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Delinquency of the youth in rural Bisho:

A pastoral challenge

By

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DECLARATION

I, Lindelwa Mirriam Kumbaca, declare that this dissertation which I submit for the Degree of Masters in Theology (Practical Theology) at the University of Pretoria is a product of my own original work, and has not been submitted before for a degree at this or University. All sources I used have been indicated and duly acknowledged by means of complete references.

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Dedication

This dissertation dedicated to the memory of my late Mother Nomasomi Rhoda Kumbaca, my Grandparents Ndlovu Pakile Kumbaca and maDlamini Nonyaniso Mabel Kumbaca, my late sisters Nobuchule and Ndileka. My late Aunt, Nomalizo Norah Kumbaca, and all my Ancestors of Malunga, Mlandu, Mntungwa and Dlamini, Sijadu.

May their soul rest in peace and let the light shine upon them.

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Explanation of Acronyms

BRASPA: Bisho Rates and Service Payer Association

UCCSA: United Congregational Church of Southern Africa

EC : Eastern Cape

GP: Gauteng Province

CJCP: Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention

ECSECC –Eastern Cape Socio-Economic Consultative Council

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Definition of Terms

1) “Delinquent – is typically of a young person tending to commit crime, particularly minor crime”, (Oxford, 2022).

2) Juvenile - for or relating to young people (Oxford, 2022)

3) “Crime – is an action that constitutes an offence and is carrying a law punishment” (Oxford, 2022).

4) “Adults – is a person who is fully grown or developed”, (Oxford, 2022).

5) “Peers – is a person who belongs to the same age group or social group as someone”, (Oxford, 2022).

6) Youth is often associated with a sense of energy, vitality, and exploration as individuals navigate the transition from childhood to adulthood, (Oxford, 2022).

7) Clergy refers to individuals who have been formally ordained and appointed to fulfill the responsibilities and duties associated with the office of priesthood (Oxford, 2022).

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Abstract

This exploratory study investigates the root causes of youth delinquency in rural Bisho, focusing on the complex interplay of social, educational, and environmental factors influencing adolescent behaviour. Youths in rural communities face challenges stemming from their interactions within schools, religious institutions, and the broader community, as well as from peer and adult relationships. Many young individuals join gangs to establish a shared identity or pursue specific objectives, often rooted in criminal or delinquent activities such as drug trafficking, substance abuse, and other unlawful behaviours.

Understanding the underlying causes of youth delinquency is essential for designing effective interventions and operational resolutions to social problems. This research highlights key factors contributing to criminality among rural youth, with a particular focus on the socio-environmental context of Bisho, Kwatyutyu. Addressing this pastoral challenge requires collaboration among clergy, faith communities, and stakeholders, emphasizing their responsibility to nurture children as gifts from God.

Delinquent behaviours, including truancy, drug use, violence, property crimes, and interactions with the criminal justice system, were analysed using regression models to assess their impact on educational and occupational outcomes. Findings reveal that youth delinquency significantly hinders educational attainment for both males and females, even after controlling for standard status attainment variables. Furthermore, while delinquency consistently affects male occupational outcomes, its impact on female occupational outcomes is comparatively weaker.

The study underscores the importance of examining successful intervention programs from similar contexts to inform strategies aimed at mitigating youth delinquency in rural settings. Insights gained from the study, contribute to a deeper understanding of the factors shaping delinquent behaviour and inform policies aimed at fostering positive youth development.

Keywords: Youth delinquency, Juvenile, Peer, Adult, Crime, Deviant behaviour.

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Chapter 1

1.1 Introduction

This study examines the growing concerns of youth delinquency in the rural Bisho, in the Province of Eastern Cape, and its impact on families and the wider community. During a visit to my younger sister, the researcher was introduced to a troubling story involving her neighbour's adult child, who had recently been robbed by a group of local youths while on her way to the taxi stop. The perpetrators, known to the victim, threatened her with violence, warning her not to tell anyone about the incident.

This traumatic experience highlights the challenges faced by youth in rural communities, where bullying and criminal behaviour often go unchecked. We tend to view our children as lazy or unmotivated without recognizing that they may be facing threats from local bullies. This situation, particularly in the context of rural Bisho, was one of the most alarming accounts I have ever heard from young people in this area.

In a separate, yet equally distressing incident, I learned of a widow, a neighbour, who was robbed by a local youth while she was away attending bereavement rituals at her in-laws' home. Upon returning to her house, she discovered that her expensive jewellery and other personal belongings had been stolen by individuals who had pretended to be her friends. These youths, living in nearby informal settlements, took advantage of her vulnerable state as a widow. This incident raises critical questions about the erosion of traditional cultural values, such as Ubuntu, which emphasizes communal solidarity and mutual respect.

In African culture, a widow is not expected to publicly express distress or vulnerability. Yet, in this case, a widow who has already suffered the loss of her spouse now faces further trauma inflicted by local youth. This leads to a deeper reflection on the broader societal issues: How many other individuals have been affected by similar crimes? And, where is the Ubuntu ethos of "being with others" in these situations?

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As Cain (1997) observes, youth delinquency is a multifaceted issue, affecting young people from all social backgrounds, and is increasingly prevalent in South Africa, contributing to the nation's reputation for having one of the highest crime rates globally. Cain further argues that structural unemployment and socio-economic challenges play a significant role in the rise of youth crime. According to the National Youth Policy (2020/2030), young South Africans face considerable challenges, including a lack of access to meaningful employment opportunities. This issue is particularly acute in rural areas such as Bisho, where economic prospects are limited. Furthermore, research by Bezuidenhout and Joubert (2003) highlights the lack of recent studies focusing on youth delinquency in rural Eastern Cape, suggesting a gap in academic inquiry on this pressing issue.

In response to these concerns, the researcher proposes a pastoral care framework that addresses the experiences of victims and the views of families who are grappling with youth misconduct. As a theological student and a high school educator living in the rural community of Kwatyutyu, Bisho, the researcher is well-positioned to connect her pastoral experiences with the needs of the community. This research aims to design and implement a pastoral care program to support youth and families affected by delinquency. By engaging with the community, the researcher intends to provide practical and relevant solutions for addressing the root causes of youth crime and fostering a sense of shared responsibility.

A critical factor contributing to youth delinquency in rural Bisho is the high rate of unemployment and limited access to tertiary education. Many young people, after completing grade 12, struggle to gain admission to higher education institutions due to financial constraints. For those who manage to enrol, the challenge of securing funding for tuition often leads to disillusionment and, in some cases, taking part in illegal activities. The researcher seeks to explore these underlying factors in greater depth, aiming to provide insights into the broader socio-economic conditions that may contribute to youth delinquency.

The study will also investigate the role of local pastors and community leaders in addressing youth misconduct, to develop a pastoral care model that is both contextually appropriate and effective in reducing delinquency. By drawing on the

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principles of Ubuntu, which emphasizes communal care and the well-being of all individuals, the researcher hopes to propose a comprehensive approach that not only addresses the immediate symptoms of youth crime but also the structural issues that underlie it.

This research seeks to identify and know the complex relations between socio-economic factors, cultural values, and youth delinquency in rural Bisho. Through pastoral care and community engagement, the researcher aims to contribute to the development of strategies that can help mitigate the impact of youth crime and foster a more supportive environment for young people and their families.

1.2. Background to the Study

The issue of juvenile delinquency has been addressed in various ways across the globe, reflecting its pervasive impact on societies. Schmalleger et al. (2008:28), referencing the Japanese Times (2006), note that public support in Japan for capital punishment has grown in response to an increasing number of juvenile offenders. Similarly, Schmalleger and Bartollas (2008:39) highlight the alarming trend in the United Kingdom, where knife crime among adolescents has led to more injuries and fatalities than incidents involving firearms.

In South Korea, Kim and Kim (2008:1–15) report a rise in youth involvement in cigarette smoking, alcohol abuse, bullying, and particularly cybercrime, posing a significant challenge to the nation's deeply conservative values. In North America, Heilbrun et al. (2005:6) express concern over the intensity with which juvenile delinquents in highly industrialized countries are engaging in antisocial behaviours.

The researcher observes that youth delinquency has spread rapidly, fuelled by the media, social media, and television, which often sensationalize youth misconduct and contribute to its proliferation, even in rural areas like Bisho. Increasingly, communities are threatened by reports of violent acts such as attacks on teachers, shootings, sexual assaults, and gang involvement. “In the United States, the delinquent population has become a significant threat to public safety, overshadowing the general populace," (Heilbrun et al., 2005:6). This global

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phenomenon underscores the need for a comprehensive understanding of youth delinquency as an urgent social issue.

Boakye (2012:327–333) further emphasizes the importance of addressing youth delinquency, highlighting that if young offenders do not receive appropriate guidance, they may evolve into adult criminals.

Wondimu (2014) describes youth delinquency as a deeply ingrained social issue, with far-reaching consequences that place heavy financial and social burdens on both society and the government. The study emphasizes the importance of understanding the root causes of juvenile delinquency to develop effective interventions.

Bimal (2013) asserts that youth misconduct, which encompasses delinquent acts or crimes, harms individuals, communities, and society at large, making it imperative to address this growing social problem. The researcher proposes that educational reforms, starting with the primary school curriculum, should emphasize skill development rather than focusing solely on theoretical knowledge, offering youth better prospects and reducing delinquency.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, youth delinquency presents a unique challenge, with rising incidences of theft, arson, drug trafficking, and criminal behaviour among young people, all of which pose a serious threat to public order (Paul, 2010). In these regions, minors, traditionally involved in minor offenses, increasingly engage in more serious criminal acts, such as sexual violence, drug trafficking, armed robbery, and even terrorism, (Onyemachi et al., 2010: cited in Ajah and Ugwuoke, 2018).

This section of the study draws on both theoretical and empirical literature, encompassing perspectives from African and Western scholars, to establish the origins and context of the research. The study's rationale is further reinforced by Rev. Dr. Sonti's thesis, which argues that practical theology equips clergy to move beyond traditional preaching, helping them address real-world issues in their communities. Sonti (2020:100) states, "Practical theology is the study where a priest or pastor learns skills to implement sermons rather than just preach," Sonti (2020:100). Practical theology empowers leaders to engage with individuals facing

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social ills, offering pastoral care that heals and supports rather than judging (Gerkin's shepherding methodology).

This literature review seeks to examine the problem of youth delinquency, its implications for society, and the role of community leaders in mitigating its impact.

1.3 Preliminary Literature Review

This literature review synthesizes theoretical and empirical contributions from both African and Western scholars, providing a foundational understanding of youth delinquency as a pastoral challenge in rural Bisho. The significance of this study is underscored by Sonti (2020), who posits that "practical theology is the study where a priest or pastor learns skills to implement sermons rather than merely preaching" (Sonti, 2020, p. 100). This perspective emphasizes the necessity for pastoral leaders to engage actively with their communities, addressing the multifaceted social issues that individuals encounter, including youth delinquency.

Practical theology serves as a vital framework that empowers religious leaders to transcend traditional pulpit roles and engage with congregants in their lived realities. Sonti (2020) articulates that the responsibility of pastoral leaders extends beyond mere judgment; it encompasses a commitment to journey alongside individuals, offering support and healing to those grappling with various social ills. This approach aligns with Gerkin's pastoral care models, which advocate for a compassionate and empathetic engagement with youth facing delinquency.

The literature serves as a foundational basis for the study, particularly in relation to the themes of praise and worship within the pastoral care framework. Practical theology, as articulated in contemporary discourse, emphasizes the necessity of engaging with individuals beyond the confines of traditional ecclesiastical settings. The pastoral mandate is to accompany individuals on their healing journeys, eschewing judgment in favour of understanding and support.

This literature review aims to elucidate the multifaceted issues surrounding youth delinquency within communities and its broader implications for societal well-being, particularly focusing on the experiences of single mothers raising adolescent boys. This focus is informed by the work of Mhlabane (2020:103), Hyunok (2019:124), and

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Ramollo (2017:111), among others, who have explored the intersection of familial structures and youth behaviour in their respective theses. The literature reveals a pressing need to address the complexities of youth delinquency within communities. Mhlabane (2020) highlights the unique challenges faced by single mothers, who often bear the brunt of societal pressures while striving to supply a development for their children. This sentiment is echoed by Hyunok (2019), who emphasizes the important role that family dynamics participate in shaping adolescent behaviour, particularly in contexts marked by socioeconomic challenges.

Ramollo (2017) further contributes to this discourse by examining the broader societal implications of youth delinquency, noting its potential to undermine community cohesion and national stability. The intersection of these scholarly perspectives underscores the urgency of addressing youth delinquency as a communal and pastoral challenge.

By integrating insights from practical theology with empirical research on family dynamics and social issues, this literature review aims to illuminate the pathways through which pastoral care can effectively support youth and their families in rural Bisho. This literature review serves as a critical institute for understanding the complexities of youth delinquency in rural Bisho, emphasizing the role of pastoral care in addressing these challenges within the community context.

1.4 Research Methodologies

This research employs a qualitative methodology, which is defined as the operational framework that allow for a full understanding of complex social phenomena, particularly in pastoral contexts. According to Nduku et al., The qualitative research encompasses the techniques and procedures utilized by researchers to investigate specific methods relevant to their inquiries", (Nduku et al., and 2016).

The qualitative approach is particularly well-suited for this study as it seeks to investigate and understand the complexities and nuances of the subject matter through direct engagement with affected individuals, namely the youth and educators who influence their behaviour. Black emphasizes that; "The purpose of research

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design is to enhance knowledge and understanding of reality, which aligns with the objectives of this study", (Abram et al., 2017).

Despite extensive research on youth delinquency in South Africa, there remains a pressing need for deeper insights into the issue, particularly in rural contexts. Van der Walt articulates that research must adopt a scientific approach that is both exploratory and descriptive, thereby enabling a thorough and holistic understanding of the phenomena being examined (Goodman, 2013).

Dr. Emily Haney-Caron's research addresses the challenges faced by court-involved youth, particularly the high prevalence of psychiatric disorders within this population. Additionally, Haney-Caron's work highlights the importance of diversion programs as a means to improve service application among at-risk youth. Such programs can enhance access to necessary behavioural health services, potentially reducing delinquency.

Integrating these empirical insights with Charles V. Gerkin's pastoral methodology suggests a paradigm wherein practitioners engage in empathetic accompaniment of youth, addressing their mental health needs holistically rather than focusing exclusively on behavioural modification. This integrative approach acknowledges the intricate interplay between mental health and delinquency, advocating for interventions that resonate authentically with the lived experiences of young individuals.

This holistic approach not only aims to reduce delinquency but also aspires to reconstruct the lives of young individuals through sustained, supportive pastoral care.

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1.4.1 Conceptual Framework

The researcher develops a conceptual framework to analyse and share the challenges faced by youth in rural Bisho. This framework structures and clarifies the factors contributing to youth delinquency.

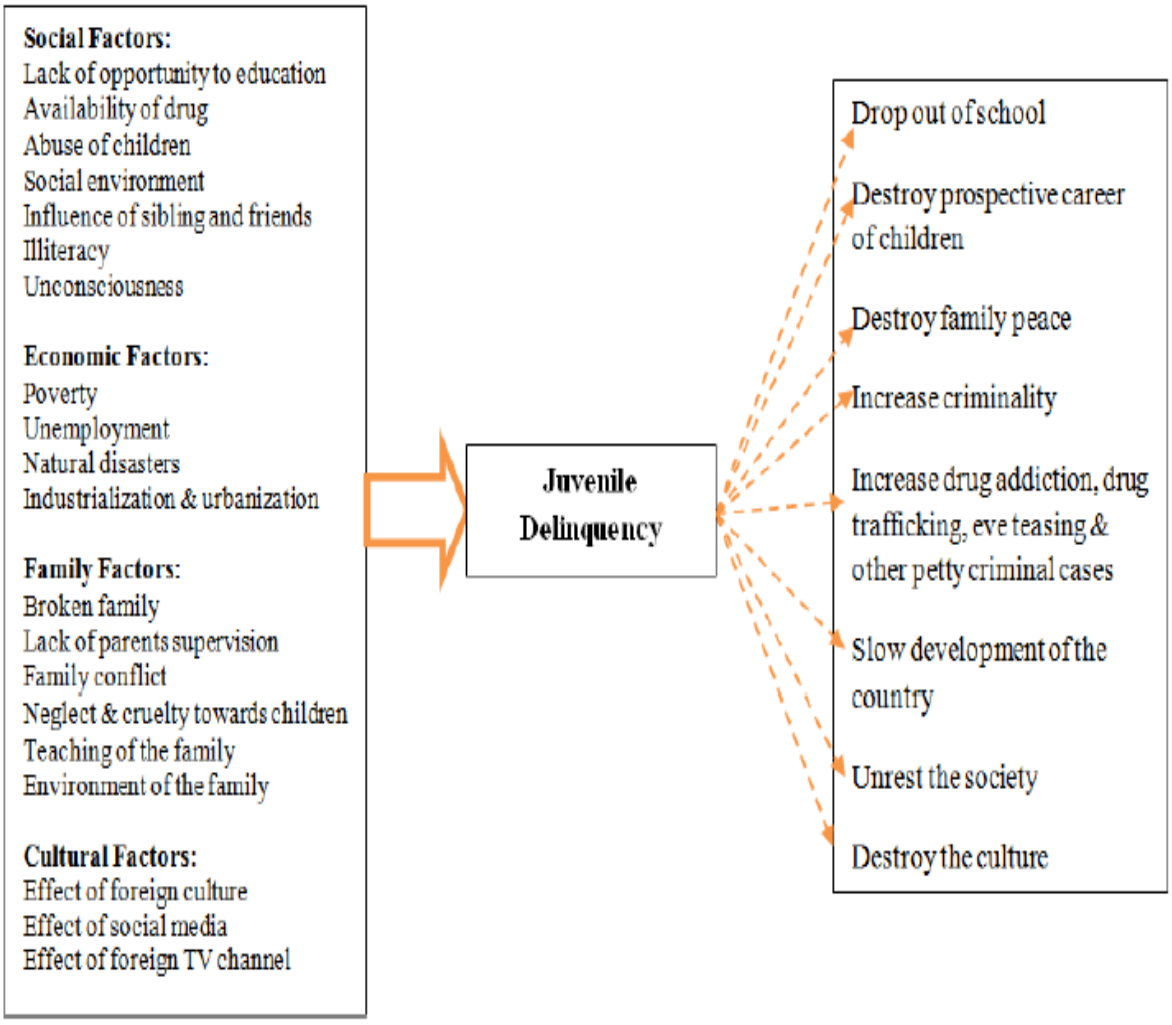

Figure1. A conceptual framework serves as a written representation that illustrates the expected relationships between factors and juvenile delinquency within a study. It provides a structured approach to understanding how different concepts are interconnected.

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1.5. Sampling of Participants

The sampling process involves selecting a group from that target citizens, which includes clergy and youth. The aim is to ensure that the sample reflects the broader community's characteristics. Mason notes that qualitative research typically involves smaller sample sizes, which can yield both practical and theoretical benefits (Azur et al., 2010). Davis further supports this notion, stating that smaller samples allow for more meaningful interactions and discussions, fostering a democratic environment where participants can express their views freely (Reid & Sullivan, 2015). This study will include participants aged 21 and above, comprising six males and six females, with a focus group of seven respondents (four males and three females) interviewed face-to-face at the Public Safety Complex of the local police department.

1.6. Purposive Sampling

The research employs purposive sampling, a non-probability technique that is particularly effective in qualitative studies. As Babbie explains, “Purposive sampling involves is selecting individuals who possess specific knowledge relevant to the research topic” (Kiesner et al., 2009). MacDonald emphasizes that, “This method is a fundamental decision point in qualitative research, allowing for targeted insights”, (Duell et al., 2023). Walliman adds that, “Purposive sampling is a non-probability sampling technique commonly used in qualitative research to deliberately select participants who are especially knowledgeable about or experienced with the subject of interest. This method aligns with the qualitative research goal of obtaining in-depth understanding from information-rich”, (Walliman, 2006)

1.7. Interviews

The data collection strategy for this research includes focus group discussions and interviews, which have gained recognition as valuable tools in social science research. Tollich notes the significance of these methods in capturing the complexities of social interactions (Liu, 2000). Barbour defines “Focus group interviews as structured discussions that encourage participant interaction, thereby

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enhancing the depth of insights gathered", (Kerr et al., 2010). Van Breda highlights the importance of conducting interviews in environments free from distractions to ensure that participants can engage meaningfully with the questions posed (Niño et al., 2016). The researcher concurs with this perspective, recognizing that a worldwide environment is crucial for eliciting thoughtful responses from participants.

1.8. Research Models

Gerkin advocates for a pastoral care approach that acknowledges historical practices while adapting to contemporary challenges faced by youth (Byrd et al., 2013). This research will explore how pastoral care can address youth delinquency by integrating insights from liberation theology and shepherding models. "Pollard's positive deconstruction model will employed to foster hope and resilience among youth, with a particular focus on those who have experienced marginalization", (Aziz et al., 2017).

Gerkin emphasizes the ethical responsibilities of caregivers, urging them to embody the compassionate example set by Jesus (Craig et al., 2011). This research aims to apply these theoretical frameworks to develop effective pastoral interventions that can positively influence the lives of youth in rural Bisho.

This research methodology is designed to provide a complete understanding of youth delinquency in rural Bisho through qualitative inquiry, purposive sampling, and structured interviews. By integrating established pastoral care models, the study aims to offer meaningful insights and practical solutions to address the challenges faced by youth in this context.

1.9 Problem Statement

Youth delinquency has been a subject of extensive scholarly inquiry on a global scale, with particular attention to its manifestations in South Africa. However, there remains a significant gap in research focused specifically on rural contexts, such as Bisho. Despite the existing body of literature, the complexities surrounding youth delinquency continues to evolve, necessitating ongoing research efforts aimed at achieving a deeper understanding of this phenomenon.

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Many parents and community members endure profound distress due to the involvement of youth in delinquent activities. The anxiety experienced by parents and siblings of young individuals engaged in criminal behaviour is often profound and difficult to articulate. The research seeks to elucidate the factors contributing to youth delinquency within the rural context of Bisho, Eastern Cape, and to explore the lived experiences of these youth. A central question guiding this inquiry is: What motivates youth to engage in criminal activities within their communities?

To further investigate this issue, the following sub-questions will be addressed:

- What roles do families play in influencing youth delinquency?
- What pastoral roles can clergy assume in supporting these youth?

1.10 Aims of the Study

The primary aim of this research is to expand a pastoral methodology that effectively addresses the needs of youth in contemporary society. A critical question to consider is: What factors provoke or influence youth to engage in delinquent behaviour?

To clarify the distinction between aims and objectives:

- The aim focuses on the overarching purpose and rationale of the research.
- The objectives emphasize the specific actions to be undertaken to achieve the stated aim.

Additional objectives include:

- How can caregivers effectively journey alongside youth in rural Bisho?
- In what ways does youth abusive behaviour impact community discipline?
- What pastoral solutions can be proposed to assist youth in overcoming the challenges they face?

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1.11 Significance of the Study

This research lies in its foundation in practical theology, addressing a pressing issue that requires pastoral intervention. The researcher posits this study aims to present novel insights and expand the body of knowledge within the field of practical theology, particularly concerning the pastoral care of youth experiencing delinquency within their families and communities.

This research aims to educate both pastors and community members about their attitudes toward youth delinquency, emphasizing the need for a compassionate approach that extends beyond mere judgment. The researcher advocates for the establishment of sacred spaces where victims can share their experiences of youth delinquency in a non-judgmental and supportive environment.

1.12 Motivation

A concerning trend among many young South Africans is the normalization of violence as a way of resolving conflict. The researcher is motivated by the urgent need to address the painful realities stemming from socio-economic challenges faced by youth in rural Bisho. Many of these young individuals are raised by single parents or extended family members, which can exacerbate feelings of isolation and hopelessness. Failure to address these issues seriously may result in a generation of youth who feel increasingly disillusioned with society, perpetuating cycles of selfishness and violence.

1.13 Research Gap

While existing research has explored youth delinquency in various fields, including education, criminology, and theology, there remains a notable lack of focus on rural contexts, particularly in the Eastern Cape. Scholars such as Sonti (2016) and Ramollo (2017) have made contributions to the understanding of youth delinquency, yet their work often overlooks the unique challenges faced by rural populations.

Matza (2018) highlights the psychological impact of poverty on youth, suggesting that it can drive them toward delinquent behaviour as a means of escape from their circumstances. Furthermore, Ntshangase (2011) emphasizes the long-term effects

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of delinquent behaviour on families and communities, noting that untreated issues can lead to chronic misconduct. The interchange ability of terms such as delinquency, misconduct, and antisocial behaviour throughout the literature further complicates the discourse. This study aims to fill the existing research gap by focusing specifically on youth delinquency in the rural context of Bisho.

1.14 Assumptions

Conducting research necessitates certain assumptions to guide the inquiry. For this study to succeed, the following assumptions will be upheld:

1. Respondents will provide answers voluntarily and without bias.

2. The evidence collected will be accurate, precise, and reliable, serving as a foundation for addressing the issues at hand and informing pastoral care strategies.

3. The information gathered from participants will accurately reflect the realities of youth in rural Bisho.

4. The researcher possesses adequate resources to facilitate the research process, particularly in Chapter Five, which will focus on healing interventions for youth.

1.15 Chapter Outline

Chapter One

This chapter is based on the Introduction, Background, and Problem Statement, the significance, research design, and methodology are discussed the concept is explained. The aim and its objectives, the importance of the study, and that motivate youth. The research gap approved; research to contribute new information to the existing body of understanding. A literature review was stated and clarified.

Chapter Two

Chapter 2 is focusing on a literature review of the problem of youth delinquency and the historical perspective of the problem based on African and Western Scholars.

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Chapter Three

Chapter 3 deals with the Methodology of youth delinquency based on Gerkin and Pollard's shepherding model of caring and qualitative interviews.

Chapter Four

Chapter 4 explains and unpacks the word delinquency, especially the crimes they commit to others. Lack of clergy pastorally cares for youth delinquency in the rural Bisho.

Chapter Five

Chapter 5 will care for an analysis of the methodology, using Interviews and group discussions, including the appendixes with questionnaires. It analyses the interview stories from youth and answers from pastors.

Chapter Six

Chapter 6 considered the healing method; the main results were summarized and tabulated. The interpretation is done against the aim of the result dealing with healing and pastoral care and creates healing and pastoral caring methods that will help clergy in their pastoral journey with delinquency.

Chapter Seven

The chapter gives a summary of the study. It is an summary of the research findings and recommendations and is set to achieve.

1.16 Preliminary Conclusion

The proposed topic by the researcher causes the impact and consequences of youth delinquency in the condition of rural Bisho with the research in the Eastern Cape. The key objective is to know the consequences of engaging in youth delinquency. The research outcomes discovered that the significance of the study is that youth delinquency is a human problem and needs to engage in more research, especially in the rural context.

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The literature reviewed by African and Western researchers to explain the objectives in chapter one. The findings agreed that there is a need to understand the causes of human nature and their interaction relating to youth delinquency. Hence, the research model understood will correspond to Gerkin and Pollard.

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Chapter 2: Literature Review

2.1 Introduction

This chapter offers a comprehensive analysis of the existing body of literature on youth delinquency, particularly within rural Bisho, South Africa, to deepen the understanding of this growing concern. The review aims to offer both theoretical and empirical perspectives from African and Western scholars, shedding light on the causes, manifestations, and consequences of youth delinquency in rural areas. By examining the broader context of youth crime globally and in South Africa, the literature review aims to facilitate greater community engagement in addressing this issue.

South Africa, renowned for its high levels of violence (Altbeker, 2007), is one of the countries where youth delinquency has reached alarming levels, underscoring the urgency of addressing the issue. This chapter will also explore the underlying factors contributing to youth delinquency in rural contexts, highlighting issues such as socioeconomic challenges, substance abuse, and the influence of peer networks. Ultimately, the review seeks to empower communities, including religious and social leaders, to play a proactive role in preventing and mitigating delinquent behaviour among youth.

2.2 Global Problem of Youth Delinquency

Youth delinquency is a pervasive global issue, affecting both rural and urban areas. While rural areas like Bisho are often seen as more peaceful than cities, they are not immune to the surge in youth criminal activity. As Hill et al. (2001) observe, societies worldwide have expressed concern over what they perceive as "out-of-control" youth. Rural areas, including Bisho, regularly report instances of violence, theft, and even brutal killings, often perpetrated by young people.

In both African and Western societies, numerous factors contribute to youth delinquency. In African contexts, family breakdowns, parental neglect, and exposure to violence often push young people toward anti-social behaviour. In Western contexts, similar issues such as family dysfunction, substance abuse, and

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inadequate parental supervision are identified as contributing factors. Moreover, socio-economic conditions such unemployment, and not have access to educational opportunities play an important role in shaping youth performance particularly in rural areas.

While gang involvement and criminal activity may offer youth a sense of belonging or financial gain, they often expose them to further risks. Thus, a multifaceted approach involving early intervention, mentoring, vocational training, and rehabilitation services is essential in addressing youth delinquency in both African and Western societies.

2.3 Youth: A Period of Transition

Youth represents a crucial stage of development, where individuals transition from childhood to adulthood, navigating issues of identity, independence, and social integration. This period is marked by heightened energy and curiosity, but also by a sense of rebellion, as young people seek to define themselves outside of their family structures. In rural Bisho, the challenges of this developmental stage are compounded by limited opportunities and the pressures of a socio-economic situation marked by poor quality and instability.

The lack of positive role models and opportunities for meaningful social engagement often exacerbates the vulnerability of youth to delinquent behaviours. The concept of "youth" thus refers to individuals who are no longer children but are not yet fully integrated into adulthood. This transitional phase can lead to both positive outcomes, such as personal growth and community contribution, as well as negative outcomes, such as involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour.

2.4 Delinquency: Definition and Conceptualization

Delinquency refers to behaviours or actions that deviate from established social and legal norms. According to Professor Walter C. Reckless (1988), delinquency is often characterized by an abnormal attitude toward societal rules and values. These behaviours are considered unlawful because they breach the legal and moral expectations of society.

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There are several challenges in understanding delinquency: it is a social problem, a behavioural issue, and a legal concern. Delinquency represents a gap between the norms of acceptable behaviour and the actions of youth who fail to meet these expectations. This gap is influenced by various social, psychological, and environmental factors, including peer pressure, family dysfunction, and socioeconomic hardships.

2.5 Youth Delinquency in Rural Bisho

Youth delinquency in rural Bisho is often overlooked in broader national discourses on crime. However, as this study will argue, young people in Bisho are increasingly engaging in criminal activities, both as perpetrators and victims. According to Glanz (1996), the criminal careers of many youth begin in adolescence and peak during their mid-twenties.

Youth in Bisho, aged 21 to 34 years, are particularly involved in crimes ranging from minor theft and traffic violations to more serious offenses like drug trafficking, robbery, and violent assault.

Historical and contemporary studies reveal that youth delinquency has deep roots in socio-cultural and economic conditions. Shoemaker (2009) traces the origins of youth crime back to 7th century Europe, and contemporary South African studies (Zenzile, 2008) show how widespread disrespect for the rule of law has contributed to the normalization of youth crime.

As noted by South African, “Youth often face traumatic home environments, including exposure to abuse, parental conflict, and criminal behaviour within their families,” (Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention, 2009). These experiences significantly contribute to their involvement in delinquent activities. Furthermore, as Britannica highlights, violence among youth may be driven by anger or frustration, often taking the form of physical or verbal aggression.

While external factors such as peer influence, substance abuse, and lack of economic opportunities contribute to youth delinquency, familial support remains crucial in mitigating these risks. Parents and community leaders have a unique role in shaping the values and behaviours of youth. Howard Becker's (1966) typology of

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delinquency identifies four types of delinquent behaviour: individual, group-supported, organized, and situational. Understanding these types is the key to developing targeted interventions for rural areas like Bisho.

2.6 Forms of Delinquency

Youth delinquency manifests in various forms, influenced by personal characteristics, family dynamics, and social and environmental factors. Moffitt (1993) notes that youth who engage in delinquency later in life typically after the age of 15 are more likely to desist from criminal behaviour as they mature. However, impulsivity, poor self-control, and a tendency to seek excitement contribute to delinquent actions in adolescence.

2.6.1 Personal Characteristics of Youth

Young people often exhibit a blend of creativity and impulsivity, which can lead them to experiment with risky or deviant behaviours. Factors such as hyperactivity, risk-taking, and a poor ability to delay gratification often contribute to delinquency. Moreover, youth tend to be highly influenced by peer groups and external social pressures, making them more susceptible to engaging in criminal activities without fully considering the consequences.

2.6.2 Family Demographic Characteristics

The family is a foundational influence on youth development. According to Maree (2008), the family plays a crucial role in socializing children, teaching societal norms, and guiding behaviour. A disrupted family structure, characterized by absent or neglectful parents, often leaves youth vulnerable to delinquency. In Bisho, as in many other rural areas, family breakdown and economic deprivation are key factors contributing to youth involvement in crime.

2.6.3 Social and Environmental Factors

Youth delinquency is often directly linked to the broader society and environmental context. Factors such as poverty, inadequate housing, and exposure to violence and drug use can significantly increase the chances of youth engaging in criminal

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behaviour. As Finley (2007) and Maree (2008) observe, gang involvement and peer pressure are common in environments where youth face limited opportunities and high level of social breakdown. The absence of constructive social structures in rural Bisho exacerbates these problems, leading to higher rates of youth delinquency.

2.7 The Status of Youth Delinquency in South Africa

South Africa is amongst the countries with some of the highest rate of crime globally, and youth delinquency is a major contributing factor. Crime, particularly violent crime, has become endemic in South African society, where theoretical frameworks exist to guide crime reduction efforts but often fall short in addressing the spatial and socio-economic dimensions of crime. South Africa's reputation as one of the most violent countries globally is well-documented; Altbeker (2007:12) describes it as "the most murderous country in the developed world." The escalating levels of youth delinquency participate in this pervasive culture of violence, compounded by high levels of poor quality and structural joblessness.

Youth unemployment is particularly concerning in South Africa, as it creates fertile ground for delinquent behaviour. Clifford (1974) highlights that the dire lack of employment opportunities and widespread poverty contribute to youth engaging in crime. The National Youth Policy (2020 - 2030) recognizes the significant challenges faced by young people, with structural unemployment being a primary barrier. Economic deprivation is closely linked to criminal behaviour, as Breetzke (2010) points out, emphasizing the global connection between poverty and crime. However, Maree (2008) argues that it is not ignorance or lack of education alone that contributes to youth delinquency; rather, it is the way individuals perceive their socio-economic realities within their social environments.

Criminologists have long studied the patterns of delinquent behaviour among youth. According to Bezuidenhout et al. (2008:12), delinquency is a phenomenon that has been documented across generations. Schmalleger & Bartollas (2008) assert that, “Adolescents engage in delinquent acts on a daily basis, with various social, economic, and familial factors influencing this behaviour” (Schmalleger & Bartollas,

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2008). Youth delinquency spans all demographics and arises from diverse backgrounds, suggesting that it is a multifaceted issue.

2.8 Youth Delinquency in Rural Bisho

Bisho, located in the Eastern Cape, is one of the poorest regions in South Africa, marked by high unemployment rates and inadequate infrastructure. The region's socio-economic challenges are a direct consequence of its historical context, particularly following the dissolution of the independent Ciskei government.

The Eastern Cape government has undertaken initiatives to address socio-economic rights through the Social Needs Cluster and Cabinet Committee (ECSECC, 2001), but the region continues to suffer from a substantial backlog in infrastructure and services.

In rural areas like Bisho, emergency services are often inefficient, with residents experiencing long wait times for police or medical assistance. Macroeconomic shifts in South Africa have exacerbated this problem, leading to a segmented labour market, especially affecting the rural poor. The youth in Bisho face significant challenges in accessing basic services, education, and employment opportunities, which increases the likelihood of engaging in criminal behaviour.

Research on youth delinquency in rural Bisho indicates that personal characteristics, family environments, and community contexts play pivotal roles in shaping the likelihood of young people engaging in criminal activities.

The lack of adequate housing and employment opportunities, combined with substance abuse, creates an environment where delinquency is more likely to thrive. Youth in rural Bisho often face isolation, with limited social and recreational outlets. In some cases, this leads to the use of alcohol and drugs, which further fuel antisocial behaviour. As the World Youth Report (2017:38) notes, young people exposed to dysfunctional family environments, substance abuse, and poverty are at higher risk of becoming involved in delinquency. The conditions in rural Bisho reflect these trends, with many youths turning to drugs as a form of escapism due to a lack of opportunities and support systems.

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2.9 Factors Influencing Youth Delinquency

Various factors contribute to youth delinquency, both at the individual and societal levels. Scholars have identified several key influences on delinquent behaviour. A significant body of research links poor family relationships, ineffective parenting, and socio-economic hardships to youth crime. Cernkovich and Giordano (1987:32) argue that poor marriages, lack of parental supervision, and inconsistent discipline are primary contributors to delinquency.

The family plays a critical role in shaping a child's behaviour, with studies showing that a lack of parental involvement often leads to poor behavioural outcomes in youth. Hirschi's (1969) control theory emphasizes the importance of strong parental attachments in preventing delinquency. Youth who maintain close relationships with their parents are less likely to engage in criminal activities.

However, when these attachments are feeble or non-existent, as is often the case in single-parent households or families experiencing poverty, the risk of delinquency increases. Further research supports the view that parental supervision and discipline are essential for deterring youth from criminal behaviour. Canter et al. (1982:149–167) emphasize the critical role of the family in shaping youth behaviour, while Hirschi (1969) underscores the importance of attachment to parents in fostering compliance with societal norms.

2.10 Dangers Affecting Rural Youth

Rural youth in South Africa face a range of unique challenges that exacerbate the risk of delinquency. Kruger and Prinsloo (2008:241–259) highlight the physiological, cognitive, and emotional changes that occur during adolescence, which are often compounded by the socio-economic hardships of rural living. According to Asthana et al., “Poverty in rural areas remains endemic, driven by a complex supporting, financial, and community background” (Asthana, Halliday & Gibson, 2009). They argue that the United Kingdom's resource allocation processes for public services have been insufficiently inspected from the perspectives of social exclusion and social justice.

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Herselman (2003:945-955) notes that rural areas face significant resource constraints, which negatively affect youth development. The limited access to quality education, employment opportunities, and healthcare services contributes to a cycle of poverty that is difficult to break. Substance abuse, inadequate infrastructure, and exposure to violence are also major factors influencing youth behaviour in rural areas. “Increasingly prevalent youth violence manifests in various forms, including drug-related crimes, property offenses, and street violence”, (Weisheit and Brownstein, 2016:237). The community environment plays a significant role in shaping these behaviours, with high levels of violence in rural communities contributing to a normalization of aggressive behaviour among youth.

2.10.1 Home and Family Factors

The family environment is the primary context in which youth are socialized and learn behavioural norms. A stable, supportive relative can act as a protecting factor against delinquency, whereas dysfunction within the family unit such as abuse, neglect can increase the chances of involvement in criminal activities. The size of the family, family structure, and the presence of effective parenting are key factors in shaping youth behaviour.

Research shows that family breakdowns and poor parenting contribute significantly to delinquency (Mapesela, Hlalele & Alexandra, 2012:91–103). In rural Bisho, the high birth rate and lack of education about family planning often lead to overcrowded homes, where parents may struggle to provide adequate care and supervision. This lack of parental involvement can leave youth vulnerable to engaging in delinquent behaviours.

2.10.2 Community Factors

Communities in which youth live have a profound impact on their behaviour. In rural Bisho, the combination of poverty, unemployment, limited healthcare, and poor education creates an environment conducive to delinquency. Parents in such communities often face high levels of stress, which can affect their ability to maintain and control young people needs. The widespread prevalence of violence in these

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communities further contributes to the normalization of aggression and criminal behaviour.

Youth who grow up in communities where violence is common may come to see it as an acceptable way to resolve conflicts. The lack of proper educational and recreational resources means that youth often have fewer outlets for positive social engagement, which further increases the risk of delinquency.

2.11 Attempts to Address Youth Delinquency in Rural Bisho

In response to rising youth delinquency, local communities in Bisho have initiated programs such as BRASPA (Bisho Rural and Social Protection Association), which aims to address issues of corruption and criminal behaviour. These community-driven initiatives work in partnership with local authorities to provide support for at-risk youth and promote community safety.

Through programs like community policing forums and WhatsApp groups, residents can quickly alert authorities to criminal activity, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of law enforcement in the area. Other interventions focus on providing youth with productive alternatives to crime, such as engaging in sports, community service projects, and small businesses. These initiatives help to create a sense of purpose and belonging, which can deter young people from engaging in delinquent behaviour.

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2.12 Preliminary Conclusion

This study highlights the complex interplay of factors that contribute to youth delinquency in rural Bisho. Both individual and societal influences including family dynamics, community conditions, and access to resources play a most important role in shaping youth behaviour. The family is an instrument of society, which is suitably charged with the duty of socializing with youth. It is important to understand that other societal situations lead to youth delinquency.

The researcher proved that the uncontrolled family background that is not encouraging for shaping citizen may influence or drive youth to engage in various delinquent activities. "Youth want a variety of opportunities and meaningful roles to contribute to their World, through relationships with parents and educators" (Judd, 2006). As the community we need to work together to build a change. Moreover, we cannot leave work to survivors.

The research suggests that addressing these issues requires a holistic approach, which includes strengthening family relationships, improving community infrastructure, and providing youth with positive outlets for social engagement. In doing so, it is possible to reduce the incidence of youth delinquency and promote the well-being of young people in rural areas.

The study's findings underscore the significance of early involvement and community-based strategies in tackling youth delinquency. It is crucial to foster strong social bonds and support systems that can guide young people toward positive behaviours and away from criminal activities. The following chapter will explore potential methodologies for addressing these issues within pastoral care and community development.

The researcher's findings exposed the different factors that may have an emotional impact on youth intentionally or automatically to misbehaviour. Scholars such as Demuth et al, “Research on delinquency has frequently examined various aspects of direct and indirect parental controls, including supervision and disciplinary practices," Demuth & Brown (2004: 41).

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Hence, the extent of the delinquency of youth in rural Bisho is crucial. The researcher findings are to deal with the issue of methodology (based on name of pastoral methodology) in the next chapter, begin addressing their issues and how relieves the space in the youth.

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Chapter 3: Methodology

3.1 Introduction

The study aim is to investigate the prevalence and underlying factors contributing to youth delinquency in this context, focusing specifically on the pastoral challenges encountered by religious leaders in addressing this issue. The previous chapter reviewed the existing literature on youth delinquency, particularly in rural Bisho. The study examines how the process of delinquency is manifested among youth in rural Bisho, where it is generally discouraged within the community.

In this chapter, the methodology is explored, which refers to the philosophical approach that underpins the research process, including the principles and procedures followed in the study. As Crotty (2003) defines it, methodology is the philosophy that shapes the research process. Bailey (1987) expands on this, suggesting that methodology involves the values and assumptions that motivate research and the standard procedures for interpreting data and drawing conclusions.

Van der Walt et al. (1982) further emphasize that research methodology involves the systematic application of methods and logic to gather data, interpret it, and draw conclusions. It provides a framework for ensuring reliability, validity, and objectivity throughout the process of the research. The choice of methodology is shaped by the nature of the research question, available resources, and the intended outcomes. Common methodologies include qualitative research, mixed methods, and case studies, each serving different purposes in addressing the research problem.

In the context, the researcher draws in Charles Gerkin's model of pastoral care for delinquent youth and Nick Pollard's positive deconstruction theory to inform interventions aimed at helping youth overcome feelings of anger, guilt, and hurt that often accompanies delinquent behaviour.

3.2 Nature of the Research

The study employs a qualitative methodology to investigate issues related to youth, delinquency, and corresponding pastoral responses. The qualitative method is chosen due to its focus on gaining a deeper kind of the complex social and

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emotional factors that contribute to youth delinquency. In particular, the study examines the responsibility of pastors in offering care and guidance to troubled youth. Given that many pastors in rural areas may be unaware of the full extent of delinquency and related challenges in their communities, the study seeks to explore the pastoral role in supporting youth and the community.

The research employs qualitative data collection methods, including interviews and questionnaires, to gather information from youth and pastors in the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa in rural Bisho. The study will also include the use of narrative therapy, which is particularly suited for exploring the emotional and psychological impacts of delinquency on young people.

3.3 Qualitative Research

The research uses qualitative methods to interpret and understand the experiences of youth involved in delinquency, as well as how clergy members provide pastoral care to these individuals. “Qualitative research is grounded in interpretive inquiry, aiming to explore phenomena in their natural context and uncover the meanings individuals attach to their experiences”, (Denzin & Lincoln, 2011). This approach is particularly suitable for examining the complexities of youth delinquency, which cannot be fully understood through quantitative measures alone. The researcher will explore how youth experience trauma and emotional distress following delinquent behaviour, and how pastors can support them in their journey toward healing.

3.4 Epistemology

Epistemology is the theory of knowledge, shaping the research approach. The epistemology refers to the way knowledge is generated and interpreted, particularly in the context of youth delinquency. The researcher may adopt different epistemological perspectives, such as positivism, which seeks objective, scientific truths, or a more constructivist approach, which emphasizes the subjective experiences of individuals.

The researcher adopts a modernist epistemology rooted in positivism to guide the investigation of youth delinquency in rural Bisho. By investigative the causes,

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implications of delinquent behaviour, the study aims to generate new insights that can inform pastoral care practices. This epistemological approach is aligned with qualitative research, which seeks to understand the social realities of youth delinquency through the lived experiences of individuals within the community.

3.5 Grounded Theory

Grounded theory methodology is employed to generate a theory that is on the participant's experience. This inductive approach is well suited to the study of social behaviours in real-world contexts, as it allows for the development of conceptual categories and theories from the data itself (Strauss & Corbin, 1997). Grounded theory is particularly useful in exploring the complex and multifaceted nature of delinquency, as it offers a framework for generating insights based on participants' perspectives.

3.6 Population

Research focuses on youth between the ages of 21 and 35 years in rural Bisho, who involved in or affected by delinquent behaviour. These participants were selected from the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa. The study aims to include youth who have engaged in actions such as theft, drug use, or violence, as well as pastors who provide support to these individuals.

3.7 Factors Contributing to Youth Delinquency

Youth delinquency is influenced by various social, economic, cultural, and familial factors. In rural Bisho, these factors are compounded by unique challenges, such as limited access to education, economic instability, and social isolation. The study explores how these factors contribute to delinquent behaviour and identify potential strategies for addressing them through pastoral care and community-based interventions.

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3.8 Data Collection

Data will be collected using qualitative methods, including interviews, focus groups, and document reviews. Interviews will be conducted with youth and pastors to gather first hand insights into the causes of delinquency and the effectiveness of pastoral care interventions.

3.9 Sampling

The sample will include 21 youths from rural Bisho who have engaged in delinquent behaviour in the past 8 months, as well as pastors who provide pastoral care to this population. Purposive sampling is particularly effective in qualitative research, as it ensures that participants have relevant knowledge and experiences to contribute to the study (Babbie, 2009).

3.10 Purposive Sampling

Purposive sampling will be used to select participants who meet the specific criteria for the study. This method allows the researcher to focus on individuals knowledgeable about the phenomenon being studied, in this case, youth delinquency and pastoral care. “Purposive sampling is particularly useful in qualitative research, where the goal is to gain in-depth insights rather than to generalize findings to a larger population”, (MacDonald, 2008).

3.11 Interviews

These interviews will be conducted at a community police station in Bisho, and, informed consent will be obtained from all participants prior to their involvement in the study. Interviews will be audio-recorded with permission and subsequently transcribed for detailed analysis.

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3.12 Questionnaire

Questionnaires will be used to collect demographic information and to gather insights into participants' experiences with delinquency and pastoral care. The questionnaire will include questions about participants' family backgrounds, education, peer influences, and involvement in delinquent activities. The data collected through the questionnaire will supplement the interview data and provide a broader understanding of the factors influencing youth delinquency in rural Bisho.

3.13 Pastoral Care Methods

Two pastoral care models will guide the study: Charles Gerkin's Shepherding Model and Nick Pollard's Positive Deconstruction Model. Gerkin's model emphasizes pastor as a caregiver, guiding and supporting individuals through times of spiritual and emotional turmoil. Pollard's model focuses on deconstructing harmful beliefs and behaviours and replacing them with more positive, life-affirming perspectives.

3.14 Participant Selection Criteria

Participants in the study will be selected based on their involvement in delinquent behaviour, as well as their motivation to participate in the research. The sample will include male and female youth between the ages of 21 and 35, with a mix of first-time and repeat offenders. The focus group will consist of youth who have engaged in various delinquent behaviours, including theft, drug use, and violence. Participants will be recruited through outreach efforts in the Bisho community, and informed consent will be obtained from all individuals involved.

Random sampling can be used to select representative samples and ensure of a balance representative of different subgroups (gender, age, socio economic status). By means of purposeful sampling technique, 21 participants were recruited from the rural Bisho youth community. The researcher introduced the study into the youth and the pamphlets were distributed to them.

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The participants involved in the detailed interviews included.

Name	Gender	Age	Reoffender	Thief	Drug	Home situation
YD 1	Male	22	yes	yes	yes	Orphan, lives with grandmother and sister
YD 2	Male	23	no	yes	no	Lives with mother, stepfather and son
YD 3	Female	25	no	no	yes	Orphan, lives with her aunt and uncle
YD 4	Male	25	no	no	yes	Lives with father, stepmother
YD 5	Female	21	yes	yes	yes	Orphan lives with his two brothers
YD 6	Male	30	yes	no	no	Live with both parents and two sisters.
YD 7	Female	29	yes	yes	no	Live with mother, brother and her daughter.
YD 8	Female	27	no	no	yes	Orphan lives with her grandparents and brother.

Table 1: Summary background information of youth delinquent in rural Bisho

3.15 Charles Gerkin's Model

Shepherding Model of Charles Gerkin provides a framework for pastoral care that focuses on guiding individuals through spiritual and emotional challenges. In the context of this study, Gerkin's model will be applied to help pastors provide care to youth struggling with delinquency, offering them emotional support and guidance as they work through their issues.

The church accepted the practice and responsibility of shepherding, which expected in the term pastoral, and regarded its services to the community as pastoral work. The pastor is often conceptualized as a shepherd, with the members of the church likened to a flock under their care, entrusted with the responsibility of guiding and nurturing the church community, which is metaphorically referred to as the flock.

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The act of care is considered a central and vital element of this relational model. Within this framework, the concept of care is regarded as a critical and foundational aspect of the pastoral relationship.

The author has adopted Charles Gerkin's model of pastoral care to engage with and attend to the challenges faced by youth involved in delinquent behavior, applying this theoretical approach to better understand and intervene in their situations, to find the way and address their needs. The application of Gerkin's shepherding model alongside Pollard's concept of positive deconstruction will be pivotal in the success of the research. Gerkin's model emphasizes the process of accompanying individuals through their struggles, particularly the journey of a troubled soul.

In this context, the researcher draws on the example of Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, as a guiding figure in the pastoral care approach. Gerkin's theory does not assist a delinquent behaviour other than assist people affected by delinquency. In (Psalm 78), show us the shepherding involves protection, tending the needs, strengthening those is weak and feeding the saved flock, (Psalm 78: 23, 52).

Although healing is a process, but the affected community will calm down, trust God. The researcher cited Jibiliza's article, "Healing our Brokenness; a pastoral care approach", (Jibiliza, 2021). According to Jeremiah 17, when Jeremiah prays to God said, "Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed, save me and I shall be saved…Jeremiah 17: 14", (Jibiliza, 2021:8).

By integrating these dimensions, his approach fosters a holistic understanding of care that acknowledges the interconnectedness of spiritual beliefs, cultural contexts, social relationships, and personal health. This balance enables a comprehensive and empathetic response to the needs of individuals, particularly within the community setting. Gerkin said, "People have found the care of God and God's people communicated to them in the richness of ritual practices as well as in the wise guidance" (Gerkin 1997:24).

The shepherd model is particularly pertinent to this study, as it underscores the shepherd's responsibility to offer care, guidance, and support to their flock. This metaphor highlights the pastoral duty to nurture, protect, and support the well-being

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of those under their care, which aligns with the central themes of the research to journey with the youth in delinquency in rural Bisho.

It is important for the reader to recognize that Gerkin's model plays a crucial role in providing guidance and support, effectively addressing the complexities of pastoral care. Through his framework, he offers valuable insights that help navigate the nuanced needs of individuals within a community, fostering both spiritual and personal growth, the researcher with journeying with youth delinquency, but he is not able to help reconstruct their world. This is where a Pollard positive deconstruction caring method becomes important. In view of the above, let us now explain his methodology. An example of deconstruction would be taking apart the old and troublesome and replacing it with the new.

3.16 Nick Pollard's Positive Deconstruction Model

This is a process of reinterpreting and reshaping negative beliefs and behaviours, replacing them with more positive, life-affirming perspectives. This model is particularly relevant for addressing youth delinquency, as it helps young people reframe their experiences and behaviours in a way that promotes personal growth and healing.

The issue of youth delinquency in rural Bisho presents a significant pastoral challenge. Pollard's framework of positive deconstruction, as outlined in his book *Evangelism Made Slightly Less Difficult*, offers a structured model aimed at effectively communicating the gospel and guiding individuals toward a transformative relationship with Christ. This can be defined as the process of critically analysing and evaluating a particular understanding of a phenomenon through the perspective of theology or practical theology.

Positive deconstruction is a process of modernisation in a positive way what already occurs into better. It is a process of analysing old model of lives and changing them with new positive concepts.

Pollard (1997:44), emphasizes that positive deconstruction involves a constructive approach aimed at replacing false beliefs or misconceptions with new and improved

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understandings. In the process of positive deconstruction, elements of truth already held by individuals are recognized and affirmed, serving as essential foundations for further transformation and growth.

The researcher observed that many young individuals are unaware of the underlying worldviews and assumptions influencing those who seek to guide or care for them. The researcher focused on Pollard theory of positive deconstruction is accommodating youth that have delinquency, to deconstruct the essential worldview of self-doubt, anger and feeling of denial and help them to reconstruct a new approach of dealing with their situation of feeling of negative, neglect, and anger resultant from delinquency of youth in rural Bisho.

3.17 Ethical Considerations

Ethical considerations will be taken into account throughout the research process to ensure the protection and well-being of participants. Informed consent will be obtained from all participants, and confidentiality will be maintained. The researcher will also ensure that participants are fully aware of their right to withdraw from the study at any time, without facing any negative consequences.

It is important to note that ethical and confidentiality will keep all the way throw-out this research. This will help protect the youth, but also allow them to share their problem that has led them to steal. “The considerations of ethics help the researcher to strike a balance between seeking scientific knowledge and protecting the research participants,” (Bless 2013:27). “Archived data sets regarded as essential to secondary data analysis research,” (Irwin, 2013; Bishop, 2005). The study will also follow to the ethical guidelines, ensuring the well - being and rights of participants.

Irwin said, “There are other ethical concerns that had been raised associated to the informed consent required by the primary researcher, as this offered no assurance,” (Irwin: 2013). Birkman et al added that, “The secondary researcher would protect their records,” (Bickman & Rog, 2009). The researcher considered that, several factors required careful consideration; however, the following deemed most relevant

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and appropriate for this study, informed consent procured from all participants, their privacy and confidentiality must keep constant.

3.18 Informed Consent and Voluntary Participation

Informed consent will be obtained from all participants, ensuring they are fully informed about the study's purpose, procedures, and their rights, including the right to withdraw at any time without penalty as participants.

According to Kumar, “Participants are made aware of the purpose of the study,” (Kumar, 2005: 212). The researcher must follow the procedure as well for, “The possible advantages and disadvantages of their participation in the study explained to the participants in an informed consent letter,” (Strydom, 2011: 117-118). Then the researcher also appreciated the results of quite a number of youths who wished not to be part of the study.

“The fact that participants could withdraw from the research at any time, with no negative consequences for them, stated in the letter of informed consent.” (Bless et al 2013: 143-144). Permission asked in order to digitally record interviews. “The opportunity for counselling in case participants experienced emotionally distress due to the research, was explained,” (Bless et al 2013: 33; Kumar 2005:212).

3.19 Data Analysis

"The collected data will be analysed using thematic analysis, which involves identifying patterns and themes within the data," (Braun & Clarke, 2006). The researcher will look for recurring themes related to youth delinquency, the role of pastoral care, and the emotional and psychological impact of delinquency on young people. Data analysis will be conducted systematically and rigorously to ensure the reliability and validity of the findings.

3.20 Preliminary Conclusion

This chapter outlined the methodology employed in this study, detailing the research approach, data collection methods, and ethical considerations. Qualitative research,

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grounded theory, and pastoral care models will guide the study in exploring youth delinquency in rural Bisho. The findings from this study will contribute to a deeper understanding of how pastors can more effectively address the needs of youth involved in delinquency and provide support for their emotional and spiritual healing.

As expected, the participant communication with application ranged from a non-offender to first-time offender to repeat the offender. The attendance form of the study for the target group that participants be youth boys and girls of age between 21 to 35years who had engaged in one or more delinquent behaviours in the past 8 months and was held doing theft, burglary, arson, peer fights, damage of property, community norm violation, drug users, antisocial behaviour, and livestock theft. Earlier to the selection of the participants, a leaflet circulated and those who were willing to participate in the study given more details of research.

This chapter is dealing with the research methodology that is used in this study. In this study, the researcher added a description of the research design, data sampling and data analysis. The findings of this study are about the applications that highlighted the context of where the study done and will achieve whether to start with Positive Deconstruction and end with Qualitative (interviews). This study discovered that, equipping youth with essential life skills that empower them to make positive choices and navigate challenges effectively. Life skills programs can include training on communication, problem solving, decision-making, conflict resolution, and emotional intelligence.

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Chapter 4: Research Outcomes: Delinquency and Rural Youth

4.1 Introduction

The absence of parental guidance and the reliance on grandparents as primary caregivers has become increasingly common in contemporary rural societies. This chapter explores the relationship between youth delinquency and rural community dynamics, with a specific focus on Bisho in the Eastern Cape. The research examines data collected from male and female youth alleged to have engaged in delinquent activities between 2020 and 2022.

As the capital of the Eastern Cape Province, located in the Amatole District, rural Bisho represents a microcosm of the broader challenges facing youth in under-resourced regions. The socio-economic realities of rural life often drive migration to urban areas, contributing to informal settlements and exposing youth to new risks. Youth delinquency, defined as behaviours that contravene social norms or laws, is a multifaceted issue shaped by socioeconomic factors, family dynamics, and access to opportunities.

This chapter evaluates the causes and implications of youth delinquency in rural Bisho, is proposing strategies for community-level intervention.

4.2 Definitions and Explanation of Delinquency

4.2.1 Delinquency

Delinquency is a broad term that involves a wide range of behaviours that differ across contexts (e.g., with different laws relating to a minimum age of alcohol purchase).Delinquency encompasses behaviours that breach societal norms or legal statutes. Rosenbaum shares that "Delinquency refers to behaviour that is considered to be a violation of social norms or laws. According to Rosenbaum, it is given to the hypothesis that adolescents are responsible for better risk-taking, especially in affectively arousing contexts," Rosenbaum et al., (2018).

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It is commonly associated with criminal or antisocial behaviour, particularly among youth. Delinquent behaviour includes acts such as theft, vandalism, drug abuse, violence, and truancy. Delinquent behaviour is seen as a sign of underlying social, psychological, or familial issues. Common forms of delinquent acts include theft, vandalism, drug use, and truancy. It requires a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach involving elaboration between researchers, policymakers, communities, and service providers. This study is going to analyse from an African to Western perspective. The findings revealed that it is important to tailor the methods to the specific needs and resources available in rural Bisho.

The findings address the root cause of youth delinquency and provide support systems, which can help to create a safer and more positive environment for youth in the community. The subject is tackled in several ways. Below the researcher will analyse different types of delinquency.

Many individuals who engage in delinquent behaviour during adolescence can turn their lives around with appropriate support and interventions. However, early identification and intervention are crucial to prevent further delinquency and this chapter aims to share ideas about the issue of delinquency.

Contributing factors to delinquency include:

- Socio-economic challenges: Poverty and limited resources exacerbate youth vulnerabilities.
- Family dysfunction: Lack of parental supervision or unstable family environments can increase risk.
- Individual traits: Impulsivity, low self-control, and poor decision-making abilities.

Effective prevention of delinquency requires multifaceted interventions, including family-based therapies, community involvement, and accessible mental health services. Evidence-based strategies, such as cognitive-behavioural therapy and mentoring programs, have proven successful in mitigating youth delinquency.

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4.2.2 Gender and Delinquency

Gender plays a critical role in shaping delinquent behaviours. Research suggests that males exhibit higher rates of delinquency than females, often due to socio-cultural norms and expectations. In rural Bisho, these norms may manifest in distinct ways, with traditional gender roles influencing behaviour.

4.2.3 Types of Delinquency

Delinquency is classified into two main types: minor delinquency and serious delinquency. Minor delinquency refers to relatively minor offenses, such as burglary or underage drinking, while serious delinquency involves more serious crimes, such as assault, robbery, or drug trafficking. Delinquent behaviour can manifest in various forms, ranging from minor offenses to serious crimes. It noted that not all-delinquent behaviour leads to a lifelong pattern of criminality.

Common types of delinquency include property crimes (such as theft and vandalism), drug sins, gang involvement, violence and assault, sexual crimes, and status faults (only illegal offenses just because the individual is a minor, e.g., truancy or curfew violations). The reader should now understand why delinquent behaviour a way is of disrupting the community.

Youth delinquency in rural Bisho manifests in both minor and serious forms.

- Minor Delinquency: Includes offenses such as underage drinking and petty theft.
- Serious Delinquency: Encompasses crimes such as assault, robbery, and drug trafficking.

Other categories include:

- Property Crimes: Theft, burglary, vandalism, and arson.
- Drug-Related Offenses: Involvement in the possession, distribution, or trafficking of illicit substances.
- Gang-Related Activities: Participation in organized criminal groups.
- Violent Crimes: Acts of physical assault, bullying, and domestic violence.

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- Sexual Offenses: Misconduct, including sexual assault and rape.

It is essential to address these behaviours through a combination of preventive measures and restorative practices to mitigate their impact on communities.

The researcher refers to a minor who is a youth under the age of twenty-two years to thirty-four years of age delinquency in rural Bisho. The researcher based on that age youth because it is where the problem starts when they are confused about what to choose or follow in their life. Some of them are drop out at the tertiary level others rejected in their homes because they are not working and are disappointed by their loved ones. This is the stage of a mature youth but is not easy; it becomes worse when your life is haphazard. When youth are influenced by peers to join delinquency to get fast money and make life easy.

According to the growth-related research of Moffitt (2006), "two different types of offenders occur in adolescence, one is the repeat offender, referred to as the life-course-persistent males who show extreme, pervasive, persistent antisocial behaviour from early childhood to adulthood. They hypothesized to be rare, with pathological risk factors and poor life outcomes. In contrast, adolescence-limited males show similar levels of antisocial for which youth criminal or delinquency begins and ends during their age of adolescence," (Moffitt, 2018:178).

4.3 Gender and Delinquency in Rural Bisho

Gender plays a significant role in shaping the experiences of delinquent youth. Gender-based violence and trauma often contribute to delinquency among both males and females. In rural Bisho, the limited availability of support services exacerbates the situation, making it imperative to address trauma and victimization as part of delinquency prevention.

In rural Bisho, factors such as poverty, limited access to resources, and discrimination against certain racial groups may intersect with gender to influence delinquent behaviours. Addressing gender and delinquency in rural Bisho requires a multifaceted approach that considers the unique challenges and dynamics of the community. Understanding these intersecting factors can help to develop targeted interventions.

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Gender-based violence and trauma contribute to delinquency among males and females. In rural Bisho, where access to support services may be limited, addressing trauma and victimization becomes crucial.

Pastoral approaches can include:

- Counselling and Mentorship: Providing psychological and spiritual guidance tailored to gender-specific needs.
- Safe Spaces for Survivors: Creating environments where victims of trauma can heal and rebuild their lives.
- Promoting Gender Equality: Engaging in community education initiatives to foster respect and reduce gender-based violence.

Pastoral efforts can include providing counselling, creating safe spaces for survivors, and promoting gender equality and respect to prevent further victimization. It is important to consider gender-specific factors and needs when designing prevention and intervention programs. Such efforts, combined with broader interventions, can contribute to reducing delinquency and fostering inclusivity.

4.4 Factors Contributing to Delinquency in Rural Areas

Youth delinquency in rural Bisho is shaped by various socio-economic, cultural, and environmental factors:

1. Limited Educational Opportunities: Poor infrastructure, inadequate resources, and lack of vocational training limit youth development, fostering feelings of hopelessness and pushing some toward delinquent behaviours.

Lack of education prevents many young individuals from getting the necessary skills to secure stable employment, increasing their vulnerability to delinquency. Rural youth live in a hopeless position because of the lack of an important learning support resource for successful learning. In other words, lack of education will lead some of them in the following areas.

The quality of teaching and learning is affected by poorly developed infrastructure. Lack of quality education and vocational training opportunities can

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lead to a feeling of hopelessness among rural youth, increasing the likelihood of delinquent behaviour. Limited education limits employment opportunities open to youth and there is a need for better educational opportunities for youth in this area.

2. Substance Abuse: A prevalent issue among rural youth, often resulting from escapism or peer pressure.

It is leading in rural areas, and the youth may turn to drugs and alcohol as a means of escape or peer pressure, leading to delinquency. It often makes worse existing social and economic challenges, leading to increased criminal behaviour and involvement in illegal activities.

3. Socio-Economic Conditions: High poverty levels and unemployment rates exacerbate youth frustration, increasing vulnerability to criminal behaviour.

A rural area often faces higher levels of poverty, limited job opportunities, and inadequate access to education and healthcare. The researcher cited Bradley et al, who stated that, "The low socioeconomic status of rural societies has some flow outcomes that indicate the cruelty of the poverty that is experienced in these areas," (Bradley & Corwyn, 2002).

Prior et al, agreed and said, "Many opinions specify that youth are in delinquency because of poverty, which drove them into criminal acts for survival," (Prior & Paris, 2005).

The researcher exposed some youth states and agreed that they run from their homes to beg for survival on the highways because they lack basic needs. On those highways, they later commit crimes to survive, being involved in petty crimes like stealing goods.

De Villiers et al, suggest that "A lack of such basic resources as running water, a transport system, and health services is an indication of the need for a more balanced distribution of resources in rural areas," (De Villiers & Van den Berg, 2012). Mapesela et al. (2012) concur with other scholars by arguing that, "The inadequate distribution of resources maintains a low quality of life in rural settings," (Mapesela et

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al 2012: 98). These factors can contribute to feelings of frustration, hopelessness, and an increased risk of delinquency among young people.

4. Weak Social Support Systems: The absence of effective community programs and mentoring initiatives leaves at-risk youth without guidance.

Rural areas may have limited access to social services and preventative programs. "Lack of resources has become an indicator of the slow pedal and remoteness of rural communities" (Asthana et al., 2009). Poor infrastructure in rural areas increases a lack of access to essential services. The lack of infrastructure decreases the quality of life of youth and the education the youth receive in rural areas.

The lack of community-based programs, mentoring initiatives, and counselling services makes it hard for young individuals to receive basic guidance and support. There must be a consciousness that in maturity, values come from the family, religious, and education-related background. Age success is more possible when society strives to reclaim adolescent lawbreakers at an age, where positive correction is possible before the criminal career is settled.

5. Family Instability: Dysfunctional family structures and lack of parental control contribute to behavioural issues.

Family is the establishment of human society. "Parents and families use a large amount of impact on youths' attitudes and behaviours, youth live shaped by several other influences that include exactly how they are perceived by their communities and authorities, particularly for their commitment to minor delinquency," (Tyler & Trinkner, 2017). Large numbers of studies have exposed many youth delinquents come from families living in poverty.

Unstable family structures, neglect, and lack of parental control can contribute to youth delinquency. Research highlights the importance of positive family relationships and parental involvement in reducing delinquency rates. In some cases, youth's aggressive, antisocial, and violent behaviour can learn from their families, (Wright & Wright 1994. These are some of the problems faced by youth in Bisho.

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4.5 Peer Influence and Cultural Norms

"The national youth policy of South Africa defines youth as a person between the ages of 14 to 35 years," (National Youth Policy, 2000:11 and 1996: 10). The youth age is important for the study to understand the most affected youth. Youth brings energy and curiosity while age brings wisdom and experience. This stage of life contributes unique perspectives on the journey of personal growth and understanding.

Understanding the dynamics of youth and age within the rural context is crucial for developing targeted strategies. Peer influence plays a significant role in youth delinquency, especially in environments with limited recreational opportunities. Rural youth in Bisho often face peer pressure to engage in substance abuse, risky behaviours, or criminal activities. Cultural norms and expectations further shape these influences, necessitating targeted interventions to promote positive peer interactions.

"Peer pressure especially within a delinquent peer group can significantly impact a youth's decision-making process and involvement in delinquent behaviours. Some youth get into delinquency due to peer pressure and disturbance against parental authority," (Maseko, 2009). Peer pressure exists in rural areas in Bisho, which is the capital of the Eastern Cape Province. Most rural areas have different dynamics as compared to urban settings; the influence of peers can still be significant.

Peltzer et al. said, "Youths exposed to the life of delinquency as they witness a crime that goes unpunished and want to follow it" (Peltzer & Ramlagan, 2009; Yago & Cem, 2008; Chilenski et al., 2015). Cultural norms and expectations in rural communities can shape how peer influence manifests. The values and behaviours of peers are strongly influence individuals and leading to the traditionalism or the abnormality.

The researcher and community work together forming a supportive and nurturing environment that promotes the positive development of youth in rural Bisho.

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4.6 Pastoral Interventions

Pastors and faith-based leaders can play a vital role in addressing youth delinquency in rural Bisho. Key strategies include:

- Community Engagement: Organizing events, sports activities, and workshops to provide constructive outlets for youth.
- Counselling Services: Offering a safe space for youth to discuss challenges and explore positive life choices.
- Skill Development: Facilitating vocational training and leadership programs to enhance employability and self-esteem.
- Rehabilitation Facilities: Establishing centres for youth struggling with severe delinquent behaviours to receive specialized care and reintegration support.

The relationship between youth and their pastors can play a vital role in addressing this issue of delinquency. Pastors can serve as mentors, providing guidance, support, and spiritual teachings to the youth. By building strong relationships with the youth, pastors can create a safe and nurturing environment where young people feel heard, understood, and valued.

"Youth told or educated by elders on how to choose between right or wrong, even where to be at what time." Professor Masango in his article stated, "Youth is described from the perspective of its characteristics" (Masango, 2006, 105-115). Pastors can play a role in addressing the delinquency of youth in rural through these activities.

Community Engagement: The pastor can actively engage the community, organizing events, and activities that involve the youth. This can include sports tournaments, educational workshops, and community service projects. By providing positive and constructive outlets for the youth, the pastor can help divert their energy towards productive activities.

The pastor can offer counselling services to the youth, providing a safe space for them to discuss their challenges, concerns, and frustrations. By addressing

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underlying issues such as family problems, peer pressure, or lack of opportunities, pastors can help youth navigate these challenges and make positive choices.

Pastors can facilitate skill development programs for the youth, focusing on mentoring them, and working with them in the area of practical skills such as leadership, communication, and vocational training. By equipping the youth with these skills, the pastor can improve their self-esteem, increase their employability, and provide them with a sense of purpose and direction.

By working together, both can create a comprehensive approach to address the delinquency issue, pooling resources, and expertise to provide holistic support to the youth.

4.7 Collaborative Efforts

Addressing youth delinquency requires collaboration between local organizations, schools, law enforcement, and community leaders. Sharing resources and expertise ensures a comprehensive approach to prevention and intervention. Additionally, empowering parents through workshops and support groups can strengthen family structures, fostering environments conducive to positive youth development.

4. 8. The Role of the Church and Society

The church can serve as a moral compass, guiding youth toward constructive behaviours. However, families and society at large must reinforce these efforts by instilling moral values and creating opportunities for youth. Community-based programs, mentorship initiatives, and accessible social services are crucial to reducing delinquency rates and supporting at-risk youth.

The relationship between the youth and their pastor should build on trust, respect, and genuine care. Pastors can have a positive impact on their lives, fostering a strong bond with the youth, and helping them overcome challenges and make positive choices for their future. Caregivers can enter the space of those who are rejected by the community in various ways. May I suggest rehabilitating facilities; as some of them need to be isolated and helped which means they need to be removed from their environment. Many Pastors have suffered great loss trying to help in the

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ordinary way by bringing them to church and praying for them. Just to discover that the church was broken into groups, and musical equipment and instruments were stolen by the very individuals whom they were trying to help. That is why the researcher suggested a rehab centre for Pastors to work from.

4.9 Preliminary Conclusion

Youth delinquency in rural Bisho is a complex issue influenced by interrelated factors, including socioeconomic challenges, educational limitations, and family dynamics. Addressing these root causes through evidence-based pastoral and community interventions can foster positive youth development and reduce delinquent behaviours.

In the subsequent chapter, the researcher will explore interviews to develop a pastoral methodology for effectively addressing youth delinquency in rural Bisho.

Gender-specific influences: Poverty, limited resources, and discrimination intersect with gender, shaping different pathways to delinquency.

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Chapter 5. Interviews

5.1 Introduction

Chapter five considers the lives of the individual participants to collect empirical data. The analysis and findings came from the information obtained from youth and clergy who counselled and engaged in the fight against youth delinquency in rural Bisho. Most of the societies who live in rural Bisho know that violence is a serious problem and it is becoming more and more in rural areas of Bisho.

The researcher uncovers specific instances of youth delinquency, examining contributing factors and potential interventions. In this study, the active approach is the qualitative approach, to analyse and transform data into findings, with no regulatory procedure. The literature from Western and African scholars was analysed. This chapter deals with interviews in the province of Eastern Cape with youth delinquency in rural Bisho.

(Merriam, S.B, 1998, 69) Cited by (Zabeko), "The most common form of interview is the person-to-person encounter; where one person brings or obtains information from another. In every form of qualitative research some data and occasionally all of the data are collected through interviews," (Zabeko: 2015:52) M.Th. Practical Theology dissertation UP, i.e. Pastoral approach to caring for HIV orphans.

The researcher's understanding of interviews is to start interviews by establishing a friendly and welcoming atmosphere. Introduce yourself, explain the purpose of the interview, and assure the interviewees that their participation is valuable. The issue of youth delinquency in rural Bisho presents a significant pastoral challenge. To better understand the phenomenon, interviews were conducted predominantly in isiXhosa, the indigenous language widely spoken and preferred by the adult residents of the area. These interviews were subsequently translated into English, the designated medium of instruction, to facilitate broader accessibility and analysis. The use of isiXhosa ensured cultural relevance and resonance, enabling participants to express their perspectives authentically, while the translation into English ensured the findings could be effectively communicated to a wider audience.

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The pastoral challenge highlights the complications faced by community leaders in addressing and preventing youth delinquency within a rural context.

5.2 Preparations for interviews

The researcher interviewed the female, male youth, and clergy as time officially permitted. The following questions for Youth asked:

1. Can you journey with me by sharing the struggles you are facing in Bisho?

2. In your struggles, who has helped work with you?

3. Can you share your views about youth delinquency?

4. In your own words, can you share with me your understanding of the word delinquency? What causes youth delinquency?

5. The word 'youth,' what does it mean?

Another group interviewed was the clergy who will journey with the youth in delinquency in rural Bisho. The purpose is to find the solution to solve the problem and to have programs that will help and keep them busy to stay away from delinquency, in their respective denominations.

The researcher interviewed clergy, and the following questions were asked.

In your understanding, do clergy play a pastoral role in journeying with youth delinquency?

What are the struggles that the youth are facing in Bisho?

In what way can the clergy address pastorally the issue of delinquency?

Do you think that the Clergy helps care for youth in Bisho?

Approach the interviews with understanding and respect for the interviewees' experiences and views. Create a safe and non-judgmental space for the youth delinquency to share their thoughts and concerns. Building knowledge helps create a comfortable environment for open and honest communication. Control, the

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individuals involved in addressing youth delinquency in rural Bisho. This may include community leaders, pastors, parents, and the youth themselves.

5.3 Pre interviews

The researcher signed an agreement with the participants declaring that the personal information given during the study would handle anonymously and confidentially. "The researcher normally expects to respect the confidentiality and anonymity of the participants and others involved in her research task," (Struwing & Stead, 2001:132). In Chapter Five, the researcher answered the primary and secondary research questions of Chapter 1.

The interview process was conducted with the researcher informing participants that they could choose the language of the interview. In both inquiries' samples, groups willing to proceed in English are on record by the researcher. After completing the interviews, voice recordings are transcribed word for word. "Considerations in data analysis including computer-assisted programs, the method of open coding, and memoing are used," (Creswell 2009:186; 2016:152).

The interviews were conducted with both clergy and youth in rural Bisho to permit participants to share their stories of pain, crime, cruelty, and violence. Record key points, quotes, and any significant observations during the interviews. This will help to analyse the data and synthesize the information gathered. In the next chapter, an informed analysis will be provided.

A questionnaire was used for the interview. Due to discomfort with the system recorder for some of the participants, the researcher decided to validate the accuracy of the responses by reading them aloud to the participants at the end of the interview. For consistency, the researcher decided not to use a tape recorder even in the other interviews.

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5.4 Interviews

During the sessions, interviews were recorded and explained to the participants when questions were not clear. The researcher explained it and took time to make them understand fully. There is a case study shared by the pastor before the interviews start.

5.5 Questions and Responses

All questions were posed in the presence of the participant, and their responses were recorded in writing and complete recording.

5.5.1 The case study of Lindokuhle Deyi (not her real name)

On Friday, the 07 October 2022, a woman Lindokuhle Deyi (not her real name) was going to town to buy groceries and cleaning materials. Mother Lindokuhle is a widower and almost in a second month after she buried her husband. The widow goes to town using public transport (taxi), to know a woman a widow identified by wearing a black dress, black shoes, and a black hat, and must wear these clothes for 3 6, or 12 months depending on her in-law's ritual.

During that period, women were not allowed to sit in front, speak loudly, and look about. After she had done her grocery, she used taxis and public transport. They robbed her because they knew that she was not allowed to speak in public and not allowed to scream and ask for help due to this custom she adhered to. They are under the impression that she will receive a lot of money after she claims the policies of her husband. To rob, a widow is easy and simple due to many traditional rules and the difficulties she follows during that time sometimes for a period of twelve months. During that period, she becomes a target for married men who, helping with the motive to deceive and exploit her, seizing her husband's finances and properties.

While at home, noticed that she lost her cell phone, and she realised that the incident had taken place when she got into the taxi. By the time she arrived at her home, a young lady came and said, she found this phone at the taxi rank. Her daughter phoned; want to speak to her that is where she knew the owner of the phone. She thanked her for being honest, with a gift of R50.

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It was an hour after that, and young boys came into her house and asked for money, jewellery, a laptop, a tablet, hats, jackets, beautiful clothing, and some other expensive materials. She refused to give them. They forced her to enter while she tried to call for help unfortunately no one came, and the police came after two hours. They beat her and took everything they wanted in her house.

When the police came and asked her to open a case. The community forum acts on this, by looking for suspects. They found many cell phones, laptops, and televisions in a shack in the village. According to family tradition, if you have a problem with someone else in the family, report it to the father and the family will be charged.

5.5.2 Lindokuhle her experience as a victim of youth delinquency

Lindokuhle is the wife of a late husband who was working in Johannesburg mines. She is in her second month wearing mourning clothes for her husband. She has a mansion house in rural Bisho, and her children are working in big cities left alone in the house. She has a house cleaner and a garden boy working three days a week. Unfortunately, that day workers were off duty, and it was early after the funeral not everybody knew that she was alone at home.

Other family members are living not far from her house. Some women of this kind are commonly not allowed to visit homes, it is difficult to ask a neighbour to look since is going to town and thinking that she will come back within two hours. She saw herself having difficulty living with this thing (thing or way of living). She asks her many unanswered questions, the trauma of losing her husband and now traumatized by a crime committed by young adults.

5.5.3 Analysis of a victim of youth delinquency.

Lindokuhle victimized by a youth who sought to exploit and traumatize her, demonstrating a deliberate intent to inflict harm. This incident underscores the pressing need to address the root causes of such behaviours among young people in rural communities and highlights the importance of providing support systems for victims to recover from these traumatic experiences. After these conversations from

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both sides, the researcher journeyed with youth and noticed that their anger is jealousy of seeing a woman, a widower sit comfortably after she lost her husband. In their little understanding and anger, they want to torture her after she poisoned their uncle. Everything related to the death of a husband falls under the umbrella of wife witchcraft. No one trusts a wife in the sickness of a husband the family always blames her.

The action of these young adult happens after hearing rumours from their parents. Many parents will love their children and instead teach and discipline them to respect everybody who is an adult. "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not give false testimony against your neighbour," (Exodus 20:12–14). Young individuals growing up in economically disadvantaged communities face a lack of opportunities and exposure to violence and crime.

The researcher's purpose is to deal with the issue of violence and crime done by youth in delinquency. She will explore the literature available and connect it with the real experiences of community lives with youth in delinquency. During interviews with various focus groups, respondents raised diverse issues regarding the contributing factors to youth delinquency in rural Bisho. These discussions highlighted a range of perspectives and insights, offering a deeper understanding of the underlying causes driving such behaviour among the youth in this community.

In most situations as the victim obeys Christ and wishes a close relationship with him, the evildoer will eventually surrender and not return.

5.6 The interviews with the youth in delinquency

The participants involved in the detailed interviews included.

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5.6 The interviews with the youth in delinquency

The participants involved in the detailed interviews included.

Name	Gender	Age	Reoffended	Thief	Drug	Home Situation
YD 1	Male	22	yes	yes	yes	Orphan lives with grandmother and sister
YD 2	Male	23	no	yes	no	Lives with mother, stepfather, and son
YD 3	Female	25	no	no	yes	The orphan lives with her aunt and uncle
YD 4	Male	25	no	no	yes	Lives with father, stepmother
YD 5	Female	21	yes	yes	yes	Orphan lives with his two brothers
YD 6	Male	30	yes	no	no	Lives with both parents and two sisters
YD 7	Female	29	yes	yes	no	Lives with mother, brother, and her daughter.
YD 8	Female	27	no	no	yes	Orphan lives with her grandparents and brother.

Table 1: Summary background information of youth delinquents in rural Bisho

Variables such as age, gender, and social background are reflected for the summary to access various collections of expressed views (Davis, 2007: 147).

Participant One

YD is a 22-year-old male youth who is an orphan and lives with his grandmother and sister. YD said, yes, and shared the struggles his facing in rural Bisho.

a) Can you journey with the researcher about the struggles you are experiencing in rural Bisho?

YD said, it happened after his promotion from grade 12 with a low pass rate and did not improve his symbols due to financial problems. He influenced by his peer group to do mischief like alcohol, drug abuse and engaged in criminal activities. He also blamed the limited access to educational opportunities and limited resources for

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quality education that led to a lack of motivation among them resulting in engaging in delinquent behaviours.

b) In your struggles, who has helped work with you?

He helped by his sister who is working as a saleswoman in a grocery shop in town. With a small salary, he received, he managed to buy their grocery and clothing, but it was not enough. As a result, he does not manage to help him with tuition fees to improve his results. He wants to attend a private school because; he is willing to improve his results, but unfortunately is not accepted.

His grandmother helped him to look after him with prayers playing a crucial role in shaping the behaviour and values of young people. Grandmother is providing a supportive and nurturing environment. By that time, he was offended against drugs and his grandmother visited in jail to give him pocket money, drinks, and moral support. Grandmother can also engage him with them in open communication, set boundaries, and participate in their lives. The researcher added that from Roberts when he said, "Rural communities are also increasingly getting deeply affected by youth delinquency," (Roberts, 2012).

c) Can you share your views about youth delinquency?

Young individuals may engage in delinquent behaviour as a way to cope with their emotional or behavioural challenges. Lack of parental supervision, inconsistent discipline, and a lack of positive role models can also contribute to delinquent behaviour. Their relatives and rural communities feel that the researcher's advice to many youths' development future is badly affected on the other side by youth delinquency.

d) In your own words, could you explain what the term 'delinquency' means to you? What causes youth delinquency?

Delinquency refers to behaviour that is considered a violation of social norms or laws. It is commonly associated with criminal or antisocial behaviour, particularly among youth. Delinquent behaviour can include acts such as theft, vandalism, drug abuse, violence, and truancy.

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e) The word 'youth,' what does it mean?

The participant is a Xhosa speaker who does not know English but translates to English. "(Umntu omtsha uzibona xa esiva ilizwi lakhe lilikhulu, kwaye ekwazi ukuzilungiselela, azidle naxa ephakathi kwabanye)". Translation in English as; "Youth is a time when people find their voice and express themselves creatively". "Youth is the stage between the teenage stage and the adult stage where one involved has become matured". The researcher added many definitions useful with varying meanings and implications to understand the concept of youth. The youth could explore their interests, talents, and passions, which leads to personal growth, self-confidence, and a sense of empowerment. The interviews finished with a prayer.

Participant Two

The participant YD 02 is a 23-year-old male youth who lives with his mother, stepfather, and his son. The participant shared his story with tears in his eyes:

a) Can you journey with the researcher about the struggles you are facing in rural Bisho?

Yes, the struggle the participant faces in rural Bisho is family dynamics. His mother is a single parent, but has a stepfather. The concentration of his mother is on her partner and the partner is abusive to his mother. When he is trying to defend his mother, the son becomes angry with the stepfather. His mother better chooses a stepfather and rejects her son. When he goes to his father, experiences the same rejection from both his parents. The absence of a male parent significantly has an emotional impact on the behaviour of the youth, especially males.

The researcher added the lack of parental supervision contributes to the youth that causes delinquency. Being a victim of aggression and abuse puts a young adult at risk of developing violent behaviour. Youth delinquency requires a comprehensive approach that focuses on prevention, early intervention, and providing support and resources to youth and their families.

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b) In your struggles, who has helped to work with you?

YD 02 the twenty-three-year-old male participant in rural Bisho, faces a lack of job opportunities, especially for a youth. Limited access to employment can contribute to boredom, frustration, and a higher risk of involvement in illegal activities and delinquency.

By Increasing access to quality education, creating employment opportunities, implementing substance abuse prevention programs, and establishing support networks and positive activities for youth. According to Stern et al., "information has shown that an intact family with a mother and father (highlighting the father) has a soothing effect and may act as a deterrent in certain areas of youth delinquency," (Stern et al., 1984).

c) Can you share your views about youth delinquency?

Youth delinquency is a demanding anxiety that affects individuals, communities, and society. Delinquency is classified into two main types: minor delinquency and serious delinquency. Minor delinquency refers to relatively minor offences, such as shoplifting or underage drinking, while serious delinquency involves more serious crimes, such as assault, robbery, or drug trafficking.

Exposure to violent or antisocial media content can influence youth behaviour and attitudes toward delinquency.

d) In your own words, could you explain what the term 'delinquency' means to you? What causes youth delinquency?

Economic disadvantage, poverty, and limited access to resources can contribute to delinquency. Young individuals growing up in economically disadvantaged communities may face a lack of opportunities, limited access to quality education, and exposure to violence and crime. Young individuals may engage in delinquent behaviour to cope with their emotional or behavioural challenges. Rural areas may have a smaller population and fewer resources for support services, such as counselling, mentoring, and community programs aimed at preventing delinquency.

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This lack of support can exacerbate the challenges faced by young people and increase the likelihood of engaging in delinquent activities.

e) The word "youth," what do you mean?

Today's youth is more connected around the world than ever before. Through technology and social media, they have access to information and can engage with people worldwide. This global awareness promotes a sense of understanding, relationships, and a wide-ranging worldview. Youth activists for sustainable performance, engage in conservation efforts, and support creativities that promote a greener future.

Participant 3

A participant named YD 03 hardly started to answer her interview questions. She is addicted to smoking, including the use of a hookah pipe, cigarettes, and dagga. Despite her addiction and her fear of potential arrest by the police, she was able to attend the interviews, demonstrating a willingness to engage and share her experiences.

a) Can you journey with the researcher about the struggles you are facing in rural Bisho?

Yes, she was brilliant, but the only problem was she was lonely at home when her parents were at work as she was the only child. Her aunt is very strict and does not want friends because that area is near the forest. Her parents think that friends will bully her daughter.

Many young adults in the community have experienced the loss of multiple family members, a tragedy that has deeply impacted their emotional and psychological well-being. The absence of specialised support during their grieving period exacerbated their struggles, leaving them vulnerable to long-term effects of unresolved grief and potentially contributing to maladaptive behaviours, including delinquency.

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Yes, the participant can journey with the researcher if the researcher will not report me to the police and if you allow me to smoke while I want to. Her mother died of breast cancer when she was 12 years old, and her father died of tuberculosis (TB) when she was 5 years old. She lived with her aunt and uncle. Her aunt does not have children and treats her as a biological lovely daughter. She is very spoilt if she wants to go to gatherings with friends and can go to pubs, as a result, she dropped out in her third year at the University. YD 03 was struggling to get a job. When addressing youth delinquency need a full approach that motivates prevention, early intervention, and providing support and resources to youth and their families.

b) In your struggles, who has helped work with you?

My aunt and uncle were supportive of me as a result I did not feel that I was an orphan. Their treatment is very good in my studies as well they were supportive. According to Patton et al, said, "family, school, church, and the community play important roles in influencing and modelling the behaviour of the youth," (Patton et al., 2013).

c) Can you share your views about youth delinquency?

Yes, in my understanding youth delinquency is a complex issue that is influenced by different factors, like lack of employment opportunities in rural areas. Substance abuse, including alcohol and drug addiction, is a significant problem in rural Bisho leading to delinquent behaviours.

d) In your own words, could you explain what the term 'delinquency' means to you? What causes youth delinquency?

Youth delinquency refers to the failure of children and youth to meet certain responsibilities projected for them by the society in which they live. Limited recreational activities and a lack of awareness programs can contribute to higher rates of substance abuse among young people, leading to delinquent behaviours. In rural communities like Bisho, young people may face strong peer pressure to follow certain behaviours, including delinquency. The lack of encouragement among the

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youth results in a higher dropout and a higher possibility of engaging in delinquent behaviours.

e) The word "youth," what do you mean?

They have access to information and can engage with people from different countries and cultures. This global awareness encourages an intelligence of empathy, cooperation, and a broader worldview.

Participant 4

Ex-offending female youth interviewed for this study identified several key factors contributing to youth delinquency. These included alcohol and drug abuse, theft, lack of parental care and affection, and the pervasive influence of poverty.

a) Can you journey with the researcher about the struggles you are facing in rural Bisho?

An orphan young girl of twenty-one years old lives with her two brothers. She is the only daughter of deceased parents. She lost her parents in the early stages. According to Muller, "Drinking is a normal youth activity and offers a special habit for them when they move from childhood to adulthood, and they also see alcohol as safe, normal and suitable," (Muller 1999: 300).

Yes, I will journey with you if the police will not accuse me again. The participants shared experiences of being abandoned by their parents at a young age, leaving them to navigate life without parental guidance. In their isolation, their homes often became gathering places for friends, which sometimes exposed them to negative influences and behaviours, further contributing to their vulnerability and eventual involvement in delinquent activities.

In rural Bisho, we have fewer schools and limited resources for quality education. This can lead the youth to a lack of motivation resulting in higher dropout rates and a higher likelihood of engaging in delinquent behaviour.

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b) In your struggles, who has helped work with you?

My primary school educator is a friend of my mother. She used to visit us and help us with food and clothes since her children are the same age as me and my big brother. She also helps us when we want parental support in court and the community, activities act as our parent.

c) Can you share your views about youth delinquency?

Yes, in rural Bisho we face a lack of job opportunities, especially for us as the youth generation. Then the limited access to employment can contribute to dullness, frustration, and a higher risk of involvement in illegal activities such as drug abuse, theft, etc.

d) In your own words, could you explain what the term 'delinquency' means to you? What causes youth delinquency?

Delinquency is an unwelcomed action, error, or moral behaviour of a youth when socially not allowed in any society. In rural Bisho, youth were facing strong peer pressure to follow certain behaviours, including delinquency. Limited diversity and exposure to positive role models can make it challenging for young individuals to resist negative influences.

e) The word "youth," what do you mean?

The term "youth" usually refers to those who are in their teenage years or early twenties, even though the exact age range can differ conditional on the cultural and social standards of a particular region. They have access to information and can engage with people from different countries and cultures. The interview was completed with prayer.

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Participant 5

A man is 30 years old. Youth who grow up without adequate parental care and guidance often feel unloved and undervalued within their families.

a) Can you journey with the researcher about the struggles you are facing in rural Bisho?

Yes, I can journey with the researcher since I am old enough now to run away from the streets and notice that my life is at risk. This lack of emotional support and security can drive them to seek alternative environments where they feel safe, valued, and loved. For the current generation, the absence of familial love and protection often leads to a search for belonging elsewhere, which may expose them to negative influences and risky behaviours.

That is why they will end up joining youth delinquency and being the victim of crime sleeping in unused buildings.

b) In your struggles, who has helped work with you?

My mother through prayers helped me and my father who always asked me to come home nothing would do only wanted him to be at home.

c) Can you share your views about youth delinquency?

Peer pressure and the desire to fit in with a certain group can lead young people to engage in delinquent activities. Negative peer impacts, involvement in gangs, or association with delinquent peers can significantly influence a young person's behaviour.

d) In your own words, could you explain what the term 'delinquency' means to you? What causes youth delinquency?

Delinquent is a behaviour that includes acts such as theft, vandalism, drug abuse, violence, and truancy. "The delinquent is a behaviour disorder, which is usually described as a child who tries or pretends to act like a grown-up or adult". The participants highlighted that their parents or guardians relied heavily on government

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grants as their primary means of providing for the family. This dependence often created financial strain, limiting resources available for the youth's education, emotional well-being, and overall development, which could contribute to feelings of neglect and frustration.

e) The word "youth," what do you mean?

Youth is a word used to refer to a group of young people collectively or as an adjective to describe something related to or appropriate for youth. Youth can compromise their time, skills, and resources to support helpful sources, making a positive transformation in the lives of others.

Participant 6

Participant YD is a female of age 29 years who lives with her mother, brother, and daughter.

a) Can you journey with the researcher about the struggles you are facing in rural Bisho?

Yes, only if you cannot tell my mother because she was asthmatic once about my delinquent behaviour and became seriously ill. I am taking chances since I have a single mother and she is working in town as a sleepover domestic worker. She used too many drugs and smoked, she sold cigarettes to have little money for food and drugs.

In my view, youth blame their circumstances on the absence of parental love and care. However, Youth involved in delinquent behaviour often come from families perceived as lacking empathy or emotional warmth. In such households, parents may fail to dedicate sufficient time to their children, leading to a breakdown in communication and emotional bonding. This neglect can leave young people feeling isolated and unsupported, increasing their susceptibility to engaging in delinquent acts as a coping mechanism or means of seeking attention.

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b) In your struggles, who has helped work with you?

My mother left home in pursuit of employment. She left us with help from a little grant from my little brother and my daughter to buy food. I have a Blesser who helps me with financial challenges. As a youth, she highlighted the essential need for academic support at home.

c) Can you share your views about youth delinquency?

Youth delinquency is a multifaceted issue that is shaped by a range of factors in rural areas. These include socio-economic challenges, limited access to education and resources, family dynamics, and the lack of appropriate support systems. In communities like rural Bisho, the absence of structured recreational activities and opportunities for personal development further exacerbates the problem, creating an environment where young people turn to delinquent behaviour. Delinquency can have long-term moments for individuals and society. Delinquency in rural Bisho refers to the engagement of youth in behaviour that deviates from societal norms and an authorized standard including misconduct, vandalism, and criminal activities.

d) In your own words, could you explain what the term 'delinquency' means to you? What causes youth delinquency?

In my understanding of youth, delinquency refers to the contribution of young individuals to illegal or antisocial behaviour. The use of alcohol and illegal drugs by youth is one of the causes of youth delinquency, as they are repeatedly forced to commit crimes such as theft to obtain the cash needed to support their substance use.

e) The word "youth," what do you mean?

Youth is a critical stage of human development, considered by physical, cognitive, and responsive changes. It is when individuals change from childhood to adulthood, experiencing puberty, hormonal changes, and the development of their identity and independence. Youth raise awareness about important issues, mobilize communities, and drive social change. The interview ends with a prayer.

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Participant 7

Participant YD 8 is the last one interviewed. She used to play her Rasta music on her music system because it was her favourite music.

a) Can you journey with the researcher about the struggles you are facing in rural Bisho?

She was crying thinking of her parents as they died in a car accident when they were on the way to visit her in boarding school while she was doing grade 11. She acknowledges her grandparents by taking care of them whereas they were very old. The little money they have supports their grandchildren and always shows them their love and support. "The loss experienced by youth leaves them struggling to manage and settle into life," (Neimeyer & Harris, 2015: 163).

Yes, replied a girl, I can journey with the researcher if you can relieve my stress of losing hope of no jobs. A young adult woman, who is twenty-seven years old, passed with a degree at university with distinction. She looked emotionally assured. The struggle she has is no job for her career. Three years ago, she stayed at home hoping to receive an internship or permanent post but till now nothing.

b) In your struggles, who has helped work with you?

Her grandmother who was an educator been very helpful in terms of money and uplifting her spirituality by prayer. She indicated that grandparents, who did not have the aptitude to be responsible for academic support, raised them.

c) Can you share your views about youth delinquency?

Substance abuse puts youth's health at risk and may result in social ills such as crime, family disintegration, and violence with youth as victims and perpetrators of delinquency.

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d) In your own words, could you explain what the term 'delinquency' means to you? What causes youth delinquency?

The researcher has little understanding of delinquency, which refers to behaviour considered a violation of social norms. It is commonly associated with immoral or disruptive behaviour, particularly among youth. Lack of support can make worse challenges faced by youth and increase the chances of engaging in delinquency. The word "youth," what do you mean? Is there anything you wish to share that we have not covered in our interview?

e) The word 'youth,' what does it mean?

In my view, “The youth is a critical phase of life marked by exploration, self-discovery, and the formation of personal identity”. During this time, young people navigate complex social, emotional, and psychological challenges as they strive to understand who they are and where they fit within society. This developmental period is exciting and turbulent, with the potential for positive growth or, if unsupported, a pathway to risky behaviours and delinquency. The experiences and influences they encounter during this stage play a significant role in shaping their future decisions and values.

It is a time when individuals may start to establish their values, beliefs, and goals. Look at me as YD 8, for instance, by the time I decided to follow the culture of Rasta believed that using drugs as if dagga would help me to solve my problems.

5.7 Analysing responses from participants

The solution is to find out if the participants are ready to change. Care and support for youth demonstrated by organising sports.

Clergy had to encourage parents to love and support their children even though they are adults. The family supports the youth before he go outside. Clergy acknowledge that there is no thoroughly organised group for youth delinquency in church. It means there are no activities directed for them towards their needs.

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Most of them are aware of youth fellowships before they engage in delinquency. Their parents are members of the congregation.

Participant 8 – Pastor Khaya (not his real name) – Clergy & Counsellor

Khaya lives in rural Bisho where he has been a school Principal in a high School for more than 20 years and a pastor in UCCSA church in rural Bisho for more than 10 years and 30 years as pastor of the word and sacrament. His focus in the ministry was more on evangelism among believers and non-believers. He is considerably involved in counselling victims. The information he shows the researcher is from counselling wounded contributors and culprits. He shares a story of a particular case where the victim abused by his classmate at rural secondary school.

He did not inform any teacher since the abuser is an old man and has offences two times. He also knew that the abuser's grandfather was a traditional healer. Pastor Khaya as a good observer in class noticed his low performance and set an appointment with his mother in the office. His mother is a single parent working as a kitchen woman in urban Bisho.

Pastor Khaya is a self-supporting minister who asks him to help him on weekends with his cows and goat farming. He wants to keep him busy not thinking of his background since it will affect his schoolwork. By doing that, it became a good time a story with Pastor Khaya that one of his classmates always makes a joke every day during the break that he is an old boy. To be an old boy in rural schools is an embarrassment. An old boy means a young man of age, but as long as a man will not talk to you. There is a difference between a boy and a man.

Since his mother cannot afford to take him to circumcision school, he will struggle until when. The traumatic situation affects him seriously. He was nervous to inform the schoolteachers and principal, since afraid that his classmates and grandfather could beat him with his traditional medicines.

Pastor Khaya heard his story and felt sorry for him. "Be kind and compassionate to one another, just as in Christ God forgave you," (Ephesians 4: 32). "Better a dry crust with peace than a house full of feasting, with strive," (Proverbs 17: 1 – 28). Upon consulting the pastor, the victim may open the door for the miracle to enter his

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home. Pastor enters the space to help him to become a man and adopt him as his son. Within no time a pastor invited, their grandmother, and turned into a successful complete victory over this occurrence or experience.

The study interviewed clergy who are counsellors and senior leaders in the denomination and education department. The assumption is that he is well in the church and society, and well set for counselling in the church. The main goal of interviewing is to find out if there is a brief explanation of the purpose of the study and,

5.8 The following questions for Pastors

a) In your understanding, what stages could clergy take in journeying with youth delinquency as the solution?

Clergy play a significant role in addressing youth delinquency, particularly in rural communities, by promoting gender equality, addressing key risk factors, and providing essential support services. Through pastoral efforts, they can foster a sense of community and belonging, helping to reduce feelings of isolation and alienation among young people. By engaging with families and local organisations, clergy contribute to creating a safer, more inclusive environment.

Their involvement can lead to positive behavioural changes; offering guidance, emotional support, and moral direction that help deter delinquency and encourage the healthy development of youth. Create programs that engage parents in understanding and addressing youth behaviour. Organise focus groups with youth, parents, and community leaders to discuss issues related to delinquency solutions.

a) What are the struggles that youth are facing in Bisho?

Limited recreational activities and a lack of awareness programs can contribute to higher rates of substance abuse among youth.

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b) How can clergy effectively address the issue of delinquency in a pastoral manner?

Clergy can address delinquency issues in rural areas by involving a multi-faceted approach involving the community, government, and relevant stakeholders.

c) Do you think that the Clergy helps care for youth in Bisho?

Yes, is very helpful. The role of the pastor in society and the community as a whole will play a big role. The pastor will solve many critical and serious problems of houses in the community without looking for money.

d) What warning can the clergy tell the congregants about delinquency?

Clergy can play a vital role in addressing youth delinquency within the congregation. Encourage adults to mentor and guide young adults helping them navigate challenges. Encourage prayer and reflection as tools for seeking guidance and strength to resist negative influences and make positive choices. Addressing the clergy will promote a supportive environment that fosters positive development. Warn them that delinquency is not a positive solution other than a danger to the one who joins it.

Engaging in delinquent behaviour is not an effective solution to relieve stress. Youths need to find positive and fruitful ways to deal with stress by talking to someone they trust or looking for professional help if needed. Spending time with friends and family can provide support and help alleviate feelings of isolation. Clergy addresses how delinquency can strain family relationships. Clergy can promote youth opportunities to take on leadership roles within the church and community that will boost self-esteem and deliver the wisdom of resolution. Below is an analysis from the Counsellor. The interviews concluded with a prayer.

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5.9 Analysis from Clergy as a Counsellor

The clergy should assist them before they might be tempted to sin. "The blood of Jesus is only prepared to cover what we are prepared to uncover". The entire problem initially leaves this poor family happy, with pastor Khaya as a counsellor, pastor, and parent. Instead of creating many problems by discussing calling parents act on that as one, instead of creating many differences understand why the victim does not share this problem just solve it and understand that it is a daily problem of adult boys more and more to fatherless families.

Parent is a parent of many children; parents must take care of their youth, which according to the clergy, is faith in action. Dlamini (2020) cited (Archbishop Makgoba, 2017: 8)said, "Faith which cries out for the courage to stand up for what is right," Dlamini (2020: 128). It is where the poor and fatherless families have challenges in many cases. The researcher appreciated the interview's promises to discuss to find the solution with immediate effect and promise them that this will not happen again. The interviews finished with a word of prayer.

5.10 Preliminary Conclusion

We now understand from the findings of current research, exposed what youth in a rural Bisho area observation as risks. Collecting and analysing qualitative data is done properly, organised, demanding, and therefore labour-intensive and time-consuming. Mudavanhu et al, agree with that said, "Lack of support when dealing with youth financial challenge leaves them vulnerable," (Mudavanhu et al., 2008). "The youth with skills can create different opportunities to start businesses, create products and services, and take part in the global marketplace," (One World, 2017).

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Chapter 6: Therapeutic Healing

6.1 Introduction

The therapeutic process for addressing youth delinquency is an essential step following semi-structured interviews with affected individuals. This chapter explores therapeutic healing methods aimed to improve the frustrations and misunderstandings of delinquent youth in rural Bisho. Youth are a cornerstone of societal sustainability, particularly in rural areas, where their well-being directly impacts the vitality and future of the community. When youth disengage, the demand for services, economic activity, and community cohesion diminishes, potentially leading to societal disintegration.

Globally, youth empowerment has emerged as a central focus, yet many studies highlight the uncertain future facing young people, especially in rural contexts. This research examines the causes of youth delinquency in rural Bisho and proposes strategies for healing and rehabilitation. “Poverty and social exclusion, while not the sole causes of youth delinquency are significant predictors of such behaviours”, (Barton et al., 2011; Bäckman et al., 2013; Estrada & Nilsson, 2012; Ford, 2008; (Osgood & Chambers, 2003). These issues raise critical questions: “Why do rural youth engage in crime?” in addition “How can pastoral care address these challenges?”

Youth in rural Bisho often face limited access to critical resources, including counselling services, which are necessary for navigating the trauma of losing parental guidance. Studies, such as those by Barclay et al. (2007), highlight how contemporary rural life exacerbates pressures on young people.

Within the framework of practical theology, Gerkin’s Shepherding Model (1997) and Pollard’s Positive Deconstruction Theory (1997) are employed to develop a pastoral care model addressing youth delinquency.

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6.2 Gerkin's Shepherding Model

The narrative pastoral care model by Gerkin (1997) provides a foundation for this research. Gerkin conceptualizes pastoral care as a process of nurturing faith, hope, and love to foster the common good. He outlines five roles of a pastor in care giving:

1. Shepherd of the Flock: A leader who nurtures and protects the community.
2. Priest and Prophet: A spiritual guide who speaks truth and offers divine wisdom.
3. Mediator and Reconciler: A bridge-builder fostering peace and understanding.
4. A Pastoral Listener: An empathetic ear to individuals' struggles.
5. Moral Leader: A figure shaping an ethical and spiritual direction.

The pastor, likened to a shepherd, assumes responsibility for guiding youth within their community. Psalms 23, exemplifies this role, portraying God as a shepherd who leads His flock through challenges and restores their souls. Similarly, clergy in rural Bisho must journey alongside youth, strengthening communal bonds, fostering meaning in life, and addressing their material and spiritual needs. Soup kitchen, mentorship programs, and counselling are practical expressions of pastoral care that align with Gerkin's model.

6.3 Pollard's Model of Positive Deconstruction

Pollard (1997) advocates for dismantling negative behaviours by replacing them with positive, faith-aligned alternatives. His approach emphasizes collaboration among clergy, parents, educators, community leaders, and local authorities to create supportive environments for at-risk youth. The model prioritizes restoring hope and fostering resilience in young people by engaging them in life skills training, mentorship, and community-building activities.

The socio economic disparities, providing quality education, and is improving access to healthcare and recreational facilities. Pollard stresses the importance of reflecting on one's beliefs to foster mutual growth and understanding, a principle applicable to both clergy and youth.

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6.4 Family's Role in Preventing Youth Delinquency

The family plays a crucial role in youth development, serving as the primary agent of socialization. Strong family ties and effective parental guidance reduce the likelihood of delinquent behaviour. However, single-parent households and weak social controls often contribute to criminal tendencies among youth. Parenting programs, family counselling, and workshops can strengthen familial bonds and equip parents with tools to support their children.

Involving families in therapeutic healing not only addresses the immediate needs of youth, but also promotes long-term societal stability. Recreational activities and community engagement further reinforce positive development, providing alternatives to delinquent behaviour.

6.5 Pastoral Solutions for Addressing Youth Delinquency

Effective pastoral care requires a collaborative approach involving pastors, congregations, and families. Interventions should include:

- Community Engagement**:** Organizing events and programs that promote globally and foster belonging.
- Education and Awareness Campaigns: Highlighting the consequences of delinquency and promoting responsible decision-making.
- Support for Families: Offering resources like parenting workshops and counselling to strengthen family units.
- Substance Abuse Prevention: Educating youth on the risks of substance abuse and providing access to treatment.
- Mental Health Services: Ensuring access to therapy and counselling for trauma-affected youth.

By combining spiritual guidance with practical interventions, clergy can help youth navigate challenges and build meaningful lives.

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6.6 Pastoral Care in Rural Areas

Pastoral care in rural settings must address the unique challenges of youth delinquency. The following example of Christ,

Pastors act as a healer and reconciler, guiding youth through therapeutic processes that restore relationship with God, themselves, and their communities. Mentorship, vocational training, and spiritual counselling are integral to this process.

6.7 Therapeutic Healing

Therapeutic healing is central to addressing youth delinquency. It involves restoring emotional and psychological well-being through methods such as individual counselling, group therapy, and trauma-informed care. African cultural practices, which emphasize storytelling and communal support, complement these approaches. Therapeutic healing should be tailored to individual needs and supported by ongoing evaluation and collaboration with mental health professionals.

6.8 Preliminary Conclusion

Youth represent the future of any society, and their empowerment is essential for community sustainability. Addressing youth delinquency in rural Bisho requires integrating therapeutic interventions, pastoral care, and community-based strategies. By fostering flexibility and providing holistic support, it is possible to transform lives and build a brighter future for both the youth and their communities.

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Chapter 7: Findings and Recommendations.

7.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the key findings of the study on youth delinquency in rural Bisho, offering insights into the causes, impacts, and potential solutions. The previous chapter outlined a therapeutic pastoral methodology aimed at addressing youth delinquency. This chapter begins by revisiting the study's purpose, objectives, and goals, exploring how research contributes to understanding and mitigating the challenges faced by youth in rural Bisho. The study, driven by the clergy of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa, utilized qualitative methods, including semi-structured interviews, to develop a pastoral care approach tailored to youth delinquency.

This chapter addresses the primary and secondary research questions posed in Chapter 1 and highlight the challenges youth in rural Bisho face, including a lack of recreational facilities, which exacerbates boredom and the likelihood of delinquent behaviour. The researcher discovered that not all youth delinquents are using drugs, some do not obey their parents and others have anger as a problem.

Furthermore, it was found that not all youth involved in delinquency are engaged in substance abuse some struggle with disobedience, while others have difficulty managing anger. Ultimately, the study seeks to assess whether its objectives have been met, and offers recommendations for addressing youth delinquency in the region.

7.2 Main Findings

Summary of Findings from Chapter One

The study primarily investigates youth delinquency in rural Bisho, focusing on understanding the causes, impacts, and the consequences of such behaviour in this context. The study underscores the significance of addressing youth delinquency as a social issue and highlights the pastoral role in supporting delinquent youth. The findings revealed that while rural Bisho is developing economically, it faces challenges controlling crime rates, particularly among the youth. A key observation

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was that pastors and church leaders cannot remain silent when the community faces such social challenges. Silence from religious leaders signifies a failure to express love and concern for the future of the youth. The researcher discovered that not all youth delinquents are using drugs, some do not obey their parents and others have anger as a problem. The study focuses on examining the challenges of delinquency faced by rural youth in Bisho.

The chapter concludes the research by outlining the findings and recommendations of the research problem. The research questions were voiced out for assistance in getting a clear understanding of the investigations made by the researcher in collecting data. The research goals, consequences, and motivation were discussed in chapter one.

(a) Problem Statement

The study was stimulated by the issue of youth delinquency in the rural context and the experiences faced by the youth in the remote rural village of Kwatyutyu in the areas of Bisho in the Eastern Cape. The finding revealed that rural Bisho without a doubt is facing several problems when it comes to youth delinquency although is developed but is lagging in controlling the rate of crimes.

Summary of Findings from Chapter Two

Chapter Two provided a literature review exploring Western and African perspectives on youth delinquency. The literature underscored the negative consequences that delinquency can have on youth and emphasized the need for a pastoral response to delinquency. The research revealed that understanding human behaviour and social interactions is essential to addressing youth delinquency in rural areas.

(b) Hypothesis

The study hypothesized that while youth delinquency in rural Bisho is a significant challenge, pastoral care can offer a solution. The researcher believes that the church's role in providing guidance, mentorship, and emotional support is crucial in mitigating the negative effects of delinquency.

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(c)Aims and Objectives

The study's primary aim was to develop a pastoral care framework to help prevent and address youth delinquency. Findings indicated that youth in rural Bisho influenced by factors like peer pressure, lack of supervision, and limited recreational opportunities. The study also found that the absence of parental involvement is a significant supporter of delinquent behaviour. Absentee parents or those preoccupied with work often fail to provide the necessary guidance and support, increasing the likelihood of youth delinquency.

The study emphasizes the importance of community involvement in addressing youth delinquency. Local churches, community organizations, and families must collaborate to offer support and guidance to at-risk youth.

(d) Research Gap

The study highlights a gap in research regarding the lack of mental health services available to youth in rural Bisho. The absence of proper mental health support exacerbates delinquent behaviour, as youth dealing with emotional and psychological issues often lack the resources to address their problems. This gap points to the need for further research and practical applications in the field of pastoral care for youth delinquency.

Summary of Findings from Chapter Three

Chapter Three focuses on the research methodology, which included semi-structured interviews with youth involved in delinquent behaviour. Key findings included high unemployment rates among youth in rural Bisho, which contribute to feelings of hopelessness and frustration. The lack of job opportunities pushes many youths toward delinquent activities. Social exclusion and marginalization were also identified as significant contributors to delinquency, as youth often seek a sense of belonging and purpose through delinquent behaviour.

The reality is that youth develop simultaneously engage in various social contexts where family, peers, clergy, and the broader community play pivotal roles.

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(e) Significance of the Study

The study emphasizes the importance of supporting community-based initiatives that promote positive youth development. Youth should also face the absence of safe spaces for leisure activities that can lead to boredom and increase the likelihood of involvement in delinquent behaviour.

By investing in youth programs, such as sports, arts, and mentorship initiatives communities can offer constructive alternatives to delinquency.

Summary of Findings from Chapters Four, Five, and Six

Chapters Four, Five, and Six explored various contributing factors to youth delinquency, including financial strain, limited access to resources, parental substance abuse, and inadequate education. The study found that many youth in rural Bisho engage in delinquent activities as a response to economic hardship, social exclusion, and a lack of constructive outlets. The research has proven that it can address the basic factors contributing to youth delinquency and create a supportive environment that promotes the well-being and positive development of its young population.

The interviews revealed a correlation between substance abuse, particularly alcohol and drugs, and involvement in delinquency. Moreover, the study pointed to the lack of safe recreational spaces as a significant factor in escalating delinquent behaviour. The findings also indicated that substance abuse among parents contributes to youth delinquency, as it negatively affects family dynamics and the ability of parents to provide effective guidance.

The study highlighted the importance of pastoral care in addressing youth delinquency. The research also pointed out that a therapeutic pastoral approach, incorporating Gerkin's shepherding and Pollard's positive deconstruction, could offer effective solutions. These pastoral models emphasize holistic support and the critical evaluation of existing practices to ensure that interventions align with the needs of at-risk youth.

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7.3 Conclusion

The findings confirm that youth delinquency in rural Bisho is closely related to economic hardship, lack of employment opportunities, and social exclusion. The absence of a strong community support system and the lack of safe recreational spaces exacerbate the problem. The study aligns with Shaw and McKay's assertion that poverty, combined with other factors such as weakened social relationships, contributes to delinquent behaviour. "It is not poverty per se but an association of poverty with other factors that weakens systems of social relationships in a youth of rural areas, by this means making social ineffectiveness," (Osgood & Chambers, 2003).

The pastors discovered a lack of caring around the issue of youth delinquency. The findings also indicate that pastors and church leaders must take an active role in addressing youth delinquency. By offering pastoral care, communities can create an environment that fosters positive youth development and helps prevent further delinquent behaviour.

The study also reveals that the pastoral care approach should be culturally relevant, with a strong focus on African values of love, care, and community support.

7.4 Recommendations

The researcher also mentions that the clergy should be realised as a saving humanity. The pastor must begin at an early stage to prepare where there is a must to care for the youth and their relatives. The research questions and objectives were set in chapter one, then this chapter will answer the research problem. The study has found that there are many struggles to deal with youth delinquency.

The study offers the clergy and the youth recommendations to address youth delinquency in rural Bisho;

Promote Social Inclusion. Address the issues of discrimination and social exclusion by organizing community awareness campaigns and diversity training. Encourage a culture of acceptance and respect within the community.

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Community Support Systems: Strengthen community-based initiatives that engage youth in positive activities, such as sports teams, arts programs, and mentorship opportunities. Encouraging youth participation and involvement in decision-making processes may empower young people in rural.

This happens by creating platforms for youth to voice out their opinions, participate in community projects, and contribute to shaping their future.

Parenting Support: Develop programs that educate and support parents, particularly those who are absent or disengaged, to improve their involvement in their children's lives.

To partner with local businesses, and organizations to create vocational training programs, internships, and apprenticeships that provide youth with the skills and opportunities to secure employment. Youth from supportive and stable families are less likely to engage in delinquency. Providing parenting support and education programs can help youth develop effective parenting skills and improve their involvement in their youth's lives. The negative and significant relationship between norm infringements and parental supervision indicates that clergy can control measures that inspire them against status-related delinquent acts.

Educational Reforms: Invest in educational opportunities for youth in rural Bisho. Improve access to quality education and vocational training to help youth build a brighter future and reduce their susceptibility to delinquent behaviour.

Pastoral Care: Pastors and church leaders should actively engage with youth, offering emotional and spiritual support. By considering recommendations, the clergy must work towards, addressing the underlying factors that will contribute to youth delinquency and create an environment that promotes the well-being, empowerment, and positive development of its young population. Pastoral care should be culturally appropriate and incorporate African values of community and care.

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APPENDIX A.

Questionnaires

Interviews are for the teaching elders and adult youth only.

Questions for Pastors.

1. In your own understanding, do a clergy play a pastoral role in journeying with youth delinquency?
2. What are the struggles that youth are facing in Bisho?
3. In what way can the clergy address pastorally the issue of delinquency?
4. Do you think that the Clergy is helpful in caring for youth in Bisho?
5. Are there any other questions you need us to address concerning this issue?

Questions for Youth.

1. Can you journey with me by sharing the struggles you are facing in Bisho?

2. In your struggles, who has been helpful in working with you?

3. Can you share your views about the youth delinquency?

4. In your own words, can you share with me your own understanding of the word delinquency?

5. What causes youth delinquency?

6. Can you share with me, your understanding of the word, youth?

7. Is there anything you wish to share that we have not covered in our interview?

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Peelton United Congregational Church of Southern Africa

PRESIDING MINISTER	SECRETARY	VICE SECRETARY	CHIEF DEACON	TREASURER
Rev.M.Kakaza	Ms X.B Mzini	Miss F. Fele	Mr O.F Gangqa	Mrs N Mangali
P.O. Box 1306	Box 2962	Box 3784	Peelton Location	Box 1316
KWT 5600	KWT 5600	Kei Road	KWT 5600	KWT 5600
082 718 1714	078 401 3499	076 079 1446	063 344 7404	083 261 8860
leonardmzie@gmail.com	xoliswamzini@gmail.com			

16 April 2023

Prof Maake J Masango
University of Pretoria

Dear Sir/Madam

ACCEPTANCE LETTER

The above mentioned church wishes to accept your request to allow Reverend Lindelwa Kumbaca to interview youth within the church. Hoping that this will assist towards her Master's program.

Yours in Christ

X.B Mzini (Circuit Secretary)

.....

PEELTON CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF SA

Date: .....

Sign (Rev.): M L Kakaza

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