silk production), floriculture and production of spices and herbs (Kenya Prison Service, 2013). Since 1963, Kenya has successfully been operating prison farms with no proof provided to support such claims of ineffectiveness of prison farms in rehabilitation.

Prisons, involved with the farming argue that farms are extremely positive correctional rehabilitation for short term offenders; however the rate of recidivism is high among short term offenders. According to Jiler (2006), farming as a rehabilitation programme for short term offenders has not been determine whether it is effective since the rate of short term offenders serving in prison farms were getting back to prison after rehabilitation. This poses a question whether prisons farms have become comfortable where offenders go in and come out because of the plenty of food provided. In view of this, the purpose of this research study sought to find out effects of farming activities as a form of rehabilitation programme on short term offenders.

### **1.3 Purpose of the Study:**

The purpose of the study was to establish the effect of farming rehabilitation programme among short term offenders serving in Shikusa farm prison in Kakamega County.

### **1.4 Research Objective:**

The research objective to establish the effects of farming as a rehabilitation programme in reducing recidivism among the short term offenders serving in Shikusa farm prison.

### **1.5 Significance of the Study:**

The study would be of value not only to correctional practitioners but also Criminal Justice System (CJS) in having a better understanding of why the rate of recidivism was on the increase among short term offenders yet the government was spending a lot of money to rehabilitate them. This study may be a useful material for reference to other researchers.

### **1.6 The Scope of the Study:**

The study focused on effects of farming programme as a rehabilitation tool for short term offenders in farm prison. The study was conducted during the month of February 2015 in Shikusa farm prison in Kakamega County.

### **1.7 Limitations of the Study:**

Availability of current literature on the farm prison was not forthcoming it was scanty since no research has been carried out in the correctional institution as reported by the prison officer in-charge. Special authorization to gain access to Shikusa farm prison took longer time than expected. Despite the above limitations, various measures were taken by the researcher to ensure that the study process remained objective and was accurately brought to completion

## **2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 Short term offender's recidivist:**

Short term offenders according to Prison Act cap 90 are offenders who serve below five months in a prison. They are referred to as habitual offenders or recidivists. Recidivism is defined as the reversion of an individual to criminal behavior after he or she has been convicted of an offence sentenced according to Farabee (2005). According to Verbrugge et al.(2002) recidivism has been defined as return to custody for any reason including technical violation. Short term offenders which form majority of the recidivism are now a common problem globally. According to Omalle (2011) recidivism in Nigeria prison is 52.4% while South Africa is between 55.3% and 95% according to Crewe (2005). According to Ogeto (2009) in Kenya released citizens have 75% of committing another crime while 50% has a chance of returning to prison two years after serving short term sentence. That is why this study sought to find out effect of farming activities rehabilitation programme among short term offenders serving in prison farm.

### **2.2: Farming Programme:**

Kenya Prisons have formulated necessary strategies in farming Programmes with the purpose of developing skills to assist short term offenders to be become self-employed when they leave prison (Kenya Prison Service, 2013). Among farming Programmes are Livestock production which encompasses dairy production, rabbit rearing, bee keeping, fish farming, floriculture, and sericulture. However this study will narrow down on agricultural skills provided in Shikusa farm prison. All these activities are aimed at equipping the inmates with necessary skills that would enable them to actively participate in positive socio-economic engagement upon release and to reduce recidivism among the offenders being released to the

community (Kenya Prisons Service, 2013). However, some of these rehabilitation programmes requires a lot of government funding. According to Wekesa (2013), prison rehabilitation programmes should receive enough funding since farming programmes cut across all short term offenders irrespective of age. According to him, Kenya prisons do not have special rehabilitation programs targeting short term offenders where by the effect of farming programme can be evaluated.

In Nigeria The Inmate Training and Productivity (ITP) Directorate of Nigerian prisons is charged with the responsibility of training inmates specifically in prison farms and industries for the purpose of not only imparting self-sustaining skills on them but also in the process inculcating in them, the positive orientation of finding dignity in labour (ITP, 2011). There are also cottage industries which train inmates in mid-range industrial production. Some of these are furniture-making, soap-making, toilet roll production, manufacturing aluminum pots, and metal works fabrications and so on. These are geared towards giving the inmates practical skills that can help them live self-sustaining lives on discharge (ITP, 2011).

Through Father Grol's welfare trust-an organization dedicated to transforming the lives of prisoners in Kenya it has engaged short term offenders in programmes such as tree planting to preserve the Kakamega forest. The programme provides vegetables whereby the offenders are trained to plant vegetables which are healthy under programme known as Kitchen Garden. According to prison officer in charge, this programme has provided healthy food and vegetables for HIV offenders serving short term sentence. Under the Governance, Justice, Law and Order Sector (GJLOS) reform programme, the Prisons Service has offered short term farming activities. The Service has moved from the policy of years gone by that prisons are not hotels, to reform initiatives aimed at restitution of the dignity of the human life to acceptable levels, in line with international conventions that Kenya is party to. The constitution of Kenya spells out the bill of rights which enables all offenders to be treated in human way.

### **2.3 Strain Theory:**

Strain theory was originally introduced by Emile Durkheim in 1893 calling it "anomie" which described as feeling of disorientation and anxiety as a result off the breakdown of traditional life in modern society. Merto built on the concept by adding stress that individual feel whenever societal norms conflict with social reality. Merto gave an example of the gangs the in society who reject the rules values and laws and replace with norms that celebrate (Merton 1964). Merton's theory explains that the real problem is not created by sudden social change but rather by social structures that holds out the same goals to all its members without giving them equal means to achieve which explains why there is recidivism among short term offenders. Applying strain theory to criminality it explains why crimes and occasionally committed by recidivism,. According to him offenders whether short term or long term crime is caused when we don't have equal opportunities and dominant group takes advantages. Strain theory is used to socio economic factors that cause crime which in this case are short term offenders.

However the strain theory has limitations prompting the researcher to apply Mezirow theory to explain transformation received inside prison in form of farming rehabilitation programme. The first limitation of the theory it does not explain causes of all crimes in the society though it can explain crimes such as fraud and theft the theory is unable to explain other crimes that are common with short term offenders inside a farm prison.

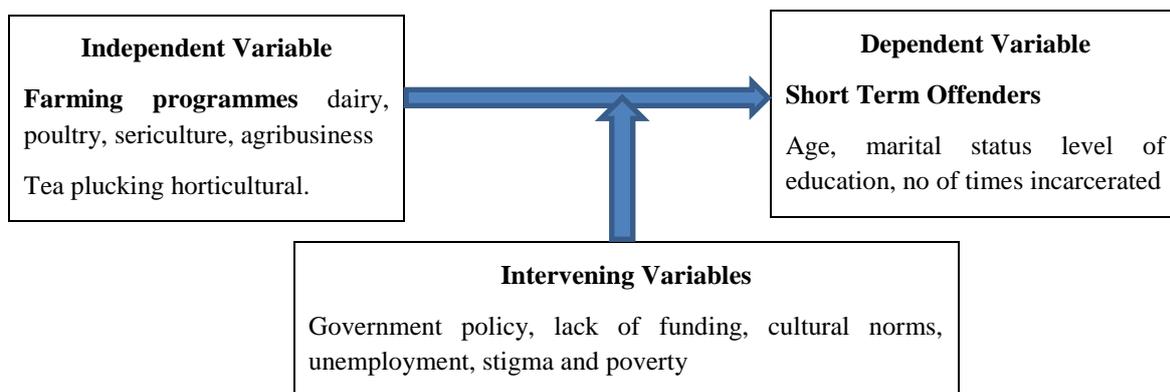
### **2.4 Mezirows Transformation Theory:**

The Transformational Learning Theory originally developed by Jack Mezirow is described as being "constructivist, an orientation which holds that the way learners interpret and reinterpret their sense experience is, central to making meaning and hence learning" (Mezirow, 1991). Mezirows transformation theory states that people make intentional movements into adult hood to resolve contradictions and move to developmentally advanced conceptual structures by transforming meaning schemes and perspectives through reflection. Transformation theory is appropriate to short term offenders because rehabilitation programmes is a learning process offered to prisoners to reflect on their past and change their criminal behavior. Mezirows argues that transformation of native learning involves enhancing level of awareness among the offenders of one beliefs and assessment of alternative options. Mezirows argues that perspective transformation involves empowering one self, critical understanding of how social relationships and the culture shape beliefs and feelings and more functional strategies and resource for taking action.

Many other researchers have agreed on these theories when establishing transformation and causes of crimes. Both Strain theory and transformation theory was adopted in this study to understand causes of crime and how farming rehabilitation

programme transform the behavioural change of short term offenders. In adopting these theories of rehabilitation, the researcher is not ignorant of its shortcomings. The interrelations among the parts of rehabilitation theory have to be recognized and understood by all the players inside prisons. These theories sometimes does not satisfy all the players involved in the rehabilitation programmes while Mezirow transformation theory function seems to be lacking explanation to deviant behavior among the short term offenders in the community and why they recidivate back, Strain theory explain a sample part of causes of crimes but not all crimes. In view of this both theories were used to compliment each other in developing conceptual framework.

The independent variable is the farming methods that are practiced in the farm to rehabilitate the dependent variable who are short offenders. The age, marital status, level of education, level of recidivism are assessed to determine how farming programmes influenced the age, marital status, education and recidivism in order to reduce crimes. However, the independent variable is affected by intervening variables such as lack of funding, cultural norms among the short term offenders background and government policy. The strain theory explains the cause of crime among the short term offenders who are recidivist. The Mezirow transformation theory supports the independent variable farming programmes which are provided in prisons to transform the behavior of short term offenders into becoming better citizens. The conceptual framework project the independent variable cannot be achieved successfully due to intervening variables such as reduced government funding, because farm prisons are suppose to be self sufficient in food production.



**Figure1.1: Conceptual Frame showing Independent variables and Dependent variable on Effects of Farming Activities on Rehabilitating Short term Offenders**

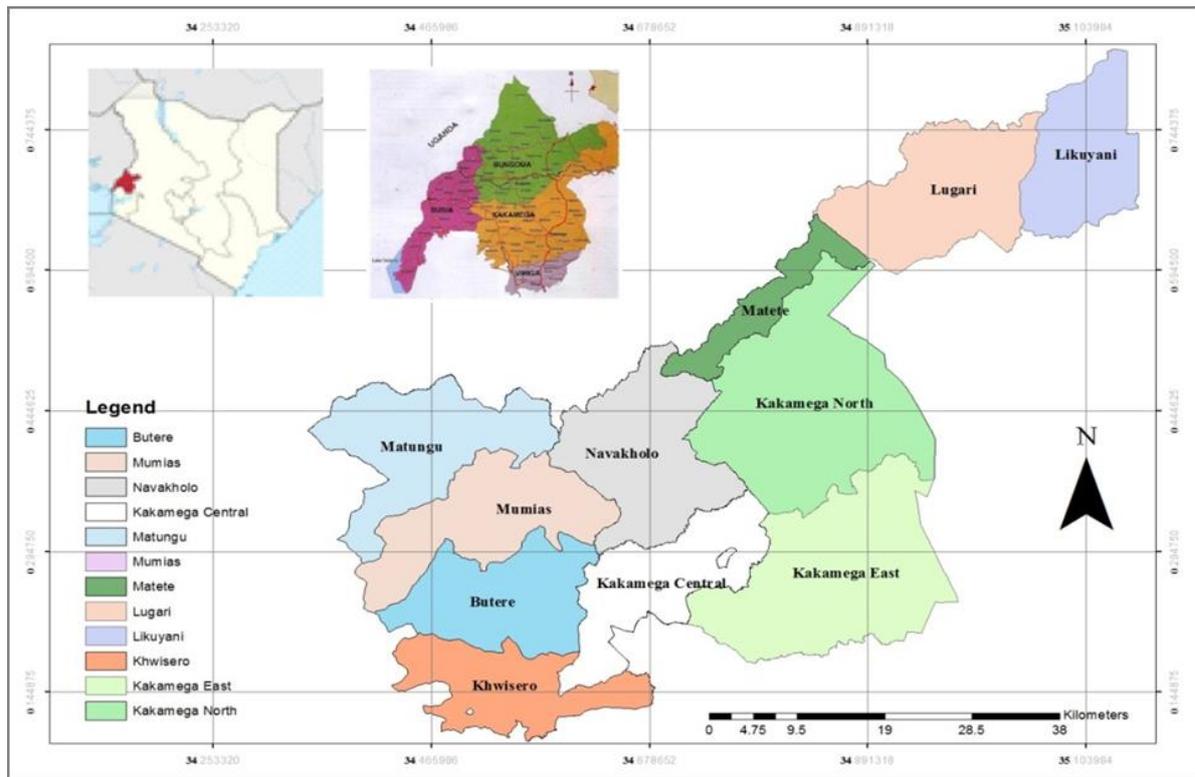
### 3. METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Research design:

Descriptive research design was used in the study because data was collected using one or more appropriate methods such as questionnaires, interviews and focused discussion groups on large group of respondents. According to Kothari (2004), descriptive research design allows for the collection of data from large number of respondents in a relatively short period with minimum cost.

#### 3.2 Study area:

The study was conducted in Shikusa farm prison in Kakamega County western region of Kenya. The prison was preferred because it is the only farm prison in the county hosting short term offenders. The prison was selected purposively because it is one of the largest farm prison receiving overflow of short term offenders from Kakamega main prison, Bungoma prison and Kodiaga maximum prison. Since its inception no research has been undertaken in the Shikusa farm prison (Shikusa farm prison, 2015)



Source: Government of Kenya, 2015

Figure 1.2: A Map Showing Kakamega County and its Location on the Kenyan Map

### 3.3 Study Population:

The study population comprised of 339 short term offenders incarcerated throughout the past 5 months in Shikusa prison serving short term sentences while 20 prison officers were interviewed. The prison officer-in charge was selected purposive.

### 3.4 Sampling Techniques and Sampling Size:

Simple random sampling was used to identify the target population who were short term offenders serving in Shikusa. Simple random sampling was used to select 50 respondents from a target of 339 short term offenders to constitute homogenous groups of Focused Group Discussion and Interviews. Being a descriptive research, 10% of short term offenders were selected for the study using simple random sampling.

Purposive sampling was used to sample key informants 2 officers' in-charge out of 5 who were on duty while 20 prison officers were sampled out of 201. A descriptive survey study requires at least 10% - 30% of the accessible population, according to Mugenda & Mugenda (2003), one may use a sample size of at least 10%, but for better representation a higher percentage is better.

### 3.5 Research instruments:

Information was gathered through Focused Group Discussions of not more than 12 offenders. The FDGs enabled the researcher to probe the respondents on what effect of farming rehabilitation programme. Face to face interview was conducted especially with those who knew how to read and write. The questionnaires were filled by prison officers and handed back to the researcher in the field for the purpose of standardization

### 3.6 Validity and Reliability of Research Instruments:

Validity is the degree to which the results obtained from data actually represents the phenomenon under study, (Oson & Onen, 2009). To validate the tools two members of staff from Department of Criminology and Social Work at Masinde

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Muliro University of Science and Technology who were experts scrutinized the research instruments for advice on the structure and content suitability. All their suggestions were incorporated in the questionnaires and interview schedules before preparing final copy.

Reliability refers to the proportion of variance attributable to the true measurement of variable and estimates the consistency of such measurement over time (Kothari, 2004). To ensure items on the questionnaire and other research instruments are reliable, test- retest reliability was used to establish the correlation co-efficient test reliability.

**3.7 Data Collection Procedures:**

The researcher obtained a research approval letter from School of Graduate Studies of Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology to proceed and process permit. A research permit was obtained from National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) that allowed the researcher to collect data. Letters notifying the prison officer in charge of Shikusa farm prison from County Commissioner of Kakamega Interior and National Government was dispatched two weeks before the research commenced. This was followed by approval letter from Prison County Commandant authorizing the researcher to access Shikusa farm prison in North Kakamega.

**3.8 Data Analysis:**

Descriptive statistics were calculated to describe the demographic characteristics of the respondents under study and presented in form of distribution frequencies and percentages. Data was analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) program version 20. This program gave a very steady and close indicative clearance for different variants being analyzed. Qualitative data was received in verbatum, transcribed and reported in themes and sub themes. For analysis purpose the quantitative responses were given different codes which have analytical meaning. The data was analyzed using both qualitative and quantitative.

**4. RESULTS & DISCUSSION**

A total of 50 short term offenders were sampled and interviewed. A focused group discussion of not more than 10 respondents was held and information they gave was used in data analysis.

**4.1 Demographic Information about Respondents:**

The respondents were told to indicate the age. The results are summarized in the Table 1.

**Table 1: Short Term Offenders Age**

Age Bracket (years)	Frequency	Percentages
18-30yrs	20	40.0
31-40	18	36.0
41-50yrs	10	20.0
Over 51years	2	4.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Field Data 2015*

Table 1 shows that 40 % of the respondents were between the age of 18-30years. Another 36 % ranged between 31-40 years while 20% were between 41-50 years. About 4% were above the age of 51 years. The forementioned age range showed that participants were justified as respondents since the study considered all the ages. It can be concluded that majority of the short term offenders were youths.

**4.1.1 Respondents Marital Status:**

The study considered the marital status of the short term offenders as it was presumed that this had a bearing on being habitual offending behaviour.

**Table ii: Respondents Marital Status**

Marital Status	Frequency	Percentages
Single	23	46.0
Married	15	30.0
Divorced	10	20.0
Separated	2	4.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Data 2015

Table 2 indicates that 46 % of short term offenders were single while 30% were married. Some 20% were divorced while 2% were separated from their spouses. Basing on the findings, it can be concluded that majority of the short term offenders were either single, divorced or separated. This findings confirms what Tanimu (2010) found out in his research study that crime was relatively caused by family breakdown among the convicts in Nigeria. One offender had this to say “ why should i marry when my father has not divided his land among his polygamous family. I dont have land to built a house for my wife” It can be concluded that majority of the short term offenders were either single separated or divorced. Majority of the young offenders cited that they are unemployed and fending for their families was an extra cost and paying the traditional marriage dowry was expensive.

**4.1.2 Level of Education:**

Short term offenders were asked to indicate their level of education. The level of education was deemed to be significant factor in the ability of the respondents to respond to farming programmes such as sericulture, bee keeping and horticultural.

**Table iii: Education**

Level of Education	Frequency	Percentages
Primary	18	36.0
Secondary	11	22.0
Tertiary	1	2.0
None	20	40.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Data 2015

Table 3 indicates that 36% of short term offenders had attained primary level of education while 22% had attained secondary level. 2% had attended tertiary college. However the study found out 40% said they did not know how to read or write this was common among the offenders over 40years. This is an indicator that majority of the short term offenders were either illiterate and school drop outs. Other studies have found a negative relationship of crime and education, meaning that the lower the level of education completed, the more likely an individual is to engage in crime (Iguna, 2009). This findings concurs with that of Omboto (2013) that crime was very high among the illiterate fraternity as part of the challenges facing rehabilitation programmes. It can be concluded that there is a significant relationship between illiteracy and crime.

**4.1.3 Level of Recidivism:**

The short offenders were asked to indicate how many times they have been imprisoned before the current term they were serving so as to determine the level of recidivism among the short term offenders. The findings are recorded in Table 4.

**Table iv: Number of Times Jailed**

Recidivism	Frequency	Percentages
First time	15	30.0
Twice	25	50.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Data 2015

The findings in Table 4 indicates that 30% of the respondents were serving their first time imprisonment while 50% have been imprisoned more than once in the past. The study noted that majority of the short term offenders had served different sentences in different prisons for same crime or different offence. However, this study found out that there was high percentage of recidivism among the short term that have undergone rehabilitation programmes and were finding their way back to prison. This finding concurs with that of Miriti, (2005) who found out that recidivist in Kenya were on the increase due to how the community perceive them. According to, Iguna (2010), Kenya prisons were becoming comfortable to some offenders who enjoyed the good life and food provided in prison. According to Andrew et.al (2009) recidivism is used to measure private prison performance, similarly, level of recidivism in a prison farm determines the effects of farming rehabilitation programmes performance. It can be concluded that majority of the offenders in farm prison are 50% recidivists.

**4.1.4 Character Transformation:**

Prison and its environment have made many prisoners to change their character immediately they step in prison, due to the rules of engagement and the fear of punishment. The study sought to find out the effect of farming activities in transforming short term offenders

**Table v: Transformation**

Transformation	Frequency	Percentages
Yes	40	80.0
No	10	20.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source: Field Data 2015**

Character transformation among prisoners was vital to this study in order to establish the effects of farming programmes on short term offenders. 80% of the respondents agreed that prison farming activities has managed to help transform their character while 20% of respondent disagreed with prison farming activities being an old method of a transformative tool on character. Many farm activities such as plucking tea and planting maize as a team assisted the short term offenders to manage stress and anger management. According to Robinson & Raynor (2009), teamwork among short term offenders is psychotherapy for behavioural change. A similar view has been expressed by Sullivan (2008), that time spent on prison farm activities has enabled short term offenders to change their behavior. However, this study found out that farming techniques needed to be revamped.

**4.1.5 Common Crimes Committed:**

The short term offenders were asked to indicate the type of crime they committed. It was presumed this had a bearing on rehabilitation programmes targeting criminogenic needs.

**Table vi: Crimes Committed by short term offenders**

Type of crime	Frequency	Percentages
Assault	2	4.0
Theft	5	10.0
House breaking	29	58.0
Creating disturbance	8	16.0
Burglary	3	6.0
Illicit brew	1	2.0
tresspass	2	4.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Data 2015

Table 6 shows that 4% had committed the crime of assault while 10% had committed theft. 58% of the respondents had committed the crime of house breaking. 16% were charged with causing disturbance. 6% had been charged for burglary while 2% had were found with illicit brew offence and failed to raise the bail money. Among the respondents 4% were those charged with trespass. It can be concluded that, common crime committed by short term offenders were those crimes committed against property and persons. These short term offenders are sometimes referred to as habitual offenders. This study found out that 58% house breaking were common the youths below the age of 25years.

**4.2 Influence of Agriculture on Short Term Offenders:**

Short term offenders were asked to react to several statements intended to describe the effect of farming programmes in prison. Effect was measured in terms of awareness, relevance, attendance, popularity, relationship with prison officers who trains them in farming activities.

**4.2.1 Farming Rehabilitation Programmes:**

The respondents were asked to state if they liked farming activities as a form of rehabilitation programmes inside prison. The findings are explained in Table 7

**Table vii: farming Programmes status**

		Frequency	Percentages
	Yes	15	30.0
	No	35	70.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Data 2015

In Table 7, the respondents were asked if they the liked farming programmes provided. The study found out that 30% said it was useful for them since they are equipped with skills such as agribusiness. They stated that father Grol programme on kitchen garden was helping the short term offenders with to eat healthy vegetables. 70% expressed that they did not like farming at all. They saw working in the farm from morning until afternoon as a punishment and not rehabilitating them. When probed further during Focused Group Discussion why they were not positive about farming activities they cited cases like the do not have capital after leaving prison to carry on with the skills acquired.

Majority of the short term offenders complained that they did not have land where they can practice what they have learned inside prison. Some blamed their fathers for not giving them a piece of land to plant cops in order to generate income. These findings concurs with that of Omale (2011) who carried out a research in prisoners reformation, rehabilitation on selected prisons in Nigeria and found out one of the challenges affecting rehabilitation programmes was old types of farming applied in prison and cultural practises.

**4.2.2 Relevance of Farming Programmes:**

In order to assess the relevance of farming programmes, offenders were asked to state whether farming activities will restrain them from committing crime. The results are presented in table 8

**Table viii: Relevance of the Programmes**

	Relevance	Frequency	Percentages
	Relevant	14	28.0
	Not relevant	46	92.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Data 2015

Findings in Table 8, shows that 28% of the respondents said farming rehabilitation programmes offered in the prison farm were relevant while 92% said they were not relevant. The short term offenders complained that the farming methods they are trained on was the old methods, while farming systems have changed in Kenya to Agribusiness and introduction of drip irrigations which has attracted jobless youths in Kenya. Those who said the programmes were relevant majority were

over 40years. Most youths insisted that they want to learn new technology in farming which was thought to be appealing to them.

**4.2.3 Popular Agricultural Programmes:**

This study found it necessary to find out this farm activities existed in Shikusa prison and which one was popular among them. Respondents were asked to indicate which rehabilitation programmes were popular among them.

**Table ix: Popular Farming Rehabilitation Programmes**

Type of Programmes	Frequency	Percentages
dairy	4	8.0
Tea plucking	5	10.0
Tree nursery	2	4.0
weeding	39	78.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Data 2015

Table 9 shows that apart 8% attended dairy programmes while 10% preferred tea plucking attendance .4% preferred nursery tending while weeding maize 78%. The study sought to find out why weeding was popular among the inmates, the study found out that majority of the inmates preferred to spend most of their time in the field weeding because they are given alarger share of meal for the work they had done and less supervision. the study found out the existance of activities such as weeding vegetables and harvesting maize. This research study found out Mushroom planting existed on Prison work plan but the programme had not been effected, a view that Odera (2009) reported that most rehabilitation programmes exist only on paper. A similar view was reported by Madoka (2008) report that lack of funding to implement some of rehabilitation programmes such as mushrooms was posing a challenge to prison reforms.

**4.2.4 Attendance Timetable:**

In order to assess the number of times the short term offenders attended farming programmes, the respondents were asked to indicate the number of times they attended rehabilitation programmes within 5 months in prison.

**Table x: farming Programmes Attendance**

No of times	Frequency	Percentages
Daily	38	76.0
Once a week	3	6.0
Once a month	5	10.0
Sometimes	2	4.0
Never	2	4.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Data 2015

Table 10 shows the findings in terms of daily, once a week, once a month once a year or never. The study revealed that 76% attended farm activities rehabilitation programmes while 6% said they attended once a week. Another 10% said they attended once a month. Those who have never attended on daily were 4%. The study sought to find out why those who never attend, it was found out that those were short term offenders with special needs. These results indicate that there was active participation in farming acitivies by short term offenders in line with Prison Act Cap 38, that doing manual jobs inside prison was compulsory for all offenders. the finding of this study is in agreement of that of Wekesa (2013) that prisons custodial administration of inmates in kenya are compulsory for all irrespective of age

**4.2.5 Relationship between Prison Officers and Short term offenders:**

In order establish the relationship between short term offender and prison staff handling them in the farm. Offenders were asked to rate their relationship with prison staff in terms of good, fair, poor and very poor. Table 11 shows the distribution of their responses.

**Table xi: Relationship Overview**

Relationship	Frequency	Percentage
Good	2	4.0
Fair	9	18.0
Poor	19	38.0
Very Poor	20	40.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Data 2015

Table 11 shows that 38% of the short term offenders rated the relationship between them and prison officers as poor, while 18% rated it as fair. About 4% rated it as good while 40% rated it as very poor. When asked why they rated the officers very poor they cited mistreatment from young prison officers who have come from training saying they were not handling them with respect. This study found a huge gap between prison staff and offenders which confirms Gerazani (2012) report and Ogeto (2009) findings on the same. Therefore, it can be concluded that the relationship between short term offenders and staff should be enhanced to encourage good healthy working relationship and effective rehabilitation programmes. Most of the offenders cited cases where they worked for long hours in the farms especially when maize when harvesting maize, weeding and removal of beans from the farm. According to purposive sampled prison officers, strong short term offenders was compulsory they participate in farming activities.

**4.2.6 Farming Facility and Resources in Prison:**

The study sought to find out whether prison had access to any funding for agriculture activities from the purposive sampled prison officers as to whether it was adequate in order to determine the effects of farming activities on short term offenders. The question was found to be relevant because if the facilities provided were adequate the many short term offenders will embrace farming.

**Table xii: Farming Facility and Availability of Resources**

Resources	Frequency	Percentages
adequate	4	20
inadequate	11	55
Very inadequate	5	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Data 2015

**4.2.7 Prison Staff trained in Farming Activities:**

For the success of the farming programs there must be enough trained prison officers to run the program in prison. The study therefore sought to find out whether there were enough agriculture teachers in prison. The results according to purposive sampled prison officers are as follows, 20% said it was adequate, 55% said it was inadequate while 25% stated it was very inadequate. This research study confirmed that the resources were not sufficient because they farm short term offenders were paid 5cents on daily basis. The officers requested for review of Prison Act which has not been reviewed. The findings also concur with that of Omboto (2013) on the challenges facing rehabilitation programmes in Kenya prison. Farabee 2005) recommended that rehabilitation programmes should be changed to address criminogenic needs of offenders. He recommended funding to prisons to enable them re think rehabilitation programmes. These figures confirm that there is low access to funding of farming programs in prison.

**Table xiii: Prison Officers Perception on Farming Programmes**

<b>Rating of Farming programmes whether it was effective by prisons staff</b>		<b>Yes %</b>	<b>No %</b>
	Whether farming rehabilitation programmes was effective	10.0	10.0
	Whether programmes were favourable to short term offenders	13.0	12.0
	Whether the offenders were satisfied with farming	8.0	10.0
	Whether all short term offenders participate in programmes	4.0	14.0
	Whether agriculture programmes rehabilitation has reduced recidivism	6.0	10.0
	Whether they have been trained in agriculture programmes	40.0	25.0
	Whether agriculture rehabilitation has reduced crimes	13.0	11.0
	Whether the rehabilitation programmes has had an impact	6.0	8.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Data 2015

Table 12 explain the perception of prison officers on whether farming programmes was effective on rehabilitating short term offenders. 10% said yes while 10% said no the tie can be explained to mean respondents were in agreement. As to whether the farming programmes were favourable to the short term offender, 13% said yes while 12% said no. On the whether all farming programmes were provided in the prison 14% of the prison staff said no while 4% said yes. There was a varying difference which suggests that there was lack of sufficient funding for all agricultural programmes stated in the prison handout 2013. As to whether rehabilitation programmes has reduced recidivism, 6% said yes while 10% said no. When asked whether the farming programme has reduced recidivism they said it was difficult to reform a short term offender within stipulated 5months. As to whether they have been trained on farming short courses 40% said yes while 25% said no. Regarding whether farming rehabilitation programme has had a positive effect on the short term offenders 13% said yes while 11% said no. as to whether the farming programmes has made an impact, 6% said yes while 8% said no.

According to prison officers they have been trained in looking after offenders inside prison and escorting them to courts and communal jobs however they have not been trained on modern farming skills such as mushrooming or drip irrigation. The level of 10% tie was significant because it can be concluded to mean that prison officers were unable to comprehend whether this rehabilitation programmes were effective. The level of acceptance also varies greatly with a small group of society welcoming the prisoner (in most cases those who are close to prison) while a large number in the society will welcome the prisoner with a degree of suspicion and fear with a set mind of once a criminal always a criminal. This immediate judgment from the society will disorient the transition process for the prisoner and his integration becomes a problem. The information about his return travels like a bush fire and some kind of fears is felt by the society at large. This result in isolation and discrimination by the society the prisoner looks up to help, for assistance and continued rehabilitation. This kind of reception from the society will lead the prisoner into the wrong company who in most cases easily accept him as one of them and will not question his character.

Most respondents interviewed wished the community could see them as reformed person who have acquired skills in farming activities. According to prison officers, short term offenders find it very hard to get employment while the few who managed to get employment still have to proof themselves to the employer about their qualification and character. It is a stigma that will be there forever unless the community is sensitized on a reformed offender.

## 5. SUMMARY

The study established that short term offenders did not find farming activities a appealing to them especially the teenage offenders compare with short term offenders over the age of 31 years, they seemed to like farming. The youths gave reasons like they did not have land back at home to carry on the skills they have acquired in prison. Most of the youths complained that their fathers have not subdivided the land among the children. Hence cultural taboos rendered farming rehabilitation programme not to be effective. While no records were availed to show how many have been rehabilitated through farming programme the prison officers should sensitize the prisoners that farming was not a form of labour but a rehabilitation programmes .This calls for sensitization of the community when short offenders leave prisons

## 6. CONCLUSION

In reference to the objective of the study and its findings, the following conclusions were drawn. The influence of farming programme on short term offenders could not be determined because the study established that the rate of recidivism was high among the offenders who were incarcerated during the time of the study. The level of participation was very low in dairy activities and very high in agriculture programmes although all programmes were compulsory. Kitchen Farm gardens under Father Groll programme was popular among the HIV short term offenders because it provided health vegetables to positive offenders. Most respondents view farm activities as a punishment and not as rehabilitation and there is need to sensitize the offenders that farming can improve their livelihoods especially the youth offenders. The farm prison is self-sustaining in farming activities although modern farming methods can improve the attitude by transforming offenders to modern farmers through agribusiness.

## 7. RECOMMENDATIONS

On the strength of the summary of the findings and conclusions made in foregone sections, the following recommendations are put forward: That farming programmes should be revamped to attract short term offenders by introducing new farming methods such as drip irrigation, green houses for horticultural crops by increasing funding to farm prisons to be self reliant in terms of food security and allow the offenders to adopt new methods of farming. That the national government and county governments should protect the encroachment and grabbing of land belonging to prison farms to enhance self sufficient of food from large junk of prison land.

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