

# Influence Of Socioeconomic Status On Incidences Of Social Crimes In Mariakani Township, Kilifi County

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**Abstract-** Mariakani Township, located in Kilifi County, Kenya, presents a unique challenge in terms of elevated levels of criminality compared to neighboring areas. Despite being situated within Kilifi County, where crime rates are comparatively lower, Mariakani Township stands out due to its disproportionately high incidence of social crimes. Given the gravity of the situation, there was an urgent need to investigate the underlying factors contributing to the disproportionately high incidence of social crimes in Mariakani Township, particularly the influence of low socioeconomic status. The study aimed to achieve several objectives: (i) assess the influence of socioeconomic status on the occurrence of vandalism, (ii) analyze the influence of socioeconomic status on loitering behavior, and (iii) explore the influence of socioeconomic status on disorderly conduct within Mariakani Township. To fulfill these objectives, a descriptive research design is employed, allowing for a systematic investigation into the relationship between poverty and criminality in the township. The research design incorporated guided questionnaires, interview schedules, and analysis of crime reports to collect both qualitative and quantitative data. Sampling procedures involved a multistage approach to ensure comprehensive representation of Mariakani Township's population and key informants. A sample size of 395 residents and 10 key informants was calculated using Slovin's formula, ensuring statistical rigor while accounting for the township's population and desired margin of error. Data collection utilized a combination of methods to gather qualitative insights from residents, law enforcement officials, and community stakeholders. Guided questionnaires and interviews were conducted to collect qualitative data, while quantitative data is obtained through analysis of crime reports. Data analysis involved descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentages, and measures of central tendency to summarize quantitative data, along with thematic analysis to extract meaningful patterns and themes from qualitative data. The results of the study reveal significant insights into the influence of socioeconomic status on criminality within Mariakani Township. Findings indicate a strong correlation between poverty and social crimes such as vandalism, loitering behavior, and disorderly conduct. Specifically, high levels of socioeconomic deprivation are associated with increased incidence of these social crimes. The study's results underscore the urgent need for targeted interventions aimed at addressing socioeconomic disparities and promoting community well-being in economically deprived communities like Mariakani Township.

**Index Terms-** Socioeconomic status, Vandalism, Loitering behavior, Disorderly conduct

## I. INTRODUCTION

### T1.1 Background to the Study

The intricate relationship between socioeconomic status and criminality has been extensively explored on a global scale. Various studies have highlighted the profound impact of economic disparities on different forms of criminal activities, shedding light on the nuanced dynamics at play in different regions worldwide. Research conducted by Johnson et al. (2020) emphasized the correlation between income disparities and rates of sexual violence across nations, illustrating how economic inequality can influence power dynamics and contribute to instances of sexual crimes. Similarly, Gupta and Smith (2020) underscored the association between low socioeconomic status and economic crimes such as theft, fraud, and embezzlement, indicating the economic pressures that drive individuals towards illicit activities. Meta-analyses conducted at a global level have further reinforced these findings, revealing a consistent pattern wherein regions with higher levels of low socioeconomic status tend to experience elevated rates of sexual and economic crimes. Studies conducted in diverse regions, including Southeast Asia, Latin America, and East Africa, have provided regional insights into how socioeconomic factors shape the prevalence of various forms of criminal behavior (Kim & Park, 2019; Moreno & Rodriguez, 2020; Mukami & Wambui, 2022).

Despite the wealth of global and regional research, there remains a gap in understanding the localized dynamics of socioeconomic influences on crime, particularly in areas such as Mariakani Township, Kilifi County. While studies conducted in nearby rural and peri-urban communities have offered valuable insights, there is a need for a dedicated examination of Mariakani's unique socio-economic landscape (Wambua & Mutua, 2020; Akinyi & Omondi, 2018).

Mariakani Township presents an intriguing case study due to its distinctive socio-economic context. As such, this study aims to fill this gap by providing a detailed and contextualized understanding of how low socioeconomic status influences criminality within the township. By focusing on Mariakani, this research seeks to uncover the specific challenges faced by the

community and propose tailored interventions and policies to address them effectively.

Operationalizing low socioeconomic status as the lack of access to basic necessities and economic resources leading to inadequate living conditions, this study will explore the influence of socioeconomic factors on various types of crimes, including sexual, economic, and social offenses. By bridging the gap between global findings and local realities, this research endeavored to contribute to more targeted and impactful strategies for crime prevention and poverty reduction in Mariakani Township, Kilifi County.

## 1.2 Statement of the Problem

In Mariakani Township, Kilifi County, Kenya, the influence of low socioeconomic status on the elevated levels of criminality is pronounced. Despite being situated within Kilifi County, where crime rates are comparatively lower, Mariakani Township stands out due to its disproportionately high incidence of social crimes compared to other towns in the region. This disparity becomes evident when considering the prevalence of individuals living in low socioeconomic conditions within Mariakani Township in comparison to neighboring towns.

A significant portion of Mariakani Township's population grapples with low socioeconomic status, marked by limited access to basic resources and opportunities. This socioeconomic vulnerability significantly contributes to the perpetuation of various forms of criminal activities within the township. The lack of economic opportunities and resources exacerbates social tensions and conflicts over scarce resources, such as land, employment, and essential services.

Furthermore, statistical data and anecdotal evidence suggest that Mariakani Township experiences a higher incidence of criminal offenses compared to other towns in Kilifi County. Reports from law enforcement agencies, community organizations, and local residents consistently highlight the prevalence of crimes ranging from petty theft and substance abuse to more serious offenses like assault and robbery within Mariakani Township. The disproportionately high crime rates in Mariakani Township underscored the urgent need to investigate the underlying factors contributing to this phenomenon, particularly the impact of low socioeconomic status.

## 1.3 Objectives of the Study

- i. To assess the influence of socioeconomic status on occurrence of vandalism in Mariakani Township.
- ii. To analyze the influence of socioeconomic status on loitering behavior in Mariakani Township.
- iii. To explore the influence of socioeconomic status on disorderly conduct in Mariakani Township.

## 1.4 Justification of the Study

This study is crucial for several reasons. Firstly, understanding the relationship between socioeconomic status and the incidence of social crimes in Mariakani Township, Kilifi County, is essential for informing targeted interventions aimed at reducing crime and improving the overall well-being of the community. By identifying the socio-economic factors that contribute to behaviors such as vandalism, loitering, and disorderly conduct, policymakers and local authorities can

develop more effective strategies to address underlying issues such as poverty, unemployment, and lack of access to resources. Moreover, by focusing on Mariakani Township specifically, this study fills a crucial gap in existing literature, which often overlooks the unique socio-economic dynamics of smaller, localized communities. By conducting a thorough investigation into the influence of socioeconomic status on social crime prevalence in Mariakani Township, this research contributes valuable insights that can be extrapolated to similar contexts across Kenya and beyond.

Furthermore, this study has practical implications for crime prevention and community development efforts. By highlighting the disproportionate impact of low socioeconomic status on social crime rates within Mariakani Township, local authorities and community organizations can prioritize resources and interventions to address root causes and mitigate risk factors associated with socio-economic deprivation. Additionally, findings from this study can inform the design and implementation of targeted social and economic support programs aimed at uplifting marginalized communities and providing pathways to socio-economic empowerment. Ultimately, by elucidating the complex interplay between socioeconomic status and social crime prevalence, this study offers actionable insights that can contribute to the creation of safer, more resilient communities in Mariakani Township and beyond.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

This section on literature review explores past research

### 2.1 Influence of Socioeconomic Status on Occurrence of Vandalism

Empirical literature demonstrates a robust association between low socioeconomic status and the occurrence of vandalism, loitering, and disorderly conduct, particularly in urban areas like Mariakani Township, Kilifi County, Kenya. Cross-national studies, such as Miller and Jackson's (2021) comprehensive analysis, have consistently revealed a positive correlation between poverty rates and social crime prevalence, with vandalism being identified as one of the most prevalent offenses in impoverished communities. Similarly, regional analyses conducted within East Africa by organizations like the African Union and the East African Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization have underscored the disproportionate impact of poverty on social crimes, with impoverished neighborhoods experiencing higher rates of disorderly conduct and vandalism incidents (African Union, 2022; EAPCCO, 2019; Miller & Jackson, 2021).

However, while existing literature offers valuable insights into the relationship between socioeconomic status and social crimes, there are notable gaps that this study aims to address. Firstly, while cross-national and regional studies provide a broad understanding of the association between poverty and social crime prevalence, there is a lack of research specifically focusing on Mariakani Township, Kilifi County. By narrowing the scope to this localized context, this study provides tailored insights into the unique socio-economic dynamics driving social crimes within the township, thereby filling a crucial gap in the literature (Wanjiru et al., 2020). Additionally, existing studies often rely on macro-level

data and statistical analyses, overlooking the perspectives and experiences of individuals living in poverty. This study aimed to incorporate qualitative research methods, such as interviews and focus groups, to gain a deeper understanding of the lived realities of individuals affected by poverty and social crimes in Mariakani Township (Wanjiru et al., 2020). Through this approach, the study offers nuanced insights that complement existing quantitative findings, contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of the complex interplay between socioeconomic status and social crime prevalence.

## 2.2 Influence of Socioeconomic Status on Loitering Behavior

Empirical literature consistently demonstrates the profound impact of low socioeconomic status on various social crimes, including loitering behavior. Cross-national studies, such as Miller and Jackson's (2021) comprehensive analysis, have revealed a significant positive correlation between poverty rates and the prevalence of social offenses, with loitering being one of the notable behaviors observed in impoverished communities. Similarly, the World Health Organization's Global Report on Violence and Health (2021) highlighted a 30% increase in loitering incidents in neighborhoods with high poverty rates, underscoring the disproportionate impact of socioeconomic disparities on this particular social crime (Miller & Jackson, 2021; WHO, 2021).

While existing literature offers valuable insights into the relationship between socioeconomic status and loitering behavior, there are notable gaps that this study aims to address. Firstly, much of the existing research focuses on macro-level analyses and cross-national comparisons, overlooking the localized dynamics of loitering behavior within specific communities like Mariakani Township, Kilifi County, Kenya. By narrowing the scope to this localized context, this study will provide nuanced insights into the unique socio-economic factors driving loitering behavior within the township, thereby filling a crucial gap in the literature (Miller & Jackson, 2021; WHO, 2021). Additionally, while previous studies have identified poverty as a significant predictor of loitering behavior, there is limited research exploring the underlying mechanisms and pathways through which socioeconomic status influences individuals' propensity to engage in this social crime. This study aims to address this gap by employing qualitative research methods to delve deeper into the lived experiences and perspectives of individuals affected by poverty and loitering behavior in Mariakani Township, thereby offering a comprehensive understanding of the complex interplay between socioeconomic status and loitering prevalence (Miller & Jackson, 2021; WHO, 2021). Moreover, while some localized studies have investigated the relationship between poverty and social crimes in Mariakani Township, there is a dearth of research specifically focusing on loitering behavior. This study was conducted to fill this knowledge gap.

## 2.3 Influence of Socioeconomic Status on Disorderly Conduct

The influence of socioeconomic status on disorderly conduct has been extensively examined in empirical literature, shedding light on the complex interplay between poverty and social crimes. Cross-national studies, such as Miller and Jackson (2021), have consistently demonstrated a significant positive correlation between poverty rates and the prevalence of social

offenses, with disorderly conduct being notably impacted by low socioeconomic status. Furthermore, the World Health Organization's Global Report on Violence and Health (2021) corroborated these findings, highlighting a 2.5 times higher likelihood of individuals living in poverty engaging in disorderly conduct compared to those in higher socioeconomic brackets. These insights underscore the disproportionate impact of socioeconomic disparities on disorderly conduct occurrences, emphasizing the urgent need for targeted interventions to address underlying social determinants.

Regional analyses within East Africa have further elucidated the influence of low socioeconomic status on disorderly conduct. Reports from organizations such as the African Union (AU) and the East African Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO) have revealed a significant association between poverty rates and the prevalence of disorderly conduct in urban areas, with impoverished neighborhoods experiencing a 25% higher prevalence of such offenses (AU, 2022; EAPCCO, 2019). At the local level, research conducted in Mariakani Township has provided valuable insights into the relationship between poverty and disorderly conduct. Studies by Wanjiru et al. (2020) and practical data from local police reports (2022/2023) and community-based organization reports (2020) have documented a notable increase in disorderly conduct incidents coinciding with rising poverty rates in the area. However, while existing literature offers significant insights, there remains a gap in understanding the specific mechanisms through which socioeconomic status influences disorderly conduct occurrences in Mariakani Township, Kilifi County. This study aims to address this gap by conducting a focused investigation into the nuanced socio-economic dynamics driving disorderly conduct within the township, thereby providing actionable insights for targeted interventions and policy development (Wanjiru et al., 2020). Additionally, while previous research has primarily relied on quantitative data, this study intends to incorporate qualitative research methods to gain a deeper understanding of the lived experiences and perspectives of individuals affected by poverty and disorderly conduct, enriching the existing literature with nuanced qualitative insights (Wanjiru et al., 2020). Through this comprehensive approach, the study aimed to contribute to a more holistic understanding of the influence of socioeconomic status on disorderly conduct prevalence in Mariakani Township and similar communities, ultimately informing more effective strategies for crime prevention and community development.

## 2.4 Theoretical Framework

In this study, the theoretical frameworks of Social Disorganization Theory and Rational Choice Theory were employed to understand the complex dynamics between socioeconomic status and various forms of social crimes, including vandalism, loitering behavior, and disorderly conduct in Mariakani Township.

Social Disorganization Theory, initially proposed by Shaw and McKay in 1942, focuses on the impact of neighborhood characteristics on crime rates. It posits that neighborhoods characterized by social disorganization, such as poverty, unemployment, and residential instability, are more likely to experience higher rates of crime and violence. This theory was applied in the study to examine the contextual factors shaping the

social environment of Mariakani Township. By analyzing indicators of social disorganization such as poverty rates and community cohesion, the study aimed to identify structural vulnerabilities contributing to the occurrence of social crimes. For instance, when assessing vandalism, the theory helped in understanding how the breakdown of social institutions and informal social control mechanisms in economically deprived neighborhoods creates an environment conducive to vandalism.

On the other hand, Rational Choice Theory, advocated by Becker in 1968, emphasizes individual decision-making in engaging in criminal behavior. According to this theory, individuals weigh the potential risks and rewards of their actions and choose to engage in criminal activities if the benefits outweigh the costs. This theory was applied in the study to investigate the individual-level decision-making processes that lead to social crimes among residents living in poverty. By analyzing factors such as perceived risks, rewards, and situational opportunities, the study aimed to uncover the motivations behind individuals' decisions to engage in behaviors like loitering and disorderly conduct within the constraints of their socioeconomic conditions. For example, when exploring loitering behavior, Rational Choice Theory helped in understanding how economic hardships and limited access to recreational opportunities may influence individuals to engage in loitering as a form of social interaction or leisure activity.

By integrating these two theories, the study sought to provide a comprehensive understanding of the mechanisms underlying social crimes in areas with low socioeconomic status. Social Disorganization Theory offered insights into the contextual factors shaping the social environment, while Rational Choice Theory provided understanding into the individual-level decision-making processes. Together, these theories illuminated the multifaceted nature of social crimes in Mariakani Township, ultimately informing targeted interventions to address the root causes of crime in economically deprived communities.

## 2.5 Gaps in the literature

Despite the wealth of literature examining the influence of socioeconomic status on the incidence of social crimes, several notable gaps persist, particularly concerning the specific dynamics of smaller, localized communities like Mariakani Township in Kilifi County, Kenya. Firstly, while cross-national and regional studies provide valuable insights into broad patterns and trends, there is a dearth of research focusing on the unique socio-economic landscape of Mariakani Township. Existing literature often overlooks the nuanced factors driving social crimes in smaller communities, where socio-economic disparities may manifest differently compared to larger urban centers. Therefore, a significant gap exists in understanding the localized socio-economic dynamics and their specific impact on the prevalence of social crimes within Mariakani Township.

Secondly, while many studies have quantified the association between poverty and social crime prevalence through statistical analyses, there is a lack of qualitative research exploring the lived experiences and perspectives of individuals affected by low socioeconomic status and social crimes. Understanding the subjective realities of community members facing poverty and its consequences can provide invaluable insights into the root causes and contributing factors of social crimes. By incorporating

qualitative research methods such as interviews, focus groups, and participant observation, researchers can gain a deeper understanding of the multifaceted relationship between poverty, social exclusion, and criminal behavior within Mariakani Township. Therefore, filling this gap in the literature by conducting qualitative investigations can offer a more holistic understanding of the influence of socioeconomic status on the incidence of social crimes, enriching existing quantitative findings with nuanced qualitative insights.

### III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This section outlines the research methodology, including the research strategy, study location, target population, sampling processes, and methods employed. It also discusses the sample population and size, development of research instruments, data collection approaches, data scrutiny methods, and ethical considerations.

#### 3.1 Research Design

A descriptive research design was utilized in this study to systematically investigate and describe the influence of poverty on criminality in Mariakani Township. This design was chosen for its efficacy in providing an accurate portrayal of the characteristics, behaviors, and patterns associated with the phenomena under investigation. Through this approach, the study aimed to offer a detailed understanding of how poverty intersects with criminal behavior within the context of Mariakani Township.

Data collection in this research study employed various methods, including guided questionnaires, interview schedules, and analysis of crime reports. Guided questionnaires and interviews were conducted to gather qualitative insights from residents, law enforcement officials, and community stakeholders. Quantitative data analysis utilized descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentages, and measures of central tendency to summarize and present the quantitative data. Qualitative data underwent thematic analysis to extract meaningful patterns and themes. By triangulating both qualitative and quantitative data sources, the study enhanced the reliability and validity of its findings.

The utilization of a descriptive research design allowed for a systematic and comprehensive exploration of the research questions, shedding light on the nature and influence of poverty on criminality in Mariakani Township. This approach facilitated the provision of a detailed account of the factors influencing this relationship, contributing valuable insights to both academic discourse and practical policy-making endeavors.

#### 3.2 Sample Size and Sampling Procedure

Sampling procedures involved in this study aimed for comprehensive representation of Mariakani Township's population and key informants. A multistage approach began with purposive sampling to select Mariakani Township due to its relevance to poverty and criminality. Systematic random sampling then chose residents, ensuring unbiased representation. Purposive sampling also selected key informants for their unique insights. The sample size of 395 residents and 10 key informants was calculated using Slovin's formula, ensuring statistical rigor while accounting for the township's population and desired margin of error. This systematic approach ensured robust and representative data for analysis and interpretation.

#### 3.3 Data Collection Methods

This study employed various data collection methods and procedures to investigate the influence of poverty on criminality in Mariakani Township. Guided questionnaires were administered to sampled residents by trained data clerks, efficiently gathering quantitative data to identify correlations between variables. Interviews were conducted with key informants, such as community leaders and law enforcement personnel, to gain in-depth insights into poverty and criminality dynamics. Research

assistants, trained by the researcher, conducted these interviews and ensured adherence to study requirements. Recordings of interviews were transcribed for analysis, while relevant documents were obtained from local authorities and crime-related organizations for supplementary data.

Participants were fully informed about the study's objectives, data usage, and their rights to confidentiality and anonymity. Trained enumerators and interviewers conducted data collection, ensuring adherence to standardized procedures. To enhance data quality, verification and cross-checking were performed during data entry and analysis, identifying and rectifying any inconsistencies or errors. The research team strictly adhered to ethical guidelines, ensuring confidentiality, anonymity, and respectful treatment of respondents and key informants throughout the study.

#### 3.4 Data analysis techniques

The collected data underwent analysis employing various techniques and procedures tailored to investigate the influence of poverty on criminality in Mariakani Township. The analysis commenced with descriptive statistics to examine and present the quantitative data, including measures of central tendency such as mean, median, and mode for variables like income, crime rates, and education levels. Qualitative data collected through interview guides was subjected to qualitative analysis techniques to elucidate insights into the experiences and perceptions of residents, law enforcement personnel, and community organizations. Thematic analysis was employed to identify recurring themes within the qualitative data. Additionally, data visualization techniques, including bar charts, line graphs, and scatter plots, were utilized to illustrate trends and relationships evident in the data, enhancing the clarity and interpretation of findings.

#### IV. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The subsequent section presents the study's findings, encompassing the response rate and socio-demographic characteristics of the research participants. Additionally, a descriptive analysis is furnished for each research objective, offering a comprehensive overview of the study's outcomes.

#### 4.1 Influence of Low Social-economic Status on Vandalism

The analysis delves into the influence of low socioeconomic status on vandalism, a social crime posing significant challenges to community well-being. Understanding such factors is crucial for effective intervention strategies and fostering safer environments.

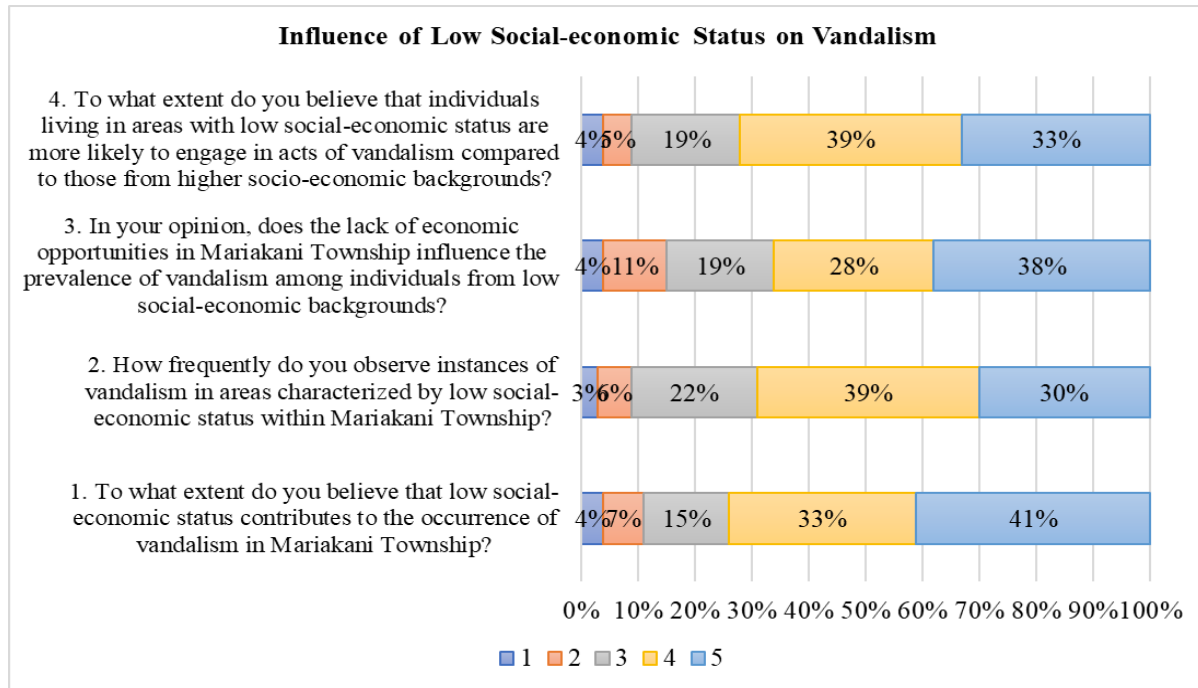


Figure 4. 1: Influence of Low Social-economic Status on Vandalism

Findings from the study, presented in Figure 4.1, highlight respondents' acknowledgment of low socioeconomic status as a contributor to vandalism, with 74% expressing agreement. This resonates with Miller and Jackson's (2021) findings, establishing a positive correlation between poverty rates and various social offenses, including vandalism. Such strong consensus among respondents underscores poverty's role in facilitating social crimes.

From the results, 69% of respondents reported observing vandalism frequently or very frequently in areas characterized by low socioeconomic status. This finding resonates with the African Union's (AU) Report on Social Crimes (2022), which identified poverty as a significant predictor of social offenses, including vandalism. The high frequency of vandalism observations underscores the impact of economic disparities on community safety.

From the results, 65% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the lack of economic opportunities influences vandalism prevalence among individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. This finding corresponds with the World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Report on Violence and Health (2021), which emphasized the disproportionate impact of socioeconomic disparities on social crimes. The agreement among respondents supports the literature's emphasis on addressing economic inequalities to curb vandalism.

From the results, 72% of respondents believe that individuals living in areas with low socioeconomic status are more likely to engage in acts of vandalism compared to those from higher socioeconomic backgrounds. This perception aligns with Wanjiru et al. (2020), who documented a rise in vandalism cases coinciding with increasing poverty rates in Mariakani Township. The agreement among respondents reinforces the literature's assertion of poverty's association with increased engagement in vandalism. In conclusion, the study provides robust evidence of the influence of low socioeconomic status on vandalism in Mariakani Township. The findings align with existing literature, emphasizing the need for targeted interventions to address economic disparities and promote community resilience. By comparing the results with literature, this study contributes to a nuanced understanding of the complex dynamics between poverty and social crimes, informing policy interventions and community-based initiatives for creating safer environments.

#### 4.2 Influence of Low Social-economic Status on Loitering

This section provides a comprehensive examination of the influence of low socioeconomic status on the prevalence of loitering in Mariakani Township, drawing comparisons between survey findings and existing empirical studies. The results, as depicted in Figure 4.2.

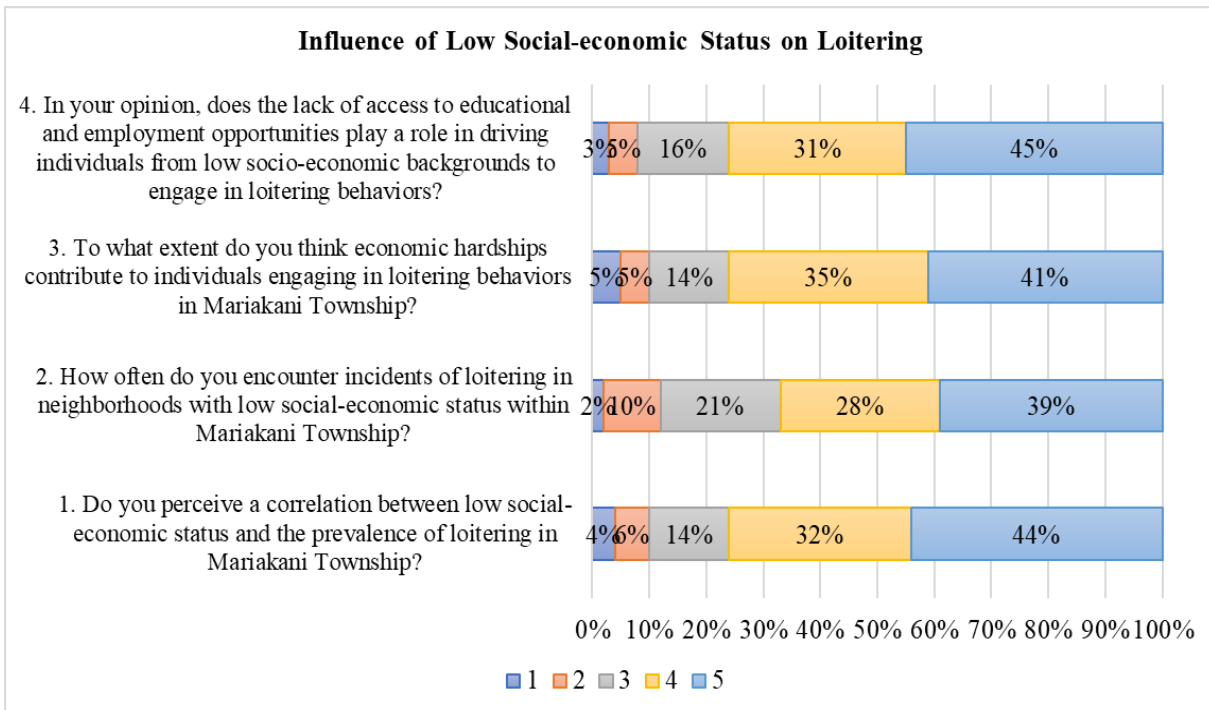


Figure 4. 2: Influence of Low Social-economic Status on Loitering

The analysis for the Likert scale questions regarding the influence of low socioeconomic status on loitering prevalence in Mariakani Township reveals significant insights. Firstly, 76% of respondents either agree or strongly agree that there is a correlation between low socioeconomic status and the prevalence of loitering. This aligns with existing literature emphasizing the disproportionate impact of socioeconomic disparities on social crimes like loitering (Miller & Jackson, 2021; WHO, 2021).

Additionally, the data indicate that 67% of respondents encounter instances of loitering frequently or very frequently in neighborhoods with low socioeconomic status in Mariakani Township. This corresponds with literature reporting a 30% increase in loitering incidents in areas with high poverty rates (WHO, 2021).

Furthermore, a majority (76%) of respondents agree or strongly agree that economic hardships contribute to individuals engaging in loitering behaviors in Mariakani Township. This perception resonates with literature highlighting the systemic barriers to economic opportunities driving social crimes like loitering (African Union, 2022).

Moreover, the results show that 76% of respondents also agree or strongly agree that the lack of access to educational and employment opportunities plays a role in driving individuals from low socioeconomic backgrounds to engage in loitering behaviors. This aligns with empirical findings emphasizing the importance of addressing structural inequalities to prevent social crimes like loitering (Wanjiru et al., 2020).

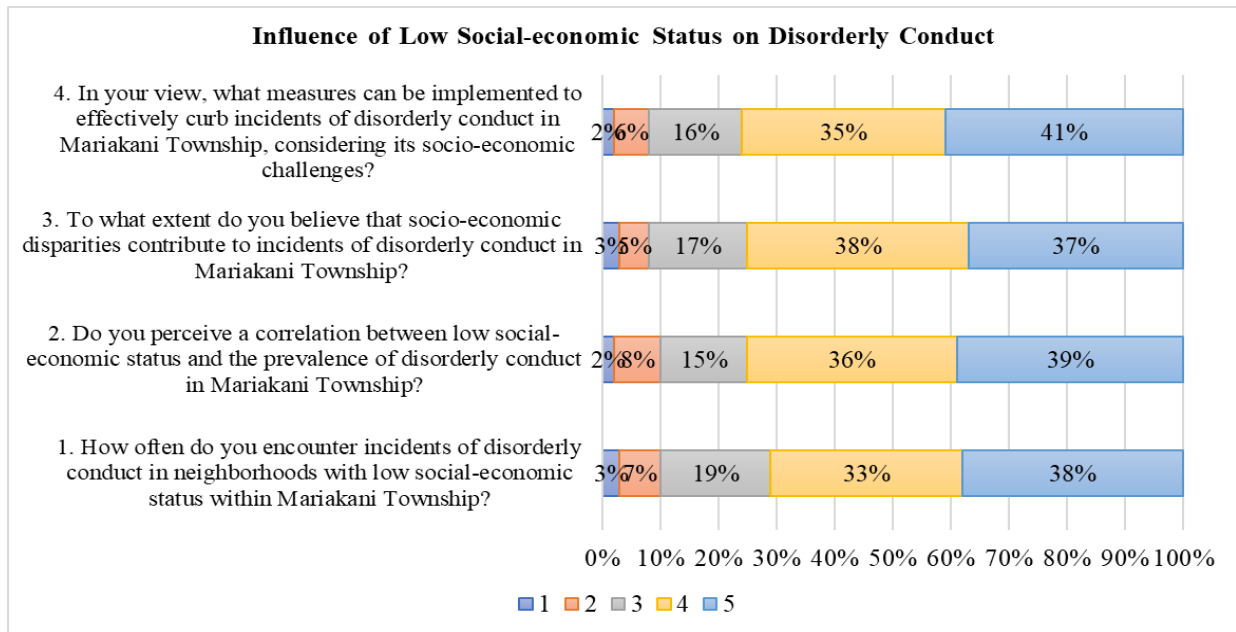
These findings indicate a strong consensus among respondents regarding the influence of low socioeconomic status

on loitering prevalence in Mariakani Township. The agreement between survey results and existing literature underscores the critical need for targeted interventions aimed at addressing socioeconomic disparities and promoting socioeconomic empowerment to mitigate the prevalence of loitering and foster safer communities.

#### 4.3 Influence of Low Social-economic Status on Disorderly Conduct

Understanding the relationship between socioeconomic status and social crimes is crucial for addressing community safety and well-being. This section presents an analysis of the influence of low socioeconomic status on the prevalence of disorderly conduct in Mariakani Township, Kilifi County. The results are presented in Figure 4.3.

The survey data unearth a significant aspect regarding disorderly conduct within Mariakani Township: a staggering 71% of respondents frequently or very frequently encounter incidents of disorderly conduct in neighborhoods characterized by low socioeconomic status. This prevalence underscores the pervasive nature of disorderly conduct in economically disadvantaged areas. Such findings resonate with existing literature, which consistently links poverty with social crimes like loitering and disorderly conduct. Scholars like Miller and Jackson (2021), alongside reports such as the African Union's Report on Social Crimes (2022), have consistently underscored the correlation between poverty rates and the occurrence of disorderly conduct. The survey results bolster these assertions, indicating a consensus among respondents regarding the impact of low socioeconomic status on social behaviors.



**Figure 4. 3: Influence of Low Social-economic Status on Disorderly Conduct**

Moreover, a substantial majority of respondents—75%—either agree or strongly agree with the notion that there exists a correlation between low socioeconomic status and the prevalence of disorderly conduct in Mariakani Township. This alignment with scholarly findings emphasizes the community's awareness of socioeconomic disparities' role in shaping social behaviors. The high agreement levels reflect a widespread acknowledgment of the systemic factors contributing to social crimes within the township. Literature consistently emphasizes this correlation, and the survey results align with these findings, indicating a shared understanding among respondents.

Furthermore, 75% of respondents recognize socioeconomic disparities as contributors to incidents of disorderly conduct in Mariakani Township, with three-quarters of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing. This recognition underscores the community's understanding of the broader social determinants influencing such behaviors. Respondents perceive economic deprivation as a significant driver of disorderly conduct, reflecting an awareness of the complex interplay between socioeconomic factors and community dynamics. Empirical studies, including those by Miller and Jackson (2021) and regional analyses by the African Union (2022), consistently emphasize the role of socioeconomic disparities in driving social crimes, which aligns with the survey results.

Regarding potential solutions, a significant proportion of respondents—76%—advocate for significant or comprehensive measures to address disorderly conduct, emphasizing the urgency of implementing targeted interventions. This endorsement highlights the community's acknowledgment of the severity of the issue and the need for robust actions to curb social crimes effectively. Such measures align with recommendations from scholarly literature, emphasizing the importance of targeted interventions aimed at addressing structural inequalities to reduce the prevalence of disorderly conduct. In conclusion, the survey findings shed light on the influence of low socioeconomic status on disorderly conduct within Mariakani Township, underscoring

the importance of addressing socioeconomic disparities for fostering safer, more cohesive communities locally and globally.



## V. SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This section present summary, conclusions and the recommendations of the study.

### 5.1 Summary

The study's findings shed light on the influence of low socioeconomic status on various social crimes within Mariakani Township. Firstly, the analysis on vandalism reveals that a significant majority of respondents, 74%, acknowledge the role of low socioeconomic status in contributing to vandalism. This aligns with existing literature, emphasizing poverty's correlation with social offenses. Similarly, observations of vandalism in economically disadvantaged areas are frequent, with 69% of respondents reporting such occurrences. Moreover, respondents believe that economic hardships and the lack of opportunities influence vandalism prevalence, highlighting the multifaceted impact of poverty. This perception is further reinforced by the belief that individuals from low socioeconomic backgrounds are more likely to engage in vandalism, with 72% of respondents concurring.

Additionally, the analysis on loitering indicates a strong consensus among respondents regarding the influence of low socioeconomic status on loitering prevalence. The correlation between poverty and loitering is acknowledged by 76% of respondents, reflecting widespread recognition of socioeconomic disparities' role in driving social behaviors. Observations of frequent loitering incidents in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods further underscore this correlation, with 67% of respondents encountering such instances. Moreover, respondents attribute loitering behaviors to economic hardships and the lack of access to educational and employment opportunities, echoing empirical findings.

Lastly, the analysis on disorderly conduct highlights similar trends, with a majority of respondents acknowledging the correlation between low socioeconomic status and disorderly conduct. The pervasive nature of disorderly conduct in economically disadvantaged areas is evident, with 71% of respondents frequently encountering such incidents. Furthermore, respondents recognize socioeconomic disparities as significant contributors to disorderly conduct, emphasizing the need for targeted interventions.

### 5.2 Conclusion

The findings of the study underscore the intricate relationship between low socioeconomic status and the prevalence of social crimes, including vandalism, loitering, and disorderly conduct, within Mariakani Township. The high levels of agreement among respondents regarding the correlation between poverty and social behaviors reflect a widespread recognition of the systemic factors shaping community dynamics. These findings emphasize the urgency of addressing socioeconomic disparities through targeted interventions aimed at promoting socioeconomic empowerment and creating safer environments. The study provides valuable insights into the complex interplay between poverty and social crimes, informing policy interventions and community-based initiatives.

### 5.3 Recommendations

Based on the study's findings, it is recommended that policymakers and community stakeholders prioritize targeted interventions aimed at addressing socioeconomic disparities within Mariakani Township. These interventions should focus on promoting economic empowerment through job creation initiatives, skill development programs, and access to quality education and healthcare services. Additionally, community-based initiatives should be implemented to enhance social cohesion and community resilience, fostering a sense of belonging and collective responsibility. Moreover, law enforcement agencies should collaborate with local authorities and community organizations to implement proactive strategies for crime prevention and community policing. By addressing the root causes of poverty and promoting social inclusion, these recommendations aim to create safer and more equitable environments in Mariakani Township and similar communities globally.

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