



BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION

**A WORKING MODEL TOWARDS DESISTANCE THROUGH
ENTREPRENEURSHIP: A CASE OF CHIKURUBI MAXIMUM PRISON**

BY

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE
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DECLARATION

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this project to all my beloved family members who endured it all, especially my late
Baba B.B Chipara, Amai R Chipara and my children: Denzel and Rowson.

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I am greatly indebted to my supervisor, Dr Munashe Matambo of the GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, BUSE, for his patient guidance and advice, without him this study would not have seen the light of day. He made everything simple and achievable. I am also very grateful to the Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Service members, the Commissioner General Dr MCN Chihobvu, for granting me permission to undertake this study using ZPCS, Chikurubi Maximum Prison as a case study. This product has been significantly refined and enriched by the work and contribution of my numerous colleagues for which special mention goes to Edmore Kapumha, Nokuthula Wutta, Isaac Sibiya and Rumbidzayi Meketsi.

To all of you I say thank you, and God the Almighty bless you all.

ABSTRACT

Entrepreneurship programs to inmates are of paramount to their reintegration into the society on release. This study aimed to develop a model for desistance through entrepreneurship, addressing the socio-economic barriers ex-offenders face and providing an alternative pathway to promote desistance. The social and economic factors discussed include social stigma, unemployment, economic hardships, unavailability of starter packs and society rejection. While, the challenges facing entrepreneurship programs being overcrowding, lack of adequate training equipment, lack of financial support, classification restrictions, security oriented, no crime interventions and unavailability of space to learn. The potential role of entrepreneurship discussed included developing self-belief and skills, personal empowerment and easy social reintegration. Finally, the initiatives include crime specific interventions, documented Entrepreneurial programs and mentorship and support being entrepreneurial initiatives. A qualitative approach was adopted using exploratory research design with open-ended questions, interviews, focus groups, and document analysis. It involved a sample size of 39 participants of which 27 were conveniently selected for focus group discussions and in-depth interview while 5 were purposively selected rehabilitation officers as key informants for interviews as the goal was to gain a deeper understanding of the research topic rather than to generalize findings to a larger population. The study findings revealed that Chikurubi Maximum has some rehabilitation activities namely carpentry, auto mechanics, tree growing and welding, however there is a gap as to what exactly is required to foster desistance. Social and economic factors have a bearing on reoffending, if the entrepreneurial activities are done fully, they have a potential to uplift the wellbeing of inmates after release. The study recommended that crime specific interventions, documented Entrepreneurial programs and mentorship and support being entrepreneurial initiatives has to be integrated in the entrepreneurial programs at Chikurubi Maximum Prison.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship programs, Social stigma, Inmates, Chikurubi Maximum Prison, Zimbabwe

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ZPCS-Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Service

UNODC- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

CMP-Chikurubi Maximum Prison

ICT-Information Communication Technology

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

This study aimed to develop a model for desistance through entrepreneurship, addressing the socio-economic barriers ex-offenders face and providing an alternative pathway to promote desistance. In the chapter background to the study, statement of the problem, research objectives, research questions, significance of the study, limitations and delimitations were discussed. Finally, the chapter ends with chapter summary.

1.2 Background to the Study

Globally, crime and recidivism continue to pose significant social challenges that impose economic burdens on societies and straining criminal justice systems (Nseobot and Effiong, 2019). Traditional methods of rehabilitation, while essential, are falling short in addressing the root causes that are driving individuals back into criminal behaviour. The stigma associated with imprisonment often leads to social exclusion at reintegration creating challenges in securing employment (Robinson, 2024). This predicament has led to increased recidivism rates, overcrowding, strained resources and reduced effectiveness of correctional systems across the globe.

Gaining employment is one of the most crucial steps for ex-offenders to take in order to regain stability in their lives. However, despite having attained necessary qualifications and skills during the period of incarceration, systematic legal barriers prohibit the successful reintegration of offenders. Warner (2011) articulates that criminal records and convictions disqualify ex-offenders from getting formal jobs given that most employers conduct background checks on prospective employees. The suspicion and fear to hire those with criminal records leaves ex-offenders prone to unemployment and failure to self-sustain while living in an ever-demanding society. Resultantly, the majority of ex-offenders are compelled to get involved in criminal activities as alternative mechanisms for securing financial gains. This trend highlights the need for innovative approaches that address the socio-economic factors contributing to recidivism.

Globally, crime and recidivism continue to pose significant social challenges, imposing economic burdens on societies and straining criminal justice systems. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), recidivism rates in many countries hover around 50%, reflecting systemic failures in addressing the root causes of criminal behavior. Offender reintegration remains a significant challenge for correctional systems worldwide,

with high recidivism rates underscoring the persistent struggle to rehabilitate and reintegrate former prisoners into society. In Europe, particularly in England and Wales, research reveals that 59% of offenders are reconvicted within two years of release, a figure that escalates to 72% within five years, highlighting the inadequacy of existing rehabilitation frameworks (PLOS ONE, 2015). Similarly, in the United States, where incarceration rates are among the highest globally, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (2018) reported that approximately 68% of released prisoners were rearrested within three years.

In Southern Africa, countries like South Africa indicate 60% reoffending rate highlight systemic weaknesses in rehabilitation programs (Department of Correctional Service, 2014). Over the years, Zimbabwe has witnessed over 60% reoffending of released prisoners within three years, pointing to the urgent need to enhance rehabilitation and reintegration efforts (Zimbabwe Prison and Correctional Services, 2020). These statistics emphasize the critical need for innovative and effective rehabilitation programs within ZPCS. More so, in Zimbabwe, laws of the land prohibit the employability of persons with a criminal record in government departments. Such policies have also prompted the private sector to discriminate against ex-offenders thereby diminishing chances of getting immediate means of sustenance amongst ex-offenders and increasing chances of re-offending.

Over the past few decades, there has been growing recognition of the need for innovative approaches that go beyond conventional rehabilitation programs. This movement highlights the importance of addressing the socio-economic determinants of crime to achieve sustainable desistance. In this regard, entrepreneurship has emerged as an innovative approach gaining traction in recent years for offering a unique platform to develop valuable skills, build confidence and create positive change among inmates. Though not very common in prison settings, entrepreneurship can be integrated as a rehabilitation strategy to provide inmates with skills that are crucial in creating employment opportunities and income-generating activities (van Ginneken, 2023). Infusing entrepreneurial initiatives tailored to the needs of inmates in rehabilitation programs provides practical skills that enable inmates to become creators of employment who innovate around with the available resources at their disposal to create a self-supportive environment rather than relying on gaining employment at reintegration. This move resonates with international law stipulating that incarceration should not be limited to deprivation of liberty alone. Instead, it should include a myriad of opportunities for prisoners to obtain knowledge and skills that are instrumental to them after their release with a view to avoid future offending (Lipsey & Cullen, 2007). Thus, through empowering inmates to take

control of their economic futures, entrepreneurship reduces the likelihood of reoffending while assisting individuals to contribute meaningfully to community development and economic growth.

This study aims to develop a working model towards desistance through entrepreneurship, exploring how entrepreneurial initiatives can facilitate the transition from criminal behaviour to lawful, productive citizenship. It will examine the role of entrepreneurship in addressing the socio-economic challenges impeding desistance and how tailored entrepreneurial programs can be integrated into rehabilitation programs to buttress the ongoing reformatory efforts and support sustained disengagement from crime specifically within the context of Chikurubi Maximum Prison. Through analyzing the unique challenges and opportunities in this setting, the research will provide actionable insights and recommendations for integrating entrepreneurial training into rehabilitation programs, ultimately promoting desistance.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

The reintegration of ex-offenders remains a significant challenge for correctional systems Zimbabwe, with high recidivism rates illustrating the failure of traditional rehabilitation programs to address underlying causes of criminal behaviour. In the country, over 60% of released prisoners reoffend within three years, highlighting the inadequacy of current rehabilitation efforts (Zimbabwe Prison and Correctional Services, 2025). A major barrier to successful reintegration is the socio-economic challenges ex-offenders face, including the stigma of a criminal record, limited access to legitimate employment and discrimination by employers. As a result, many former inmates turn to crime for financial survival thereby perpetuating recidivism. Despite existing rehabilitation programs, these socio-economic factors remain largely unaddressed. Entrepreneurship offers a potential solution by equipping ex-offenders with the skills needed to create self-sustaining livelihoods and reduce dependence on traditional employment. However, there is a lack of structured entrepreneurial training in Zimbabwe's correctional system, particularly in Chikurubi Maximum Prison. This gap highlights the need for a structured approach that combines entrepreneurial principles with rehabilitation efforts to support sustained disengagement from crime. This study aims to develop a model for desistance through entrepreneurship, addressing the socio-economic barriers ex-offenders face and providing an alternative pathway to promote desistance.

1.4 Research Objectives

The objectives of this study are;

- To examine Social and Economic factors that compel ex-inmates to re-offend at Chikurubi Maximum Prison.
- To examine the challenges faced at Chikurubi Maximum Prison to implement entrepreneurship programs.
- To ascertain the potential role of entrepreneurship in reducing recidivism at Chikurubi Maximum Prison
- To develop a working model for integrating entrepreneurial initiatives into rehabilitation programs.

1.5 Research Questions

- What are the key socio-economic challenges that compel ex-offenders to re-offend at Chikurubi Maximum Prison?
- What are the challenges faced at Chikurubi Maximum Prison to implement entrepreneurship programs?
- In what ways can entrepreneurship contribute to reducing recidivism and supporting the reintegration of ex-offenders at Chikurubi Maximum Prison?
- What components should be included in a working model for integrating entrepreneurial initiatives into rehabilitation programs at Chikurubi Maximum Prison?

1.6 Assumptions of the Study

This study will be guided by relevant research assumptions which are important in guiding the selection of relevant literature in chapter two while its importance is also seen in the construction of data generation tools in chapter three. In addition, that assumptions are crucial is also seen during the discussion of findings in chapter four. Below are some of the research assumptions which are considered to be relevant to this study:

- ❖ Entrepreneurship challenges faced by prisons are the reason behind the failure of offender desistance, resulting in high recidivism rates.
- ❖ Entrepreneurship is relevant in achieving offender desistance which is needed for effective desistance from crime by offenders.

- ❖ The authorities at Chikurubi Maximum Prison will provide the entrepreneurial challenges that hinder successful offender desistance.
- ❖ The various entrepreneurial institutions where inmates receive rehabilitation programmes, will be open, sincere and willing to contribute authentic information that will unravel the entrepreneurial challenges faced by inmates in desisting from crime their release from prison.
- ❖ The inmates involved in this study are expected to act and perform their duties in an honest manner during observation and data generation stages.

1.7 Purpose of the Study

To explore the use of entrepreneurship programmes inside prisons as a method of increasing the prospects of prisoners identifying income-generating opportunities upon their release from prison thereby reducing recidivism using Chikurubi Maximum Prison as a case.

1.8 Significance of the Study

This section seeks to justify why it is so important for this research to be carried out and how participants and relevant stakeholders are going to benefit from the findings of the study. Thus, recommendations from this study can be insightful in recommending effective entrepreneurial strategies to achieve desistance.

1.8.1 The Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Service

The findings can be of great help to Chikurubi Maximum Prison since there are chances that entrepreneurship would improve the station and ZPCS as an organisation. This study can also act as an information hub for the ZPCS management to know some of the causes of overcrowding in prisons. As a result, the ZPCS management would be able to design effective entrepreneurial approaches to achieve desistance through this study to achieve reduced recidivism. Through this study, which promotes entrepreneurship training, there are high chances that inmates become self-sufficient, reducing their reliance on government support

1.8.2 The Academia and other Researchers

Through this research, other researchers may learn about the effects of entrepreneurship on offender desistance. Through recommendations of this study, researchers may also learn different strategies that can be used to minimise offender recidivism among ex-offenders. The study may also be used by the researchers as literature for their studies.

1.8.3 Policy Makers

This study generates data that guide Government in crafting policies that assist in establishing entrepreneurship programmes for inmates. The study further generates data to advance

entrepreneurial programmes and best practices in terms of implementation of the programmes to minimise offender recidivism. This study can also be insightful in awakening Government to assist beneficiaries of entrepreneurship so that they become productive post-release from prison so that they reintegrate.

1.8.4 The Inmates

This study would be insightful to inmates through effective entrepreneurship education which helps in developing skills to start their own businesses, hence high chances of reducing the likelihood of reoffending. This study focuses on entrepreneurship, which can be of great impact to inmates by improving their chances of finding employment upon release. Furthermore, the study empowers inmates to boost their self-esteem and confidence. Moreover, the study is a guide on entrepreneurship training needed for inmates to generate income and support themselves and their families and contributing to their communities' economic and social development upon release from prison. The study would also stimulate innovation and creativity on inmates which helps them develop new ideas and solutions. The study sheds light on the importance of entrepreneurship as an aid in the rehabilitation and reintegration of inmates into society. On inmates, findings of this study build resilience and adaptability by teaching inmates to adapt to challenges and overcome obstacles.

1.8.5 The Researcher

Through this research, the researcher can benefit hugely from this study through obtaining research skills during the process of carrying out the study. The success of this research would also be a milestone achievement in her professional development through the completion of the Master Degree programme.

1.9 Delimitation of the Study

The study is confined to Chikurubi Maximum Prison in Harare Metropolitan Province 15 km from Harare Central Business District. The participants of the study included, Rehabilitation officers and re-offenders. A sample size population of 39 which included 7 Rehabilitation officers and 36 re-offenders who were judgementslly and conveniently selected respectively. The objectives of the study were to examine social and economic factors compelling ex-inmates to reoffend, challenges faced in prisons to implement entrepreneurship programs, ascertain the potential role of entrepreneurship in reducing recidivism and components for integrating entrepreneurial initiatives into rehabilitation programs. The study concluded that Chikurubi Maximum has some rehabilitation activities, however is still lagging behind in terms of what exactly what is required to rehabilitate inmates so that they do not reoffend. Social and economic factors have a bearing on reoffending, if the entrepreneurial activities are done fully

have a potential to uplift the wellbeing of inmates after release, the ideal situation to be implemented and the challenges that are being faced with the station to implement such programs.

1.10 Limitations to the Study

It is anticipated that respondents of this study, especially inmates might fail to reveal accurate information due to fear of victimisation. However, the researcher gave them the assurance of confidentiality and that the findings would be solely used for research purposes and that their names would not be disclosed during data collection. The researcher works in Harare hence known to some officers and inmates at Chikurubi Maximum Prison, which increases the chances of bias during data collection. However, the researcher will introduce herself as a Bindura University of Education student conducting her research at the station and nothing else. The researcher also faced challenges in terms of money to conduct the research. However, the researcher applied for a loan from a bank for the completion of the research. The researcher who is also a full-time employee of the Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional did not have enough time to conduct the research to counter the researcher, applied for vacation leave to create time to conduct the research.

1.11 Definition of Terms

1.11.1 Desistance means abstaining from crime after an offender receives rehabilitation which enables them to seek important goals in acceptable ways, such as employment and other income-generating projects necessitated by the skills obtained during incarceration (Fader and Traylor, 2015).

1.11.2 Entrepreneurship refers to a process whereby an entrepreneur or business person pursues opportunities in specific contexts of setting up new ventures, growing existing businesses or designing entrepreneurial organisations (Kinner, 2015).

1.11.3 Incarceration in this research means being detained in prison before or after being convicted as punishment for a crime (2003).

1.11.4 Inmate or prisoner refers to a convicted or unconvicted person who is confined in a prison (The Prison Act, 1996).

1.11.5 Prison is any place or building approved by the Commissioner General to keep prison inmates whilst serving a sentence, awaiting trial and relevant purposes (Prison Act, 2014).

1.11.6 Rehabilitation involves an array of programmes meant to systematically nurture behaviour of offenders to aid them survive independent of crime after release (Sanyal, 2010).

1.11.7 Recidivism is whereby a person after serving a prison sentence commit another offence which results in him or her being rearrested and send back to prison (Nagin, 2009).

1.11.8 Reintegration-involves the process of transition from imprisonment into mainstream society necessitated by the offender's adjustment to the outside world in the aftermath of their release and and achieve functionality as expected (Zondi, 2012).

1.11.9 Re-offender- this is an inmate who was once in prison

1.11.10 Rehabilitation officers are the correctional officers who include Counsellors, Teachers, chaplains, Psychologists and Sociologists.

1.11.11 Sekuru refers to correctional officers

1.12 Chapter Summary

This chapter highlighted the context of the problem. It addressed the background issues, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, research questions that directed this research, assumptions and significance of the study. The chapter further treated pertinent issues which included purpose of the study and definition of key terms before delimitations and limitations of the study. The next chapter focused on review of related literature.

CHAPTER TWO

RELATED LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter highlighted and discussed other scholars' work and relates it to entrepreneurship and its impact on desistance of ex-inmates from criminal activity. The reviewed concepts include the way inmates' entrepreneurship programmes are affected by various socio-economic and cultural factors. The related literature review serves to put into context the present study on the way it contributes, develops, improves or revises what is already known on a working Model towards Desistance through Entrepreneurship, using Chikurubi Maximum Prison as a case. The impact of entrepreneurship on offender desistance in various developed and developing states of the world is scrutinised. The related literature pertaining to the topic under study is also examined in the region and Zimbabwean context. Various factors that hinder offender desistance which also advances reoffending in society are examined as well. The section also includes, theoretical framework, conceptual framework and the background of the ZPCS with the aim to, provide context, identify patterns and trends, establish foundational knowledge and inform current research to enhance understanding. Finally, the chapter ends with chapter summary.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

According to Creswell and Poth (2016), a theoretical framework introduces and describe the theory that explains why the research problem under study exists. The theoretical framework is responsible for providing a theoretical lens through which a researcher can formulate research questions, research design, analysis, interpretation of research data, as well as guiding the study. It is also the purpose of the theory to assist the researcher to position their study within existing knowledge and theoretical perspectives in the relevant field. In this study, the theoretical framework presents two interconnected theories that relate to coming up with a working model towards desistance through entrepreneurship. In this case; the Desistance Theory and Opportunity Framework were used in this research.

2.2.1 Desistance Theory

Desistance entails abstinence from criminal behaviour by offenders. Programmes based on desistance theory emphasize long-term change over short-term control, recognizing that progress is unlikely to be direct but focusing on supporting offenders to see themselves in a

new and more positive light, with hope for the future (UNAFEI, 2021). Rehabilitation programmes provide inmates with information, enabling them with new social and psychological skills to seek important goals in acceptable ways. However, it is the responsibility of the offenders to implement what they have learned to achieve desistance from criminal activity (UNAFEI, 2021). Wildeman (2021) states that successful social reintegration by offenders is premised on various factors which involve motivation, human and social capital. Human capital involves the capacity of the individual offender to make changes and achieve goals. On the other hand, social capital involves various factors which include, employment and family or community support. Desistance is the opposite of recidivism which is concerned with reoffending. Desistance is even more than just absence of crime but the maintenance of crime free behaviour (Wildeman, 2021). In addition to avoiding crime, desistance involves the pursuit of a positive life. There is also a connection between desistance and Restorative Justice (RJ). Researchers have attempted to uncover factors in RJ processes which trigger desistance. Policymakers have shown interest in knowing whether RJ could be an effective tool in reducing recidivism. Some studies have revealed positive effectiveness of RJ for certain groups of offenders. However, desistance from crime is a difficult process, especially for those who are deeply entranced in criminal networks and living in disadvantaged circumstances successfully changing one's life in such circumstances requires a tremendous amount of self-belief, which is highly difficult or even impossible when those around a person believe a person will fail (Wildeman, 2021). Desistance, which involves abstaining from criminal behaviour is relevant in this study which seeks to develop a working Model towards Desistance through Entrepreneurship at Chikurubi Maximum Prison.

2.2.2 Opportunity Framework

The opportunity creation framework originated from Schumpeter's (1934) equilibrium theory, which was later developed by several theorists such as Gartner (1985). Initially, the opportunity creation theory was widely used in Economics and business. It was meant for the understanding of new business opportunities and economic growth. The opportunity creation theory, which was later adopted in entrepreneurship asserts that opportunities do not necessarily evolve out of pre-existing sources but that they are created endogenously by actions and reactions of entrepreneurs as they explore ways to produce new methods of production (Hwang & Phillips, 2020). The theory emphasises on innovation and risk-taking in entrepreneurship and identifying and capitalising on new opportunities. Through this theory, people are encouraged to think in an innovative way, involving calculating risks to develop new business ideas (Al-

Mamary, 2022). While the theory is relevant in various organisations, it is also relevant in prisons, with the purpose of identifying and capitalising on new opportunities which include starting a business whereby prisoners are encouraged to develop an entrepreneurial mind-set which can benefit them after release from prison (Hwang & Phillips, 2020). According to the theory, prisons must not wait for exogenous shocks in the economy to generate opportunities. The opportunity creation theory informed this study by establishing that opportunities for entrepreneurship do not exist independent of inmates' actions but are created by prisons for the benefit of inmates. In line with this theory, inmates are taught how to develop and identify new opportunities. It also provides inmates with mentorship and support to help them develop their business plans and ideas and skills such as marketing, finance and management. Thus, prisons must be proactive to create opportunities that have not been created before so that inmates benefit through entrepreneurial skills that rings about employment or income generation leading to desistance from crime.

2.3 Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework identifies research variables and the relationship between the variables and it helps the researcher to decide and explain the route to take in the study (Aldridge and Goldman 2012). Entrepreneurship in prisons can either be enhanced or discouraged by understanding the social and economic factors that compel inmates to reoffend, challenges faced at Chikurubi to implement entrepreneurship programs, potential role of entrepreneurship skills in reducing reoffending and coming up with a working model for integrating entrepreneurial initiatives into rehabilitation programs at Chikurubi Maximum Prison.

Concept of Desistance

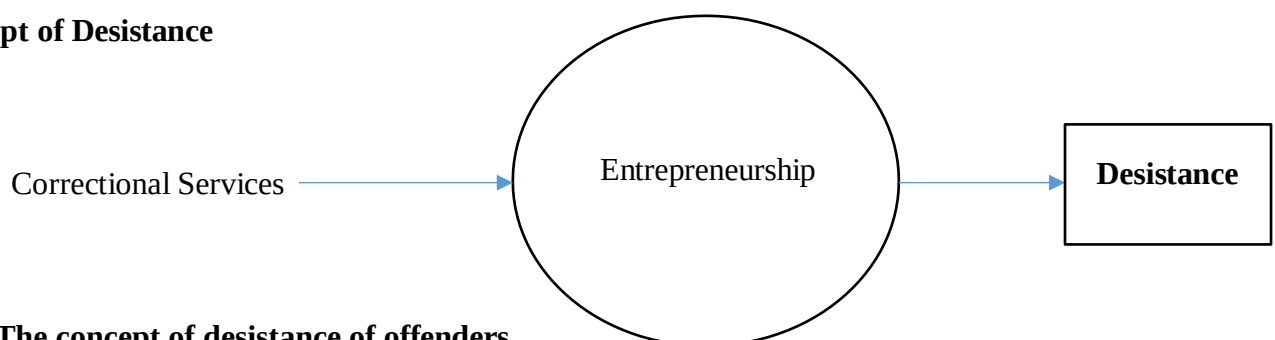


Fig1: The concept of desistance of offenders

2.3.1 Entrepreneurship

The history of entrepreneurship in prisons can be traced back to the early 20th century, with various programmes and initiatives emerging over the years. During that period, prison

industries programmes emerged in the United States, with the main focus on vocational training and job skills development. Various rehabilitation programmes, including entrepreneurship training, gained popularity in prisons. During the early 1980s, the first prison-based entrepreneurship programmes were established, emphasizing on self-employment and small business development. The prison entrepreneurship programmes expanded during the 1990s, incorporating elements like business planning, mentorship and access to capital. It was during the 2000s that prisons started to embark on entrepreneurship programmes, offering comprehensive entrepreneurship training and support. During the same period, prison entrepreneurship programmes continued to grow, with increased focus on inmate's re-entry support, technology integration and community engagement. Currently, prisons, for example in Texas, *train incarcerated people to become business entrepreneurs* upon their release and then works with them and their families (Nguyen, 2023). The history of entrepreneurship is crucial in this research in providing the context, identify patterns and trends whilst establishing foundational knowledge and at the same time informing current research to enhance understanding.

2.3.2 Correctional Services

These are rehabilitation programs meant to correct prison inmates so that they become law abiding citizens. Rehabilitation programs in prisons are essential for preparing inmates for a successful re-entry into society. These programs address various needs, including occupational, psychological, and educational, to reduce recidivism and improve societal outcomes. Such include vocational training and skills development, counselling, mentoring, alternative dispute resolution, community service and restorative justice programmes. The Correctional Services recognizes the importance of reintegration in reducing recidivism through vigorous offender rehabilitation programmes. It is on this basis that this study seeks to design a working model towards achieving offender desistance through availing and supporting entrepreneurship programmes for inmates so that they live a crime free life post release from prison.

2.3.2.1 Types of Rehabilitation Programs

Occupational Rehabilitation: Prepares incarcerated individuals for successful reintegration by teaching them an occupation or skill. This approach extends beyond traditional vocational training to include life skills like financial management and interpersonal communication.

Psychological Rehabilitation: Confronts and mitigates mental health and behavioural challenges that may cause criminal behaviour. These programs include substance abuse treatment, anger management courses, and therapy.

Educational Rehabilitation: Enables incarcerated individuals to complete their high school diploma or achieve a GED. Some facilities offer post-secondary education opportunities through distance learning schools and college partnerships.

2.3.3 Desistance

Entrepreneurship programs can be an effective way to promote desistance from crime. Desistance refers to the process of stopping or reducing criminal behaviour over time (Farrall, S. and Calverley, 2005). Buttressed by Bushway and Paternoster, 2013 who view desistance from crime as the process of stopping or reducing criminal behaviour over time. It involves a voluntary and intentional decision to abandon a criminal lifestyle and adopt a more law-abiding and prosocial way of life (ibid). Further, (Kazemian and Maruna, 2009) views desistance from crime refers to the process by which individuals reduce or stop engaging in criminal behaviour, ultimately maintaining a state of non-offending, and is understood as a gradual process, not a one-off event. Existing programs should take innovative steps in order to prepare inmates to compete effectively in the contemporary labour market. It should also enable these individuals to treat their work as a transformative moment in the path toward desistance.

2.4 Social and Economic Factors that Compels Ex-Inmates to Reoffend

Recidivism, or re-offending, is a complex issue with multiple contributing factors, including socioeconomic problems, lack of support after release, substance abuse, mental health issues, and inadequate rehabilitation programs. Modifiable risk factors such as mental health needs, substance misuse, and association with antisocial peers, low income, employment problems and marital status were associated with risk of recidivism of former inmates.

2.4.1 Cultural and Societal Attitudes

The Human Rights Watch (2006) in India, states that cultural and societal attitudes towards offenders can create barriers to entrepreneurship and reintegration. Since most of the Asian countries have different religions and languages, for instance, China has more than 50 ethnic groups and more than 120 languages, inmates may be faced with language barriers which further inhibit entrepreneurial opportunities and navigating the business ecosystem (Abdullah, Mat Husin, Paimin, Mohamed & Mahat, 2021). The society can pose challenges that can

impact on either the reintegration of offenders or their reoffending after release from prison. Transition back into society for an offender after release is always associated with difficulties, with the situation becoming worse when an ex-inmate has limited connections with the outside world. A study conducted by Fletcher (2021) in Britain reveals that employer discrimination is the most frequent barrier for ex-offenders in securing employment. However, Petersilia (2013) in the USA also posits that lack of trust by society and employers is one of the factors why ex-offenders are not employed. Statistical evidence by Out (2017) reveals that having been to prison reduces the wages of released prisoners by 10 to 15 percent due to barriers such as stigma associated with criminal record, employer attitudes, legal barriers just to mention but a few. Morris and Kempf-Leonard (2012) in their social control theory assert that usually people deviate from the laws of their society when they have not developed attachments to the society, which is a recipe for crime. Consequently, crime occurs when such bonds are weakened or are not well-established with society (Morris and Kempf-Leonard 2012). An offender who has a bond with society (family, relatives, friends and community) receives visitors whilst in prison, who are important for the support needed for rehabilitation.

2.4.2 Lack of Employment and Economic Opportunity

The points by Fletcher (2001) and Petersilia are confirmed by Mpoeng (2001) who adds that most ex-offenders are not employed, usually due to lack of education hence become impoverished and it is because of such reasons that they are often driven to criminal life. While the reasons for ex-offenders failing to secure employment are so many, some researchers agree that, most of the employers usually prefer other employees to ex-offenders. In the same vein, ex-offenders, with education may have higher chances of being unemployed due to less work experience than non-offenders with similar characteristics (Awilly, 2014). To make matters worse, the Zimbabwean Government, to some extent bars previously convicted persons from employment by government, the policy which infringes the rights of citizens of a country. As a result, ex-convicts end up being unemployed by both the government and private companies, which is one of the factors which force them to indulge in criminal activities as a means of sustaining themselves (Hofisi, 2020).

Supporters of punishment claim that rehabilitating inmates is faulty and overlooks the normality of crime within society, in line with Chikadzi, Chanakira & Mbululu's (2022) suggestion that crime upsets the peaceful balance of society hence punishment restores the balance since it discourages future wrong doing. To make matters worse, the Zimbabwean

Government, to some extent bars previously convicted persons from employment by government, the policy which infringes the rights of citizens of a country. As a result, ex-convicts end up being unemployed by both the government and private companies, which is one the factors which force them to indulge in criminal activities as a means of sustaining themselves (Hofisi, 2020). The Zimbabwean government often restricts employment opportunities for ex-inmates, which exacerbates the challenges to their successful reintegration. This is despite the fact that providing entrepreneurship training and support to inmates and ex-inmates can enhance their employability, self-sufficiency and reintegration prospects (Kusada, 2015). However, when government, which encourages for programmes that promote offenders, fail to employ the ex-inmates, this bears impact on the lives of the ex-inmates. The potential employees can also shun employing ex-offender due to limited employment opportunities and negative attitudes towards ex-inmates, citing concerns about trustworthiness, reliability and safety (Giguere & Dundes, 2002; Holzer et al., 2004). To make matters worse, the government does not employ ex-offenders hence fail to lead by example. In this regard, the hope which the inmates will be left with is entrepreneurship, which aims to give the ex-inmates the opportunity to introduce their businesses for self-reliance to achieve reintegration.

2.4.3 Social Stigma

After having undertaken entrepreneurial programs still social stigma awaits them. Underscoring the impact of societal perceptions on inmates in most African countries, Bambire (2017) suggests that society's attitude towards prisoners and even the ex-offenders is discriminatory since they are usually labelled and stigmatized, making it difficult for them to reintegrate into society. Tenibiaje (2013) in Nigeria maintains that society has the habit of turning a blind eye on inmates and ex-inmates because they are considered a threat to the society due to their criminal records (Muchena, 2014). In such scenario, the society does not value the education the inmates or ex-inmates now has, since they value more the criminal element. Therefore, to many people in society, as noted by Clegg (2012), the idea of rehabilitation and skills training for prisoners seems unfair as they are in prison to be punished without any rights and freedoms. However, Growther, (2017) notes that by punishing, instead of imparting inmates with relevant skills, society is blind to the fact that any form of punishment is ineffective for the society and inmates since all investments proceed to punishing offenders and release them with no life or job skills. As a result, the released offenders continue to commit offences, which becomes the source of continuous imprisonment and disadvantaging the same society with criminal activity (Rupande and Ndoro, 2014).

In Uganda, for example societal stigma is one of the chief contributors to lack of visits in some prisons with some potential visitors fearing becoming associated with the prisoner or the offence. The situation sometimes becomes worse with cultural or religious factors, such as Muslim women wearing their headwear who can be turned away or forced to remove their headwear a scenario that can further worsen the already limited visits in those prisons (Milliam, 2020). It is noted that when inmates do not receive visits, they feel disconnected from their families, leading to a loss of motivation to engage in entrepreneurial activities. It is further observed that absence of visits, in addition to increased stress and anxiety can erode an inmate's self-esteem, making them less confident in their ability to succeed in entrepreneurial pursuits (Eliyana, Sridadi & Widiyana, 2020). While entrepreneurial programmes by inmates require resources, lack of visits usually result in limited access to resources since visitors often bring resources, such as money, books, or other materials, that can support an inmate's entrepreneurial endeavours. This contradicts with the Kampala Declaration which recommends that prisoners should be offered the opportunity to maintain and develop ties with their families and the outside world to receive support in form of resources and moral support. The family has been observed by Duwe (2011) as a returning prisoner's most valuable source of support, with Berg and Huebner (2010) estimating that anywhere from 40 to 80 percent of newly released offenders rely on their families immediately after release. Supporting the above, when inmates are not visited, there is reduced networking opportunities, which disrupts business planning hence may struggle to maintain continuity in their business planning, as they may not have access to external advice, guidance or support (Burger, Mortimer & Johnson, 2020).

Kanhukamwe (2015) in Zimbabwe contends that in society, there is tension between those who support the idea of imparting inmates with skills and those who support the idea that inmates should be punished as revenge for wrongdoing. Supporters of punishment claim that rehabilitating inmates is faulty and overlooks the normality of crime within society, in line with Chikadzi, Chanakira & Mbululu's (2022) suggestion that crime upsets the peaceful balance of society hence punishment restores the balance since it discourages future wrong doing.

Research by Mabhiza (2020) in Zimbabwe also reveals that sometimes relatives may be unwilling to offer financial support considering the sour relations created the moment the inmate commits a crime leading to his incarceration. This explains why society treats ex-inmates as outcasts and would not want to be associated with them in any way (Mabhiza, 2020). The preceding evidence on rehabilitation and imprisonment systems in the developed and

developing countries gave the researcher the opportunity to explore how the practices apply to Chikurubi Maximum Prison pertaining the effectiveness of entrepreneurship in promoting offender desistance on a comparative basis.

2.4.4 An Unchanging Lifestyle and Social Circle Upon Release

Other scholars, such as Giddens (2006) and Obioha (1995), have argued that the confining together of prisoners who had committed vastly different crimes, as well as those with different backgrounds, behaviours, and personality traits, leads to the development of criminal subcultures within the prison. Concurring, Brown (2002) concluded that criminal companions, antisocial attitudes, and current employment and educational problems were all strong predictors of recidivism. Beesley and McGuire (2009) posited that group influence works by facilitating direct behavioural learning through modelling and imitation. Additionally, some offenses, especially among adolescents and young adults, can be committed in a group setting. These peer generation effects can apply to family as well as friends — with numerous studies suggesting that spending time with friends and family who engage in criminal behaviour is a strong risk factor for offending and reoffending (Murray and Farrington, 2010).

2.4.5 Untreated Underlying Causes

Underlying problems causing crime not being treated during incarceration. Gendreau, Little, and Goggin (1996), in their meta-analysis, implicated static risk factors as being responsible for recidivism. These risk factors accounted for gender, age of first conviction, having a parent with a criminal record, present age, and the type of offenses committed. Further, Gendreau, Little, and Goggin argued that so-called dynamic risk factors are the strongest predictors of recidivism. These dynamic factors account for “criminogenic needs” and include criminal peers, criminal history or history of antisocial behaviour, social achievement, and family structure.

2.5 Challenges Faced by Prisons in Implementing Entrepreneurship Programs

Challenges confronted with entrepreneurship can be associated with the prison environment, prison officers, and the inmates. It seems the challenges associated with entrepreneurship in prisons impact on the inmates’ reintegration after release from prison.

2.5.1 Overcrowding

Prison institutions can be sources of challenges faced by inmates in acquiring entrepreneurial skills. Classic sociological and psychological studies have underscored the degree to which prisons are complex and powerful environments that can have a strong influence on the persons confined within them (Durnescu, 2019). Prisons, globally vary widely in how they are structured and how they operate, which makes broad generalizations about the consequences of imprisonment difficult to articulate. Most prisons in the world are characterised by overcrowding which is the root cause of countless challenges which are the recipe for human rights violations in prison systems (Cansidale, 2016). Usually, overcrowding in prisons refers to the situation whereby the number of prisoners exceeds the official prison capacity. A research conducted by UNODC (2020), in Canada uncovers that prison overcrowding creates competition for limited resources such as clothing, blankets, food, drugs and rehabilitation equipment.

2.5.2 Complex Administrative Procedures

Besides, programmes meant to impart inmates with skills are faced with complex administrative procedures that can hinder the implementation of the programmes in prisons (UNAFEI, 2019). Researchers in most countries of the developing world reveal that lengthy approval processes are one of the sources of delays in the implementation of programmes, which causes frustration among stakeholders. In some countries where there is still lack of technology, cumbersome paperwork requirements can also divert resources away from programme implementation. These are some of the examples of rigid administrative procedures which limits the ability to adapt programmes to meet the evolving needs of prisoners. In line with the above, bureaucratic hurdles faced in most Asian countries such as Pakistan can make it difficult to recruit and retain qualified staff to deliver skills impartation programmes, which can affect the skills impartation programmes on inmates (UNODC, 2020).

In the same vein, programmes meant for skills acquisition on inmates in most countries of the developing worlds are hampered by poor communication among prison administrators, staff and external partners which can lead to misunderstandings and delays, which can further lead to excessive rules and regulations which can constrain the creativity and innovation needed to develop effective skills impartation programmes (UNAFEI, 2019).

2.5.3 Brain Drain and Skills Shortage

Due to countless challenges faced by most institutions in African countries, the institutions experience brain drain and skills shortage, which has high chances of limitations pertaining to availability of qualified staff to implement entrepreneurship programmes. This in turn has resulted in many prisons in Africa experiencing high recidivism rates, which is among the sources of overcrowding due to lack of reintegration (Grosholz, Kabongo and Wichern, 2020). Mwakaheya (2019) in Tanzania maintains that overcrowding has a detrimental effect on public safety because it affects the ability of the prisons to design and deliver meaningful education programmes and interventions to prepare offenders for their successful return to the community and ensure their desistance from crime. The study conducted in the above-discussed countries differ from the current study in Kenya. When officers leave the organisation in large numbers, there are high chances that the continuity of inmates' programmes is disrupted, leading to lack of consistence in the delivery of programmes which ultimately affects the quality of services provided to inmates (Brower, 2019). To make matters even worse, it is usually through turnover that the remaining officers will be inexperienced, which hinder effectiveness of the programmes.

2.5.4 Lack of Support Programs

A study in Kenya (Mwakaheya, 2019; Ayade, 2010) reviewed that lack of support of a re-entry of inmates in country has resulted in ex-offenders having 75 percent chance of committing another crime and a 50 percent chance of returning to prison. Furthermore, lack of follow-up programmes after inmates' release from prison also negatively affects the ex-offenders in terms of employment and reintegration. To make matters even worse, the prisons are traditionally designed to punish and confine those who break laws at the expense of offering inmates' skills. As a result, more than 50 percent of released inmates from Kenyan prisons reoffend, which is of major social and economic challenge. In most of these countries, in addition to various challenges experienced which do not fully support inmates' impartation of skills, they do not have effective release plans which outlines what the community should do to support the offenders after their release from prison. They fail as well to come up with recorded information about the extent to which inmates who participated in the skills acquisition programmes, including programme completion rates during imprisonment were successful.

2.5.5 Inadequate Equipment

Lack of equipment poses challenges in equipping them with the required skills, hence the offenders are poorly prepared for adjusting to life after release from Nigerian prisons (Webster, 2020). It has been argued that lack of resources is one of the factors that inhibit the establishment of a conducive correctional system where proper lock up system is practised. Basing on the above, the United Nation Standard Minimum Rules emphasises the need for prisoners to be locked up according to their various categories such as sex, nature of offence, mental condition, age, health condition and other factors.

2.5.6 Lack of Funding

While factors that affect entrepreneurial programmes in prisons in Southern Africa have many similarities, Zimbabwe's scenario seems to be of great difference since the country experiences economic instability which makes it challenging to access resources and funding for entrepreneurship programmes. The economic situation further impacts on the institution's access to technology, including computers and internet, which can limit the scope of entrepreneurship programmes, compounded with the country's laws which do not allow the use of computers and internet by inmates due to security reasons (Ncube, 2016).

2.5.7 Poor Educational background and Choices

In most African situations, the inmates view that poor educational background can hinder the success of the rehabilitation programmes imparted to them. Muteti (2008) in Kenya concludes that the success of offender rehabilitation can be influenced by factors such as inmates' level of education, age and class of inmates. Educational level is one of the important factors for uptake of rehabilitation programmes by inmates. In this context, inmates with high education levels acquire training skills offered in prisons easily unlike the lowly educated ones who struggle to understand and participating in the programmes. This can hinder their ability to acquire new skills, usually leading to frustration and demotivation hence disengaging from the learning process (Muteti, 2008). Furthermore, Muteti (2008), finds out that inmates and officers both acknowledge lack of participation by inmates in identifying rehabilitation activities of their choice as a challenge that contributes to failure of rehabilitation in prison. Forcing inmates on programmes without considering their interest or needs can result in lack programme to their lives leading to a waste of resources and missed opportunity for rehabilitation. Prisoners themselves may also be reluctant to participate in programmes because of previous failures in education, embarrassment over poor literacy, lack of confidence in their abilities, sense of

hopelessness and general disinterest. Inmates who struggle with literacy may feel embarrassed leading them to avoid the programmes.

2.5.8 The Treatment of Prisoners

Lai (2022), in Chicago contends that there is excessive use of force on inmates, involving physical and verbal abuse by prison officers which creates a hostile environment, at the same time making it difficult for inmates to focus on rehabilitation (Lai, 2022). The hostile situation is further exacerbated by the overuse of solitary confinement, which is among the sources of mental health challenges which is also a hindrance to successful offender rehabilitation (Arnold, 2017). The ill-treatment of inmates by officers is also evidenced by the restriction of contact between inmates and their family members in the prisons. This is against Wilkinson (2011)'s 'Breaking the offending cycle in the Tasmanian Correctional Plan' which suggest that successful breaking of the offending cycle requires upholding of rapport between and among prison stakeholders, with inmates' education involves to achieve crime reduction. This is despite that prison officers are in day-to-day interaction with the inmates, hence failure to work well with inmates can result in the officers being exposed to a high degree of stress and general burnout which negatively affect the rehabilitation of inmates since officers are expected to administer the rehabilitation programmes (Minson, 2021). According to the individual experience or importation model by Cressey (1962), a prison officer's view of his or her work can either impact negatively or positively on inmates. Officers' perceptions of others' attitudes and opinions about their work affect their overall job satisfaction and their interactions with prisoners and the general public (Burton, 2023). In line with the above, prison officers can experience low morale, which is the basis for increased absenteeism, reduced organisational commitment, decreased job performance and psychological challenges, which do not support offender rehabilitation.

2.5.9 Unskilled Officers

Chifungula (2014) in Zambia establishes that lack of proper officers' training has resulted in bad relationship between officers and inmates which has also result in the failure of offender rehabilitation in the country. It is emphasised that when officers are not properly trained, they are not equipped with relevant knowledge pertaining to how people become criminals, hence they are not privy to programmes that can change the behaviour of inmates to achieve reintegration. Furthermore, lack of qualified officers negatively affects inmates in that the officers cannot offer the inmates the needed counselling which is important during and after imprisonment (Chifungula, 2014). The International Centre for Red Cross-ICRC (2024) in

Mozambique observes that the training programmes for officers are faced with resource constraints, in form of limited infrastructure and equipment, among the factors which also determine the limited training duration, leaving officers with insufficient preparation. In addition, the training curriculum also lacks aspects such as crisis management and offender rehabilitation (Mozambique Ministry of Justice, 2020). Red Cross (2018) emphasises that prison officers training in the country is fraught with corruption, which results in the training programmes being undermined and further limiting career advancement and professional growth (Red Cross, 2018).

It is not in dispute that Zimbabwe prisons experience some rehabilitation programmes, which are also affected by shortage of qualified personnel, since most officers are not qualified to design and implement sustainable rehabilitation programmes for inmates. Research by Samanyanga (2016) and Muchena (2014) reveals that prison officers in the ZPCS lack specialized training in programmes such as counselling and cognitive behavior therapy, despite their importance in offender rehabilitation, which is the constitutional mandate of the ZPCS (The Constitution of Zimbabwe, 2013). In this regard, officers used to be granted study leave by the organization for them to achieve educational qualifications in various areas (Bambire, 2017). However, one of the striking challenges is that the ZPCS no longer afford to pay for the officers on study leaves programmes which end up being self-sponsored in most cases, despite that the officers are struggling to make ends meet. Hence most of the officers end up dropping out due to lack of fees which impacts on their training which further impacts on inmates who fail to complete their rehabilitation programmes (Zinyemba, 2020).

2.5.10 Inter Prison Transfers

While some of the factors involving inmates are similar in most African countries, Kusada (2014) in Zimbabwe uncovers that, transfers of inmates from one prison to another due to various reasons negatively affects prison education since different prisons have different education programmes can disrupt their learning process and hinder their progress. This can be frustrating for inmates who have invested time and effort on the programme, who can be transferred and forced to start over again. This can heavily affect the inmates who may be forced drop out (Kusada, 2014). In the same vein, mismatch between the expectations of inmates and provisions by the prison system is among the discrepancies experienced which can pose challenges to successful rehabilitation (Vega, 2015).

2.5.11 Inmate Perceptions

When inmates' expectations are not met, they may become demotivated and disillusioned with the programmes which can lead to waste of resources and time. Research by Gona et al. (2014) has establish that most of the inmates in Zimbabwe view some rehabilitation programmes as not part of rehabilitation. Unfortunately, they view such programmes as pure punishment, the attitude which is an impediment itself to successful rehabilitation. Negative attitude towards programmes can result in the inmates sabotaging the programmes (Dube- Mawerewere and Chiborise, 2017). The preceding findings emphasising the rehabilitation challenges caused by inmates in various prisons of the world, prompted the researcher's desire to examine the extent to which prison entrepreneurship can be among effective strategies in achieving offender desistance at Chikurubi Maximum Prison.

2.6 The Role of Entrepreneurship in Reducing Recidivism

2.6.1 Skills Development

Prisons are increasingly being expected not only to house offenders, but also to contribute to transforming them into law-abiding citizens through training. These expectations lead to many different approaches that have the potential to transform prisons. The rehabilitation programmes include spiritual welfare, formal education, guidance and counselling and vocational training. Attention to rates of recidivism is an important way to monitor the role of prisons in rehabilitating inmates. The effectiveness of prisons in rehabilitating inmates can be measured in various ways such as reduced recidivism. Humphreys (2023) states that in Norway prisons, in addition to being offered educational programmes, including agricultural programmes, Information and Communication Technology-ICT and various skills building programmes, inmates are respected despite the seriousness of their offences. Through such positive treatment, trust is built between inmates and officers, the environment conducive for inmates' learning and growth. In line with the above, Norway managed to achieve successful offender rehabilitation which resulted in the country's recidivism rate decreasing from 90 percent to less than 30 percent in about three decades (Aebi & Cocco, 2023).

Basing on the above, some of the basis for the crime-free behaviour involves the acquisition of skills necessitated by entrepreneurship which helps offenders develop skills and experience that increases employability opportunities (McVey, 2014). Bersani (2018) further establishes that prisons education gives inmates more chances of employment which permit them to

contribute to their financial support and that of their families. Reich (2023) also states that through entrepreneurial skills, ex-offenders develop a sense of confidence and self-efficacy, which is critical for their desistance from crime. In the same vein, Brunelle (2020) emphasises that inmates imparted with skills during imprisonment develop a sense of purpose and identity outside of criminal activity, hence they shun commission of crime.

2.6.2 Self-Reliance

Prison entrepreneurship programs can significantly boost self-reliance among inmates by equipping them with skills and confidence to start businesses after release, potentially reducing recidivism and creating sustainable livelihoods. Prisoners who participate in these programs report feeling more motivated, better prepared for life after prison, and confident in their ability to start their own businesses. These programs often involve interactive exercises, real-life case studies, and quizzes, allowing prisoners to develop entrepreneurial competencies well before their release thus skills development. The study conducted by Nseobot and Effiong (2019) explored the impact of entrepreneurship education on skills acquisition for self-reliance among prison inmates in Nigeria. The findings indicated a positive relationship between entrepreneurship education and skills acquisition among inmates in Akwa Ibom State. This education can provide them with a means of livelihood upon their release, facilitate their reintegration into the labour market and society, and help reduce the stigma associated with finding employment or participating in apprenticeship programs.

2.6.3 Fostering Self Reliance

Entrepreneurial resilience refers to the ability of entrepreneurs to adapt and recover from setbacks and challenges in their business ventures. It's about having the mental toughness and determination to keep going, even when things get tough. Prison entrepreneurship programs can positively impact prisoners' self-efficacy and entrepreneurial resilience, ultimately encouraging entrepreneurial intentions and potentially aiding in successful reintegration after release (Ciptono, W.S., Anggadwita, G. and Indarti, N., 2023). Programs like PREP (Prisoner Entrepreneurship Program) and Wharton WORKS aim to equip prisoners with entrepreneurial skills, a resilient mindset, and post-release support. These programs can lead to increased motivation, better preparation for life after prison, and increased confidence in starting businesses. Research suggests that prison entrepreneurship programs can positively impact prisoners' self-efficacy and entrepreneurial resilience. Organizations like Resilience Education

and the Coalition for Equity and Opportunity are partnering with institutions like Wharton to create pathways to economic mobility for individuals impacted by the justice system.

2.6.4 Self-efficacy

Self-efficacy refers to a person's belief in their ability to succeed in specific situations, while entrepreneurial resilience is the ability to bounce back from setbacks and challenges in the entrepreneurial journey. Studies show that these programs can encourage the emergence of entrepreneurial intentions, which can lead to prisoners engaging in entrepreneurship after their release. Prison entrepreneurship programs can significantly enhance prisoners' self-efficacy, which is a crucial psychological construct for developing entrepreneurial intentions and promoting successful reintegration into society. In the literature on prisoner entrepreneurship, self-efficacy is a significant psychological construct of internal factors, such as entrepreneurial intention and an essential outcome of entrepreneurship education and skills training (Miao et al., 2017).

2.6.5 Improved Employability

Through entrepreneurship programs, prisoners can acquire valuable skills, such as business planning, financial management, and marketing strategies, which can help them become self-sufficient and contribute positively to society upon release. Entrepreneurship is increasingly seen as a creative solution for individuals after they have been released from prison given the difficulties they face in finding viable employment (Robinson, 2024). Entrepreneurship training can improve prisoners' employability upon release, as they gain transferable skills that can be applied in various industries. Improved employability means having the skills, behaviours, and attitudes that make you more likely to get and keep a job. Actively build and maintain business contacts. Offer guidance, mentorship, consulting, assist others, and share your expertise. Remember that corporate events are opportunities for networking, not vacations. Engage with people, collaborate on projects, and over time, these efforts will yield returns. Vocational training has a lesser or no effect, perhaps because it fails to meet the needs of the labour market. Vocational training has a lesser or no effect, perhaps because it fails to meet the needs of the labour market.

2.6.6 Personal Growth

Starting and running a business requires a great deal of personal development and growth – and the entrepreneurial journey can be a powerful tool for self-discovery and improvement along the way. Entrepreneurship programs can foster personal growth, as prisoners develop a

sense of self-worth, confidence, and responsibility. Personal growth for entrepreneurs can help them become better leaders and decision makers. It can also help them build resilience and adapt to change.

2.7 Chapter Summary

The chapter reviews related literature whereby pertinent issues pertaining to the effectiveness of entrepreneurial programmes in promoting desistance at Chikurubi Maximum Prison are discussed. The chapter looks at literature from the developed and developing worlds, including African countries and the region, narrowing down to Zimbabwe to analyse the topic under study. The literature is not tailored to the context of Chikurubi Maximum Prison hence it is on the basis of such contextual and practical gaps that this study becomes relevant to establish the degree of effectiveness of strategies offered in this study pertaining to the topic from the point of view of the above discussed authors, commentators and researchers. The next chapter deals with methodological issues.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

The previous chapter dealt with reviewing of related literature in line designing a working Model towards Desistance through Entrepreneurship at Chikurubi Maximum Prison. This chapter focuses on important research process and activities. The process involved stating and justifying the methodology that was employed in the study, the philosophy that underpinned the study, the research design selected, instruments employed and how issues concerning ensuring the trustworthiness of the study such as credibility, dependability transferability and conformability were addressed. Furthermore, the chapter clarifies how the relevant data were generated, presented, analysed and interpreted in a way that yields accurate, correct and acceptable findings with regard to the issue of designing a working Model towards Desistance through Entrepreneurship at Chikurubi Maximum Prison. The chapter focuses on the tools that the researcher used to generate data that answered the research questions.

3.2 Research Philosophy Lewis and Thornhill (2012) noted that the research philosophy one adopts contains important assumptions about the way in which one views the world. Brabazon (2017) asserts that aspects of research philosophy that include; ontology, epistemology and methodology are very crucial in understanding any research topic. In this case, it becomes important in understanding the importance of entrepreneurship in prisons to achieve offender desistance. While ontology involves the basic assumptions about the nature of reality, epistemology is the basic assumptions about what one can know about reality (Zajicek, 2005). In this case, ontologically the researcher intends to find out whether it is real that there are challenges involving introduction of entrepreneurship to avert desistance at Chikurubi Maximum Prison while epistemologically, the researcher tries to find the truth about the topic through various methods.

However, one who views reality as subjective and that it exists through people's claims is an interpretivist (Renaud, 2018). Interpretivism is associated with subjectivism which consider knowledge to be filtered through studying individual experiences in a phenomenon and drawing meaning through interpretation, which is critical to qualitative researchers (Kelly, 2020). Interpretivists insist that meaning exist in people's interpretation of the world and that meaning is obtained through subjective experience which is consistent with qualitative research

paradigm. This study therefore, employs the interpretivist approach to design a working Model towards Desistance through Entrepreneurship at Chikurubi Maximum Prison.

3.3 Research Approach

Research approach refers to the overall strategy employed to conduct a study. The main research approaches used are; mixed method, qualitative and quantitative research approaches. This study employs qualitative research approach.

3.3.1 Quantitative approach

Quantitative approach enables the researcher to use the survey method to collect large amounts of data to obtain participants' perceptions pertaining to the topic under study. The quantitative approach is ideal in studying the population that is so large for the researcher to physically reach out to all the respondents of the study. The quantitative approach also enables the researcher to use random sampling techniques which are useful obtaining representative samples. This promotes standardisation of responses, assessment and pronunciation of variables.

3.3.2 Mixed Method Approach

Kennedy (2009) claim that a research problem is oriented either towards qualitative or quantitative approaches, hence both inquiries cannot be used in the same study. However, Ogwuegbuzie and Leech (2006) comment that neither qualitative or quantitative approach is superior to the other, hence they must not be on polarised but combine them to strengthen the weaknesses of each method since they are both approaches are critical in addressing the problem. The mixed method approach involves the use of both quantitative and qualitative research simultaneously with the purpose to gain more insight from the combination through collection of varied and relevant data hence production of a comprehensive report (Merman and Vervaeck, 2019; Cameron, 2018).

3.3.3 Qualitative Research Approach

Despite the various data collection methods, this study employed qualitative research approach to enhance the collection and analysis of non-numerical data to understand concepts, opinions and experiences to provide information useful to understand the processes behind observed results and assess changes in people's perceptions of their well-being (Glesne, 2016). It emphasizes the exploration and interpretation of meanings, themes and patterns in data.

3.3.3.1 Advantages of Qualitative Research Approach

The qualitative research approach is also used to gather in-depth insights into a problem so as to generate new ideas for research (Liu, 2020; Roller, 2017). The approach strengthens the study as all research questions explore social contexts in which the researcher intends to design a working Model towards Desistance through Entrepreneurship at Chikurubi Maximum Prison. The qualitative approach is ideal in studying the social context seen as a critical element influencing offender desistance through promoting entrepreneurship among inmates. Through qualitative inquiry, prison officers and ex-inmates have the opportunity to express their own interpretations of reality through interviews. This was important in interpreting different contexts regarding designing a model to promote offender desistance through encouraging entrepreneurship among inmates at Chikurubi Maximum Prison. This was in line with views by Saunders, Lewis and Thornhill (2013) that the qualitative approach is ideal in exploring complex social realities, which in this case is enhanced through using experiences of officers, inmates and ex-inmates involved in the study. The qualitative approach is, therefore, critical as it studies challenges involving introduction of entrepreneurship programmes in prisons, which is done at Chikurubi Maximum prison, the setting where the problem originates.

3.3.3.2 Disadvantages of Qualitative Research Approach

Despite the strengths of qualitative approach, the researcher is cognisant of the shortfalls of the qualitative approach as well. As pointed out by Heale and Twycross (2018), the qualitative approach is predominantly criticised on the basis of subjectivism, with Diop and Liu (2020) also emphasising that it lacks consistency and accuracy. While many qualitative researchers argue for the importance of studying meanings that subjects attach to the phenomena under study, the researcher took note of Kennedy's (2009) argument that some subjects attach false interpretations and provide perceptions that are different from their consciousness. Above all, qualitative data is messy hence analysis and interpretation of the data is time-consuming. Despite the weaknesses of qualitative research approach, the researcher employed trustworthiness to increase acceptance of the research findings.

3.4 Research Design

A research design is a blueprint, which provides a framework on how one intends to conduct a research. Van Wyk (2010) states that the research design determines the nature of the link between the research problem and the actual research processes. It is also through the research design that the researcher can easily make choices on how to obtain relevant information for the study (Sileyew, 2019). An important decision in research design process is the choice to be made regarding research approach since it determines how relevant

information for a study will be obtained. In principle, the eventual research outcome is therefore a direct product of the research design, which determines the nature of the link between the research problem and the actual research processes (Van Wyk 2010). It also aims to determine how changes in one variable affect another variable. This study employed explanatory research design.

3.4.1 Exploratory Research Design

Exploratory Research Design is a research approach used to explore and investigate a research question or topic when little is known about the subject. The primary goal of exploratory research is to gain a deeper understanding of the research topic, identify patterns, and generate hypotheses for further investigation. Exploratory research design often involves open-ended questions and data collection methods, such as interviews, focus groups, and observations. It typically involves a small sample size, as the goal is to gain a deeper understanding of the research topic rather than to generalize findings to a larger population.

3.4.1.1 Advantages of Exploratory Research Design

Exploratory research provides significant cost-effectiveness and time-savings on projects. If a project is unsuccessful because one did not conduct exploratory research, it will lead to much more cost and time expenditures in the future. And once one has a proven exploratory research process established, it will be easier to do further research when needed. Exploratory research design is flexible, allowing researchers to adapt and modify their approach as they gather more information.

3.4.1.1 Challenges of Exploratory Research

When doing exploratory research, flexibility is key. If one is unwilling to be open to the results, bias can factor into data interpretation, rendering the data useless. Also, if one haphazardly assembles a quick study with a small sample, the sample size may not represent the target audience. Exploratory research design may not provide findings that can be generalized to a larger population. Exploratory research design can be time-consuming, as it involves in-depth data collection and analysis.

3.5 Population and Sampling

Green and Thorogood (2018) define population as any group of people that is the subject of research interest. In this case the population size of Chikurubi Maximum Prison involves the prison officers and inmates (re-offenders). The sampling strategies used in the study was purposive and convenience.

3.5.1 Target population

There was a total of 68 participants, involving 61 reoffender's inmates and 7 Rehabilitation officers at Chikurubi Maximum Prison. It is from the total number of the population that sample was selected to provide the required data (Bytheway, 2018) concerning coming up with a working Model towards Desistance through Entrepreneurship at Chikurubi Maximum Prison.

3.5.2 Sample Size

A sample is defined as a small group of individuals from whom data is collected for generalizations to a larger group of people. Luck and Rubin (2006), state that an appropriate sample size should be at least 5 percent of the total population. Hair et al., (2002), also concur to the assertion stipulating that the research industry suggests that a sample size is considered large if it is more than 5 percent of the population under study. The sampling of this study was be informed by Hair et al.'s (2002) suggestion hence sampling was done through purposive and convenience techniques. The researcher from a total of 68 participants for the study conveniently selected 27 reoffenders for FGD and 15 for in-depth interviews, while 7 rehab officers were judgmentally selected.

3.6 Sampling Procedure

Berndt (2020) states that sampling procedure is the process which is meant to select a group of people from whom data is actually collected for the research. There are two main types of sampling, which are, probability and non- probability sampling. Under probability sampling are; Simple Random Sampling, Systematic Sampling, Stratified Random Sampling and Cluster Sampling. Also, under Non-probability Sampling are; Quota Sampling, Convenience Sampling, Dimensional Sampling, Purposive Sampling and Snowball Sampling. In this case, the researcher employed purposive and convenience sampling techniques.

3.6.1 Purposive Sampling

Purposive sampling refers to the selection of a sample based on some defining characteristics that makes them holders of specific data (Laher et al., 2019). Purposive sampling is whereby the researcher uses her own judgement to select suitable participants for the study, basing on the knowledge and experience the participants have in line with the topic under study (Kersley,

et. al., 2017). Purposive sampling is a deliberate way with some purpose in mind, whereby participants with rich information are selected for an in-depth study (Bytheway, 2018). Whereby the researcher selected 7 Rehabilitation officers.

3.6.1.1 Advantages of Purposive Sampling

In this study, the researcher chose Rehabilitation officers due to their knowledge and experience pertaining to a working Model towards Desistance through Entrepreneurship at Chikurubi Maximum Prison. In this regard, purposive sampling helps in identifying the right people to participate in data generation. Through purposive sampling, the researcher saves time and money as it is more direct than other sampling techniques. Moreover, through purposive sampling, it is not difficult to access the chosen participants. It reduces travelling costs involved when collecting data from geographically spread respondents (Patton, 1990). The choice of the respondents was guided by the judgment of the investigator (Gray, 2007; Sarantakos, 2013). The chosen provided in-depth and relevant data on social and economic challenges compelling ex-offenders to re-offend, challenges faced at Chikurubi Maximum to implement entrepreneurship programs, potential role of entrepreneurship in reducing recidivism and components for integrating entrepreneurial initiatives into rehabilitation programs. From a total of 7 rehabilitation officers purposely selected the researcher was confident that these would be a rich source of data needed to respond to the research questions generated for this assessment.

3.6.1.2 Disadvantages of Purposive Sampling

While purposive sampling has its merits, some demerits are noted, since it is prone to biased views of the researcher. The fact that a sample is created by relying on the researcher's verdict may make it a personalized affair, hence high chances of bias. Buttressed by Kersley et. al., 2017 by who pointed that the representativeness of the sample may be challenged as the sample selection is all based on the researcher's preference. Since, there is little control over who to select from the population and that there is no guarantee that those selected will be representative of the specific population (Tichapondwa, 2013). With these limitations in mind, the researcher still decided to use purposive sampling because it is the most suitable in this study, which helps the researcher to get first-hand opinions about the importance of entrepreneurship in achieving desistance in prisons. Furthermore, the weaknesses of the purposive sampling are complimented through using convenience sampling through allowing the researcher to triangulate the results from the separate sampling techniques so as to confirm, cross validate and corroborate findings.

3.6.2 Convenience Sampling

Convenience Sampling is where samples are selected because they are conveniently available. This non-probability method is often used during preliminary research efforts to obtain a rough estimate of the results, without incurring the cost or taking the time required to select a random sample. It is a method where participants are selected based on ease of access, convenience, and willingness to participate. The researcher from a total of 68 participants for the study conveniently selected 27 reoffenders for FGD and 15 for in-depth interview.

3.6.2.1 Advantages of Convenience Sampling

Convenience sampling is a simple and straightforward method to implement. Convenience sampling can save time and resources, as participants are readily available. Convenience sampling can be a cost-effective method, as participants are often willing to participate for free or at a low cost.

3.6.2.2 Disadvantages of Convenience Sampling

Convenience sampling can lead to biased results, as participants may not be representative of the larger population. Convenience sampling may not provide findings that can be generalized to a larger population. Convenience sampling may have limited external validity, as the results may not be applicable to other contexts or populations.

3.7 Data Collection Instruments

Data collection involves the use of data collection techniques to generate the data from participants of the study. The data collection techniques involve interview guide (including key informants and in-depth interviews), focus group discussion and document analysis (Schirch, 2013). For the purposes of this study the instruments used were in-depth interviews and document analysis

3.7.1 Document Analysis

Document analysis is the systematic process of evaluating both printed and electronic documents in a methodical manner to uncover meaning, gain understanding and come to a conclusion. The document analysis method, like many other qualitative research methods, involves examining and interpreting data (Stangor, 2017). Document analysis complements interviews and observation in the data collection process and answers questions that interviews and observation may not address (Creswell, 2013).

3.7.1.1 Advantages of Document Analysis

Specific documents in line with the organisation under study are selected and inspected to find out the effectiveness of entrepreneurship programmes in achieving desistance in prisons.

Through document analysis, the researcher may pick some issues from document analysis that need verification with respondents during interviews hence it assists the researcher to minimize the risk of imposing personal interpretation on what is found on the documents (Stangor, 2017).

3.7.1.2 Disadvantages of Document Analysis

The document analysis is associated with researcher bias since the authors of documents do not record everything.

The researcher inspected documents such as;

- **Rehabilitation and Reintegration Programmes Register-** This document was crucial in availing information on the programmes offered at Chikurubi Maximum Prison and their effectiveness in achieving desistance on ex-offenders.
- **Discharge Diary-** This document was important in providing information about the inmates discharged from Chikurubi Maximum Prison for the purpose of follow-ups to assess progress since their release from prison and for the purpose of interviews and observation.
- **Recidivism Register-** the register was also crucial in providing information on the number of inmates reoffending at a certain period of time.

3.7.2 Interview Guide

In-depth face to face interview was the other method of qualitative data generation. McMillan and Schumacher (2006) explain that interviews are response questions to obtain data from participants about how they conceive and give meaning to their world and how they explain events in their lives. This study provided an opportunity for interviewees to talk about their experiences, views and understanding situation obtaining at Chikurubi Maximum Prison. The flexibility of this approach, particularly compared to structured interviews was that it allowed for the discovery or elaboration of information that was important to participants but not have previously thought of as pertinent by the researcher. The researcher prepared a few guiding questions although they were not always asked in a very direct way for all interviewees who participated.

The verbal accounts given by interviewees were audio taped during the interviews. However, due to the fact that some of participants knew that they were under investigation had to falsify some information hence researcher had to compliment with observation. The qualitative data generated from this study was subject to individual analysis and this ensured a richer and fuller understanding of the participants' individual meanings.

The researcher was at the same level of understanding as the participants in order to be able to get a solid truth about present situation, expectations, their opinions and facts from inmates and officers by allowing room for a deeper interaction on an informal basis. The researcher gained important information related to movement and security classification as inmates have a tendency of not saying something negative about the prison. The interpretive paradigm is more inclined towards the collection of qualitative data (Creswell, 2009) and this influenced greatly the construction of the in-depth interviews and observations.

3.7.3 Focus Group Discussion Guide

Focus Group Discussions (FDGs) are helpful for adding meaning and understanding to existing knowledge, or getting at the “why” and “how” of a topic (O’leary, 2014). They are considered particularly useful for generating a large amount of qualitative information in a relatively short period of time (USAID, 2011). Discussions with inmates sought to gain insight on the issues directly related to the objectives of the research. The researcher asked semi-predetermined questions to elicit responses and generate discussion among the participants and took one hour per each group discussion. Tape recording was done concurrently while one of the assistants was taking notes. Focus group discussion was chosen as it was suitable to gather a group in the halls and discuss with them at the same time giving room for probing further questions for such questions which require clarity though time was limited. FGDs were a good way to verify that people’s stated preferences are the same as their actual preferences. As some of the inmates have no educational background focus group discussions were ideal as the correspondences were done in Shona and later translated to English.

Three type of questions were used in the focus group discussion namely probe questions, follow-up questions and exit questions. As a moderator, the researcher ensured that all participants were comfortable and engaged with the discussion, remain neutral, elicit further information from shy participants, deal with dominant participants, paraphrase or summarize long, unclear comments by participants and act spontaneously if needed.

3.8 Trustworthiness

This research adopted the qualitative approach hence in determining and establishing the trustworthiness of the research (Gonzalez & Forister, 2020). Trustworthiness involves moving towards increasing the validity of qualitative research to add to its credence and acceptability (Gonzalez & Forister, 2020). The qualitative research employs the concepts of trustworthiness which consists of credibility, transferability, dependability and confirmability to design a working Model towards Desistance through Entrepreneurship at Chikurubi Maximum Prison.

3.8.1 Credibility

Credibility falls under the truth value criteria, it is a method used in qualitative research to establish trustworthiness by examining the data, its analysis and conclusions to determine if the study is correct and accurate (Creswell, 2013). The techniques that are used to establish credibility in this research include prolonged engagement, triangulation and member checks. In this study, the researcher employed prolonged engagement by spending an extended time with respondents in their native culture setting and world in order to gain a better understanding of their behaviour, values and relationships in natural context as highlighted by Creswell (2013). The researcher spent more than two weeks with the participants of the study in order to build trust with the participants to overcome the distortions associated with the presence of the researcher in the site (De Vault, 2017). The researcher also wanted to see the range of things to be expected to examine any distortions of the researcher's questions by the participants. Spending an extended time with respondents in the study area in order to gain a better understanding of their behaviour, values and relationships in a natural context. Likewise, triangulation which is defined Flick (2018) as the verification of findings through reference of multiple sources involves the use of various literature sources, secondary data (organisational documents such as reports and munities). Besides, member checks relevant with credibility are used which involve the testing and reviewing of data, analytic categories, interpretations and conclusions by the participants from which the data has been originally obtained. Member checking can also be conducted during the course or at the end of data collection whereby participants are asked to read transcripts of the data they gave to confirm or refute that their words conformed with what they actually intended (Given, 2018), to come up with a working Model towards Desistance through Entrepreneurship at Chikurubi Maximum Prison.

3.8.2 Transferability

According Babie (2020), it is synonymous with generalizability or external validity. In qualitative studies, transferability means applying research results to other contexts and settings in order to get at generalizability. In order to achieve this, the researcher can provide a thick description which enables the reader to establish and assess whether the findings are transferable to his or her own setting or other settings, an aspect known as transferability judgement (Yin, 2019). Transferability can be crucial in line with designing a working Model towards Desistance through Entrepreneurship at Chikurubi Maximum Prison.

3.8.3 Dependability

According to Saunders (2004), dependability establishes the findings of the research as consistent, repeatable and reliable. The technique that is used to determine dependability is

conducting an inquiry audit. According to Babie (2011), an inquiry audit is a process of having a researcher outside of the data collection, analyses the results of the research study. This is a process done as confirmation of the accuracy of the findings and to ensure the findings are supported by the data collected. The major benefit of inquiry audits is that, it allows an outside researcher to examine, explore and challenge how data analysis and interpretation occurred. In such a scenario, the researcher benefits by gaining valuable insights and better articulation of the findings.

3.8.4 Conformability

According to Field (2009), conformability refers to the degree to which the results of an inquiry could be confirmed or corroborated by other researchers. The technique that is used in research to establish the component of literature triangulation. Through literature triangulation, the researcher compares the data and findings of the research to other earlier researches (Saunders et al 2004).

3.9 Data Collection Procedures

A pre-test of the instruments prior to the field work was done to ascertain the clarity and sequencing of in-depth interview questions and participants used were also used in the actual study. Prior to data collection, a letter requesting permission to conduct the study was issued. The investigator made prior arrangements as per date, venue and time assisted by the Officer In-Charge to meet the respondents. A copy of the researcher's permission to conduct the study was attached to the interview guide and FGD. The research made use of 3 groups of 9 each making a total of 27 inmates while the other nine (09) were interviewed from a total of 15 as the researcher was now collecting recurring answers. Time for interviews and focus group discussions was reduced to less 30 minutes since majority wanted to go to their rehabilitation work stations. Details of the study were conveyed along issues of confidentiality, anonymity and informed consent were presented. The inmates read a letter of introduction and consent form which explained the purpose of the research, the process and their rights. To those who could not read on their own were assisted by two research assistants. The two assistants had to assist in interviewing the inmates translating to Shona scribbling respondent answers on a separate paper.

3.10 Data Presentation and Analysis Procedure

Data presentation laid out in this study was obtained through the use of interviews, focus group discussions and document analysis. The study presented data in qualitative statements and this enabled full articulation of the reader to visualize the situation on ground. Data was categorized, analyzed and presented according to objectives of the study. According to Oso

and Onen (2005), data analysis deals with its organization, interpretation and presentation. “Data analysis consists of examining, categorizing, tabulating, or otherwise recombining the evidence to address the initial propositions of a study” (Yin, 2009).

The data from interviews was analysed using thematic analysis. Through thematic analysis, the researcher reviews data, makes rates and sorts data into categories to move the analysis from a broad reading of the data towards discovering patterns and developing themes (Gonzalez & Forister, 2020). The data is used to complement the data generated through interviews and institutional documents to design a working Model towards Desistance through Entrepreneurship at Chikurubi Maximum Prison.

3.11 Ethical and Legal Considerations

Ethical and legal issues involve standards and rules governing the conduct of research so as to avoid the harm of participants in a study. Since this study and its findings may adversely affect officers and inmates, the researcher conducted the research without giving the names of the participants but remained anonymous. Furthermore, she practised strict confidentiality and privacy, encouraged participants not to answer particular questions if they felt not to and advised them of the provision to withdraw at any time from the study if they felt like doing so. Above all, the researcher prepared consent form which participants signed consent forms before participating in the study to protect the subjects from social, economic and psychological harm (Diop and Liu, 2020).

3.11.1 Protection from Harm

The researcher took cognisance of the fact that there is need to protect the participants from any form of harm, physically, socially and psychologically. Interviews can be on a very sensitive topic that could cause emotional damage to a participant, hence the need for their protection. The prison environment involves officers and inmates, who can face harm, especially inmates due to their vulnerability. This calls for the need for the researcher to ensure that harm on the participants is avoided at all cost through the careful selection of participants.

3.11.2 Informed Consent

According to Boru (2018), informed consent is the voluntary agreement sought from an individual, his or her authorised representative, who has the legal authority to give consent and who exercises free power of choice. However, the choice should be made without undue inducement or any other form of constraint or coercion to take part in research. In this study, the researcher sought consent from the participants involving correctional officers and inmates. This is relevant since inmates are regarded as vulnerable people who experience dependence

hence the need to minimise the chances of their ill-treatment through seeking informed consent since they are also human being with rights. Furthermore, seeking consent can create rapport hence it promotes full cooperation by the participants. Consequently, it allows the objective gathering of data in a free and relaxed environment. Hence, before taking part in the study, each participant was informed of the purpose and objectives of the research and their written consent was obtained.

3.11.3 Non-Coercion

Despite that part of the participants are inmates, their right to freedom to participate in the study should also be guaranteed. According to Boru (2018), the researcher should not force someone to take part in research. The freedom further involves the participants to withdraw from participating in the research at any moment in time without any consequences. In line with the above principle of non- coercion, the participants were informed by the researcher of their freedom to withdraw from the research at any given time. Moreover, the participants are not given any motivation, either financially or non-financially as benefits for participating. However, but they can be thanked verbally for their participation in the study.

3.11.4 Anonymity and confidentiality

Anonymity and Confidentiality are other ethical issues arising from the possible exposure of classified or restricted information such as the revelation of names or addresses or even the physical location of a certain respondent. The researcher ensured that such information revealed by any of the participants is safeguarded from unauthorised observation. All information is held in strict confidentiality. To ensure anonymity and confidentiality even considering the face-to-face interviews, no original names were included in the final document, but participants' rights and identities will be protected by using pseudonyms, for example, 'Interviewee 1'. To also minimise chances of stigma against the inmates, the researcher learnt from Feldman (2007) and uses pseudo names for the participants as suggested by Creswell (2010), who points out that confidentiality implies that no one has access to the participant's data or names.

3.11.5 Permission to Conduct Research

Ethical and legal issues further involve seeking permission to conduct the study. Pertaining to this study, permission to conduct the research was sought from the ZPCS' Research and Development Section. The permission was sought through the approval of the research topic and proposal and cover letter from Bindura University of Science education to enable the

participants to have confidence through the authenticity of the research shown by the university before they could participate in providing with the data

3.12 Chapter Summary

The chapter focuses on the research methodology whereby the qualitative research approach is employed to design a working Model towards Desistance through Entrepreneurship at Chikurubi Maximum Prison. The research approach is underpinned by explanatory research design meant to gather qualitative data to analyse the topic under study. The approach proves to be appropriate and effective in unearthing perceptions pertaining to experiences of participants in line with the effectiveness of entrepreneurship programmes in promoting offender desistance. The interview guide, observation guide and document analysis are the research instruments used in the inquiry. The ethical and legal considerations are also addressed before trustworthiness and data analysis procedure are dealt with while the chapter summary wraps up the chapter. The next chapter (Chapter Four) looks at data presentation analysis and discussion.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents, interprets and discusses the results obtained through focus group discussions and face-to-face interviews conducted at Chikurubi Maximum Prison. The chapter shows collected data from category reoffended inmates and rehabilitation staff. Obtained findings from documents analysis and narrations gathered through interviews and focus group discussions are presented in this chapter in the form of narratives and verbatim statements from the respondents.

4.2 Research Objective

The study sought to come up with framework towards desistance through entrepreneurship in prisons by interrogating the following objectives:

- To examine Social and Economic factors that compel ex-inmates to re-offend at Chikurubi Maximum Prison.
- To examine the challenges facing entrepreneurship programs at Chikurubi Maximum Prison.
- To ascertain the potential role of entrepreneurship in reducing recidivism at Chikurubi Maximum Prison
- To develop a working model for integrating entrepreneurial initiatives into rehabilitation programs.

4.3 Demographic Data and Response Rate

Qualitative data was collected from 61 reoffended inmates and 07 rehabilitation officers through interviews and focus group discussions. 27 reoffended inmates who were conveniently chosen participated in focus group discussions three groups and 9 participated in the interview. Of the five of the rehabilitation officers have over 15 years in the Service which guarantees accurate information to be obtained since they have seen it all. All of them are diploma holders in either Counselling, Sociology or Social Work. While for inmates, 1 was female and 35 were males literally meaning the greater number is of males. 2 were less than 20 years and 34 were above 25 years. 33 of them had less than 5 years of sentence and those with more than 10 years were 3 meaning those with petty crimes occupy the greater number.

Table 1: Response Rate

Inmates Category	Final Sample	Instrument	Responded	Response Rate %
Reoffended Inmates	15	Indepth Interview	9	60
	27	Focus Group Discussion	27	100
Rehabilitation Officers	7	Key informant interview	5	71

Overall response rate was 77% $(60+100+71)/3$. This response rate quantifies as being a very good response rate, (Babbie, 2007), he opines that according to published social research literature a 50% response rate is regarded as adequate, while 60% is considered as good and 70% upward is very good.

4.4 Data Presentation and Analysis

4.4.1 Social and Economic Factors Compelling Ex-Inmates to Reoffend

The objective sought to find the social and economic factors that compels inmates to re-offend into crime leading them back into prison. Several social factors were reported to be contributing to recidivism among inmates at a Chikurubi Maximum prison. Participant 2 reported that *due to poor academic qualifications they failed to secure employment* and consequently recidivated into criminal activities. Cemented by one of the focus group discussions who said ‘*Ndakaba nekuti kujeri kunoendeswa vanhu kuchikoro ndiri kutodzidza ini ndatove pa first degree level*. For example, participant 6 said: *My parents died when I was doing grade three therefore, I failed to continue with my education and failure to secure employment drove me back into criminal activities*.

As indicated by participant 7 lack of social support drove them back into criminal activities. This view is endorsed by Participant 1 who said: *like a child coming from the mother’s womb, I was released from prison without any resource or money. I endured a lot of problems out of prison and finally decided to go back to criminal activities*.

Participants 1 and 2 recidivated into criminal activities when they found their properties sold and their wives cohabiting with other men. This predicament was aptly narrated by Participant 9 who said: *Upon my arrival back home after completing my jail term, my wife had sold everything of my property and went back to her parent’s rural area where she cohabitated with*

another man who promised her marriage. Participant from the focus group discussion disclosed that prestige was a social factor influencing recidivism among inmates.

While, one of the participants pointed *peer pressure and greediness and said, 'if you make an honest living you can't survive outside there leading us into re-offending'*. These views were endorsed by participant 9 who said: *My relatives are rich but I don't seek assistance from them when I got released from prison because I felt it was dignified to do my own things. I wanted to prove to my relatives that I was able to fend for myself. However, when I failed to fulfil this objective I recidivate into criminal activities.*

Participant 1 reported that *rejection by members of their society upon prison sentence expiry drove them back into criminal activities.* This difficulty is acknowledged by participant 4 who said: *When I was released from prison people don't accept me as a changed person, often they isolated and labelled me a thief.* Participant 3 echoed this problem when he said: *I was trapped between two hard rocks because I was rejected by the society including my relatives outside prison while the prison loved me no more after expiry of my jail term therefore, I decided to recidivate into criminal activities.* While the others from focus group discussions had this to say *'.... the day I arrived home from prison my blood brother chuckled me away pointing that handingari nemunhu akabva kujeri...'*. While Inmate participant 5 said *'ndakasvika zvinhu zvangu pandaigara zvaburitswa panze zvichinzi ndezvekuba'*. These findings are in line with those of Irish Penal Reform Trust (2012) which associated recidivism with social disadvantages.

The most common responses from inmates and rehabilitation officers was enduring label of a criminal record, unemployment, social stigma, and limited access to legitimate opportunities frequently create obstacles that make it difficult for individuals to secure the trust and support needed to sustain disengagement from criminal activity and become law-abiding citizens. This was cemented by inmate participant 1 during the interview who narrated his ordeal with reference to a label of criminal record.

While below are some of the sentiments by participants with regards to social and economic factors.

One of the focus group participants highlighted that 'kunze kwekuba hapana kana chimwe chatinogona uye takauya kwatinodiwa'' and in the same group one of the participants said 'kana wakambosungwa hapana employer anoda munhu akadaro'.

'Government of Zimbabwe does not employ former inmates yet prison inenge yaita part yayo iyo hurumemnde yacho yotiramba kutipinza mabasa leading us back into the prisons'

The above sentiments were echoed by the rehabilitation officers who pointed that the majority of these inmates do not have any relatives/visitors and if any they leave strong words which indicate they are waiting for them to pay back the aggrieved parties, like *kuripa ngozi*. Therefore, with that fear in mind that they have been rejected by family members, society and become useless hence they end up into committing crime immediately after release. Some of the challenges mentioned in the discussions include failure to cope with the ever changing technology outside, unavailability of starter pack, limited to legitimate opportunities, labelling, social stigma, drugs, evil spirits, laziness, the prison system now reluctant as it has moved from punitive to correctional, genetic inheritance, lack of education, unchanging life style, no crime specific interventions, too security conscientious.

Economic factors also drove recidivist inmates back into criminal activities. Majority of the participants reported that poverty triggered their criminal tendencies. More so because it is very difficult to regain employment after being incarcerated. For example, participant 3 said: *I once refrained from criminal activities for four years when someone who owns some small trucks employed me. In order to survive, I recidivated into criminal activities when the trucks broke down.* Inmate Participant 7 had this to say ‘*handina kana pekutangira izvozvi saka kwandinowana sadza nepekurara mahara ndiko kuno*’

Participants 5, 7 and 9 alleged that the current economic hardships prevalent in the country make life out of prison difficult and push former inmates into criminal activities. It seems most recidivist inmates fail to secure resources through legal means as a result they steal. A number of participants disclosed that their lives outside prison had been hopeless and they saw imprisonment as a solution. This view is shared by participant 1 who said: *I lost hope for a proper life outside prison and believe it is better to live in prison forever.* It seems some of the recidivist inmates who are convicted of crimes such as unlawful entry and theft do not think a great deal about the consequence of their crimes or freedom.

In prison inmates receive free medication. However, things change when inmates are released back into their communities. As highlighted by participants 4 and 6 the need to get money for medication could drive inmates back into criminal activities. *The other inmate said ‘ini ndinorwara saka kana ndave kuda kurapwa ndino dzoka kujeri kwandinorapwa mahara’.* Participant 8 acknowledged this when he said: *I suffered a sexual transmitted disease outside there, all wasn’t well and I could have gone near death, only committing a crime and get*

treatment in prison remained an option. Especially in urban areas former inmates fail to afford rented accommodation.

Participants **2** and **9** indicated that they lacked clothes, blankets and food and so recidivated into criminal activities. Participant **5** said: Upon completion of my third jail term I slept under a bridge with no blankets. Participant **8** said: When my father died, he left a house in Vhengere location in Rusape but my brother chased me away saying that you are a thief; you should not stay here.

Participants **5**, **7**, **8** and **9** propounded that availability of market for stolen property contributes to their recidivism. A significant number of participants said that they are tempted to commit crimes since there is a ready market for their stolen goods. For example, participant **7** said: When I was released from prison, I met somebody who used to buy my stolen goods and asked if I could provide a television set immediately. This seems to indicate that behind the recidivist inmates are people who promote criminal behaviour

4.4.2 Challenges Faced by Prisons in Implementing Entrepreneurship Programs

The objective was to examine the challenges faced in prisons to implement entrepreneurship programs. The most recurring answer was unavailability of adequate equipment at the prison from both the inmates and rehabilitation officers. Among the pointed challenges include overcrowding, lack of funding, inadequate equipment and lack of financial support, harsh sentences and serving a jail term due to wrongness conviction, peer pressure, drug and alcohol abuse and mental illness. One of the participants believed that lack of marketing to advertise as well as selling products become one of the biggest challenges, as they failed to sell their produce in time. Below are some of the obstacles highlighted by different inmates' participants in their own words:

One of the interesting response from participant **6** said *'ndakapinda ndiri mudiki pano ndakaita chikoro changu pano ndika passer zvino ndave kubuda ndakabvunza ana sekuru kuti ndikabuda muchanditora here kupinda basa?'. Further said that 'Prisons has rehabilitated me but has no trust to employ me what about the outside world.'*

Participant **4** said *'hatina kana pekudzidzira honai patiri kudzidzira hapana kana chair, desk, chalks, no ventilation, no lights, small room and no books, white board.....'* this view was cemented by focus group participant who said *'I do not have plastic packs and chemicals to cater for my tree seeds'* pointing to lack of resources.

Participant **8** said *‘vamwe sekuru vedu waitidzidzisa vakasiya basa now tave pama one’*

During the discussion one of the participants pointed ‘ nekuda kwemhosva yangu handibvumidzwe kubudamuno saka handina mamwe mactivities andinoita kunze kwekudyara miti masimbi haadiwe muno uye ini ndiri mu ‘D’ class handibvumidzwe kubuda muno muhall’

Buttressed by one of the rehabilitation officer who pointed that *‘here at Maximum Prison we do not have a workshop for rehab activities and movement is very restricted due classification.’*

One interesting response was *‘some of the officers continuously say iwe uri musungwa muno zvemaprograms izvi munozviitira panze pano security first zvimwe zvese its secondary’*

One of the focus group respondents said,

‘ togara tichivaudza ana sekuru maproposals edu ezvatingada kuita zvinobatsira panze asi zvinongoperera pamudhuri ipapa hakuna kwazvinoenda.’

‘I do not need kudzidzidziswa mabasa emaoko as I have my monies already said by one of the focus group participants’. This may indicate that prisons have to treat each case on its merit.

Participants **3.5.6** reported serving a sentence for an offence that one did not commit as another contributing factor as one may revenge by committing a crime. For example, Participant **10** said: *I served a jail term while I was innocent on my first conviction therefore, I decided to revenge by committing a crime. However, I got caught and came back to prison.* This may mean they commit crime just to revenge and nothing more

Some participants **1.2.7** pointed out that they were influenced by friends to re-engage in crimes. Participants **6, 7, 8** and **9** went on to blame themselves for accepting poor advice from their friends. For example; Participant **1** said: *My friends influenced me to re-engage into criminal activities. They advised me that we are behind in terms of wealth and we don’t have money to start new life. If we can strategize very well, we will steal and not get caught. This will help us to start a new life.* The findings may mean peers have an influence in the commission of crime.

4.4.3 The Role of Entrepreneurship in Reducing Recidivism

The objective was to understand the role of entrepreneurship in reducing reoffending. From the study findings the researcher can see that Entrepreneurship programs offered in prisons has a

potential to give inmates the self-belief and skills deployment, personal empowerment and social reintegration. This was echoed by participant 3 who pointed that

‘Pane aripo maentreprenuarship programs acho tiri kubatsirika zvakanyanya seni ndakadzidziswa kupfuya nguruve neFulcrum investments zvazvino ndave ready kunochengeta dzangu’.

The other one said ‘muno ndadzidza zvekuti ndangomirira kuenda panze ndinoda kunovhura Company yangu yewelding.’

One of the rehabilitation officers had similar sentiments with the above when he highlighted that if these inmates are willing to learn they become great people outside there as at this station as the products being produced here are being sold and accepted by the outside market. Therefore, this confirms that the products which they produce are up to standard which meets the market demands example window frames the station is failing to supply the market.

4.4.4 Components for Integrating Entrepreneurial Initiatives into Rehabilitation Programs

The study sought to come up with a model for integrating entrepreneurial initiatives into rehabilitation programs at Chikurubi Maximum Prison. The most recurring responses were including crime specific interventions, documented Entrepreneurial programs and mentorship and support. This was evidenced by sentiments by one of the rehabilitation officers who said *‘there is need for crime specific interventions as inmates underlying challenges are different therefore the need for individual assessments and treatment. Such programs like Peace education, clinical education, counselling as some crimes committed are mentally related, family background and upbringing hence crimes like robbery, abuse, rape, murder, bestiality among others.’*

One of the rehabilitation officers indicated that *monitoring and evaluation of entrepreneurship programs is essential. As this will help to gauge the available programs if they are meeting the requirements of the inmates and ZPCS will know what to add, improve or even totally change’.* Cemented by the other rehabilitation officer who opined that *“monitoring and evaluation will help to expose gaps and identify specific programs for specific individual’.*

One of the rehabilitation officers suggested that *‘prisons need to have Documented Entrepreneurial Programs and record for each inmate. This will make it easy to track progress and ensure continuity during transfers between prisons.’*

The study found out that training on the mind-set, workshops, and seminars and among others particularly for officers from the top to bottom about entrepreneurship programs is essential. This was noted by one of the rehab officers as he narrated about the mismatch which is within the officers' knowledge about entrepreneurship. The findings pointed that Officers are not sharing the same page with regards to the subject at hand as some are still more inclined to punitive system rather than rehabilitative.

4.5 Discussion/Interpretation of Findings

This section discusses about interpretation of major research findings, how they fit into previous studies and provide the implications of the findings. It also links the results with literature reviewed. The study sought explore and come up with framework towards desistance through entrepreneurship in prisons. The discussion of the findings is guided by the objectives and research questions of the study

4.5.1 Social and Economic Factors Compelling Ex-Inmates to Reoffend

The objective sought to find the social and economic factors that compels inmates to re-offend into crime leading them back into prison. The findings points the following major factors: enduring label of a criminal record, employee discrimination, unemployment, social stigma, and limited access to legitimate opportunities frequently creating obstacles that make it difficult for individuals to secure the trust and support needed to sustain disengagement from criminal activity and become law-abiding citizens, unavailability of start-up packs, no crime specific interventions and family and society rejection. These findings are in line with those of Irish Penal Reform Trust (2012) which associated recidivism with social disadvantages. This notion is supported by the ecological theory indicating that unavailability of resources, ill-treatment, lack of support services and ill planned inmates' community re-entry could encourage former inmates to recidivate into criminal activities (Santrock, 2004).

4.5.2 Challenges Faced by Prisons in Implementing Entrepreneurship Programs

The most recurring answer was unavailability of adequate equipment at the prison from both the inmates and rehabilitation officers. Among the pointed challenges include overcrowding, lack of adequate training equipment, lack of financial support, classification restrictive, security oriented, no crime innervations and failure for the implementation of inmate certificates from prison. (prison gives education but the organisation does not recruit). Literature concurs with what obtaining at Chikurubi Maximum Prison as is buttressed by a research conducted by UNODC (2020), in Canada that uncovered that prison overcrowding

creates competition for limited resources such as clothing, blankets, food, drugs and rehabilitation equipment. Mwakaheya (2019) in Tanzania maintains that overcrowding has a detrimental effect on public safety because it affects the ability of the prisons to design and deliver meaningful education programmes and interventions to prepare offenders for their successful return to the community and ensure their desistance from crime. Further pointed that these are some of the examples of rigid administrative procedures which limits the ability to adapt programmes to meet the evolving needs of prisoners (ibid). Literature further pointed that due to countless challenges faced by most institutions in African countries, the institutions experience brain drain and skills shortage, which has high chances of limitations pertaining to availability of qualified staff to implement entrepreneurship programmes (Grosholz, Kabongo and Wichern, 2020). Lack of equipment poses challenges in equipping them with the required skills, hence the offenders are poorly prepared for adjusting to life after release from Nigerian prisons (Webster, 2020) this concurs with the findings of this study. Lai (2022), in Chicago contends that there is excessive use of force on inmates, involving physical and verbal abuse by prison officers which creates a hostile environment, at the same time making it difficult for inmates to focus on rehabilitation the same applies at Chikurubi Maximum Prison.

4.5.3 The Role of Entrepreneurship in Reducing Recidivism

The objective was to understand the role of entrepreneurship in reducing reoffending. From the study findings the researcher can see that Entrepreneurship programs offered in prisons has a potential to give inmates the self-belief and skills deployment, personal empowerment and social reintegration. The findings resonate well with Humphreys (2023) views who stated that in Norway prisons, in addition to being offered educational programmes, including agricultural programmes, Information and Communication Technology-ICT and various skills building programmes, inmates are respected despite the seriousness of their offences thereby making a deference. Findings at Chikurubi Maximum is in line with the study by Nseobot and Effiong (2019) who investigated the impact of entrepreneurship education on skills acquisition for self-reliance among prison inmates in Nigeria. The findings demonstrated that there is a positive relationship between entrepreneurship education and skills acquisition for self-reliance among inmates in Akwa Ibom State.

Prison entrepreneurship programs can positively impact prisoners' self-efficacy and entrepreneurial resilience, ultimately encouraging entrepreneurial intentions and potentially aiding in successful reintegration after release (Ciptono, W.S., Anggadwita, G. and Indarti, N., 2023). Programs like PREP (Prisoner Entrepreneurship Program) and Wharton WORKS aim

to equip prisoners with entrepreneurial skills, a resilient mindset, and post-release support and in Zimbabwe prisons they have Prisoner Employment Programs.

4.5.4 Components for Integrating Entrepreneurial Initiatives into Rehabilitation Programs

The study found that crime specific interventions, documented Entrepreneurial programs and mentorship and support being entrepreneurial initiatives into rehabilitation programs are not practiced at Chikurubi Maximum Prison. The findings contradict with the views by (Gosselin, 2015) who pointed that Prison Entrepreneurship Programmes (PEPs) have the role to provide offenders with the skills and support to start their own businesses which helps them to develop a sense of purpose and identity outside of criminal activity. Cemented by Johnson (2015) in USA states that the idea of equipping prisoners with proper education and life skills training are the basis for character building and social support network among inmates whose lives can be turned around dramatically and fundamentally to become law-abiding citizens who abstain from crime after receiving the skills which enable them to seek important goals through income-generating projects and other activities (Fader and Traylor, 2015; Mwakaheya, 2019). In addition, Zimbabwe has to copy to what the USA Federal Government did to motivate companies and individuals to employ ex-offenders through tax incentive, which seems to be among the strategies that has resulted in the country to have 43 percent lower chances of ex-inmates who are employed to return to prison. A survey conducted in Australia by Henry & Jacobs (2017) establishes that due to programmes imparted by prisons on inmates, the transport firms in the country hired more than 45 percent of the ex-convicts in 2015, most of whom did not re-offend. Comparing with countries in the developed world, the Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitation Enterprises' (SCORE) conducted a survey in 2015 which concluded that about 34 percent of companies in Singapore showed willingness to hire ex-offenders, although only 4 percent actually hired the ex-offenders.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND MODEL

5.1 Introduction

This section of the study provided conclusions, recommendations and model proposed for integrating entrepreneurial initiatives into rehabilitation programs. The objectives of the study included to examine Social and Economic factors that compel ex-inmates to re-offend at Chikurubi Maximum Prison, examine the challenges faced at Chikurubi Maximum Prison to implement entrepreneurship programs, ascertain the potential role of entrepreneurship in reducing recidivism at Chikurubi Maximum Prison and to develop a working model for integrating entrepreneurial initiatives into rehabilitation programs. Finally, this chapter gives conclusions and recommendations and highlights areas for further research.

5.2 Research Summary

Entrepreneurship programs to inmates are of paramount to their corrections into the society on release. This study aimed to develop a model for desistance through entrepreneurship, addressing the socio-economic barriers ex-offenders face and providing an alternative pathway to promote desistance. A qualitative approach was adopted using exploratory research design which involved open-ended questions and data collection methods, such as interviews, focus groups, and document analysis. It typically involved a small sample size of 39 participants namely 27 and conveniently selected for focus group discussions and in-depth interview. While 5 purposively selected rehabilitation officers were lined up for key informant interviews as the goal was to gain a deeper understanding of the research topic rather than to generalize findings to a larger population. The study concluded that Chikurubi Maximum has some rehabilitation activities, however is still lagging behind in terms what exactly what is required to rehabilitate inmates so that they do not reoffend. Social and economic factors have a bearing on reoffending, if the entrepreneurial activities are done fully they have a potential to uplift the wellbeing of inmates after release, the ideal situation to be implemented and the challenges that are being faced with the station to implement such programs. The study recommended that crime specific interventions, documented Entrepreneurial programs and mentorship and support being entrepreneurial initiatives has to be integrated in the entrepreneurial programs at Chikurubi Maximum Prison.

5.3 Conclusions

This study sought to come up with framework towards desistance through entrepreneurship in prisons and there is need to have one. The study concluded that Chikurubi Maximum has some rehabilitation activities, however is still lagging behind in terms what exactly what is required to rehabilitate inmates so that they do not reoffend. Social and economic factors has a bearing on reoffending, if the entrepreneurial activities are done fully have a potential to uplift the wellbeing of inmates after release, the ideal situation to be implemented and the challenges that are being faced with the station to implement such programs.

5.3.1 Social and Economic Factors Compelling Ex-Inmates to Reoffend

The first objective was to examine Social and Economic factors that compel ex-inmates to re-offend at Chikurubi Maximum Prison. From the findings it can be concluded that the following factors are the major contributors of recidivism: enduring label of a criminal record, employee discrimination, unemployment, social stigma, and limited access to legitimate opportunities frequently creating obstacles that make it difficult for individuals to secure the trust and support needed to sustain disengagement from criminal activity and become law-abiding citizens, unavailability of start-up packs, no crime specific interventions and family and society rejection.

5.3.2 Challenges Faced by Prisons in Implementing Entrepreneurship Programs

The second objective was to examine the challenges faced at Chikurubi Maximum Prison to implement entrepreneurship programs. Based on the findings it can be concluded that there are challenges by faced at Chikurubi Maximum Prison to implement entrepreneurship programs. Such challenges include overcrowding, lack of adequate training equipment, lack of financial support, classification restrictions, security oriented, no crime interventions and unavailability of space to learn and showcase their talents. Further, to that harsh sentences and serving a jail term due to wrongness conviction, peer pressure, drug and alcohol abuse and mental illness have a bearing. Prison environment is sometimes a good training ground for crimes. It has also been established that prison conditions are so bad that they depress some inmates permanently.

5.3.3 The Role of Entrepreneurship in Reducing Recidivism

The third objective was ascertaining the potential role of entrepreneurship in reducing recidivism at Chikurubi Maximum Prison. The findings pointed that entrepreneurship has a potential effect in reducing recidivism. After learning such entrepreneurship programs inmates develop self-belief and skills, personal empowerment and easy social reintegration.

5.3.4 Components for Integrating Entrepreneurial Initiatives into Rehabilitation Programs

The fourth objective was to develop a working model for integrating entrepreneurial initiatives into rehabilitation programs at Chikurubi Maximum Prison. From the situation obtaining findings points that a number of issues need to be addressed to come up with the ideal situation for entrepreneurial projects. Among the initiatives suggested include crime specific interventions, documented Entrepreneurial programs and mentorship and support being entrepreneurial initiatives

5.4 Recommendations

5.4.1 To the Society

It is recommended that society needs to be educated that ex-inmates are equally the same as another citizen who need to be treated the same.

5.4.2 To Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Service

It is recommended that:

The management of prisons establishments in Zimbabwe should give more time and resources to the prisons entrepreneurship education which contribute more to inmates' entrepreneurial skills acquisition.

Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Service should internationally benchmark their services.

All inmates should undergo entrepreneurship programs since they have a potential to develop them to better citizens.

Implementing initiatives like crime specific interventions, mentorship and support, monitoring and evaluations should be a priority.

5.4.3 To Government

The government of Zimbabwe to ensure enough funding is availed for prison entrepreneurship programs.

5.5 Model



Fig 2: Desistance Through Entrepreneurship Model

The challenges faced in implementing entrepreneurship programs at Chikurubi Maximum Prison have a bearing in increasing recidivism therefore addressing such will promote desistance. While, entrepreneurship training on the inmates contribute significantly in reducing reoffending. Finally, the Social and economic factors that prompt reoffending will be minimised if entrepreneurship training in prisons is brought to good use. Having ideal entrepreneurial initiatives will help to reduce reoffending at Chikurubi Maximum Prison.

5.6 Areas for Further Studies

To investigate the Effectiveness of Correctional Programmes in Curbing Reoffending

To explore the nature of entrepreneurship education as a tool for effective prison inmates' development in Zimbabwe

An investigation of factors that influence recidivism among offenders in prisons in Zimbabwe

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APPENDIX 1: INDEPTH INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR REHABILITATION CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS

Dear Participant

My name is Fortunate Chipara, a Master of Entrepreneurship and Innovation student with Bindura University of Science Education. I am researching on a study entitled; *A Working Model towards Desistance through Entrepreneurship: A Case of Chikurubi Maximum Prison*. I would like to find out your views on the above topic. You are therefore being humbly requested to participate voluntarily by answering the questions as honestly as you can.

Section A

Demographic Data of Participant

Variable	Response
Gender	
Level of Education	
Period in the ZPCS	

Section B

1. What do you understand the term ‘entrepreneurship’?
2. What do you think are the social and economic challenges that compel ex-inmates to re-offend?
3. What are the rehabilitation programmes that are offered at Chikurubi Maximum Prison?
4. In your opinion, how effective are the rehabilitation programmes in achieving reintegration among ex-offender from this prison?
5. Which challenges faced by Chikurubi Maximum Prison in coming up with entrepreneurship programmes for inmates?

What are the potential benefits of entrepreneurship programs to inmates at Chikurubi Maximum?

6. What do you suggest should be done for the station to introduce entrepreneurship programmes for inmates?

Thank you.



APPENDIX 2: KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR PRISON INMATES

Dear Participant

My name is Fortunate Chipara, a Master of Entrepreneurship and Innovation with Bindura University of Science Education. I am researching on a study entitled; *A Working Model towards Desistance through Entrepreneurship: A Case of Chikurubi Maximum Prison*. I would like to find out your views on the above topic. You are therefore being humbly requested to participate voluntarily by answering the questions as honestly as you can.

Section A

Demographic Data of Participant

Variable	Response
Gender	
Age	
Level of Education	
Period in prison	

Section B

1. Which rehabilitation programmes are you involved in?
2. What social and economic challenge that might have compelled to reoffend?
3. What are the benefits of participating in the rehabilitation programmes?
4. What is your general view on the effectiveness of the rehabilitation programmes to assist in the reformation of inmates?
5. Are you aware of the reasons for the failure by Chikurubi Maximum Prison to introduce entrepreneurship programmes for inmates?

6. In your opinion, which is the potential role of entrepreneurship in reducing recidivism among ex-offenders?
7. What do you suggest should be done for the station to introduce entrepreneurship programmes for inmates?



APPENDIX 3: FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION FOR INMATES

1. Which rehabilitation programmes are you involved in?
2. What social and economic challenge that might have compelled to reoffend?
3. What are the benefits of participating in the rehabilitation programmes?
4. What is your general view on the effectiveness of the rehabilitation programmes to assist in the reformation of inmates?
5. Are you aware of the reasons for the failure by Chikurubi Maximum Prison to introduce entrepreneurship programmes for inmates?
6. In your opinion, which is the potential role of entrepreneurship in reducing recidivism among ex-offenders?
7. What do you suggest should be done for the station to introduce entrepreneurship programmes for inmates?



APPENDIX 6: CONSENT FORM

A Working Model towards Desistance through Entrepreneurship: A Case of Chikurubi Maximum Prison.

You are hereby invited to participate in a study by Fortunate Chipara, a Master of Master of Entrepreneurship and Innovation student from the Bindura University of Science Education (BUSE). You are advised to take your time to read this form. You are free to discuss contents of this form with colleagues. You shall be supplied with a copy of this form.

Purpose

The purpose of the interview is to obtain your views in line with A Working Model towards Desistance through Entrepreneurship: A Case of Chikurubi Maximum Prison.

Procedure

You shall be asked to participate in interviews at any place in the prison premises or your home, considered to be secure.

Potential risks

There are no potential risks associated with your participation in this study. If you feel uncomfortable with some questions, feel free not to answer them. If you feel to withdraw from this interview, you are free to do so at any given time.

Potential benefits

You are not going to receive any payment for your participation in this study. However, through the research findings, this study is expected to solve some of the challenges in lack of entrepreneurship programmes in prisons.

Potential conflict of interest

The researcher does not have interests to benefit financially through the data to be collected.

Confidentiality

Any information to be obtained shall remain confidential and shall only be disclosed on your permission.

Participation in the study

You can decide to or not to participate in this study. Your consent shall be your decision to participate.

Identification of the researcher

If you need verification of any details about this research, you are free to conduct the following:

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