

Enhancing Urban Spacing to Address Juvenile Delinquency in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

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Abstract

Juvenile delinquency is a universal phenomenon in which youth engage in deviant behaviour. Urban spacing is an important factor to juvenile delinquency which can impinge upon access to education. This paper attempts to show how urban spacing precipitates juvenile delinquency. Methodologically, this study employed a systematic review which involved seven steps as suggested by Evidence for Policy and Practice Information and Co-ordinating Centre (2007). The significant findings were that there is a correlation between urban spacing and juvenile delinquency in the city of Dar es Salaam. This was exemplified through disparities in dwelling places (mono-functional spaces), disapproval and sanctions; lack of sense of responsibility amongst parents; changing social relationships; failure to accommodate huge population, lacking basic social amenities and hidings of juvenile delinquent activities. This study concluded that the undue urban spacing has impacted juveniles' behaviour tremendously, plunging them into juvenile delinquency. The study recommended that the government and other actors ensure towns and cities are well arranged/ spaced to minimize hidings, set out playgrounds and recreation activities for children and youths, and create awareness among parents on responsible parenthood in urban areas.

Keywords: Juvenile, Juvenile delinquency, social amenities, urban spacing, Dar es Salaam

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Urban spacing planning is a vital tenet of human development; it is a process of planning urban areas to meet the required societal needs and addressing problems such as juvenile delinquency. Juvenile delinquency is a universal phenomenon where youth engage in deviant behaviour (Ferdoos & Ashiq, 2015) such as petty stealing, bullying, drug abuse and truancy. It is a critical problem globally and ultimately in Tanzania, due to its effect on juveniles that exposes them to different forms of vulnerability including limited chances to education.

Traditionally, the spacing of Dar es Salaam has been performed via Master Plans (MoLHHSD, 2016). Ironically, its growth has not been consistent with the master plans, which also overlook sustainable urban development and social aspects such as playgrounds (Peter and Yang 2019). The current Dar es Salaam City Master Plan 2016-2036 is built upon the Master Plan, which was prepared

in 1979 for twenty years up to 1999 and strives to ensure orderly growth and development in the city (MoLHHSD, 2016). Peter and Yang (2019) argued that findings suggest that master plans should not be used as a mere urban growth control tool; instead, they are supposed to be designed and conceptualized as a comprehensive strategy and integrated with different aspects of urban development, which can play a crucial role in enforcing sustainable urban development for the city (Peter and Yang 2019). The first master plan for Dar es Salaam 1947–1949 outlined a rational pattern for the city's growth to become the British Tanganyika colonial territory's significant administrative, commercial, and transportation center (Peter and Yang, 2019).

The current Dar es Salaam spacing through the City Master Plan 2016-2036 strives to ensure orderly geographical growth and development by utilizing spaces properly (MoLHHSD, 2016). According to the National Population and Housing Census (2022), Dar es Salaam is the largest city in Tanzania. The city began as a fishing village in the mid-19th Century (MoLHHSD, 2016). Dar es Salaam is an Arabic name meaning "haven of peace" and was originally a tiny village named Mzizima (Kiswahili for a healthy town) dating back to 1857, which was formally founded in 1866 by Majid bin Sayyid, the Sultan of Zanzibar (MoLHHSD, 2016). The German East Africa Company established a trading station there in 1887, which grew to become the administrative and commercial center of the colony and the eastern terminus of the Central Railway Line that ran into the interior of German East Africa (MoLHHSD, 2016). British forces took control of Dar es Salaam and German East Africa after the First World War; they renamed the colony Tanganyika but retained Dar es Salaam as the capital (Mbise et al. 2019). There was a European section (Oyster Bay) and two African sections (Kariakoo and Ilala); eventually, a fourth section was developed for Asians (MoLHHSD, 2016). When Tanganyika became independent in 1961, Dar es Salaam became its first capital (ibid).

According to the National Population and Housing Census (2022), Dar es Salaam was the largest city in Tanzania with a population of 5,383,728, whose 100 percent were living in urban areas, whereby 37.1 percent were children under 17 years (MoFP, 2022). This number of children is significant in the entire city population. Citing U.N., HABITAT, 2008, Rasmussen (2013) argued that informal settlements host 75 percent of dwellers in the city, showing one of the fastest-growing urban growths in the world by ranking 9th among 100 studied cities. Informal settlements are usually unplanned neighborhoods where a mix of middle and low-income earning families lives (Rasmussen, 2013). While walking in such geographical neighborhoods, it is possible to identify tactics used by the dwellers to build a community with physical mutuality (ibid).

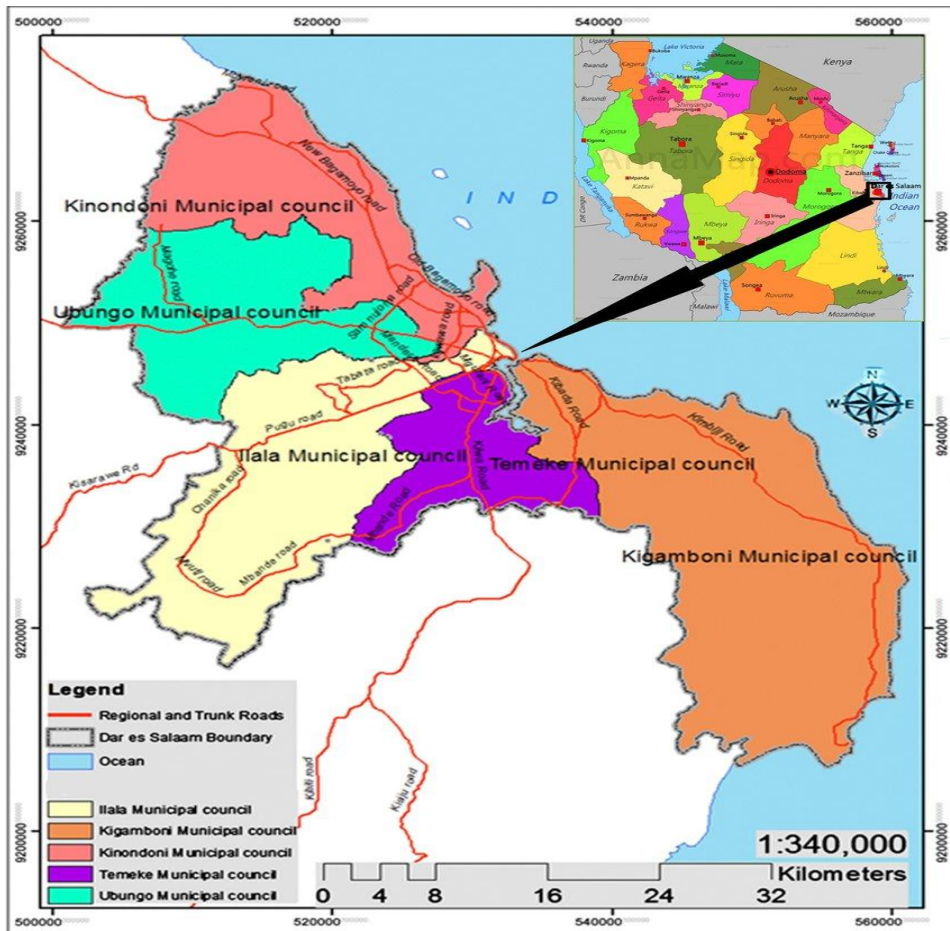


Figure 1: The map of Dar es Salaam City
Source: ResearchGate, 2022 cited by Chanila, 2024

2.0 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The systems theory informs well the relationship between poor urban spacing, and juvenile delinquency. System theory is a dominant tradition, particularly on issues related to child protection (Hutchinson and Oltedal, 2014). The contemporary ideas of what makes up the Systems Theory have grown in diverse areas, exemplified by the work of biologist Ludwig von Bertalanffy (ibid). It has influenced and spawned theory and research since the 1960s more in the 1980s based on relationships and interdependence among components as they interact (Lai & Lin, 2017). Systems have commonly identified properties, such as hierarchical ordering, coupling, permeability, holism, emergence, and homeostasis (ibid). Systems theory focuses on the relations between the parts rather than reducing and arrangement of connections between the components and how they work together as a whole; how the pieces are organized and how they interact determines the properties of that system (Chikere and Nwoka, 2015).

It further contends that any entity has multiple parts, whether a group, an organization, or a community, and these entities can be best understood as systems with interconnecting components (Bronfenbrenner, 2005). A system is delineated by its spatial and temporal boundaries, surrounded and influenced by its environment (Robbins, 2012). Changing one part of the system affects other features and the whole system; the point is reiterated by Mandin (2007), who argued that a slight change in a part of the system could have wide-ranging and unexpected consequences. In contrast, one of the fundamental ideas of systems theory — is that 'the whole is greater than the sum of its parts' (Mandin, 2007).

Additionally, Dupuis (2010) observed that in a systems framework, elements within it are interconnected; this is to say, the effects on one member of the family would ultimately have an equal and opposite outcome to the rest, and a system interacts with its environment (ibid). In turn, the environment affects the system, after which every system must be considered as a whole to be distinguishable from its background (ibid). This means a system is more than just a collection of individuals, and as such, a system needs to be viewed in its entirety (Robbins, 2012)

This theory is relevant to this study because it facilitates the understanding that urban spacing, and juvenile delinquency, which do not exist in a vacuum but in the interconnectedness and interplay of sub-systems. The systems theory is essential as it draws the actors related to juvenile delinquency, and the urban spacing to help intervene at multiple stages in an individual juvenile delinquent life and generally humankind. Another relevance of the theory is its broad spectrum. Hepworth et al. (2010) pointed out that a significant advantage of the systems model is its broad scope; hence, a researcher can have a comprehensive picture of systems and the environment in which research is done. Also, system theory can inform practice, providing insight into the effects and influences of techniques on and with children and families (Tilbury, 2013). Indeed, Munro (2010) argued that adopting a systems approach will help to understand how the system supports social actors and other professionals to work together. Overall, systems theory is supported by research evidence and policy drivers and is increasingly employed as it can be beneficial in working with juveniles and families (Tilbury, 2013).

3.0 MATERIALS AND METHODS

In developing this article, a systematic review method was employed. A systematic review entails identification of primary research studies, critical assessment and synthesis of studies that meet the eligibility criteria with the aim of bringing evidence together to answer a pre-defined research question (Pollock and Berge, 2018). In analysing how the urban spacing contributes to juvenile delinquency, which in turn hinders access to quality juveniles' education, the consideration was on both qualitative and quantitative empirical studies. The

review involves seven steps of systematic review as suggested by Evidence for Policy and Practice Information and Co-ordinating Centre (2007).

The first step was the development of inclusion and exclusion criteria. In the context of this study, the consideration was based on the following: limiting the scope by considering studies which address urban space, and juvenile delinquency, published after peer-reviewed process as journal articles in reputable sources as well as government sources. The cornerstone were literatures that had a bearing on the Dar es Salaam city. The second step was searching for relevant studies to the topic. This involved a critical search of studies from three scientific search engines, which included Emerald, Francis and Taylor and Google Scholar. Specific keywords such as urban spacing, juvenile delinquency, education, and Sustainable Development Goals were carried out from various scientific databases to obtain relevant research articles related to the topic. The third step was screening articles as per inclusion and exclusion criteria outlined in the first step. Screening the abstracts and full texts resulted in a total of 104 full articles which met the criteria for inclusion. The fourth step involved descriptive mapping which involved checking research articles and their relevance with the research question. Descriptive mapping was made reflecting on three aspects which included the technological limitations addressed, recommendations, and participants involved in the study. The fifth step included appraisal of the research articles which aimed at checking the quality of identified research articles and their relevance to the research questions. The rubric strategy was adapted from Charmaz and Thornberg (2021); and Tracy (2010) in which each review scored on each article based on the theoretical, methodological and the contribution of the article to the current analysis. The rubric included credibility, resonance, originality and usefulness. There were regular exchanges between the review team of which the consideration was based on the guideline provided by Laws (Laws, 2010) on demonstrating the quality of the research product. The sixth step was synthesising the findings. For a meaningful summary, a table was developed to summarise various limitations regarding the subject under study. The Aggregative synthesis approach was employed while reflecting on the stages suggested by Bazeley (Bezeley, 2014) regarding grouping into sub-groups while focusing on the context, characteristics and nature of the findings. Further synthesis of categories resulted in seven major themes. The seventh step was conclusions and discussions in which findings were summarized into six major themes in which the discussion followed by addressing the themes. Furthermore, the discussion gave rise to recommendations.

As afore noted, it is worthy of understanding that government documents (grey literature) also contributed to getting data and information, related to urban spacing, and juvenile delinquency. In this study, despite books and journals, government sources such as the Dar es Salaam Master Plan of 2016, The Law of the Child Act, Cap 13, R.E. 2019 and The National Population and Housing

Census, of 2022 were of the pivotal and very much contributed to the rigor of the study. In getting data and information, this study employed a secondary data analysis method in which various secondary documents related to urban spacing, and juvenile delinquency, were analysed.

Owing to this phenomenon, various key themes emerged, upon which data analysis was made and presented. The key themes were as follows:

- i) The connection of urban environment to juvenile delinquency,
- ii) The urban structure and infrastructures
- iii) Focus on economic development,
- iv) Ecstasy in urban environment,
- v) The globalization process,
- vi) Increased urbanized populations,
- vii) Break away from the traditional values and cultural norms,
- viii) The globalisation process.

4.0 FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The findings and analysis which were done in line with the objective of this study, do form an important part of any rigorous study. In this part the major findings are aired, and analysis made regarding the themes of the study. This study echoes urban spacing as a predisposing factor to juvenile delinquency and which in turn hinders access to education in Dar es Salaam. In this regard findings and discussion are noted through the following themes:

4.1 The Urban Structure and Infrastructures

Dar es Salaam city is characterized by a mono-centric urban and administrative structure (Rasmussen, 2013). Grymer (1981) argued that this contemporary pattern of urban structure and infrastructure is essentially mono-functional, relatively rigidly compartmentalized as an outgrowth of economic motivations to protect property at the expense of low-income owners. In the same vein, a careful look into the current structure of the city of Dar es Salaam will denote disparities in dwelling places based on income, such as low-income areas, for instance, Manzese, middle-income, such as Sinza, and high-income areas, such as Oyster Bay. Cities are also arranged in the form of residential areas such as Sinza, business/commercial such as Kariakoo, and administrative areas such as Posta. This transcends the colonial and post-colonial arrangement, which categorized major towns into three categories: first, Uzunguni - (areas mainly resided by Europeans, which were well served by social services); second, Uhindini such as Upanga- areas resided mainly by Asians, and Uswahilini such as Buguruni and Magomeni (MoLHHSD, 2016), which were poorly served by infrastructure and social amenities. Peter and Yang (2019) reiterated that the functional relationship established during the colonial period played a fundamental role in Dar es Salaam's post-colonial development as Tanzania's dominant urban center/city. The third construct is the administrative area, such as Posta, Kariakoo, and Kimara, and industrial areas, such as Vingunguti.

Squatter or slum settlements are an extension of Uswahilini, which should not be looked at as chaos; instead, there should be deliberate efforts to understand them as they resonate with the socio-economic structure of societies (Rasmussen, 2013).

All these arrangements and prohibitions discriminate children and juveniles whose needs are ignored within these structures (Peter & Young, 2019). Their instinctive attempts to use mono-functional spaces for unauthorized activities meet with disapproval and sanctions against 'deviant' and 'delinquent' behavior from adults conditioned into accepting these constraints. Their reactions to the structural violence of the environment express themselves through stress and other psychosomatic ailments, juvenile delinquency being but one of the responses to urban environmental violence by the least powerful (ibid). Others who cannot cope with such conditions choose to move to the suburbs, slums, or very remote squatter settlements as forms of internal withdrawal and resentment, where those areas are not equally served with infrastructure such as schools, roads and other social services (ibid). The low-income areas or slums provide hidings for juvenile delinquent behavior, hence precipitating it. The literature resonates the situation in Dar es Salaam, where in addressing challenges such as juvenile delinquency had been mainly focused on providing essential public services to its residents, that have temporarily been solving the negative consequences of rapid urban growth/urbanization. Indeed, such measures did not devise proper urban spacing mechanisms which could foster access of juveniles to education opportunities.

4.2 The Connection of Urban Environment to Juvenile Delinquency

The urban space can be a breeding stock of juvenile delinquency, which in turn can hinder access to education by juveniles. This notion resonates with the literature surveyed as the urban environment seems feasible for committing juvenile delinquency (Peter and Yang, 2019; Ferdoos and Ashiq, 2015; Rasmussen, 2013). This owes much to the fact that urban growth has changed the structure of society through changing social relationships entirely. Owing to this phenomenon, it is complicated for parents to keep an eye on children, as they are over-engaged in their work. Consequently, children get exposed to numerous harmful activities, which make them delinquents (Ferdoos and Ashiq, 2015). Arguably, juvenile delinquents cannot access school, especially when they are detained in remand homes, are kept in prisons where they must follow a lengthy procedure of case determination in the legal system. The situation has been evident in Tanzania as several studies such as UNICEF in 2011 and Mashamba (2013) found that 1400 juveniles languishing in prisons. Mashamba (2013), pointed out that the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance Report (2011), revealed 1400 children who were held in adult prisons and detention facilities whose education needs were compromised.

Owing to this situation, the number of juveniles who went through the Remand home in Dar es Salaam is alarming, as especially those who are in such custody find it difficult to continue with education. This means committal of juvenile delinquency exposes them to remand custody or prisons which hinders their education opportunities. The table below indicates the number of juveniles who went through the Dar es Salaam Remand Home alone from 2015 to 2022 (Table 1). The table indicates that the number of male juveniles who went through the DRH was predominantly higher compared to female (1,235 males to 94 female). One of the reasons can be that male children are socialized for “outdoor” and masculinity which expose them to risk taking behaviours (such as juvenile delinquency) as compared to their female counterpart who are often subjected to social control. Out of these, 1,329 juveniles who went through the DRH, only 14 were there awaiting transport to Irambo Approved School in Mbeya, after getting convicted.

Table 1: Number of Juveniles who were served at the Dar es Salaam Remand Home

Year	Male	Female	Total	To Approved School
2015/16	102	5	107	2
2016/17	102	11	113	3
2017/18	105	5	110	2
2018/19	98	3	101	1
2019/20	119	4	123	1
2020/21	99	3	102	1
2021/22	132	7	139	1
Total	1,235	94	1329	14

Source: DSW, Dar es Salaam Remand Home, 2023

4.3 Focus on Economic Development

According to Peter and Young the city's ongoing environmental and social dilapidations have been associated with a massive emphasis on economic development in urban areas, which has led to a call for sustainable urbanization (investing in human capital) to curb past urbanization problems and implement a sustainable future (Peter and Yang, 2019). This echoes urban planning in Tanzania which has focused mainly on economic development, where the government prioritizes large-scale modern white elephant projects to increase national income and propel world-class urban settlements and buildings such as PSSF Tower near the Mlimani City shopping malls which are found in the study area (Dar es Salaam). Such an environment which includes high rise building and malls expel and purge out the poor and young people, who can do so with resentment, making them resort to juvenile delinquency in the new suburbs or squarer settlements created out for the expelled (Ferdoos & Ashiq, 2015)

4.4 Break away from the Traditional Values and Cultural Norms

The structure created by the urban environment breaks away from the traditional values and cultural norms that were encored on the philosophy of *ubuntu* (I am because we are) through which there were numerous initiatives manifested, with

a raft of non-formal locally arranged endeavors to address juvenile delinquency (Twikirize and Spitzer, 2019). Grounded on peoples' cultural, beliefs, values, and norms, these traditional initiatives are culturally sensitive, which denoted the fundamental recognition that one is because of other persons (Tutu, 1999). The basis on which the communal and collective approach from which the Igbo and Yoruba (Nigeria) maxim, "*it takes a village to raise the child*" stemmed from (Twikirize and Spitzer, 2019). The extended family dominated traditional African society, strengthening love and care and adult persons were socialized to care for the young ones, and children were considered an asset, where everyone in the community was responsible for correcting a deviant child (Mabeyo and Mvungi, 2019). Today, the social fabric network that held people together has ruptured (ibid). Indigenous models of education and problem-solving existed since immemorial and are continually becoming a popular way of solving people's problems in many parts of the world (Twikirize and Spitzer, 2019). To this end, Mabeyo and Mvungi (2019) recommended *Msaragambo* (practiced in the Kilimanjaro region) as a valuable mechanism for solving people's ailments, arguably children's education problems. *Msaragambo* is a self-help scheme that is used to help people towards mutual assistance, especially in difficult times (Mabeyo and Mvungi, 2019). Nowadays it is common to find in urban areas a child suffering or being abused and no one gets concerned. This situation calls for such an indigenous way of looking at things and a knowledge base that will facilitate the acquisition of appropriate knowledge and education to address the predicaments that befall juveniles, including juvenile delinquency.

4.5 Irresponsibility among Parents in Monitoring and Taking Care of their Children

Urban planning and city structures offer a breeding stock to juvenile delinquency. Ferdoos and Ashiq (2015) posited that most significant cause of juvenile delinquency in urban areas were lack of responsibility among parents in monitoring and taking care of their children appropriately and less control over their children, which plunges them into a society with insufficient spiritual values. In such an environment, misleading information from the media, such as television, magazines, newspapers, and the internet, acts as a source of acceptable knowledge and education instead of healthy norms and values (Ferdoos and Ashiq, 2015). This means, parents are influenced by the urban planning, structures, and its associated urbanism (as a way of life in urban areas) hence do not give time to have an eye on their children. The situation which leaves juveniles learn and practice delinquent behaviour from peer groups or people whom they are associating with. Delinquent behaviour such as stealing, drug use, truancy, and bullying become normal as a result juveniles fail to continue with education.

4.6 Ecstasy Anticipates from Juveniles

Ferdoos and Ashiq (2015) further argued that the urban environment anticipates ecstasy from juveniles, including modernity, new lifestyles, expensive materials,

facilities, and items such as expensive cars, houses, TVs, clothes, and telephone sets, to quench their needs. In this regard, juveniles may engage in activities that are clearly against the law or are juvenile delinquency to meet their needs (ibid). Once in such a situation, for example, through using illegal means they can find themselves in retention facilities/remand homes or prisons, where they can no longer easily access education. This is common in a country like Tanzania, where a study conducted by UNICEF in 2011 found that 1400 children ceased education since, they were in adult prisons. Indeed, once that child enters the traditional legal/ court system in Tanzania, it becomes difficult to continue with school. In Tanzania, the Law of the Child Act (LCA), PART X (S. 121) allows a convicted child to be committed to an approved school where he/she can continue with education for one to three years. Yet, practically, this is not always done as usually the procedure is lengthy and cumbersome to a single approved school that exists in Tanzania. Also, even though the approved school gives room for further continuing with education once a child is sentenced to it (for one to three years), usually, this takes place at a later stage of the post-trial process when the chances for re-entry in school are already diminished and slim, hence most likely losing the child's education opportunity. As argued herein the causative factor to this situation is the urban environment which anticipates ecstasy from juveniles, through modernity and new lifestyles.

4.7 The Globalization Process

Furthermore, as engendered by the mass media, such as television, radio, and newspapers, and coupled with technological advancement (including the broader use of the internet), globalization has had a lot of impact in the country as young men can learn new ways of life or easily imitate other practices and activities. This exposes them to delinquent tendencies rather than enabling them to concentrate on educational activities. Along with other factors as highlighted in this study, cause an alarming number of juvenile delinquents whose education opportunities are hindered. In this regard, the number of juveniles who went through the Juvenile Court in Temeke was alarming as such children especially who are in Remand custody or whose cases took a long time to dispose of, found it difficult to continue with education. The table below indicates the number of juveniles who went through such an institution in Dar es Salaam.

Table 2: Number of Juveniles who went through the Juvenile Court

Year	Male	Female	Total
2021	106	5	111
2022	161	3	164
2023	136	3	139
Total	403	11	414

Source: Juvenile Court at Dar es Salaam, 2023

4.8 Increased Urbanized Populations

Moser (2006) pointed out that geographical analyses suggest that countries with more urbanized populations have higher registered crime rates, arguably juvenile

delinquency, than those with well-rooted rural lifestyles and communities. The phenomenon owes much to the failure to accommodate huge populations, which give rise to squatter and slum settlements that provide hiding to juvenile delinquent activities. Such juvenile delinquents cannot access education. The settlements often lack basic social amenities like tarmac roads, schools, and health services.

Indeed, the high urbanization rate has exacerbated the degradation of the city's environment, including poor road infrastructure and child-friendly environment to enable young people to access school. Rasmussen (2013) noted that Dar es Salaam city is characterized by a mono-centric urban and administrative structure, which makes juveniles eschew, get resentments, and resort to juvenile delinquency. This can hinder access to education due to long-term detention facilities or imprisonment. Mashamba (2013), pointing to the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance Report (2011), revealed 1400 children who were held in adult prisons and detention facilities whose education needs were jeopardized. The same data was provided by UNICEF (2011) attesting to the presence of juveniles in adult prisons in Tanzania. Arguably, poor urban spacing is one of the vital precipitating factors for the commission of juvenile delinquency (Grymer, 1981) and impinges upon access to education for young people in Dar es Salaam.

The findings and the analysis tie well with theoretical framework (systems theory) which echoes the effectiveness of the system through the inter connectedness of parts of the whole, where failure of one part, i.e. Poor urban spacing can cause breakdown on a system, manifested in form of juvenile delinquency then young people who cannot access education opportunities. Similarly, on the conceptual framework, through the model applied in this study, the symbiotic relationship between variables was eminent. This means, it was noted that poor urban spacing is causative to juvenile delinquency which in turn eschews access to education for the juveniles.

5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

To conclude, as indicated in this study, the monofunctional pattern of the Dar es Salaam urban spacing has tremendously impacted the behaviour of young people, plunging them into juvenile delinquency. Other factors include focus on economic development, the globalization process, increased urbanized populations, and a break away from the traditional values and cultural norms. This calls for concerted action by all the pertinent actors including the central, local government and civil society organization, private individuals to work together. This also entails professionals such as teachers, sociologists, social workers and city planners to work together in city planning which ensures wellness of juveniles, and their needs are taken on board.

Based on the findings and discussion that have arisen in this paper, it is hereby recommended that: First, the central government and the local government should strive to ensure that towns and cities are well arranged/placed to limit squatter and slum settlements that can provide hidings to delinquent behavior due to denial of essential social services such as roads, playing grounds, schools, and a haven to deviant behaviors. This also entails a clear political will, on allocating a proper budget for urban spacing and taking stern measures against those who snatch areas allotted for recreation and playgrounds.

Second, the government and other actors (including researchers) should invest into research on indigenous models and practices that can help to put in place indigenous ethics so that children can grow up as responsible persons. Moreover, research should identify the indigenous knowledge appropriate for living in urban areas to be taught in school education syllabi. Third, vocational and entrepreneurial skills should be imparted in primary and secondary school curricular so that children can be able to create sources of meaningful economic livelihood upon graduation from compulsory education to address predicaments of poverty.

Four, all juvenile actors should establish awareness programs for parents on parenting skills and enable them to take time to listen and know children/juvenile needs, including the kind of education or knowledge they require. Lastly, city planners should design cities and infrastructure that engender not only economic prosperity, but rather balance with social needs, and they should not provide hidings that engender delinquency.

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