

Views of social service providers on the effect of substance misuse on juvenile offenders

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DECLARATION

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ABSTRACT

Over the past twenty years, research has shown that substance misuse in juvenile offenders has consistently increased over time. Research has also shown that an alarming 80% of youths who come into conflict with the law, are either using substances or their substance misuse behaviour has led to them breaking the law. This research study explored the views of social service providers on the effect of substance misuse on juvenile offenders.

The study utilized Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Perspective as a theoretical underpinning. This theoretical perspective identifies four themes: the microsystem, mesosystem, macrosystem and exosystem. Through the data collected and analysed, various sub-themes and categories emerged. This study used a qualitative research approach, with some quantitative elements through the compilation of the identifying details. An exploratory and descriptive research design was applied. The data that was collected was done through semi-structured interviews with a sample of 20 participants. These participants were social service providers to youth in conflict with the law or youth misusing substances.

The goal of the research study was to gain an understanding of the views of social service providers on the effect of substance misuse on juvenile offenders, within the context of South Africa. This was achieved by exploring the legislative frameworks and protocols pertaining to substance misuse through a theoretical discussion. The researcher explored the various factors that influence substance misuse through relevant literature.

By empirically investigating the topic in research, the views of interested social service providers on the effect of substance misuse on juvenile offenders was explored. This was achieved by exploring and analysing the interested social service provider's views, experiences and knowledge on the specified field- which consequently related to the literature reviewed. Through the data collected, various themes, sub-themes and categories emerged. Through the literature reviewed and empirical investigation, the researcher was able to provide relevant conclusions and recommendations. It was

highlighted that the social supportive services and resources available to youth in conflict with the law who are misusing substances are limited or non-existent. Through the lack of services available, various gaps, needs, support and barriers were identified.

OPSOMMING

Navorsing oor die afgelope twintig jaar het getoon dat misbruik van dwelms by jeugdige oortreders mettertyd toegeneem het. Navorsing het ook getoon dat 'n kommerwekkende 80% van die jeugdige wat in konflik met die wet is, middele misbruik wat dikwels tot kriminele oortreding lei. Hierdie studie het die sienings van maatskaplike diensverskaffers oor die effek van dwelmmisbruik op jeugdige oortreders ondersoek.

Die studie het Bronfenbrenner se ekologiese perspektief gebruik as 'n teoretiese onderbou. Hierdie teoretiese perspektief identifiseer vier temas: die mikrosisteem, mesosisteem, makrosisteem en eksosisteem. Deur die data wat versamel en ontleed is, is verskeie subtemas en kategorieë geïdentifiseer. Die studie het 'n kwalitatiewe navorsingsbenadering gebruik, met enkele kwantitatiewe elemente in terme van die deelnemers se identifiserende besonderhede. 'n Verkennende en beskrywende navorsingsontwerp is toegepas. Die data wat ingesamel is, is deur middel van semi-gestruktureerde onderhoude met 'n steekproef van 20 deelnemers gedoen. Die deelnemers was maatskaplike diensverskaffers wat dienste lewer aan die jeugoortreders wat middele misbruik.

Die doel van hierdie studie was om binne die konteks van Suid-Afrika begrip te verkry oor die menings van maatskaplike diensverskaffers oor die effek van middelmisbruik op jeugdige oortreders. Dit is bereik deur die relevante wetgewing, protokol, en navorsing rondom middelmisbruik te ondersoek. Die navorser het ook die verskillende faktore wat middelmisbruik beïnvloed deur relevante literatuur bestudeer.

Die menings van belanghebbende maatskaplike diensverskaffers rakende die effek van middelmisbruik op jeugoortreders is empiries ondersoek. Dit is gedoen deur hierdie diensverskaffers se menings, ervarings en kennis op hierdie spesifieke onderwerp te ondersoek en te ontleed – wat gevolglik verband hou met die literatuur wat hersien is. Deur die data wat ingesamel is, is verskeie temas, subtemas en kategorieë geïdentifiseer. Deur die literatuuoroorsig en empiriese ondersoek kon die navorser relevante gevolgtrekkings en aanbevelings maak. Dit is beklemtoon dat die maatskaplike ondersteunende dienste en hulpbronne wat beskikbaar is vir die jeugoortreders wat middels misbruik beperk is, of nie bestaan nie. Deur die gebrek

aan dienste beskikbaar, is verskeie gapings, behoeftes, ondersteuning en hindernisse geïdentifiseer.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. PRELIMINARY STUDY AND RATIONALE

According to data collected by the United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, South Africa is a country which holds a population of approximately 55 million; and young people represent almost half this population (United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs: 2017). The White Paper for Social Welfare (1997), defines a young person as an individual 'between 16 and 30 years of age'; whereas the Children's Act 38 of 2005 of South Africa identifies a child as an individual under the age of 18. For the purpose of this research study, the definition of a young person or youth will be utilized as described by the Children's Act 38 of 2005 of South Africa.

On the 1st April 2010, The Child Justice Act 75 of 2008 came into effect in South Africa. This Act stipulates and defines the minimum age for prosecution and imprisonment based on the criminal capacity of the child. Criminal capacity is defined as an individual having the ability to comprehend and acknowledge his or her behaviour and actions, and the capability of the individual to determine whether his or her behaviour is socially and legally acceptable or not. Legal capacity of an individual is determined by his or her age and status. In South Africa, complete legal capacity is at the age of 18 and if the individual is younger than 18 years, he or she is regarded as a minor (Moodley, 2014). Section 7(1) of the Act specifies that a child under the age of 10 years may not be prosecuted. If the child is 14 years of age or older, he or she is fully accountable for their actions and legal sanctions may take place in accordance with the crime that they have committed (Bezuidenhout, 2013:11-12). Adolescents, who are subjected to the criminal justice system are not only condemned due to their criminal or illegal involvement, but more significantly because they are underage (Siegel, 2002:15). The Child Justice Act 75 of 2008 aims at implementing restorative justice in the criminal justice system and also involves the family members of the victim, community holders, the victim and the accused offender; thus promoting reconciliation, reintegration and restitution between the necessary parties (Republic of South Africa, 2008).

A statistical look at substance misuse in juvenile offenders over the past twenty years, reveal that substance misuse has been growing at a consistent rate. Juvenile offenders who are using substances or who have used substances previously, depict a higher chance of recidivism, prolonged time within the juvenile justice system and prospective correctional services in the adult correctional system (De Matteo & Marcyk, 2005; Tripodi & Bender, 2011). Recidivism can be defined as an individual's predisposition to re-offend or revert to the acts of criminal behaviour. This is more commonly described as the act of re-offending (Helmus & Babchishin, 2017). Approximately 80% of offending youths who come into conflict with the juvenile justice system, are either using substances or their delinquent behaviours have led to them breaking the law. Recidivism and being involved in the adult correctional system as an adolescent with a drug abuse problem is also highly common within the juvenile justice system (Denney & Connor, 2016). Therefore, one can concur that there is a strong correlation between substance misuse in adolescents, delinquent behaviours and criminality in adolescents. Studies have also depicted that imprisoned youth or juvenile offenders represent the highest amount of adolescents infected with or at a high risk of contracting HIV or sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). This is exacerbated by regular use of illegal and harmful substances, as well as sexual promiscuity. This fact proves that youth who are involved in substance misuse within the juvenile justice system are at a high risk of health problems (Marvel, Rowe, Colon-Perez, Diclemente & Liddle, 2009). These health problems include: distortion of senses, appetite stimulation, hyperthermia, hypertension, chest pain, induced organ production, dissociation, nausea and vomiting, seizures, as well as psychotic symptoms (Leslie, 2008).

According to a report on substance misuse treatment in the South African Community Epidemiology Network on Drug Use, 76% of the people who received treatment were male, 71% of the people were so-called coloured in race, and 59% were between the ages of 15 and 29 (South African Medical Research Council, 2014). In Cape Town, the primary substance taken illegally is a drug called methamphetamine; commonly known as 'tik' and 28% of the population is addicted to this drug. Although cannabis has been legalised in South Africa, Parliament is yet to address the regulation of legal usage, so this still makes the consumption of cannabis illegal. Cannabis and alcohol are still harmful to the body. Some of the health problems related to the misuse of

cannabis and alcohol includes chest pain, dissociation, appetite stimulation, conjunctivitis and respiratory depression (Leslie, 2008).

In Cape Town, 21% of the population regularly uses cannabis and 20% of the population misuse alcohol (Thelwell, 2014). The treatment and rehabilitation for individuals addicted to substance abuse and who are likely to be involved in criminal activities is an essential step in the intervention or transformation process. Working holistically with families when applying interventions with juvenile offenders is fundamental, as it is the most dependable and pragmatic form of support in the treatment and rehabilitation of adolescents and delinquency. The significance of family interventions in the treatment and rehabilitation of adolescents and delinquency is highlighted in the works of Marvel & Rowe, Colon-Perez, Diclemente & Liddle (2009), Williams & Chang (2000); and Pequegnat & Bray (1997).

When working with juvenile offenders or adolescents displaying delinquent behaviour, who use illegal substances, the interventions are recommended to be specific to the clinical needs of the individual; offering supportive supervision services on a familial and individual base; as well as family inclusion strategies (Drug Strategies, 2005). As described in the works of Ryan, Williams & Mark (2013); Hoeve, Dubas, Eichelshelm, Van der Laan, Smeenk & Gerris (2009); Ryan & Testa (2005); Ireland, Smith & Thornberry (2002); and Vuchinich, Ozretich, Pratt & Kneedler (2002), there is a strong correlation between parental neglect and involvement of adolescents in illegal activities. Their studies and research have illustrated that adolescents with a constant case of neglect were suggestively more likely to re-offend, in comparison to adolescents with no endorsed history of neglect. The consistent parental neglect has had a fundamental effect on the growth process for adolescents in the juvenile justice system. Those individuals reared with strong familial, peer and social bonds are more likely to conform to the norms of society and less likely to participate in delinquent behaviours. As seen in their criminal past, parental bonds, relationships and supervision with their children are good conjecturers of delinquency, problematic behaviours, rebelliousness and juvenile conduct (Hoeve *et al.*, 2009). In addition to parental neglect, negative influence from peers plays a critical factor in substance misuse and delinquency. Davis, Dumas, Wagner & Merrin (2016), highlighted that socializing and associating with deviant peer groups may increase the risk for

delinquency, problematic behaviours and substance misuse. Peers are viewed as one of the most prominent spheres in influencing juvenile offenders, especially within the processes administered by the juvenile justice system.

When looking at the criminal behaviour of the juvenile offender, there are fundamental environmental characteristics which need to be addressed. These include: age, psychological variables, academic performances, family integration, community interaction, exposure to victimization and crime, gangsterism, peer influence, sexual offenses and substance misuse (Booyens, Beukman & Bezuidenhout, 2008:33-38). Substance misuse is a leading influence on the criminal behaviour of juvenile offenders. Based on a study conducted on post-sentenced juveniles in South Africa in 2004, it was found that mandrax and cannabis were the most frequently used substances among the youth between the ages of 15 and 16 (Matthews, 2004:iii). There is strong correlation between the criminal behaviour of the juvenile offender and the use of illegal substances- specifically within South Africa, where drug consumption is high (Jordan, 2013).

For this reason, the researcher has decided to utilize the ecological perspective in the research study because it works hand-in-hand with the legislation of the juvenile criminal procedures; and the research topic also critically looks at the environmental effect of substance misuse on juvenile offenders. The researcher has also chosen to utilize the views of social service providers in the study, as social service providers render services directed at youth substance misuse and offending-behaviours of juveniles. The services rendered allow these service providers to have meaningful insight, experiences, expertise and knowledge on the subject matter.

The researcher has chosen this specific subject matter to conduct research in because the epidemic of substance misuse in South Africa is increasing among the youth, and the number of juvenile offenders being prosecuted for involvement in illegal activity has also increased (Williams, 2016). To date, there is no recent or updated statistics depicting the patterns of substance misuse between 2010 and 2018. However, in a research study conducted by Peltzer and Phaswana-Mafuya (2018), they have observed that the substance abuse rate has increased from 3.7% to 4.4% between 2008 and 2012 in South Africa.

In this research study, the views of social service providers were explored in terms of the effect that substance misuse has on the well-being of juvenile offenders. The researcher will stipulate and explain the problem statement, the research question, goals and objectives of the study, the theoretical points of departure, important concepts and definitions, as well as the research methodology and prospective presentation of the study. The goal of the research study is to gain an understanding of the effect of substance misuse on juvenile offenders. Conclusions and recommendations will be presented in order to present the relevant findings of the study and provide future insights on intervention strategies.

1.2. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Research on the effect of substance misuse on juvenile offenders has been conducted on an international scale, as seen in through the works of Davis *et al.* (2016); Denney & Connor (2016); Tripodi & Bender (2011); Young, Dembo and Henderson (2007); Robertson, Dill, Husain & Undesser (2004); and Henggeler, Borduin, Melton & Mann (1991). However, limited research has been conducted on substance misuse relating to the effect it has on juvenile offenders within the South African framework. Studies conducted within the South African context are either limited to particular environmental circumstances, geographical areas, gender or time differences, or intervention measures; as seen in the works of Sommer, Hinsberger, Elbert, Holtzhausen, Kaminer, Seedat, Madikane & Weierstall (2017); Porporino (2015); Morojele, Brook & Kachieng'A (2006); Parry, Myers, Morojele, Flisher, Bhana, Donson & Plüddemann (2004). Due to this current knowledge gap of limited information on substance abuse in South Africa, the researcher will attempt to assess the effect of substance use on juvenile offenders, the reasons why this occurs and possible intervention measures to circumvent the problem within a South African context. The researcher has also made use of the database called Nexus; however, studies conducted previously are not specific to South Africa, or do not focus directly on the effect of substance misuse on delinquent behaviours.

The research will further contribute to the understanding and association of substance misuse and delinquent behaviours of youths; as well as to the service rendering of social work practice in South Africa. As mentioned in the preliminary study, the researcher has also chosen to utilize the views of social service providers in the study,

as their work, knowledge and expertise will be able to provide the researcher with significant insight into the research being conducted.

1.3. RESEARCH QUESTION

Subsequent to the problem statement, the following focal research question was formulated:

- What are the views of interested social service providers on the effect of substance misuse on the offensive behaviours of juvenile offenders?

1.4. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of this research study is to gain an understanding of the views of social service providers on the effect of substance use on juvenile offenders, within the context of Cape Town, South Africa. In order to achieve this aim, the following objectives have been formulated:

1. To provide a theoretical discussion on legislative frameworks, protocols and research pertaining to substance misuse and juvenile offenders, within a South African context.
2. To critically discuss the literature on various influential factors; as well as identify the aspects of substance misuse which relate to the delinquent behaviour of juveniles through an ecological perspective (e.g. environmental factors).
3. To empirically investigate the views of interested social service providers about the effect of substance misuse on juvenile offenders and to correlate it to the literature review.
4. To present conclusions regarding the issue of juvenile substance misuse and delinquency, and provide recommendations to the relevant social service providers, as well as institutions who work closely with juvenile offenders.

1.5. THEORETICAL POINTS OF DEPARTURE

For the purpose of this study, the ecological perspective will be the theoretical underpinning on which this study is based. The ecological perspective is a theory which was devised by Urie Bronfenbrenner and introduced to the field of developmental psychology, human development and social work in the mid-1970s. Bronfenbrenner's ecological perspective draws on the importance of critically

evaluating and identifying the developments and environmental circumstances which have a direct or indirect influence on the progression of an individual's human development (Bronfenbrenner 1979: 38).

The ecological perspective consists of two fundamental focal points:

The first point enunciates that human development transpires by means of "*processes of progressively more complex reciprocal interaction between an active, evolving bio-psychological human organism and the persons, objects and symbols in its immediate environment*" (Bronfenbrenner 1979: 38).

The second focal point stipulates that the "*form, power content and direction of proximal processes effecting development vary systematically as a joint function of the characteristics of the developing person; of the environment-both immediate and more remote-in which the processes are taking place; and the nature of the developmental outcomes under consideration*" (Bronfenbrenner 1979: 38).

The ecological perspective has been implemented and utilized in the research or practice field of social work, as it permits the researcher to view all significant systems holistically, in order to identify patterns and to comprehend how these systems work, as well as the connections between these systems (Naess, 1989:36). The ecological perspective was utilized in this research study, as it allowed the researcher to explore and identify the environmental systems on a micro, meso and macro scale, which may influence the behaviours and development of juvenile offenders. The micro, meso, macro and exo systems which form part of the ecological perspective are inclusive of family and household circumstances, culture differentiation, religious beliefs, community views, race, gender and ethnicity, as well as policies, procedures and legislative works that pertain to substance misuse and juvenile offenders. The researcher also utilized the legislative frameworks of Social Work by analyzing a series of White Papers: The White Paper on Correction in South Africa (Department of Correctional Services, 2005); Restorative Justice (Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, 2011); and the White Paper for Social Welfare (Republic of South Africa, 1997).

1.6. CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

This section identifies and defines variables and key concepts that are significant to the research topic, as well as to the context of the research study.

1.6.1. Substance misuse

Substance misuse can be defined as when an individual consumes or ingests substances such as alcohol, cannabis or illegal substances. These substances may not necessarily be illegal, or may not always result in addictive behaviour; however, the use of these substances carries the risk of addiction (Boyd, 2015). Substance abuse disorder is defined by the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders as "a cluster of cognitive, behavioral, and physiological symptoms indicating that the individual continues using the substance despite significant substance-related problems" (American Psychiatric Association [APA], 483: 2013). Substance abuse is defined as a patterned or reoccurring use or consumption of a drug, which is harmful towards the user as well as those around the user. It is also referred to drug abuse and is related to a form of substance- abuse disorder (Ksir, 2002). According to the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (American Psychiatric Association [APA], 2013), substance dependence is defined as: "when an individual persists in use of alcohol or other drugs despite problems related to use of the substance, substance dependence may be diagnosed". Substance abuse has been defined by the American Psychiatric Association as a "maladaptive pattern of substance use leading to clinically significant impairment or distress" (APA, 481: 2013).

1.6.2. Juvenile offender

In the South African context, crime is viewed as an illegal action; and behaviours are seen as harmful to the individual or society (Van Zyl, 1996). A criminal offender is therefore regarded as someone who engages in criminal or illegal activity; and a juvenile offender is a child, as defined by the South African law, who engages in criminal or illegal activity. When looking at criminal law in the South African context, age is an influential factor in juvenile delinquency. In 2010, The Child Justice Act 75 of 2008 was established. According to The Child Justice Act 75 of 2008, if an individual is younger than 10 years of age, he or she cannot be prosecuted. This is stipulated in Common Law as well as Civil Law. An individual between the ages of 10 and 14 is

deemed to have a lack of criminal capacity; therefore, he or she can also not be prosecuted or imprisoned. If the individual is 14 years or older, he or she is deemed fully accountable for his or her actions and are prosecuted in the same way in which an adult criminal would be. However, the Department of Correctional Services and the South African legal system do put necessary diversion or rehabilitation programmes in place if it is the offenders first offence and he or she is under the age of 21 (Bezuidenhout, 2013: 9-13).

The researcher used the terms “juvenile offenders” and “offending behaviours of juveniles” interchangeably throughout the study for the sake of variety. It was not used at all as labeling or derogatory terms.

1.6.3. Social service provider

A social service provider is an individual or an organization, which provides social services to a client or customer (Business Directory, 2017). The service providers which the researcher will refer to, will be the social service practitioners who are rendering services to juvenile offenders. These will be social workers, case workers, counsellors, youth group workers, probation officers, Children’s Court and Juvenile Justice System Magistrates’, as well as social auxiliary workers.

1.6.4. Ecological perspective

The ecological perspective is an intricate system coined by Bronfenbrenner in the 1970s. The system looks at interactions between an individual and the environment in order to understand the dynamic interrelations on a personal and environmental scale. When applying the ecological perspective in social work practice, the practitioner is required to look at the environmental factors which may have an effect on the individual and how these factors influence on the individual’s behaviour. These factors include family, religion, culture, ethnicity, community, political views etc. Bronfenbrenner conceptualized four ecological systems in the ecological perspective: micro-, meso-, macro- and exo-system (Ecological Theory, 2010).

1.6.5. Effect

Effect, as defined by Oxford Dictionaries (Oxford University Press, 2018), is a change or transformation which is consequent to an action. It can also be defined as transforming or allowing change to take place.

1.7. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This section stipulates the research approach, research design, sampling methodology, instruments utilized for data collection, data analysis, ethical considerations and limitations considered throughout the research study.

1.7.1. Research Approach

This research study aimed at exploring the views and perceptions of service providers on the effect of substance misuse on juvenile offenders, within the South African context. The research approach was qualitative and allowed the researcher to interview participants; and understand the views of the participants on the topic being addressed. The qualitative research approach also allowed the researcher to gain a more comprehensive and holistic view of the topic being addressed (De Vos, Strydom, Fouche & Delpont, 2011). In order to gain a comprehensive understanding of the views of social service providers, and to allow the participants to be as descriptive and inclusive as they wish, a qualitative approach was best suit for this research study. This also allowed the paradigm of the research to interpretative and informative (Babbie & Mouton, 2006).

Even though the researcher utilized tables and figures in some parts to represent the data collected, the study still remains qualitative and not quantitative. The researcher has not chosen a quantitative approach, as the quantitative approach is standardized and is in accordance to a more systematic and statistical procedure, in which the variables analyzed are scientific, and precise (Fouche & Delpont, 2011:66). With reference to the purpose of this study, the researcher has chosen to apply the qualitative research approach, in order to ensure that the information collected is more descriptive, holistic and contributes to the knowledge and research on substance misuse and juvenile delinquency. The researcher also utilized interplay between deductive and inductive reasoning throughout the research study. The deductive approach was mainly used in the literature chapters where the researcher moved from

the specific (the effect of substance misuse on juvenile offenders) to the general (related to research, legislation and ecological perspective). The inductive approach was used in the empirical part (Chapter 4), where participant's subjective experiences were explored regarding the effect of substance misuse on juvenile offenders- thus from general to specific (Fouche & Delpont, 2011).

The research approach consisted of applying various data collection methodology in order to extensively explore the views of the service providers. First, the researcher explored the views of the social service providers on the effect which substance misuse has on juvenile offenders, in a South African context. This was conducted through in-depth, semi-structured interviews, held face-to-face with the social service provider, by the researcher. The following criteria needed to be met with in order for the participant to partake in the study:

- The participant must be a practicing social service provider, rendering services to juvenile offenders or youth misusing substances.
- The services being rendered may be on a micro, meso or macro-level in the ecological system of the juvenile.
- The participant must be rendering services within the geographical area of Cape Town and surrounding areas.

1.7.2. Research Design

The purpose of this study was to gain an understanding of the views of social service providers on the effect of substance misuse on juvenile offenders, within the South African context. In order to achieve the aforementioned goal of the research study, an exploratory and descriptive research design was implemented. Through the exploratory research design, the researcher was able to observe the topic being studied; in order to discover and understand the content on a more detailed platform. The exploratory research design allowed for a more in-depth analysis of participant views in order to formulate inductive conclusions (Creswell, 2009: 212).

Descriptive research works well with the exploratory research design, as it intends to explore, describe and explain the topic being studied. It allowed information to be

collected through observational techniques and through recording of participants. Through the collection of information, the understanding of the topic became more comprehensive and elaborative for the researcher- allowing the “why”, “how” or “what” questions to be answered (De Vos *et al.*, 2011; Kowalczyk, 2015).

The researcher has chosen to implement the exploratory and descriptive research designs as it assisted the researcher in gaining an in-depth understanding of the perceptions and views of the social service providers, and it also supported in attaining the goal of the study.

1.7.3. Sampling

The researcher utilized non-probability purposive sampling in the research approach phase, in order to proficiently select the participants. The researcher applied this selection method as it ensured that participants were selected based on the set criteria, as well as their knowledge and are not randomly selected. Non-probability sampling can either be purposive or accidental. Purposive sampling is a method in which data is collected or participants are selected in accordance to a specific issue or to predetermined criteria (William, 2008). For the purpose of this study, purposive sampling was applied because a specific social phenomenon, namely the effect of substance misuse on juvenile offenders as seen by social service providers was addressed.

The selection was done primarily by the researcher, in accordance to the criteria met, as stipulated in the research approach. This procedure highlights that the researcher decisively selected participants, in accordance to the fixed set of principles for inclusion. The principles for inclusion, as mentioned above, are: the participant being a social service provider, rendering services to juvenile offenders or youth misusing substances; services being rendered should be on a micro, meso or macro-level; and the participant should render services within Cape Town. No pilot study or group was applied. The participants who could answer the specified research questions the best were primarily selected (Cresswell, 2009). An informed consent form was completed by the participants (see Annexure D).

The sample size for the research study was 20 participants. As stipulated and discussed in the research approach section of this chapter, there are strict criteria which need to be maintained when participants are considered for the study. The research study took place in Cape Town, forming part of the population of South Africa; and the participants were service providers within Cape Town, who work with juvenile offenders. If the participants were employed by an institution or organization; the researcher first acquired institutional permission (see Annexure C) and clearance (see Annexure A) before the interview was scheduled. The criteria for inclusion of the social service providers included: rendering services to juvenile offenders; residing within the area of Cape Town; and must be able to understand English or Afrikaans.

The researcher conducted the research through various organizations or institutions who work closely with juvenile offenders and substance misuse within Cape Town and South Africa. These organizations have requested that their identity remain anonymous. The researcher contacted the various organizations or institutions by e-mail, followed by telephonic communication, if needed, to set up prospective appointments. Once appointments had been set up, the researcher met with the participants in order to conduct the interviews.

1.7.4. Instrument for Data Collection

As discussed above, the research study was qualitative; therefore, the researcher made use of a semi-structured interview guide (see Annexure G) in the research approach, as this allowed the researcher to capture the views, experiences, perceptions and terminology, as expressed by the service providers. Semi-structured interviews involve a set of predetermined questions, which are open-ended, in order to promote further discussions by the participant. It also allowed the researcher to devise certain themes, as acknowledged and emerged through the interviews (Cresswell, 2009).

The semi-structured interviews of the 20 participants took place over a period of four months. The questions asked were open-ended and comprehensive, consisting of a few questions per interview schedule. The open-ended questions were ground on the literature reviewed and were then evaluated so that the themes could be elucidated for the research. This was then gathered by the researcher- allowing for a more

comprehensive examination of the content. The interviews were conducted by the researcher, as well as transcribed by the researcher, ensuring that the exact language, tone and views of the participants were captured. The researcher utilized a *denaturalized* transcription approach when transcribing the interviews. This approach in transcription concentrates on the material and content being relayed through speech. It is focused on a verbatim illustration of speech and the significant content and perceptions communicated through the interview process (Oliver, Serovich & Mason, 2006).

1.7.5. Data Analysis

Once the data was collected, the researcher followed the most appropriate methods of analyzing and interpreting the data (De Vos *et al.*, 2005: 334). Through the analysis of the data, the researcher was able to form and identify various themes and sub-themes (see Annexure E), as well as identify any patterns correlating to the behaviours of the juvenile offenders. This data was then organized into various thematic and sub-thematic categories based on the responses of the participants, following a presentation of the findings in the proceeding chapters. The thematic categories were based on the transcripts of the recordings of the interviews held with participants.

In qualitative data analysis, the process is circular and not linear; and the collection and analysis of the data is a simultaneous procedure as was the case in this study (Haregu, 2012). The data analytic approach followed the following procedure:

- i) The data were transcribed and organized by the researcher.
- ii) The researcher then identified a framework by reading and gaining an understanding of the transcribed data, by forming a structure and by coding the text through labeling texts that were similar in content and themes.
- iii) The data were then sorted into the frameworks through the coding process and data entry.
- iv) The framework was utilized for the descriptive analysis, whereby the researcher was able to look at the range of responses, as well as identify the themes and sub-themes of the data.
- v) Data saturation was reached as the researcher came to a point in the analysis of data where no additional information or patterns were found to develop new themes

or relationships. The researcher then stopped sampling and rounded off the analyses (Bowen, 2008).

1.7.6 Data verification

It is important in a research study to ensure that the data is verifiable and reliable. The validity of a study refers to the degree to which the instrument used for data collection sufficiently reflects the true meaning of the concept which is supposed to be studied (Babbie & Mouton, 2006:146). Reliability on the other hand occurs when an instrument used for data collection measures the same concept more than once with the same results (De Vos *et al.*, 2011:177). In qualitative studies the norms of credibility, transferability, dependability and conformability should be taken into consideration in order to assess the validity and reliability of the respective study (De Vos *et al.*, 2011:419).

In order to ensure data verification was upheld, the researcher aimed at depicting an accurate and precise representation of what the participants said, thus ensuring credibility. This also allowed for transferability to be presented, as the interviews were fully transcribed, so that the context is understood by the reader. Dependability was assured through the Member Verification and Independent Code Theme Verification forms completed by the researcher, participants and independent coder (See Annexure H & I). Member checking was done by providing the transcribed interviews to four participants to ensure that these transcriptions were a true reflection of the interviews. An independent coder was utilized to confirm that the data were represented by the themes, sub-themes and categories (Maree, 2016: 123).

To achieve confirmation, the researcher authorized that all findings presented were a representation of the study, and not emerging from other sources (Shenton, 2004). A reflexivity report is a significant part of the researcher reflecting and acknowledging the research which was conducted and how the outcome was formed. The research has made use of a reflexivity report (See Annexure J), in order to reflect on the research process, as well as the personal understandings or ideas which the researcher initially brought into the research and how these shaped the outcome of the research study.

1.7.6. Ethical Considerations

This research study explored the views of the social service providers who work with juvenile offenders, as well as the micro, meso and macro systemic influences. This ensured that the researcher was not directly interacting with the juvenile offenders, avoiding the exploration of interpersonal issues of the offenders. The researcher focused more on the experiences of the participants, as well as their views on the effect on which substance misuse has on the delinquent behaviours of juvenile offenders. In terms of ethical considerations, this research is considered as low-risk. Throughout the selection and interview process, the researcher ensured the confidentiality of the participants in order to protect their identity. The participants also completed informed consent forms before the interview process began. All hardcopies of data and information is kept in a locked cabinet, allowing only the researcher to have access to it. All electronic data and information is stored on a code-protected laptop, allowing only the researcher to have access to it.

Before the researcher conducted the interviews, the researcher awaited the official consent from the Department of Social Work at the University of Stellenbosch. Thereafter, the proposal was submitted to the Research Ethics Committee of the University of Stellenbosch, in order to check for vulnerability and implications. The researcher only commenced with the research once permission was granted for the study (See Annexure A). In addition to these ethical procedures, the researcher is also a registered social worker within the South African Council for Social Service Professions, which holds Code of Ethics which needs to be practiced and adhered to as a social service professional.

1.8. PRESENTATION

This research study will be presented through four chapters, with each chapter representing an objective, as listed above. This chapter, being chapter 1, is the introduction to the research study. Chapter 2 provides a theoretical discussion on legislative frameworks, protocols and research pertaining to substance misuse and juvenile offenders, within a South African context. Chapter 3 critically discusses the literature on various influential factors; as well as identifies the aspects of substance misuse which relate to the delinquent behaviour of juveniles through an ecological perspective. Chapter 4 is the empirical study, through which the researcher has

empirically investigated the views of interested social service providers on the effect of substance misuse on juvenile offenders. This was correlated literature discussed in chapters 2 and 3. Chapter 5 is a presentation of conclusions regarding the issue of juvenile substance misuse and delinquency, and it provides recommendations to the relevant service providers, as well as institutions who work closely with juvenile offenders.

1.9. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The limitations of the study consist of the boundaries or constraints to the research. In this research study, the sample size was small, consisting of 20 participants, thus the findings of the research study cannot be generalized. There was also no pilot study conducted and the research was only directed in the Western Cape, therefore, findings cannot be generalized to the broader South Africa. The researcher clearly described the research process (under section 1.7), which can be adapted for studies in other areas, with larger sample sized. Through this study, the researcher made reference to gangs, gangsterism and how this relates to offending behaviour of juveniles, however, this was not addressed in-depth due to a lack of time. However, a recommendation was made to conduct more research on this issue for prospective studies.

1.10. IMPACT

According to a study conducted by the South African National Youth Risk Behaviour Survey (Reddy, Panday, Swart, Jinabhai, Amosun & James, 2013), it was found that 11.5 % of pupils in South Africa have tried a minimum of one illegal substance, such as, mandrax, cocaine, heroin, cannabis or methamphetamine ('tik'). NICRO is the National Institute for Crime Prevention and Reintegration of Offenders in South Africa. They work closely with adult and youth offenders. As expressed by NICRO, the majority of the crimes committed by juveniles are regarded as petty crimes; however, there is a noticeable increase in more violent crimes; as well as juvenile sexual offenders. According to Arina Smit, a NICRO programme specialist and social worker, youth involved in crimes are becoming progressively younger and display more prevalent violent behaviours (Hosken, 2004).

By equipping social workers and social service providers with the relevant knowledge, skills and information pertaining to substance misuse on juvenile offenders, this

research study could contribute towards the services being rendered, as well as correlate the different micro, meso and macro-system influences on the delinquent behaviours of juvenile offenders. This could also allow social workers and social service providers to address the gaps identified through this research study, as well as implement possible prospective programmes aimed specifically on substance misuse affecting juvenile offenders. This research study will contribute towards the theoretical knowledge and understanding relating to the effect of substance misuse on juvenile offenders. It could also be beneficial in terms of practical services rendered for the social service providers and professionals who work closely with juvenile offenders. This research study might also identify any gaps in the South African context; as well as promote future research in order and contribute to the growing knowledge hub in this field of expertise.

CHAPTER 2

AN OVERVIEW ON LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS, PROTOCOL AND RESEARCH PERTAINING TO SUBSTANCE MISUSE AND JUVENILE OFFENDERS

2.1. INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the legislative frameworks, protocol, theoretical underpinnings and research pertaining to substance misuse and offending behaviour of juveniles is discussed. This chapter will address the first objective of the study within a South African context, whilst also highlighting universal frameworks for a comparative understanding. This chapter will focus on an overview of substance misuse and offending behaviour of juveniles in South Africa. The research will then lead to the exploration of substance misuse and offending behaviour of juveniles, by viewing the legislative frameworks and protocol, as well as the theoretical underpinnings of the aforementioned topic.

2.2. OVERVIEW OF SUBSTANCE MISUSE IN SOUTH AFRICA

Substance misuse in South Africa has had a damaging and negative effect on the vigour, wellbeing and conditions of the country and has led to a multitude of high-risk behaviours of individuals, including: illegal and offensive behaviour, violence, unprotected sex, health complications, as well as psychological and physical difficulties (Department of Basic Education, 2013).

In February 2013, the Department of Basic Education compiled a National Strategy for the Prevention and Management of Alcohol and Drug Use Amongst Learners in Schools. In this National Strategy, they defined substance abuse as a global challenge, imposing on the health, security and wealth of the South African nation. The National Strategy is aimed at executing programmes within schools, which are based on the principles of restorative justice; and these programmes are inclusive of the family and community systems of the individual (Department of Basic Education, 2013). These factors will be explored in further detail in Chapter 3 of this research.

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2014), illegal drug users in Africa form approximately 17-21% of universal illegal drug users. The predominance of treatment mandate in Africa for cannabis abuse approximates to 38.4%. Cannabis is identified as the most common substance misused, but alcohol misuse is also seen as a great challenge. Although cannabis use in private homes has been legalized recently some researchers are concerned about the misuse of it, especially among adolescents (Fisher & Harrison, 2013:112). According to research conducted by the Christian Addiction Support (2016), 7.06% of the South African population abuse narcotics of some sort; and cannabis consumption amid adolescent's range between 2-9%. According to research conducted by the South African Community Epidemiology Network on Drug Use, alcohol is regarded as the primary substance of abuse among patients who seek help or treatment. Within South Africa, the Western Cape, as well as the Northern Cape, has exceptionally high statistics for the usage of methamphetamine and cannabis, at 36% and 44% respectively (Plüddermann, Dada, Parry, Bhana, Perreira, Nel and Aboagye, 2010a). In Cape Town, methamphetamine, or more commonly known as 'tik', has affected more than 70% of patients under the age of 20, indicating that methamphetamine is their primary substance of choice (Parry *et al.*, 2004b).

The intensity and specification of illegal substance use may fluctuate depending on the geographical area, as well as the population. Polysubstance use, which is the usage of more than one form of substance, remains high in South Africa. Research recorded that between 32% and 45% of substance-users preferred more than one substance of choice (Plüddeman, Parry, Bhana, Dada & Fourie, 2010). In recent years, there has been an escalation in the amount of patients under the age of 20 enrolling in treatment centres or programmes within South Africa. This approximates to 17-28% of the patients in treatment centres or programmes being under the age of 20 (Plüddermann *et al.*, 2010a). An Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) was established by the South African government in 2010, in order to alleviate the escalating issue of alcohol and drug abuse in South Africa (Department of Basic Education, 2010).

According to Alcohol Rehab (2018), substance misuse has influenced delinquent behaviour and criminal activity. It is viewed as both a criminological and psychological matter, as described by Agnew (2015). Research has also defined a relationship

between levels of depression, stress and anger to the usage of illegal substances (Greco & Curci, 2017). Risk factors of adolescent delinquent behaviour include: family conflict, child abuse, domestic violence, sexual abuse, depression or aggression (Asgeirsdottira, Sigfusdottir, Gudjonssona & Sigurdssonc, 2011). These negative experiences and emotional familiarities may lead to 'anger-based delinquency or avoidance', as described by Turner, Finkelhor and Ormrod (2006).

The administration and supervision of the social issue of substance misuse in South Africa is embedded in rich political, historical, societal and economic pressures. This plays a significant role on the policy-drafting, formulating and implementation related to substance misuse (Whiting, 2014).

2.3. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS AND PROTOCOL RELEVANT TO JUVENILE SUBSTANCE MISUSE

It is important to understand the legislative frameworks and protocol associated with substance misuse, in order to contextualize the phenomenon. The legislative frameworks, policies and protocols associated with substance misuse will be described and explained below, on an international and national scale.

2.3.1. International Scale

The policies which highlight the protection of children on an international scale, and will be utilized in this research study include: The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child; and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

i) The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

This was sanctioned by South Africa on the 16th June 1995. This convention acts universally in order to ensure that the fundamental human rights of children, who are aged 0 to 18, are upheld and protected. Underlined within this convention is Article 33, which obligates that all parties who has signed the convention to establish and inaugurate measures in order to ensure that children are protected against the exposure and use of illegal substances; as well as the exploitation of children in the manufacturing and trafficking of illegal substances (United Nations, 1989).

ii) The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

This is a universal charter which was endorsed by South Africa in 2000, in order to address and recognize the rights and responsibilities of children between the ages of 0 and 18. The charter stipulates that signatories of the charter are obligated to take necessary measures in order to inhibit children being involved in the manufacturing, trafficking of illegal substances; as well as, to protect children from the consumption of illegal substances. The African Youth Charter was ratified by South Africa in 2009, in order to support the additional development of a compulsory division called 'Life Skills' that became part of the educational curriculum. HIV and AIDS, reproductive health issues, substance abuse prevention, rehabilitation and related legislative works were all important themes addressed in the curriculum (African Union, 1990).

2.3.2. National Scale

The National Policies which highlight the protection of children in South Africa and which will be utilized in this research study include: the South African Constitution; the Child Justice Act 75 of 2008; the Children's Act 38 of 2005; the Prevention of and Treatment for Substance Abuse Act 70 of 2008; National Drug Master Plan 2013-2017; Liquor Act 59 of 2003; Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act 140 of 1992; Tobacco Products Control Amendment Act 63 of 2008; the Policy Guidelines for Youth and Adolescent Health (2001) and Educational Policies.

i) The South African Constitution

This is the highest form of law in the country and it cannot be equivocated by parliamentary or governmental decisions or any other laws. The Bill of Rights forms part of the second chapter of the Constitution. The Bill of Rights upholds the democratic standards of dignity, equality and freedom in humanity. It also protects and advocates for fulfilling basic human rights, such as: basic education, not be unlawfully discriminated against, privacy, integrity, social services and access to basic health care (Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996).

ii) The Child Justice Act 75 of 2008

The main objective of the Child Justice Act 75 of 2008 is to ensure that youth who have committed a crime are not officially sentenced to prison. These youths are readdressed and enrolled into diversion programmes, such as substance abuse treatment programmes, rehabilitation and reintegration programmes. The aim of this

is to limit stigmatization attached to the offending behaviour of the child. These provisions are made for children between the ages of 0 and 18, depending on the intensity of the crime committed. This will be explored in further detail when discussing the offending behaviour of juveniles (Department of Basic Education, Republic of South Africa, 2013).

iii) The Children's Act 38 of 2005

This Act focuses on the rights of children, as stipulated in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Concerning illegal substance abuse, the Children's Act orders the safeguarding of children being exposed to illegal substances, or being exposed to harmful emotional or psychological behaviour. The Act also states that if a child is addicted to an illegal substance and he or she does not have any support to acquire treatment, they should receive treatment through the governmental programmes put in place. Section 150(1) (d) of the Children's Act states that if a child is addicted to an illegal substance and does not have any support to obtain treatment, the school may make provision for the child to be removed, providing the learner is referred to the appropriate professionals and his or her education still continues (The Children's Act 38 of 2005, 2009/2010).

iv) Prevention of and Treatment for Substance Abuse Act 70 of 2008

This Act aims at focusing on applying early intervention, prevention, treatment and re-integration programmes, in order to diminish the damage caused by illegal substance use. There are indicated procedures for treatment of youth, which facilitates the in-take process, fixating the in-and out-patient treatment, as well as instituting treatment centers (Department of Social Development, 2009). The Act also provides a framework whereby the duties and responsibilities of the Central Drug Authority are outlined. The Central Drug Authority consists of different departmental divisions and governmental structures. The purpose of the Central Drug Authority is to supervise and evaluate the implementation of the National Drug Master Plan; as well as to monitor governmental projects executed.

v) National Drug Master Plan (2013- 2017)

The National Drug Master Plan was drawn up in correlation to the stipulations of the Prevention and Treatment of Drug Dependency Act 20 of 1992. The administrative

division of the National Drug Master Plan is the Central Drug Authority, who works alongside the Department of Social Development. The focal goal of the National Drug Master Plan is to assist and support in the working relationship between the various Governmental departments which work in the field of illegal substance use and prevention (Department of Social Development, 2009).

vi) Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act 140 of 1992

The primary aim of this Act is to address the issue of drug use and trafficking in South Africa. This act provides a legal framework, which stipulates that it is illegal to use or be in the possession of illegal substances, to have illegal dealings and business with drugs, or to produce substances which are related to the drug industry (Department of Social Development, 2010).

vii) Tobacco Products Control Amendment Act 63 of 2008

This Act forbids the marketing and promotion of tobacco merchandises. This is inclusive of prohibiting free distribution of tobacco merchandises, or selling tobacco products to minors (Department of Health, 2008).

viii) Liquor Act, 2003 59 of 2003

The Liquor Act legalizes the production, marketing and supply of liquor in South Africa. The Act forbids the sale of liquor to minors. The National Liquor Policy Council was also founded, in order to work alongside the Liquor Act and ensure that the standards, norms and legalities are met (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2010).

ix) Policy Guidelines for Youth and Adolescent Health (2001)

These guidelines have been put in place in order to prevent detrimental health issues among youth in South Africa, as well as to encourage a healthy and vigorous youth development programme. Substance abuse and drug use has been incorporated into the 8 priority areas of the guidelines (Department of Health, 2001).

x) Educational Policies:

The Educational Policies in South Africa, which highlight the management and usage of illegal substances are: National Guidelines for the Management and

Prevention of Drug Use and Abuse in all Public Schools and Further Education and Training Institutions; and the Implementation Protocol between the Department of Basic Education and the South African Police Services on Prevention of Crime and Violence in All Schools (2011):

- National Guidelines for the Management and Prevention of Drug Use and Abuse in all Public Schools and Further Education and Training Institutions:

These national guidelines provide a policy framework which offers direction as to the systems that should be applied in order to address substance abuse within the schooling system. These include themes such as management of substance abuse, learner support groups, establishing relationships with community resources and executing actions for incident management. These guidelines stipulate the importance of including substance abuse education in the academic curriculum (Department of Education, 2002).

- Implementation Protocol between the Department of Basic Education and the South African Police Services on Prevention of Crime and Violence in All Schools (2011):

As a result of the increasing levels of violence and criminal behaviour in South African schools, the Department of Basic Education and the South African Police Services ratified the Implementation Protocol in 2011. The objective of this protocol is to endorse a safer school environment, where the involvement in crime and illegal substance use amongst youth are eradicated. The signing of this protocol has linked systems and supporting networks to schools, such as local reporting systems of school or youth-based crime to police stations; as well as a Safe Schools Committee, which implements programmes focused on crime prevention and community mobilizations (Department of Education, 2001).

2.4. OVERVIEW OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS IN SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa has a rich political history, governed by violence and oppression. During the Apartheid era, the National Party, had power over the majority by ruling through

authority and supremacy and endorsed violent and repressive behaviour. This violent and repressive behaviour was encouraged through policies which fortified racism, poverty, levels of inequality and deprivation (Singh, 2017). As Simpson (1996) had said, violent and repressive behaviour was normalized in South Africa and we developed a “culture of violence”, where violence was perceived as an adequate and conventional means of addressing governmental, societal, as well as familial difficulties. The discrepancy amid criminal activity, illegal action and political violence was distorted; and it was during this phase that South Africa experienced a rise in the crimes being committed (Singh, 2017). The end of the Apartheid Era in South Africa also resulted in the opening of borders, allowing greater accessibility and variety of illegal substances to be inter-transferred between countries and provinces; specifically, illegal substances that were previously not available. This accessibility and variety has been associated with the increase in crime and violence, placing a substantial weight on the economic and social standing of South Africa (Cilliers & Aucoin, 2016).

Statistics in South Africa indicate that violence amongst youth has increased over the years. This means that a larger number of youths are being exposed to violent and criminal behaviour. The act of violence and violent behaviour has had an effect on the life of the juvenile offender, as well as his or her eco-systemic structures (Basson & Mawson, 2011). Juvenile crime is an uprising phenomenon and as expressed by White and Cunneen (2015), there has been a growth in violent individual crimes. In 2004, a study was conducted by an organisation, which looked into the rehabilitation of juvenile offenders in South Africa. The study indicated that a third of the juvenile offenders held in custody, were being incarcerated for violent behaviour and crimes (Lombard, 2004). According to certified statistics from the South African Police Services, there has been a rise in the amount of reported indecent assault cases, in comparison to previous years (South African Police Services Annual Report, 2016/2017).

Londt and Roman (2014) completed a 20-year study in the Western Cape, South Africa, focusing on the predominant characteristics of sex offenders. This study took place between 1993 and 2013. Their study reported that of the group of sex offenders, 60% of them were involved in juvenile offences, 76% were involved in juvenile sex offenses and 66% of them were exposed to pornography. None of them were

diagnosed with anti-social personality disorders or anti-social lifestyles. It is thus clear from this study that there is a strong correlation between juvenile sexual criminal behaviour and adult sexual criminal behaviour.

The increase of substance misuse and drug dependency in South Africa is associated with social repercussions, such as an increase in unemployment, poverty, dysfunctional family and health care systems, as well as drug-related crimes (Ovens, 2010). Ovens (2010) conducted a research study on prenatal abuse of substances during pregnancy and the link to child abuse in South Africa. As underlined by Ovens, the damage of prenatal substance abuse goes beyond just physical harm to the foetus. Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD) contributes to learning disabilities, mental and social disorders, academic difficulties, increase in unemployment and juvenile delinquency. Regarding FASD, a study was conducted in 1999, focusing on FASD in juveniles within the criminal justice system. There were a high percentage of juvenile offenders who had FASD, and it was also suggested that the developmental and behavioural difficulties associated with FASD were related to the deviant and criminal behaviours of juveniles who had FASD (Hafekost, Lawrence, O'Leary, Bower, Semmens & Zubrick, 2017; Fast, Conry & Loock, 1999:372). It is thus evident that the use of illegal substances and substance dependency during pregnancy has a detrimental impairment on the physical, social, behavioural and cognitive development of child, and later on him or her as an adult.

Research and statistics from the South African National Council for Alcohol and Drug Dependencies (SANCA) show that there has been an immense increase in children who are dependent on illegal substances; as well as a drop in the age of children who first experiment with illegal substances, from childhood to teenage years (Christian Addiction Support, 2016). According to Young, Dembo and Henderson (2007), when studying the use of illegal substances and juvenile offending behaviour on an international scale, it is evident that youths who engage in conflict with the law and enter the criminal justice system often experience multiple familial, social, inter-personal and educational difficulties.

2.5. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS AND PROTOCOL RELEVANT TO JUVENILE-OFFENDING BEHAVIOUR:

It is important to understand the legislative frameworks and protocol associated with juvenile-offending behaviour, in order to contextualize the phenomenon. The legislative frameworks, policies and protocols associated with juvenile-offending behaviour will be described and explained, on an international and national scale.

2.5.1. International Scale

As listed in the United Nations Office on Crime and Drugs (2013), the international laws and treaties pertaining to youth in conflict with the law are as follows:

i) The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

As described in section 2.3.1., the fundamental human rights of children, who are aged 0 to 18, are upheld and protected. The South African Government consents with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, in order to ensure that the rights of children are upheld and protected (Skelton, 2007). According to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, there are specific articles identified which address children who are in conflict with the law. These are Articles 37 and 40.

Article 37: stipulates that Governmental officials and organisations are expected and required to protect children detainees against being tortured, punished or deprived of liberty.

Article 40: stipulates that even though a child may be an alleged or accused juvenile perpetrator, he or she should still be treated in a dignified and respected manner, wherein their rights are protected and upheld. The child's age should be taken into consideration, as well as diversion or reintegration as a first priority (United Nations, 1989).

ii) The United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency

As part of the establishment of the Juvenile Justice System on an international scale, the United Nations has instituted principles and standards which need to be adhered to when administering the juvenile justice procedures (Gallinetti, Kassan & Ehlers,

2006). In 1985, the United Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency and the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty addressed the treatment of juvenile offenders and the preventative measures which can be put in place in order to eliminate delinquent behaviour. At the 10th United Nations Congress in Vienna, the preventative measures were emphasised again, as well as the pressing matter of adult offenders recruiting minors to join criminal groups (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2010).

iii) The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

As described in section 2.3.1., the African Charter on the Rights of the Welfare of the Child, is a universal charter which was endorsed by South Africa in 2000, in order to address and recognize the rights and responsibilities of children between the ages of 0 and 18. Article 17 in the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child echoes the frameworks outlined in Article 37 and 40 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, in terms of children who are in conflict with the law. The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child also reinforces that the best interests of the child should be considered a priority (African Union, 1990; Mokgoro, 2000).

2.5.2. National Scale

South Africa has made various developments over the years in order to practice the international laws and treaties pertaining to the child justice system. The following legislation has been legalized and practiced in South Africa (Mokgoro, 2000):

i) The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa

As described under section 2.3.2., the South African Constitution is the highest form of law in the country and it cannot be equivocated by parliamentary or governmental decisions or any other laws. The South African Constitution protects and upholds the rights of the people of the country; and most importantly, it highlights that the best interests of the children are always taken into first account. The South African Constitution specifies distinct protection regarding children who come into conflict with the law, by providing particular specifications. Some of these include:

The right:

- *not to be detained, except as a measure of last resort, and if detained, only for the shortest appropriate period of time;*
- *to be treated in a manner and kept in conditions that take account of the child's age;*
- *to be kept separately from adults, and to separate boys from girls, while in detention;*

(The Bill of Rights of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996)

This means that, according to South African law, a child may not be incarcerated or imprisoned unnecessarily; and if he or she is imprisoned, it should be implemented as a last measure. If imprisoned, a child should be held in a separate venue as to adults who are imprisoned; and children should be treated as minors and not adults.

Section 28 of the South African Constitution addresses the rights of children in South Africa and echoes what was mentioned in the Bill of Rights (1996). Subsection 1 (g) has been selected from Section 28, which would be specifics to look at in the case of juvenile-offending behaviour; and is similar to what has been described in the Bill of Rights (Section 28: The Bill of Rights of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996).

1) *(g) every child has a right not to be detained except as a measure of last resort and may be detained only for the shortest appropriate period of time. The child also has the right to be kept separately from detained persons over the age of 18 years and treated in a manner and kept in conditions that take account of the child's age*

Subsection 3 of Section 28 of the Bill of Rights of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa defines a child as:

3) *to mean a person under the age of 18 years*

It is thus clear from the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa that a when referring to a child, it is specific to an individual who is under the age of 17 years. Once an individual turns 18 years, he or she is no longer considered a child or a minor.

ii) Criminal Procedure Act 51 of 1977

This Act specifies criminal procedures to be followed in terms of legislation, relating to an individual under the age of 18. The aim of the Criminal Procedure Act is to safeguard children; and ensure that imprisonment, detention or a correctional facility is a last resort; and that involvement by the Department of Social Development is encompassed in the process, if need be (Criminal Law Forensic Procedures Amendment Act 37 of 2013, 2014). This Act also encourages that before a sentence or punishment is given to a child, which he or she first be sent to a reform school- as described in Section 1 of the Children's Act 38 of 2005. Section 290 (4) of the Criminal Procedures Act states that while the child awaits the order to be put in effect, that he or she be kept in a suitable place of safety. This Act also sanctions that the criminal court proceedings may be concluded and redirected to a children's court inquiry, as stated in Section 254 of the Criminal Procedures Act (Du Toit, De Jager, Paizes, Skeen & Van der Merwe, 2010).

The provisions of the Criminal Procedures Act set guidelines for two institutions, when dealing with children and the juvenile justice system. They are the: South African Police Services; and the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development:

– South African Police Services

Section 50 (4) of the Criminal Procedure Act states that when a child is arrested, the parent or guardian of the child must be notified immediately. The parents or guardians need to be informed of the time of the arrest, the place of the arrest, date of the arrest, as well as the date which the child would need to appear in court, if necessary. Releasing the child into the care of his or her parent or guardian should be deliberated. Section 50 (5) states that a probation officer should be informed if a child has been arrested; and the probation officer should complete an assessment report for that child (Breetzke, 2016).

– Department of Justice and Constitutional Development:

This division ensures that the probation officer is carrying out his or her duties; and that the assessments are completed, as required. This department is also to ensure that the following is made available and accessible at the police stations: availability of probation services; contact details of probation officers; and the venues where the

assessments will take place. All assessments compiled by probation officers should be submitted no more than 48 hours after the arrest has been made (Western Cape Government, 2018).

iii) The Children's Act 38 of 2005

As described in section 2.3.2., this Act focuses on the rights of children on a national scale, as stipulated in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights (The Children's Act 38 of 2005, 2009/2010).

iv) The Child Justice Act 75 of 2008:

As described in section 2.3.2., the Child Justice Act 75 of 2008 forms part of the national legislation of South Africa, addressing the juvenile justice systems and procedures (Child Justice Act 75 of 2008, 2009). This Act will be explored in finer detail in section 2.6., in order to contextualize the content of the Act.

In 1998, the Minister of Justice then, had given a directive to the South African Law Reform Commission, to form a draft Bill around children who are in conflict with the law. This was completed 2 years later in 2000; and subsequently, in 2002, it was listed in Parliament. This draft Bill was only approved in Parliament in 2009; and on April, the 1st of 2010, it was executed as the Child Justice Act (Skelton & Tshehla, 2008). Not only does this act provide for children in need of care and protection, it also guaranteed that there were sufficient systems in place which took the vulnerabilities of minors into consideration throughout the 12-year drafting period (PAN: Children, 2015)

2.5.3. Impending Policies

As discussed in the Juvenile Justice Report, during the process of sanctioning the legislation in the justice system, stipulating that children may be classified as alleged perpetrators, there were three policies impending (Mokgoro, 2000). These are: (1) The National Policy Framework on the Child Justice Act 75 of 2008; (2) the Norms and Standards on Child and Youth Care Centres; and (3) the White Paper on Correctional Services.

The above-mentioned policy documents, treaties and legislation all address children in conflict with the law and the child justice system on a national scale (within South Africa) and an international scale (across continents). The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child should still be the primary and central establishment, assisting and directing countries with regard to domesticating an appropriate and applicable child justice system (Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, 2014).

2.6. THE CHILD JUSTICE ACT 75 OF 2008

i. Developing a separate juvenile justice system:

The treatment of juvenile offenders is of utmost importance, as, although they might be alleged perpetrators, they are still children and need to be handled differently in comparison to adult offenders. There are specific international guidelines and rules which have been established in order to uphold the rights of the alleged juvenile offender (Skelton, 2007). These legislative frameworks have been discussed in the aforementioned sections.

ii. Application of the Act:

The Child Justice Act aims to institute a justice system specific for the youth of South Africa, who come into conflict with the law. The Child Justice Act works in agreement with the principles of the South African Constitution and the international United Nations regulations (Child Justice Act 75 of 2008, 2009). The Act allows for matters to be diverted so that the alleged juvenile offender does not enter the criminal justice system, and subsequently receives assistance through court diversion programmes and community interventions. Those matters that are not diverted will be administered through the criminal justice system and the child justice courts (Western Cape Government, 2018).

iii. Aim of the Child Justice Act:

The Child Justice Act aims to uphold the principles of restorative justice for children who have come into conflict with the law, whilst also underlining the importance of accountability and responsibility. The Act also aims to work within the criminal justice system whilst identifying the current, pressing realities of crime in South Africa, by introducing and executing operative and efficient diversion, rehabilitation and

reintegration programmes for children. These are directed at reducing the prospective acts of re-offending at a later stage (Child Justice Act 75 of 2008, 2009).

iv. Release of a child after arrest:

According to the Child Justice Act, when considering the detention or the release of a child who has been detained, releasing the child should always be the first choice (Western Cape Government, 2018). Before the child makes his or her first appearance at the preliminary inquiry, the following criteria must be met:

- The investigating police official should release the child, if suitable, into the care of the parent or guardian, with a written notice- as stated in Section 18 of the Act.
- Or, the presiding officer may, if suitable, authorize the release of the child to his or her parent or guardian, on bail- as described in Section 25 of the Act.

Subsection 3 of the Child Justice Act states that a presiding officer may release the child into the care of his or her parent or guardian at or during the stages of the first appearance, the preliminary inquiry, or at the child justice court proceedings. When the child is released, a written notice must be given to the parent or guardian of the child- this is stipulated in Section 18 of the Act. If the child cannot be released, the presiding officer or investigating police official needs to provide a written report to the inquiring magistrate, stating why the child could not be released. The child may not be released if the following are evident:

- The parent or guardian of the child cannot be located; or there is no fitting guardian.
- There is as extensive risk that the child could be a danger to himself or herself; or those around him or her.

(Child Justice Act 75 of 2008, 2009)

It is important to note, that the Act promotes the release of the child, in order to protect the child and prevent him or her entering the criminal justice system. Entering the criminal justice system and proceeding with court matters should be a last resort and only proceeded with if necessary or if the crime committed is a serious offence (Western Cape Government, 2018).

v. Child detained in police custody:

The Act states that if a child is detained or incarcerated in police custody, he or she should be held separately to adults; and separately in terms of sex (boys and girls). The Act also specifies that officials and authority should take the conditions of vulnerability of the child into account, in order to minimize the risk of harm to the child being detained. Those legally allowed to visit the child detainee are: the parents or legal guardians, social or healthcare workers, legal representatives, probation officers and religious or spiritual counsellors. The child who has been detained should also be provided with suitable healthcare, food, water and an appropriate place to sleep, with bedding and blankets provided (Child Justice Act 75 of 2008, 2009).

vi. Placement of a child in a prison:

In South Africa, a child is allowed to be detained or placed in prison if:

- He or she is 14 years or older.
- If the child has been accused of committing an offence listed under Schedule 3 of the Criminal Justice Act, which is considered a serious offence (i.e.: rape or murder).
- If there are pending charges against the child, or any preceding sentences or diversions against the child.
- If it is questionable whether the child may put civilians' lives at risk if he or she is not detained.
- If there is a risk of the child absconding if he or she is placed in a child and youth care center.

(Child Justice Act 75 of 2008, 2009; King *et al.*, 2004)

vii. Diversion:

Diversion is interconnected to the concept of restorative justice, comprising of allowing offenders to take accountability and responsibility for the crime which they have committed. One of the important components of diversion is to create a platform for amending connections and relationships with those who have been involved in the process- like community networks, familial structures and victims. In order to be enrolled in a diversion programme, the child must be under the age of eighteen years; and he or she must willingly or free admit to the crime he has committed. Only then

will a diversion programme be considered, which is run and facilitated by the provincial Department of Social Development (Department of Social Development, 2018).

According to the Act, the objectives of diversion are to:

- Encourage the child to take responsibility and accountability of his or her wrongdoings or illegal actions.
- To meet the psychological and psychosomatic needs of the child in order promote behavioural changes.
- To promote and facilitate the process of reintegration in terms of familial and communal systems.
- To encourage and promote reconciliation between the child and the person or persons affected.
- To avert the child from obtaining a criminal record and from prospective re-offending at a later stage.
- To preclude stigmatization of the child and to encourage that the self-worth, dignity and well-being of the child are reassured.

(Child Justice Act 75 of 2008, 2009)

Diversion in the juvenile justice system should only considered, if the child accepts and recognizes the responsibility of the offence committed; or if he or she has not been unfairly influenced to accept or recognize the responsibility; or if the child's parent or guardian are in agreement to the diversion; or if the prosecutor handling the matter authorises that the matter be diverted (Magano, 2015; Hettler, 1980).

viii. Reintegration:

In South Africa, there are various community organisations which work with juvenile offenders in order to assist the process of their reintegration back into society; as well as into their familial environment. NICRO is the National Institute for Crime Prevention and Reintegration of Offenders; and renders services to prepare the offender and his or her community systems for the reintegration process (NICRO, 2016). Acceptance and forgiveness is an important part of reintegration, as it provides the juvenile with a sense of support and care. This approach is also applied in Brazil to create communal mindfulness and teamwork for the reintegration of the juvenile (Bailey, 2003). Support

and aftercare is fundamental in order to decrease the risk of him or her reoffending. South African Young Sex Offenders Project (SAYSOP), is another community organisation which aims at preventing repetitive behaviour of deviant or criminal conduct. They work closely with ex-juvenile offenders in order to diminish the risk of reoffending and committing of additional offences (Korff, 2010).

2.7. UNDERSTANDING OFFENDING-JUVENILE BEHAVIOUR IN SOUTH AFRICA

In South Africa, The Children's Act ensures that the system constituted provides for children in need of care and protection. The Children's Act has also provided a structured framework in order to propagate the establishment of appropriate and suitable child and youth care centres, specifically, for children in conflict with the law (Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, 2013). Section 28 (1)(g) of the South African Constitution, states that the denial of a child's freedom should only be considered as a last option; and should a child need to be detained, then they should only be so for the shortest needed time. Due to international and constitutional obligations, South Africa has amended the minimum age specification for criminal capacity in the Child Justice Act (Skelton & Badenhorst, 2011).

i. Criminal capacity and behaviour in South Africa:

Criminal capacity, as defined by Pillay and Willows (2015) is the mental capacity to be able to differentiate between right and wrong and to subsequently act in accordance to the latter. It is important to evaluate the criminal capacity of an individual, in order to substantiate that he or she has indeed committed a crime or offence.

The Common Law administers the South Africa regulation in terms of identifying criminal behaviour. This functioned as follows:

a) A conclusive presumption of no criminal capacity, meaning, a presumption which cannot be altered by any supplementary evidence, would be relevant to children under the age of seven (US Legal, 2016). This would mean that children, who are younger than seven years, would not have criminal capacity and they could not commit offences legally.

b) A rebuttable presumption is a statement of fact that is recognized by the court, until condemned or contested by someone (The Law Dictionary, 2016). A rebuttable presumption of no criminal capacity would be relevant to minors between the ages of seven and fourteen years. This would mean that children, who are in this age group, would not have criminal capacity and could not commit offences legally, unless the prosecution is contested (PAN: Children, 2015).

c) A rebuttable presumption of criminal capacity would be relevant to minors between the age of fourteen and eighteen years. This would mean that children, who are in this age group, has criminal capacity and can legally commit offences, unless the prosecution is contested (PAN: Children, 2015).

The points above describe the South African regulations in terms of identifying criminal behaviour. Inherently, in terms of criminal capacity, the regulations could allow that minors, as young as seven years old, to be held criminally responsible and accountable for their behaviour. According to the Child Justice Act, children who have supposedly committed a crime and are under the age of ten, should be referred to a probation officer for an evaluation and an acclaimed protection plan for future preventative measures. Additionally, those who are between the ages of ten and fourteen years may be evaluated by a psychologist or psychiatrist in order to assess the criminal capacity of the individual (Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, 2013).

Skelleton and Bardenhorst (2011: 28), argue that if the minimum age of criminal capacity is increased to a standardized age of twelve years old, it would be advantageous for children, because that would mean less children would enter the criminal justice system and be regarded as suspected perpetrators of crime activity. Instead of entering the criminal justice system, these children would rather enter into the child protection system, as constituted by the Children's Act 38 of 2005. Skelleton and Bardenhorst also reiterate that there would be less confusion by only having one age of criminal capacity; and by having one set age, less criminal capacity evaluations would be required, allowing the formal and necessary procedures of the criminal justice system to be more productive and efficient (United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, 2007).

ii. Child protection components:

In Section 28 (2) of the South African Constitution, the best interest of the child is of high importance and should always be upheld (The Bill of Rights of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996). The Child Justice Act 75 of 2008 reassures this by obligation and by having a criminal justice system that evaluates the circumstantial and situational conditions of the children first, before a formal decision takes place. The objectives of the Child Justice Act 75 of 2008 are highlighted under Section 2 of the Act. They include:

- To uphold and protect the rights of children, which are specified in the Constitution.
- To prevent the child from being treated like an adult and being exposed to the formalities of the criminal justice system, by utilising procedures and systems which are more suitable for children, as appose to adults.
- To encourage the child to take accountability and responsibility, by highlighting and instilling a sense of respect and dignity for humanity.
- To promote interaction and collaboration between the governmental divisions, the non-governmental divisions and the community systems.
- To supporting reconciliation and to promote diversion
- To ensure that parents, legal guardians, communities, families and victims are involved in the procedures, where applicable.

(Child Justice Act, No. 75 of 2008, 2009)

As seen from the points under Section 2 of the Child Justice Act 75 of 2008, it is evident that the Act was designed and shaped with a protecting environment for children, in order to ensure that primarily, their best interests are always taken into account.

In Section 35 (a) of the Child Justice Act 75 of 2008, it is mentioned that a *multi-purposed* approach should be taken when dealing with children in conflict with the law; and this would be inclusive of an assessment in order to evaluate if the child who is in conflict with the law, is in fact also in need of care and protection (Western Cape Government, 2018). As mentioned, an assigned probation officer would do the assessment and evaluate whether the child is in need of care and protection. This would be underlined in the assessment report submitted. Thereafter, a preliminary inquiry is followed, as stipulated in Section 43 (1) (d) of the Child Justice Act. This is a fundamental stage in the child justice procedure, as it is the stage where the criminal

matter can be referred to the Children's Court for further attention, if the child is in need of care and protection. As stated in Section 50 of the Act, the criminal matter may be referred to the Children's Court by the Magistrate during the preliminary inquiry, if it is apparent that the child is in need of care and protection, if the child does not reside in his or her family home or is not legally placed in an alternative place of residence, or if the child has supposedly committed a minor offence previously, which has put his or her basic needs in jeopardy (Child Justice Act, No. 75 of 2008, 2009).

Furthermore, Section 64 of the Child Justice Act stipulates that a presiding officer, who is dealing with the criminal matter at the Child Justice Court, may refer a child to the Children's Court. This may be done if the presiding officer is of the opinion that the child is in need of care and protection; and the criminal proceeding matter has already commenced. This would mean that once the presiding officer has referred the matter to the Children's Court in terms of the Children's Act 38 of 2005, the criminal charges against the child will be withheld and the child would enter the Child Protection System, regardless of whether the criminal matter of proceedings was as the preliminary stage or at the Child Justice Court stage. One can deduce that there is a strong association with the use of illegal substances and the likelihood of incessant conflict with the law and being involved in the juvenile justice system. This would also link to an upsurge in the rate, severity and duration of offending and the frequency of offenses committed.

Trauma is an important aspect to look at when evaluating juvenile offenders and their behaviour. In South Africa, many of the juvenile offenders have experienced trauma before being incarcerated. This exposure to trauma is frequently related to the illegal and criminal behaviour of the offenders (Sommer *et al.*, 2017). A study was conducted by Langa (2008), to explore the pre-experienced trauma of juvenile offenders in South Africa, as well as to evaluate the lack of trauma counselling services being rendered in South African prisons. The types of trauma experienced by juvenile offenders were: sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, being subjected to or witnessing family violence, being subjected to or witnessing gang violence, absent father figures and being in the procedure of the criminal juvenile justice system. There was also a strong correlation between the unresolved traumas experienced by juvenile offenders and recidivism.

2.8. CONCLUSION

The aim of this chapter was to provide a theoretical discussion on legislative frameworks, protocol and research pertaining to substance misuse and offending-behaviour of juveniles, within a South African context. In order to understand juvenile substance misuse and the linkage of that action to juvenile-offending behaviour, it is important to have a contextual understanding of the comprehensive and legislative frameworks- on an international and national scale. It is also fundamental to have an inclusive understanding of the juvenile criminal procedures within South Africa. Hence, the Criminal Justice Act and the Constitution of South Africa was explained in detail, as both these Acts specify legislation relevant to children and juveniles. Violence within communities is an endemic, in which the children of South Africa face in the school, community or familial environment (Matthews and Benvenuti, 2014). The influential systems and risk factors which have an influence on the substance misuse of juveniles and offending behaviour of juveniles help us to understand and explore this behaviour in further detail. This will be explored in Chapter 3 of this study.

CHAPTER 3

INFLUENTIAL FACTORS RELATING TO SUBSTANCE MISUSE OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS FROM AN ECOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

3.1. INTRODUCTION

In the previous chapter the legislative frameworks, protocol and research pertaining to substance misuse and offending-behaviour of juveniles was discussed. In this chapter, the literature on various influential factors, as well as identified aspects of substance misuse which relate to offending behaviour of juveniles will be discussed. This chapter reflects the second objective of the study and concentrates within a South African context, whilst also focusing on the theoretical ecological perspective of Bronfenbrenner. This chapter will first define Bronfenbrenner's ecological perspective and then identify the theoretical systems within the perspective. The research will then follow by discussing the literature on various influential factors pertaining to substance misuse and influential factors pertaining to offending-behaviour of juveniles. The study will draw a parallel to the shared influential factors between juvenile substance misuse and offending-behaviour of juveniles. This research study will then identify the specific aspects in accordance to the framework of Bronfenbrenner's ecological perspective.

3.2. OVERVIEW OF BRONFENBRENNER'S ECOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

Urie Bronfenbrenner was a psychologist by profession, who developed the human ecology theory, commonly known today as the 'Ecological Systems Theory'. Through his theory, he viewed individual human beings as developing within the context of their environment, rather than developing on their own (Gilstrap & Ziertan, 2018). The 'environment' would refer to interacting and interconnecting systems, such as: family relationships, school systems, friendships, community systems, religious gatherings, interpersonal connections, work relations and societal implications. Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory, or ecological perspective, consists of five subsystems. Human development and progression takes place through these subsystems. They are: microsystem, mesosystem, exosystem, macrosystem and chronosystem (Bronfenbrenner, 1994). For the purpose of this research study, the researcher will identify and describe the microsystem, mesosystem, exosystem and macro system.

This will later be correlated to the aspects of substance misuse which relate to offending-behaviour of juveniles.

The image (Figure 3.1) below has been extracted from McCallen (2016) with the purpose of providing the reader with a visual representation of the Ecological Systems Theory. As illustrated by this image, it is clear to see that the individual is centred, and surrounded by the micro, meso, macro systems and influenced by the exosystem.

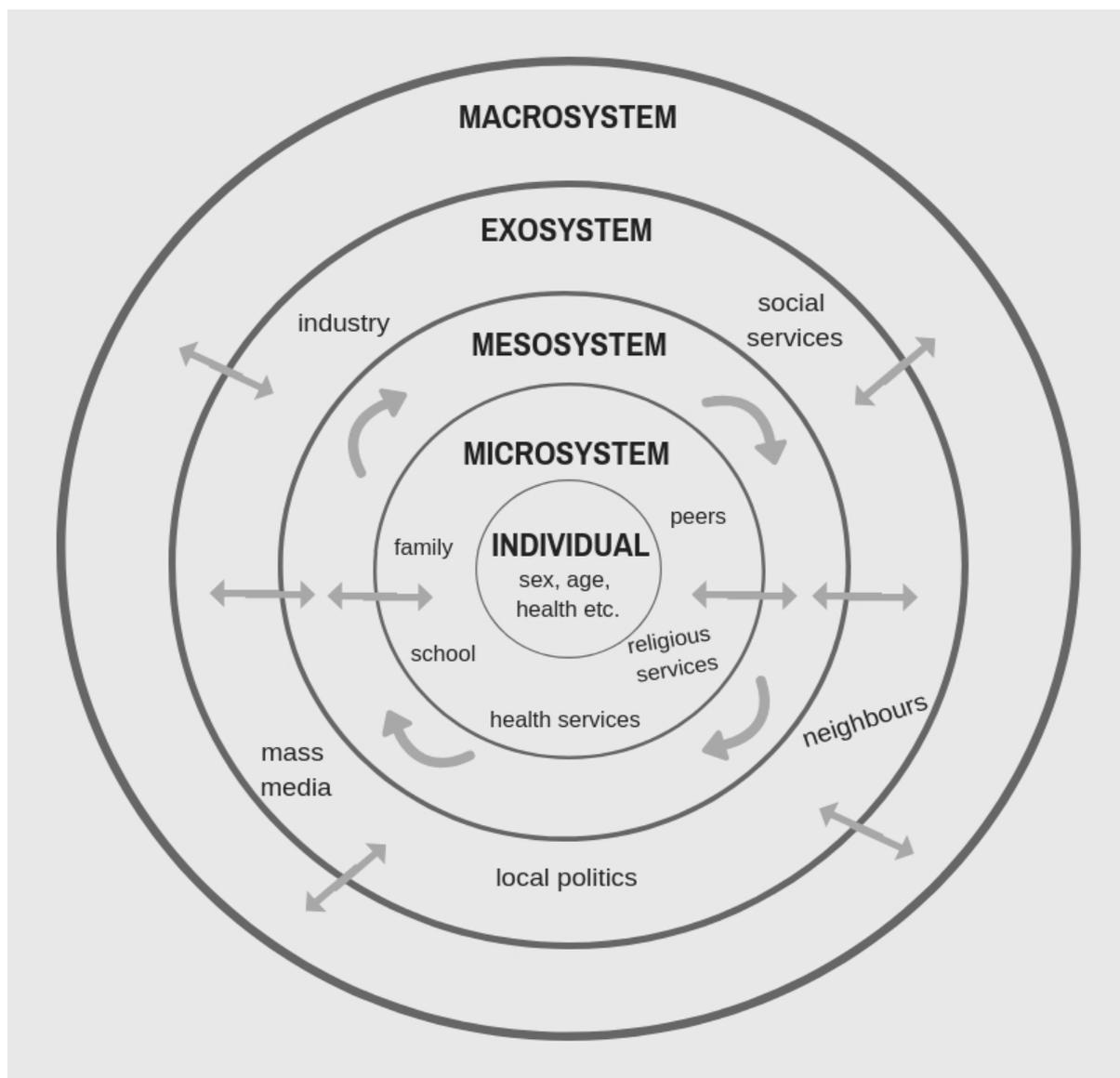


Figure 3.1: Bronfenbrenner's Social-Ecological Perspective of Human Development (1979)

3.2.1. Microsystems

The microsystem is the system bordering the individual, consisting of structures in direct contact with the individual. The microsystem is inclusive of the interactions and associations between the individual and the immediate systems around him or her. These interactions and associations would be between networks such as: familial structure, neighbourhood interactions, school settings and peer relationships. The relationship between the interactions and associations are affected toward the individual, as well as away from the individual. This is referred to as *bi-directional influences* according to Bronfenbrenner's theory and it is the sturdiest influence at the microsystem level. These interactions between the various levels of systems are a fundamental component to the theory (Paquette & Ryan, 2001).

3.2.2. Mesosystems

The mesosystem is the system which is responsible for the interaction between the organisations and structures within the microsystem (Bronfenberenner, 1999). For example, the mesosystem would be the interaction between the individual's parents and the individual's school teacher.

3.2.3. Exosystems

The exosystem is the system which identifies the societal structure- a structure which is important to the individual's functioning, but does not affect the individual directly. In this system, the progression, development and growth of the individual is influenced by the connections and relationships with the networks within the microsystem (Paquette & Ryan, 2001). An example of the exosystem would be the community-based resources or legal frameworks by which an individual is bound by. The individual may not directly be involved in the political or legalities of the country he or she resides in, but he or she is affected by the implementation and execution of those procedures.

3.2.4. Macrosystems

The macrosystem is the system which, as depicted in Figure 3.1, is the outermost layer within the individual's ecosystem. This system encompasses structures and systems such as cultural customs and traditions or societal norms and values. The functioning and relationships between these structures and systems have a domino-

effect on the other systems within the ecosystem of the individual and plays an important role in the individual's perception of society (Bronfenbrenner, 1999).

It is important to understand the theoretical perspective of Bronfenbrenner in order to comprehend the different levels at which factors influence substance misuse and juvenile offending-behaviour. This will be elaborated and discussed in further detail in the proceeding sections of this chapter.

3.3. POSSIBLE INFLUENTIAL FACTORS PERTAINING TO JUVENILE SUBSTANCE MISUSE AND CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

The association between violent behaviour and substance misuse is seen in both victims and perpetrators of violence (Jewkes & Morrell, 2010). When referring to the use of substances within a South African context, it would include: cannabis, alcohol, methamphetamine, cocaine, morphine, heroine, ecstasy, acid, prescription drugs and inhalants, such as petrol, glue and paint thinners (Peltzer, Ramlagan, Johnson & Phaswana-Mafuya, 2010). Besides the predominance of drug use in South Africa, alcohol consumption in South Africa is also regarded as one of the highest on an international scale (Edberg, Shaikh, Thurman & Rimal, 2015). The South African Depression and Anxiety Group have stated that in comparison to universal statistics, South Africa's illegal substance consumption is twice the average, causing an increase in the statistics of criminal activity. Additionally, the South African Police Service has mentioned that the root of approximately 60% of crimes committed in South Africa begins with the involvement of illegal substance misuse (Manala, 2014). Substance misuse amongst adolescents is associated with a number of high risk consequences. As described by Moodley, Matjila & Moosa (2012), these consequences may range from road accidents, violent and aggressive behaviour, suicidal behaviour, alcohol dependence, criminal or delinquent behaviour and unsafe sexual behaviour, high risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases. It is important to note that through their research study, they have identified a strong association with alcohol dependence and criminal behaviour.

In South Africa, studies have shown that the average entry age of substance misuse is 12 years. This is an extremely disturbing and low age for opening oneself up to the

vulnerabilities of substance dependency; and unfortunately, the age is decreasing. Research has also presented that those adolescents who begin the consumption of alcohol before the age of 15, is four times more probable to become an alcoholic at a later stage in his or her life. It was also stated that adolescents who indulge in substance misuse are more susceptible to be involved in violent criminal activities (Jordan, 2013). Although the onset age for substance dependence is decreasing with time, the common age for developing alcoholism is between the ages of 18-20 years. Mudavanhu & Schenck (2014) conducted research in a town called Grabouw, approximately 65 km outside of Cape Town, and found that roughly 5% of children between the ages of 5 and 7 years have FASD (Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder). This is alarming, because as mentioned in Chapter 2 of this research study, there is a strong correlation between FASD and delinquent behaviour or criminal activity. Jordan (2013) underlines various factors which influence the misuse of substances amongst adolescents. These include: lack of parental control or supervision, emotional and psychological stressors, modelling of behaviour displayed by those around them, child abuse, absent parental figures and the ease of accessibility and availability of illegal substances.

Those adolescents who are at risk to consuming illegal substances or are substance dependent include, but are not limited to: low level of education of parents; individuals who have repeated a grade at school; divorced parents or single-parent households; poor or low socio-economic circumstances; parental history of substance dependence; and family or domestic violence (Otwombe, Dietrich, Sikkema, Coetzee, Hopkins, Laher and Gray, 2015). This research is echoed by Carney, *et al.*, (2017), who state that one of the leading causes of crime and violence is involvement or dependence on illegal substances. Research in South Africa has also depicted links of substance misuse to intimate-partner violence; violent crimes committed and premeditated injuries (Carney, Myers, Kline, Johnson and Wechsberg, 2017).

Youth who have been sentenced to prison due to criminal activity and behaviour face many negative experiences during the sentencing procedure and by the reality of living in a prison- be it a youth protection facility, juvenile prison or adult facility. The intervention of a prison sentence does not always meet the needs of the individual youth offender, in terms of developmental, behavioural, mental health, rehabilitative

and criminogenic needs (Randell, 2013). Also, the constant engagement and interaction with other juvenile offenders and the criminal justice system could either divert the individual from future offending behaviour, or it could enable, maintain and encourage further criminal behaviour. Randell (2013) also states that the imprisonment of youth offenders is supposed to be a form of rehabilitation and protection for the public; however, it is not always as proficient in terms of the expenses involved and the expected results.

Not only does the incarceration process effects the juvenile being sentenced, but it also effects his or her family, as well as the victim and community in which they reside (Basson & Mawson, 2011). This will be discussed in further detail throughout this chapter, with reference to the theoretical framework of Bronfenbrenner. The following section of this chapter will add on to what was discussed above; drawing focus on substance misuse and the relation to offending behaviour of juveniles.

3.4. SUBSTANCE MISUSE RELATING TO OFFENDING BEHAVIOUR OF JUVENILES, THROUGH AN ECOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE.

A study was conducted in South Africa, evaluating the related factors of cannabis misuse amongst adolescents. This study was inclusive of all nine provinces within South Africa. Some of the factors which were associated to cannabis misuse included: consistent absenteeism in school; suicide thoughts and behaviour; having more than one sexual partner; having a mother, father or guardian who smokes cannabis regularly; being a victim of bullying; environmental stressors; HIV and sexually transmitted diseases; violence and food insecurity (Peltzer & Pengpid, 2018). Accordingly in this chapter, the researcher has identified the factors of substance misuse relating to offending behaviour of juveniles and grouped it in accordance to the suitable systems of Bronfenbrenner's theory.

3.4.1 Microsystems

i) The individual

The interaction and communication around the individual impacts directly on his or her socialization, attachment and development. As described by McLaren & Hawe (2005), the more positive and nurturing these connections are, the stronger the probability that

the individual will grow to reach a healthy and optimal functioning level of development. The individual's interdependent relationships are also shaped by human interactions and behaviour within the micro-level. Adaptation and change in the individual's behaviour could be endorsed or encouraged by the systems at a micro-level. This is regarded as a systematic individual process which interconnects to the environment (McLauren & Hawe, 2005: 6-14).

The way in which an individual interacts and reacts to the people in his or her microsystem will consequently affect how those people react to the individual. It is fundamental to note that an individual's personality is influenced by the environment in which he or she is raised in, genetic factors and biological factors. This is known as our *temperament*, which can affect the way in which those in the microsystem treat or respond to the individual (Institute of Medicine and National Research Council, 2001). As individual human beings, we are also interdependent social beings which require connection and interaction with others in order to grow. If these connections and interactions are negative and detrimental to our development, it will influence our thought-processes and behaviour in society (Mc Lauren & Hawe, 2005). For example, if an individual is interacting and socializing with criminals regularly, he or she will begin to normalize their behaviour. The individual's behaviour and thought-processes will become desensitized to violence and deem criminality and delinquent behaviour as socially acceptable.

ii) Sensation-seeking

Looking at recent statistics of our South African youth, there is a strong relationship (33.84%) between those involved in risky sexual behaviour and those addicted to a form of illegal substance (De Wet, Muloiwa & Odimegwu, 2018). This relationship is stronger between females in comparison to males (Ritchwood, De Costa, John & Lochman, 2015). This does not mean that illegal substance misuse causes risky sexual relationships with every case; however, it does draw a parallel between the two behaviours of adolescents. Additionally, Ritchwood, *et al.*, (2015) have found that the variables which altered this behaviour in adolescents are not limited to, but include: ethnicity, age, sexuality and gender.

Health levels of individuals are also at risk for HIV, specifically those individuals who utilize needles to inject substances into their body (Bekker, Johnson, Wallace & Hosek, 2015). Adolescent binge-drinking and alcohol misuse may lead to probable sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), as the sexual intercourse may not always be consensual or accounted for if the individual is intoxicated and not in the right frame of mind (O'Leary, *et al.*, 2016). As mentioned in the research by O'Leary *et al.* (2016), in African communities, 'shabeens' are quite prominent. These are informal traders or houses of alcohol, where alcohol may be bought and drunk casually. Allegedly, if a man purchases an alcoholic beverage for a female, she is expected or pressured to have sexual intercourse with him in order to compensate for him purchasing a drink for her.

iii) Peer-pressure and deviant peer affiliation

We are all individuals who are also interdependent social beings, and if our connections and interactions are negative and detrimental to our development, it will influence our thought-processes and behaviour in society (McLauren & Hawe, 2005). This means that our peer relationships and associations may directly or indirectly influence our behaviour and conduct. Research has shown that there is a strong possibility of individuals joining a gang if they have anti-social beliefs and if they struggle to resist peer pressure towards delinquency. Deviant peer friendships and associations put the individual at high risk to deviant behaviour; and often cause peer-pressure to indulge in the unlawful behaviour (Ward, Van der Merwe & Dawnes, 2012).

As described by Ward, *et al.*, 2012, an individual can live in an environment where gangsterism and delinquent behaviour is acceptable and visible. This influences the social attitude of the individual, where they do not see fault in associating and making friends with those who are part of a gang or who commit criminal activities. This increases risk-seeking, creates a normalized attitude towards gang associations, increases victimization, increases interactions, increases role-modelling of deviant behaviour; and increases negative social activities. The friendships formed by children and adolescents play a vital role in their functionality or dysfunctionality, where situations are either dealt with on a prosocial and acceptable means, or through violence and criminal behaviour (Muntingh, 2007).

iv) Gender

Research indicates that men and women display differences in how they respond to substance misuse (National Institute on Drug Abuse, 2018). It is important for service providers to acknowledge the sex and gender differences when rendering services in the substance misuse field. Biological sex differences are apparent across several systems in the body for instance the endocrine, hormonal and metabolic function. The gender of a person (i.e. psychological, environmental, social and cultural aspects) also plays a role in the initiation and course of substance misuse. It is also significant to note that there are various gender orientations, but for brevity and conciseness in this research study, the genders which will be addressed are male and female (Molla, 2016). Historically research on substance misuse has disproportionately focused more on men. It is however significant that on a provincial level, Cape Town has a high number of females who are misusing illegal substances, in comparison to other provinces within South Africa (Myers, Carney & Wechsber, 2016). In 2016, a research study was conducted by Myers *et al.*, focusing on *'the use of health services among poor young women who use drugs in Cape Town.'* Their study identified that there is a great need for contextual, structural, medical and systematic support for these young females; and currently, there is a gap in these supportive services due to stigmatization and gender inequality. Furthermore, it was indicated that stigma and gender inequality cause social segregation and limited community support, affecting their communal systems and relationships within their ecosystems.

It is also important to take note how male adolescents may respond to substance misuse. Violence and gang related activities are often associated with juvenile offenders who misuse substances. According to Basson & Mawson (2011), the male adolescent undergoes multidimensional forms of violence, spreading across the personal, physical, social and psychological heights of his life. They have also identified a strong propensity for violent behaviour if there is a presence of substance dependency and a psychiatric or mental disorder. Although both male and female juvenile offenders are thus negatively affected by substance misuse, the unique challenges they face should not be overlooked.

v) Mental and emotional well-being

The use of illegal substances also has the ability to affect ones mental and emotional wellbeing, increasing the likelihood of anxiety disorders, mood disorders, post-

traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and depression. There is a significant link between the excessive usage of cannabis and mental disorders (Saban, Flisher, Grimsrud, Morojele, London, Williams & Stein, 2014). According to Saban *et al.*, (2014), there is a high prevalence of major depression, panic disorders, anxiety disorders and mood disorders in individuals who used prescribed medication for non-medical reasons. With the onset age of substance misuse decreasing, youth and adolescents are putting their mental wellbeing at risk by opening the window to being diagnosed with a psychological or psychiatric disorders. When stipulating disorders linking to violent behaviours of adolescents, Conduct Disorder and Oppositional Defiant Disorder has been specified. These personality disorders which precede violent behaviour of youth include: Antisocial Personality Disorder and Borderline Personality Disorder (Basson & Mawson, 2011).

Long-term use of cannabis could prospectively lead to substance-dependency and psychosis (Moodley *et al.* 2012). Medically, individuals who have experienced head injuries have a higher possibility of portraying violent behaviour. It is interesting to note that when head scans were performed on violent offenders who had been sentenced, the results displayed an 11% decrease in the capacities of their frontal lobes. This is the part of the brain which is accountable for controlling an individual's reaction to anxiety, stress or fearful conditions (Basson & Mawson, 2011).

When the bodies of children experience repetitive violence, certain systems in our bodies become extremely active. These are the immunological, autonomic, neuro-endocrine and the neuro-psychological systems. As a result, the heart rate increases and cortisol is secreted at a much faster pace, allowing fear and stress levels to negatively affect the individual's ability to function optimally. This in turn affects the mental health and wellbeing of the child, which could cause socialization impairments, depression, anxiety, substance dependence, heart disorders or suicidal behaviour (Hsiao, Fry, Ward, Ganz, Casey, Zheng, and Fang, 2018).

3.4.2. Mesosystems

i) School structure and bullying

Besides violence in the familial and communal systems, various forms of violence transpire within the school setting. This includes corporal punishment, physical

assault, sexual or verbal abuse, threats, bullying, theft, gender-based violence and gang-related activities. This violent behaviour at school is associated with violence portrayed within the community (Ward *et al.*, 2012). Gender-based violence is evident in school systems and it was found that more females endure violence and victimization at schools in comparison to their male counterparts.

When studying substance misuse amongst adolescents in high school in South Africa, the use of illegal substances is higher for older adolescents, in comparison to younger adolescents (Moodley *et al.*, 2012). Bullying is also a form of violence which takes place within the school setting. Bullying can be categorised as problematic, aggressive behaviour which involves victimisation and perpetration. It is common amongst youth and prevalent within schools. It is interesting to note that parallels can be drawn between school bullying and the use of illegal substances or drugs (Maria & Eisner, 2015).

Weybright *et al.* (2015), conducted a further research study on the trajectories of adolescent substance use development and the influence of healthy leisure (2016). Here, they have associated adolescent substance misuse with low academic performance and tendencies to drop out of school, risky sexual behaviour, violent behaviour, suicide and future substance dependency as an adult. They have also identified that in the Western Cape in South Africa, high school students between grades 8 and 11 have indicated that they have misused substances within the past month. These include alcohol at 31%, tobacco use at 27% and cannabis at 7%.

ii) Familial and household environment

Youth experience many forms of multifaceted and multidimensional violence, by being exposed to violent behaviour, willingly or unwillingly (Basson & Mawson, 2011). Basson and Mawson conducted interviews with sentenced juveniles, aged 13 to 19, from Leeuwkop Juvenile Correctional Facility in Johannesburg, South Africa. The participants shared their views and experiences, expressing that the violence which led them to being sentenced was a result of their reaction to violent behaviour, triggered by feelings of wrath, rage and anger. The participants who were interviewed were sentenced for committing crimes of: common assault, assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm, and indecent assault.

In South Africa, the culture of violence and exposure to violence within homes and communities implicate the level of fear and the status of mental health of adolescents. This familial exposure to violence within homes of youth can either be through witnessing violent behaviour, being a victim of it or a perpetrator of it (Basson & Mawson, 2011). According to Burton and Leoschut (2013), roughly 90% of juvenile offenders have a history of ill-treatment, either in the household environment or in a societal setting.

iii) Parental and familial structure

Households without parents present or without parental supervision presented the highest risk for violent behaviour. These households are likely to face financial difficulties and to be exposed to the misuse of alcohol and illegal substances (Hsiao *et al.*, 2018).

Children who have been protected whilst growing up, without facing forms of neglect and violence, have a low probability of having physical and mental health problems as an adolescent or adult. Results have depicted that anxiety in SA could be minimised by 10%, if children did not experience physical abuse, violence or emotional abuse. Relational violence in South Africa could be minimised by 16% if children did not witness familial violence (Hsiao *et al.*, 2018).

Bukakto and Daehler (2011) have also identified that the lack of interest and involvement of parents in their child's life can result in disconnection between the child and parent. Additional consequences include: low or no self-esteem, socialization problems, easily influenced by friends, lack of self-control (which is a risk factor to risky sexual behaviour), and likelihood to experiment with illegal substances. If the parents are uninvolved and show a lack of interest, the individual could replace the parent-child relationship with the child-peer relationship, allowing the peers to form part of their micro-system (Mudavanhu & Schenck, 2014).

As we know from an ecological perspective, the environment and systems within the individual's ecosystem influence and shape the product and behaviour of the individual. Growing up from an infant to a child and then into an adolescent is preceded by a close parental bond, which sets the foundation for the individual's perception on

socially acceptable behaviour, unhealthy behaviours, relationships and development (Mudavanhu & Schenck (2014). Consequently, the family structure plays a vital role in the development and progression of the child. This influences the child's level of involvement in society, the support given to the child, the exposure to violence and abuse, the exposure to illegal substance, and circumstances of poverty and unemployment (Bukakto & Daehler, 2011). If the familial system or family members within the system have a history of substance dependency or abuse, this increases the individual's probability of being involved in illegal substances as well (Mudavanhu & Schenck, 2014). In this way, they are modelling the behaviour of their parents or family members.

iv) Socio-economic circumstance: poverty and affluence

South Africa, being a developing country, has many low socio-economic communities, as well as many low-income, urbanized households. The financial stressors which many South Africans experience, allow individuals to face collective forms of regular stressors, increasing feelings of negativity, substance use and delinquency (Mosavel, Ahmed, Ports & Simon, 2015).

Otwombe *et al.* (2015) conducted a study on the experiences of violence among adolescents in lower socio-economic groups in Johannesburg. Through this study, it was found that violence amongst adolescents are endorsed and enabled through the misuse of substances. These substances, namely alcohol and drugs, are mainly consumed by adolescents at first because they are curious and want to experience the feeling or taste. The shocking statistics reveal that the age group for the highest illegal substance consumption rate is below 15 years; age 17- 20 depicted the most murders committed which were related to alcohol use or being intoxicated, and the most cases of violent and aggressive behaviour are prevalent between the ages 20-21 (Otwombe *et al.*, 2015).

It is also important to note that there is a strong correlation between poverty-stricken communities and low socio-economic communities with high substance misuse (Moodley *et al.*, 2012).

3.4.3. Exosystems

i) Policies and implementation

As discussed in the second chapter as well, there are various policies which address the effect of substance abuse on the familial systems. Groenewald and Bhana (2016), have voiced that the South African policies which address the effect of substance abuse do not effectively address the needs of affected-family members of substance abuse, in terms of supportive services being rendered. This is an important factor, as the implementation and practicality of these policies will influence the meso-systems within the ecosystem of the substance-dependent adolescent.

As highlighted in the second chapter of this research study as well, the rights of our youth in South Africa are very important; and should always be taken into account. This forms part of the legal frameworks, expected to be abided by all South Africans. This is governed by international and national legislation. One of the fundamental rights of children is to be raised in a safe and harmless environment; however, this fundamental right is so often overstepped by the very individuals who are supposed to be providing a sense of security, protection and love for the child- such as parents, guardians or family members (Masila, 2018). If these individuals are using illegal substances, it puts the child at risk; it opens up a door for the child to also use illegal substances through adopted behaviour, and it violates the rights of the child by knowingly allowing the child to be in an unsafe and uncondusive environment. The best interest of the child and safety of the child is also compromised (Edberg *et al.*, 2015).

ii) Support available

Social support, as defined by Gumani (2014), is a multifaceted concept which aims at delivering emotional, psychological, informational and interpersonal assistance. Social support is a means of providing solutions and recommendations as well as directing one to the relevant resources. Social support is important in ones network as it enhances an individual's coping mechanisms and tolerance to certain situations (Kuo, Fitzgerald, Operario & Casale, 2012). Consequently, available social support contributes to an individual's life positively and the lack thereof can impact negatively. As explored in a recent research study conducted by Humm, Kaminer & Hardy (2018), in South Africa, there are various identified factors which impact on violence and

violent behaviour, specifically in youths- to which a lack of social support is a factor. The lack of social support can also contribute towards an individual displaying conduct disorder symptoms, aggression, anxiety and depression. Through their research study, they highlighted that familial support, support to those facing domestic violence, and support to those who suffer from mental or physical difficulties is lacking in the South African context.

3.4.4. Macrosystems

i) Abundance of free time

As described by Weybright, Wegner, Smith, Ram & Caldwell (2015), South Africa is a developing country with an increase in adolescent substance misuse. In a longitudinal research study by Weybright *et al.*, they linked the lack of recreational activities to creating more discretionary time for adolescents to do as they please, which increases the likelihood of them indulging in substance misuse. Within Cape Town, South Africa, adolescents have conveyed having a lack of adult control and supervision, having too much free time in between school and work, and having less recreational activities and opportunities within their communal environments (Wegner, 2011).

ii) Availability and accessibility

The availability of illegal substances and the accessibility of weapons facilitate and enable criminal behaviour and drug-related activities, specifically at schools within South Africa. In a study conducted by the Crime for Justice and Crime Prevention, 25% of the school learners interviewed, informed that they knew people who had carried weapons on them to school, one in ten knew individuals who sold drugs, and one in six knew individuals indulging in criminal activities (Burton & Leoschut, 2013). The availability and accessibility of illegal substances ties closely with exposure and gang-related involvement within the community setting. This is explored in further detail below. The consumption of alcohol has been associated with violent behaviour. It is frequently misused due to being easily accessible, socially acceptable and legal to drink, to those 18 years or older. Additional substances associated with violent behaviour include heroine, cannabis, ecstasy, methamphetamine and anabolic steroids (Basson and Mawson, 2011).

iii) Gang-related systems

Gang activity and drug-dealing enables violent and criminal behaviour; as well as encourages involvement of youths. Gang involvement has increased in South Africa and the average age of gang members is decreasing, inclusive of preadolescent children. Gang involvement also pressures the individual to act deviantly and to disregard behaviour that is deemed socially acceptable (Edberg *et al.*, 2015). The growth in homicides, rapes, assaults, and violence amid adolescents is strongly associated with gang activity and involvement (Basson & Mawson, 2011).

As mentioned by Burton and Leoshcut (2013), violence within communities can occur through homicide, physical violence or gang involvement. This exposure affects the children within the communities who are visually and physically vulnerable to it. An alarming 48.7% of children within South Africa have witnessed community-based violence. 48.4% of children had informed that they have witnessed a killing, either by a police official or a gang member (Shields, Nadasen and Pierce, 2008). Most drug-related murders took place in household environments and involved the use of firearms, typically targeted at family members or partners. The perpetrators are generally male and there is a high probability that they are involved in gang activities (Swart, Seedat & Nel, 2015). According to the National Injury Mortality Surveillance System, alcohol was found positive when tested in the blood of 58% of homicide victims in Cape Town, Johannesburg, Pretoria and Durban (UNICEF, 2014).

In a study conducted by Mosavel *et al.*, (2015), they interviewed adolescents on the quality of resiliency within communities in South Africa. When interviewed, many of the participants shared their views that there are social issues in our country which need to be urgently addressed. These issues are HIV and AIDS, street children and the increasing levels of substance abuse and dependency. The participants also state that there is a huge lack of social services being rendered to substance abusers who need help, such as rehabilitation and treatment centers, as well as education programmes on the subject. The participants also informed that youth are so easily enticed and involved in criminal activity, substance misuse and violent behaviour because they lack legal and appropriate prospects for monetary growth; and this is a quick way of making money and growing financially.

As explained by the participants, the unemployment rate is very high within the low socio-economic communities, adding to the poverty, overcrowded households and poor levels of education. Selling, dealing with or keeping illegal substances for drug dealers or gang members is a way of making 'big' money easily. Youth are often bribed, enticed or attracted to this lifestyle because of the material goods or money that goes with it, but they do not realize the implications of this criminal or delinquent behaviour. Drug dealers and gangsters are also influencing youth to experiment with these illegal substances. Once they do and they become addicted or dependent on it, they consequently encourage their friends to try the substances as well. This result in systems upon systems being influenced negatively (United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, 2012). The drug dealers within South Africa are also targeting youth, as young as 12 years of age, to be involved in this illegal drug industry (Dias, 2017). This puts the youth at risk and introduces them to a lifestyle of danger, criminal activity and immorality. This view is echoed by Hsiao *et al.*, (2018), who agree that children are at a bigger risk when they have been exposed to community members in their environmental setting, who misuse illegal substance or who deal with illegal substances and drugs.

iv) Exposure

A research study conducted in South Africa demonstrated that the participation and involvement of the community could influence the substance dependency and mental health of an adolescent in a positive manner. The environment could negatively affect the individual by means of exposure to substance use and accessibility of substances; poverty; community violent behaviour and aggression. This includes anxiety, depression, substance-use disorders or neurological disorders (Davidson, Grigorenko, Boivin Rapa and Stein, 2015). The exposure of firearms, weapons, violent and criminal behaviour within communities directly affects the behaviour and mannerisms of the individual.

Branas, Han and Weibe (2016) conducted a 40-year methodical literature review over the period of 1975 and 2014. Through their research study, they found that approximately 33% of adolescents who had been in the possession of firearms had also testified to having some form of alcohol use or alcohol dependence. It was also deduced that approximately 5% of adolescents began drinking alcohol before the age of 13, and had also at some point carried illegal weapons (Branas *et al.*, 2016). 42 %

of adolescent murders took place in public, more specifically, on the streets of communities; and the weapons most commonly used were knives, guns or sharp objects (Swart *et al.*, 2015). These adolescent murders took place publicly, creating a form of exposure to other members within the community. This has had a detrimental and desensitizing effect on their development and emotional state.

v) Sense of community

Having a sense of community or feeling a part of a community network is important to one's development and to establish supportive structures. As Mosavel *et al.*, 2015 described, being part of a community allows an individual to identify themselves, as well as forming part of a group structure to help them become aware of accompanying negative behaviours. This also plays a fundamental role in the individual identifying socially acceptable and positive behaviours. Negative and positive behaviours are either encouraged or endorsed by a community, or they are shunned and prohibited within that community. This outlines the individual's observation and perception to certain behaviours; and either creates modeling of the behaviour or resiliency, depending on how the community and individual perceive the behaviour (Mosavel *et al.*, 2015).

3.5. TABLE 3.1: Effects contributing to substance misuse: a summary in accordance to Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Perspective

Substance misuse and juvenile-offending behaviour: from an Ecological Perspective			
Micro-system	Meso-system	Exo-system	Macro-system
The individual	School structure and bullying	Policies and implementation	Abundance of free time
Sensation-seeking	Familial and household environment	Support available	Availability and accessibility
Peer-pressure and deviant peer affiliation	Parental and family structure		Gang—related systems
Mental and emotional wellbeing	Socio-economic circumstances: poverty and affluence		Exposure
			Sense of community

The table above summarizes the aspects discussed, in accordance to the ecological perspective of Bronfenbrenner. This allows the reader to contextualize the information discussed and provides a visual structural framework, which will allow for a flow of the themes discussed in Chapter 4 of this research.

3.6. CONCLUSION

The aim of this chapter was to define Bronfenbrenner's ecological perspective and then identify the theoretical systems within the perspective. The research was then followed by discussing the literature on various influential factors pertaining to substance misuse and influential factors pertaining to offending-behaviour of juveniles. The specific aspects in accordance to the framework of Bronfenbrenner's ecological perspective was then identified and discussed.

Through the research conducted and literature compiled, it is evident that there is a great association and correlation between the misuse of alcohol and illegal substances to violent behaviour and crime in South Africa. Illegal substances are also related to gangsterism, criminality and juvenile-offending behaviour (Basson and Mawson, 2011). In order to gain practical knowledge on this matter, the fourth chapter will empirically investigate the views of interested service providers about the effect of substance misuse on juvenile offenders and correlate it to the literature discussed in chapter 2 and 3.

CHAPTER 4

EMPIRICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE VIEWS OF SOCIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS ON THE EFFECT OF SUBSTANCE MISUSE ON JUVENILE OFFENDERS

4.1. INTRODUCTION

In summary, a theoretical discussion on legislative frameworks and protocols pertaining to substance misuse in SA has been explored in chapter 2. A critical discussion of literature regarding various factors that influence substance misuse was explored in chapter 3. The current fourth chapter will build on the preceding two chapters, and address the third objective of the study i.e., to empirically investigate the views of interested social service providers on the effect of substance misuse on juvenile offenders. This will be achieved by exploring and analysing their views, experiences and knowledge in the specified field and relate it to the literature review. In this chapter, the researcher has identified various themes, sub-themes and categories from the data and information collected. These will be discussed through this chapter, with specific reference to the data collected from these service providers (participants). Based on the conclusions gleaned, recommendations will be provided relating to the social issue of substance misuse by juvenile offenders and will be outlined in chapter 5.

4.2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research methodology is inclusive of the research question, the goals and objectives of the study, the research approach, design, instrument as well as the data analyses and data quality verification. Chapter one provided a discussion on the research process. This will be reflected on below.

4.2.1. Research Question

The research question which the researcher formulated at the beginning of the research study was: *What are the views of interested social service providers on the effect of substance misuse on the offensive behaviours of juvenile offenders?* Through the collection, analyses and interpretation of data, the research question have been answered and the researcher identified and understood the views of the social service

providers on the effect of substance misuse on juvenile offenders. This is discussed and elaborated on in further detail in Section B of this chapter.

4.2.2. Goals and Objectives

The goal of this research study was to gain an understanding of the views of social service providers on the effect of substance misuse on juvenile offenders, within the context of Cape Town, South Africa. In order to achieve this aim, the researcher formulated objectives in the beginning of the research study. The outlined objectives accurately presented the research and enabled the research aim to be effectively reached. The objectives formulated are:

- 1. To provide a theoretical discussion on legislative frameworks, protocols and research pertaining to substance misuse and juvenile offenders, within a South African context.*
- 2. To critically discuss the literature on various influential factors; as well as identify the aspects of substance misuse which relate to the delinquent behaviour of juveniles through an ecological perspective (e.g. environmental factors).*
- 3. To empirically investigate the views of interested social service providers about the effect of substance misuse on juvenile offenders and correlate it to the literature review.*
- 4. To present conclusions regarding the issue of juvenile substance misuse and delinquency, and provide recommendations to the relevant social service providers, as well as institutions who work closely with juvenile offenders.*

The first objective was achieved through Chapter 2 of this research study; the second objective was achieved through Chapter 3 of this research study; the third objective was achieved through Chapter 4 of this research study; and the fifth objective was achieved through Chapter 5 of this research study.

4.2.3. Research Approach

A qualitative research approach was selected as a methodological approach, as it allowed the researcher to interview participants; as well as to understand the views of the participants on the effect of substance misuse on juvenile offenders. The qualitative research approach allowed the researcher to gain a more comprehensive

and inclusive view of the topic being addressed (De Vos, Strydom, Fouche & Delpont, 2011). Through this approach, the participants were allowed to be as descriptive, informative and inclusive as they wished to be. The researcher also utilized some components of the quantitative research approach, in order to capture the identifying details of the participants.

4.2.4. Research Design

For the purpose of this study, an exploratory and descriptive research design was implemented. By implementing an exploratory research design, the researcher was able to actively explore the views of interested social service providers, as well as understand the descriptive content expressed by them (Creswell, 2009:212). The researcher was able to fully explore the topic in the study and form an in-depth understanding of the views of the participants. The descriptive research design played a fundamental aspect in the researcher being able to explore, describe and explain the views of the participants on the effect of substance misuse on juvenile offenders.

4.2.5. Research Instrument

As discussed above, the research study was qualitative. For this reason, the researcher formulated a semi-structured interview guide to be utilized through the interview process, in order to capture the views, experiences, perceptions and terminology, as expressed by the service providers. The semi-structured interview guide consisted of predetermined questions, which were open-ended, in order to promote further discussions by the participant (See Annexure G). The open-ended questions were based on the literature reviews in chapters 2 and 3, and it allowed for a more comprehensive examination of the information expressed by the participants. The researcher conducted the interviews, as well as transcribed it, ensuring that the exact language, tone and views of the participants were captured. As mentioned in Chapter one, the researcher made use of the denaturalized transcription approach when transcribing the interviews. This approach in transcription focuses on the material and content being relayed through interview process (Oliver, Serovich & Mason, 2006).

4.2.6. Data Quality Verification

The researcher ensured that data quality verification was upheld. This was done by means of depicting an accurate and precise representation of what the participants have said, thus ensuring credibility and truthfulness. By doing this, it allowed transferability to be met, as the interviews were fully transcribed, allowing the researcher to gain a comprehensive understanding of the content. Confirmability was also maintained through the researcher authorizing that all findings which are presented be a representation of the research study (Shenton, 2004). Upon completion of categorizing the data collected, the researcher allowed four participants to read through their transcribed interview to agree that this was a true reflection of what they said in the interview (See Annexure H). An independent coder (Annexure I) was also used to check if the themes, sub-themes and categories correlated with the transcribed interviews (data) as indicated by Maree (2016:123). The researcher also completed a reflexivity report, in order to reflect on the research process, experience and outcomes (See Annexure J).

4.3. DEVELOPMENT OF THE INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

This research study was qualitative, exploratory and descriptive, allowing the researcher to fully explore the views of the participants. Individual interviews were conducted in order to collect data. All the ethical terms were complied with, as discussed in the proceeding section. As highlighted by Babbie & Mouton (2006:289), individual interviewing is one of the frequently used methods when collecting data using the qualitative research approach. A semi-structured interview was formulated by the researcher, which was based on the literature reviewed in the preceding chapters (See Annexure G). The literature review allowed the researcher to gain a theoretical perspective and context of the topic of study. The questions in the semi-structured interview were open-ended questions and were formulated by utilizing the literature review as a guide. Probing questions were utilized in order to gain clarity or further details from the participants. Close-ended questions were used to identify the details of the participants. Through the interviews, the researcher was able to devise themes, sub-themes and categories (Bariball & While, 1994). The themes which were devised correlate to the interview schedule, which guided the researcher during the interview process. The open-ended questions can be viewed in the interview guide, as seen in Annexure G.

4.4. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

This research study explored the views of the service providers who work with youth in conflict with the law or youth misusing substances. By interviewing the service providers, this ensured that the researcher did not directly interact with the youths and it avoided the direct involvement in their interpersonal issues, thus ensuring that ethical considerations were taken into account. The researcher focused on the experiences of the participants relating to the effect of substance misuse on delinquent behaviours of youths. By interviewing the service providers, it ensured that the views expressed were non-biased and came from an educated and experienced perspective.

With regard to the ethical considerations of the research, the research is considered as low-risk. Throughout the selection and interview process, the researcher safeguarded the confidentiality and identity of the participants. The purpose of the research was explained to the participants and they were each given a copy of this information sheet (See Annexure F). The consent of the participants was also obtained through a written agreement, signed by the researcher and participant (See Annexure D). The essential concerns that needed to be met in terms of ethical considerations included: avoiding harm; either physically or psychologically, voluntary participation, informed consent, privacy, confidentiality and anonymity (De Vos, 2011: 115). The researcher confidently complied with this. All hardcopies of data and information was kept in a locked cabinet, allowing only the researcher to have access to it. All electronic data and information has been stored on a code-protected laptop, allowing only the researcher to have access to it.

The researcher also received permission from the institutions and organizations from which the data was collected (See Annexure C). Some participants formed part of larger organizations and requested that their identity and the organization's identity remain anonymous for confidentiality and ethical reasons. This was respected and upheld by the researcher. Additionally, the researcher had obtained permission to conduct her research study by the Research Ethics Committee of the University of Stellenbosch (See Annexure A).

4.5. REFLEXIVITY

The researcher completed a reflexivity report, which is attached as an annexure (See Annexure J). The purpose of this reflexivity report was to ensure that the researcher maintained awareness of the subject in research; and that the researcher did not let her own views and opinions impact on the research being conducted. Through the reflexivity report, the researcher was able to openly reflect on her experiences and emotions which were experienced throughout the research process. This is a significant as it allows the researcher to separate her own thoughts, views and opinions from the data being collected and the research study complied- consequently ensuring that there are no bias views displayed (Maree, 2016: 123).

4.6. SAMPLE

For the purpose of this study, the researcher utilized non-probability purposive sampling in the research approach phase. This assured that the selection of participants was performed in a proficient and skillful manner; and that random selection was excluded. Purposive sampling ensures that a predetermined set of criteria is met through the selection process (William, 2008). The researcher utilized this selection method as is ensured that participants were selected based on the set criteria, as well as their knowledge on the social phenomenon being addressed throughout the research. The selection of participants was done by the researcher, in accordance to the set criteria. This means that the researcher decisively selected participants, in accordance to the fixed set of principles for inclusion. This allowed the participants, who were best suited to answer the specified research questions to be primarily selected (Cresswell, 2009). The research study took place in the Cape Town region. The sample size for the research study was 20 participants. The participants are all service providers within this region, who work with youth misusing substance and/or youth in conflict with the law. All of the participants met the criteria for the research study. The criteria for inclusion of the service providers were: rendering services to juvenile offenders or youth in conflict with the law, rendering services to youth misusing substances, rendering services within the area of Cape Town, and able to understand English or Afrikaans.

The research was conducted through organisations and institutions, who work closely with youth misusing substances and/or youth in conflict with the law. There were institutions that participated, but requested that their identity remain anonymous.

4.7. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

Once the qualitative data had been collected, the researcher analyzed and interpreted the information collected (De Vos *et al.*, 2005: 334). All interviews were transcribed carefully by the researcher, as recorded. Through the analysis and interpretation of the data, the researcher was able to identify various themes and sub-themes emerging from the data; as well as identify any patterns correlating to the behaviours of the juvenile offenders. This data was then organized into themes, sub-themes and categories (See Annexure E). These themes, sub-themes and categories will be discussed in Section B of this chapter, where the researcher correlated the participant data to the relevant literature and theoretic frameworks (De Vos *et al.*, 2011: 402).

4.8. RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The results of the investigation will be presented in two sections: Section A and Section B. Section A will discuss and explore the identifying details of the participants, and Section B will present and discuss the empirical investigation of the views of interested service providers on the effect of substance misuse on juvenile-offending behaviour. These results will be analysed in terms of themes, sub-themes and categories that have emerged through the findings.

SECTION A: IDENTIFYING DETAILS

4.8.1. Identifying details

The collection of data for this research study was based on qualitative data collection; however the researcher has also included components of quantitative data collection for this section. This has been done in order to obtain an easy and comprehensive overview of the different participants included in this study. In this research study, the identifying details are inclusive of: the gender of the participants, their years of experience in their social service field, to whom services are rendered to, and the profession of the service provider.

4.8.1.1. Gender of participants

As already mentioned in Chapter 3 under section 3.4.1, for the purposes of this study the focus was only on males and females. Regarding gender, women have been distinctly and identifiably dedicated to the social service profession, as such the field social service is recognized as a female- dominated industry (Mallinger, Starks & Tarter, 2017). A recent consensus study has revealed that there are more females than males in South Africa, females making up 51% and males 49% (Statistics South Africa, 2016). In view of this, as part of the interview procedure the participants were asked to state their gender. All 20 participants answered and their gender was collectively recorded and processed. Figure 4.1., is a representation of the gender particulars of the participants.

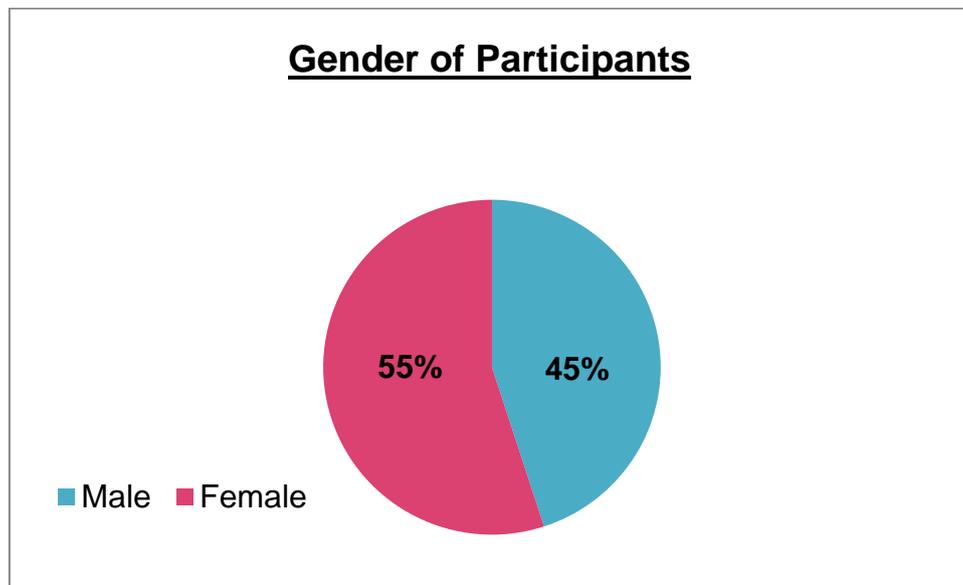


Figure 4.1.: Gender of participants

As seen in Figure 4.1., of the 20 participants who were interviewed, 45% were male and 55% were female. Respectively, 9 participants were male and 11 were female.

4.8.1.2. Years of experience in social service field

Throughout the interview, the participants were asked to state the amount of years of experience they held in their specialized social field of service. Their experience and expertise were asked; in order contribute to the validity of the research being conducted, as more years of experience in a specific field would contribute to the

holistic understanding, knowledge and expertise of the field. Figure 4.2., is a representation of the data collected relating to the years of experience of the participants.

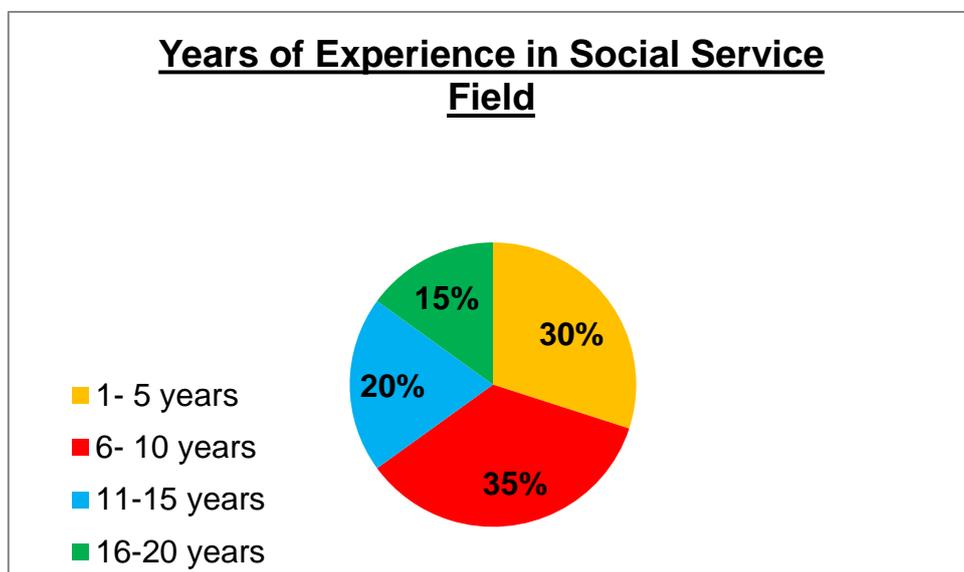


Figure 4.2.: Years of experience in social service field

As seen in Figure 4.2., of the 20 participants who were interviewed, 30% held 1-5 years' experience in their specialized social service field; 35% held 6-10 years; 20% held 11-15 years and 15% held 16-20 years' experience.

4.8.1.3. To whom services are rendered

As part of the identifying details, the participants were asked to state whom they render services to. All of the categories of service provision were associated with the research being conducted. All of the participants indicated that they rendered services to youth in conflict with the law who are misusing substances. This was particularly useful because it directly related to the topic in research and formed part of the criteria for inclusion.

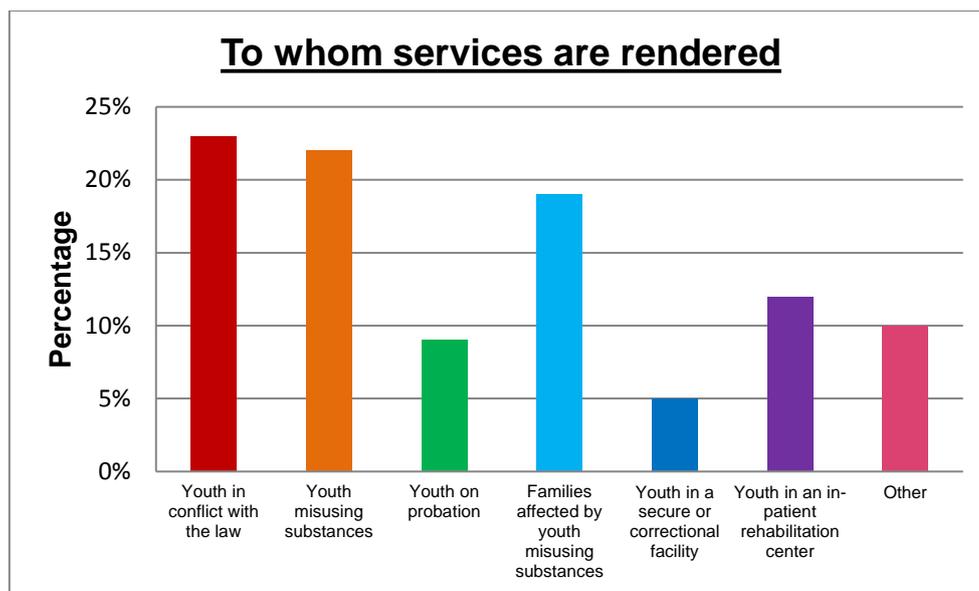


Figure 4.3: To whom services are rendered

Figure 4.3 is a representation of the clientele to which the service providers render services. Although all participants rendered services to youth offenders who misuse substances, Figure 4.3 indicates the focus areas. Twenty three percent of the participants render services to youth in conflict with the law, 22% render services to youth misusing substances, 9% render services to youth on probation, 19% render service to families affected by youth in conflict with the law, 5% render services to youth in a secure or correctional facility, 12% render services to youth in an in-patient rehabilitation or treatment centre, and 10% render services to the category of *other*. The services which constitute *other* consist of: foster care, youth with challenging behaviour, working with youth at schools, adults in conflict with the law, and aftercare treatment monitoring of youth.

4.8.1.4 Profession of service provider

In Bronfenbrenner's ecological theory, he underlines the influence of interactive systems of personal connections, institutional connection and social connections on an individual's professional growth (Bronfenbrenner, 1979). The profession of the service provider is important, as it will contribute to the validity of the research being conducted, ensuring that the participants have sound knowledge and experience in their field of expertise. It will also ensure that the researcher is collecting information

from a specialized, knowledgeable and educated view. As clarified in the introductory chapter of this research study, a service provider is an individual or an organization, who delivers services to a client (Business Directory, 2017). The service providers with whom the researcher interviewed included: social workers, drug counsellors, case or field workers, social auxiliary workers, youth Probation Officers, youth Prosecutors, as well as Children's Court and Juvenile Justice System Magistrates'.

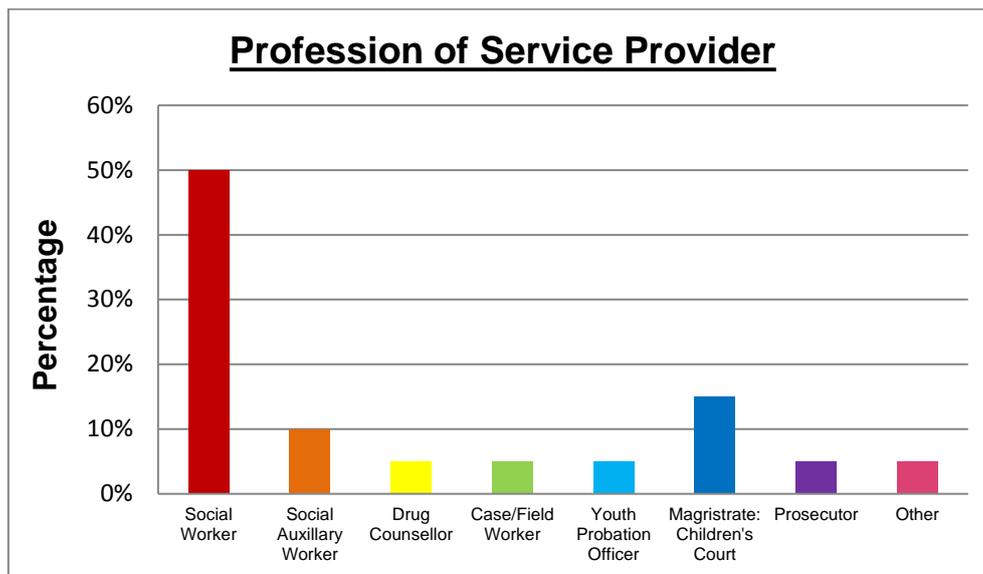


Figure 4.4.: Profession of service provider

Figure 4.4., is a representation of the professions of the service providers. Of the 20 participants who were interviewed, 50% were social workers (10 participants), 10% were social auxiliary workers (2 participants), 5% were drug counsellors (1 participant), 5% were known as case or field workers (1 participant), 5% were youth probation officers (1 participant), 15% were Children's Court and Juvenile Justice Court Magistrates (3 participants), 5% were Prosecutors (1 participant), and 5% (1 participant) identified their profession as falling under the *other* category. The participant, who identified his profession as *other*, runs a Non-Profit Organization (NPO) for adults and youth in conflict with the law, as well as is a programme coordinator.

Please see table 4.2 below, which defines the various professions listed above:

TABLE 4.2.: Definitions of various social service professions

Social Service Professions		
Profession:	Abbreviation:	Definition:
Social worker	SW	An individual who works with families, communities, individuals and groups in order to improve holistic well-being and assist with social, personal and interpersonal matters.
Social auxiliary worker	SAW	An individual who assists and works with a social worker by rendering supportive services.
Drug counsellor	DC	A drug counsellor is a counsellor who specializes in substance abuse and misuse. This individual assists those individuals, families or groups who have substance misuse-related problems. Assists with rehabilitation and treatment plans.
Case/field worker	C/FW	A case or field worker is an individual who works with families, individuals, groups or communities and provides them with resources, information or advocacy. A case/ field worker also conducts home visits and practical investigations. A case/field worker does not provide counselling or therapeutic services, whereas a counsellor or social worker can.
Youth probation officer	YPO	Also defined as a juvenile probation officer. Administers, supervises and oversees the youth who have been placed on probation for juvenile-offending behaviour. The YPO works thoroughly with the legislation, social service providers, families and schools in order to facilitate support and reintegration.

Magistrate: Children's Court	Mag.	A civilian officer who holds the authority to govern and oversee the administration of the law. A Magistrate holds judicial and supervisory powers. A Magistrate who works in the Children's Court works with matters specific to individuals who are under the age of 18.
Prosecutor	Pros.	A prosecutor works with the Children's Court Magistrate by investigating the information and evidence available. The prosecutor also presents the matter to the court and works with the individual and family.
Programme Coordinator (NGO)	PC	An individual who coordinated programmes with groups, families or individuals at a community level (working with NGOs and NPOs).

SECTION B: EMPIRICAL INVESTIGATION

The data collected from the participants during the empirical study has been classified by the researcher into themes, sub-themes and categories. A summary of this can be viewed in Table 4.1. This will be explored in further detail through this section of the chapter. It has been colour-coded in the table below, to allow for easy viewing and understanding.

Table 4.1.: Themes, sub-themes and categories identified in this research study

Theme	Sub-theme	Categories
Theme 1: Micro-system	Sub-theme 1.1: The individual	a) Challenging behaviour b) Sense of belonging c) Decision-making and being influenced d) Personality
	Sub-theme 1.2: Sensation-seeking	a) Experimenting
	Sub-theme 1.3: Peer-pressure and deviant peer affiliation	a) Need for acceptance and a sense of commonality b) Negative influences
	Sub-theme 1.4: Gender	a) Males b) Females
	Sub-theme: 1.5: Mental and emotional well-being	a) Psychological influences b) Coping mechanism
	Sub-theme 1.6.: Link to criminality	a) Association and behaviour
Theme 2: Meso-system	Sub-theme 2.1: School structure and bullying	a) Lack of supportive services b) Pressure and bullying
	Sub-theme 2.2: Household and community environment	a) Pressure from environment b) Support
	Sub-theme 2.3: Parental and familial structure	a) Broken homes and dysfunctional families

	Sub-theme 2.4: Socio-economic circumstance: poverty and affluence	a) Poverty: influence by gangsters b) Affluence
Theme 3: Macro-system	Sub-theme 3.1: Abundance of free time	a) Lack of recreational activities
	Sub-theme 3.2: Availability and accessibility	a) Readily available and accessible
	Sub-theme 3.3: Gang-related systems	a) Glamorized lifestyle b) Using the youth and creating a sense of belonging
Theme 4: Exo-system	Sub-theme 4.1: Policies and implementation	a) Positive effect b) Negative effect
	Sub-theme 4.2.: Support available	a) Lack of services

4.8.2. THEME 1: THE MICROSISTEM

As part of the research, the participants were asked about their views regarding the various influential factors and aspects of substance misuse, which they felt related to delinquent or criminal behaviours. This was represented by the inner-most level of Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Theory: the microsystem. The participants were asked to describe how they viewed the effect of substance misuse on juvenile-offending behaviour, as well as what support they felt was lacking at the microsystem. It emerged from the participants' narratives that the following factors are influential at the microsystemic level: the individual, sensation-seeking, peer-pressure and deviant peer affiliation, gender, mental and emotional well-being, and a link to criminality. These have formed the sub-themes of the microsystem theme, and each sub-theme will be explored and elaborated by means of emerging categories through the collected data.

4.8.2.1. Sub-theme 1.1. : The individual

The concept of human behaviour is multifaceted as there are a range of dynamic elements which influence human behaviour. Some of these include the subconscious and the conscious, as well as our involuntary and voluntary actions (Baumeister,

2008). Baumeister elaborates that each individual has an obligatory responsibility for his or her own actions and behaviours which he or she willingly participates in. Furthermore, he states that inevitably our behaviour and actions are directed by the accountability and responsibility we hold for these behaviours and actions. In essence, the concept of *free will* affirms that individuals may behave in any way which they decide to, without limitations or restrictions. *Free will* also plays an important role in directing our behaviour, and the concept highlights that humans are independent beings (Gross, 2003). In the third chapter, the individual's behaviour was highlighted when addressing the microsystem influential factors. It was mentioned that *adaptation and change in the individual's behaviour could be endorsed or encouraged by the systems at a micro-level (McLauren & Hawe, 2005: 6-14)* as indicated by the following narrative:

“Look, I feel it all depends on the individual itself. It depends on the individual and how they foresee life. Some programmes works with children and some doesn't- it all depends on their personality and their view on life”
(SW)

The sub-theme of the individual appeared quite evidently and the following categories were identified at this level: challenging behaviour, sense of belonging, decision-making and being influenced, and personality. These will be discussed below.

a) Challenging behaviour:

Challenging behaviour can be defined as an abnormal or irregular behaviour that places the safety and quality of life of the individual or others at risk, as well as any irregular behaviour that does not fit cultural appropriateness (National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health, 2015). Participants that indicated *the individual* as an influential element at the microsystemic level were asked to express in what way they felt this would have an effect on substance misuse relating to juvenile-offending behaviour. It emerged from the participants' narratives that challenging behaviour was an element found to be prominent in the individual. This is evidently demonstrated by the following participants' narratives:

“When it comes to substance abuse, I think it stems from challenging behaviour that leads to criminal behaviour”
(SW)

“Unfortunately, the still developing brain is unable to always foresee the consequences of certain action and only after the committing of offences regret their decision to be involved in criminal behaviour”
(YPO)

“The challenge for behaviour modification also depends on the motivation of the youth to want to change. At times young people may feel that their existing behaviour is more beneficial to them than the prospect of having to adopt a new behaviour” (YPO)

Linking the above-mentioned narratives with the theoretical underpinnings, the findings show that challenging behaviour may possibly result in an individual indulging in illegal substances, thus associating with criminal behaviour (Ttofi, Farrington, Lösel, Crago & Theodorakis, 2016). Behaviour modification can be difficult for youths to process when displaying behaviour challenges, as at times they may feel that their current behaviour is appropriate and acceptable. They are also unable to independently process and decipher the consequences followed by their behaviour. This related to the theory discussed by McLauren & Hawe (2005), underlining an individual’s recognition for adaptation and change with regard to his or her behaviour.

b) Sense of belonging:

In terms of psychological theory, a sense of belonging is a basic human need. Some psychologists have classified this need with the same significance to that as water, food and shelter. Shires (2018), explains that having a sense of belonging is essential to optimal human development and growth, as well as to learning good, and developing appropriate coping mechanisms. The absence or lack of a sense of belonging can contribute to anxiety, depression, difficulty in maintaining relationships, and timidity in making life decisions. Experiencing a sense of belonging can start as early as infancy, where parents share direct skin contact with the infant. Direct contact and communication, alongside a strong emotional bond contributes immensely to an individual’s growth and development (Shires, 2018).

Through the narratives of the participants’, it was gathered that majority of them felt that individuals who misuse substances at a young age or who engage in criminal behaviours, lacked a sense of belonging. This void was filled through the acceptance

and recognition given by the gangsters, by the unlawful act, or through the substance itself.

“They don’t have that sense of belonging, so that is where the gangs come in and where they would draw the child to them” (SW)

“They get a sense of belonging and acceptance” (SW)

“So for them, they need a sense of belonging. So with the sense of belonging, the gangsterism comes in- they buy them over, they feel they are connected and they belong here... they should give that sense of belonging to the children so the children don’t have to seek out that sense of belonging through this gangsterism” (SW)

The narratives describe that these youth lack a sense of belonging, as they did not receive it through their parental or familial structure. The need of this belonging and acceptance is fulfilled through the wrong channels: gangsterism, illegal substances and criminal behaviours. In addition, the literature indicates that gangs provide this sense of belonging by filling the unmet need of the individual and providing them with protection, acceptance and in some cases a monetary substitute for fundamental psychological needs that have previously been neglected (Goldman, Giles & Hogg, 2014).

c) Decision-making and being influenced:

Looking at the decision-making capabilities of adolescents through a neuroscientific approach, these processes transform through this developmental phase which individuals’ experience. Research suggests that decision processes differ between adolescents and adults in terms of tolerance, ability to disregard, evaluating importance and threats, structuring mature decisions, impulse control, multifaceted reasoning, as well as working memory (Hartley & Somerville, 2015).

Consequently, an adolescent’s ability to make a decision independently is highly influenced by his or her ability to maintain tolerance of others or certain situations, his ability to control impulses, and the ability to structure mature reasoning and decision-

making skills. This affects the individual at the microsystemic level. It emerged from the participants' narratives that decision-making and being influenced affects the individual at the microsystemic level. This is demonstrated through the following narratives of participants:

“All of the children’s behaviour, the way they see life, the decisions being made- so, unfortunately, none of them can decipher what is good or bad or what is a better life- because for them, this is their community and their life” (SW)

“It all depends on the individual that you are- whether you are someone that gets influenced or not, so it all depends on the choices you make regarding the peers” (SW)

“It’s interesting because for me it is about the individual who is going to need to make a decision. Am I going to use? Am I not going to use?” (SW)

The views and experiences of the participants demonstrate that the developmental stage of the adolescents affect their ability to make mature and impulse-free decisions. According to the psychoanalytic theory of Erikson, there are various stages of development which all humans must go through- starting from infancy up until late-adulthood. The adolescent stage of development is known as the *fidelity stage of identity versus role confusion*. This takes place between ages of 13 to 19 years. In this developmental stage, the adolescent experiences: an increased concern in their appearance, a search for identity, finding meaning to one’s identity, gaining confidence, and experimenting in different activities and behaviours (Nevarez, Morrill & Waldinger, 2018). Choices made by the adolescent relate to the responsibility, accountability and consequences of the individual, as highlighted in the literature of Baumeister (2008), which was elaborated in the section of *the individual* (Subtheme 1.1.) Inevitably, the adolescent is held accountable for the decisions he or she makes and for the behaviour displayed- albeit mature, immature, appropriate or inappropriate.

d) Personality:

Personality, as defined by the American Psychological Association (2018), is individual characteristic differences, such as our individual ways of expressing emotions, our thought processes and our behaviour or actions. These personality characteristics affect our social, emotional and interactive behaviours. Naturally, our personality will shape our decisions, our interactions, our feelings and our behaviour. When exploring *the individual* as a sub-theme on the microsystemic level, it was observed that an individual's personality is a significant element in the predisposition to an unlawful or illegal involvement. This can be seen in the narrative below:

“There’s a whole culture that goes with it and that glamorizes that scene of youth people coming together and finding this common ground. So there is this whole identity that it speaks to. And then I think that not everyone gravitates towards that, so if you look at the individual, it is perhaps that individual who is a risk-taker, perhaps that individual who more vulnerable in terms of lack of proper role models or conflict or disordered homes where there is poor relationship with parents, or not doing well at school or having learning difficulties- just so many variables actually, that I don’t think I’ve actually scraped the surface there” (SW)

The narrative thus describes the individual to be more susceptible to engage in gangsterism and substance misuse, if he or she has personality traits displaying risk-taking behaviour, emotional instability, lacking a sense of belonging and acceptance, and when experiencing estranged parental or familial relationships. Linking this narrative to the literature available, findings show that individuals displaying certain personality characteristics have an increased predisposition to substance misuse and related problems. These include having a risky personality, negative emotional moods or stressors, as well as low levels of constraint (Shayne, Lynam & Piquero, 2011). This relates closely to the following sub-theme of sensation-seeking.

4.8.2.2. Sub-theme 1.2.: Sensation-seeking

Sensation-seeking is known as the propensity for an individual to chase or seek sensory pleasures and exhilaration. This forms part of an individual's personality (as

was discussed in the previous section) and it can be associated with risk-taking behaviour. It can also be linked to impulsive and spontaneous actions (Holmes, Hollinshead, Roffman, Smoller & Buckner, 2016). Recent research has revealed that sensation-seeking behaviour is linked to an increase in substance misuse. Sensation-seeking behaviour can be correlated to traumatic life experiences, as well as to early adolescent substance misuse. The more intense the traumatic experience may have been, the higher the chances are that the individual may develop a dependency on illegal substances. These symptoms can also be diagnosed as a substance misuse disorder (Dunlop & Romer, 2010). The following narrative highlights how traumatic events can influence behaviour.

“Normally the change in behaviour is strongly linked with a significant traumatic incident in the life of youth such as the loss of a parent. Because of their emotional vulnerability, the youth starts to adopt rebellious behaviour” (YPO)

Sensation-seeking was a sub-theme which emerged through the data collection process. Through analysis and interpretation of the data, the following category was established: experimenting.

a) Experimenting:

Adolescents who experiment with illegal substances often have a predisposition to substantial drug use at a later stage in their life. Exposure to stressors can also be associated with the increased need for experiencing exhilarating sensations (Dunlop & Romer, 2010). Qidwai, Ishaque, Shah & Rahim (2010) observed the behaviour patterns of adolescents and found that the majority of them display a propensity to develop experimental and risky behaviours. These include, but are not limited to risky sexual behaviours, indulgence in illegal substances, and displaying challenging behaviour. As mentioned in the preceding chapter, there is a strong relationship (33.84%) between those involved in risky sexual behaviour and those addicted to a form of illegal substance (De Wet, Muloiwa & Odimegwu, 2018). Related to this, is the view of one of the participants, who expressed the following:

“I think young people love to experiment and there’s this whole proviso along with their stage of development so they try all new sorts of things- sex, relationships and I think drugs is one of those things; and I think it fits with their behaviour- those that are out for the thrill or just want to try something new. And for many, it stops there, they try something and they don’t get caught; but then there are those that do get caught. And then I think it has ripple effects- family, school and so forth” (SW)

The narration of the participant above draws parallel to the literature on sensation-seeking behaviour of individuals and their desire to experiment. Peer pressure is also related to sensation-seeking, as will be discussed below.

4.8.2.3. Sub-theme 1.3.: Peer-pressure and deviant peer affiliation

The third sub-theme which emerged through the views and experiences of the participants was that of peer-pressure and deviant peer affiliation. As mentioned in the preceding chapter of this research, McLauren & Hawe (2005), emphasized that we are all interdependent individuals and social beings. Furthermore, if our relationships, associations and interactions are negative and detrimental to our development, it will influence our thought-processes and behaviour in society- meaning that our peer relationships can directly affect our individual behaviour (McLauren & Hawe, 2005). Consequently, deviant peer affiliation negatively effects the individual’s behaviour and thought-processes. Peer-pressure is defined as the pressure, feeling or need to partake in an action or behaviour because majority of those in one’s social circle is doing it. Adolescents easily succumb to this peer pressure in order to get the approval of their friends and to fit into societal expectations (Costello & Hope, 2016). Peer-pressure can influence the way an individual dresses or expresses him or herself, the number of friends an individual has, the type of music an individual listens too or their views on using alcohol and other illegal substances, as can be seen by the following narratives:

“If friends are bad influences they could encourage on pressuring you to use substances to look cool etc.” (Mag.)

“The music videos also have that impact on it- where you are desensitized or your desire for what we knew as normal family life is being dealt a blow with this culture, so to speak, where you are chasing the bling life” (C/FW)

According to the narratives expressed by the participants, this sub-theme was categorized into two categories: (1) a need for acceptance and a sense of commonality, and (2) negative influences.

a) Need for acceptance and a sense of commonality:

Adolescents spend proportionally more time with their peers and less time with their family during this developmental stage. Consequently, more time spent with their friends allow for their bonds and relationships to grow. These peer relationships and connections play a fundamental role in the development of interpersonal and communication skills (McElhaney, Antonishak, & Allen, 2008). As McElhaney *et al.*, indicated, these peer relationships allow adolescents to experience optimal social interactions and functioning; however, a desire for social acceptance and popularity amongst peers may emerge at the adolescent stage and can easily result in negative consequences. The desire for approval and acceptance by peers and friends can easily influence an individual to be pressured into doing something he or she would not normally do. This need for acceptance from peers correlated to finding a sense of commonality or common ground in order to receive the approval from peers (Costello & Hope, 2016).

The participants were asked to elaborate on their views and experiences on how the need for acceptance and a sense of commonality are related to peer-pressure and deviant peer-affiliations. The following are excerpts from the participants’:

“...it is also influenced with the peer groups with who they associate with. The influence of peers plays a significant role in offending behaviour of youth because of the need of acceptance” (YPO)

“Youth that does not have sound parental guidance and values often fall victim of the lure of acceptance and popularity from deceptive peers” (YPO)

“I think it creates a feeling of normality, that it’s okay, that everyone is doing it. And it does create a sense of commonality and a sense of belonging. So I think it plays a huge role; the influence of peers”

(SW)

It emerged from the participants’ narratives, that peer pressure has a substantial influence on the decisions made by individuals and the actions or behaviours executed by them. This creates a feeling of normality and a sense of commonality-generating socially acceptable behaviour, as deemed by the adolescent. Furthermore, the individuals who lack parental relationships and guidance fill this void by finding acceptance, love and belonging through one another (McElhaney, Antonishak, & Allen, 2008).

b) Negative influences:

This category strongly relates to the previous category on the need for acceptance and a sense of commonality; however, this is more directed at the negative influences which peer relationships may have on an individual. Relating to the negative influences of peers, the narratives expressed the following:

“If friends are bad influences they could encourage on pressuring you to use substances to look cool”

(Mag.)

“I think friends, peers and gender is always an issue. It’s always a factor that influences the choices that they make- whether it be direct or indirect. So friends offering them or forcing them, I would see as direct; or them wanting to be part of a certain crowd, without the crowd influencing them would be indirect”

(SW)

Through the narratives of the participants, it can be deduced that friends and peers can influence one another in a negative manner- directly or indirectly. Being affiliated and associated with a certain group of people, in order to be accepted and feel as though you belong can put an individual at risk to indulging in certain negative behaviours, merely to fit in with the crowd (Costello & Hope, 2016).

4.8.2.4. Sub-theme 1.4.: Gender

When exploring the microsystemic level, the sub-theme of gender has emerged. This was explored with the participants and subsequently, the researcher identified two categories: females and males. As mentioned in Chapter 3, under the microsystem section, this study did not include other possible genders other than male and female. The participants also only referred to male and female juvenile offenders in their responses. Participants were asked to elaborate on their views and experiences relating to sex differences and how it influences the microsystemic level. Their responses have been narrated below.

a) Females:

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (2018), has underlined that females may be more prone to relapsing and having cravings during the addiction phase (National Institute on Drug Abuse, 2018). Although the majority of overall consumption of illegal substances is directed at males, on a provincial level, Cape Town has a higher number of females who are misusing illegal substances, in comparison to other provinces (Myers, Carney & Wechsber, 2016).

One of the participants is employed as a social worker at a well-known out-patient rehabilitation centre in Cape Town. She has been working in this field for approximately 20 years. When asked about gender variations related to substance misuse and offending behaviour of youth, her response was:

‘We’ve seen a lot more women recently, but does that mean that women didn’t really use [drugs] in the past or that now they are presenting and coming forward?’ (SW)

The available literature (Myers, Carney & Wechsber, 2016), has shown an increase in the amount of females misusing illegal substances, specifically in Cape Town. The narrative of the participant can also be interpreted as either more females using illegal substances, or more females coming forward to seek assistance than in previous years.

b) Males:

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (2018), states that males are more likely to use all forms of illegal substances in comparison to females. They have indicated that women and men are equally prone to depend on substances and misuse them. In South Africa, statistics have revealed that male youth consume two to five times more cannabis than female youth (Peltzer *et al.*, 2010). Literature demonstrates that more males use inhalants such as Mandrax and Cocaine. Heroin is also more predominant within the so-called white male population of South Africa (Peltzer *et al.*, 2010).

When participants were asked about sex differences, specifically related to males and substance misuse of youth, the following narratives arose:

“Males generally appear to be more likely to form part of offending behaviour” (YPO)

“Society also seems to be more accepting of males being substance abusers than females” (Mag.)

“Gender- particularly males- has, at times, a tendency of influencing one another in such a way that puts unwanted peer pressure on one another” (Pros.)

“Males tend to take more risk than females which resulted in them being more prone to engage in risky behaviour and if substances are present, it will worsen the outcome even more” (SAW)

The above-mentioned narratives draw parallel to the literature of Peltzer, Ramlagan, Johnson and Phaswana-Mafuya (2010). Through the views and experiences of the service providers, it is definitely evident that males are more likely to use illegal substances, to be involved in criminal behaviour, and to be easily pressured or influenced by peers, or by the desire to be accepted and acknowledged. Additionally, Basson and Mawson (2011) have identified a strong propensity for violent behaviour in males when substance dependency or a mental disorder exists.

4.8.2.5. Sub-theme 1.5.: Mental and emotional well-being

The use of illegal substances can affect their mental and emotional wellbeing of adolescents. This includes, but is not limited to: anxiety disorders, mood disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and depression (Saban *et al.*, 2014). The participants were asked how they felt the mental and emotional well-being of the individual was affected at the microsystemic level. The following two categories emerged: (1) psychological influences (2) coping strategy.

a) Psychological influences

As described by Saban *et al.* (2014), there is a significant relationship between the excessive usage of cannabis and mental disorders. This has had an effect on the mental, emotional and psychological functioning of the individual. This is echoed by the following participants' narratives:

“A juvenile offender, for me and from personal experience in working in this field, 80% are linked to substance abuse, which affects them psychologically, physically, financially, or emotionally because they want that sense of belonging at the end of the day”

(SW)

“When you use the drugs it affects your personality, you become aggressive and agitated. When you don't have the drug in you, you go through withdrawals. So you become agitated and aggressive and violent”

(SW)

“Emotionally, youth suffer more. Substance abuse stunts their emotional growth and affects them for years to come, even after they no longer abuse drugs or alcohol”

(Mag.)

The effect of illegal substance misuse on adolescents has a damaging and detrimental effect on their emotional, psychological and mental state. Excessive and extensive use can also stunt emotional growth and development; and most significantly, stunt brain development (Winters & Arria, 2011). Again, the use of illegal substances and involvement in juvenile-offending behaviour can be related to the desire and need for

a sense of belonging. This misuse, consequently, affects one's personality and decision-making capabilities.

b) Coping strategy:

One of the most prominent risk factors in the progression of a substance misuse or addiction is facing stressors. These stressors can be emotional, physical or psychological. Examples of these include trauma, loss of a loved one, sleep deprivation, anxiety, insomnia, substance withdrawal symptoms, inter-familial conflict, and environmental stressors. These stressors can affect an individual's behaviour as well as neurobiological functioning (Sinha, 2008).

Adolescents using substances as a means of coping was a category that was made evident through the narratives of participants. The following were selected excerpts relating to coping mechanisms within the mental and emotional well-being sub-theme:

“We were in Pollsmoor last week and this is what I remember an inmate saying: he said a 16 year old killed 7 people in two days. How do you cope with that? You need to take something. So they tend to use substances to numb themselves and forget of the things you did, or fall asleep, or sometimes just to cope on a daily basis and not think of the things that you did. So it is a coping mechanism for them” (SW)

“School and bullying, family and household environment, parents and poverty- all of these has one thing in common for me. Youth will abuse drugs and alcohol to escape unhappiness, eliminating from any of the above factors and or circumstances” (Mag.)

The narratives link to the literature as described by Sinha (2008), expressing the progression of substance misuse as a result of stressors. The narratives and literature deduce that when stressors are prevalent in an adolescent's life, the use of illegal substances help the individual to cope with the stressor or pressurizing situation.

4.8.2.6. Sub-theme 1.6.: Link to criminality

Criminality can be defined as the unlawful or prohibited behaviours in which an individual indulges in. When analysing substance misuse of adolescents, there is a

strong correlation between substance misuse and delinquent or criminal behaviours (Denney & Connor, 2016). As mentioned in the literature review, Basson and Mawson (2011) have also drawn a parallel to the misuse of illegal substances and violent behaviour expressed by an individual. They have also indicated that illegal substances is related to gangsterism, criminality and juvenile-offending behaviour- albeit directly or indirectly (Basson & Mawson, 2011). The category of criminality can also be linked to personality and the negative changes criminality may have on one's personality and decision-making.

a) Association and behaviour:

At the microsystemic level, the link of criminal and unlawful behaviour was strongly highlighted and emphasized through the views and expressions of the participants. The researcher has selected a few excerpts from interviews held, in order to demonstrate their outlooks and understandings.

“They are working for criminals, so they are already associating with an illegal act. So there, they are busy with delinquent or juvenile behaviour- the association with someone who is committing a crime”

(SW)

“When I think about gangsterism, I only think about substance abuse. And I think their main money-making or feed is selling or smuggling substances”

(SW)

“In essence, substance abuse is a criminal offence and the likelihood of having contact with criminal elements in a society is also high, which in turn increases the potential of youth being lured into committing illegal offences”

(YPO)

“If I look at juveniles being charged with theft- in order for them to feed their habit, they need to steal. In order for them to belong to a gang, they need to do something or use something. And dealing with substances or selling substances, they are associated with a leader or a dealer”

(SW)

It is clear from the participant's narratives that criminality is strongly associated with youth who are misusing substances. This is mainly because through the misuse of substances, the adolescent is in some way involved in the criminal cycle. This can either be through merely purchasing illegal substances, or distributing illegal substances, transporting illegal substances, or committing an offence because one is intoxicated with the illegal substance. All of these factors directly or indirectly involve association with gangsters, drug merchants or criminals- all of whom are engaged in illegal activities (Davis, Dumas, Wagner & Merrin, 2016). This also relates to the category of deviant peer affiliation, as discussed above. Theme 2, the mesosystem, will be discussed next.

4.8.3. THEME 2: THE MESOSYSTEM

The participants were asked about their views on the various influential factors and aspects of substance misuse which they feel related to delinquent or criminal behaviours on a mesosystemic level. The participants were asked about what some of the effecting factors were which influenced misuse on juvenile-offending behaviour. They were also asked to describe what support they felt was lacking in the mesosystem. The following sub-themes emerged from the participants' narratives: school structure and bullying, household and community environment, parental and familial structure, socio-economic circumstances i.e. poverty and affluence. These form the sub-themes of the mesosystem, and each sub-theme will be explored and elaborated by means of emerging categories which were prevalent from the collected data.

4.8.3.1. Sub-theme 2.1.: School structure and bullying

The school structure is a fundamental construction in the adolescents' life. It can either be a safe haven and support system, or an escape to fill unmet needs. Research has shown that the use of illegal substances is higher for older adolescents, in comparison to younger adolescents at high school (Moodley *et al.*, 2012) as can be seen by the following narrative:

“I think that if there is conflict at school- this is the period of high school so there is that search for identity and role confusion- so at school, it is where they really experiment in developing those skills

in relationships and communication. And if you are struggling to form relationships or at least a couple of good friends, it leaves you lonely and vulnerable and an easy target. And if you come across different, they you become the target for being bullied. Once again, all these tiny variables adding up to it” (SW)

Within the school setting, there are various forms of violence and abuse transpiring. As mentioned in the literature review, these include, but are not limited to: corporal punishment, physical assault, sexual or verbal abuse, threats, bullying, theft, gender-based violence and gang-related activities (Ward *et al.*, 2012). As described by Ward *et al.* (2012), bullying is also regarded as a form of violence and it is experienced by many school-going adolescents. It includes problematic, aggressive and victimising behaviours. Research has shown that there exists a strong relationship between school bullying and the use of illegal substances or drugs (Maria & Eisner, 2015). This was also echoed in the narratives expressed by the participants. The sub-theme of peer-pressure and deviant peer affiliation can also be seen through this particular sub-theme at the meso-level. The categories that were formed for this sub-theme are: lack of supportive services, pressure and bullying.

a) Lack of supportive services:

When the participants were asked to elaborate on the structure and functioning of the school environment, as well as bullying within the school environment, the following narratives stood out:

“To the school, they are not really open for counselling in that regard because there is a lack of social workers to do the counselling and so forth. Referrals to Safe Schools- two to three months before they come out in this area... So I feel schools is also a departmental problem lacking in that sense” (SW)

“And I think the schools, they are so over-burdened- the teachers, with the same issue of substance abuse and other issues as well... You have one social worker doing ten to twelve schools in a district. It’s not possible. And if you look at an area like Mitchell’s Plain or

Kraaifontein, or Lavender Hill or Steenberg, those are highly problematic areas, where I would say one social worker per school might not even be enough” (SW)

“Having some support for learners is important. I don’t think all schools or fortunate enough to have a counsellor at school or someone to talk to. But we should have that support structure- someone to talk to, a grade head- some peer support or an integrated peer support around something like that” (SW)

These narratives indicate that there is a lack of supportive structures within the school environment. These support structures can be through school counsellors, school social workers, more supportive services and resources from the Education Department and Safe Schools, support for teachers who are facing challenging behaviour from adolescents with substance misuse problems, as well as individual learner support. Safe Schools is a division of the Western Cape Education Department; however, the field workers at Safe Schools are spread out to render services to 10-12 schools, just as the departmental social workers are. The researcher can relate directly to this, as she is a social worker at a school. Due to the lack of services rendered, the adolescents and teachers face an imbalance in the support available within the school structure and environment. This is clearly demonstrated in the narratives and expressions of the participants, who have practical experience at this level. This is also echoed through the research presented by Nel, Tlale, Engelbrecht & Nel (2016), Donohue & Bornman (2014), and Amsterdam (2010), where the lack of service rendered and support available to teachers, learners and parents are underlined.

b) Pressure and bullying:

Peer-pressure and bullying has had an immense negative effect on the development and growth of an individual, especially those at the adolescent stage. Adolescents are also more exposed and more at risk due to the influence and advancement of technology, allowing pictures, videos and information to be distributed instantaneously (Nalin, 2017). Additionally, Nalin (2017) highlights that there is an association between victims and perpetrators of bullying to substance dependence. It is interesting to note

that this category links directly to mental and emotional well-being, a sense of belonging, as well as peer-pressure and deviant peer affiliation. This is not only echoed by the literature available, but also through the narratives of the participants', as demonstrated below:

“Sometimes they will stay out of school because the gangsterism will try and incorporate them to do their illegal activities and with that, they give them money or drugs and that’s how they get [drugs]” (SW)

“I’ve spoken to one of my workers this morning actually about bullying and that is a thing happening in schools, with one of our clients, but also happening outside of school; and that is also gang related. And a big part of it is also substance use and misuse of the children” (SW)

“Bullying is a big problem in schools and plays a significant role in youth involvement in offending behaviour. Often youth people join themselves to a gang to find protection from bullies. They, unfortunately, enter a world of crime and offending behaviour through their gang involvement which does end up unfortunately with prison sentences and a destroyed future.” (YPO)

Through the participants' narratives, it is clear that pressure and bullying is experienced by adolescents within the school environment. Pressure and bullying can also be carried out by gangsters on school grounds, or outside of the school environment. The instantaneous distribution of information also allows for bullying to carry on outside of the school, allowing individuals to have consistent contact with each other, even though they are not physically in the same place. There is also pressure to sell and distribute illegal substances through the schooling environment and structure, and this is perpetuated by creating a sense of belonging out of fear of being bullied. This is echoed in the literature and research, as seen in the works of Nalin (2017). Nalin also highlights that one of the reasons for substance misuse and dependence is due to the fact that those who express bullying and negative pressuring

behaviour often suffer from emotional, psychological or behavioural difficulties, thus placing them at risk to develop a dependency on substances (Nalin, 2017).

4.8.3.2. Sub-theme 2.2.: Household and community environment

Basson & Mawson (2011) have expressed that our youth are exposed to violent behaviour, and that the household and community environment plays an influential factor in this exposure. The culture of violence in South Africa, particularly in our communities and homes is alarming. This creates a sense of fear among our adolescents, and it can either be through witnessing violent behaviour, being a victim of it or a perpetrator of it (Basson and Mawson, 2011). Relating these findings to substance misuse and offending behaviour of youth, research has shown that an estimate of 90% of juvenile offenders have had a history of ill-treatment, either in the household or within the community environment (Burton & Leoschut, 2013). The following categories were developed through the expressions and views of the participants: pressure from environment, and support.

a) Pressure from environment:

As developing human beings, our cultural and social environment shapes our growth, specifically the growth and development of adolescents. This has the ability to influence the behaviours and emotions of an adolescent (Institute of Medicine and National Research Council Committee on the Science of Adolescence, 2011). It is important to note that the social and economic status of one's environment can also impact one's growth, in terms of family functioning, available opportunities offered, service delivery and social context. This may affect the functioning of one's family, as explained in the proceeding sub-theme. Research has also shown that youth who are raised in poverty-stricken communities are at a greater risk of displaying depression, conduct and challenging behaviour. This can also be linked to the sub-theme of mental and emotional awareness, as well as socio-economic circumstances (Institute of Medicine and National Research Council Committee on the Science of Adolescence, 2011). The environmental pressures were an evident factor throughout the interview process. The narratives are as follows:

“Substance abuse plays a very big role in what our teens do. And they are so pressured by their circumstances or by their surroundings that they tend to just leap into that- into substances”

(SW)

“Community background- like the place you are raised. The more the crime in an area, the higher the chances of starting early in crime”

(Pros.)

Through the narratives of the participants', it is clear that the environmental stressors and pressures may influence adolescents to indulge in substance misuse or offending behaviour. A community with a high substance misuse, poverty and crime rate also puts the individual at risk to indulging in similar behaviours. This can be seen as a means of societal pressures or as a coping strategy for the individual. The findings correlate directly to the literature and research of the Institute of Medicine and National Research Council Committee on the Science of Adolescence (2011), where the importance of one's social and environmental elements on emotional well-being are drawn.

b) Support:

The participants expressed that there is a need for supportive services within communities, not only for the adolescent or youth suffering, but for the whole family as well. Their narratives emphasized the importance of working with families holistically in order to create a steady and positive influence on the development of the individual within his or her surroundings. The lack of these services opens up the prospect for involvement in crime, illegal substances or negative behaviour.

“I feel, the families- they are the ones that are being overseen and they are the ones that are not getting the support that they would need”

(SW)

What we are actually doing now with working with the clients- first we are only working with offenders and for the last two or three years we've got money from DSD to work with the client but also the families also. And we need to reflect our targets also on families. So it is not only working with the offender but working with the whole system: home system, schools, the bigger picture- not only the child"

(SW)

"The lack of support structure, guidance and positive values in households plays also a significant role in the propensity for the young offender to get involved in criminal behaviour as it hinders their ability to refuse or filter positive and negative actions"

(YPO)

The available literature echoes the views of the participants by highlighting the importance of having good, readily-available social supportive services. They have also underlined that there are various identified factors which impact on violence and violent behaviour, specifically in youths- to which a lack of social support is a factor (Humm, Kaminer & Hardy, 2018)

4.8.3.3. Sub-theme 2.3.: Parental and familial structure

Our familial context and environment is equally as important as our greater surroundings and communal environment. This also has the ability to shape our behaviour and emotions. Socio-economic factors can influence families and individuals on three primary levels: the family stress, investment and interaction (Institute of Medicine and National Research Council Committee on the Science of Adolescence, 2011). Research has shown that children who have grown up in functional and stable households have a low probability of having physical and mental health problems as an adolescent or adult (Hsiao *et al.*, 2018).

"I think it mainly stems from dysfunctional families. You don't have that sense of belonging in a family. You don't receive that love from

***your parent. That attachment between you and mom is not there, so now you go out and try to seek that attachment in the wrong place; and that is where you find yourself in a jail or a secure facility. So I feel it starts at home, where the children don't have that sense of belonging. They don't have that attachment and that bond is not formed between the mother, the child and the father"* (SW)**

The parental bond and relationship sets the foundation for the child's perception of him or herself, as well as healthy or unhealthy behaviours and relationships. (Mudavanhu & Schenck, 2014). As highlighted in the literature review, the family structure plays a vital role in the development and progression of the child. It is important to note that Mudavanhu & Schenck's (2014) research has shown an increase in the individual's probability of being involved in illegal substances if his or her family have a past in such behaviour.

The category which has been formulated with this sub-theme is: broken homes and dysfunctional families.

a) Broken homes and dysfunctional families:

The involvement of parents in the lives of their children is essential to their growth and development. A lack of involvement and interest can result in a dysfunctional relationship between the child and parent (Bukakto & Daehler, 2011). The dysfunctionality within the family system could result in the child facing or experiencing a low or no self-esteem, socialization problems, easily pressured by peers, a lack of self-control, and likelihood to experiment with illegal substances (Mudavanhu & Schenck, 2014). Single-parents raising children or families with absent fathers also negatively effects the emotional, psychological and mental development of an individual. Children who are raised without a father figure are more likely to exhibit aggressive behaviour, indulge in substance misuse or criminal behaviour, and form unhealthy relationships with the opposite sex (Masemola, 2017). Masemola (2017) wrote a news article on absent father figures in South Africa, and she identified that approximately half of South African children are being reared without their fathers.

The narratives of the participants clearly demonstrate the significant and importance this has on the home environment and on the upbringing of a child.

“When I went out to schools here in the area to do my practice, I discovered that 80-90% of the children come from broken homes. So that is how it is when it comes to behaviour and the drug use of youth- it’s because of broken homes” (PC)

“More often than not, there is family discord, there’s divorced families, there’s single parent families, there’s blended families, there’s slip families- and that fabric within the family has become loose, it’s broken” (SW)

“The home environment impact on how the young person perceived the world, as his family members plays a big part in shaping the young person’s character, values and belief systems. Single-parenting is difficult without a support system, and at times the single parent him or herself lack basic parenting skills, which impact the healthy development and guidance of the young person. In most cases the father figure is absent, and as a result young people turn to others as role-models” (SAW)

The above-stated narratives fall in line with the literature discussed (Bukakto & Daehler, 2011 and Mudavanhu & Schenck, 2014), and draws attention to the strong epidemic of social issues, to which the lack of parental figures and dysfunctional families are subject of. These affect the optimal development of an individual, especially the tendency to be exposed too or become involved in substance misuse.

4.8.3.4. Sub-theme 2.4.: Socio-economic circumstance: poverty and affluence

Individuals in South Africa are faced with many stressors particularly that of low socio-economic circumstances, given the developing and low income state of our country. These financial stressors can result in increasing feelings of negativity, substance use and even delinquency (Mosavel, Ahmed, Ports & Simon, 2015). Moodley *et al.*, (2012) also drew attention to the strong correlation between poverty-stricken communities

and low socio-economic communities with prevalence for high substance misuse (Moodley *et al.*, 2012). When interviewing the participants on the mesosystemic level and the environmental influences, the sub-theme of socio-economic circumstances arose, as can be seen by the narrative below. This was further explored and two categories were formed: poverty- influence by gangsterism and affluence.

“In poor communities kids idolize the gangsters and those that have money- like drug dealers, owners of shebeens. A lot of offenders state poverty as a reason for using drugs and alcohol” (Mag.)

a) Poverty- influence by gangsterism

The social pandemic of gangsterism and power is pressing within our low socio-economic area-areas which suffer from poverty and insufficient services. Gangsterism is more rife and evident in our areas of poverty, where an opportunity for power and powerlessness is given (Bowers Du Toit, 2014). The poverty situation also allows for the easy infiltration and lures of the gangsterism culture- offering individuals an opportunity to gain money, power and status by becoming involved in gangsterism. The motive for poverty and the influence of gangsterism was echoed through the narratives of the participants, as demonstrated below:

“I think in the areas like I mentioned, like Mitchell’s Plain- it is poverty. They see people driving and having flashy cars, they see money, alcohol and they want that, because they are living in dire circumstances, where it’s 10 people in a one bedroom house and this is a way out. But it is not actually a way out, it is a cycle. But to a young mind, which is underdeveloped- it is a way out. So poverty is a main area” (SW)

“Gangsters have a big impact on our youth. Especially in the impoverished communities, where you come from nothing and you want to move on to something” (SW)

“Gangster lifestyle is martyred by our youth as it offers, especially our poorer poverty stricken youth, an easy way or access to material and financial gain” (Mag.)

Through the views and expressions of the participants, it is evident that there is an apparent sense of negative influence portrayed from the gangsterism. The youth are easily influenced and enticed by the glamorous lifestyle depicted by the gangsters. The youth see the monetary status and power the gangsters hold, consequently drawing them to this culture (Bowers Du Toit, 2014). This also links to the categories of a sense of belonging, peer pressure, coping mechanisms and household and community environment.

b) Affluence:

Looking at the pandemic of adolescent substance use and criminal behaviour, it is easily associated with a low socio-economic circumstance and dysfunctional familial environment; however little research is made available on the adolescent substance use in affluent and high socio-economic environments. According to research conducted by McMahon & Luthar (2006), adolescents in affluent socio-economic settings also illustrate patterns of illegal substance use and dependency. The psychosocial and community environment may differ to that of an individual in a poverty-stricken household; however, the individual may still experience interpersonal stressors provide him with the risk to substance misuse behaviours (McMahon & Luthar, 2006).

One of the participants who render services at a well-known youth rehabilitation centre expressed the following:

“Well, it’s so easy to say that substance abuse is more frequently occurring in the less affluent areas. I think it is just more hidden in the more affluent areas. I think it is more visible in a place like Hanover Park than Constantia. And if we talk substances, I’d like to say that we definitely have to include alcohol in there and that’s going to change the face of it, not just illicit substances. We have to talk very licit substances, alcohol being the most common prevailing substance that young people experiment with” (SW)

Through the participant's narrative, it can be deduced that substance misuse is not a social phenomenon only subjected to poverty or low socio-economic areas. Substance misuse is also found in the affluent areas; however, it is not always as visible as seen in the poverty-stricken communities (McMahon & Luthar, 2006).

Through this theme, the mesosystem, the researcher was able to identify the various elements or sub-systems which effect substance misuse of youth and offending behaviours. These were inclusive of: school structure and bullying; household and community environment; parental and familial structure; and socio-economic circumstances. Theme 3, the macrosystem, will be discussed next.

4.8.4. THEME 3: MACROSYSTEM

The outer-most layer of Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Theory is the macrosystem. The researcher looked at the theoretical model from a more extensive perspective, in order to understand the larger influences at this level. The participants were asked to express their views, experiences and opinions on the effect that availability, exposure and accessibility of illegal substances may have on the youth of South Africa, particularly in Cape Town. Furthermore, the participants were also asked to express their views, experiences and opinions on the effect of gangsters, gang culture and gang violence on the youth of South Africa, particularly in Cape Town. They were also asked to identify what support they felt was lacking at the macrosystem level. The following sub-themes developed through exploring the macrosystemic level: abundance of free time, availability and accessibility, gang-related systems and exposure, and a sense of community. Each sub-theme will be explored and elaborated by means of emerging categories through the collected data.

4.8.4.1. Sub-theme 3.1.: Abundance of free time

As described in the literature chapter, Weybright, *et al.* (2015) conducted research on adolescents in South Africa, relating it to substance misuse. Through their research, they recognized that there was a lack of recreational activities in communities and this increases the likelihood of youth being involved in illegal substances. Additionally, a lack of parental supervision also creates an abundance of free time. The category

formulated through the responses of participants is: a lack of recreational activities, as displayed by the narrative.

“In the communities that we service many parents are single parents and have to go work during the day. The children are left unsupervised during those hours and become victim to the subtle lures of the negative elements in the community” (YPO)

a) Lack of recreational activities:

It emerged from the participants' narratives that there is a lack of recreational facilities and activities for the youth to be involved in. This gap in our communities has allowed for excessive free time; and as mentioned, this abundance of free time may increase the likelihood of youth being involved in illegal substances. The danger within communities is also an influential element in the safety of the youth and the youth being resistant to community recreational involvement.

“Our youth- there is not enough recreation facilities in our cape flats communities to keep them busy. The only thing that they so is maybe street soccer and something like that” (DC)

“There are sports fields, but the children can't play there because it's dangerous. There is nothing to keep them active within the community” (SW)

“It's resources available in the communities, because you would find that the children go to school, but after school what is there available for them to do, to keep them busy, to teach them a skill, to sharpen the talents that they already have?” (SW)

The lack of recreational facilities and activities were explored by Weybright, *et al.* (2015), in which they linked the lack of recreational activities for youth to a high likelihood of them indulging in substance misuse. This is further heightened by a lack of adult control and supervision, as well as having less recreational activities and opportunities available (Wegner, 2011).

4.8.4.2. Sub-theme 3.2.: Availability and accessibility

The availability and accessibility of illegal substances allow drug-related activities and criminal behaviour to thrive. This availability and accessibility of illegal substances is closely linked to the exposure and gang-related participation within the community (Burton & Leoschut, 2013). The use of illegal substances is also related to violent behaviour. These violence-stimulating substances include: heroine, cannabis, ecstasy, methamphetamine and anabolic steroids (Basson and Mawson, 2011). The narrative below indicates how the need for social services has grown:

“The Cape Town Drug Counselling Centre itself also has extended their branches all the way into Atlantis. So it is not just here- it is here, Mitchell’s Plain and through to Atlantis. So yes, there has been a growing focus on it but I still don’t think enough is done” (SW)

The following category has been formulated: readily available and accessible.

a) Readily available and accessible:

Many participants expressed their views that these substances are readily available and freely accessible, even though it is illegal. These ties in with the literature reviewed, identifying the prominent and evident accessibility, availability and distribution of illegal substances. Because of the lack thereof, our youth are at risk to the exposure and contact with illegal substances. This is demonstrated in the following participants’ narratives:

“I would say, in the Cape Flats, the accessibility of drugs- it is riddled. It is to the point where you home-visit and people sit and smoke lollies there” (SW)

“The availability of drugs and access is with relative ease. The drugs are available on the streets, households and schools. Such availability is encouraged by the fact that others sells drugs as a means of creating or generating money through illegal means” (YPO)

“Drugs are easily accessible in communities. Drugs would even be sold at school or mobile shops” (YPO)

As described by Burton & Leoschut (2013), the availability and accessibility of illegal substances ties closely with exposure and gang-related involvement within the community setting. This is often seen, experienced and access by our youth, as it is readily available and easily accessible. Furthermore, the Crime for Justice and Crime Prevention conducted a study on youth violence and substance and found that one in ten learners whom they interviewed knew individuals who sold drugs, and one in six knew individuals indulging in criminal activities (Burton & Leoschut, 2013).

4.8.4.3. Sub-theme 3.3.: Gang-related systems

Research has shown that the involvement in gangsterism and drugs enables violent and criminal behaviour. This involvement is especially encouraged and directed at the youth (Edberg *et al.*, 2015). The study conducted by Edberg *et al.*, (2015) has also revealed that the average age of gang members is decreasing. This means that youth are creating affiliations with gang members at a young age, as young as the preadolescent stage. Gang-related systems was a sub-theme which emerged and these were the narratives from the participants which echoed the sentiments of the literature:

“They drive nice cars, they have all the access to resources, women. And you know, impressionable young people see that. They see that they have authority in the community. They have a say. They create fear. So I think it’s a huge factor in terms of predisposing young people. It’s certainly not fertile ground and then you place that in the context of broken families, absent moms or dads, poor role models, media- and you have a young person very bombarded” (SW)

In South Africa, there has also been an increase in homicides, rapes, assaults, and violence amid adolescents. This has been related to gang involvement and association (Basson & Mawson, 2011). Research in South Africa has also shown that drug dealers are targeting youth, as young as 12 years of age, to be involved in this illegal drug

industry (Dias, 2017). This puts the youth at risk and introduces them to a lifestyle of danger, criminal activity and immorality.

a) Glamourized lifestyle:

Gangsterism, gang involvement and drug-dealing are all interlinked and form part of a broader and more complex gang-related system. The pressures from gang involvement encourage individuals to behave defiantly. These actions and behaviours are rewarded and deemed socially acceptable through the gang-related systems (Edberg *et al.*, 2015). This sub-theme directly relates to the motif of household and community environment, peer pressure and a need for acceptance. The lifestyle of gangsters is glamourized by wealth, status, power and material items. These elements are particularly lacking in the average low socio-economic and poverty-stricken household. Thus, by the gang culture being publicised and advertised, these so-called *benefits* of gangsterism become an attractive lure to vulnerable youth.

This view has also been demonstrated by various participants, as seen in their narratives below:

“They tend to look up to others and they admire those people that is involved in gangsterism and involved in substance abuse. So they basically look up to those people as a role model. I think the environment plays a big role in terms of the influences or the factors influencing the adolescents or substance users” (SW)

“It is how they present their gang culture to the youth to attract them and how they bribe them to come in... so they make it lucrative for the youth to join; and I have heard that people are threatened to join but I don't know if the youth has the strength to stand up against them” (SW)

Through the narratives of the participants, one can deduce that the youth admire and respect the gangsters and the culture that accompanies it. These gangsters are seen as community leaders and role models, who influence the youth and broader

environment. The glamourized gang culture is displayed to the youth so that they are aware of the so-called benefits and powers (Edberg *et al.*, 2015).

b) Using the youth and creating a sense of belonging:

Marginalized adolescents easily find acceptance through the structure and formation of gangsters. These gang structures provide a sense of belonging, a sense of identity as well as a sense of acceptance to the youth (Dissel, 1997). As described by Dissel, many youth are lured into this gang culture and lifestyle, as they are provided with a sense of family as well as monetary and power incentives. The youth are also used by the gangsters in order to execute certain tasks on behalf of the gangs.

“I find in the areas, especially in the high poverty areas, that substance misuse quite effect the juvenile offending behaviour because they use the children, the merchants, they use the younger children to sell because it’s much easier, they are not picked up by the police and they are not searched as often” (SW)

“It comes back to a sense of belonging. There was no parents to support them so they look for this gangsterism culture to protect them, which is very sad, because if you look at it, these people are not protecting them- they are just protecting their cash flow” (SW)

“Gangsters prey on young person’s at risk, raised by single parents, lack the experience of belonging, associating with the wrong circle of friends and some already using substances. The gang culture looks attractive to these young people who have no other role-models. It seems to them that gangsters got access to everything and people fear them. Their life-style is portrayed as easy going, lots of money and flashy cars and jewellery” (SW)

Through the participants’ narratives, it has been demonstrated that in the high poverty areas, substance misuse affects youth and their involvement in unlawful behaviours. It also emerged that the gangsters use the youth to distribute and sell their merchandise, as there is a lesser chance of youth being caught. If the youth are

caught, they also face fewer charges and first go through diversion and behaviour modification programmes before being incarcerated. With regard to youth imprisonment, imprisonment is always a last resort, as discussed in Chapter 2 of this research study. The gang culture also provides a sense of belonging for the youth and fills the void of neglect and unmet physical and psychological needs created through absence of parental or familial structures (Pyrooz & Sweeten, 2015).

4.8.5. THEME 4: EXOSYSTEM

As part of the research, the influence of the exosystem was explored as well. The participants were asked to express which community services and support they felt is available and which were lacking or non-existent. Additionally, they were asked to express how they felt the policies and procedures directly or indirectly affect the youth who have misused substances or who are in conflict with the law. Through the participants' responses, the following sub-themes arose: policies and implementation, and support available. This has formed the sub-themes of the exosystem theme and will be explored and elaborated by means of emerging categories through the collected data.

4.8.5.1. Sub-theme 4.1.: Policies and implementation

As discussed in the second chapter of this research study, there are various policies which address the effect of substance misuse on the familial systems, as well as criminal procedures for youth in conflict with the law. The supportive services available in our communities play an important factor in the implementation and practicality of our policies (Groenewald & Bhana, 2016). The sub-theme of policies and implementation was one that came up through the views and expressions of the participants. Two categories were formed: positive effect and negative effect.

a) Positive effect:

As highlighted in the second chapter of this research study, the rights of our youth in South Africa are always to be upheld and maintained. This forms part of our legal framework and is governed by international and national legislation. The use of illegal substances and involvement in illegal activities places a minor at risk and violates the laws and legislation which are put in place (Edberg *et al.*, 2015). The participants were asked to elaborate on their views of the effect on which policies and legislation have

on substance misuse and juvenile offending behaviour of youth. The following positive remarks emerged from the participants' expressions:

“The aim of these Acts is not to criminalize youth but rather to give them opportunity to change their behaviour and adopt a more positive lifestyle. It looks at re-integrating youth back into society through restorative justice processes. For some youth offenders the acts are very beneficial especially those who made a mistake or a misjudgement in actions” (YPO)

“The Criminal Procedure Act is acting in the best interest of young offenders, making sure that children being kept from incarceration and criminal records against their name... The Child Justice Act gives young people a second chance to deal with their challenges, referring them to a diversion programme to address the challenges they face” (Mag.)

“By not prosecuting that child immediately, you are exposing and allowing the child to continue that behaviour. These probation programmes that we refer the children to are affected to certain children because they are too deep into it already. I think it's a good thing in the sense that it creates discipline in their lives and puts them in a different environment to get a different perspective of life. Because when else are they going to learn and take responsibility for their actions and face consequences?” (SW)

From the participants' narratives, it is clearly demonstrated that the service providers feel that the policies, legislation and protocols positively influences the child and are in the best interests of the minor. Additionally, the Child Justice Act and Criminal Procedures Act provides youth with an opportunity to modify, correct and change their behaviour, as opposed to imprisonment. The diversion and probation programmes allow the youth to engage in a form of rehabilitation and therapy, to emotionally and psychologically address the underlying issues related to their behaviours.

b) Negative effect:

When the participants were asked to elaborate on their views of the effect which policies and legislation have on substance misuse and juvenile offending behaviour, the following negative remarks emerged from their expressions:

“You know, with legislation- it is all good and well that it is there; however, the implementation of it is important... So, the resources available to implement those things- that is the problems. So it is good to have it on paper, but we need to look at how to implement it properly so that the juvenile can benefit from the legislation. But if it is on paper and you don’t have the resources then it’s no use and you won’t see the benefit of it if it is not implemented properly”

(SW)

“The Child Justice Act is a good tool but government has failed in implementing relief. There are currently 9 month to a year waiting lists for youth care centre admissions and in interim, the children are stuck in limbo without adequate help”

(Mag.)

“The effects is mixed. In theory, the Acts were passed with intention to protect and uphold the best interest of the minor. However, the problem comes with the practical application of the Acts... the law is all good in books; however, the government had not put in place sufficient resources to enable fulfilment of the application of such Acts”

(Pros.)

Although there were positive responses and views on our policies and legislation, there were also negative views and expressions. These views communicated that there is not sufficient support or resources for the functional implementation of the Acts and legislations. As stated in the literature, Groenewald and Bhana (2016), have voiced that the South African policies which address the effect of substance abuse do not effectively address the needs of affected-family members of substance abuse, in terms of supportive services being rendered. This correlates to the views of the participants, as seen in the narratives above. This also draws a parallel to the proceeding sub-theme of support available. An example of this is the insufficient

amount of rehabilitation centres available in response to the amount of individuals who require these services. This has currently resulted in the Western Cape having a 9- 12 month waiting period for youth who require these services.

4.8.5.2. Sub-theme 4.2.: Support available

Through the narratives of the participants, it is evident that resources are lacking and in turn this affects the services provided and the services available to our youth. As mentioned in the previous sub-theme, there is an insufficient amount of rehabilitation centres available which has resulted in a 9-12 month waiting period for certain services to be available. The Children's Act underlined that the best interest of the child is always upheld, however due to a lack of resources and services available, this is not always possible. Through the data collected, the researcher was able to underline the importance of the Acts and legislation working with the services available- if this is not implemented efficiently and proficiently, then the gap in the social service provision arises.

a) Lack of services available

The lack of social support and services available can be viewed in the expression of a participant below:

“There aren't enough facilities for those who need the services- anyone in need. They are closing down more facilities than they are opening. Stats is showing we have an increase in the population, which means an increase in the poverty and need for services rendered. Unfortunately, there isn't enough social workers or service providers for all the people” (PC)

As echoed through the narrative above, there are not enough social supportive services available in South Africa. Social support is fundamental as it contributes to an individual's life positively; and consequently, the lack thereof can impact negatively. A lack of social support has been associated with youth involvement in violence, violent behaviour, criminal behaviour and substance misuse Humm, Kaminer & Hardy (2018).

4.9. GENERAL OBSERVATION ON EXPERIENCES OF INTERESTED SERVICE PROVIDERS FROM THE EMPIRICAL STUDY

Through the empirical study, the views and experiences of the participants were communicated by means of selected narratives and literature. The researcher's general observation on the experiences of the interested service providers is vast, as there were many themes, sub-themes and categories which emerged from the data, as well as many different viewpoints. There was a strong subject of insufficient service provision, as well as poverty and a sense of belonging which appeared. Recommendations and conclusive statements will be concluded for each theme in the proceeding chapter. The following narrative stood out to the researcher, as it spoke to the vast level of themes, sub-themes and categories to which our youth are suffering.

“I think for a young person, we need a menu of options that would create multiple opportunities for them to help make healthy decisions, on every which level. And that speaks to family, school, community- and how healthy those systems are for an adolescent and our communities. Generally in our communities, which could be on a macro level, South Africa is probably one of the leading crime places” (SW)

Through the participant's narrative, she draws close attention to the lack of services and opportunities available to our youth in South Africa. These insufficient services and opportunities create a gap in their holistic development and effect on the family, school, individual and community level- all of which form part of the Ecological Perspective of Bronfenbrenner (Mudavanhu & Schenck (2014).

4.9.1. The link between the different themes and sub-themes

As mentioned above, there were clear links between the themes, sub-themes and various categories. The researcher has drawn up a representation of this and how the different systems effect on one another. This can be seen in Figure 4.5.

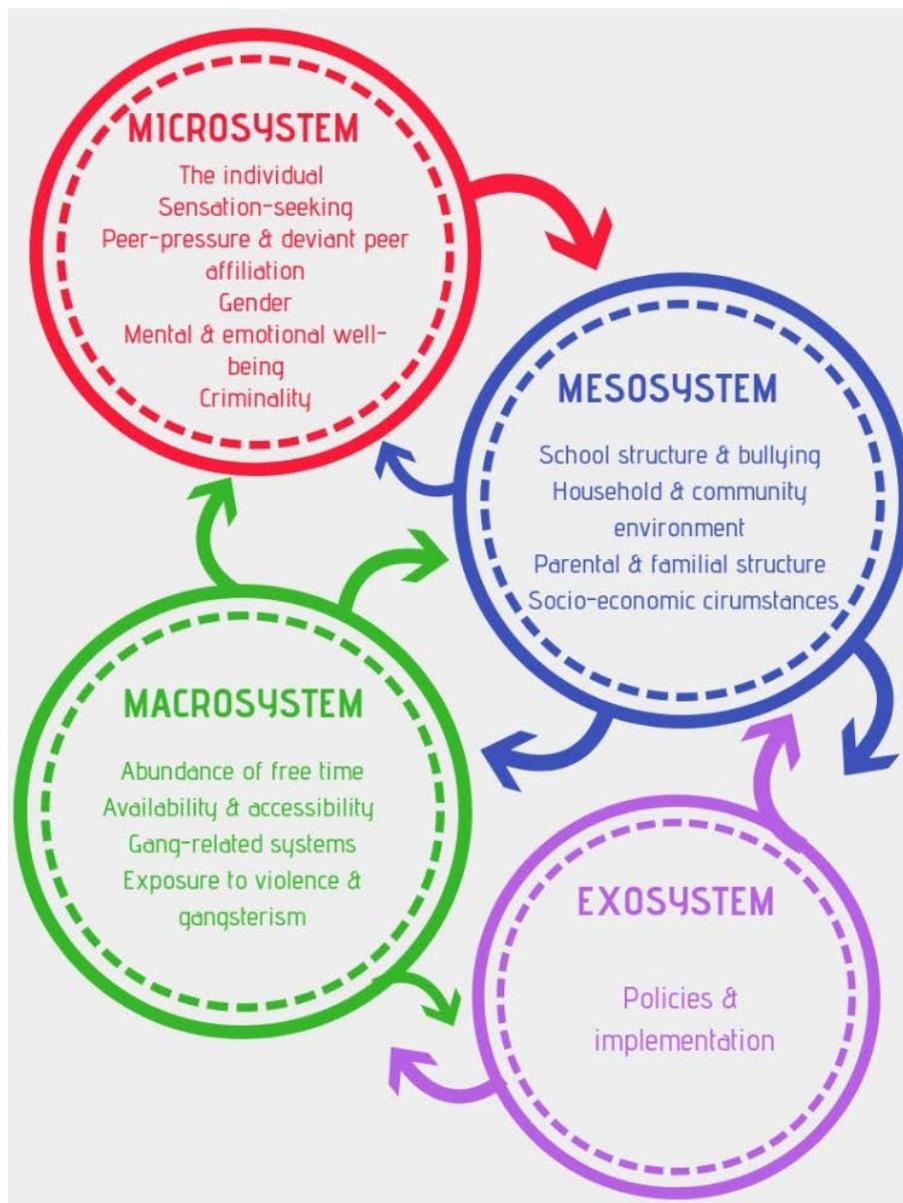


Figure 4.5.: Ecological Perspective: Effect of substance misuse of juvenile offending behaviour

Figure 4.5., is a visual representation of the various systemic levels, as described by Bronfenbrenner. This is specific to the effect of substance misuse on juvenile offending behaviour. At the microsystemic level, the following are affecting elements: the individual, sensation-seeking, peer-pressure and deviant peer affiliation, gender, mental and emotional well-being, and criminality. At the mesosystemic level, the following are affecting elements: school structure & bullying, household and community environment, parental and familial structure, and socio-economic

circumstances. At the macrosystemic level, the following are affecting elements: abundance of free time, availability and accessibility, gang-related systems, and exposure to violence and gangsterism. At the exosystemic level, policies and implementation was an affecting element.

Figure 4.5., depicts how the microsystem influences the mesosystem. Consequently, the mesosystem influences the micro, macro and exosystem. The exosystem has an influence on the mesosystem, as well as on the macrosystem. Subsequently, the macrosystem has an influence on the mesosystem and microsystem. These are all interlinked and in turn affect the individual who is misusing substances or who is involved in criminal or juvenile behaviour.

4.10. CONCLUSION

This chapter displayed the empirical findings of the exploratory and descriptive research study. Throughout this chapter, the views of interested service providers on the effect of substance misuse on juvenile-offending behaviour were investigated. This was achieved by means of identifying and examining the interested service provider's views, experiences and knowledge in the specified field. A total of 20 participants were interviewed through purposive sampling. The interviews conducted were based on an interview schedule, drawn up with knowledge of the literature reviewed in chapters 2 and 3 of this study. The data collected was analysed and interpreted. This was then contextualized and classified by means of themes, sub-themes and categories. These were strengthened by the narratives of participants and parallels drawn between various themes, sub-themes and categories. In chapter 5 of this research study, the findings will be utilized in order to draw conclusive statements and recommendations.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this research study was to investigate the views of social service providers on the effect of substance misuse of juvenile offenders. Chapter 4 was a presentation of the empirical investigation and findings of the research conducted. This chapter will fulfil the fourth and last objective of the research study, which is to: present conclusions regarding the issue of juvenile substance misuse and delinquency, and provide recommendations to relevant social service providers, as well as institutions who work closely with juvenile offenders. Recommendations that could prospectively enhance the services available to youth in conflict with the law and youth misusing substances will be discussed through this chapter. The aim of these recommendations is to identify the gap in the service provision and the services available in South Africa. A recommendation for future research studies will also be made, which will relate directly to the findings of the previous chapter.

5.2. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following section will comprise of conclusions and recommendations of the study, relating to the empirical investigation and findings, as presented in chapter 4 of this research study. This section will address the following through conclusions and recommendations: identifying particulars, theme 1 (microsystem), theme 2 (mesosystem), theme 3 (macrosystem) and theme 4 (exosystem). The recommendations made intended at improving the services available and services rendered, as well as prospectively improving the early intervention services available.

5.2.1. Identifying Particulars

Through the interview process, the participants provided the researcher with identifying details to illustrate certain characteristic information about them. This section will discuss the identifying particulars of the participants, consisting of: gender, years of experience in the social service field, to whom services are rendered, and profession.

Conclusions

- In terms of gender, 45% of the participants were male and 55% were female.
- The majority of the participants had a range of 6- 10 years of experience in their social service field. 30% of the participants had 1-5 years of experience, 20% had 11-15 years of experience and 15% had 16-20 years of experience.
- The majority of the participants were rendering social services to youth in conflict with the law and youth misusing substances. Families affected by youth misusing substances, and youth in an in-patient rehabilitation center were the subsequent two categories following the majority mentioned.
- In terms of profession of the service providers, the majority were social workers. This was followed by Children's Court Magistrates and social auxiliary workers. The minority included: drug counsellor, case or field worker, youth probation officer and a prosecutor.

Recommendations

- For future research, it is recommended that a larger scale study be conducted, including more participants. This will allow the researcher to gain knowledge and understanding from a broader spectrum.

5.2.2. Theme 1: Microsystem

This section of the study explored the effect of substance misuse on juvenile-offending behaviour, as well as what support they felt was lacking at the microsystem. Through the identified literature and views of the participants, the following factors are influential at the microsystemic level: the individual, sensation-seeking, peer-pressure and deviant peer affiliation, gender, mental and emotional well-being, and a link to criminality.

i) The individual

Conclusions

- Each individual has an obligatory responsibility for their own actions and the concept of *free will* plays an important role in directing our behaviour.
- Challenging behaviour may result in an individual indulging in illegal substances and possible criminal behaviour.

- Behaviour modification is difficult for youths to process and adapt to when displaying challenging behaviours.
- During the psychoanalytic stage of development, adolescents are unable to fully and interdependently process consequences to their actions.
- Lack of familial or parental support may result in an individual growing up without a sense of belonging. This puts individuals, specifically youth, at high risk to being involved in delinquent behaviour, illegal substances or gang-related activities.
- During the adolescent stage of development, the individual struggles with: the ability to disregard, evaluating, making mature decisions, impulse control and reasoning. This is linked to the psychoanalytic stage of *identity versus role confusion*, where the individual's search for identity is prominent.
- Those adolescents, who have an emotional instability or lack of a sense of belonging, have a higher predisposition to illegal substance involvement.

Recommendations

- Through the literature and findings, it can be recommended that supportive and therapeutic services be made available to those youths who are struggling with challenging behaviours. This is inclusive of therapeutic support at the individual, school and familial level.
- It is recommended that support be provided to youths during the challenging adolescent phase of development, so that there is sound guidance, direction and leadership when faced with challenges and challenging decision-making.
- It is recommended that parental involvement, support and guidance be a focus in the holistic and healthy development of the individual. This can be done through community workshops or programmes, providing parents and caregivers with parental skills, knowledge and support.

ii) Sensation-seeking

Conclusions

- Sensation-seeking is linked to risk-taking behaviour, impulsivity and spontaneity. These are all factors which are associated with the increase in substance misuse in the early adolescent phase.

- Those individuals who experiment with substances have a higher predisposition to substance dependency and substantial drug use at a later stage in their life.
- Exposure to stressors may result in an increased need for experiencing exhilarating sensations. This is also linked to risky-sexual behaviours.

Recommendations

- It is recommended that more awareness be raised on the effect that illegal substances may have on one's mental, emotional and psychological well-being. This can be conducted through public awareness and school programmes, starting at the primary school level.

iii) Peer-pressure and deviant peer affiliation

Conclusions

- Peer relations and affiliations affect individual behaviours, thought processes and interactions with others. It also affects decision-making.
- Adolescents can easily succumb to peer pressure in order to fit in and receive approval from peers (*identity versus role confusion*)
- Friendships play an important role in the development of their interpersonal communicational skills.
- During the adolescent phase there is a constant desire for approval and acceptance, which effects the pressuring of the individual.

Recommendations

- It is recommended that support be provided to youths during the challenging adolescent phase of development, so that there is sound guidance, direction and leadership when faced with challenges and challenging decision-making.
- It is recommended that a strong focus is made on programmes and workshops that concentrate on bullying, peer-pressure, and healthy/unhealthy relationships. This should be implemented at a primary school level, right through till high school.

iv) Gender

Conclusions

- On a national level, males display the majority overall consumption of cannabis.
- Males are more likely to be involved in criminal behaviour, as this relates to their desire to be accepted.
- On a provincial level, females display the majority overall consumption of cannabis in Cape Town.
- Females are more prone to relapsing and craving during the addiction phase.
- Findings have shown a recent increase in the number of females using illegal substances.

Recommendations

- Through the literature and findings, it can be recommended that more supportive service be made available for those seeking substance misuse rehabilitation, specifically in-patient treatment centers.
- It can also be recommended that gender-specific programmes and support be made available to females, due to the recent increase in the amount of females misusing substances.

v) Mental and emotional well-being

Conclusions

- Mental and emotional well-being can affect: anxiety disorders, mood disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder and depression.
- Illegal substances can be used as a means of coping with one's mental or emotional state/condition.
- There is a link between excessive use of cannabis and mood disorders. This can affect an individual's emotional, psychological and mental growth, as well as brain development.

Recommendations

- It is recommended that the appropriate support be provided and made available for those individuals who are suffering with mental, emotional or psychological disorders.

- Mental health services should be made readily available and accessible for those who cannot afford the services as well.
- It is also recommended that awareness be raised on the effect that illegal substance misuse may have on an individual's holistic functioning and development.

vi) A link to criminality

Conclusions

- There is a distinct link between substance misuse and criminal behaviour. This is also associated with violent behaviour and gangsterism.
- By misusing illegal substances, youth are involved in the criminal system- either directly or indirectly. It is regarded as criminal or unlawful behaviour if one purchases illegal substances, distributes illegal substances or transports illegal substances. This allows youth to directly or indirectly associate with drug merchants and gangsters, which also relates to deviant peer affiliation.

Recommendations

- It is recommended that more preventative and early intervention strategies are implemented in order to inhibit substance misuse leading to delinquent behaviour, or delinquent behaviour leading to substance misuse behaviour.

5.2.3. Theme 2: Mesosystem

This section of the study explored the influential factors and aspects of substance misuse which related to delinquent or criminal behaviours on a mesosystemic level. The support available and support that is lacking in the mesosystem was also explored. Through the identified literature and views of the participants, the following factors are influential at the mesosystemic level: school structure and bullying, household and community environment, parental and familial structure, socio-economic circumstances i.e. poverty and affluence.

i) School structure and bullying

Conclusions

- Bullying at school consists of, but is not limited to: violence, abuse, assault, theft, gang-related violence and gender-based violence. Bullying is

experienced by many school-going children and affects the development at the adolescents' stage.

- There is a strong relationship between bullying and the use of illegal substances.
- There is a lack of support structures within the school environment- there are not enough school counsellors, school social workers or guidance counsellors.
- There are not enough resources provided from the Department of Education and from Safe Schools, which limits the support and resources available for educators.
- At the school level, there is a lack of individual learner support.

Recommendations

- It is recommended that support be provided to youths during the challenging adolescent phase of development, so that there is sound guidance, direction and leadership when faced with challenges and challenging decision-making.
- It is recommended that a strong awareness be raised throughout all school districts, focusing on bullying and the damaging effect it can have on another individual.
- Through the literature and empirical findings, it is highly recommended that more supportive services, resources and skills be made available to educators. It is recommended that this is implemented through the Education Departments, and run at all school levels.
- It is also recommended that more supportive structures within the school environment be made available, in order to provide individual learner support. This can be rendered through school counsellors, school social workers or guidance counsellors.

ii) Household and community environment

Conclusions

- The cultural and social environment shapes the development and growth of an adolescent, which in turn influences their behaviour and emotions.
- Environmental stressors put adolescents at risk for displaying challenging behaviour, conduct or depression.

- A lack of support at the household and community level increases the prospect of an adolescent being involved in illegal substances or delinquent behaviour.
- There is a need for supportive services in the communities, working with the youth as well as the families. So often the youth are worked with in isolation, without the involvement of the families.

Recommendations

- It is recommended that sufficient support and resources be made available for youth who are misusing substances or who are in conflict with the law, specifically in low socio-economic areas.
- Through the empirical findings, it is also highly recommended that the supportive services focus on a holistic and familial approach, by incorporating the family and community structure into the therapeutic work of the individual.

iii) Parental and familial structure

Conclusions

- The parental relationship with the child is fundamental to the perception the child creates for himself as well as the future relationships he builds. This also shapes behaviour and emotions.
- A functional family results in having a low probability of having physical and mental health problems as an adolescent.
- Dysfunctional families result in a high probability of having physical and mental health problems as an adolescent. Dysfunctional families are subject to a lack of parental involvement or an estranged relationship between the child and parent. Dysfunctional families can also result in the adolescent developing a low self-esteem.
- Single-parents and absent fathers have a negative influence on the emotional, psychological and mental development of a child.
- If a child grows up without a father figure, he is more likely to display aggressive behaviour, misuse illegal substances, indulge in criminal behaviour, and/or develop unhealthy relationships.
- In South Africa, approximately 50% of children are raised without a father.

Recommendations

- It is recommended that sufficient parental support, services and skills are focused on, in order to enhance the parent-child relationship. This be implemented through programmes, workshops or seminars presented to parents and families- specifically at the low socio-economic level.
- It is also recommended that support be made available for those children who are being raised without fathers, as well as the single-mother who is raising the child without a father. The necessary skills and knowledge is important to relay. In order to prevent those children from growing up with a void that they seek to fulfill.

iv) Socio-economic circumstances: poverty and affluence

Conclusions

- South Africa holds a general low socio-economic climate, which results in individuals and families facing financial stressors. These stressors can result in increased feelings of negativity, substance misuse and criminal behaviour.
- Poverty is linked to a high substance misuse and criminal behaviour involvement.
- Gangsterism is rife in poverty- stricken areas, as poverty allows for the easy infiltration of gangsterism.
- Gangsterism provides an opportunity, specifically in poorer areas, for a sense of power, status, wealth, and authority. The youth see the glamorization of the gang culture and are enticed by it. This is also linked to a sense of belonging.
- Little research has been conducted on the prevalence of adolescents misusing substances in more affluent and high socio-economic environments.
- The use of illegal substances in more affluent and high socio-economic may be prevalent, but may not be as visible as that in low socio-economic areas.

Recommendations

- It is recommended that more research be conducted on the prevalence of adolescents misusing substances in more affluent and high socio-economic environments

- It is also recommended that more preventative and early-intervention strategies be put in place in low socio-economic areas- specifically for those who are struggling with substance misuse and dependency.

5.2.4. Theme 3: Macrosystem

This section of the study explored the effect that availability, exposure and accessibility of illegal substances may have on the youth of South Africa, particularly in Cape Town. The researcher also explored the effect of gangsters, gang culture and gang violence on the youth on a macrosystemic level. Through the identified literature and views of the participants, the following are influential factors at the macrosystemic level: abundance of free time, availability and accessibility, and gang-related systems and exposure.

i) Abundance of free time

Conclusions

- The lack of recreational activities in communities increases the likelihood of youth being involved in illegal substances.
- The lack of parental supervision creates abundance of free and unsupervised time for youth. This increases the likelihood of involvement in illegal substances.
- In low socio-economic areas, the dangers within the communities put the safety of individuals at risk; therefore, individuals become more reluctant to be involved in good community networks.

Recommendations

- It is recommended that the gap of recreational activities in communities, specifically low socio-economic communities, be addressed.
- More services, activities and opportunities need to be created for youth, in order for them to be occupied and avoid an abundance of unsupervised free time.

ii) Availability and accessibility

Conclusions

- Availability and easy accessibility of illegal substances allow for drug-related activities to thrive in communities.
- Availability and easy accessibility of illegal substances is linked to high exposure and gang-related participation in communities.
- The exposure and contact of illegal substances and puts youth at risk to the use of illegal substances. The use of illegal substances is also related to violent behaviours and actions.

Recommendations

- Through the research conducted, it became evident that the accessibility of illegal substances is readily obtainable and easily accessible for youth. It is therefore recommended that the access to these illegal substances are looked at more firmly through the implementation of more drug-raids and searches on a school, household, community, as well as national level.

iii) Gang-related systems and exposure

Conclusions

- The involvement in gangsterism enables violent and criminal behaviour, and this involvement is encouraged at the youth level.
- The average age of gang members is decreasing; meaning involvement of youth is increasing.
- The youth admire and respect the gang culture and lifestyle, which is glamourized by money, power, wealth and status. This is especially more appealing to youth who come from underprivileged and poverty-stricken backgrounds. These gang members are seen as role models and leaders of the community.
- In South Arica, there has been an increase in rape, homicide, assaults and violent behaviours amid adolescents.
- Marginalized and vulnerable youth find acceptance, love and a sense of belonging through the involvement of gangsterism and the gang culture. These

youths are lured through the provision of a sense of family, protection and care given by the gang membership.

Recommendations

- Through the research conducted, it is recommended that more positive activities are offered and made available to youth, in order to prevent them from being involved in gangsterism.
- To provide positive and respected role models, as well as support to youth, specifically in low socio-economic areas where the culture of gangsterism is admired and respected.
- To strengthen familial support, love, care and protection within households and communities in order to ensure that children are raised in loving environments with a sense of belonging. This will prevent youths from seeking to fulfil this gap with unlawful and negative behaviours.
- It is recommended that support be provided to youths during the challenging adolescent phase of development, so that there is sound guidance, direction and leadership when faced with challenges and challenging decision-making.

5.2.5. Theme 4: Exosystem

This section of the study explored the effect which policies and procedures have on the youth who misused substances or are in conflict with the law. The researcher also explored the community services and supports which are available and those which are lacking. This was explored through the exosystemic level. Through the identified literature and views of the participants expressed, policies and implementation, as well as support available were influential factors which emerged in this level.

i) Policies and implementation

Conclusions

- Substance misuse affects familial systems and criminal procedures for youth in conflict with the law.
- A minor who is using illegal substances places him or herself at risk and violates the policies and legislation in place.

- The Acts do not criminalize the youth, but they rather provide them with an opportunity to seek help and change their behaviour through the various re-integration, rehabilitation, restorative justice and diversion programmes.
- The Criminal Procedures Act acts in the best interest of the child by making imprisonment a last resort and by allowing youth to enroll in diversion programmes in order to avoid attaining a criminal record.
- Although the Acts act in the best interest of the child and uphold the rights of the child, unfortunately, there are not enough resources available in order to implement the policies and legislation. If the policies and legislation are not implemented properly, then the youth or juvenile cannot benefit from it.
- In providing the Child Justice Act, the government failed to implement sufficient resources and services available- thus, leaving service providers with a 6-12 month waiting period for youth who require in-patient rehabilitation services. The lack and insufficiency of services available do not allow for the practical application of the Acts.

Recommendations

- Through the research conducted, it is recommended that the practical implementation due to a lack of resources of the relevant policies and legislation are looked into.

ii) Support available

Conclusions

- The support available for youth plays an important factor in the implementation and practicality of the policies and procedures.
- Although there are Acts, legislations and protocols in place, there are unfortunately not enough resources and support available. This impacts on the implementation of the social and supportive services, which in turn affects the youth or juvenile offender who requires the help.
- At the governmental level, there is a distinct gap in the implementation of sufficient resources, as well as the services available. This gap and insufficiency of services available hinder the practical application of the Acts, and negatively implicate the youths who require help.

Recommendations

- It is also recommended that the gap in the services available for youth in conflict with the law and youth misusing substances is addressed and examined.

5.3. CONCLUSIVE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE STUDIES

Based on the findings of this study, various recommendations for future studied can be made.

- It is recommended that further research be conducted on the effect of substance misuse of juvenile offenders.
- Further research is also needed on determining how the effect of substance misuse of juvenile offenders can be supported successfully.
- It is also recommended that further research be conducted on determining how the South African policies and legislation can be better implemented in order to deal with substance misuse of youth effectively.
- Further research can be conducted in order to determine the effectiveness the services rendered to youth who are misusing substances and youth in conflict with the law.
- It is recommended that future research be conducted on the services available and the waiting periods for youth who are seeking in-patient rehabilitation services.
- This research study was conducted on small scale and only focused on the geographical area of Cape Town, so it is recommended that a larger scale study be conducted in future research studies.
- It is recommended future research is conducted on the effect that a lack of community resources may have on the success of service delivery.

5.4. CONCLUSION

This chapter achieved the final objective of the study, which was to present conclusions regarding the issue of juvenile substance misuse and delinquency, and provide recommendations to the relevant service providers, as well as institutions who work closely with juvenile offenders. Recommendations were also made with the aim of prospectively enhancing the services available to youth in conflict with the law and

youth misusing substances. The conclusions and recommendations made were drawn from the findings of the empirical findings. The data collected through the empirical investigation correlated to the literature and theoretical findings. It is evident from the study that there is a gap in the service provision available for youth in conflict with the law and youth, youth misusing substances, as well as families affected by youth misusing substances.

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ANNEXURE A: Research Ethics Committee Approval Letter



NOTICE OF APPROVAL

REC Humanities New Application Form

30 May 2018

Project number: 6700

Project Title: Social Work Masters

Dear Mrs Tazneem Jacobs

Your REC Humanities New Application Form submitted on 8 May 2018 was reviewed and approved by the REC: Humanities.

Please note the following for your approved submission:

Ethics approval period:

Protocol approval date (Humanities)	Protocol expiration date (Humanities)
30 May 2018	29 May 2021

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Please take note of the General Investigator Responsibilities attached to this letter. You may commence with your research after complying fully with these guidelines.

If the researcher deviates in any way from the proposal approved by the REC: Humanities, the researcher must notify the REC of these changes.

Please use your SU project number (6700) on any documents or correspondence with the REC concerning your project.

Please note that the REC has the prerogative and authority to ask further questions, seek additional information, require further modifications, or monitor the conduct of your research and the consent process.

FOR CONTINUATION OF PROJECTS AFTER REC APPROVAL PERIOD

Please note that a progress report should be submitted to the Research Ethics Committee: Humanities before the approval period has expired if a continuation of ethics approval is required. The Committee will then consider the continuation of the project for a further year (if necessary)

Included Documents:

Document Type	File Name	Date	Version
Informed Consent Form	Informed Consent	26/03/2018	1
Data collection tool	Interview Schedule	26/03/2018	1
Research Protocol/Proposal	Tazneem Jacobs_FINAL CHAPTER 1 (1)	08/05/2018	2

If you have any questions or need further help, please contact the REC office at cgraham@sun.ac.za.

Sincerely,

Chrissa Graham

REC Coordinator: Research Ethics Committee: Human Research (Humanities)

National Health Research Ethics Committee (NHREC) registration number: REC-050411-032.
 The Research Ethics Committee: Humanities complies with the SA National Health Act No.61 2003 as it pertains to health research. In addition, this committee abides by the ethical norms and principles for research established by the Declaration of Helsinki (2013) and the Department of Health Guidelines for Ethical Research: Principles Structures and Processes (2nd Ed.) 2015. Annually a number of projects may be selected randomly for an external audit.

ANNEXURE B: Research Budget

The following costs will be incurred during the research process:

Item	Estimated Cost
Masters tuition fees: Year 1 (2017)	R 30071. 00
Masters tuition fees: Year 2 (2018)	R 8940. 00
Transport and fuel cost for interviewing service providers	R 4500. 00
Transport and fuel cost for supervision sessions with supervisor in Stellenbosch	R 2500. 00
Administration: telephonic and internet accessibility, photocopying and capturing of data	R 2500.00
Editing of thesis	R 5000.00
Printing, copying and compilation of final document	R 1500.00
TOTAL	R55 011.00

The researcher has been sponsored by Icon Civils & Building, a private company, who has covered the full cost of the research study. The participants were not expected to contribute towards any costs, nor did they receive any monetary incentives for participating in the research study.

ANNEXURE C: Letter of Approval from Institution

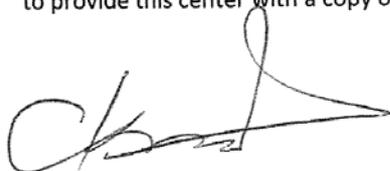


28/08/2018

To whom it may concern:

Re Tasneem Essa

This confirms that the above conducted interviews with Social workers working at our facility, for her Masters research on the impact of substance abuse on juvenile-offending behaviour. She informed us that all information and identity of the participants remains confidential. She has agreed to provide this center with a copy of her research once it has been completed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cathy Karassellos'.

Cathy Karassellos

Clinical Manager



NPO registration No. NPO 088-168 - Public Benefit No. 18/11/13/2517 - PO Box 56 Observatory 7935
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Executive Committee: Chairman - Mr S. Brandt; Deputy Chairman - Dr D. Wilson; Treasurer - Mr S Haycock; Secretary - Dr S. Kleintjes;
Members Mr E. Benjamin; Mr C Davids; Mr Y Hartley

ANNEXURE D: Informed Consent Form for Participants

Consent from service providers to participate in the research on the effect of substance use on juvenile offenders

You are requested to participate in a research study conducted by Tasneem Jacobs, a Masters student, from the Department of Social Work at the University of Stellenbosch. The results of this research study will contribute towards the aforementioned thesis topic. You were selected as a prospective participant in this research study as you are a service provider who renders services to juvenile offenders; and therefore, your views, experiences and input would supplement to the findings of the research study.

1. Purpose of the study

The purpose of this study is to gain an understanding of the views of social service providers on the effect which substance use has on the well-being of juvenile offenders, within the context of Cape Town, South Africa. Through this research study, the researcher prospectively aims at identifying any correlation or patterns between the prevalence of substance use and the delinquent behaviours of juveniles.

If you willingly volunteer to participate in this research study, you will be asked to be involved in the following:

- i) Be available for a 60 minute interview, to take place at a convenient time, agreed upon by you and the researcher
- ii) Should you require any further information on the research study, you can contact the researcher via email at 16530233@sun.ac.za or tjacobs@garcom.co.za

2. Potential risks and discomfort

No harm is anticipated during or after the research study. The research is considered low-risk in terms of ethical considerations, as the researcher will not work directly with the juvenile offenders. All the information collected and

captures, as well as interviews conducted will be regarded as highly confidential. No identification or personal details of participants will be revealed.

3. Confidentiality

All information gathered and interviews conducted will in no way be linked to your personal details or identification. No identification or personal details of participants will be revealed in the research report or findings of the study. The data captured will be stored in a secure and private location, ensuring that the confidentiality is maintained.

4. Participant withdrawal

Your participation in this research study is entirely voluntary and you may choose to withdraw from the study at any time, without any consequences afflict you or the organization for which you work. The researcher may withdraw you from the study if circumstances permit to do so. If you have any queries or concerns relating to your rights as a research participant, please feel free to contact Ms M Fouche at the Division for Research Development at the University of Stellenbosch: mfouche@sun.ac.za or 021 808 4622.

5. Identification of investigators

If you have any questions or concerns relating to the research study, please contact the researcher's supervisor, Dr I Slabbert, at the Department of Social Work at the University of Stellenbosch: islabbert@sun.ac.za or 021 808 2073.

6. Payment for participation

The cost of the research will be carried by an independent company, who will be sponsoring the full research study and; the participants will not be expected to contribute any monetary payment. Moreover, the participants will not receive any reimbursements or incentives from the researcher for participating in the study.

Signature of research participant

The information above was described by Tasneem Jacobs to (full name). I, (full name of participant), was given the opportunity to ask questions relating to the research study and my participants, and these questions were answered to my satisfaction.

I hereby consent to voluntarily participate in this research study

Full name of participant

Signature of participant

Signature of researcher

I, Tasneem Jacobs, as the researcher, declare that I have explained the abovementioned information stipulated in this document to the participant, (full name of participant). He/she was given sufficient opportunity to ask questions relating to the research study.

Signature of researcher

ANNEXURE E: Themes for Interview Schedule:

Themes for semi-structured interviews with service providers:

- Biographical information;
- Services rendered and the role of the service provider;
- Perceptions and views on the effect of substance use on juvenile offenders;
- Reflections on how substance use can be linked to delinquent behaviours of juvenile offenders on a micro, meso and macro scale;
- Resources or nature of input that could be implemented in order intervene in the epidemic of substance use in juvenile offenders.
- The roles of the micro, meso and macro systems pertaining to juvenile offenders
- Perceptions and views of the micro- systemic structures on the effect of substance use on juvenile offenders;
- Reflections on how substance use can be linked to delinquent behaviours of juvenile offenders on a micro-systemic level;
- Resources or nature of input of the micro-systemic structures that could be implemented in order intervene in the epidemic of substance use in juvenile offenders;
- Services lacking or gap in the services currently available.

ANNEXURE F: Information Sheet on Research



UNIVERSITY OF STELLENBOSCH DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

RESEARCHER: Tasneem Jacobs

DISSERTATION: Masters in Social Work

RESEARCH TOPIC: Views of social service providers on the effect of substance misuse of juvenile offenders

DATE OF INTERVIEW INTENDED: _____

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: _____

NATURE OF INTERVIEW:

The interview between the researcher and interviewee will be conducted face-to-face and will be approximately 60 minutes in duration. The questions asked will be open-ended and comprehensive, consisting of a few questions per interview schedule. The interviews will be audio recorded in order for the researcher to transcribe accurately. The identity of the interviewee will be kept confidential.

CRITERIA IN ORDER TO PARTAKE IN STUDY:

- The participant must be a practicing service provider, rendering services to juvenile offenders or youth who has been in conflict with the law
- The services being rendered may be on a micro, meso or macro-level in the ecological system of the juvenile
- The participant must be rendering services within the geographical area of Cape Town and surrounding areas.

SUMMARY OF RESEARCH OBJECTIVE:

The goal of this research study is to gain an understanding of the views of service providers on the effect which substance misuse has on juvenile-offending behaviour, within the context of Cape Town, South Africa. The focal research question, as formulated by the researcher is:

What are the views of interested social service providers on the effect of substance misuse on the offensive behaviours of juvenile offenders?

ANNEXURE G: Interview Questions



UNIVERSITEIT
STELLENBOSCH
UNIVERSITY

**UNIVERSITY OF STELLENBOSCH
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK**

Views of social service providers on the effect of substance misuse of juvenile offenders

Interviewer: Tasneem Jacobs
Dissertation for Masters in Social Work

The information recorded in this questionnaire will be regarded as confidential.

PARTICIPANT NUMBER: _____

INTERVIEW DATE: _____

1. IDENTIFYING PARTICULARS

1.1. Gender

Male	
Female	
Other	

1.2. Years of experience in this field

1-5 years	
6-10 years	
11-15 years	
16-20 years	
21 years & more	

1.3. Services rendered to:

Youth in conflict with the law	
Youth misusing substances	
Youth on probation	
Families affected by youth in conflict with the law	
Youth in a correctional or secure facility	
Youth in an in-patient rehabilitation centre	
Other (specify): _____	

1.4. Profession

Social Worker	
Social Auxiliary Worker	
Child & Youth Care Worker	
Counsellor	
Psychologist	
Probation Officer	
Case Worker	
Other (specify): _____	

2. VARIOUS INFLUENTIAL FACTORS AND ASPECTS OF SUBSTANCE MISUSE WHICH RELATE TO DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS, ACCORDING TO BRONFENBRENNER'S ECOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

2.1. Microsystem

2.1.1. How do you view the effect of substance misuse on juvenile-offending behaviour?

2.1.2. What support is lacking at the microsystem level?

2.2. Mesosystem

2.2.1. According to your views and experiences, what are some of the factors in the mesosystem that effect substance misuse on juvenile-offending behaviours?

2.2.2. What support is lacking at the mesosystem level?

2.3. Exosystem

2.3.1. What community services and support is available and which services are lacking

2.3.2. In which way do the policies and procedures directly or indirectly affect youth who have misused substances and are in conflict with the law? Positively or negatively- please elaborate.

2.4. Macrosystem

2.4.1. What are your views, experiences and opinions on the effect that availability, exposure and accessibility of illegal substances may have on the youth of South Africa, particularly, Cape Town?

2.4.2. What are your views, experiences and opinions on the effect of gangsters, gang culture and gang violence on the youth of South Africa, particularly, Cape Town.

2.4.3. What support is lacking at the macrosystem level?

3. EXPERIENCES RELATED TO THE EFFECT OF SUBSTANCE MISUSE OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS

3.1. Briefly describe your views and experiences related to the effect of substance misuse on juvenile offenders.

3.2. Through your knowledge and experiences, what do you feel is the leading causes on an individual to indulge in delinquent behaviour?

4. SERVICES RENDERED AND SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT PROVIDED

4.1. How do you feel the accessibility and availability of the support offered is utilized?

4.2. Does the support actually work on a long term basis, or is there a strong possibility of re-offending at a later stage?

5. ANY FURTHER COMMENTS OR CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you for participating in this research study

ANNEXURE H: Member Verification

MEMBER VERIFICATION FORM

Participant number: _____

I, hereby declare that I have read the transcribed interview completed for this research study:

(please tick where appropriate)

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

I, hereby, declare, that I am in agreement with the transcribed content of the interview:

(please tick where appropriate)

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

ANNEXURE I: Independent Code Theme Verification**INDEPENDENT CODE THEME VERIFICATION FORM**

I, hereby declare that I have read the transcribed interview completed for this research study and I am in agreement with the themes, sub-themes and categories derived from this:

(please tick where appropriate) Yes
No

Theme	Sub-theme	Categories
Theme 1: Micro-system	Sub-theme 1.1: The individual	a) Challenging behaviour b) Sense of belonging c) Decision-making and being influenced d) Personality
	Sub-theme 1.2: Sensation-seeking	a) Experimenting
	Sub-theme 1.3: Peer-pressure and deviant peer affiliation	a) Need for acceptance and a sense of commonality b) Negative influences
	Sub-theme 1.4: Gender	a) Males b) Females
	Sub-theme: 1.5: Mental and emotional well-being	a) Psychological influences b) Coping mechanism
	Sub-theme 1.6.: Link to criminality	a) Association and behaviour
Theme 2: Meso-system	Sub-theme 2.1: School structure and bullying	a) Lack of supportive services b) Pressure and bullying
	Sub-theme 2.2: Household and community environment	a) Pressure from environment b) Support
	Sub-theme 2.3: Parental and familial structure	a) Broken homes and dysfunctional families
	Sub-theme 2.4: Socio-economic circumstance: poverty and affluence	a) Poverty: influence by gangsters b) Affluence
Theme 3: Macro-system	Sub-theme 3.1: Abundance of free time	a) Lack of recreational activities
	Sub-theme 3.2: Availability and accessibility	a) Readily available and accessible
	Sub-theme 3.3: Gang-related systems	a) Glamorized lifestyle b) Using the youth and creating a sense of belonging
Theme 4: Exo-system	Sub-theme 4.1: Policies and implementation	a) Positive effect b) Negative effect
	Sub-theme 4.2.: Support available	a) Lack of services

ANNEXURE J: Reflexivity Report

Completing this reflexivity report was actually much more difficult than I had anticipated. As difficult as it was for me, it was also very important for me to reflect on my experiences, thoughts and feelings through this research process. I grew up in a very privileged home, living a privileged and well-balanced lifestyle. My siblings and I all went to good schools, we never fell short of anything- anything that we needed or wanted. Although we were spoiled, we were also grounded by our parents who taught us humility and gratitude. As children, we did not know what poverty was; we did not know what it was like to not have. This was all through the hard-work of our parents.

As I grew older and was able to understand, I learned that my parents did not come from wealth. They came from low socio-economic backgrounds and they knew very well what it was like to not have. For this reason, they wanted a better life for us- and so they worked hard to be able to give us a certain standard of living. I do not know much about my mother's family, but what I do know is that she did not have an easy life. My father grew up on the boarder of Manenberg and Primrose Park. He is the only one out of his four siblings who was privileged enough to further his education.

As a kid, I remember going to Manenberg/ Primrose Park and seeing a completely different world to what I knew. For me, it was sad- seeing how some people lived. I always had (and sometimes still do have) a feeling of guilt, because of the parallel worlds we live in. I stopped going there when I was still a child. I am mentioning all of this because that is actually why I chose the field of social work- I wanted to help those who were vulnerable, those who were under privileged, those who lived in drug and gang-infested communities, and those who just wanted a hand to help.

After I graduated, my first job was at Cape Town Child Welfare and the area that I was placed in was Manenberg. Nothing is a coincidence. This was my chance to physically do what I always wanted to do. And it was an opportunity for me to go back into that drug and gang-infested community. During this time period, there was a gang-war in Manenberg; however, the workload still went on and we still had to do our house-visits.

This was where my interest in substance misuse and gangsterism sparked. And I experienced all of this first-hand: seeing children using substances at the age of 10, having to physically remove children from their parent's home because they are using or selling substances, dealing with children who were in conflict with the law, coming face-to face with gangsters and having to reason with them. Most people would be scared, but I was intrigued and interested with this whole other world that existed a few suburbs from mine. This interest grew into passion. I became passionate about my social work, but more specifically about the substance misuse epidemic amongst youth and this whole gang-culture, or rather, religion.

For this reason, I carefully decided to pursue my Master's degree in this field. Without doubt, it was a decision I am glad I made. Conducting the research, and more specifically, the empirical study, was an enlightening experience. I learned so much and I was humbled by the views, input and experiences of the participants. As the researcher, because this is a field I am passionate about, conducting the interviews and collecting data was captivating and fascinating for me. Throughout the process, I was open to gathering as much information as I could because I wanted to learn. Not only did I want to learn about substance misuse and gangsterism, I also wanted to identify the gaps in our social service provision- because working in Manenberg opened up my eyes to the lack of services available and the distinct barriers between the different socio-economic classes.

I still feel that there is more that I want to do and more that I can do- not only academically, but practically. These last two-years of studying have been tough, but it has humbled me and reminded me why I am doing what I am doing. And it has once again reminded me that although South Africa is excelling in certain fields, we are failing our youth who are suffering in poverty, gang and drug-infested environments by limiting resources and social services.

