

# ***Prisoners' Rehabilitation as Crime Prevention: The Tale of Two Prison Centers in Addis Ababa, Sonan Daniel<sup>1</sup>***

## **Abstract**

Concentrating on the rehabilitation of inmates throughout the world has demonstrated positive results in breaking the cycle of recidivism. The study aimed to evaluate the rehabilitation practices of Center for Children in Contact with Crime and Kaliti Correctional Institution and their implications for recidivism prevention. Self-administered questionnaires were utilized to collect quantitative data from 360 convicts. In-depth interviews were conducted with 4 social workers and psychologists. To evaluate the numerical data, descriptive-analytical approaches were applied. The results were presented using graphs, pie charts, and tables, while the qualitative results were analyzed using thematic analysis techniques. In the studied prison centers, there are activities that the prison centre considers as part of rehabilitation programs such as unionization, one-on-one and group counseling, sport and recreation, and vocational training; however, this study observed that these activities are not provided based on the perceived demands of the inmates, and more sensible rehabilitation programs are lacking. Despite the best efforts of prison facilities, rehabilitation programs are in their early stages in each detention facility. The study findings show that adopting prisoner rehabilitation as a crime prevention strategy has a long way to go.

Keywords; Recidivism, Juvenile, Prison Center, Rehabilitative, Punishment

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## **Introduction**

Punishing criminals is a historical universal; it has been practiced throughout history. However, literature demonstrate how its use, form, function, and meaning have varied dramatically across historical contexts and societies. According to Mohan (2021), crime has existed since the dawn of civilization; however, to match the punishment with Crime, how humanity has dealt with it has evolved over time. It also differs from one society to another (Whitman, 2005). A wrong, for example, was a private matter to be avenged by direct retaliation by the victim or, if he had not survived, by his family in a primitive society (Bauman, 1996). Unlike in ancient times, punishing criminals in the twenty-first century is motivated by repair rather than vengeance. (Petersen et al., 2012).

The history of crime and punishment dates back to Roman and Greek times, as well as the Middle Ages when punishments included stoning, burning, quartering, whipping, drowning, and other violent acts ("LegalHistory: Crime and punishment research guide," 2022). Those in charge of law and order at the time believed that if people were afraid of what would happen to them if they broke the law, they would learn how to behave appropriately; thus,

even the "smallest" offenses were punishable severely ("Medieval world: Crime and punishment - including witchcraft," 2022). Physical imprisonment was later used as a form of punishment. According to prison history (n.d.), the first records of prisons date back to the first millennium BC, in the mighty ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia and Egypt. Later on, the first seeds of the modern prison system were introduced in medieval England (n.d).

Nonetheless, according to several authors (Stevens, 2000; Everill, 2019; Dikötter & Brown, 2018), imprisonment has never been used as a penalty in African indigenous law. As stated by Jeremy ( 2 0 0 8 ) , penitentiary incarceration was unknown to SubSaharan societies prior to European conquest, when colonial regimes built massive prisons to deter political opposition and enforce African labor. Before the introduction of prisons, most African countries left offenders in the care of their families or extended families once the appropriate penalty had been imposed (Adeyemi, 1991).

There is a scarcity of literature describing the history and development

of Ethiopian correctional institutions (Ethiopian Human Right Commission, 2012). However, like other African countries, its modern prison history is influenced by the Italian invasion (Haile, 2012). Another scholar (Muluken, 2007) uses 1907 as a benchmark, indicating that the year serves as a convenient juncture to discuss the diverse pre-modern legal systems of Ethiopian peoples and the degree of change and continuity brought about by modernization and unification of the legal system. Prior to that, however, there were various indigenous institutions of crime investigation throughout the country, such as (Levashai and Afersata) and the unique tradition of tying litigants in a chain (quragna); these customary laws even worked alongside the Fetha Negast until the first Penal Code was espoused in 1930 and the Civil Code was promulgated in 1960 (Aneme, 2015; Muluken, 2007). Whether modern or traditional, throughout Ethiopian history, the focus of prison centers or criminal punishments has only been on the retrospective role of correctional centers; rehabilitative aims are essentially a recent phenomenon dating back to the first decades of the twentieth century before the Italian invasion, as cited by Haile (2012).

Punishing a criminal has a variety of goals; some are done to correct, some to teach others and still, others are done to avenge the criminal. The following justifications are commonly used to justify the punishment of wrongdoing: retribution, deterrence, rehabilitation, and incapacitation (Marson, 2015). The concept of rehabilitation includes a deterrent effect, in which the offender is thought to be less likely to commit crimes in the future. Rehabilitation models frequently include programs that are specifically tailored to an offender's issues (Marson, 2015).

Crime, like punishment, has existed since humans began to live sedentary lives (Bennett& Christopher, 2008). Criminal acts are multifaceted; some criminals commit a crime only once, while others commit it repeatedly. This act of repeating a crime over and over again is called recidivism. Recidivism, in a broader term, refers to a relapse of criminal behavior, which includes re-arrest, reconviction, and re-imprisonment (Andersen &Skardhamar, 2014). Recidivist is a person with a long criminal experience who commits crimes frequently after punishment (Islam & Goswami, 2019).

Punishment in the twenty-first century has

seen a paradigm shift worldwide, incorporating rehabilitation to prevent re-offense. It is also one of the guiding principles for the treatment of prisoners in Ethiopia. According to the Proclamation, no 365-2003 federal prisons commission establishments, inmates should be treated in a way that facilitates their post-release respect for the law and rehabilitation toward self-supporting reintegration into society (federal prisons establishment, 2003).

This study evaluated the rehabilitation practices of the Center for Children in Contact with Crime and Kaliti Correctional Center and their implications for recidivism prevention.

## **Problem Statement**

According to Travis and Waul (2003), there are 10 million people in prison around the world, the majority of whom are from low- and middle-income countries; 450,000 are recidivists. Recidivism rates vary greatly around the world and many countries lack data. However, recidivism rates in the criminal justice system are reported to be as high as 50% worldwide and have not decreased in recent years (Yukhnenko et al., 2019).

There is no documented evidence of how many criminals re-offend in Ethiopia; however, the total prison population in March 2020, including pre-trial detainees/remand prisoners, is 110 000, according to the World Prison Brief (2021). According to data from 2015, there were approximately 126 correctional institutions (6 federal and 120 regional prisons) (U.S. State Department human rights report, 2017).

Several studies on the causes of recidivism have been conducted (Campbell et al., 2007; Dowden & Andrews, 1999; Murray & Farrington, 2010; Dawkins, 1997; Siegel, 2008). One of the primary causes of re-offenses is the structural factor. According to the proponent, recidivism can be caused by a person's circumstances prior to incarceration, their social environment and community, events during their incarceration and reintegration after they are released from prison, difficulty finding jobs to support themselves, and reconnecting with family members. According to (Campbell et al. 2007; Dowden & Andrews, 1999; Out, 2015),releasing economically, psychologically, physically, and socially demoralized inmates without appropriate programs to assist them in becoming self-

sufficient or securing meaningful employment in government institutions or the private sector poses a significant risk.

Gendreau et al. (1996), on the other hand, attributed recidivism to demographic or criminal history factors such as gender, age when first convicted of an offense, having a parent with a criminal record, current age, and types of crimes committed. Simultaneously, Murray and Farrington (2010) discovered that spending a significant amount of time with family or friends who engage in criminal behavior is a more powerful risk factor for offending and re-offending. In addition to demographic and environmental factors, (Dawkins, 1997; Siegel, 2008) discovered a link between drug abuse and recidivism.

Whatever the cause of recidivism, punishment in the twenty-first century has undergone a paradigm shift globally, incorporating rehabilitation to prevent re-offending. It is also one of Ethiopia's guiding principles for the treatment of prisoners. Sentenced prisoners should be treated in a way that facilitates their post-release respect for the law and rehabilitation toward self-supporting reintegration into society, according to the declaration, no 365-2003 federal prisons commission establishments (federal prisons establishment, 2003). However, (Amnesty International, 2015; The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2017) argued that what is written contradicts what is happening on the ground.

According to researchers (Weisburd Farrington & Gill, 2017; Alexander, 2003), if correctional institutions do not prioritize rehabilitation, inmates are very likely to relapse into crime and delinquency. Because, as Wolfgang et al (1972) demonstrate, the majority of crimes are committed by a relatively small number of repeat offenders. As a result, if societies could rehabilitate inmates, rates of recidivism, victimization, and incarceration would fall, resulting in enormous societal benefits (Mastrobuoni & Terlizzese, 2014).

According to Out (2015), the prison system is expected to house offenders until they are released and to contribute significantly to transforming them into law-abiding citizens, facilitating their easy reintegration and preventing relapse. According to Bonta and Andrews (2010), to achieve a positive result in reducing recidivism, a promising intervention plan and intensive rehabilitative

programs that take into account potential recidivists' needs, strengths, and challenges are required. In developing countries such as Ethiopia, however, intensive rehabilitation is prohibitively expensive. The Ethiopian government spends millions of birr on incarceration, according to Eden's study on women prisoners in Ethiopia, which was published in the Reporter magazine in 2020. However, it should also invest a few million dollars in prison rehabilitation in order to reduce recidivism.

Prior research on Ethiopian prisons and prisoners has focused on the treatment of political prisoners, human rights violations of detainees, and the causes of recidivism. This study, on the other hand, seeks to fill a knowledge gap by assessing rehabilitative practices in prison centers and their implications for recidivism prevention in Kality correctional facilities and the Center for Children in Contact with Crime.

The study sought to answer the following research questions: 1. What types of rehabilitation programs are available to inmates at the two facilities? 2. How do prisoners in the two centers perceive the rehabilitation program at the centers? 3. How do officials perceive the impact of rehabilitation programs on the recidivism rate? 4. Is there any similarity or dissimilarity in terms of prisoner rehabilitation between the two prison centers?

## Research Methodology

### Research Design

The study employed a concurrent mixed data collection method. Data for the qualitative study were gathered from 8 purposefully chosen prison administrators and social workers/psychologists, whereas data for the quantitative study were gathered solely from prisoners. The study was conducted in two Addis Ababa prisons: the Kality correctional center and the Center for Children in Contact with Crime. Quota and purposive sampling techniques were used to select participants for quantitative and qualitative studies.

### Study Area

The research was carried out at the Kality correctional facility as well as the Center for Children in Contact with Crime. Kality Prison Center is a federal prison in Ethiopia. It is located in Addis Ababa's Akaky Kaliti sub-city, 11 kilometers south of the city center. At the same time, the Center for

Children in Contact with Crime is located behind St. Lideta church in Addis Ababa's Lideta sub-city. It is Ethiopia's only prison dedicated to the rehabilitation of young offenders aged 9 to 15.

### Qualitative Sampling Technique

The qualitative research participants were chosen using purposive sampling. Purposive sampling is a technique widely used in qualitative research to identify and select information-rich cases in order to make the best use of limited resources by identifying and selecting individuals who are exceptionally knowledgeable about or experienced with an interesting phenomenon (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2011). This section of the research was used to address research questions 1, 3, and 4.

### Quantitative Sampling Technique

#### Sample Size

The sample size in each of the selected prison centers was determined using the single population proportion formula.

$$n = \frac{z^2 * p * (1-p)}{c^2}$$

The sample size is determined by estimating the sample size:  $n$  = sample size,  $Z$  =  $Z$  value  $p$  = prevalence; since prior information is not known regarding the issue, we take 0.5, thus for this study, a conventional estimate of 0.5 will be used to get the maximum sample size and  $c$  = confidence interval, expressed as a decimal (0.05).

$$n = \frac{(2.064)^2 * 0.5 * (1-0.5)}{(0.05)^2} n = 422$$

A simple random sampling was planned at first, but obtaining a list of the prisoners proved impossible. As a result, the researcher used quota sampling methods. Based on age/disability and the type of crime committed, the Kality prison center is divided into five zones. To begin, the sample size determined by the above formula was divided into two women and two men prisoners. The total was then divided by the number of zones, which was five, and 29 people were chosen from each zone. On the other hand, there were only 70 inmates in the juvenile offenders' remand home; thus, a census was conducted in this center.

### Method Of Data Collection

The study employed a mixed concurrent data collection method. This approach, according to Koskey and Stewart (2013), uses the

qualitative and quantitative approaches concurrently and simultaneously; he believes that this approach is useful for shortening implementation time.

### Data Collection Instrument

Data was collected using three different tools. The qualitative study employed two distinct interview checklists (for social workers/psychologists and police officers). As the second instrument, the researcher developed a self-administered questionnaire. This instrument contains questions about prisoners' perceptions of the prison center's rehabilitation practices.

### Method Of Data Analysis

Thematic analysis was used in qualitative research to analyze, classify, and present data-related themes (Boyatzis, 1999). A fundamental descriptive statistical analysis was performed for the quantitative study to investigate the extent to which the studied prisoners believe the rehabilitative programs will help them become law-abiding citizens after their release. The findings were presented in the form of charts, graphs, and tables.

### Ethical Considerations

Given the sensitivity of the research concept to participants, extra attention to ethical issues was planned; however, getting prisoners in person was impossible; thus, the person in charge of disseminating the questionnaires was told to tell them the purpose of the study and that participation is based on their free will and that whatever they shared will only be used for the research purpose.

### Results and Discussion

The goal of this research was to assess the rehabilitation practices of the Center for Children in Contact with crime and the Kality Correction Centers. It also sought to ascertain whether it is used as a re-offense prevention strategy. Following data screening, 62 questionnaires were rejected ten from the Center for Children in Contact with Crime and 52 from the Kality correction center; because over half of the responses were incomplete and some inmates refused to take part. As a result, the quantitative results presented below are based on responses from 300 and 60 inmates, respectively, from the Kality and Center for Children in Contact with Crime.

### Quantitative Findings

**Background Characteristics of Inmates in Kality Correctional Center**

The detainees in this study ranged from 17 to 57 years, with an average age of 31.7. Regarding their gender, 80(27%) are female, and 220(73%) are male. Regarding their marital status, respondents were predominantly single or never married (51%). Five percent (15%) of those surveyed said they were divorced, and very few (2%) were widowed. Regarding the educational level of the respondents, 97 (32%) out of a total of 300 respondents had completed primary and secondary education. On the other hand, 30 participants (10%) of the study population had some college degree or diploma. However, no prisoner is illiterate.

Table 1: Background Characteristics of Inmates in Kality Correctional Center

Background characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
	300 total	100.0
<b>Sex</b>		
Female	80	27
Male	220	73
<b>Age</b>		
16-35	207	69
36 and above	93	31
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Married	97	32
Unmarried	152	51
Divorced	44	15
Widowed	7	2
<b>Educational background</b>		
High school completed	173	58
University/college degree and above	30	10
No formal schooling	-	-
Dropout	97	32

**Background Characteristics of Inmates in Center for Children in Contact with Crime**

The numerical data gathered from the center for children in contact with crime (retention center for juvenile delinquents) confirmed, on the other hand, that the age range of the teenagers in the center is 9-15. In terms of education, 17 (28.33%) of the total 60 participants reported being in school prior to their arrest. Approximately 3% of the population says they are still in school. In contrast, 16 (26.7%) of the total 60 respondents reported having no formal education (illiterate). In terms of gender, two of the 60 youth offenders included in the study were female, while the remaining 58 were male inmates. They were also asked to reflect on who they had been living with prior to their incarceration; accordingly, 22 (36.67%) of the total 60 respondents stated that they had been living with their parents; the other 9 (15%), 17 (28.33%), and 12 (20%) respondents stated that they had been

living with their relatives, friends, and by themselves.

Table2: Background Characteristics of Inmates in Center for Children in Contact with Crime

Background characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
Total population	60	100.0
<b>Sex</b>		
Female	2	3.33
Male	58	96.67
<b>Age</b>		
9-15	60	100
<b>Educational background</b>		
High school completed	93	25.69
University/college degree and above		
Illiterate	67	18.51
Dropout	202	55.80
<b>Parental status</b>		
Both alive	6	10
Only one is alive	15	25
None of them are alive	39	65
<b>With who had you been living Before your imprisonment</b>		
Alone	12	20
Family/parents	22	36.67
Friends	17	28.33
Relatives	9	15

**Center**

Participants in Kality correctional center were asked about the incidence of their imprisonment. As shown in the table below (table 4), 184 inmate respondents, or 61.3%, said that this is their first sentence. Out of 300 participants, 79 (26.3%) claimed to have been imprisoned two to five years ago, while 24 claimed to have been imprisoned five years ago. The remaining 13, or 4.3%, were imprisoned a year ago.

**Incidences Of Imprisonment in Center for Children in Contact with Crime**

In contrast, data obtained from the Center for Children in Contact with Crime shows that youth inmates were imprisoned a month ago, a year ago, and 2-5 years ago, respectively, 5(8.33%), 23 (38.33%), and 5(8.33%). However, 27 of the total 60 youth inmates claimed that this was their first time

Table 3 Incidences of Imprisonment in Kality Prison Center

When was the first time you were imprisoned other than this?	Freq.	Percentage
1. months ago	-	--
2. a year ago	13	4.3
3. 2-5 years	79	26.3
4. 5 years and above ago	24	8
5. This is my first time	184	61.3

The Kality Correction Center serves as a

correctional facility for all types of sentenced offenders; of the 300 inmates studied, 157 (43.37%) were convicted of crimes against the person. Whereas 103 inmate participants (34.3% of the total 300) were found guilty of

**Children in Contact with Crime**

Similar to the Kality prison center, inmates in the Center for Children in Contact with crime guilty of a crime against the property; the rest 5(8.33%) were convicted of a drug offense

Table 4: Incidences of Imprisonment in Center for Children in Contact with Crime

When was the first time you were imprisoned other than this?	Freq.	Percentage
1. A month ago,	5	8.33
2. A year ago	23	38.33
2. 2-5 years ago,	5	8.33
3. This is my first time	27	45.00

a crime against property, a drug offense is also one of the crimes 41 participants (13.6%) were found guilty of. having different charges; as shown in the table below (table:5), 18 inmates (30%) were convicted of a crime against a person. In addition, 37 (61.67%) individual inmates were guilty of a crime against the property; a drug offense is also one of the crimes 41 participants (13.6%) were found guilty of.

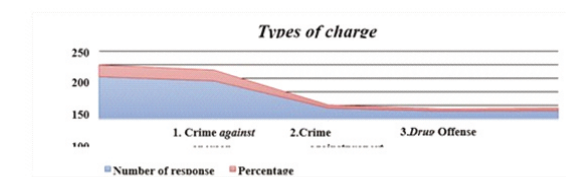


Figure 1 Types of charge

having different charges; as shown in the table below (table:5), 18 inmates (30%) were convicted of a crime against a person. In addition, 37 (61.67%) individual inmates

**Incidences of Imprisonment in Kality Prison Center**

Participants in Kality correctional center were asked about the incidence of their imprisonment. As shown in the table below (table 4), 184 inmate respondents, or 61.3%, said that this is their first sentence. Out of 300 participants, 79 (26.3%) claimed to have been imprisoned two to five years ago, while 24 claimed to have been imprisoned five years ago. The remaining 13, or 4.3%, were imprisoned a year ago.

**Incidences Of Imprisonment in Center for**

**The similarity of Recurring Charges in Kality Prison Center**

Respondents were asked if their recurring convictions were similar, and while 52 (17.3%) of the 116 recidivists said they had been imprisoned for similar charges, 64(21.3%) inmate respondents argued their recording convictions were not similar. The remaining 184 (61.3%) participants were convicted for the first time.

Table 5: Types of Charge in Center for Children in Contact with Crime

What was your charge?	Freq.	Percentage
Crime against the person	18	30
Crime against property	37	61.67
Drug offence	5	8.33

**Similarity Of Recurring Charges in Center for Children in Contact with Crime**

Youth inmates in the Center for Children in Contact with a crime had recurring charges that differed or were similar to those in Kality prison centers. While 27% of those polled said it was their first time in prison. However, 23 participants report that their recurring charges are similar. On the contrary, 10% of those polled said they had pleaded guilty to a new offense.

**Prisoners' Perspectives on Rehabilitation Practices in Quality**

Nine items were developed to capture prison inmates' perceptions of the impact of the rehabilitation experience on their personality

and future journey. The first question is whether the inmates' rehabilitation programs were satisfactory. In this category, 64 (21.33%) of the 281 inmates said the rehabilitation program was tailored to their specific needs. However, 217 (72.33%) of participants reported that the rehabilitation program they received was not tailored to their specific needs. When asked whether they were being punished or rehabilitated in item number two, 143 (47.67%) agreed and 140 (40%) disagreed.

On the other hand, 140 (47.67%) participants said they disagreed, while 17 did not respond. For this item, 158 (52.67%) of the 277 participants agreed; on the other hand, 119 (42.96%) participants disagreed, and 23

Table 6: Similarity of Recurring Charges

Were your recurring Charges similar?	Freq.	Percentage
Yes	52	17.3
No	64	21.3
I was arrested once	184	61.3

participants did not respond. The fourth statement is about getting used to prison centers after being imprisoned and released

disagreed, no participant agreed, and 184 participants did not respond to this item ( it was their first time).

Item number 5 deals with whether participants agree to learn a new crime technique in prison. For this item, no participant agreed, but 100(33.3%) participants disagreed, and 200 did not answer.

Item 6 is "Before I am released, the prison center has trained me to live a life free of crime," and 50 (15.6%) of 300 participants agreed. In comparison, 66 (22%) of the total study population disagreed. Because it was their first incarceration, 184 participants have yet to respond. Item 7 is about the reintegration system in correctional facilities; while no participant agreed, 116 (38.6%) of the 116 inmate participants disagreed. In response to statement number 8, which states that the way I am Item 6 is "Before I am released, the prison center has trained me to live a life free of crime," and 50 (15.6%) of 300 participants agreed. In comparison, 66 (22%) of the study's total population agreed. 184 participants have yet to respond because it was their first incarceration. Item 7 is about the correctional facility reintegration system; while no

inmate participants disagreed. In response to statement number 8, which states that the treatment I receive in prison will make me a law-abiding citizen in the future, 198 inmate participants (66.3%) agreed that the prison center has taught them to be law-abiding citizens, while 82 (27.07%) disagreed. 198 inmate participants (66.3%) agreed that the prison center has taught them to be law-abiding citizens in the future, while 82 (27.07%) disagreed from the total 116 participants. Finally, statement number 9 is about a question that deals with whether the way prisoners are handled in prison during their first sentence has nothing to do with their consecutive imprisonments for this statement. At the same time, 30 (10%) individuals agreed, and 86 (28.6%) participants said they disagreed with the statement.

**Prisoners' Perspectives on Rehabilitations Practices in Center for Children in Contact with Crime Correction Center**

To capture prison inmates' perceptions of the impact of rehabilitation programs on their behavior and future journey, nine items were developed. The first question is whether the rehabilitation programs for inmates were what they desired. While 46 participants, or 76.67% of the total 60 youth inmate participants, said the rehabilitation programs they received were what they wanted, 14

punishment rather than rehabilitation," 52 participants disagreed.

At the same time, eight people chose not to respond. To Statement 3, which states, "During my incarceration, I am learning new skills/education, training counseling, and substance use disorder treatment," all of the study participants (60) agreed. For this item, the fourth statement is about getting used to prison centers after being imprisoned and released for the first time; 20 people agreed, and 13 (21.6%) disagreed. This question does not apply to the missing 27 participants because it was their first incarceration.

Item 5 asks whether participants agree to learn new criminal techniques while incarcerated. No participant agreed on this item, but 35 (55%) disagreed. Item 6 is "Before I get released, the prison center has trained me to live a life free from crime." Of the total 33 recidivists, 20 (33.3%) agreed and 13 (21.3%) disagreed. Item number 7, which deals with the reintegration system of correctional facilities, had 27 (47%) of the study's participants agree that the center helped them reintegrate with their families, while 6(10) disagreed.

All participants (100%) agreed that the prison center has taught them to be law-abiding citizens in response to statement

Table 7 Kality Prisoners' Views of Correction Measures and Rehabilitations Practices

Institutional factor	Responses		Percentage		Total	Missing
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree		
	Freq.	Freq.				
I feel like: The rehabilitation programs I got was based on my felt need	64	217	21.33	72.33	281	19
I spent my sentence in punishment, am not rehabilitated	143	140	47.67	46.67	283	17
During my stay in prison, I have learnt new skills/education, training counseling, substance use disorder treatment	158	119	52.67	39.67	277	23
After my first imprisonment, I felt as though I got used to prison center	0	116	0	38.6	116	184
My frequent imprisonment Has made me a better criminal	0	100	0	33.3	116	16
Before I get released the prison center has trained me to live a life free from crime (prior imprisonment)	50	66	16.6	22	116	184
After serving my punishment, the prison center has helped me reintegrate with my family.	0	116	0.00	38.6	116	184
The way I am handled in prison will make me a law-abiding citizen in the future	198	82	66.3	27.07	286	14
The way I was handled in prison during my first sentence has nothing to do with the consecutive imprisonments	30	86	10	28.6	116	184

for the first time, 116 (38.67%) participants participant agreed, 116 (38.67%) of the 116

Table 8. Prisoners' Views of Correction Measures and Rehabilitations Practices in Center for Children in Contact with Crime Correction Center

Institutional factor	Responses		Percentage		Total	Missing
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree		
	Freq.	Freq.				
I feel like: The sentence fits what I was charged for	46	14	76.67	23.33	60	0
I spent my sentence in punishment. Am not rehabilitated	0	52	0	86.67	52	8
During my stay in prison, I have no objection to how prisoners were handled	60	0	100	0	60	0
After my first imprisonment, I felt as though I got used to prison center	20	13	33.33	21.6	33	27
My frequent imprisonment Has made me a better criminal	0	35	0	55	33	27
Before I get released the prison center has trained Me to live a life free from crime	20	13	30.3	21.3	33	27
After serving my punishment, the prison center has Helped me reintegrate with my family.	27	6	47	10	33	27
The way I am handled in prison has taught me to be a law-abiding citizen	60	0	100	0	60	0
The way I was handled in prison during my first sentence has nothing to do with the consecutive imprisonments	12	21	20	35	33	27

participants said the rehabilitation programs they received were not based on their needs. While no one agrees with item number two, "I feel like I spent my sentence in

number 8, which states that how I am treated in prison has taught me to be a law-abiding citizen in the future. Finally, statement 9 asks

whether the way prisoners are treated in prison during their first sentence has nothing to do with their subsequent imprisonments; 12 (20%) participants agreed while the remaining 21 (35% of the total 33 individual recidivists) disagreed.

### Qualitative Results and Discussion

According to Creswell (2007), qualitative research encompasses a broad range of approaches and methods for investigating social issues. Furthermore, Schostak (2010) discussed how, unlike quantitative analysis,

*that Unless we take fingerprints from the prisoner, which is rarely done, it is difficult to discriminate against recidivists who hide and give a new name every time they get imprisoned."*

Unfortunately, the prison center lacks well-documented data on recidivists; however, there are certain crime types prison officials think could be done by the same individual repeatedly these are drug crime and robbery.

In the Center for Children in contact with crime, it is robbery and rap. This center



Fig 3 Summary of Themes and Sub-Themes

which is based on quantification and statistical procedures, qualitative research is based on experience, requiring the investigator to seek an insider perspective rather than a detached stance.

The qualitative portion of the study was carried out to gather detailed information about what prisons are doing to prevent recidivism. Furthermore, the study included in-depth interviews with corrections and rehabilitation officers. The following themes and sub-themes were derived from the interview guide and sub-themes were derived inductively from the interview with officers.

### Recidivism

#### Who Are They?

In the Kality correctional facility, the exact number of recidivists is unknown; the interview held with one of the officials in charge of prisoners' information explained

receives convicted criminals aged 9 to 15 from all over Ethiopia; before they come here, the center attempts to confirm their ages in the black line hospital. There were 70 inmates at the time this data was collected, with two female prisoners. Before their convictions, the majority of inmates in the juvenile correctional facility were homeless. As the social worker explained, "Most of the kids are guilty of rape and robbery. However, there are also other capital crimes like homicide. Regarding the length of their sentence, most of them are sentenced for months, and few years others are sentenced up to 17 years."

#### What Kind of Crime?

According to the Kality prison center interview, the most common crimes committed by a recidivist are drug offenses and robbery. On the other hand, surprisingly, it is rape and robbery in juvenile correction center

#### Trends of Crime

### New Crimes

Recidivism is affected by prison in either a positive or negative way. According to the literature, some prisons provide a better criminal outlet for prisoners. A Kality prison center official stated that *"Inmates form friendships while in prison, and some of these friendships continue after release. During their imprisonment they discuss new crime techniques that they believe are simple, which offenses are less punishable, or what to say to the police officer and/or to the court in order not to be punished seriously; their frequent incarceration has made some inmates well aware of the law"*

The first way a prison center could be a reason for prisoners' engagement in a crime, again and again, is their exposure to experienced criminals. This directly creates a room for experience sharing. A social worker in the Kality prison center explained that *"Even though we tried to place inmates based on the length of their sentence, we cannot curb those problems because the zones prisoners are placed in are not based on the kind of crime they have committed. So, for example, a prisoner imprisoned for the first time could also share a cell with a prisoner arrested for the fifth time."*

The situation is even worse at the Center for Children in Contact with Crime, where all prisoners, regardless of the crime for which they have been found guilty and sentenced, share a large room. *"Since the resource is very scarce and the number of youth delinquents is increasing from time to time, we are forced to keep many offenders in a single room. Unfortunately, this also creates another problem; many are experiencing another offense. They are being taught another technique of crime and homosexuality."*

### Intentional Imprisonment

Intentional imprisonment is another issue frequently mentioned by interviewed prison officials, particularly in interviews with a social worker at the Center for Children in Contact with Crime. There are additional shreds of evidence for prisoners intentionally imprisoned during the summer, according to a social worker at the Center for Children in Contact with Crime. *The number of crimes increases in the summer, as does the number*

*of convicts; this year, we received 30 prisoners who had previously been imprisoned in this center and were released, believing they had been corrected.*

On the contrary, another interviewee at the exact center claimed that the increase in the number of prisoners during the summer is due to another factor. *"Because schools are closed during the summer, young children can have the opportunity to make new friends, strengthen old friendships, and try new things. Nonetheless, young children may not realize where this is going, but they eventually end up in prison. Similarly, rapes are more common during the summer and this is due to schools being closed and young children spending more time at home."*

However, the issue of intentional imprisonment, nevertheless, was not raised during the interview with prison officials at the Kality prison center.

### Rehabilitation or Punishment

#### Rehabilitation

Rehabilitating prisoners is one of the Kality prison center's primary missions. As a result, the rehabilitation and corrections office has developed a variety of rehabilitation programs for prisoners, including formal and non-formal education, vocational training, recreational activities, and counseling.

According to an interview with a psychologist at the Kality prison center, rehabilitation is the least worked area. I can't say they've all learned their lessons, but we did our best to include everyone in the rehabilitation programs. Nonetheless, only a few are responding correctly to what has been told. Instead, some commit other crimes, such as squabbling with cellmates over forbidden items such as mobile phones and drugs.

#### Reintegration

Reintegration in the Kality prison center is the list worked area. The center lacks the resources to reintegrate prisoners into their families or communities. According to an interview conducted in the rehabilitation and correction office, prisoners' links with the center will automatically terminate once they are released from the prison center.

The other one is its poor reintegration system. According to an interviewee in the Kality prison center, *"Prisoners do not get a follow-up until they return to the prison center for another sentence."*

However, reintegrating prisoners with their families or an orphanage is an integral part of the rehabilitation program at the Center for Children in Contact with Crime. Prisoners will be reunited with their families after serving their sentences. Those with families will be taken to their homes, where they will receive the necessary counseling.

"Since the prisoners come from all over Ethiopia, we will take them to where they come from. Those who have no family or are homeless will be given the opportunity to attend an orphanage called (Dombosko) based on their willingness. Surprisingly, many youth inmates would rather return to the streets than live in an orphanage.

### Rehabilitation and Correction

**Counseling and Vocational Training**  
Counseling and vocational training are provided to inmates at the Kality prison center. While all inmates, including newcomers, are ineligible to participate in the life skill training and counseling service prepared by the office for rehabilitation and vocational training, there are a few requirements, such as inmates' stay in the prison center, their improvement, and their ability to pay the initial money to be included in the union. The official explanation is as follows: *"Inmates' behavioral improvements while in the prison center plays a critical role in their ability to lead a quality life outside of prison and receive various incentives. Furthermore, our team evaluates their progress. If the inmate's condition indicates that he or she has not completed his or her lessons, we will not write them a letter of support to assist them in joining unions."*

Another official demonstrates the impact of not being able to participate in vocational training on the likelihood of inmates committing a crime again as follows: *"The vocational training and unions would benefit those prisoners who have been imprisoned for crimes against the property because, indirectly or directly, this type of crime is committed due to an inability to meet basic needs in a socially acceptable manner. As a result, if they are given the opportunity to learn how to make money in a socially acceptable manner, they will not commit this type of crime again."*

### Sport and Recreation

Inmates at the Kality prison center can exercise and participate in recreational

activities. Those who are willing to do chores will be assigned different tasks, but working is not a requirement. There are rehabilitation programs such as group therapy, and one-on-one counseling, and the school the Center for Children in Contact with Crime, similar to the Kality prison center. According to the social worker at the Center for Children in Contact with Crime

"The delinquents are safe; the environment is appropriate for their age. There is no military personnel, their crime is kept private, they can attend school, and they have a television in their group bedroom. Furthermore, no one in the correctional facility blames the children; everyone believes these people can change."

### Discussion

#### What Rehabilitation Mechanisms Are Being Offered to Prisoners in The Two Centers?

As stated in the research results, the two prison institutions have comparable methods of rehabilitating offenders; this was also supported in the quantitative and qualitative investigations. Many rehabilitation programs are available to convicts to encourage meaningful participation while incarcerated and in order to encourage meaningful participation while incarcerated and to avoid future recidivism, but as prison authorities have stated, these programs are not tailored to their specific needs.

Some of the two institutes' rehabilitation programs include vocational training, formal and non-formal education, group and individual counseling/therapy, and leisure activities. Although all the programs stated are important for prisoner involvement, research on prisoner rehabilitation (Arbour, Lacroix, & Marchand, 2021; Tang, 2010; Tett, 2012) suggest that the programs should be focused on the inmates' felt needs rather than their maintained requirements. In this survey, 64 (21.33%) of the 281 convicts thought the rehabilitation program they got was tailored to their specific requirements. On the other hand, 217 (72.33%) participants stated that the rehabilitation program they got did not meet their needs. According to data from the Youth Offender Prison, 46 (76.67%) of the 60 adolescent detainees had found the rehabilitation programs they desired. 14 participants, on the other hand, stated that the rehabilitation program they discovered was not tailored to their specific requirements. When the two correctional

facilities are compared, the Center for Children in Contact with Crime performs better in terms of allocating rehabilitation programs depending on the requirements of the offenders. Prior study findings (Arbour, Lacroix, & Marchand, 2021; Balafoutas et al., 2020; Heseltine, Sarre, & Day, 2011) indicate that well-planned prisoner rehabilitation can dramatically reduce recidivism.

### Prisoners' Reintegration

Prisoner reintegration is the help offered to convicts when released from imprisonment; it is seen as critical for reducing recidivism (Chin & Dandurand; National Economic and Social Forum, 2002). Most offenders encounter severe social adaptation challenges, such as family and community shame and ostracism, which has a detrimental influence on their capacity to obtain work or housing, return to formal schooling, or develop (or restore) individual and social capital.

Many studies (Moran, 2012; Seiter & Kadela, 2003; Visher, 2006) indicate that reintegration services lower recidivism. According to the findings of this study, the reintegration of inmates can reduce recidivism. Similarly, this study identified that in the Kality detention facility, the reintegration of convicts is the least worked area. As the interviewee in the Kality detention facility said, once the prisoner is released, his/her link would be automatically disconnected. This was also revealed in the quantitative findings, which showed that no participant in this center felt that the center assisted them in reintegrating with their families.

Nonetheless, the reintegration of convicts in the Center for Children in Contact with Crime is quite strong; no inmate will be freed unless reintegration with family members is completed. Yet, because some criminals want to return to the streets, it is difficult to follow up. 27 (47%) of the 33 offenders in the Center for Children in Contact with Crime who had been imprisoned more than once felt that the center had helped them reintegrate with their families, while 6 (10) disagreed. Akway (2019) conducted a study in Ethiopia Gambela region Anywaa Zone Prison Center to highlight the importance of reintegration in overcoming problems associated with the effects of prison on prisoners. According to the study, the major problems that have psychosocial consequences of

crime on prisoners are drugs, anxiety, guilt, feeling shame, depression, and isolation from other people. The study suggests that in order to overcome the psychosocial consequences of crime on prisoners, more job opportunities should be created.

### Prison and Recidivism

Various studies (Drago, Galbiati, & Vertova, 2011; Baffour, 2021; Broadhurst & Mailer, 1990) found that prisons increase the likelihood of former offenders recommitting crimes. As previously noted, when a convict is released without adequate reintegration. Getting work and rebuilding a company and a family will be difficult; as a result, people will begin to try to satisfy their physiological needs in socially inappropriate ways (Visher, 2006). Similarly, how jails treat convicts have been connected to future crime prevention (Afari, Osei & Adu-Agyem, 2015).

According to Tsegaye (2022), institutional problems such as abuse by prison personnel, insufficient services, overcrowding, a lack of an inmate categorization system, inmates' subculture, and a lack of assistance after release are all causes of recidivism.

This finding is consistent with the qualitative results of this study, as evidenced by the interview with prison officials at Kality Prison Center *"Even though we attempted to place inmates based on the length of their sentence, we were unable to address those issues because the zones prisoners are assigned to are not based on the crime they committed. For example, a prisoner arrested for the first time may share a cell with a prisoner being detained for the fifth time."*

The situation is much worse at the Center for Children in Contact with Crime, where all convicts, regardless of the offense for which they have been found guilty and punished, share a big room. As the center's administrator explained, *"We must hold several offenders in a single room since resources are limited, and the number of juvenile delinquents is periodically growing. Sadly, this presents a new issue; many people are charged with another violation. They are learning another method of crime and homosexuality."*

### Causes of Recidivism

Even though investigating the causes of recidivism was not the primary goal of this study, it can be concluded from respondents' background information that prisoners lack psychosocial support from significant

others, given that the majority of respondents were homeless and unmarried (51%), dropout (55.80%), an orphan (65%) before their imprisonment, could contribute to criminal activity. Previous research in Ethiopia, such as (Lemma & Bitew, 2019; Tasisa & Palanimuthu, 2021) revealed that peer pressure, unemployment, immaturity, and low attachment/intimacy to their significant others are the main causes of juveniles engaging in different criminal activity. In a similar vein, a study conducted in Wollega, by Tasisa & Palanimuthu (2021) identified three categories of imprisonment causes as follows: 42.6%, 18.7%, and 23.7% of respondents reported psychological, social, and economic interconnectivity as reasons for criminal activity, respectively. Similar to this a study conducted in the Northern part of Ethiopia Axum by Tesfamichael, Zeleke & Kidane, (2020) it was found that 68.75% of the juvenile delinquents were from rural areas and had poor family backgrounds and low levels of education.

## Conclusion and Recommendations

### Conclusion

The number of recidivists in Ethiopia is unknown, although it has been confirmed that many recidivists are generally charged with a crime against property. Rehabilitation programs are in place at the studied prison centers. Unionization, one-on-one and group therapy, sports and recreation, and vocational training are all included. All of these are intended to rehabilitate non-recidivist convicts. However, juvenile research participants, who made up 14% of the study participants, are in danger; the majority of their incidents include rape and property crime, which is unthinkable at that age. The Center for Children in Contact with Crime is doing everything it can to rehabilitate these children; however, bringing them into the truck appears impossible because, in the eyes of the prison center, these children are still committing other crimes.

### Recommendations

The following suggestions are made in light of the study's findings.

Reintegrating convicts should be an intrinsic element of the rehabilitation program at detention centers. In the Kality prison center a system of information technology should be used to recognize recidivists and a well-organized documentation should be available. Bulk detention in the Center for

Children in Contact with Crime should be avoided since it has been found as a key cause of increased crime. When inmates are released, the prison center should establish contact with the local police station (can consider community policing). For minor infractions, adolescent convicts should face alternative punishments such as community service and home grounding. Regional states should have a jail facility so that the child does not have to deal with a new environment and homesickness, which can make the corrective process more difficult than intended

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