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PROBING GENDERED REHABILITATION CONDITIONS FOR MURDER OFFENDERS IN THOHOYANDOU CORRECTIONAL CENTRE IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA.

BY

EMMELY RENDANI MUTWANAMBA

9624044

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At the

UNIVERSITY OF VENDA

PROMOTER: Prof T.D THOBEJANE

CO-PROMOTER: Dr M.H MUKWEVHO

Dr K.E AMAECHI

2025

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DECLARATION

I declare that **Probing Gendered rehabilitation conditions for murder offenders in Thohoyandou Correctional Centre in Limpopo Province, South Africa,** for the Doctoral Degree in Gender Studies at the University of Venda is my work and that all the sources that I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged through complete references and that this work has not been submitted before for any other degree at any other institution.

EMMutwanamba

Emmely Rendani Mutwanamba — 22/03/2025

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DEDICATION

- This Thesis is dedicated to the loving memory of my late parents, Mr. Alpheus Rafungisani Ramulifho and Mrs. Selinah Khaukanani Ramulifho. They were my unwavering pillars of support, constantly encouraging me to pursue my academic ambitions. Their sacrifices, guidance, and belief in my potential have profoundly shaped my journey. I am forever grateful for their enduring love and the values they instilled in me, which fueled my determination to succeed in my studies.
- I would like to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to my loving husband, Mr. Avhavhudzani Honest Mutwanamba. His unwavering love and steadfast support have been my anchor throughout my academic journey. Through every late-night study session and moment of self-doubt, he has been by my side, encouraging me to persevere and reminding me of my capabilities. His belief in me has motivated me and provided the strength I needed to overcome challenges along the way. I deeply appreciate all the sacrifices he made to ensure I could focus on my studies and achieve my goals.
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- I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to my siblings for their unwavering support and inspiration throughout the thesis-writing journey. Your encouragement has been invaluable.

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- I sincerely appreciate the vital contributions of my participants, as their insights were key to the success of this dissertation.
- While the above persons have contributed in their diverse ways, the responsibility for the accuracy and content of this thesis was ultimately my own.

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ABSTRACT

In South Africa, there is a concerning rise in recidivism among murder offenders, despite the efforts by the Department of Correctional Services. The rehabilitation of offenders is believed to be an important topic worldwide. International experts on rehabilitation now support the use of a criminogenic needs approach to rehabilitation programs, meaning that each offender should be rehabilitated according to his/her criminogenic needs. It is important to highlight that, while the rehabilitation of offenders is a primary objective of the Department of Correctional Services in South Africa, several challenges hinder this effort. These include a lack of gender-specific programs for female offenders, who often find themselves subjected to rehabilitation programs designed for males; a shortage of qualified professionals; issues related to gangsterism; limited access to quality education; overcrowding; and a medium of instruction that hampers effective rehabilitation. This study adopts a qualitative exploratory design. Data was analyzed using thematic analysis. The study's findings indicate that rehabilitation programs have a positive effect on offenders and can significantly transform their lives, provided they are committed to change, as true transformation originates from within. Therefore, it became evident that for rehabilitation initiatives to be truly effective, the Department of Correctional Services must tackle the challenges mentioned above.

Keywords: *Rehabilitation, Offenders, Recidivism, Crime, Gender, Punishment, Gender, Correctional Officers, Treatment.*

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ACRONYMS

ABET	- Adult Basis Education Training.
AIDS	- Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
CJS	- Criminal Justice System
COUSA	- Correctional Officers Union of South Africa
CGE	- Commission on Gender Equality
CRNMS	- Community Risk / Needs Management Scale
DCS	– Department of Correctional Services
DRC	- Democratic Republic of Congo
FBOS	- Faith-based Organizations
HIV	- Human Immunodeficiency Virus
JICS	- Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional Services
LSR-OR	- Level of service Inventory – Ontario Revised
NGOs	- Non-Government Organizations
NICRO	- National Institute for Crime Prevention and Reintegration of Offenders
ORP	- Offender Rehabilitation Path
POPCRU	- Police and Prison Officers Civil Rights
SAPOHR	- The South African Prisoners Organisation for Human Rights
T C C	- Thohoyandou Correctional Centre
UN	- United Nations
UNIFEI	- The United Nations Asia and East Institute
US	- United States
ZPCS	- Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services

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Appendix A – Research Instrument

Appendix B – Consent Form

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CHAPTER 1

1.1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The study probed gendered rehabilitation conditions for murder offenders in Thohoyandou Correctional Centre in Limpopo province, South Africa.

The study's goal is to explore and describe how rehabilitation and unit management can be optimized to address the needs of offenders in South African Correctional facilities (Dupreez & Lombard, 2018). Based on this, the study attempts to maximize rehabilitation and unit management of the South African Department of Correctional Services, which needs to prioritize strengthening human resources, including professionals, providing resources, increasing vocational training opportunities for offenders, and improving infrastructure within correctional centers. Every offender, irrespective of his/her specific offenses, is subjected to the same rehabilitation program. For example, an offender who committed a theft is subjected to the same program as the one who committed a murder. This practice has no significant impact in terms of effective rehabilitation (George et al, 2022).

Qhogwana and Segalo (2022) assert that participation in male-centered rehabilitation processes and enforcement of domestication for incarcerated women highly contributes to women re-offending. A decentralized approach in which a unit manager, case manager, and counsellor, along with treatment personnel, maintain full responsibility for providing services that address the needs of inmates is needed within the Correctional Centres.

George et al (2022) reiterated that social justice-centred approaches that recognize the diversity (classification, gender dynamics, and socio-cultural background) of people inhabiting correctional centres would help reduce disparities in correctional rehabilitation that disadvantage women offenders.

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The above is supported by Miller (2021) who posits that “Gender-responsive programming begins with an assessment of each offender’s risks and needs and considers gender-specific variables particular to female prisoners, such as parent-child relationships, familial reunification, substance abuse, and mental and physical health needs.” For this reason, after being released, many offenders commit crimes again or re-offend, thus raising the rehabilitation question within the correctional center, whether it is effective.

Swinehrt (2022) argued that the best predictor of criminality is gender and that there is a “gender gap” in crime rates between male and female offenders as they experience different types of strains or stressors and react differently and that a potential reason man commits more crime than women is that men respond to stress with violence, while women respond to stress with destructive behaviours such as self-harm.

In the 2021/22 financial year, South Africa’s Department of Correctional Services (DCS) reported 3,724 female inmates, representing a portion of the total prison population of 143,223 (Department of Correctional Services, 2023). However, Prison populations are increasingly accommodating many recidivists or repeat offenders. Murhula and Singh (2020) seconded this and said that Overcrowding, which is a prevailing problem in South Africa’s correctional facilities, exposes inmates to hazardous and unhealthy living conditions, gang activities, and violence; and limits access to rehabilitation, health services, and development.

Offenders need empowerment through engagement in rehabilitation programs to lead sustainable livelihoods in post-prison life. Mabeba and Rolland (2019) argued that standard rehabilitation programs are needed to transform offenders to reintegrate into society properly.

The United States Congress commissioned a major report on the effectiveness of crime prevention and rehabilitation programs, the outcome revealed that rehabilitation is effective in reducing the criminal behaviour of at least some offenders (National Institute of Justice, 2006).

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In Europe, Redondo, Sanchez-Meca, and Garrido (2023) conducted a meta-analysis of 32 studies involving 5715 offenders in European countries. They reported a reduction in recidivism of 15 percent for those attending the programs. A comparable finding in Europe was reported by Tynan (2019), who argued that, on average, offenders who attend rehabilitation programs have a 10 percent lower re-arrest, reconviction, and re-incarceration rate. These studies, collectively, offer consistent evidence that offender rehabilitation programs can positively reduce recidivism.

(Murhula and Singh, 2019) assert that in Australia, offender rehabilitation programs are established, with each jurisdiction offering a range of offence-focused programs. Each jurisdiction, therefore, has a well-developed system of program delivery, initiative-taking program staff, and a general organizational acceptance of the importance of offender rehabilitation.

Canadian researchers, Howells and Day (2020) have presented evidence suggesting that appropriately designed services, should meet the needs and expectations of offenders. According to them, the need for different approaches for different offenders can produce an average reduction in recidivism compared with inappropriate services, which leads to increased recidivism.

(Murhula and Singh, 2019) identified three main factors as components of appropriate services that produce optimal rehabilitation outcomes: program characteristics, offender characteristics, and setting characteristics. An analysis of prisons in Africa found that ‘many are in a deficient condition and their practices are at odds with human standards. George et al (2022) also mentioned that a few African states have maintained and added prison capacity to meet the minimum requirements generally accepted today.

Steyns and Booysens (2020) argued that in South Africa, correctional services remain discriminatory as rehabilitation programs are designed for males, and there are no specific programs designed for female offenders.

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Nelani (2020) mentioned that the idea of women in corrections continues to be a taboo subject because of the persisting patriarchal idea of women as nurturers and carers. Important developments occurred in South Africa immediately after the 1994 elections, where a new set of laws that would regulate a non-racial South Africa in every government unit was developed. The Constitution of South Africa 108 of 1996 was then implemented and introduced a culture of human rights for everyone, including offenders. The first step taken by the National Cabinet was to remove the Correctional Services Section from the Department of Justice to become an independent department with its own Minister (South African National Department of Correctional Services, 2019).

The South African National Department of Correctional Services (2019) had to make changes in its legislation so that its operations were in line with the Constitution and, more specifically, to meet international standards. Thus, the Correctional Services Act 111 of 1998 was drafted. In its mission to do away with the past, the Department of Correctional Services redeveloped itself into a whole new system that pays attention to the rehabilitation of offenders. In addition, the establishment of labour organisations such as the Police and Prison Officers Civil Rights Union (POPCRU) and the Correctional Officers Union of South Africa (COUSA), protected the interests of correctional officials, as well as SAPOHR, which promotes offenders' rights, is playing a significant role in revolutionising the correctional system of South Africa (South African National Department of Correctional Services, 2019).

The White Paper on Corrections (Department of Correctional Services, 2005) provides that corrections and rehabilitation give the strategic direction of the Department of Correctional Services, and how the department attempts to achieve this purpose is of utmost importance.

According to The White Paper on Corrections (2005), in other countries, female offenders constitute only a small proportion of the incarcerated offender population in South Africa. Steyns and Booysens (2020) also stated that the small number has both disadvantages

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and advantages for female inmates. One advantage is that they do not face the same degree of overcrowding as male offenders.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

There exists a disparity in crime rates between male and female offenders, and justice is not equally applied to all, as there are no customized rehabilitation programs available for female offenders. These existing misclassifications of offenders within the Correctional Centres negatively affect inmates' well-being. The issue is exacerbated by the absence of gender-specific programs aimed at rehabilitating female offenders, who often find themselves in male-dominated rehabilitation frameworks that fail to address gender disparities. Additionally, several other factors contribute to recidivism, including overcrowding, inadequate staffing, insufficient infrastructure, lack of access to proper education, the prevalence of gangsterism, and the medium of instruction within correctional centers. Many programs are delivered in English, despite numerous offenders being illiterate. This makes the rehabilitation of offenders, as intended by the Department of Correctional Services (DCS), an incredibly challenging objective.

Inadequate healthcare, limited resources, and the continuation of violent behavior contribute to deficient rehabilitation conditions for offenders, often leading them to re-enter the correctional system and undergo the same programs repeatedly. Each offender, regardless of the nature of their specific offenses, is subjected to identical rehabilitation programs, indicating that their individual needs are not adequately addressed.

This study aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 11, which advocates for peaceful and inclusive societies that foster sustainable development, ensuring access to justice for all and the establishment of effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at every level. This goal resonates with the principle of justice for all offenders within current rehabilitation programs.

Considering the context, it is imperative to investigate the rehabilitation initiatives implemented at the Thohoyandou Correctional Centre, which serves a rural population of

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offenders. The objective of this inquiry is to assess these efforts to mitigate the likelihood of recidivism.

1.3 AIM OF THE STUDY

This study aims to probe gendered rehabilitation conditions for murder offenders in Thohoyandou Correctional Centre in Limpopo province, South Africa.

1.4 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The following objectives are formulated to achieve the aim of the study.

1.4.1 To ascertain the influence rehabilitation programs have on all murder offenders in Thohoyandou Correctional Centres.

1.4.2 To probe rehabilitation programs for male and female offenders prevailing in Thohoyandou Correctional Centres.

1.4.3 To assess the impact equal treatment has on all offenders during the rehabilitation process.

1.4.4 To develop gender-based measures that assist in the rehabilitation of male and female offenders at the Thohoyandou Correctional Center.

1.5 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1.5.1 What influences do rehabilitation programs have on rehabilitation conditions for murder offenders?

1.5.2 What are rehabilitation programs for male and female offenders prevailing in Thohoyandou Correctional Centre?

1.5.3 To what extent do male and female offenders receive equal treatment during the rehabilitation process?

1.5.4 What measures can be developed to assist in the rehabilitation model?

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1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

It is envisaged that this study will be used as a primer to understand the gendered treatment and rehabilitation conditions of male and female murder offenders within the Correctional Centre. It is also hoped that the government, policymakers, and law enforcement authorities may formulate relevant policies addressing some of the challenges plaguing offenders.

This study is important for society as it aims to create a crime-free environment. Offenders will undergo transformation through rehabilitation programs offered in the Correctional Centre, which will help prevent re-offending.

The uniqueness of this study is that it will examine gender-specific rehabilitation conditions for murder offenders and assist the Department of Correctional Services in developing strategies to ensure their effectiveness and reduce the alarming rate of recidivism.

The study addresses the deficiency of offence-specific programs that often lead to recidivism, resulting in offenders re-entering the correctional system to participate in the same programs. This situation underscores the significant misunderstanding among many criminal justice professionals about the true needs of male and female offenders regarding these programs.

To ensure the success of rehabilitation programs, decisive actions must be taken to enhance the correctional environment.

1.7 DEFINITION OF OPERATIONAL CONCEPTS

Gender refers to the social attributes and opportunities associated with being male and female and the relationships between men and women (Langa, 2017).

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In this study, gender will refer to the relationship between male and female offenders and how their treatment during rehabilitation varies.

Rehabilitation refers to efforts geared towards enabling an individual to effectively readapt to society and assume practices that are consistent with societal rules and regulations (Mabeba and Rolland, 2019). In the context of this study, rehabilitation may include gendered rehabilitation which includes providing equal treatment to male and female murder offenders and offering the same rehabilitation conditions.

Recidivism is the official criminal involvement of a person who after being convicted of an offense commits another crime (Zara and Farrington (2015).

An offender is a person who has been convicted of committing a crime (South African National Department of Correctional Services, 2019). For this study, an offender denotes a person who has committed one or more unlawful acts that have resulted in a criminal conviction and incarceration in prison.

Crime refers to an act or omission which constitutes an offence and is punishable by law. In this study, crime refers to any act or illegal conduct committed by a female or male person which is punishable by the law (George et al, 2022).

Punishment is a penalty inflicted as retribution for an offence. In this study, punishment refers to harsh treatment given to offenders who committed a crime (Neubert, 2019).

SUMMARY OF THE CHAPTER

This chapter presented an overview of the study. The following chapter gives an outline of the literature reviewed in the study.

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CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This study aims to probe gendered rehabilitation conditions for murder offenders in Thohoyandou Correctional Centre in Limpopo province, South Africa.

The purpose of this chapter was to review the existing literature about the research topic, and it provides a historical context of rehabilitation by providing philosophies that originally influenced incarceration, which provides an understanding of how correctional centers were originally designed to punish. A history of correctional centers is also provided with an emphasis on how punishment and rehabilitation were implemented during the pre-colonial and post-colonial eras in the African continent. The impact of incarceration on offenders, conditions, and treatment of male and female offenders in the Correctional Centre, the South African legislative system regulating offenders, and rehabilitation of offenders outside and in African Countries, challenges faced by the Department of Correctional Services, challenges faced by offenders taking part in rehabilitation programs as well as the role of spirituality and civil society in rehabilitation is also reviewed.

There is limited literature on rehabilitation conditions for male and female offenders who are still serving sentences in correctional centers. Researchers do not often discuss the learning experience of offenders in correctional centers (Mabeba & Rolland, 2019). Previous studies on recidivism and rehabilitation programs only focused on offenders who were released from prison after being paroled. After the promulgation of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa in 1996, transformation became a key issue in the Department of Correctional Services (DCS). During this period, prisons were transformed from being institutions of condemnation to places of new beginnings in which rehabilitation is at the centre of all activities.

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Sibisi and Shezi (2023) stated that every year, a huge number of incarcerated offenders leave South African prisons and return to their families and communities. While a few of them effectively reintegrate into their communities, numerous others will carry out new crimes and end up being incarcerated once more, which is called recidivism. This implies that rehabilitation initiatives occurring in South African correctional institutions are inadequate and are, as indicated by Murhula and Singh (2019), considered to be amongst the reasons for repeated offenses, and that the challenges in post-release can be frustrating; the offender may feel isolated and judged. Readjusting to life can be difficult, and finding employment with a criminal record poses enormous hardships (Prison Fellowship Organisation, 2021). All these hardships serve as contributory factors to recidivism, other than poor rehabilitation programs.

Section 41 (1) of the South African Correctional Services Act (Act 111 of 1998) stipulates that all offenders' rehabilitation centers that work under the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) must provide programs and activities that meet the rehabilitation needs of offenders. This Act and the South African White Paper on rehabilitation put a substantial responsibility on the DCS since they see rehabilitation as a right of offenders and not as a conditional luxury that is subject to accessible resources (South African National Department of Correctional Services, 2019).

In essence, rehabilitation programs must guarantee that sentenced offenders do not again depend on criminal activities upon their release. However, Dougherty (2021) states that recidivism in South Africa remains high because rehabilitation in correctional centers is not effective despite various efforts by the government to reduce it.

In South Africa, the primary function of the prison services is to keep offenders in safe custody until they are released. In 1991, the Prison Services was separated from the Department of Justice and became the Department of Correctional Services. Consequently, the White Paper on Corrections was released in 2005 and focuses on rehabilitating offenders and their humane treatment (South African National Department of Correctional Services, 2019).

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Currently, the Department of Correctional Services in South Africa is guided by the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, the Correctional Services Act 111 of 1998, and the White Paper on corrections. South Africa requires substantive research on rehabilitation conditions for male and female offenders in correctional centers, parolees, and recidivism.

In the next section, the researcher discusses the rehabilitation of offenders in developed countries and the rehabilitation of offenders in developing countries and South Africa.

2.2 REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

According to Murhula and Singh (2019), rehabilitation for prisoners is more advanced in First World countries such as the United States, Australia, England, and Canada, where a variety of programs are available. For instance, Tasmania's Correctional Services in Australia categorizes rehabilitation programs into several types: reintegration skills programs, which include basic life skills like sewing, computing, and time management; community integration programs; parenting programs; and social skills programs.

Report on Government services (2023) shows that the correctional services in Australia and Canada, have different “core programs”. Most often, however, these programs differ in content for male and female offending populations, although some have argued that specific criminogenic needs, such as anger control, vary between the sexes. But in England and Wales, offenders undergo the same programs regardless of gender.

Programs designed especially for women currently offered in various Australian and Canadian states include self-esteem, parenting, communication, and assertiveness, living skills programs and change, stress management, and life choices. Programs for women offenders are presented in the same way as men.

Forsberg and Douglas (2020) stated that offender rehabilitation is a crucial aspect of the criminal justice system in England, aiming to reduce recidivism and facilitate reintegration. However, it faces obstacles like a lack of support and inadequate assistance. The US and European Committee recognise rehabilitation as a human right; hence, Bangladesh's correction system does not offer official rehabilitation services but faces a complex issue

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in reforming and rehabilitating offenders due to overcrowding and a lack of consolidated legislation. These include probation, literacy, and religious education programs, motivational training, and modern bakeries.

According to Bandyopadhyay (2020), the approach of offender rehabilitation programs has some merits and demerits, as it varies from country to country. The pros include reduced recidivism, improved employability, substance abuse treatment, better mental health, and reintegration into society. Demerits can be sorted out as limited resources, risk assessment, etc.

2.3 REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Qhogwana (2022) asserts that in most African prisons, rehabilitation programs are focused on spiritual development, educational development, and vocational training rather than behavioural and psychosocial aspects of rehabilitation.

According to Mabeba and Rolland (2019), this is due to a lack of professionals for psychosocial services, and this impedes the proper rehabilitation of prisoners, hence compromising the quality of rehabilitation. The inadequacy of psychosocial services, such as correctional counseling makes it difficult for male and female offenders to obtain employment and maintain a stable residence, and hence, they recidivate upon release from incarceration.

Evans (2021) said that Kenya has a perennial problem in the maintenance of offenders according to international recommended standards; rehabilitation is contributing to the betterment of offenders through various programs, only optimal and efficient rehabilitation programs. Kenya could achieve complete reformation among their prisoners in various prisons in the country.

On the other hand, Murhula and Singh (2019) state that in Uganda, treatment programs that are meant to help rehabilitate inmates are now being used to exploit them, and there have been calls from various Non-Governmental Organisations to end this exploitation. For instance, the government should provide payment for the inmate's labour.

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Qhogwana (2022) states that the exploitation of inmates' labour for personal gain by prison authorities is rife. For example, prisoners were exploited when they were required to exhume the bodies of the Kanungu doomsday cult without being issued with protective clothing. Many of the inmates complained of post-traumatic stress after performing this task, but they did not receive any trauma counseling since such therapeutic programs are not available in the prisons.

According to Worku (2020), in Nigeria, the goal of rehabilitation is to prevent future crime by giving offenders the ability to succeed within the limits of the law. Measures of rehabilitating offenders usually include treatment for afflictions such as mental illness, drug addiction, and chronic violent behaviour. However, Qhogwane (2022) asserts that Nigerian programs also include programs such as basic education and vocational skills needed to compete in the labour market. Punishment also allows offenders to receive moral education and thereby get rehabilitated. Worku (2020) points out that in a patriarchal, hierarchical society like Nigeria, women's imprisonment has always differed from that of men.

For instance, Qhogwane (2022) also avers that in Nigeria, women have traditionally been sent to prison for distinct reasons than men – historically, for crimes involving sexuality for which men have never been punished, and more currently, for crimes of poverty or property. Qhogwane reiterates that once women are in prison, they have different conditions of incarceration, due to gender-specific needs that include privacy, reproductive care, and health, which at best are poorly funded, inadequate, and at worst are completely ignored.

According to Sibisi and Shezi (2023), in the Zimbabwe Prison System, specific programs for rehabilitation and treatment are lacking, thus offenders are released when they are not prepared to deal with the outside world Prison officers serving in the Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services (ZPCS) system still lack specialized training in correctional services (Igbinoria, 2019) and these include such programs as correctional counselling and cognitive behaviour therapy. Furthermore, Muronzi (2023) states that offenders need psychological services to enhance their mental health and emotional well-being, thus promoting rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders.

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The United Nations Asia and Far East Institute (UNAFEI, 2007) for the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders, also states that rehabilitation programs in Zimbabwean prisons are mostly agriculturally oriented, for example, maize production, poultry farming, dairy farming, vegetable farming and cattle ranching for adult offenders.

Furthermore, specific programs for rehabilitation and treatment are lacking in the system. One such example is Cognitive Behavioural Therapy; at the same time, prison officers do not have specialized training in correctional services.

Qhogwane (2022) argued that in most African prisons rehabilitation is more focused on spiritual development, vocational training, and educational development, rather than on the psychological and behavioural aspects of rehabilitation. Furthermore, the Parliament of Zimbabwe Report (2011) notes that not much was happening in terms of rehabilitation due to a lack of funding.

Home Office: Zimbabwe Prison Conditions (2017) reports that in Zimbabwe, there is no special care or food for pregnant and nursing mothers, although Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services reports that they are working towards supporting safe motherhood in prisons through the provision of antenatal care and other sexual and reproductive health interventions. The infrastructure in Zimbabwe prisons is not adequate for female inmates with children, hence, rehabilitation programs cannot run efficiently (Sibisi and Shezi (2023).

South African National Department of Correctional Services (2019) reports that in South Africa, specifically in correctional centres, there has been a shift in thought on the treatment of offenders. This change embraces the concept of rehabilitation and the effective treatment of offenders to assist them in becoming law-abiding citizens. The DCS is responsible for the offering and implementation of rehabilitation needs-based programs for offenders imprisoned by a court of law. These programs include psychological services, social work services, health services, skills development, and spiritual care. However, a major challenge is ensuring that all offenders are positively developed and supported while incarcerated.

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Although the Constitution of South Africa does not expressly provide that the state should assist offenders to 'reintegrate' and 'rehabilitate', the overall framework debates the duty of the state to support and create opportunities for offender reintegration. The White Paper on Corrections (2005) recognizes that the rehabilitation and reintegration of the offender into society corrections is a societal responsibility and that civil society organizations have a critical role to play, due mainly to the fact that the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) does not have a strong focus on post-release support services for ex-offenders.

Moreover, Chanakira and Chikadzi (2017) state that ex-offenders face several challenges during the transition from prison to the community. Upon release, many ex-offenders have common needs such as accommodation, mending of family relationships, and employment, amongst others.

Often, ex-offenders and their families must deal with the stigma and trauma of family separation due to imprisonment (Chanakira & Chikadzi, 2017; Muleya, 2021). These challenges demonstrate the need for psychosocial support for released prisoners.

According to Tigere (2019), in South Africa, vocational skills training is available to inmates who participate in construction work and metal and electrical trades. Upon completing training, inmates are issued professional certificates. Rehabilitation services are only available to inmates serving 24 months or longer sentences. Awaiting trial offenders (who comprise approximately a third of the prison population) are not provided with any facilities for rehabilitation or reintegration because they are still awaiting their trial.

2.4 OFFENDERS' REHABILITATION APPROACH IN SOUTH AFRICA

South African National Department of Correctional Services (2019) also states that in South Africa, offenders' rehabilitation approach (in all its correctional centers) is centered on the needs-based care approach, which is aimed at maintaining the well-being of inmates and social integration. The philosophy behind the needs-based care programs resides in the need and risk assessment principles and rehabilitation (comprising structured day programs).

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2.5 NEED AND RISK ASSESSMENT PRINCIPLES

According to Jules-Macquet (2015), these principles require that an offender be accurately assessed before beginning a treatment program to determine the risk of re-offending and his or her needs to decide which program or programs would be most appropriate and what dosage is required. The assessment is usually designed to ascertain dynamic risk factors and the needs of the offender.

Jules-Macquet (2014), further states that the assessment is informed by a particular theory of criminal behaviour that certain types of attitudes or behaviours are related to re-offending or can be changed through targeted treatment programs. Several inmate assessment tools have been developed around the world.

For instance, Canada uses the Level of Service Inventory–Ontario Revised (LSR-OR) and the Community Risk/Needs Management Scale (CRNMS). These tools have been correlated with recidivism levels. The LSR-OR looks at criminal history, employment and education, peers, leisure and recreation, family or marital status, history, criminal orientation, attitude, substance abuse, and antisocial patterns. This determines the risk of re-offending and criminogenic needs.

Jules-Macquet (2014) and Thornton (2023) assert that in South Africa, the current needs and risk assessment tool in use in correctional centers has been adapted from the LSR-OR and CRNMS, but it has been shortened and simplified to become a short questionnaire. Offenders are screened to determine their needs and responsibility for treatment.

2.6 REHABILITATION SERVICES AND PROGRAMS IN SOUTH AFRICAN CORRECTIONAL CENTERS

This section evaluates the effectiveness of the offenders' rehabilitation approach in South Africa by assessing different services and programs provided to offenders to determine if the DCS approach aligns with the South African White Paper on Corrections.

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2.6.1 PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

Murhula and Signh (2019) argued that within the South African correctional system, the Directorate of Psychological Services offers psychological services to ensure the emotional well-being of offenders. The primary responsibility of psychologists in the DCS is the management of a mental/psychological health program where the offender is assisted in adjusting to a correctional center, learning new coping skills, and preventing re-offending behaviour.

According to the Correctional Services Act 111 of 1998 (as amended), the DCS is committed to offering psychological services to all offenders to improve their mental and emotional well-being.

In all cases, the most appropriate therapeutic technique is determined by the individual needs of the offender, probationer, or person under correctional supervision.

2.6.2 SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

Chikadzi, Chanakira, and Mbululu (2022) maintained that the Directorate of Correctional Services offers professional services to offenders using professional social workers. These services include therapeutic, informative, supportive, crisis intervention, development, administrative, assessment, and evaluation services (DCS, Undated). The core function of social work services is to assess the offenders and provide needs-based programs and services to enhance the adjustment, social functioning, and reintegration of offenders back into the community.

2.6.3 SPIRITUAL CAREGIVER SERVICES

According to the (White Paper on Corrections, 2005), religious or spiritual care is a voluntary service aimed at contributing to the change in the offenders' anti-social behaviour. During large or small group sessions and personal interviews, spiritual care programs are offered. The communal experience of faith is the focus, especially in the context of larger group gatherings. Africa Check (2017) seconded and stated that offenders' personal spiritual needs receive attention in individual conversations and small group meetings led by the chaplain and/or spiritual workers. During these meetings, with

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the aim of rehabilitation, the specific focus is on the offenders' experience of their punishment, their adaptation to life in the correctional environment, and the process of leading them to a life free of criminality.

The United Nations (1955) mentioned that the denial of human rights, by preventing inmates from attending religious worship for no legitimate reason, would be considered a deliberate breach of the 2005 White Paper on Corrections that refers to the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Offenders, which stipulates: "access to a qualified representative of any religion shall not be refused to any prisoner".

According to the literature, chaplaincy allows prison inmates to find forgiveness for their crimes and offenses and rehabilitate themselves and their lifestyle while in custody (Africa Check, 2017). Chaplaincy services can also help improve inmates' lives, which is in line with the White Paper on Corrections on Rehabilitation.

2.6.4 EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS

According to the White Paper on Corrections (2005), "as part of rehabilitation, offenders should be subjected to rehabilitation programs, which should result in rehabilitation and successful re-integration into the community after release". Education and training programs are intended to contribute to the rehabilitation process of the offenders.

According to the White Paper on Corrections (2005), the objectives of the training programs offered to sentenced inmates are, first, to develop their market-related labour potential, with the purpose of their being productively utilized either during incarceration or in the external labour market after release. Second, they are aimed at equipping the inmates for resettlement into the community to lead an honourable, self-supporting, and decent life after release from prison.

Below, the researcher discusses the living conditions of female offenders in correctional centres.

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2.7 LIVING CONDITIONS OF FEMALE OFFENDERS INCARCERATED IN SOUTH AFRICAN CORRECTIONAL CENTRES.

Steyn (2015:35) is of the view that “there is a relative scarcity of research on female offenders, which has not received much attention in South Africa, and there is a general void of information regarding the nature and extent of crimes committed by women.”

Women are both victims and perpetrators of crime, but a literature review revealed a paucity of studies on the plight and condition of females who are incarcerated in correctional centers.

Agboola (2016), The reason for this gap in the literature may be that the large population of offenders comprises only a small portion of women, which is a trend that is evident not only in South Africa but in other African countries and on other continents as well. Like the inadequate resources allocated to female offenders, the lack of research on female offenders can be attributed to the fact that female offenders constitute a small percentage of the population of global correctional centers.

Due to the underrepresentation of women in incarceration literature, Sibisi, Shezi, and Dlamini (2023) argue that, because of traditional male dominance in the academic sphere and a low recidivism rate among female offenders, research on incarcerated offenders is skewed in favour of the male gender.

According to (Sibisi, Shezi, and Dlamni, 2023), Compared to the nature of criminality in men, that of female offenders seems quite different, as they are often non-violent; hence, females are less likely to receive long sentences than males as they mostly engage in criminal activities due to abuse and violence, they suffer in the hands of men such as rape and Domestic violence. Women often commit crimes related to socio-economic issues such as poverty, trauma, dysfunctional families, intimate partner violence, and mental illness

Van Kempen and Krabbe (2017), the Department of Correctional Services [DCS] reports that there are currently 243 correctional services facilities in South Africa. Eight of these are “female-only” facilities, and 129 are for men only.

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Ninety-one (91) facilities have separate sections for female offenders, where women are housed separately from men, something that is required by law.

Agboola (2017) has also found that abused women who kill their partners are highly unlikely to be habitually violent or dangerous. However, a survey of 55 female inmates in two correctional centers in the Western Cape revealed that murder was the most prevalent crime committed by them, followed by forgery and theft.

These crimes are often related to poverty and the need for women to provide for their children (Sibisi, Shezi, and Dlamni, 2023).

Agboola et al (2022) reports have indicated that a considerable number of female detainees in South Africa, Malawi, and Zambia are held for murder or other violent crimes, particularly against their partners. This trend is not the same in countries such as Kenya, Botswana, and Zimbabwe, where women tend to be arrested for nonviolent crimes.

Ortega et al, (2020) state that an interesting phenomenon is that in countries such as Benin, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and Egypt, women are detained in place of their brothers, husbands, sons, or boyfriends who are crime suspects, while in conservative and religious countries like South Sudan women are commonly detained for crimes such as adultery (Ibid).

From the researcher's point of view, it would seem clear that internationally, more extensive programmes are available than is the case in Africa. From the literature that has been studied, it seems that a lack of finances and resources, including trained professionals in African Correctional Centres, hampers the proper implementation of rehabilitation programs. George et al. (2022) maintained that rehabilitation is gendered as there are programs meant for male and female offenders only, but there are some programs for both male and female offenders of all categories, i.e., a new beginning, Behaviour modification, and anger management restorative justice programs are offered to both male and female murder offenders. On the other hand, programs like career building and addictive behaviour programs are only offered to female offenders.

In this regard, the rehabilitation and treatment effectiveness are discussed below.

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2.8 REHABILITATION AND TREATMENT EFFECTIVENESS

Chikadzi and Chanakira (2023) indicate that there has been minimal research into the effectiveness of treatment and rehabilitation initiatives aimed at lowering recidivism rates among violent offenders. Traditionally, the limited research that has been conducted on the efficacy of rehabilitation and treatment for offenders has shown rather pessimistic results.

Muleya (2021) asserts that some of the first violent offender treatment effectiveness data emerged from two studies conducted at the Vermont Department of Corrections' cognitive-based treatment program, initiated in 1988. Both studies indicated that this treatment program significantly decreased rates of parole violation and re-arrest in a group of violent offenders.

Chikadzi and Chanakira (2017), stated that similarly, preliminary results from the New Zealand treatment program mentioned earlier demonstrated positive treatment effects, resulting in a significant reduction in the frequency and severity of re-offense in offenders released to the community (lower risk) and a significant reduction in the severity of re-offense in the parole sample (higher risk).

Chikadzi and Chanakira (2023), also maintained that these studies found that intervention programs based on the RNR treatment philosophy, incorporating cognitive–behavioural and social learning theory–based techniques embedded in a relapse prevention framework were effective in reducing rates of high-risk offender recidivism 2 years after release.

According to Muleya (2021), treated offenders demonstrated a significant reduction in serious institutional infractions and a decrease in the commission of serious violent offenses after release. Interestingly, these same studies demonstrated modest positive treatment effects, in terms of harm reduction, for offenders with elevated levels of psychopathy. Although the treatment did not significantly reduce overall rates of recidivism or the frequency of re-offense in high-psychopathy offenders, it did result in a decrease in the severity of re-offenses.

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Such findings may be welcome news in a field that is largely doubtful of its ability to induce therapeutic change in a subset of notoriously treatment-resistant offenders.

The subsequent discussion examines the philosophy surrounding incarceration.

2.9 PHILOSOPHY ON INCARCERATION

According to Hopkins (2017), there are two philosophical approaches to incarceration, namely the conservative view and the liberal view. The conservative view is based on the notion that people are rational in their thinking and actions and, therefore, deserve logical outcomes. On the other hand, the liberal view is, however, based on the assumption that human behaviour is influenced by upbringing, poverty, education, and life experiences in general.

George et al. (2022) allude that Correctional Centres were meant to specifically punish those who had wronged society by inflicting physical pain on the body. However, the purpose of corrections has recently been expanded to include more than punishment, which has seen correctional centres incorporating deterrence and rehabilitation in dealing with offenders.

Agboola (2016) indicated that incarceration must be humane. However, female offenders expressed that they are treated in an inhumane manner in correctional facilities with an improper rehabilitation programme that will not transform their lives and give them successful reintegration back into society. The situation of their incarceration deprives them of the status of human dignity. They are often degraded and treated as lesser than human beings.

According to George et al (2022), rehabilitation aims to start working with the body and mind of the offender so that they leave the correctional system transformed and hopefully rehabilitated. The psychological welfare and freedom of an individual offender do not only depend on how much education, counseling, and recreation they receive whilst incarcerated but also on the relationships and encounters they have in the correctional system.

The following is a brief discussion on incarceration's impact on offenders' personality.

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2.10 THE IMPACT OF INCARCERATION

According to Qhogwana (2022), the harsh physical punishment that used to be implemented in correctional centers has “stopped” due to the implementation of human rights-centered policies, however, psychological punishment still exists, and the psychological effects of punishment may not be visible, but one cannot overlook the possibility that being in a correctional center can have a profound impact on an individual’s personality and sense of personal worth. The primary themes related to the impact of incarceration include deprivation, control, and feelings of degradation, which create a discourse influenced by gender that occurs within the correctional setting and is shaped by both the physical architecture and the relationships present in that space.

Despite this identified need for psychological services, Segalo (2022) argues that offenders remain a forgotten population or the ignored population since they are usually judged and condemned by most people. This possibly implies that offenders who are not familiar with the psychological services before incarceration may not use them voluntarily during incarceration due to a lack of knowledge about the role of such a service. Language and culture are also some of the barriers that limit offenders’ access to psychological programs in correctional centers.

Zoe (2021), states that Individuals who have been incarcerated experience unparalleled health and economic disparities. Stigma, defined as a social phenomenon in which labelling, separation, and discrimination occur together in a power situation that allows them, maybe a central cause of the social inequalities that formerly incarcerated persons face. This is also supported by Qhogwana and Segalo (2022), who stated that along with the rehabilitation of women in correctional facilities, the approaches and structures recreate inequities in their incarceration experiences

To this effect, Tomar (2013), indicated that there is a link between rehabilitation and recidivism. Once the female offender enters the corrections system and engages with rehabilitation programs that may not necessarily be suited to their specific and gendered needs, issues such as substance dependency, mental illness, and domestic violence still present themselves post-release, which may lead to the female reoffending (recidivism).

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In the next section, the researcher discusses the treatment and rehabilitation of offenders from a human rights and social work perspective.

2.11 TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

According to Drakulerski (2017), “Treatment” provides that the treatment of persons sentenced to imprisonment, or a similar measure shall have as its purpose, so far as the length of the sentence permits, to establish in them the will to lead law-abiding and self-supporting lives after their release and to fit them to do so. The treatment shall be such as will encourage their self-respect and develop their sense of responsibility.

To these ends, all appropriate means shall be used, including religious care in the countries where this is possible, education, vocational guidance and training, physical development, employment counselling and strengthening of moral character, following the individual needs of each prisoner, taking account of his or her social and criminal history, physical and mental capacities and the length of his or her sentence and prospects after release.

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2.11.1 United Nations Standard Minimum rules for the treatment of Prisoners (The Nelson Mandela Rules).

The basic principles of the Nelson Mandela Rules revolve around humane treatment and respect for human dignity. These rules outline minimum standards for prison management, aiming to protect prisoners' rights and well-being while ensuring safe and secure prison environments.

These rules outline the fundamental principles and practices for prison management, ensuring human dignity and fair treatment while maintaining security and order. These rules aim to establish a common understanding of acceptable prison conditions and are not legally binding but rather serve as a guide for national legislation and practices.

Drakulerski (2017) also states that the basic principles of the rules of general application on the minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners are that offenders must be treated with respect for their inherent dignity and value as human beings, and there shall be no discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or any other status and that the religious beliefs and moral precepts of prisoners shall be respected.

It is emphasized that Correctional Centres and other measures that isolate the perpetrator of a crime from the outside world are themselves hard, and the purpose and justification of a sentence of imprisonment or a similar measure of deprivation of liberty are ultimately to protect society from crime. Before the completion of the sentence, the necessary steps should be taken to ensure for the prisoner a gradual return to life in society. The treatment of offenders should emphasize not their exclusion from the community but their continuing part in it.

The fulfillment of these principles requires individualization of treatment and, for this purpose, a flexible system of classifying prisoners in groups. The number of prisoners in closed prisons should not be so large that the individualization of treatment is hindered. In some countries, it is considered that the population of such prisons should not exceed 500. In open Correctional Centres, the population should be as small as possible.

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The duty of society does not end with a prisoner's release. There should, therefore, be governmental or private agencies for post-penal assistance of offenders.

2.12 OFFENDER TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION FROM HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL WORK PERSPECTIVE.

The punitive approach to dealing with crime fails to consider that offenders are fellow members of society who are themselves rights-holders despite their misdeeds. Thomas et al (2020) state that a punitive approach is premised on the belief that offenders forfeit their human rights when they commit a crime and "place themselves outside the protection zone of human rights declarations and policies".

Similarly, such an approach is rejected by scholars such as Forsberg and Douglas, (2022), who argue that offenders should always be entitled to their human rights and that these rights should only be curtailed when necessary and in the public interest.

On the other hand, Thornton (2023) indicated that the rehabilitative approach is attentive to the rights of offenders. It strives to uphold the worth and dignity of offenders within the criminal justice system. This approach views offenders as valuable human beings who deserve the opportunity to redeem themselves and lead meaningful, improved lives.

Thus, although offenders have violated the rights of others and must be punished for it; such misdeeds do not call for offenders to forfeit their worth and dignity as persons (Petrus, 2021). offenders from this 'worth and dignity as persons' offenders remain rights holders. While some offender rights may be curtailed by the punitive measures imposed by society, from a human rights perspective, offenders still retain certain entitlements because they are humans.

According to Thornton (2023), the social work perspective on offender rehabilitation would favour a rehabilitative approach that respects and acknowledges offenders as rights holders despite their misdeeds. Furthermore, Piacentini & Katz, (2017) alluded to the issue of human rights in psychosocial support and rehabilitation of offenders by professionals such as psychologists, social workers, and Sociologists that the fundamental base of these professions is premised on the 'worth and dignity of all

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persons' from which stems the entitlements of offenders as rights holders. As such, professionals such as social workers should be instrumental in fighting for offender rights throughout the trial, incarceration, reintegration, and rehabilitation of offenders.

This then brings us to the discussion of the legislative system that regulates offender's rights throughout the rehabilitation process, which follows below.

2.13 SOUTH AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE SYSTEM ON OFFENDERS' REHABILITATION

The Department of Correctional Services sees rehabilitation of offenders as a key system to decrease recidivism (Siegel, 2005). The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act 108 of 1996, The Correctional Service Act 111 of 1998, and the White Paper on Corrections are amongst legislative prescriptions that serve as inspiration driving rehabilitation approaches at South African correctional centers.

2.13.1 The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act 108 of 1996

As the highest authority in the country, the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act 108 of 1996 is the most important guiding form of policy in South Africa.

Specific rights contained in the Constitution, as indicated in section 7 of Chapter 2 of the Constitution, all the rights that are included in the Constitution are meant for every citizen of the country, and they strive to uplift human dignity, equality, and freedom for everyone. Because this study is based on gendered rehabilitation conditions of offenders, only section 35(2)(e) in the Bill of Rights, which is more relevant to the study, is emphasized, as it states that everyone who is detained, including every sentenced prisoner, has the right to conditions of detention that are consistent with human dignity, including nutrition, adequate accommodation, nutrition and medical treatment.

This study has reviewed the rehabilitation programs for male and female murder offenders by determining whether those programs are structured in a manner that upholds the rights of offenders as enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. Furthermore, it seeks to establish whether the rights of detainees are maintained along gender lines.

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According to Chikadzi, (2017), upon release, offenders are plunged into an environment that is different from the prison environment, and they struggle to cope. Furthermore, given the dynamic and ever-changing nature of society, ex-offenders who spend periods prolonged periods in prison are released into an environment that is very different vastly different from their former environment before imprisonment. This poses a serious challenge for the reintegration of offenders. Given that successful reintegration of offenders is central to crime reduction, the science of offender reintegration must be thoroughly understood.

Hence it is important to ensure that every offender is fully rehabilitated when leaving the correctional centre. Unless it can be proved that such discrimination is fair, for example, the separation of juveniles and adult offenders, no offender in South Africa can be discriminated against because everyone is equal.

The dignity of offenders must never be sacrificed, even when implementing rehabilitation programmes. This section of the Constitution reinforces Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which prohibits any violation of human dignity.

Qhogwana (2022), states that the Department must also ensure that the road to maintaining discipline does not constitute cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment of offenders because that kind of treatment hampers offenders' will to participate in the rehabilitation programs.

2.13.2 The Correctional Services Act 111 of 1998

Another important legal framework is the Correctional Services Act 111 of 2008. This legal instrument provides for parole in correctional centers in South Africa and allows offenders to serve their sentence in the community under community corrections. According to The Correctional Services Act 111 of 2008, section 50(1) (a) (iii) (iv), the objectives of community corrections are to enable persons subject to community corrections to be rehabilitated in a way that best keeps them as a vital part of society and to allow persons subject to community corrections to be fully integrated into society when they have completed their sentences.

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While parole plays an essential role in the rehabilitation of offenders, it is, however, regarded as a privilege and not a right. This implies that offenders should comply with their sentence and behave well to qualify to be released on parole (Myburge, 2017). Before being placed on parole, the Correctional Services Act 11 of 2008, section 45(1), provides that offenders being prepared to be placed in the community on parole should first be prepared for placement and reintegration into society by participating in a pre-release program.

Letlape and Dube (2023), assert that the expectation is that offenders comply by participating in designated programs to ensure rehabilitation or change of behaviour before they can be placed on parole.

2.13.3 The white paper on corrections about rehabilitation

In 2005, the Department of Correctional Services drafted the White Paper on Corrections. This replaced the 1994 White Paper, which had the following shortcomings, amongst others (Department of Correctional Services, 2005b: 13):

The White Paper on Corrections in South Africa of 2005 also declares that rehabilitation is difficult to fully complete without reintegrating the offender into their community (White Paper on Corrections in South Africa, 2005). One of the important characteristics of reintegration is that the community should be involved in the reintegration of offenders into them (Letlape & Dube, 2023). However, placing offenders in the community also has implications that can lead them to re-offend.

Krinesha et al (2022) also note that the successful rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders into society can only be made effective and meaningful by allowing the participation of multiple stakeholders. To this end, at a policy level, multi-stakeholder processes are integral to reintegration initiatives. Thus, institutions such as the courts, police, voluntary organizations, communities, and municipalities are seen as vital in supporting and facilitating the successful reintegration of offenders. On the other hand, Chikadzi (2017) shows that most of these institutions are offering critical services in this regard, and some gaps and challenges in the way they render rehabilitation services remain.

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Lekalakala (2016) states that the Department of Correctional Services in South Africa has the challenge to provide support to offenders beyond the reintegration programs; further adding that support may be through other stakeholders to monitor offenders. The above-mentioned statement fails to add that families can also offer the necessary support that is needed to prevent unwanted results from offenders in the community. In this thesis, the researcher argues that legislation and institutions alone cannot achieve successful social reintegration.

In the same vein, Letlape and Dube (2023), seconded Lekalakala (2016) and said that families of offenders and the community at large have a significant role to play in assisting and supporting offenders to adjust in the community.

In his article entitled “First Things First: Rehabilitation Starts with Alternatives to Prison,” (Krinesha et al, 2022) wrote that the White Paper of 2005 focuses on the correction of offending behaviour, the development of the offenders, security (for both offenders and officials), care of offenders (health, physical and psychological needs), facilities and aftercare.

According to the South African Yearbook (2006/07: 415), the White Paper is based on the concept of rehabilitation and the fact that rehabilitation, as well as social reintegration, remains the responsibility of society. The White Paper is underpinned by the following values and rights entrenched in the Constitution. Amongst other things, they ensure that every offender is treated humanely, making his or her rehabilitation possible (Department of Correctional Services, 2009).

2.13.4 The Criminal Procedure Act No. 51 of 1977

The Criminal Procedure Act No. 51 of 1977 is also a very essential legal framework for parole services in South Africa. With the enactment of section 27 (3) of the Criminal Procedure Act no. 51 of 1977, the legislation brought an uncommon idea into the South African criminal law.

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The Act provides that an incarcerated offender approaches the trial court after serving a certain minimum period as prescribed by the relevant Correctional Services Act for the court to reconsider the sentence originally imposed and, among other competent sentences, convert the remainder of the offender's sentence to correctional supervision (Myburgh, 2017). It is within this legal framework that parole became a legalized rehabilitation process. Despite being used widely in South Africa, the effectiveness of the parole system has been met with mixed feelings and perennial objections. Researchers argue that using correctional supervision, or parole, alleviates the pressure caused by prison overcrowding rather than an effective rehabilitation process (Myburgh, 2017). Such criticism of the parole system raises questions and necessitates scrutinizing parole to determine areas of weakness and improvement to ensure that offenders are effectively rehabilitated.

The following section explores the rehabilitation of offenders and the principles associated with rehabilitation.

2.14 REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS

Graham and McNeill (2019) assert that rehabilitation should restore useful life through therapy and education to restore good condition, operation, or capacity.

Rehabilitation assumes that people are not permanent criminals and that restoring criminals to a useful life in which they contribute to themselves and society is possible. On the other hand, Mabeba and Rolland (2019), the goal of rehabilitation is to prevent habitual offending, also known as criminal recidivism, and re-shape individuals and prepare them to enter society with a different state of mind and start a new life after their sentence.

According to Murhula and Singh (2019), the rehabilitation process implies that offenders must be instilled with a sense of responsibility for their criminal acts so that they can deviate from such acts. All the rehabilitation programs consist of activities designed to remove conditions that contribute to an offender that led to his or her illegal behaviour. The rehabilitation programs that offenders undergo, while they are incarcerated, can lead to their successful and effective reintegration into society.

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However, Graham and McNeill (2019) posit that gender-specific programs may be more effective for female offenders, particularly those with histories of trauma and abuse.

For example, career-building and life skills programs offered to female offenders may be effective as they also get educated on financial management, which causes some to be incarcerated.

Correctional facilities use various strategies to assist offenders in successfully reintegrating into society upon release from prison. Offenders are provided with psychosocial counselling, basic education, technical/vocational training, spiritual guidance, and counselling, among other strategies. These programs help inmates to become law-abiding citizens upon prison release. According to Tigere (2019), rehabilitation is "… a planned intervention which aims to bring about change in some aspect of the offender that is thought to cause the offender's criminality, such as attitudes, cognitive processes, personality or mental health".

Murhula and Singh (2019) concur with the above assertion by stating that rehabilitation is a process of helping and allowing offenders to separate themselves from crime-contributing factors that encouraged them to commit crimes in the first place, to enable released offenders to live crime-free lives again. However, the means to achieve the desired reform in prisons tend to vary from place to place. For instance, punishment, in the form of the death sentence for murderers, is still practiced by some countries, while some countries have outlawed it.

2.15 REHABILITATION PRINCIPLE

The White Paper on Corrections (2005), states that in South Africa, the rehabilitation principle refers to the use of a style and mode of intervention that engages the interest of the inmates and considers their relevant characteristics, such as cognitive ability, learning style, and values. It comprises structured day programs and services such as education, training programs, skills development, psychological services, spiritual care sessions, and social work services.

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The White Paper on Corrections (2005) again stated that the provision of rehabilitation programs is aimed at maintaining the well-being of inmates and their social reintegration. Providing services focused on offenders' preparation for release and reintegration into society forms part of the rehabilitation process of each inmate. According to Muntingh and Gould (2010), rehabilitation programs should be based on credible scientific evidence that the methods and approaches used are likely to be effective in a particular correctional setting.

The South African Offender Rehabilitation Path (ORP) entails converting certain guiding principles from the South African White Paper on Corrections into practice (Lombard, 2018). According to the DCS, the noble aspiration of this process (ORP), rehabilitation per se, can only be achieved through the delivery of vital programs to offenders, including modification of the offending behaviour and the development of the human being involved.

2.16 PROVISIONS OF GENDERED-RESPONSIVE REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES.

Dadashazar (2017) posits that rehabilitation comprises a multi-layered progression and inmate experiences from the time of inception up to release from prison, and the Thailand Institute of Justice (2021:35) also posits that "the provision of rehabilitation and reintegration programs for people in prison is inconsistent from one country to another. There are few opportunities where punitive approaches are pursued, or resources are scarce. However, some systems have comprehensive rehabilitation programs central to prison life and involve delivery from many stakeholders."

Ultimately, Ondeng (2018) stated that it is incumbent upon prison officials to begin the process of reintegration of offenders as early as possible to avoid possible institutionalization and continuously strive to promote successful re-entry. Despite this, criminal justice policies, practices, and programs have historically been designed for men and applied to women without consideration of women's distinct needs.

Fleming et al. (2021) and Walmsley (2017) reported that while gender-neutral approaches, if evidence-based, can be effective in reducing recidivism for both men and

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women, research has shown that gender-responsive approaches result in far better outcomes for women. Gender-responsive and trauma-informed policies and program practices recognize that women have distinct histories, pathways to offending, and experiences in the Criminal Justice System (CJS).

According to Ondeng (2018), gender-responsive treatment has been acknowledged as effective, but this style of treatment remains the exception rather than the rule in treating female offenders. Barriers to the provision of gender-responsive treatment are multi-layered.

Freudenberg & Heller (2016) stated that these approaches address issues that may contribute to women's involvement in the justice system, such as domestic violence, victimization; abuse, family, and relationships; trauma; mental illnesses, poverty, and substance use disorders. Therefore, during incarceration, inmates have access to services, which help to support safe and secure housing operations and the demands of the dynamic prison culture.

Offenders' pathways to crime differ for males and females; therefore, the researcher focuses on women's pathways to crime in the following section.

2.17 WOMEN'S PATHWAYS TO CRIME

Petrus (2021) alluded that the pathways project offers a comprehensive view of the importance of gender-specific rehabilitation programs. This project highlights several common pathways that expose women to crime and has implications for developing gender-responsive programs. Similarly, George et al (2022) identified similar pathways linked to women's criminal behaviours presented below.

2.17.1 Street women:

George et al, (2022) state that this category included women who had run away from home either because of domestic violence, dropping out of school, or delinquency. Life on the streets exposes them to drugs and prostitution, through which crime also

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becomes a way of sustaining the developed drug habit. As a result, these women find themselves committing petty crimes to support their drug use.

2.17.2 Harmed and harming women:

According to Herbig & Hesselink (2016), this is a group of women with a history of childhood trauma like sexual abuse, violence, and neglect. They come across as violent; many have mental disorders and are also addicted to drugs.

2.17.3 Drug-connected women:

Herbig & Hesselink (2016), state that this group concerns women who are either using drugs or selling drugs through family relationships or partner relationships. These women are usually not addicted to drugs, or they are more recent users and have no multiple criminal histories.

2.17.4 Battered women:

According to Herbig & Hesselink (2016), this group involves those women who were exposed to extensive domestic violence and their offending behaviour is often linked to the domestic violence they faced in their lives.

2.17.5 Other women:

Petrus (2021) asserts that for this group, criminality was mostly related to a need to live a secure and comfortable life, which women were unable to afford. However, they decided to turn to criminality as a way of funding their expensive or desired lifestyle. He further indicated that if the pathways to crime for women are different from men, one can assume that their rehabilitative programs cannot be the same.

According to Covington (2018), to design and implement rehabilitative programs that are responsive to the strengths and needs of women, the profile of women in correctional centers must be understood. Such understanding needs to not only focus on the pathways to crime as outlined in the pathway theory but rather to be seen as responsive

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to the life circumstances that were faced and are still to be faced by women post-incarceration. Research and understanding of gender-based programs for female offenders should provide a foundation and guiding principles on which to base the rehabilitation programs that are relevant to women. However, Walmsley (2017) maintained that these principles need to be sensitive to gender differences and be clear on the acknowledgment and appreciation that there are clear distinguishing factors between male and female offenders.

Covington (2018) also stated that rehabilitation programs for female offenders ought to reflect the multifaceted, trauma-based, communicative, and relational nature of women's lives. Furthermore, a safe and supportive environment needs to be the cornerstone of all rehabilitation programs to respond sensitively to the history of victimization and to prevent recreating an abusive environment that perpetuates the same feelings.

These should, therefore, focus on increasing independence, health awareness, and empowerment and should be age-sensitive, gender-sensitive, and culture-sensitive to physical, emotional, and reproductive issues.

George et al. (2022) indicate that even though relevant gender-responsive rehabilitation programs do exist in most correctional centers, such programs are not comprehensive enough to meet the needs of incarcerated women. Challenges highlighted in such programs involved women offenders feeling like the rehabilitation programs were still largely based on male-informed models of rehabilitation.

Steyn and Booyen (2017), stated that women also felt that there was a general sense of resistance to the development of gender-responsive rehabilitation programs by correctional services management. They also suggested noncustodial forms of incarceration for nonviolent women.

In general, these studies also indicated a possibility of better success rates in women who participated in gender-based rehabilitation programs in comparison to women who were exposed to general correctional center programs.

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The section below covers the challenges faced by the Department of Correctional Services regarding the rehabilitation of offenders, the challenges faced by offenders taking part in rehabilitation programs, and the Challenges that hamper offender social reintegration.

2.18 CHALLENGES FACED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES ABOUT THE REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS.

2.18.1 Lack of resources and overcrowding

The South African Department of Correctional Services (2019), shows that the most crucial of all the challenges facing the Department of Correctional Services revolves around the serious overcrowding of correctional facilities and the extent to which this effectively negates the rehabilitation of correctional clients, undermines human dignity in correctional facilities, and renders the safety and security of offenders and the community vulnerable.

Overcrowding in correctional facilities has many consequences, and it has an impact on a range of services. Petrus (2021) reports that overcrowding also leads to poor sanitation in correctional centers. This affects the health of inmates and DCS employees because the resources were designed for fewer people and are now overstretched. This has a ripple effect, as diseases spread faster in correctional centres. The most common diseases found in South African correctional centers are hepatitis, HIV, syphilis, tuberculosis, and AIDS. Petrus (2021) also reported that the increase in HIV and AIDS infections in correctional centre facilities has led to many deaths. This then defeats the whole purpose of imprisonment for rehabilitation and reform.

The latest data from the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) indicates that women comprise a small portion of the total prison population in South Africa. In 2023, women made up 4089 of the 149,337 convicted inmates, representing about 2.6% of the total prison population. The female incarceration rate is significantly lower than the general prison population rate, with 7.2 women incarcerated per 100,000 compared to 292 men per 100,000.

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According to Ackermann (2014), a women's correctional facility in Durban, South Africa, was reported to be at 242% capacity in 2005.

By the end of March 2016, correctional facilities (male and female) in South Africa had 119,134 beds available for 161,198 inmates, which accounted for a deficit of 42,064 beds.

Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional Services [JICS] (2016) stated that this shortage of basic sleeping facilities is a symptom of severe overcrowding in correctional facilities throughout much of the country. The female section of another facility was at 198% capacity upon inspection, and this overcrowding included the area that housed mothers and infants

Solomon, Nwankwoala, and Ushi (2014) reported that in Nigeria, overcrowding of female correctional centers is attributed to the slow judicial system, and, therefore, 70% of these facilities are occupied by detainees awaiting trial.

Section 35(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa stipulates that all individuals, including female inmates, have the right to conditions of imprisonment that are in line with human dignity. Similarly, Chapter III, Part A, of the Correctional Services Act 1998 outlines the proper conditions under which prisoners are to be incarcerated.

Mabeba and Rolland (2019) emphasized access to exercise, adequate accommodation, diet, reading material, and medical treatment. Overcrowding generates and exacerbates tension and violence in correctional centers through competition for resources, including toilets, beds, showers, basins, and bedding.

2.19 CHALLENGES FACED BY OFFENDERS TAKING PART IN REHABILITATION PROGRAMS

The correctional facilities are not adequate, and what compounded the challenge is a lack of corresponding increase in female programs to rehabilitate female offenders. Despite various efforts by government and non-government organizations (NGOs) to reduce the

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increasing recidivism rate, it has provided challenges for the CJS (Cooper, Durose, & Snyder, 2014).

Miller 2021, and Moles-López & Añaños, 2021) indicated that every woman, irrespective of her specific offenses, is subjected to the same rehabilitation program. For example, a woman who committed theft is subjected to the same program as the one who committed murder. This practice has no significant impact in terms of effective rehabilitation. Another observation by the authors is the fact that female offenders are subjected to the already male-existing rehabilitation programs. They are rehabilitated as male offenders failing to recognize the gender disparities. The needs of female offenders are different from their male counterparts.

Mabeba and Rolland, (2019) state that Gangsterism is an obstacle to successful participation in rehabilitation programs within correctional centres.

Gangsterism hurts both members affiliated with gangs and those who do not belong to a gang. It manifests itself in the usage of drugs and increased fighting because members of a gang are bound by their rules to perform activities, such as smuggling, and to protect themselves from other gangs.

Petrus (2021) asserts that offenders often join gangs to seek protection and to have a voice in the Correctional Centre. Another challenge for offenders participating in rehabilitation programs relates to benefits and rewards. There is no clear system of punishment and benefits that rewards offenders who behave extremely well in terms of academic achievements or participation in rehabilitation programs.

According to Mabeba and Rolland (2019), a further challenge relates to the medium of instruction. Programs are taught in English despite numerous offenders being illiterate. Teaching offenders who do not understand what is being taught will not assist in the reduction of recidivism, since the offenders will not successfully apply what they learned in this correctional centre because they are unable to understand the language of instruction.

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2.20 CHALLENGES THAT HAMPER OFFENDER SOCIAL REINTEGRATION

Theoretically, according to Mnisi and Schoeman (2023), incarceration in correctional facilities is intended to transform inmates to become people who are capable of leading crime-free lives after release from incarceration. However, incarceration results in a loss of freedom, employment, personal belongings, significant personal relationships, social networks, and offenders' ability to look after themselves and their families.

Neubert (2019) states that overcrowding, which is a prevailing problem in South Africa's correctional facilities, exposes inmates to hazardous and unhealthy living conditions, violence, and gang activities, and limits access to rehabilitation, health services, and development.

A shortage of social workers, psychologists, and educationists in correctional facilities also hampers and delays the completion of prescribed vocational and rehabilitation programs because of limited infrastructure and staff members to facilitate the programs (DCS, 2021(a); DCS, 2020(c).

Paat, Hope, Lopez, Zamora Jr & Salas (2017) indicated that psychologically, the stigmatization, labeling, rejection, and discrimination parolees face during incarceration and once paroled results in them becoming isolated and losing their sense of belonging to conventional society. Such a loss of connection with conventional society may result in them associating with other people with a history of antisocial functioning, which increases the risk of reoffending. Often, the stigma associated with imprisonment is also transferred to offenders' family members, the stigma associated with imprisonment is also transferred to offenders' family members, who are publicly shamed, humiliated, and marginalized because of the criminal actions and incarceration of a family member.

Langa (2017) also posits that the stigmatization, labeling, rejection, and discrimination parolees experience also impact parolees' social and economic functioning.

In what follows, the researcher discusses the role of spirituality, the role of community-based interventions and support systems in facilitating the rehabilitation of parolees in low-resourced communities, and the role of civil society in rehabilitation.

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2.21 THE ROLE OF SPIRITUALITY IN REHABILITATION

2.21.1 Origin of Faith-based Organizations (FBOs) Involvement in the Rehabilitation of Prisoners

Petrus (2021) asserts that since the inception of penitentiaries, prison chaplaincy played an integral role in the lives of prisoners.

They were the first to provide inmates with services and, as such, are credited with being the first members of the prison staff responsible for the rehabilitation of prisoners. Throughout the 1800s, much of the chaplain's time was spent visiting inmates in their cells, delivering short sermons to labouring prisoners, and providing religious services to inmates on Sundays. They also interfaced with secular programs like setting up prison libraries and schools and taking responsibility for educating prisoners.

Qhogwana (2022) states that Chaplains also performed several more secular tasks. They led temperance revivals, created programs for discharged inmates, compiled statistical reports for philanthropic societies and state legislatures, and occasionally raised interinstitutional voices against the maltreatment of inmates. During the 1900s, chaplaincy's value to the prison was challenged. This was primarily due to the rise of rational thinking and scientific positivism, making the chaplain a religious representative in a secularized institution comprising professionals. Consequently, this resulted in the chaplaincy being marginalized, as religion moved from the centre of penology to its periphery.

Sultan Khan (2020) explained that this development resulted in the chaplain's role being lessened, as duties that they had historically performed were taken over by trained professionals. Considering the marginalization of chaplains in prisoner rehabilitation programs, chaplains in the USA attempted to reformulate their role in the Correctional Centre by contending that they could play a significant role in achieving rehabilitation goals.

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Herbig-Hesselink (2016) argued that religion was an integral part of the rehabilitation process before the American Prison Association (now the American Correctional Association).

Jules-Macquit, (2014), in this respect, notes that “the value of prison ministry came to be defined primarily by the extent to which it could advance central correctional goals as defined by the secular professionals administering the prison.”

Consequently, Herbig-Hesseline (2016) noted that in the 1900s, the role of the chaplain was defined to be educational on the argument that faith through education can reform prisoners. It assumed that no rehabilitation is complete without the spiritual therapy of religion and that the philosophy of morality and ethics which stems from such a concept was not possible in the rehabilitation of offenders.

2.21.2 Role and Function of Prison Faith-based Organizations (FBO)

According to Harms-Dalibon (2017), the globe is a multi-faith space with diverse religious philosophies, ways of religious expression, norms, and values. In addition, FBOs vary in their membership, resources, and representation. Given these differences, it comes as little surprise that FBOs will vary in their scope and religious programs and how they interface with secular programs in the rehabilitation of offenders.

Petrus (2021) asserts that faith-based organizations are required to work within the policy guidelines prescribed by penal institutions. However, they may minister following their own beliefs and consciences. Although the roles and functions of FBOs are broadly defined in providing spiritual programs in the rehabilitation of offenders, this will vary among different nation-states, depending on their penal policies, practices, and resources available

Aday et al. (2014) also state that offenders often attend religious practices and activities during their incarceration. These practices are personalized, for example, individual or group state prayers, where women also get to share their experiences with spiritually like-minded inmates.

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According to Sultan-Khan (2017), the role of religion was acknowledged for the sense of hope, comfort, and support through the challenges women faced whilst incarcerated (Research Unit of the Parliament of South Africa, 2016). Although Aday et al. (2014) provided insights into the benefits of religion; there is a need for the religious community to have a better understanding of the impact of the correctional center environment on the lives of incarcerated offenders.

In South African correctional centres, the following in-house rehabilitation programmes are available:

- Anger Management Programme*:* aimed at assisting offender's awareness and better management of their anger.
- Crossroads Behaviour Modification Programme: aimed at behaviour modification of substance abuse and criminal behaviours.
- Preparatory Programmes on Sexual Offences: aimed at changing sexually offending behaviour.
- Pre-release Programme*:* aimed at facilitating preparation and readiness for release by empowering inmates with skills and knowledge that facilitate better adjustment in society post-release (South African National Department of Correctional Services, 2019).
- Substance Abuse Correctional Programme: aimed at overcoming substance addiction.
- Restorative Justice Orientation Programme: aimed at facilitating offenders' understanding of restorative justice and later integrating them into restorative justice programs.
- Spiritual Growth and Development Programmes: These are aimed at encouraging and ensuring to encourage and ensure spiritual encounters and growth for offenders and take various forms of individualized, group, and focused training.
- New beginnings: an orientation program aimed at facilitating better adjustment and coping in the correctional center (South African National Department of

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Correctional Services, 2019). All these programmes are offered in the Thohoyandou Correctional Center facility.

According to Labane (2014), programs at correctional centers are subdivided into the following categories:

Universal programs: these programs are mainly aimed at effective control; nevertheless, they still focus on the modification of the behaviour of the offender. They are activities that are appropriate for all offenders. Universal programs include gratification, discipline, security classification, and privileges.

Subgroup treatment programs*:* To accommodate offenders who have ordinary qualities for structure, control, support, and/or confrontation, these programs make provision for those with ordinary qualities for structure, control, support, and/or confrontation; these programs provide differentiated treatment strategies. The treatment of young offenders identified as having personality disorders and short-term offenders is are example (White Paper on Corrections, 2005).

Problem-oriented programs: These programs consist of single or multiple actions which focus on a particular problem for which a permanent, ordinary structure and control are not necessary. These programs are aimed at abolishing a specific adaptation, criminal, or community interpretation problem (White Paper on Corrections, 2015.

The following are examples of these programs: job skills, alcohol and drug abuse, basic education, and sexual adaptations. Individual programs: such programs make conditions for offenders' personal needs that cannot be accommodated in the subgroup treatment programs or problem-oriented programs.

They are accessible to each offender, irrespective of other programs in which the offender is engaged. Individual programs include medical care, after-hours classes, consensual individual therapy, and support. Even though these are based on needs analysis as indicated by the DCS, few of these programs seem to be directly targeting the specific needs of women as indicated in the Correctional Services Act 111 of 1998.

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According to Sibisi and Shezi (2023), existing standard rehabilitation programs like anger management and substance abuse programs should also be structured differently for women. What has been reflected is that the antecedents and functions for anger and substance abuse in women are different from men. For example, alcohol has been found to have a numbing of emotional function for women and anger may be caused by distinct factors for women and may be expressed differently than it is for men. This, therefore, highlights the importance of looking at how such differences can be reflected in the practice or presentation of such programs, especially for women.

The South African Department of Correctional Services (2019) states that in South Africa, the DCS intends to offer needs-based rehabilitation as informed by a thorough assessment of the needs of each offender, thus speaking to gender-responsive programs. As a result, a variety of mental healthcare practitioners are available to provide such comprehensive treatment, i.e., psychologists, social workers, psychiatrists, and nurses. However, Herbig Hesselink (2016) maintained that the available number of healthcare practitioners is inadequate to fulfill the comprehensive needs-based rehabilitation mandate.

2.21.3 The role of community-based interventions and support systems in facilitating the rehabilitation of parolees in low-resourced communities.

According to Mosteller (2018), Community-based interventions and support systems play a critical role in the rehabilitation of offenders in low-resourced communities. However, it is noteworthy that community corrections can be more effective when adequately resourced and properly monitored. Low-resourced communities have inadequate resources and, therefore, are comparatively deprived from fully accessing the benefits of community-based interventions despite their critical importance. The succeeding discussion sheds light on some of the critically important community-based interventions that low-resourced communities can use. Notably, many other interventions are available, and the researcher chose to discuss the most feasible ones given the resource constraints of the low-resourced communities.

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2.21.3.1 Re-entry Programmes

The Right on Crime (2023) describes re-entry programs as comprehensive initiatives providing services to help parolees successfully reintegrate into their communities. When offenders are incarcerated, they are taken away from their communities for rehabilitation. When rehabilitation is realized, they need to be reintegrated into their communities. These services often include job training, mental health counselling, substance abuse treatment, and assistance with accommodation. Research education has established that when re-entry programs are implemented and sustained with proper resources, they facilitate the offenders' smooth transition back into society and help reduce recidivism (United Nations, 2018; Mosteller, 2018).

2.21.3.2 Mentorship and peer support

Timor, Peled-Laskov, and Golan (2023) state that in low-resourced communities, ex-offenders struggle with sustaining law-abiding behavior behavior after they have been reintegrated into the communities. Mentorship programs connect parolees with volunteer mentors who have successfully reintegrated into society after their involvement with the criminal justice system. The research found that mentoring positively affects offenders' rehabilitation and sustains law abidance among ex-offenders and parolees. The services that volunteer mentors provide, among others, include guidance, support, and role models for ex-offenders and parolees.

2.21.3.3 Substance abuse

Petek (2021) reported that parolees struggle with substance abuse issues. Research found that such challenges with substance abuse among parolees are a precursor to re-offending. Community-based programs that offer substance abuse counselling, therapy, and access to treatment centers to address these challenges have the potential to curb re-offending and sustain the outcomes of rehabilitation processes (The Pew Charitable Trusts, 2023).

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2.21.3.4 Community-based organizations

According to Sinclair (2017), the role played by the non-profit sector cannot be overemphasized in the rehabilitation of offenders. This is more important in low-resourced communities where they are mainly active in South Africa and other similar contexts. Non-profit organizations and Faith-Based Organizations tend to be closer to the communities and work together with community members where most government services cannot be accessed. These organizations may offer a wide range of services tailored to the specific needs of their communities.

2.21.3.5 Wraparound Services Project

(Azuela, 2018), stated that wraparound services aim to provide the proper transition from prison into the community through improved social, health, and educational outcomes. Hence, Hope (2023) shares that wraparound services coordinate multiple support systems to provide holistic care and address parolees' various challenges.

Parolees are provided with “one-stop” programs that include mental health, primary care, and non-medical services such as housing services, education, and- employment assistance.

2.21.4 The Role of Civil Society in Rehabilitation

The role of civil society in rehabilitating and integrating offenders has been acknowledged in the White Paper on Corrections (2005). A review done by the Civil Society Prison Reform with civil society organizations that focus mostly on the rehabilitation of offenders post-incarceration indicates the existence of organizations that are interested in changing the lives of offenders’ post-incarceration.

According to Azuela (2018), as much as the White Paper on Corrections (2005) recognizes the role of civil society in the rehabilitation of offenders, Letlape and Dube, (2023) argue that the application and collaboration of these services with the DCS internal rehabilitation programs has not yet been fully established. There was also an observed disconnect between the visions of the White Paper on Corrections (2005) and the Correctional Services Act 111 of 1998, as all the organizations that were reviewed did not

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cite the two significant documents as a motivating factor in the initiation and implementation of the programs.

This possibly highlights a need for more focused collaborative and integrated work between the DCS and civil society organizations in the rehabilitation of offenders.

Also noted in the description of the programs was a lack of focus on gender-specific rehabilitation programs and theory as one of the driving elements in informing the content of such programs.

Furthermore, all the offenders who were mentioned as examples of success stories were males. It is with the above in mind that this study aimed at understanding the gendered rehabilitation for murder offenders to encourage the correctional system and society to pay attention to their needs, which are most likely to be neglected within the correctional center and in the communities after release in South Africa and Worldwide (Mabeba and Rolland, 2019; Letlape and Dube, 2023).

The researcher will discuss the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that provide social reintegration services in the following section.

2.22 N.G.O'S PROVIDING SOCIAL REINTEGRATION SERVICES

According to the South African National Department of Correctional Services (2019), various civil society organizations have worked with offenders and ex-offenders by providing services to them aimed at promoting their rehabilitation and reintegration into society. This is aimed at the likelihood that the ex-offender may be rehabilitated, thereby reducing the chances of re-offending.

NICRO (2016) NGOs that present offender social reintegration programs include the National Institute for Crime Prevention and the Reintegration of Offenders (NICRO), Hlumelelisa, and Khulisa Social Solutions. NICRO is one of South Africa's oldest NGOs that since 1910 offered services to offenders, Mnisi & Schoeman (2023). They specialize in social crime prevention and offender reintegration (National Institute for Crime Prevention and the Reintegration of Offenders).

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NICRO's Tough Enough Programme aims to assist inmates and their families with social reintegration before and after parole by focusing on emotional and vocational life skills, social relationships, and access to community-based resources (Singh, 2016; NICRO, 2016).

Mnisi and Schoeman, 2023), reported that a study commissioned by NICRO in 2003 to evaluate the effectiveness of the Tough Enough Programme found that the program assisted in building and strengthening inmates' and parolees' relationships with family networks. Findings claimed that parolees displayed a greater sense of responsibility for their families while family members' social support facilitated their social reintegration. The Tough Enough Programme was furthermore found to enhance self-awareness, self-esteem, and anger management, as well as improve communication, coping, planning, decision-making, and critical thinking skills (NICRO, 2016). Because the study was not peer-reviewed or published in a scientific journal, information about the methodology that was followed and the sample size used is not available.

2.23 SUMMARY OF THE CHAPTER

Firstly, this chapter explored the history of correctional centers, the Philosophy and impact of incarceration, the treatment of offenders, as well as the rehabilitation of offenders outside and in African countries. Living conditions of female offenders incarcerated in South African correctional centers were delved into to get a clearer understanding of factors that lead to a high rate of recidivism in South Africa. Challenges faced by the Department of Correctional Centres about rehabilitation, as well as challenges faced by offenders taking part in rehabilitation, were also explored. Using a variety of sources, the chapter highlights empirical evidence to indicate that little has been done in South Africa to reduce the recidivism rate, as offenders are subjected to the same rehabilitation programs regardless of offense committed and that females are rehabilitated as male offenders as there is no specific tailor-made rehabilitation programs for female offenders.

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CHAPTER 3

THEORETICAL REVIEW

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This study aims to probe gendered rehabilitation conditions for murder offenders in Thohoyandou Correctional Centre in Limpopo province, South Africa.

According to Molefe (2013), a theory is "a set of interrelated structures, terminologies, and propositions that give a systematic view of events by identifying relationships among variables to explain and predict phenomena." Delport, Fouché, and Schurink (2011) defined a theoretical framework as "a system of ideas, beliefs, and values that constitute a perspective for looking at and interpreting a phenomenon or anticipating something." When investigating a research problem, researchers must have a theory or hypotheses to base their research arguments on.

Chikadzi and Chanakira (2022) explained that a theory is critical because it gives the researcher a lens through which to see the subject under investigation; theories aid a researcher in connecting his or her findings to previous studies.

This chapter covers the theories that guide this study. A theory helps explain and predict everyday experiences and phenomena of the world (Craib, 2015). So, these are the theories adopted in this study: Rehabilitation theory, Liberal feminism, Standpoint theory, Ecosystem theory, and Intersectionality theory have been used in this study to assist the researcher in examining the pervasiveness of rehabilitation conditions for male and female offenders within correctional centers and in society in general.

3.1.1 Rehabilitation theory

Campbell developed rehabilitation theory in the Encyclopaedia of Prisons and Correctional Facilities (2018) and its greater focus is on the human treatment of prisoners in prisons, suggesting that instead of prisoners being allowed to idle in jail, they should be properly taught, and educated, and trained to adjust themselves to normal life in the community after their release from penal institutions.

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Ndike (2014) reported that this theory is founded on the belief that one cannot inflict a severe punishment of imprisonment and expect the offender to reform and reintegrate into society upon his or her release as a law-abiding citizen. As stated by Letlape and Dube (2023), in democratic South Africa, there has been a shift from the punishment of offenders to the rehabilitation approach and a change from prisons to correctional centers. Once someone becomes an offender, the person goes through rehabilitation and not punishment.

Ndike (2014), asserts that crime is a social problem, not only in South Africa but all over the world. As such, South Africa uses community corrections in correctional centers as an alternative to rehabilitate offenders and make them law-abiding citizens in their communities. The term “community corrections” is defined as community sentences and models that provide alternatives to imprisonment.

According to Zara & Farrington (2015), offenders serving their sentences in the community are not anticipated to re-offend, as this process aims to rehabilitate them and guide them toward a law-abiding life. However, correctional facilities face challenges in managing the growing number of new cases, particularly with offenders who have repeatedly engaged with the correctional system.

Ahmed (2017), states that communities that suffer from high rates of crime and the government at large often make efforts to devise ways to reduce crime and the rate of recidivism. More recently, educational, vocational, and psychological-based programs, as well as specialized services for specific problems, have typically been put forward as means to reform prisoners during their sentence. Rehabilitation theory has proved to be successful in cases of all categories of prisoners to prevent future crime by giving offenders the ability to succeed within the confines of the law (Gilbert, 2017).

Magkoka (2016), reiterated that the medical model of intervention for behaviour rehabilitation emerged at the turn of the century in response to the perceived

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ineffectiveness of early reform methods that relied on labour and physical punishments. Hence, Letlape and Dube (2023) argued that new “scientific” disciplines like psychiatry, psychology, and criminology proposed that the causes of crime and deviance could be linked to biological, physiological, or psychological defects of the individual, and environmental factors play a role in offending and the rehabilitation of offenders.

The researcher chooses this theory to guide this research as it articulates the problem of the gendered rehabilitation conditions of murder offenders. This theory states that the objective of incarceration is to reform criminals; the idea behind this theory is that in South Africa, provisions within the Correctional Services Act 111 of 1998 Section. 45(1), as amended in 2008, mandated sentence offenders be prepared for placement, release, and reintegration into mainstream society by participating in pre-release programs (Padayachee, 2008, 32).

Chikadzi and Chanakira (2022), articulated that this theory also stipulates that these pre-release programs are the responsibility of multiple stakeholders. These stakeholders include mainly government agencies and people from non-governmental organizations (hereafter, NGOs). Working in partnership with NGOs, the state has designed several programs and interventions to mediate the relationship between offenders, victims, the community, and families directly affected by the crime.

3.1.2 Liberal feminism

According to Potokri (2014), feminism is a field of study that began as a fundamental critique of the social world, which demonstrates ignorance of women’s life situations and upholds men’s dominance as its central focus. Magkoka (2016, 18) sees feminism as “creating societies that recognize and value roles, tasks, knowledge, and skills without gender-based assumptions”. She emphasizes that “the choices we make are not to be limited, encouraged or penalized just because we are male or female; it means that all spheres of life should be assessed and valued based on what they contribute both to the common good and group and individual well-being, not on gender grounds.

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This should apply in correctional centers so that female and male offenders receive equal treatment while incarcerated.

Fenwick (2008), cited in Makgoka (2016), elucidates that liberal feminism focuses on the elimination of all barriers that hinder women from becoming effective leaders and, at the same time, strives to alter women's status quo within the existing economic and leadership frameworks. In this study, the barrier to be interrogated is that the correctional facilities are not adequate, and what compounds the challenge is a lack of a corresponding increase in female programs to rehabilitate female offenders. For example, a woman who committed a theft is subjected to the same program as the one who committed a murder.

Miller (2021) also maintained that this practice has no significant impact in terms of effective rehabilitation. Another observation is the fact that female offenders are subjected to the already existing male rehabilitation programs. They are rehabilitated as male offenders, failing to recognize the gender disparities. The needs of female offenders are different from their male counterparts.

Sinyosi and Potokri (2021) argue that women have as much potential as men and should therefore be given equal rights to implement their capabilities to remedy the injustices done to them. As a researcher, I agree with Sinyosi and Potokri that if the needs of female offenders are addressed during the rehabilitation process and the community fosters an integrative culture, ex-offenders will be encouraged to reintegrate into society.

Casper Lotter (2019) alluded that offenders are provided with employment and other opportunities to ease their transition into mainstream society, unlike having a harsh, stigmatizing culture where ex-offenders often experience discrimination and ostracization. This drives them away from mainstream culture and its values and towards criminal subcultures. According to Chitsamatanga *et al.* (2018), the Liberal Feminist Theory is committed to challenging patriarchy, racism, and oppression to uphold social justice, and they further explain that the liberal feminist theory is a tool that challenges the status quo, which disadvantages women (Ikpeze 2015).

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The theory was adopted for this research because it advocates for gender equality while opposing oppression and male supremacy (Enyew & Mihrete, 2018). A liberal feminist perspective provides space for an exploration of broader questions on social justice, while simultaneously addressing multiple forms of structural inequality bordering on gender, race, ethnicity, class, and sexuality. Research informed by liberal feminist theory fosters empowerment, liberation, and emancipation for women and other marginalized groups, and is consistent with the broader aims of gender justice and the theme of this study.

Potokri (2014) asserts that applying a feminist approach is a means of listening to the voices of women and attempting to respond in a way that will navigate their lives towards prosperity. In the case of this study, liberal feminist theory facilitates a positive interpretation of the experiences of female offenders, which mainly demonstrates gender inequality in the South African correctional system.

Letlape and Dube (2023) assert that Liberal feminism is rooted in the political philosophy of liberalism, which emphasizes the belief that all individuals have right to freedom and autonomy. This theory asserts that any laws, traditions, or practices that obstruct equal rights and opportunities for women should be eliminated.

3.1.3 Standpoint Theory

According to Maqubela (2017), the foundation of standpoint theory is the recognition that women have a distinct viewpoint based on their experiences as women. According to this view, a person's knowledge is based exclusively on their place in society or job.

What a person knows about the world depends on how they see it and how they interact with it, in their environment (Nyathi, 2019). While standpoint theory emphasizes an individual's experiences inside socially formed groups, it emphasizes the social orders that create such groupings. According to Kowalski-Braun (2014), a feminist standpoint refers to a critical awareness of identification sites (such as being an offender, being poor, or being a member of a particular ethnicity), which is formed through contemplation and struggle.

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Yuill (2012), maintains that the Marxist ideologies that hold that people's perceptions of their lives and circumstances reflect material conditions and power relations—and that inequality therefore renders marginalised groups helpless and oppresses them—are the source of the standpoint theory concepts. Yuill (2012), also maintains that their need for survival means that the oppressed groups become outsiders to the dominating groups, preventing the former's access to information about social structures or how they work. This makes it necessary for people "outside" the dominant social and political groupings to learn how to function both within and outside the prevailing society.

Swigonski (1994) believes that feminists who adhere to this theory think social sciences research should be conducted from the perspective of women since they are highly equipped to comprehend specific facets of the global environment. Due to their epistemic privilege, which allows outsiders to notice problems that the dominant group may not see or view differently, marginalized groups must express their ideas to help identify areas of research.

Nyathi (2019) states that it focuses on women's agencies and provides an account of women's oppression. The Standpoint theory emphasizes research as a vehicle for social transformations and empowerment. Its focus is on making research for women a priority. It transcends conventional scientific-based accounts of women's experiences and creates a fresh thesis that may be used to effect social change. The Standpoint theory is also used in this study as the lens to provide the perspective of gendered rehabilitation conditions for offenders within the correctional system.

Power dynamics in the creation of knowledge are aspects of standpoint theory as it investigates how gender dynamics and the placed situations and experiences affect either one sex or both. Its foundation is the idea that male expertise, interests, and experiences have been overrepresented in scientific research (McDowell & Sharp, 2016); instead of just generalizing every experience as being shared by men and women, it aims to address specific issues that are pertinent to women. Therefore, It is vital to view offenders' rehabilitation from a woman's perspective. The standpoint theory allows women a platform to discuss their struggles to prevent knowledge from being generalized.

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The standpoint theory opposes the early feminists' portrayal of women's oppression as having a single, universal cause; rather, it proposes the combination of local, social, and situational construction of knowledge (Mojab, 2015). According to Harding (2004), women should not be reduced to one homogenous group as they have different experiences. Rather, knowledge should be based on experience. Budgeon (2014) argues that marginalized or oppressed groups, such as women, have unique knowledge and insights into social systems and structures due to their lived experiences. Therefore, each oppressed group should be able to recognize its distinctive opportunities to transform an oppressive aspect of their status into a source of critical understanding about how the dominant culture thinks and is organized.

Maqubela (2017) highlights the lack of tailored rehabilitation programs for female offenders in South Africa. Female offenders need to express their experiences regarding the barriers they face during rehabilitation. They should provide insights into their situations instead of having their experiences generalised based on knowledge from other societies. This will help the Department of Correctional Services understand their unique challenges and needs.

According to Wylie (2003), people who are disadvantaged, marginalized, and oppressed are more likely to be dismissed as misinformed, untrained, and unreliable epistemic actors. This is essential to this study because it seeks to address gaps in knowledge on the rehabilitation program that is not tailor-made to crimes committed.

This gap was noted by Gaum, Hoffman, and Venter (2006), who postulated that the Department of Correctional Services (DCS)’s Corrections programs aim to provide needs-based correctional sentence plans and interventions to offenders, however, there are no well-structured programs to rehabilitate offenders, as well as Probation Officers, are not equipped to implement rehabilitation programs as they apply “one size fits all” approach. They apply the same programs to different offenders who committed different crimes. It is within this realization of the gap this study was conducted.

In this study, standpoint theory helps explain the importance of having situated knowledge that applies to a specific group of people in a specific context. From the standpoint

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theory's perspective, knowledge and experiences of female offenders from selected correctional centers of Limpopo Province cannot be universalized. Instead, Kowalski-Braun (2014) argued that women possess unique knowledge and perspectives from their experiences navigating gendered rehabilitation conditions.

Their perceptions and experiences regarding the process of rehabilitation might be different from female offenders elsewhere in the world. Therefore, the knowledge of the gendered rehabilitation conditions of female offenders must be subjective, based on their situation. Furthermore, this can also assist the researcher as a roadmap on how to provide the solutions to their challenges, which is not possible when challenges are universal.

3.1.4 Ecosystem Theory

Commencing with Mary Richmond in 1917, social scientists have understood that the environment plays a significant role in people's lives (Teater, 2014).
This theory has been redefined over the 20th century to date and has enabled a movement away from focusing primarily on the person-in-environment, which has led to inadequate results and criticism. The theory also draws attention to focusing on intrapersonal issues and the transactional problems impacted by environmental issues. The ecosystem theory is, therefore, essential in conceptualizing recidivism.

Instead of the ecosystem theory focusing on the person-in-environment, Paulson (2013) asserts that it provides a vital lens for understanding ex-offenders and the world around them to reduce recidivism among ex-offenders in South Africa. Tica (2014) also maintained that from this theoretical perspective, there is a need to determine the environmental factors that play an important role significant role in human development.

From this perspective, the issue of crime is seen as not limited to the person and family, but to the entire society. Teater (2014) maintains that the interconnectedness of systems with various parts of society allows for transition or movement in one part of the system to cause a change in the other parts.

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It is argued from the ecosystems theory that offenders' problems or unacceptable behaviour may be caused or influenced by systems in their environment. The emphasis of ecosystem theory on the person-in-environment makes it possible to link and connect individuals, families, and the entire community's environment (Teater, 2014) and how these influence the effectiveness of rehabilitating offenders and successfully reintegrating them into their community.

3.1.5 Intersectionality Theory

According to Walby (2012), The concept of 'intersectionality' emerged within the feminist discourse in the early 1990s, and it addressed the complexities of inequalities among various groups of people within and across different contexts. Intersectionality does not deal with individuals; rather, it deals with structural inequalities and operates with groups as the subject of equality. It highlights the cross-cutting nature of structures of oppression and the overlapping nature of groups (Verloo, 2013; Roland, 2017).

Gines (2011) defines Intersectionality as a term that refers to interconnected, multiple, and related layers of existence and complex power relations within which our identities exist. This includes existentialism, race, gender, class, sexuality, nationality, culture, and religion. Nyathi (2019) avers that the theory describes the multiple, multifaceted elements of inequality and power structures that produce roles of dominance and subordination in the context of race, gender, Class, and sexuality; hence, oppression in society does not operate in isolation; but rather in interwoven intricate patterns.

According to feminist criminology, women's crime and deviance should be understood within the framework of race, class, gender, sexuality, age, nationality, religion, physical ability, and other locations of inequality within a society. Burgess-Proctor (2006) states that the implication is that there should be an attempt to understand the role of gender inequality in women's deviance and their experiences in the correctional system. There are several theories within feminism, and for this research, the postmodern feminism theory of crime will be utilised to contextualise the arguments. Postmodern feminism questions the existence of one truth as suggested by other feminist theories.

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As stated by Roland (2017), the main premise of this theory within the context of crime is to interrogate the social construction of concepts such as crime, justice, and challenge accepted criminological truths. Crenshaw and McCall (2013) describe postmodernism as a shift toward an intersectional approach. This perspective acknowledges that issues relating to race, gender, class, equality, and other forms of inequality are dynamic and rooted in history. They are socially constructed power relationships that function simultaneously at both macro and micro levels.

Cho et al. (2013) assert that an intersectional theoretical framework was used to analyse the numerous ways in which race, poverty, power, and gender intersect with class in women's incarceration and rehabilitation. Drawing from this framework, one would view women's criminality and incarceration as a product of intersecting patterns of complex power relations within society. Sharp (2003) further states that in most societies' women (relative to men) and offenders (relative to non-offenders) are marginalised.

George et al. (2022) argue that the experiences of women in correctional centers are often overlooked in feminist and anti-racist discussions, as well as in political discourse. This neglect is attributed to the intersectional identities of gender, race, and class, which shape the discrimination that women face and contribute to the challenges of incarceration.

The emergence of mental health challenges, trauma, and substance abuse among incarcerated men and women can be attributed to the complex interplay of race, gender, power, poverty, and abuse. These factors significantly influence their pathways to crime. Thus, theories that enhance our understanding of these dynamics are essential for formulating policies and designing gender-sensitive programs aimed at supporting women in the criminal justice system.

3.2 SUMMARY OF THE CHAPTER

This chapter explored five theories that undergirded this study. The researcher integrated all these theories to conduct a more comprehensive and nuanced analysis of the

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gendered rehabilitation conditions for murder offenders. Combining these theories also helped the researcher to better understand the rehabilitation conditions for murder offenders in a selected correctional center of Limpopo Province. These theories further allowed the researcher to explore the structural, cultural, and intersectional dynamics that contributed to the issues of gender marginalisation and mainstreaming while also considering the specific experiences and perspectives of women in different contexts. This interdisciplinary approach enabled a more holistic understanding and informed strategies to address rehabilitation conditions and promote gender equity in correctional centers. The methodological approaches used in this study are discussed in the following chapter.

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CHAPTER 4

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

4.1. INTRODUCTION

This study aims to probe gendered rehabilitation conditions for murder offenders in Thohoyandou Correctional Centre in Limpopo province, South Africa.

This chapter deals with the methodological processes of the research. The discussions dwell on research paradigms, followed by the nature of the study, research design, study location, population, sampling, and data collection methods. In addition, measures of trustworthiness are outlined, as well as ethical issues such as informed consent, confidentiality, and privacy.

4.2. RESEARCH PARADIGMS

Kuvunja (2017) notes that a paradigm is a set of shared beliefs or perspectives that informs the meaning or interpretation of research data; it is the researchers' conviction about the world. Chilisa and Kawulich (2012) describe a paradigm as a shared worldview that reflects a discipline's beliefs, values, and guides how to analyse and solve problems. A paradigm encompasses specific values that influence how researchers understand and interact with the world.

There are diverse types of paradigms - positivist, interpretive, and critical. This study used an interpretive paradigm as the philosophy underpinning this study.

4.2.1 Interpretive Research Paradigm.

Interpretive research is concerned with subjective meanings as it seeks to recognise individuals' interpretation and understanding of social phenomena (Shah, 2013; Chitsamatanga, 2014). The ontological position of the interpretive paradigm is idealism, which denotes that there are multiple realities that differ from one individual to another.

This research employed an interpretive paradigm, which holds that people construct, interpret, and experience the world through their interactions with one another and with larger social systems (Tolley, Ulin, Mack, Succop, and Robinson, 2016).

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Husain *et al.* (2013), therefore, argue that researchers cannot distance themselves from the object being observed, the subject matter, and the methods of the study. Interpretivists believe or assume that there is no objective knowledge independent of human thinking and reasoning; instead, knowledge and meaning are acts of interpretation. Interpretivist researchers aim to explore individuals' perceptions, share their meanings, and develop insights about observed cases (Shah, 2013; Tolley, 2016). Therefore, this qualitative, explorative study was influenced by the interpretive paradigm (Kivunja, 2017).

The rationale for this choice is that this study sought to explore the gendered rehabilitation conditions for murder offenders in Thohoyandou Correctional Centre, which is a rural-based Correctional Centre in Limpopo Province of South Africa. The researcher has attempted to understand the experiences from the perceptions of those who had lived them and to identify strategies that can improve the rehabilitation process, thereby empowering male and female offenders. Accordingly, male and female offenders from a rural-based Correctional Centre in South Africa were interviewed.

In this study, the interpretive paradigm was used to allow male and female offenders at Thohoyandou Correctional Centre to relate their experiences, perspectives, and expertise within their social context and viewpoint. This is because the interpretive paradigm prioritises subjectivity and believes that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to information or procedure that would lead to intellectual advancement. Interpretive researchers do not seek answers for their investigations in a rigorous manner. Instead, they approach reality from the perspective of subjects, usually people who own the experiences and belong to a specific group or culture (Thahn & Thahn, 2015).

Based on this, the researcher was able to approach male and female murder offenders from the Department of Correctional Services, who provided useful information by telling their perspectives on Gendered rehabilitation conditions for murder offenders in the Thohoyandou Correctional Centre.

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The interpretive research paradigm was selected for this study because it allowed the researcher to learn about the participants' socially constructed meanings directly from them. It also helped her understand the participants' multiple realities in their natural settings. Furthermore, interpretivism enabled the researcher and participants to interact, which produced much-needed in-depth data about the gendered rehabilitation conditions prevailing within the Correctional centre and in the community.

4.3. NATURE OF THE STUDY

In this study, the researcher used a qualitative research methodology. Lynch (2014) states that qualitative research seeks to both authentically reflect and make relevant the interactions, activities, or processes in which people are involved and, at the same time, critically, and at the same time, critically explain the commonalities of those experiences among the participants. A qualitative approach focuses on collecting knowledge about a phenomenon being investigated, thus, its appropriateness for this study because the researcher wanted to understand the world of the participants through their understanding and interpretation of their reality.

The qualitative research approach assumes that people think differently and that every single situation has equal significance in people's understanding of reality (Ormston, Spencer, Barnard, and Snape, 2014). The approach makes use of highly unstructured Instruments, such as in-depth interviews, which provided the researcher with comprehensive and denser answers to her questions about the gendered rehabilitation conditions for male and female murder offenders.

The qualitative approach enabled the researcher to gather detailed information from the participants, allowing her to explore the complex factors, experiences, and perceptions that contribute to the gendered rehabilitation conditions for male and female murder offenders (Priede, Jokinen, Ruuskanen & Farrall, 2014).

Furthermore, a qualitative research approach was selected for this study because it is unstructured and flexible as compared to the quantitative research approach (Islam and Aldaihani, 2022). It aims to explore diversity in participants' views on the phenomenon being investigated, in this case exploring the gendered rehabilitation conditions for male

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and female offenders as well as to uncover unforeseen factors or perspectives rather than merely quantifying responses. Qualitative research findings are not intended to be generalised outside of the study's specific context. Instead, it seeks to understand the behaviour, experiences, and beliefs in that context (Eyisi, 2016).

The qualitative approach was also adopted since it could emphasize the participants' voices. As a result, the approach allowed for the inclusion of the participants' voices in the data presentation using quotations that precisely represented exactly what the participants had said. These were later analysed to derive their underlying meanings.

The qualitative approach was, however, supplemented by adding some of the elements (principles) of the feminist standpoint theory. The qualitative research approach is quiet on feminine and gender issues; therefore, to make up for this gap, the researcher borrowed some elements of the feminist standpoint theory to enrich the approach, as the purpose of this study was to explore gender issues. Elements of the feminist standpoint theory, as discussed earlier in the theoretical framework, were incorporated to enhance the qualitative approach, as this theory gives voice to voiceless and marginalised women.

Supplementing the qualitative research approach with the elements of the feminist standpoint theory was necessary because, as repeatedly emphasized, the study is on gender issues, namely, probing gendered rehabilitation conditions for male and female murder offenders in Thohoyandou correctional centre of Limpopo Province, South Africa. The advocates of the feminist theories maintain that what is called scientific research or empiricism, is derived from the word “empirical” This type of research supports the masculine perspective, which promotes male interests while relegating feminine and gender issues to the background (Hesse-Biber, 2014).

In this study, four features of the feminist standpoint theory were used to strengthen the qualitative research approach; these features are discussed below.

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4.3.1. Unequal power relations in research

Power is a creative and constitutive force that exists throughout the world in a circular way (Beasley, 2005). This relates to the relationships between the study participants and the researcher where the researcher and the researched must be placed on an equal footing by having equal positions in the production of knowledge. Feminist researchers emphasize the maintenance of an equal relationship between the interviewer and the interviewee to avoid power exploitation so that collaboration, consent, and liberty would be achievable (Marumo, 2015).

Therefore, power relations in this research supported the researcher's non-dominance over the research. A researcher should be able to maintain a balanced relationship of power with the participants, particularly if the researcher wishes to produce credible results.

4.3.2. Epistemic privilege

According to Maqubela (2017), In epistemic privilege, the oppressed/researched are highly regarded as the ones who better understand their situation. Epistemic privilege helps the researcher understand that the researched are the subjects rather than the research objects. Hence, the research participants should be considered as possessing 'epistemic privilege.' They are viewed and recognised as active knowledge producers. The fact that the researchers are the knowers or have "epistemic privilege" puts them in an advantageous position in terms of knowledge in any research (Maqubela, 2013).

Regarding epistemic privilege, the researched are seen as possessing better knowledge of the barriers to their situation. In this study, both male and female offenders have valuable insights regarding their rehabilitation conditions, which the researcher lacks. This shows that those who are oppressed have a profound understanding of their circumstances, unlike those who live outside of such situations, who may struggle to grasp the complexities of experiencing these conditions (Hesse-Biber, 2014; Maqubela, 2013).

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4.3.3. Researcher's positionality

Galam (2015) defines "positionality" as the researcher's awareness of his or her own subjective experiences in comparison to his or her participants (Galam, 2015).

The theory of feminist standpoint considers positionality as relevant because it allows the researcher to reveal his / her position or proximity to the topic and the participants. Hesse-Biber (2015) emphasises that researchers should clarify whether they are conducting their research as insiders, outsiders, or somewhere in between as insiders/outsiders.

This clarity is important as it reveals the researcher's awareness of their position concerning the research. Understanding how close (either subjectively or objectively) the researcher is to the participants is crucial in the research process. Maqubela (2013) acknowledges that researching from an outsider's perspective has the advantage of the researcher being able to identify issues that have been taken for granted and have not been visible to the insider.

Hesse-Biber (2014) suggests that a researcher can be both an insider and an outsider; in one social context, they may be an insider while being an outsider in another context. In this study, the researcher's position is that of an outsider because of not fall under the category of those who have been incarcerated or worked as a correctional officer.

4.3.4. Reciprocity

Hesse-Biber (2014) asserts that feminist standpoint theory emphasises 'reciprocity' during interviews. This means the researcher should reciprocate by sharing his/ her experiences. This is possible by making the interview conversational to enable the researcher to acquire some level of trust from the participants, as this assists in soliciting comprehensive data from the participants. The researcher benefited greatly from reciprocity during the interviews because she shared her challenges/difficulties with the process of being in the field and collecting data, which helped her gain the trust of the participants. The relationship between the researcher and the participants was characterised by reflexivity. Reflexivity played a crucial role in assisting the researcher to be more open-minded and receptive towards the participants' viewpoints (Ivey, 2023).

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In this study, reflexivity was used to avoid obvious or conscious bias on the part of the researcher; it also encouraged the researcher to be neutral in the collection, analysis, and interpretation of the data (Gunbayi & Sorm, 2018).

All the above background details were necessary for structuring the qualitative approach so that the issue of gendered rehabilitation conditions for male and female murder offenders, which is at the heart of this study, can be adequately interrogated.

4.4. RESEARCH DESIGN

This study is exploratory in design as it sought insights into the gendered rehabilitation conditions for murder offenders.

According to Yin (2017), a research design is the logical sequence that connects empirical data to a study's initial research questions and, eventually, to its findings. Durrheim (2006) explains the appropriateness of using exploratory research to investigate unknown areas of a phenomenon. An explorative research design is flexible and open and resorts to an inductive research approach that seeks new insight. In particular, the study embarked on what is called focused ethnographic research, as this method can apply to any discipline whenever there is a desire to explore specific cultural perspectives held by groups of people within a context-specific and problem-focused framework (Savage, 2006).

Nyathi (2019) elucidates that an exploratory approach can be used when a researcher investigates a new interest or when the subject is relatively new. According to the literature reviewed on Africa and South Africa, there has not been extensive research on gendered rehabilitation for murder offenders. Some studies focused on the experiences/ challenges of offenders in the correctional centres. However, there has not been much exploration of the gendered rehabilitation conditions for male and female murder offenders and the role they play in re-offending.

In this study, an exploratory research design was used, providing an opportunity to listen closely to the issues discussed rather than just presenting the issues from the research participants. With this exploratory study, the researcher’s role was to seek an understanding of the rehabilitation conditions for murder offenders.

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It was, therefore, necessary for the researcher to allow the male and female offenders who participated in this study to narrate their stories.

4.5. STUDY LOCATION

Neuman (2006) describes study location as the place or venue where the researcher conducts the study or where the events or activities occurred; this study was conducted at Thohoyandou Correctional Centre, a rural-based Correctional Centre situated in the Vhembe District of Limpopo Province in South Africa. It is in Thohoyandou, a town in the Northern part of the province.

Thohoyandou is the capital of the Vhembe District Municipality and serves as a major commercial and cultural centre in the region (Francis, Kilonzo, and Nyamukondiwa, 2016).

4.6. STUDY POPULATION

Babbie (2014) defines a research population as a set of elements that are the focus of a study and to which the results obtained can be generalised. De Vos et al. (2011) refer to population as the complete set of objects or people the research focuses on and about which the researcher wishes to determine certain characteristics; similarly, Gerald (2014) describes the population as the group from which the data are drawn.

The population for this study includes male and female murder offenders who are incarcerated in two different prisons within Thohoyandou Correctional Centre, i.e, Medium A and Medium B prisons, aged between 21 and 60. Additionally, this study includes correctional officers and social workers involved in rehabilitation services. The selected participants have been sentenced from ten years to life sentences and are currently serving their sentences in the rural-based Thohoyandou Correctional Centre facility.

4.7. SAMPLING PROCEDURE

According to Etikan, Musa & Alkassim (2016), Sampling is the method by which a portion of the population is selected for research.

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A sample includes elements of the population that are required for actual inclusion in the analysis. The process is also seen as a subset of measurements taken from a population of interest by researchers.

The sample population for this study comprises both male and female murder offenders from the Thohoyandou Correctional Centre, as well as correctional officers and a social worker associated with rehabilitation services. The total sample size consisted of 16 participants: 6 male murder offenders from Medium B (the male prison), 6 female murder offenders from Medium A (the female prison) within Thohoyandou Correctional Centre, 1 male case official from Medium B, 2 female case officials from Medium A, and 1 social worker affiliated with rehabilitation services at the correctional facility. A sample size of 16 participants was selected to prevent data saturation. The researcher employed non-probability sampling to gather in-depth information.

The types of non-probability sampling employed are purposive and convenience sampling techniques. According to Etikan, Musa, and Alkassim (2016), purposive sampling involves selecting participants intentionally from a specific accessible population and was employed in this study to select male and female murder offenders, who were more knowledgeable and capable of sharing their experiences. This method is carried out with a clear purpose in mind. The process typically starts with one or more predefined categories that the researcher plans to investigate. On the other hand, Convenience sampling involves selecting participants based on their ease of access to the researcher and their willingness to participate in a study (De Vos *et al.,* 2002; Ritchie, Lewis, Nicholls, and Ormston, 2013). The researcher used both purposeful sampling and convenience sampling, as the interviews were conducted according to the participants' availability.

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4.8. DATA COLLECTION TECHNIQUE AND INSTRUMENT

According to Alshenqeeti (2014), the research instrument refers to instruments such as questionnaires, interviews, surveys, or observations used to collect research data. This study used semi-structured / face-to-face interviews for data collection. Du Plooy-Cilliers, Davis, and Bezuidenhout (2014) define an interview as a social relationship designed to exchange information between the participant and researcher. Interviews are used to gather information about people's past or present conduct or experiences.

Ritchie, Lewis Nicholls, and Ormston (2013) state that face-to-face interviewing is appropriate where in-depth meaning is important and the research is primarily focused on gaining insight and understanding. In this study, data collection was halted when saturation was reached, which occurred when the researcher identified redundancy in the participants' responses.

Following the sampling procedures, each participant's consent was requested before the interviews could take place (see Appendix B). The researcher had to use four different languages, that is, English, Tshivenda, Xitsonga, and Sepedi, to thoroughly disclose the study's purpose and expectations to the participants, as some participants could not understand English or Tshivenda but could only understand their native languages. Consent was given through written agreements, which were obtained before each interview started. The participants were not obligated to participate in the study and were free to leave at any time.

The participants did not receive any monetary or gift compensation for their involvement, which helped protect them from feeling pressured. An interview guide was developed with the study's objectives in mind. This guide enabled the researcher to explore the participants' perceptions, knowledge, and experiences. Furthermore, Nyathi (2019) states that using probing techniques allowed the researcher to investigate areas that had not been previously examined.

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4.8.1. Semi-structured face-to-face interviews

Hessen-Bibber (2014) stated that in-depth interviews enable researchers to capture individuals' ideas, thoughts, and memories in their own words, rather than through the researcher's interpretation. Reciprocity is one of the most important characteristics a researcher should utilise to achieve meaningful results.

Semi-structured face-to-face interviews were used as the key technique for data collection to ascertain male and female murder offenders' experiences with gendered rehabilitation conditions in Thohoyandou Correctional Centre.

According to Barker (2012), face-to-face interviewing is appropriate where in-depth meaning is required, and the research is primarily focused on gaining insight and understanding of the experiences of the participants. Face-to-face interviews offer researchers the chance to ask follow-up questions, delve deeper into participants' responses, and explore the complexities and nuances of their answers (Hessen-Bibber, 2014). Moreover, according to Muleya (2017), these conversational interviews allow researchers to uncover marginalised knowledge and gain insights into offenders' experiences. This process brings their experiences to light and subjects them to systematic analysis, making them more visible and understandable.

A semi-structured interview is implemented through a verbal exchange between the researcher and the participants; when the researcher wants to delve deeply into a topic and thoroughly understand the answers provided (De Vos *et al.,* 2011). The researcher probed for more information whenever the responses were left hanging. This, in turn, allowed the participants to elaborate more on their responses. Through such interviews/ conversations, one can uncover subjugated knowledge, elicit the experiences of participants, bring them to light, and subject them to systematic analysis, thus, making them visible (De Vos et al., 2013).

4.8.2. Data Analysis

According to De Vos et al. (2011), Data analysis is a method by which researchers examine and transform the collected data to discover useful information, draw

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conclusions, and make recommendations. Thematic content analysis was used in six phases, through a coding process to create meaningful patterns and to establish themes. The six phases include - familiarising with the data collected, generating initial codes, searching codes for themes, reviewing themes, defining and naming themes, and producing the final report (De Vos et al, 2011). After the collection of the data, which was the first phase, the researcher went through the transcripts, reading them several times as a process of immersing herself in the data.

Patterns and meanings gradually emerged because of this process of in-depth reading. After developing coding through reading and re-reading the data numerous times, I had a solid perspective of the data. The next step was organising the codes into a logical pattern related to the research questions. The researcher started by describing each unique theme and connecting them, keeping in mind whether the themes and codes associated with them formed a compelling “story.” The researcher analysed what each theme was about, what the essential elements were, and what the core message was when naming the themes. As a result, "a brief, snappy, and informative name for each theme" was created (Brown and Clarke 2013). These themes were then interwoven with data extracts to give the reader a clear and appealing story.

4.9. MEASURES TAKEN TO ENSURE TRUSTWORTHINESS.

The credibility of this analysis was established by adhering to the qualitative criteria for trustworthiness. Analysis credibility refers to the level of confidence in the findings. The significance of the study is assessed based on its trustworthiness. The principles of credibility, dependability, transferability, and confirmability were followed to ensure this trustworthiness.

4.9.1. Credibility

Anney (2014) states that credibility determines whether the findings of the research represent plausible information taken from the original data of the participants and is a correct interpretation of the original views of the participants. Lincoln and Guba (2012) posit that "credibility" relates to trust in the accuracy of the data and its interpretation.

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The study was designed to ensure reliable results; in other words, any reader would understand and trust them. An intensive interaction with the data was conducted to develop relationships between the data and its interpretations.

The researcher stayed in the field until all the data was collected, spending considerable time engaging with and observing the participants' responses. This experience allowed the researcher to gain a deep understanding of the topic as well as insight into the specific attitudes of the participants. Member verification was completed by sharing findings with participants and allowing them to confirm their responses. This ensured that their views were accurately represented, thus maintaining credibility.

4.9.2. Dependability

According to Vosloo (2014), Dependability refers to the stability of the research findings and time; participants evaluated the findings, interpretations, and recommendations to check whether they were supported by their data. This test is carried out to reveal signs of consistency and stability in the investigation process.

Utilizing an auditable trail to verify data and ensure that the findings are internally consistent guarantees the dependability of this study; this also confirms that the research findings, interpretations, and recommendations align with the data.

4.9.3. Conformability

Brink et al (2012), state that conformability refers to the study's results being dependable and could be confirmed by other investigators and that data provided by participants and its interpretations are not based on the researcher's imagination. It also provides a means of determining whether the researcher permitted his or her values to influence the collection of data.

To ensure conformability, the researcher adopted reflexivity, meaning that the researcher should be empathetic and neutral. This was reflected in the participants' voices rather than in the researcher's perceptions. The use of straightforward, concise, and well-structured interviews facilitated participants' understanding of the phenomena under examination and encouraged them to provide accurate information.

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4.9.4. Transferability

According to Lincoln and Guba (2012), the description of data collection must be thorough enough to allow conclusions to be applied to different contexts. The description of the procedures for the study should be comprehensive enough for the interpretation to apply to different fields.

To ensure the study's applicability across different contexts, the researcher provided a comprehensive account of the research methodology, including verbatim excerpts from individual interviewees. Additionally, the researcher enlisted the help of an experienced individual to randomly review selected transcripts and identify key categories, thereby enhancing the consistency of the analysis.

4.10. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Neuman (2011) defines “ethics” as moral procedures followed or applied in research and Pillay (2014) explains ethics as the general obligation placed upon researchers to conduct their research in a socially responsive and responsible manner. To avoid harm to the participants, integrating ethics into their research is crucial for researchers; they are responsible for ensuring that the respondents participate in the research with full awareness of the research's purpose, risks, and benefits.

Ethical considerations come into play when the participants are recruited, during the interview, and when the results obtained are made available. The researcher worked strictly by the University of Venda's ethical research standards and legal obligations; in addition, the researcher had to obtain a certificate of ethical clearance from the University Ethics Committee (See Appendix C). Access and permission to enter the prison facility were requested from the Department of Correctional Services (DCS), and the request was approved, as detailed in Appendix D. The research was also guided by the above-mentioned feminist principles, which ensure a balance of power between the researcher and participants.

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4.10.1. Informed consent

Babbie (2014) explains that, with informed consent, research participants are made aware of the type of information that the researcher wants from them, the reason why the information is sought, the purpose for which it is intended, how they are expected to participate in the study, as well as how participation will affect them directly or indirectly. This plays a vital role in preserving ties of the cordial relationship between the researcher and the researched.

To ensure clarity, the researcher took the time to explain the various aspects of the research to the respondents before the interviews. It is the researcher's responsibility to inform participants that their involvement is voluntary and that they have the option to withdraw from the study at any time if they wish. The participants consented to participate voluntarily, and they all signed the consent form.

4.10.2. Confidentiality

Monette, Sullivan, and Dejong (2011) refer to confidentiality as a state of secrecy; in research, the researcher is responsible for keeping secret from the public any identity information about the participants. Bless et al. (2006) note that confidentiality is particularly important since participant information is particularly sensitive, and that personal information should be protected and not made available to anyone other than the researcher.

In response to the participants' concerns, the researcher chose not to pressure them to sign the consent forms. Instead, respect for their feelings was prioritized, and all participants signed the consent form. Throughout the study, the researcher enhanced interpersonal skills, particularly in establishing relationships, which fostered trust and rapport between themselves and the participants.

In this study, to safeguard the information, the researcher maintained confidentiality by creating a password for the file of the participants ' shared information; additionally, the researcher assured participants that the situation would remain unchanged unless they agreed that the information should be shared with someone else.

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4.10.3. Privacy

According to De Vos et al, (2011), privacy means keeping what is not normally intended to be observed or analysed from the public eye. Every person has the right to privacy, and it is their right to decide when, where, to whom, and to what extent their attitude, beliefs, and conduct will be revealed. Moreover, Protecting the privacy and identity of participants is crucial for researchers, particularly in situations where sensitivity is required. In this study, the researcher used pseudonyms instead of participants' real names to maintain their privacy.

4.10.4. Avoidance of harm

Hendricks (2018) stated that another important ethical rule for social research is that the study must not harm the participants. Participants can be affected in many ways in research, whether physically, emotionally, or psychologically.

To prevent any potential harm, the researcher committed to an ethical obligation to safeguard participants from any physical discomfort that could arise during the research project, within all reasonable limits. Participants were thoroughly informed about the possible impacts of the research in advance.

In this study, an independent counsellor was appointed, as detailed in Appendix E, to provide debriefing for participants before and after the interview process. This decision was made due to the topic's sensitive nature, with the understanding that some participants might experience emotional distress during the interviews. The participants expressed to the researcher their desire to elaborate on the motivations behind their murder cases, even though this was not a focus of the research questions, and they were permitted to do so. This was particularly evident during the interviews; one male participant became deeply emotional as he attempted to convey the factors that led to his act of murder, ultimately struggling to complete his thoughts as he was overcome with tears.

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As a researcher, I found myself feeling scared and emotionally unsettled during the interview process as participants shared their motives for murder and the methods they employed. However, I received valuable support through group counseling sessions, which I participated in alongside others. Conversely, Israel (2014) points out that while a research project may yield positive effects for participants, it could take several years before any such benefits become evident.

4.11. SUMMARY OF THE CHAPTER

This chapter examined the qualitative research methodology employed in the study, discussing the approach in detail. The research utilised an interpretive paradigm and purposive and convenience sampling methods, using semi-structured interviews as the primary data collection technique. Although these methods present inherent challenges, their numerous advantages prompted the researcher to consider them the most suitable data collection techniques in this study. Additionally, this chapter addressed data analysis and ethical considerations.

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CHAPTER 5

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF RESEARCH FINDINGS

5.1. INTRODUCTION

This study aims to investigate gendered rehabilitation conditions for murder offenders in Thohoyandou Correctional Centre in Limpopo province, South Africa.

This chapter focused on the data. It presents, analyses, interprets, and discusses the research findings. The data is systematically analysed using thematic codes to categorise the emerging themes of the study. The research objectives guide the discussion of the findings. The following research objectives guided the discussion of the findings in this study:

- To ascertain the influence of rehabilitation programs on murder offenders in Thohoyandou Correctional Centres.
- To probe rehabilitation programs for male and female offenders prevailing in Thohoyandou Correctional Centres.
- To assess equal treatment for all offenders during the rehabilitation process.
- To develop gender-based measures that assist in the rehabilitation of male and female offenders at the Thohoyandou Correctional facility.

5.2. RESEARCH FINDINGS

The study outcomes are separated into sections based on the research objectives; the first component contains biographical information. Following this is a discussion on whether rehabilitation programs have an impact on offenders' lives and whether those programs can change an offender's behavior. Programs offered in the centre and those that one finds effective were looked at. The discussion was made on whether offenders receive fair and equal treatment as male and female offenders, and the measures that need to be taken to ensure effective rehabilitation of offenders.

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Correctional officers discussed the influence rehabilitation programs have on offenders' lives, and lastly, measures that should be developed by the Department of Correctional Services Department of Correctional Services to ensure effective rehabilitation of offenders in Thohoyandou Correctional Centre were discussed.

5.3. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

The study consists of a sample size of 06 male and 06 female offenders, 03 case officers dealing with the rehabilitation of offenders, and 01 social worker from Thohoyandou Correctional Centre in Limpopo Province. The participants in this research came from different age groups, ranging from 21-60 years, from different prisons within Thohoyandou Correctional Centre. This information is indicated in their profiles presented in the table below:

PSEUDONYMS	AGE	GENDER	MARITAL STATUS	EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION	CATEGORY	TRIBE	PRISON
Participant 1	21-30	M	Single	Grade 12	Inmate	Pedi	Medium B
Participant 2	31-40	F	Single	Grade 12	Case officer	Venda	Medium A
Participant 3	31-40	M	Married	Diploma	Case Manager	Venda	Medium B
Participant 4	41-50	M	Married	B.A in Social Work	Social Worker	Venda	Medium B
Participant 5	41-50	F	Single	Diploma	Case Officer	Tsonga	Medium A
Participant 6	41-50	F	Single	Grade 12	Inmate	Venda	Medium A

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Participant 7	41-50	F	Single	Grade 12	Inmate	Pedi	Medium A
Participant 8	41-50	F	Married	Grade 12	Inmate	Pedi	Medium A
Participant 9	41-50	M	Single	Gade 12	Imnate	Venda	Medium B
Participant 10	41-50	M	Married	Grade 11	Inmate	Pedi	Medium B
Participant 11	41-50	M	Married	Grade 12	Inmate	Venda	Medium B
Participant 12	51-60	F	Single	Grade 8	Inmate	Tsonga	Medium A
Participant 13	51-60	M	Single	Grade 12	Inmate	Venda	Medium B
Participant 14	51-60	M	Single	Grade 12	Inmate	Zulu	Medium B
Participant 15	51-60	F	Single	Grade 9	Inmate	Pedi	Medium A
Participant 16	51-60	M	Married	Grade 12	Inmate	Venda	Medium B

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FIGURE 1

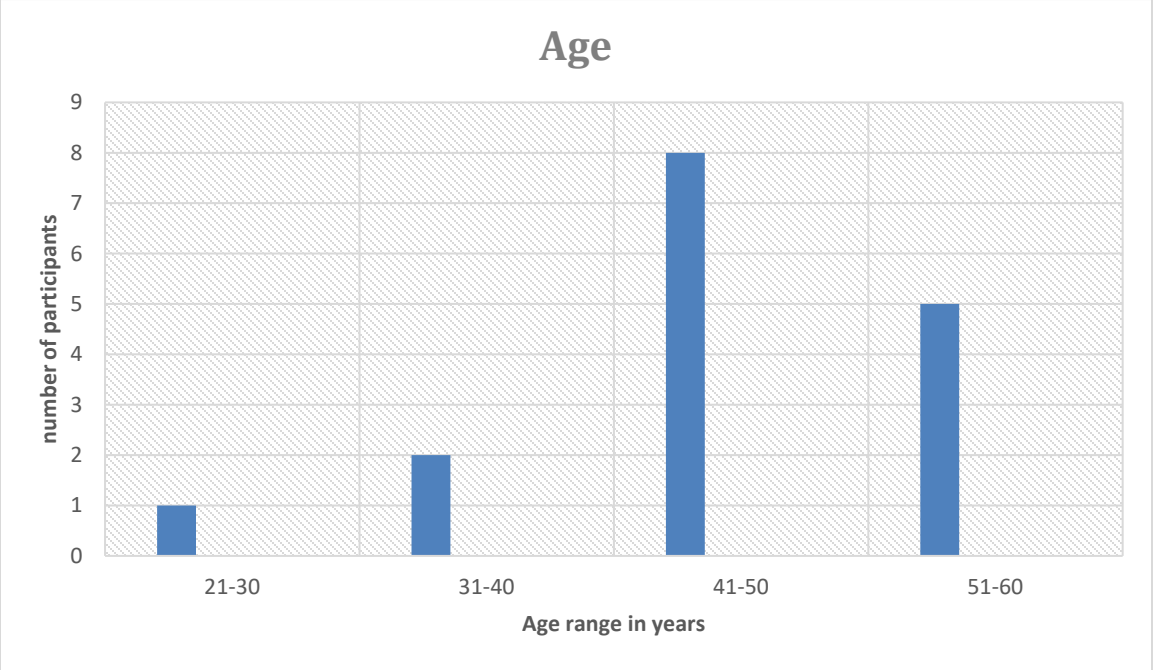


Figure 1 highlights the age range of the participants. Most participants were between the ages of 41 and 50, constituting 50 % of the total. This was followed by participants aged 51 to 60, who made up 31%. Additionally, females aged 31 to 40 represented 13% of the participants. The smallest groups were those aged 21 to 30, each constituting 6%.

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FIGURE 2

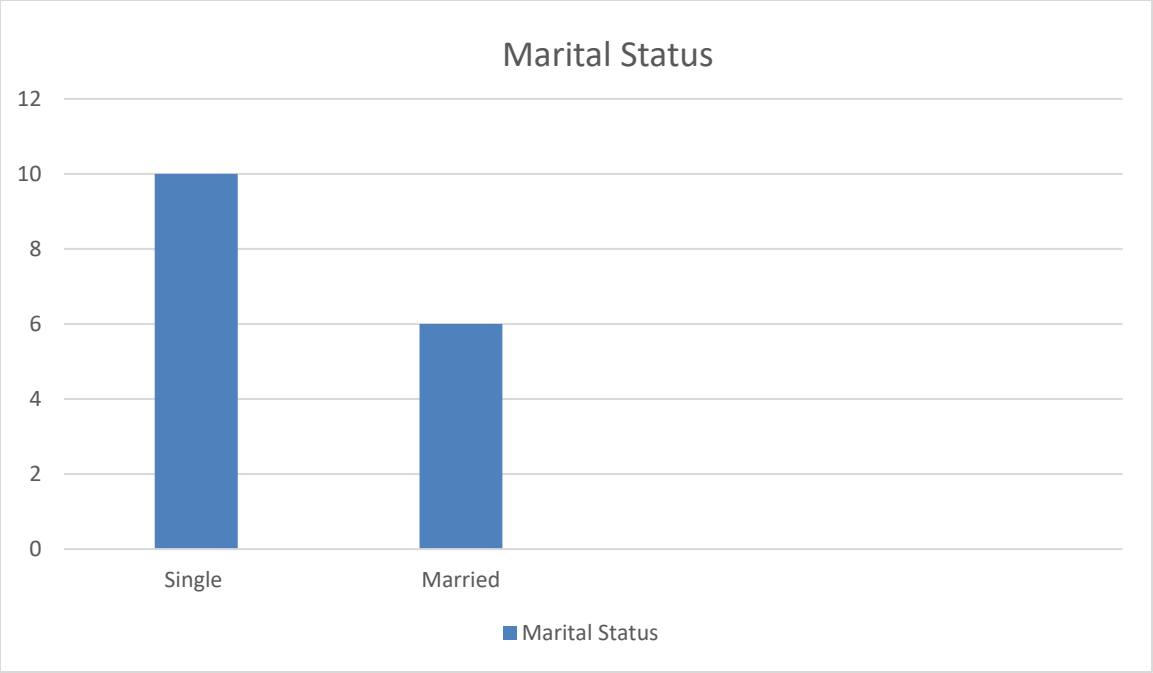


Figure 2 above indicates the marital status of the participants. Those who were single were the largest group and constituted 63%. The smallest group was those married, 38%.

The marital status of the participants was investigated to determine whether any offenders had left their spouses and children at home. It was found that very few of those interviewed had done so. One male offender noted that his son was incarcerated in the same correctional facility for a different offense but has since been transferred to another center. The offender expressed feelings of guilt, stating that he believes he has set a poor example for his children by committing a crime, which he feels has influenced his son to follow in his footsteps.

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FIGURE 3

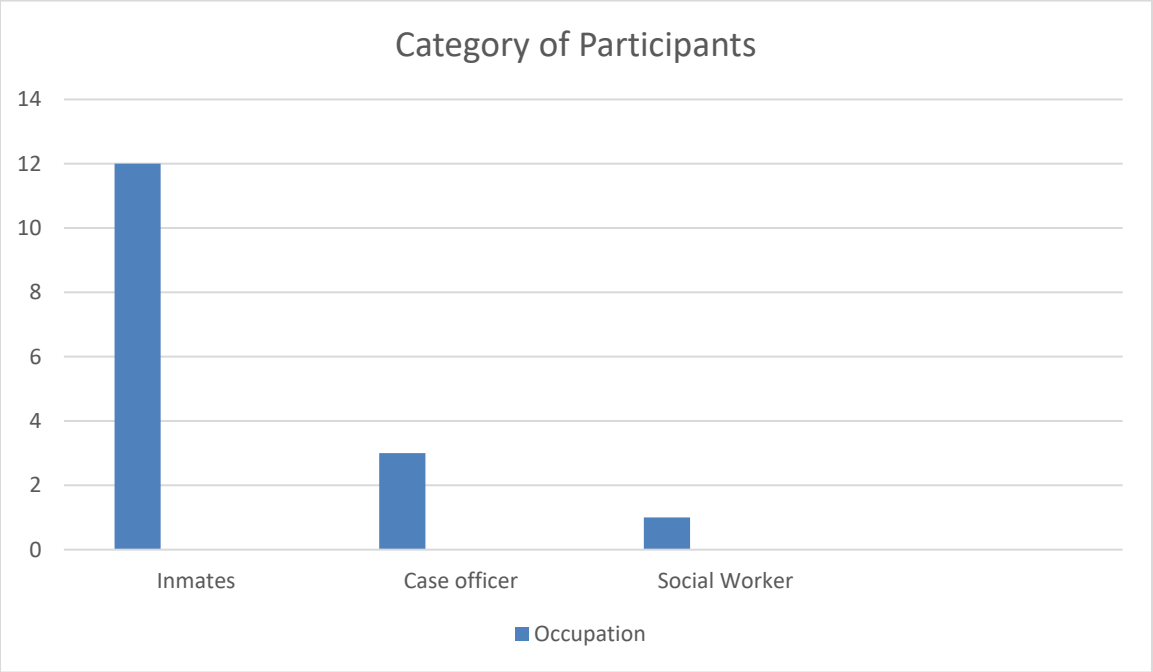


Figure 3 reflects the category of the participants. The larger group is for the offenders, who constituted 75% of the population, followed by case officers, who made up 19%, and lastly, a social worker at 6%.

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CHART 1



The above reflects the languages of the participants. Larger group is Tshivenda at 50%, followed by Sepedi at 31%, followed by Xitsonga at 13%, and lastly IsiZulu at 6%.

The researcher recognized the importance of investigating the demographic composition of participants to determine whether the rural-based Thohoyandou Correctional Centre exclusively houses offenders from the surrounding Venda villages in Limpopo Province. The findings revealed that the facility accommodates a diverse mix of tribes, with inmates hailing from various provinces.

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CHART 2

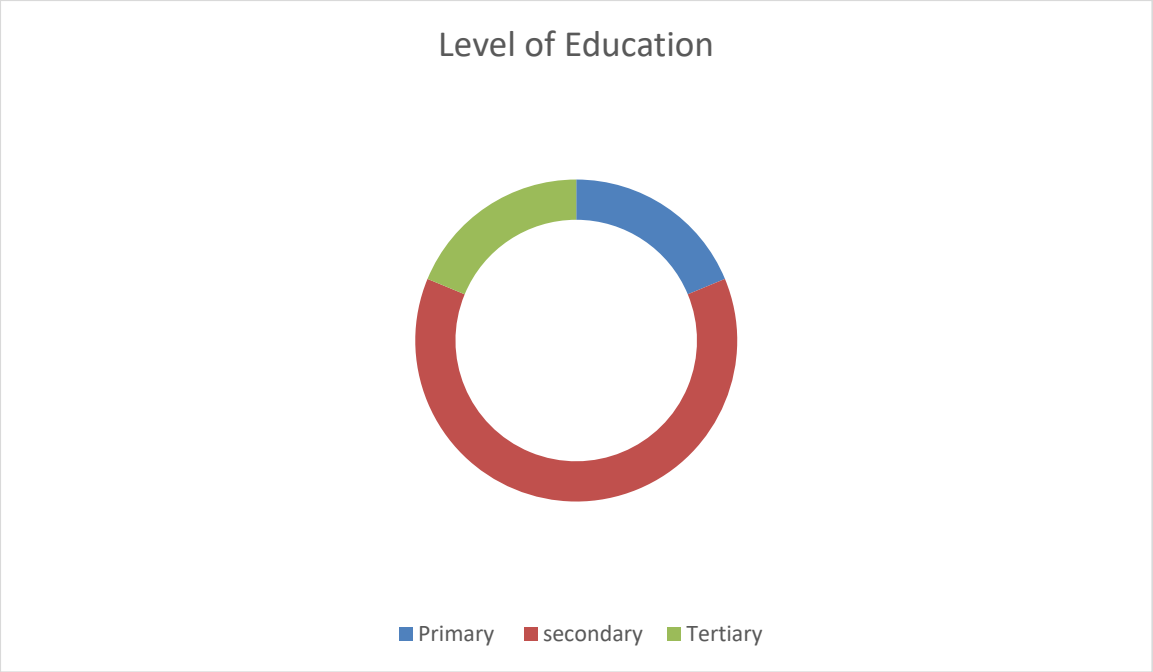


Chart 2 reflects followed by those with the level of education of participants. The larger group is those who have a secondary qualification at 63%, followed by those with primary and tertiary qualification, which is 19% each.

The researcher aimed to assess the level of education to identify which demographic is more likely to commit crimes such as murder. The study revealed that individuals with qualifications of Grade 12 or below are the most frequent offenders. Out of 12 male and female participants interviewed, only one was a university dropout.

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CHART 3

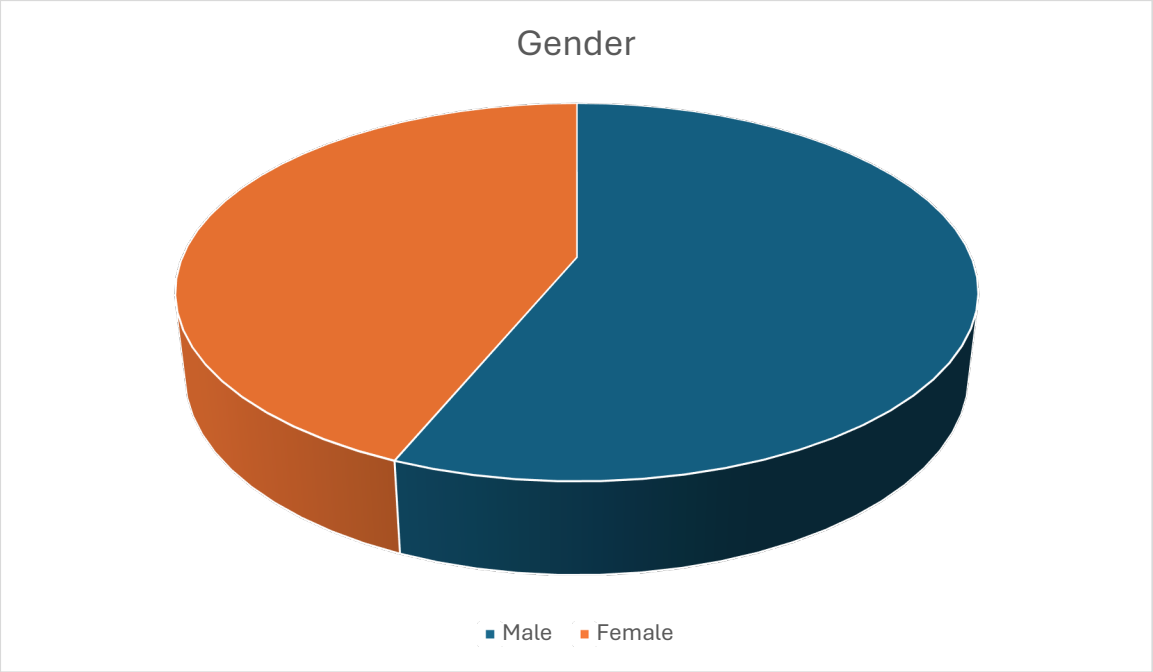


Chart 3 reflects the Gender of the participants, which constitutes 50% each because they were 8 Males and 8 Females.

The researcher sought to investigate the gender balance of male and female murder offenders within the rural-based Thohoyandou Correctional Centre. The findings indicated that most incarcerated murder offenders at Thohoyandou are males, significantly outnumbering females. However, the researcher deliberately chose to interview only 06 males and 06 females for the study.

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CHART 4

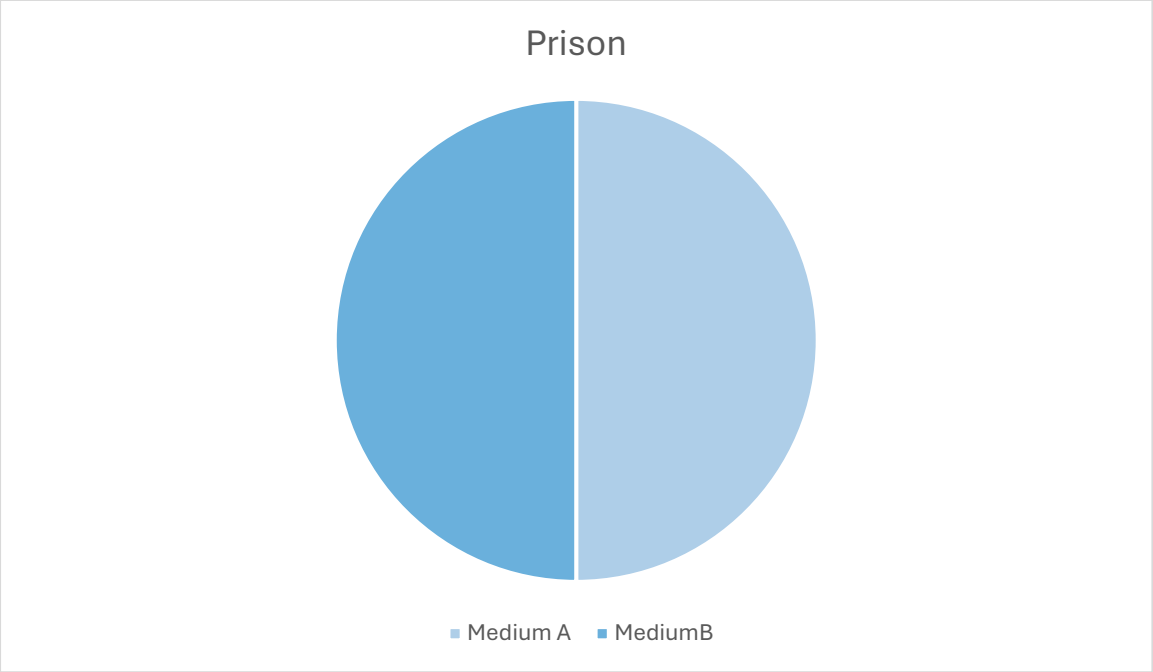


Chart 4 is the reflection of two prisons within the rural-based Thohoyandou Correctional Centre where data was collected. Medium A for females and Medium B for males.

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The following data will be presented, with the following themes as the objectives.

5.4 UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONCEPT OF REHABILITATION PROGRAMS

Q. What do you understand about the rehabilitation of offenders?

All participants of this study indicated an understanding of the concept of rehabilitation programs in the criminal justice system. Rehabilitation is defined as using programs to help offenders understand their wrongs and prepare them to re-enter society as reformed individuals (Mabeba & Rolland, 2019). These programs target environmental factors such as drug use, poverty, and lack of education that contribute to criminal behaviour.

"Rehabilitation programs include educational training, vocational training, treatment programs for substance abuse or psychological issues, and recreational activities" (Participant 8, female).

"Rehabilitation refers to the process of returning to a good way of life, especially after imprisonment" (Participant 4, male).

This is supported by the literature in Bandyopadhyay (2020), that the approach of offender rehabilitation programs has some merits and demerits, as it varies from country to country. The pros include reduced recidivism, improved employability, substance abuse treatment, better mental health, and reintegration into society. Demerits can be sorted out as limited resources, risk assessment, etc. It involves interventions and programs designed to improve functioning and reduce dependency, aiming to enhance independence and participation in society.

5.5 IMPACT OF REHABILITATION PROGRAMS ON MURDER OFFENDERS IN THOHOYANDOU CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

Q. Do rehabilitation programs impact your life?

All participants indicated that rehabilitation has a positive impact on their lives. They expressed that they can now better manage their anger and feel that their lives have changed since they began attending the programs. Some mentioned that there were aspects of their lives they were previously unaware of, but the programs they are participating in have opened their minds.

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"Yes, it has been almost two decades in detention and attending various programs aimed at readdressing my then behaviour. The programs have impacted my life positively" (Participant 13, male).

"The programs helped me to change my behaviour because I no longer have the anger that I came here with. I was abused by my stepfather while growing up, and every time I think about it, I get angry. I committed murder because of this anger, but now I have forgiven everyone, and I am at peace with my life" (Participant 6, female).

Q. Do rehabilitation programs have the capacity to change a person's behaviour?

The responses indicate that rehabilitation has the potential to transform an individual's behaviour, provided that the person is genuinely willing to embrace change. It was emphasized that the foundation of successful rehabilitation is intrinsic; it requires a strong sense of determination, commitment, and focus from the offender, along with a sincere desire to improve. Additionally, for this internal motivation to translate into tangible behavioural change, rehabilitation officers need to provide unwavering support and guidance throughout the process. Participant 13 corroborated this perspective by stating that:

"For a behaviour to change, it needs a willing and patient heart. Change is a process, and it took me almost 17 years to understand life's purpose" (Participant 13, male).

The finding above aligns with Qhogwana (2022) study, which asserts that the primary themes related to the impact of incarceration include deprivation, control, and feelings of degradation, which create a discourse influenced by gender that occurs within the correctional setting and is shaped by both the physical architecture and the relationships present in that space.

5.6 REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES OFFERED IN THOHOYANDOU CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

This section aims to probe programs perceived to be effective by offenders and to find out programs in which offenders are individually participating.

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Q. Are programs offered in the centre the same for male and female offenders?

The participants noted that the Thohoyandou Correctional Centre offers a total of 13 rehabilitation programs. Participants must engage in all programs available in the center, regardless of gender, but not at the same time. According to the participants' point of view, each program has a different perception, which is effective for them based on their experience. The programs that many of the participants highlighted are Anger Management, New Beginning, Cross Road, and Behavioural Modification. Other programs offered in the center are Group Therapy, Community Crime Prevention, Victim Offender, Dialogue, Restorative Justice, Changing Lane, Economic crime (Theft), Addictive Behaviour, and Gender-Based Violence and Substance Abuse.

Male participants indicated that they are unaware if the programs offered at the center are the same for both males and females, as they do not interact with female offenders. Similarly, female offenders noted that they do not mix with males, which limits their knowledge of male programs, although they were able to identify the programs they participate in. When asked to highlight the programs they find most effective amongst those they participate in, most participants pointed out the following:

5.6.1 Crossroad and Behaviour Modification

“Yeo e nthusago ya di programs ke cross-road le behaviour modification ka lebaka la gore e nthemosa gore sengwe le sengwe ke swanetsi gore pele ke sedira ke thome pele ke nagana ka sona. Aa ka morago ga sona kua pele ke tloba le maikarabelo a sona naa?(Sepedi).

“Programs that are helping me are the Crossroad program, and behaviour modification because it teaches me to think before taking any action, and to think about whether I will be accountable for my actions. Behaviour modification, in addition, helped me to forgive myself first for the bad thing I did before apologizing to those I caused pain” (Participant 15, female).

5.6.2 New Beginning, Restorative Justice, and Anger Management

Participant 12 mentioned New Beginning and Restorative Justice as the most important because her behaviour and character have changed.

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"New beginning na restorative justice hi tona leti ti nga koka ka mina himhaka ya leswi swaku ni kota ku chicha mahanyelo ya le kaya" (Xitsonga).

"My behaviour has changed from the way I used to be because of New Beginning, Restorative Justice, and Anger management. I committed the offense because of anger, but now I know how to control my anger because of this programme. They are immensely helpful to me" (Participant 12, female).

"Anger management and restorative justice ke tseo nna ke bonago di nthusitse kudu, ke gonne go laola maekutlo le go ikemisetsa go gopela tswarelo go bathu bao ke ba kwisitsego botloko" (Sepedi).

"Anger management and restorative justice are the ones that helped me a lot because now I can control my anger, and I am ready to apologize to those I caused pain" (Participant 10, female).

Q. Which programs are you attending?

"Substance abuse, Anger management, Behavioural modification, Group therapy, Community crime prevention, change is possible, moral regeneration, and Gender based violence programs" (Participant 1, male, and Participant 13, male).

5.7 EQUAL TREATMENT SUBJECTED TO MALE AND FEMALE OFFENDERS DURING REHABILITATION PROGRAMS.

Q. Do male and female offenders receive equal treatment during rehabilitation in the centre?

This section aims to investigate whether male and female offenders receive equal treatment during the rehabilitation process and to explore whether offenders' behavior influences their experiences. Two female and two male offenders reported that they feel they are receiving fair treatment within the center. They noted that they are allowed to repeat the same programs until they fully understand them, encouraged to participate actively, and provided with sufficient food, which has contributed to their sense of feeling at home.

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"I am receiving fair treatment as I am allowed to repeat the same program until I understand it, and we are treated fairly as we are also given enough food" (Participant 6, female).

However, some participants mentioned that they are receiving unfair treatment. A female offender mentioned that the treatment she receives is unfair, as the officials sometimes deny them toiletries and underwear.

"Officers gave us unfair treatment as sometimes we ask for toiletries and underwear, but they do not give us" (Participant 10, female).

"Treatment is unfair because male offenders are treated based on how familiar they are with the officials (Participant 1, male).

Q. Does the offender's behaviour determine his/her treatment?

All offenders agreed that offenders' behaviour determines his/ her treatment, they maintained that if an offender does not behave well, he /she receives harsh treatment but those who behave as expected receive special treatment. They further mentioned that if one's behaviour is bad, he/she gets punished and denied family visits and calls for a week or two.

"Yes, for all these two decades I've been in 05 different centers, and I've seen different treatment based on the offender's behaviour, and those who behave well indeed receive special treatment and privileges" (Participant 13, male).

"Yes, the behaviour determines the treatment, if you behave like an animal, you will be treated like an animal. You get isolated and placed in a single cell where you will be alone, and your family visits are suspended" (Participant 6, female).

On the other hand, Thornton (2023) indicated that the rehabilitative approach is attentive to the rights of offenders. It strives to uphold the worth and dignity of offenders within the criminal justice system. This approach views offenders as valuable human beings who deserve the opportunity to redeem themselves and lead meaningful, improved lives.

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5.8 MEASURES THAT COULD ASSIST IN THE REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS

Under this section, the researcher wants to probe things that need to be done to improve offenders' rehabilitation and to investigate measures that could be taken to ensure effective rehabilitation within the center.

Q. In your own opinion, what needs to be done for rehabilitation to improve?

The participants alluded that for the rehabilitation process to improve in Thohoyandou Correctional Center, the following things need to be taken into consideration:

5.8.1 Quality Education

When discussing how to improve rehabilitation programs at TCC, most participants noted that offenders are only offered ABET Level 4. They expressed a desire for the center to provide opportunities for higher levels of education, as they are interested in furthering their studies.

In the conversation about enhancing rehabilitation programs at TCC, most participants highlighted a significant limitation in education. It was indicated that offenders currently have access only to ABET Level 4 education. This narrow focus has led to a fervent desire among the participants for the center to expand its educational offerings. They expressed a keen interest in pursuing further studies and achieving higher educational levels, believing that such opportunities would better equip them and keep them busy, as they will be inside for the rest of their lives.

“The teaching and learning are very productive to my personal growth here, and I wish I could learn more” (Participant 8, female).

In addition, participant 13 mentioned that there are other correctional centers that offer higher levels of education than ABET level 4.

> *“I have been to other Correctional Centers, and I have been registered with higher institutions of learning, which made me focus on my studies as I still hope for my future rather than always thinking about my crime and the sentence imposed on me. (Participant 13, male).*

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Data shows that providing TCC offenders with the opportunity to pursue advanced education at higher learning institutions can be incredibly beneficial. By enabling these individuals to further their studies, they will be equipped with essential qualifications that can significantly enhance their employability upon release. This educational support prepares them for meaningful careers and plays a crucial role in reducing the chances of reoffending, as a stable job can foster a sense of purpose and belonging in society.

5.8.2 Improve the infrastructure

Some Participants mentioned that the infrastructure is incredibly old and not user-friendly. The resources are very scarce, and there is overcrowding in the cells, which impedes proper rehabilitation. To support this, stated that:

> *"We are overcrowded in the Correctional Centre, and there are no classes for rehabilitation lessons. The programs are conducted outside, so when it rains or gets too hot, we cannot participate, which compromises our rehabilitation process. Additionally, there is a shortage of beds, which negatively affects our situation" (participant 11, male).*

5.8.3 Shortage of staff

Most of the participants agreed that for the rehabilitation of offenders to be improved and effective, more staff members should be hired. There should be more correctional officers to deal with reconditioning the offender's mindset. One participant mentioned that they need to go deeper into the offenders' crimes because crimes like murder are not easy to understand.

"Hu tea u engedziwa vhashumi vhanzhi u itela u lulamisa mufariwa nga ngoho. Vha shumaho nga vhafariwa vha tea u vha na mbilu ndapfu. Vha te a u dzula fhasi na mufariwa a ambe uri ndi ngani o vhulaya, ha wanala tshivhangi, kha thusiwe uri a tshi do bva, a sa tsha vhuelela kha vhukhakhi he a ita murahu" (Tshivenda)

"Additional officers should be recruited to focus on rehabilitation, enabling them to engage with offenders and identify the underlying causes of their crimes. Following this evaluation, offenders can be appropriately addressed to reduce the likelihood of reoffending after their release." (Participant 16, male)

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5.8.4 Water Shortage

The participants noted that there is a water shortage in TCC, which they consider a significant challenge that needs to be addressed. They emphasized that the Department cannot expect effective rehabilitation of offenders if they are living in inhumane conditions due to a lack of water, as access to water is a necessity for all living beings. stated that:

> *"Water is essential not only for drinking but also for bathing and maintaining personal hygiene, which are crucial for overall health and well-being" (Participant 3, male).*

Data indicates that a sufficient supply of clean water allows individuals to stay hydrated, reduce the risk of illness, and maintain proper sanitation.

Without these basic provisions, the potential for rehabilitation diminishes, as offenders may struggle to maintain their health and dignity in such conditions.

Addressing the water shortage is vital for creating an environment conducive to rehabilitation and fostering a sense of humanity among the affected individuals.

> *"To me, the biggest challenge that is hindering improved rehabilitation is lack of water. If they can solve the water problem, we may cope well during the process" (Participant 12, Female).*

5.8.5 Limited phone calls

During the interviews, it was noted that enhancing the rehabilitation process for offenders requires fostering stronger communication networks with their loved ones. The current restrictions on phone call access create a sense of isolation, leaving many offenders feeling lonely and disconnected. This lack of meaningful contact hinders their ability to remain focused on rehabilitation efforts, ultimately undermining their progress.

"We are allowed to make one call per week and for a limited time, which is delaying our progress. If we can call 3 times per week, it can assist us to be more connected with our loved ones and be rehabilitated quickly" (Participant 6, female).

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Q. What measures should be taken to ensure effective rehabilitation within the centre?

Most of the offenders mentioned that to ensure effective rehabilitation of offenders, there should be assessments to evaluate their daily interventions after a certain period to check if an offender is still struggling or coping well.

> *"Each one of us should be assessed regularly because some of us are still in the trauma of what has happened and are still struggling with it, but no one cares about that, and we need psychological help" (Participant 7, female).*

> *"There should be some form of motivation, like being given credit for good behaviour and the transgressors being demoted and forfeiting their privileges, unlike just doing the programs and no follow–up to ascertain whether programs offered are effective. Sports and educational games should be introduced to ensure effective rehabilitation" (Participant 13, male).*

Another participant expressed the pain concerning sentencing that hinders effective rehabilitation.

> *"A lot of us have committed murder, but it is so painful to see yourself being given a life sentence and another one given 10 10-year sentence for the same offense. This demoralizes one's mind and causes an offender to concentrate less on rehabilitation due to stress" (Participant 6, female).*

A participant raised it that an offender cannot be rehabilitated through being abused and violation of human rights and dignity.

> *"Ngoho ndi ya uri vha nga si lulamise mufariwa vha tshi kho u mu tambudza. Hu sa kho thinifhiwaho pfanelo dzawe zwi it ana ene a sa tanganedze zwine muhasho wa kho u nekedza zwone" (Tshivenda).*

> *"The truth is that one cannot be rehabilitated through the abuse of an offender's rights. It is essential to respect the rights of every individual, even those who have committed offenses. If these rights are violated, offenders cannot benefit from the opportunities provided by the Department of Correctional Services" (Participant 16, male).*

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Furthermore, it seems a lack of proper training or work skills to do handwork also hinders effective rehabilitation, as one participant suggested.

> *"Ge reka tloga re tseba mesomo ya matsogo, gore gere fihla ntle re yo ba le seo re se dirago go phedisa bana ba rena" (Sepedi).*

> *"Leaving the Correctional Centre after our release with proper skills or training for hands-on work can help us support our children and reduce the likelihood of committing crimes again. Having something productive to focus on can keep us busy" (Participant 10, female).*

In what follows, the researcher presents data collected from staff members (03 case officers and 01 Social Worker) attached to rehabilitation services.

5.9 THE INFLUENCE OF REHABILITATION ON THE OFFENDER

The following section seeks to find out if rehabilitation programs influence offender's life and if male and female offenders are offered the same rehabilitation programs.

Q. Do rehabilitation programs influence offenders' lives?

All officials agreed that rehabilitation influences an offender's life only if he or she is willing to change. Rehabilitation comes from within, and if an offender is not motivated to change, they cannot profoundly change. It was noted that some individuals do change their behavior while still in a correctional center; however, after their release, many do not last even three months without reoffending, which is referred to as recidivism.

It is mentioned that when an offender enters the correctional facility, he /she is theoretically empowered with the skill to cope or survive in the world called Correctional Facility. The impact of rehabilitation is done through the personal development of an offender by multiple stakeholders like spiritual services, and support systems from the family and community at large.

> *"It influences some of the offenders because rehabilitation comes from within and if an offender is not willing to change, programs cannot have influence" (Participant 2, Female).*

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"From the Social work perspective, rehabilitation helps offenders to modify their behaviour. Most offenders attending rehabilitation programs know how to solve problems without violence. Most offenders stop abusing substances after attending substance abuse programs. Offenders who committed crimes within their families, after rehabilitation sessions, see the importance of developing a healthy relationship with their families, and the social work office assists them by arranging family joint sessions for them to reconcile with their family members.

After rehabilitation programs, the offender sees the importance of reconciling with the victim. The social work office and other stakeholders within the center facilitate victim-offender mediation between the offender and the victim/s. The rehabilitation rendered to offenders reduces offender recidivism if the offender is willing to change" (Participant 4, Male).

5.10 REHABILITATION PROGRAMS OFFERED TO MALE AND FEMALE OFFENDERS

The following section seeks to determine if rehabilitation programs offered within the center are the same for males and females.

Q. Are rehabilitation programs offered the same for male and female offenders?

All case officers mentioned that all offenders undergo the same rehabilitation programs offered in the center, but the programs differ in terms of the crimes committed. Furthermore, they explained that currently, the Department offers 13 rehabilitation programs, of which 12 are offered to every offender, but there is one program that is only offered to female offenders, and it is called the Female Program. 04 of the programs are compulsory for each offender regardless of the crime committed, namely:

- New Beginning.
- Cross Road.
- Behaviour Modification.
- Restorative Justice.

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Programs that are offered for murder offenders are as follows:

Changing Lane, Anger Management, Victim-Offender Dialogue, Group Therapy, Substance Abuse Programs, Community Crime Prevention, Restorative Justice, Addictive Behaviour Programs, Career Building, Changing Lanes, General Life Skills, Relationship Program, Gender-Based Violence Programs.

"There are those programs that are compulsory and are offered to both male and female offenders, but there are those especially for female offenders called female programmes. Others are offered depending on the crime committed" (Participant 2, female).

> *The social work office in the Correctional Centre provides the same rehabilitation programs for male and female offenders" (Participant 4, male).*

In what follows, the researcher probes whether rehabilitation programs are provided equally for both male and female offenders.

Q. Are rehabilitation programs provided equally for male and female offenders?

All participants mentioned that programs are provided equally to every offender regardless of gender.

> *"The facilitators and relevant stakeholders that are part of the rehabilitation of offenders are same people and they have relevant qualifications to address the offending behaviour for all offenders" (Participant 3, male).*

> *The social work office provides rehabilitation programs equally for both offenders. Campaigns conducted are open for all offenders to attend, and individual counseling sessions are rendered individually for both male and female offenders" (Participant 4, male).*

This aligns with the literature on the White Paper on Corrections (2005). The training programs offered to sentenced inmates have two main objectives. First, they aim to enhance the inmates' marketable skills so they can be productively employed either during their incarceration or in the external job market after their release.

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Second, these programs are designed to prepare inmates for reintegration into the community, enabling them to lead honourable, self-sufficient, and meaningful lives upon their release from prison.

5.11 MEASURES TO BE DEVELOPED FOR THE EFFECTIVENESS OF REHABILITATION PROGRAMS

The last section seeks to determine measures that should be developed to assist with the rehabilitation model.

Q. As the implementers of the rehabilitation programs, what measures should be developed to assist with the rehabilitation model?

Both the case officials and the social workers mentioned that there is a lot to be done within the Department of Correctional Services to develop an effective rehabilitation model, as there are a lot of challenges that impede effective rehabilitation within the Correctional Centre.

> *Currently, there is a shortage of officials to cater to the activities that will result in effective rehabilitation. As a specialized case officer, I must implement rehabilitation progress until the offender reaches minimum detention, the stage where the offender qualifies to be considered for parole placement or correctional supervision.*
>
> *As per the ratio, I should have a caseload of 40 offenders, but I am serving -+ 250 offenders, which is difficult for me to manage. The shortage of officials is also applicable to other professionals, such as Psychologists and social workers; they are very few, but the number of offenders is escalating daily to an uncontrollable number. For example, there is only one Psychologist in Thohoyandou Correctional Centre to attend to + approximately 2000 offenders who are in the center. Currently, we are having many recidivists in our facility (those who are breaking parole and re-offend), which is a testament that rehabilitation programs offered in the Centre are not effective enough. I believe that it is also a result of offenders being released without being thoroughly monitored and evaluated because of the shortage of officials.*

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I, therefore, recommend that the Department of Correctional Services should hire more officials to avoid compromising the rehabilitation process of offenders" (Participant 3, male).

According to a social worker participant, Thohoyandou Medium A and B are sharing 4 social workers. It is difficult for us to render social work services to many offenders. Social workers should be allocated cell to deal with or to focus on rather than focusing on all cells as this may lead to unrehabilitated offenders.

Thohoyandou Correctional Centre needs to have a social work office in every unit for a social worker to have enough time with offenders, and that will also promote confidentiality. Social work services are being rendered outside in an open space. We cannot render services to offenders when it is rainy or too hot. The Department should at least build a hall or classes which will be conducive for social workers to render rehabilitation services" (Participant 4,male).

Chikadzi and Chanakira (2023) indicate that there has been minimal research into the effectiveness of treatment and rehabilitation initiatives aimed at lowering recidivism rates among violent offenders. Traditionally, the limited research that has been conducted on the efficacy of rehabilitation and treatment for offenders has shown rather pessimistic results.

5.12 SUMMARY OF THE CHAPTER

This chapter presents themes from interviews conducted with 12 offenders (6 males and 6 females), 3 case officers, and 1 social worker associated with rehabilitation services at the Thohoyandou Correctional Centre in Limpopo Province. The findings indicate that murder offenders participate in mandatory rehabilitation programs, just like any other inmates in the center. Additionally, they have access to specific programs tailored to their needs. Some offenders reported that these programs have been beneficial, noting noticeable changes in their behavior since attending courses such as anger management. These courses have equipped them with skills to control their anger, which is significant since many of them committed murder due to their inability to manage their emotions.

They mentioned that programs such as behavior modification have enabled them to forgive themselves for their past actions. Now, they feel prepared to apologize to those

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they have hurt or the families of the victims. However, they also pointed out some challenges they face during rehabilitation.

Correctional officers expressed concerns about recidivism, noting that offenders are released from the center without proper assessment and evaluation due to a shortage of officials.

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CHAPTER 6

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 INTRODUCTION

This study aims to probe gendered rehabilitation conditions for murder offenders in Thohoyandou Correctional Centre in Limpopo province, South Africa.

The previous chapter focused on the presentation, analysis, and discussion of the collected data. This chapter will focus on how the findings have answered the research objectives, limitations encountered, and ideas for future research. The implications of the findings, recommendations, and conclusions will follow this.

The study sought to answer the following research questions:

- What influences do rehabilitation programs have on rehabilitation conditions for murder offenders?
- What are rehabilitation programs for male and female offenders prevailing in Thohoyandou Correctional Centre?
- To what extent do male and female offenders receive equal treatment during the rehabilitation process?
- What measures can be developed to assist in the rehabilitation model?

6.1.1 What are Prevailing rehabilitation programs for male and female offenders in Thohoyandou Correctional Centre?

This question aimed to investigate the rehabilitation programs available at Thohoyandou Correctional Centre and their effectiveness in impacting the lives of offenders. The participants revealed that there are four mandatory rehabilitation programs offered at the centers in which every offender must participate. Additionally, other programs are categorised based on the type of crime committed. There is also a specific program designed for female offenders, which focuses on providing skills in tailoring, salon services, and laundry e.t.c.

The four compulsory programs are as follows

a. New Beginnings: This program provides an orientation to help individuals cope within a correctional facility.

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b. Cross Road: Focuses on life skills coaching.

c. Behaviour Modification: This program addresses issues related to gang involvement in correctional centers and teaches individuals how to cope without engaging in gang activities.

d. Restorative Justice: Aims to mend relationships between offenders and their victims.

The following programs are offered for all offenders convicted of murder.

A. Anger Management: Addresses the expression of anger. It assists people in discovering methods to recognise what provokes their anger, regulate their feelings, and communicate more efficiently, which ultimately fosters healthier relationships and minimises conflict.

b. Victim-Offender Dialogue: Encourages communication between victims and offenders. It is a process where victims and offenders meet in a safe, facilitated setting to discuss the crime and its impact, aiming for healing, accountability, and reconciliation.

c. Group Therapy: Provides support through shared experiences and can be used to address a variety of conditions, including trauma, anxiety, depression, and PTSD. These programs often include activities like sharing experiences, skill development, and psychoeducation.

d. Substance Abuse Programs: Addresses issues related to addiction, and aims to support individuals with addiction, helping them recover and live healthier lives.

e. Community Crime Prevention: Focuses on strategies to reduce crime in communities; it actively involves communities in reducing crime and fostering safer neighborhoods.

f. Restorative Justice: Reinforces the importance of accountability and repairing harm; they focus on the responsibility of the victim, offender, and community to seek resolution and healing. These programs emphasize accountability, making amends, and rebuilding trust.

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g. Addictive Behaviour Programs: Helps individuals understand and overcome addictive tendencies, whether related to substances, gambling, technology, or other compulsive activities; these programs are strategically built to detox the victim from their habits.

h. Career Building: Assists in developing job skills and career paths; these programs include personalized guidance to identify career interests and strengths.

i. Changing Lanes: Supports individuals in making positive life choices. They are particularly valuable to those looking to make a meaningful change, whether due to redundancy, dissatisfaction with their current role, or a desire to explore fresh opportunities.

j. General Life Skills: Teaches essential skills for daily living; they aim to equip individuals with practical knowledge and abilities to thrive in different areas of life.

k. Relationship Program: Focuses on building healthy interpersonal relationships. They help individuals build communication skills, manage conflicts, and foster emotional connections.

l. Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Program: Addresses issues related to violence based on gender; these programs aim to prevent GBV, provide care for those affected, and educate communities.

These programs aim to support rehabilitation and reduce recidivism among offenders.

Most participants (99%) indicated that the anger management program effectively transforms their lives. Many reported that their acts of violence, including murder, stemmed from anger or a short temper. Through the rehabilitation program, they have learned to control their anger. In contrast, one participant expressed that the anger management program is not helpful for him, as his murders were not motivated by anger; he committed them purely for enjoyment.

Many participants highlighted the effectiveness of Restorative Justice as a rehabilitation program. It was explained that this approach helps offenders by encouraging them to first forgive themselves for their actions. Additionally, it prepares them to face the victims' families and offer a sincere apology for the pain they have caused.

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The literature supports this perspective, as Murhula and Singh (2019) suggest that all rehabilitation programs aim to address the underlying issues that contribute to an offender's illegal behaviour.

6.1.2 What influences do rehabilitation programs have on rehabilitation conditions for murder offenders?

This question aimed to explore how rehabilitation programs affect the conditions of rehabilitation for murder offenders. The study's findings indicate that rehabilitation programs at the Thohoyandou Correctional Facility significantly positively influence offenders in many ways.

Firstly, the rehabilitation programs have proven to be highly beneficial, as all participants acknowledged. Many noted that these programs helped them address specific challenges and illuminated insights about themselves that they had not previously recognized. Through various therapeutic activities and discussions, individuals observed a remarkable shift in their perspectives, allowing them to view their circumstances and personal struggles in a new light. This expanded understanding has fostered personal growth, enhanced coping strategies, and ultimately contributed to a more positive outlook on life.

The study also stated that rehabilitation programs could influence a person’s behaviour. However, this change must come from within. No rehabilitation program will be effective if an offender is unwilling to change. Conversely, if the offender is open to change, these programs can significantly improve behaviour.

The findings of this study suggest that for an offender's behaviour to change, they must be fully committed to completing the necessary programs without distractions. Moreover, meaningful change can only occur if the offender acknowledges that they have crossed a line and accepts the need for correction to modify their behaviour. The offender needs to understand that change is a process that requires patience for it to become evident. This is supported by Letlape and Dube (2023), who assert that the expectation is that offenders comply by participating in designated programs to ensure rehabilitation or change of behaviour before they can be placed on parole.

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6.1.3 To what extent do male and female offenders receive equal treatment during the rehabilitation process?

This question aimed to investigate whether male and female offenders receive equal treatment during the rehabilitation process. The study's findings indicate that both male and female offenders receive fair and equal treatment. Many of the offender participants reported that they felt they received fair treatment during rehabilitation, as the programs available to them were the same except for one program which is only offered to female offenders and is called female offenders.

Some individuals have raised concerns that the treatment of male offenders is unfair, as it seems to depend on their familiarity with the officials. One male offender expressed that the treatment is poor because it involves abuse and the violation of human rights, which contradicts the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. This view is supported by Forsberg and Douglas (2022), who argue that offenders should always be entitled to their human rights and that these rights should only be limited when necessary for the public interest. In contrast, a female offender noted that their treatment is also inadequate, as officials often deny them access to necessities such as toiletries and underwear.

All offenders in the program acknowledged that their behaviour significantly impacts the nature of their treatment. When an offender adheres to the expected standards of conduct and demonstrates positive behaviour, they may be rewarded with enhanced privileges or more favourable treatment options. This can include access to additional resources, participation in special programs, or opportunities for social engagement. Conversely, correctional officials often respond with stricter measures if an offender engages in misconduct—such as disobeying rules or exhibiting disruptive behaviour. This can result in the offender being placed in isolation, confined to a room where they are left alone, without the companionship of others, and stripped of amenities like television and other forms of entertainment. This isolation is intended as a disciplinary measure, but it can also lead to feelings of intense loneliness and social disconnection, further impacting the offender's mental and emotional state.

Case officials and a social worker interviewed stated that the treatment of male and female offenders is the same within the Correctional Centre and that the rehabilitation programs administered to offenders are identical.

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6.1.4 What measures can be developed to assist in the rehabilitation model?

This question aimed to explore measures that could enhance the rehabilitation of offenders. Many of the offenders participating in the discussion highlighted that the Department of Correctional Services stated the following challenges within Thohoyandou Correctional Facility as hindering their effective rehabilitation.

- Overcrowding – Offenders cited overcrowding and a lack of beds in the Thohoyandou Correctional Centre as major challenges that hinder their rehabilitation process.
- Quality education - The education provided is at an ABET Level 4, which some individuals feel is inadequate because they wish to continue their studies at higher learning institutions. Those who have been in other correctional facilities mentioned that they were allowed to register with higher education institutions while serving their time there.

  Similarly, female offenders expressed that they should be provided with short courses and proper training for skilled trades. This would enable them to support their children after their release and keep them occupied, reducing the temptation to re-offend.

- Shortage of water – it was mentioned that there is a water crisis at Thohoyandou Correctional Facility and that effective rehabilitation cannot occur if offenders are living in inadequate conditions.
- Shortage of Personnel - Officials involved in the rehabilitation of offenders have identified a significant shortage of staff as a major challenge affecting the effectiveness of their programs. They indicated that ideally, each official should manage approximately 40 cases. However, one officer often handles around 250 cases. This overwhelming caseload makes it nearly impossible to monitor offenders effectively, resulting in situations where individuals are released on parole without proper assessment and evaluation. Consequently, the rate of re-offending, or recidivism, is increasing daily.

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- **Measures that can be developed to assist in effective rehabilitation.**

Case officials recommended that the Department hire additional staff for the rehabilitation of offenders to enhance effectiveness. A social worker echoed this concern, noting the staff shortage as a significant challenge. Currently, there are only four social workers available to support all units, which limits their ability to provide effective rehabilitation services. The social worker suggested constructing more classrooms or a hall to create adequate space for delivering services. At present, they are working in an accessible area, which poses difficulties during rainy or excessively hot weather, preventing offenders from receiving the services they need.

6.2. RECOMMENDATIONS

In acknowledging the findings presented in Chapter Five of this study, recommendations are given to the following stakeholders.

6.2.1. Recommendations for the Department of Correctional Services

Based on the study's findings, the researcher recommends that the Department of Correctional Services prioritise improving the facility structure at Thohoyandou Correctional. More cells should be constructed for inmates, and additional beds should be provided to address the overcrowding crisis, which currently hinders the effective rehabilitation of offenders. Additionally, a designated hall or classroom should be built for social work services, rather than conducting these activities in an open space.

Secondly, the Department should consider hiring enough personnel, including case officials, to effectively manage the rehabilitation of offenders. This recruitment should be done following the appropriate ratio to prevent improper assessments of offenders before their release on parole, ultimately aiming to reduce the recidivism rate. Additionally, it is essential to hire social workers and psychologists to provide effective rehabilitation services, as there is currently a shortage in this area. Many offenders are not receiving adequate psychological support, and some are still dealing with the trauma of their experiences.

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The Department of Correctional Services should permit offenders to pursue their studies at institutions of higher learning. Many of these individuals are sentenced to fixed terms rather than life sentences and remain hopeful of being released after serving their time. Continuing their education would improve their job prospects upon re-entry into society.

Lastly, the Department of Correctional Services should develop programs specifically designed for both male and female offenders. It is essential that female offenders are allowed to participate in job skills programs that will enable them to support their families upon release, as many serve as primary breadwinners. Currently, female offenders are prohibited from engaging in job skill programs such as carpentry and agriculture, even though women outside of incarceration are actively working in these fields.

6.2.2 Recommendations to Policymakers

Policymakers must develop and implement regulations that specifically address the need for safe and healthy living conditions for individuals incarcerated within Correctional Centres. Furthermore, policies aimed at the rehabilitation of offenders should prioritize the upholding of human rights and ensure the respect of offenders' rights as stipulated in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Chapter 2 (35) (2) (e), which affirms that every sentenced individual is entitled to fair treatment. Every prisoner possesses the right to detention conditions that uphold human dignity. This includes, at a minimum, access to exercise and the provision of adequate accommodation, nutrition, reading materials, and medical care at the state's expense. By ensuring these standards are met, the rehabilitation of offenders at Thohoyandou Correctional Centre can be rendered effective.

Policymakers should begin developing initiatives that address the gender disparity among incarcerated male and female offenders. It is essential to create programs specifically designed for female offenders that equip them with the necessary skills to successfully reintegrate into society upon release, like the programs available for male offenders. Currently, male murder offenders have access to life skills programs that include training in carpentry and other vocational skills, while female offenders are excluded from such opportunities.

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Instead, women are typically offered programs in areas such as laundry, hairdressing, and tailoring, which are often perceived as less valuable compared to the skills training provided to males.

Another important point to consider is the possibility of allowing offenders with lengthy sentences to enrol in institutions of higher learning. Currently, offenders are permitted to pursue their education up to ABET Level 4, yet there are individuals who have previously attended university and wish to pursue their studies. This concern has been expressed by some offenders during the interview process.

6.2.3 Suggestions for future research

A comprehensive strategy is essential to address the ongoing issue of overcrowding within correctional centers, which hinders the effective rehabilitation of offenders due to limited space, insufficient personnel, and inadequate skills training. Continuous research is imperative to develop an equitable approach that enhances the rehabilitation process and reduces the high rates of recidivism. This study focuses specifically on offenders convicted of murder at a rural-based correctional Centre of Thohoyandou.

The examination of the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs for offenders who have committed various offenses could yield valuable insights. Moreover, future researchers should consider employing a mixed-methods approach to develop precise solutions. Further investigation into these perceptions and their implications is essential for the enhancement of rehabilitation initiatives for both male and female offenders at the Correctional Center in Limpopo, as well as in other provinces.

Future research should focus on exploring gender-specific rehabilitation programs for male and female offenders and their impact on offenders' lives to assess the improvement of rehabilitation conditions.

The researcher lacked a voice recorder to document the participants' responses fully. It is advisable for future researchers to have a voice recorder available during interviews to capture all the dialogue, as failing to record may result in the loss of crucial information.

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6.2.4 Contributions of the Study to Existing Literature

Research has shown that offenders in Correctional Centres around the world face numerous challenges. This localized approach sheds light on the unique difficulties and dynamics that male and female offenders encounter during the rehabilitation process. By doing so, it offers a more detailed understanding of the disparities and barriers that contribute to the high rates of recidivism. This study enhances existing knowledge by identifying the underlying issues that have hindered the Department of Correctional Services, even with consistent rehabilitation methods being applied. Additionally, the study contributes to the literature by pinpointing specific barriers and challenges that both male and female offenders experience while attempting to undergo effective rehabilitation at the Thohoyandou Correctional Centre.

6.2.5 Delimitation of the Study

During this study, several limitations were encountered. Gaining access to the Department of Correctional Services proved to be quite challenging, as it is known for its strict protocols. The approval process was complex; I had to appoint an Independent Counsellor to debrief offenders before the interviews and to be present throughout the interview process, offering support should anyone require counseling during or after the sessions (see Appendix E). Finding a suitable counselor was not as straightforward as anticipated, as many expressed apprehensions about being close to individuals convicted of serious offenses. Although sitting in the same room with murder offenders was daunting, it was made manageable and safe due to the presence of case officials.

Another limitation encountered was the delay in obtaining final approval from the Department of Correctional Services. I submitted all the necessary documents and waited for approximately two months to receive the authorisation to collect data at Thohoyandou Correctional Centre.

The language barrier posed a significant limitation in this study. Some participants were only proficient in their native languages, Tsonga, Tshivenda, and Pedi, which required the researcher to explain the research questions in their languages before translating their responses into English.

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Even when presenting data, the researcher had to first present data as it is in their native languages and then translate the finding. This process was time-consuming and may have compromised the accuracy of the study's findings.

6.2.6 Final Thoughts

This study aims to probe gendered rehabilitation conditions for murder offenders in Thohoyandou Correctional Centre in Limpopo province, South Africa.

It sought answers to the following research questions:

- What influences do rehabilitation programs have on rehabilitation conditions for murder offenders?
- What are rehabilitation programs for male and female offenders prevailing in Thohoyandou Correctional Centre?
- To what extent do male and female offenders receive equal treatment during the rehabilitation process?
- What measures can be developed to assist in the rehabilitation model?

The study findings showed that rehabilitation programs positively impact offenders and can transform their lives if they are willing to change, as true change comes from within. The programs available for male and female murder offenders are largely the same, with one exception: there is a specific program designed for female offenders, referred to as female programs. These programs provide training in areas such as tailoring, salon services, and laundry skills, which are not offered to male offenders.

It was revealed that murder offenders must complete four compulsory programs, along with twelve additional programs available for both male and female offenders, and one program specifically designed for female offenders only.

The study indicates that male and female offenders receive the same type of treatment. However, some participants noted that this treatment can be unfair, as the officials sometimes deny them essential items like toiletries and underwear. Additionally, it was mentioned that the treatment may vary depending on how well an offender is known to the officials.

Consequently, the discussion focused on measures to improve the rehabilitation of offenders.

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It was revealed that for rehabilitation efforts to be effective, the Department of Correctional Services must address several challenges: there should be the corresponding increase in female programs to rehabilitate female offenders as they are subjected to the already male-existing rehabilitation programs, overcrowding, a shortage of personnel, the need for improved infrastructure, a lack of quality education, and an insufficient water supply in the correctional facility.

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Appendix A – Research Instrument

SCHEDULED INTERVIEWS

SECTION A

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

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Gender	
Age	
Marital Status	
Educational Qualification	
Inmate Or Parollee	

SECTION B

The following research questions were formulated based on the objectives of the study.

For offenders / Parolees

- **To ascertain whether rehabilitation programs have an influence on murder offenders in Thohoyandou Correctional Centre.**

1. Do rehabilitation programs impact your life?

Explain

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……
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2. Do rehabilitation programs have the capacity to change a person's behavior?

   Explain

   ……
   ……
   ……
   ……

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- **To probe rehabilitation programs for male and female offenders prevailing in Thohoyandou Correctional Centre**

3. Are programs offered in the centre the same for male and female offenders?

   If not, which programs are for males and females?

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4. Which programs are you participating in?

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- **To ascertain whether equal treatment is subjected to all offenders during the rehabilitation process**

5. Do male and female offenders receive equal treatment during rehabilitation in the centre?

If not, explain

……
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6. Does the offender's behaviour determine his / her treatment?

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Explain

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- **To develop measures that could assist in the rehabilitation model**

7. In your own opinion, what needs to be done for rehabilitation to improve?

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8. What measures should be taken to ensure effective rehabilitation within the centre?

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<u>For Correctional Officers / Staff</u>

9. Do rehabilitation programs influence offenders' lives?

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10. Are rehabilitation programs offered the same for male and female offenders? If not, why do they differ?

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11. Are rehabilitation programs provided equally for male and female offenders? If not, how are they provided

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12. As the implementers of the rehabilitation programmes, what measures should be developed to assist with the rehabilitation model?

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……..

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME

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APPENDIX B – CONSENT FORM

Univen Consent form

Institute for Gender and Youth Studies

University of Venda

Informed consent for participation in an academic research study entitled:

Title of the research: Probing Gendered Rehabilitation Conditions for Murder Offenders in Selected Correctional Centres: A Case of Thohoyandou Correctional Centre in Limpopo Province, South Africa.

Research conducted by: **Emmely Rendani Mutwanamba**

Contact details: cell: 0828789394 email: emmelyrendani@gmail.com

Dear Participant

- You are invited to participate in an academic research study conducted by Emmely Rendani Mutwanamba, a PhD student from the Institute for Gender

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and Youth Studies at the University of Venda (UNIVEN). This study has received approval from the School of Human Social Sciences and the Institute for Gender and Youth Studies at Univen. The purpose of the study is to probe gendered rehabilitation conditions for murder offenders in the Thohoyandou correctional centre of Limpopo province, South Africa.

➢ Please note the following:

- This study involves interviews with Male and Female murder offenders in Prison, parolees and correctional staff. Names will not appear in the findings and the answers given will be treated as strictly confidential. You cannot be identified in person based on the answers you give.
- Your participation in this study is especially important to us. However, you may choose not to participate and stop participating at any time without any negative consequences.
- Please answer the questions as honestly as possible. The interview and questionnaire should not take more than 30 minutes to an hour of your time.
- The results of the study will be used for academic purposes only and may be published in an academic journal. We will provide you with a summary of our findings on request.
- Please contact my supervisor, **Prof Thobejane T.D (Daniel.thobejane@univen.ac.za)** if you have any questions or comments regarding the study.

Please sign the form to indicate that:

- You have read and understand the information provided above.
- You give your consent to participate in the study voluntarily.

_____ _____

Participant's signature **Date**

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APPENDIX C – ETHICAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE

ETHICS APPROVAL CERTIFICATE

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

NAME OF RESEARCHER/INVESTIGATOR:
Mrs ER Mutwanamba

STUDENT NO:
9624044

PROJECT TITLE: **Probing gendered rehabilitation conditions for murder offenders in selected correctional centres: a case of Thohoyandou and Polokwane correctional centres in Limpopo province, South Africa.**

ETHICAL CLEARANCE NO: **FHSSE/24/YID/02/2308**

SUPERVISORS/ CO-RESEARCHERS/ CO-INVESTIGATORS

NAME	INSTITUTION & DEPARTMENT	ROLE
Prof TD Thobejane	UNIVEN, YOUTH AND GENDER STUDIES	Supervisor
Dr MH Mukwevho	UNIVEN, YOUTH AND GENDER STUDIES	Co-Supervisor
Dr K Amaechi	UNIVEN, YOUTH AND GENDER STUDIES	Co-Supervisor
Mrs ER Mutwanamba	UNIVEN, YOUTH AND GENDER STUDIES	Investigator-Students

Type: **Doctoral Research**
Risk: ***Minimal risk to humans, animals or environment (Category 2)***
Approval Period: **August 2024 – August 2025**

The Research Ethics Social Sciences Committee (RESSC) hereby approves your project as indicated above.

General Conditions
While this ethics approval is subject to all declarations, undertakings and agreements incorporated and signed in the application form, please note the following.

- The project leader (principal investigator) must report in the prescribed format to the REC:
  - Annually (or as otherwise requested) on the progress of the project, and upon completion of the project.
  - Within 48hrs in case of any adverse event (or any matter that interrupts sound ethical principles) during the course of the project.
  - Annually a number of projects may be randomly selected for an external audit.
- The approval applies strictly to the protocol as stipulated in the application form. Would any changes to the protocol be deemed necessary during the course of the project, the project leader must apply for approval of these changes at the REC. Would there be deviated from the project protocol without the necessary approval of such changes, the ethics approval is immediately and automatically forfeited.
- The date of approval indicates the first date that the project may be started. Would the project have to continue after the expiry date; a new application must be made to the REC and new approval received before or on the expiry date.
- In the interest of ethical responsibility, the REC retains the right to:
  - Request access to any information or data at any time during the course or after completion of the project,
  - To ask further questions; Seek additional information; Require further modification or monitor the conduct of your research or the informed consent process.
  - withdraw or postpone approval if:
  - Any unethical principles or practices of the project are revealed or suspected.
  - It becomes apparent that any relevant information was withheld from the REC or that information has been false or misrepresented.
  - The required annual report and reporting of adverse events was not done timely and accurately,
  - New institutional rules, national legislation or international conventions A it necessary

ISSUED BY:
UNIVERSITY OF VENDA, RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE
Date Considered: August 2024

Name of the RESSC Chairperson of the Committee: Prof M. Mwale-Manjoro

Signature.....

UNIVERSITY OF VENDA
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION
2024 -08- 23
Private Bag X5050
Thohoyandou 0950

University of Venda
PRIVATE BAG X5050, THOHOYANDOU, 0950, LIMPOPO PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA
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"A quality driven financially sustainable, rural-based Comprehensive University".

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APPENDIX D – DCS APPROVAL LETTER

correctional services
Department:
Correctional Services
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE
Private Bag X136, Poyntons Building, 124 W.F Nkomo Street, PRETORIA, 0001,
Tel (012) 307 2151/2770, Enquiries: Ms S.T Mahlangu; Sylvia.Mahlangu@dcs.gov.za
Ref: REC 2024/2

Dear Ms Mutwanamba ER,

PROBING GENDERED REHABILITATION CONDITIONS FOR MURDER OFFENDERS IN SELECTED CORRECTIONAL CENTRES: A CASE OF THOHOYANDOU AND POLOKWANE CORRECTIONAL CENTRES IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA

It is with pleasure to inform you that your application to conduct research in the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) on the above topic has been **approved.**

Kindly note the following:

- This ethics approval letter is valid from **20/03/2025 to 20/03/2026.**
- The relevant Regional and Area Commissioners where the research will be conducted will be informed of your proposed research project.
- It is your responsibility to make arrangements for your interviewing times.
- Your identity document/passport and this approval letter should be in your possession when visiting regional offices/correctional centres.
- You are required to use the terminology used in the White Paper on Corrections in South Africa (2005) and Correctional Services Act (No.111 of 1998) e.g. "Offenders" not "Prisoners" and "Correctional Centres" not "Prisons".
- You are not allowed to use photographic or video equipment during your visits, however the audio recorder is allowed.
- You are required to submit a copy of your final report to the Department of Correctional Services.

Should you have any enquiries regarding this process, please contact Ms E Mohapi for assistance at telephone number (012) 307 2151.

Thank you for your application and interest to conduct research in the Department of Correctional Services.

Yours sincerely,

MR S ZIKALALA
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER: POLICY COORDINATION & RESEARCH (ACTING)
DATE: 20/03/2025

Lefapha la Ditirelo tsa Bosiamisi • Lefapha la Ditshebeletso tsa Tshokoloho • uMnyango weSevisi yokuQondisa iZimilo
Muhasho wa Tshumelo dza Vhululamisi • Departement van Korrektiewe Dienste • Kgoro ya Ditirelo tša Tshokollo
Ndzawulo ya Vululamisi bya Vabohiwa • LiTiko leTekucondziswa kweSimilo • ISebe leeNkonzo zoLuleko
UmNyango WezobuLungiswa bokuziPhatha

Batho Pele – putting people first

Page 1 of 1

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APPENDIX E – APPOINTMENT LETTER OF AN INDEPENDENT COUNSELLOR

Appointment Letter

Enquiries: Mutwanamba E.R

Contact Number: 0828789394 / Emmelyrendani@gmail. Com

RE: Appointment of an Independent Counsellor

Dear Sir

You are invited to provide debriefing sessions to the research respondents in the study Titled: Probing Gendered Rehabilitation Conditions for murder offenders in Thohoyandou Correctional Centre in Limpopo Province, South Africa.

This is an academic research study to be conducted by Emmely Rendani Mutwanamba, a PhD student from the Department of Youth in Development Studies at the University Of Venda (UNIVEN). This study has received approval from the faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education as well as the Department of Youth in Development Studies at Univen. The purpose of the study is to probe gendered rehabilitation conditions for murder offenders in Thohoyandou correctional centre in Limpopo province, South Africa.

I hereby appoint.....Ronewa Maano..... (Mental Health Practitioner/Counsellor) with practice number.....PRC 0044067..... to provide debriefing sessions / services to research respondents preparing them for the interview process. The appointment will last for two sessions only. The first one will be conducted at Thohoyandou Correctional Centre to murder offenders who are incarcerated, the other one will be conducted at Dzanani area for Murder parolees.

- Please note the following:

This study involves interview with both male and female murder offenders incarcerated and on parole.



2025 – 01 - 16

Signature of Researcher Date



2025/01/16

Signature of Independent Counsellor Date

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APPENDIX F – EDITOR'S REPORT

EDITOR'S LETTER



To whom it may concern

Dear Sir/Madam

This is to authenticate that I, Zitha Innocent, have proofread and edited a thesis for a PhD of Gender Studies in the Department of Youth in Development in the Faculty of Humanities, Sciences, and Education at the University of Venda entitled **PROBING GENDERED REHABILITATION CONDITIONS FOR MURDER OFFENDERS IN THOHOYANDOU CORRECTIONAL CENTRE IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA**

BY

EMMELY RENDANI MUTWANAMBA

9624044

I have meticulously and comprehensively inspected this research for consistency, coherence, and correctness of language use, ensuring proper register usage and citations. I have suggested several amendments, which were communicated to the student for consideration and implementation. The student has undertaken to effect these amendments before this dissertation is finally submitted.

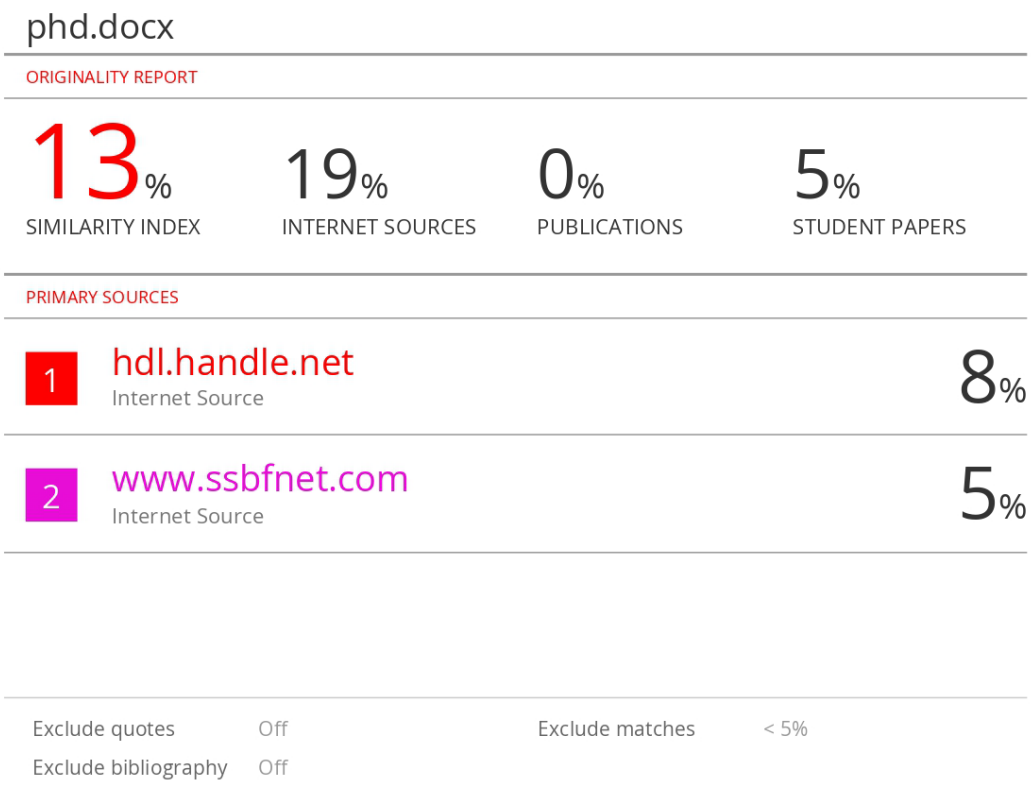
Date:24/03/2025

BA Hons (English), MA (English), PhD (current studies), Lecturer (English) @ North-West University

Office no: 125, Building A3 || School of Languages, Faculty of Humanities, North-West University Innocent.Zitha@nwu.ac.za Office Tel : 0183892653

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APPENDIX G – TURNITIN REPORT



phd.docx

ORIGINALITY REPORT

13%	19%	0%	5%
SIMILARITY INDEX	INTERNET SOURCES	PUBLICATIONS	STUDENT PAPERS

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