A COMPARATIVE EXPLORATORY ANALYSIS OF VIGILANTE OCCURRENCES IN TWO COMMUNITIES IN PORT ELIZABETH (KWAZAKHELE AND NEW BRIGHTON).

by

LOQANI ANELISA

201000561

submitted in accordance with the requirement
for the degree of

MASTERS OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

in the subject of

CRIMINOLOGY

at the

UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE

SUPERVISOR: MR. MIKE EARL-TAYLOR

CO-SUPERVISOR: MR. SINEFU AKHONA

DECEMBER 2015

DECLARATION

I, Loqani Anelisa hereby declare that this thesis "**A comparative exploratory analysis of vigilante occurrences in two communities in Port Elizabeth: Kwazakhele and New Brighton**" is my own original work. It has not been submitted before for any degree or examination at any university or institution. All the sources I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged as complete references.

……	**……**	**……...**
A. Loqani	Student number	Date

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First, I would like to thank the Almighty God for surrendering me the wisdom, ability and strength to complete this dissertation.

Next, I wish to thank:

- The National Research Fund, for provided me with financial assistance towards my studies.

- and express my sincere appreciation to my supervisor, Mr. Mike Earl-Taylor, for his guidance and advice during the writing of this thesis and for always encouraging me to do better than I ever thought I could. Without his hard work, I could not imagine that this dissertation would possibly be finished

- My co-supervisor, Mr. Sinefu Akhona, for providing guidance in the planning of the research project.

- My family, specifically my sister, for having provided the necessary support during my studies.

- The Councillors of Kwazakhele and New Brighton, for granting me permission to conduct this research.

- All my friends, for their encouragement and support.

- The community of Kwazakhele and New Brighton, for responding and completing the questionnaires during the research.

DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to:

My late Aunt, Loqani Kwanana, who made me to be the person I am today. May your soul rest in peace.

and

To my family, for their love, encouragement, and support that they have shown me.

ABSTRACT

The study explores and compares the incidents of vigilantism in two selected communities in Port Elizabeth. However, the word ‘vigilantism’ as utilized in the study can be explained as the group of people in a community who take the law into their own hands and punish alleged societal offenders on the spot. Vigilante activities have become a regular occurrence in many communities in Port Elizabeth and in South Africa as whole. This phenomenon as reported by several authors has destroyed many young men’s lives and ambitions. This is a paradoxical situation that violates human rights because South Africa is a country with a Constitution that prioritizes human dignity for all, and citizens that are totally free from violence of any kind.

The aim of the study is to explore, analyze and compare the incidents of vigilantism in New Brighton and Kwazakhele communities in Port Elizabeth. The intention is to educate and enlighten the members of the selected communities, together with the public about vigilantism and its impact on communities. The researcher achieved the aim of this study by asking the following questions:

- What are the motives of individuals/communities who take the law into their own hands?
- What impact do vigilante incidents have on communities?
- Which effective preventative measures can be utilized to combat vigilantism?

To answer these questions, questionnaires for data collection were utilized. The study was conducted using a total population of one hundred (100) participants who were divided by two. Each community had a sample of fifty (50) participants. The participants were selected by utilizing purposive sampling technique which is non-probability sampling. The participants were the community members of the selected communities. The researcher applied a qualitative research methodology in order to obtain in-depth information and utilized content thematic analysis and SPSS software for the analysis of the data gathered. Two theories a) Differential Association Theory and b) Social Learning Theory were employed to interpret the findings of the study.

The results of the study demonstrate that there has been an escalation in vigilante activities in Port Elizabeth communities since 2000 and 2010.

In many vigilante actions that occurred, males (ages between 18 and 30 years) were found to be the majority of the people who were more likely to be victims of vigilantism because of the crimes they commit. The results also demonstrate that an increase in vigilante incidents in New Brighton and Kwazakhele have been reported to be a result of the ineffectiveness of visible policing, easy bail conditions and frustration and anger of the community members, who do not see the criminals being arrested. These vigilante activities have been reported to have negative impact in these communities specifically on children.

Based on this issue of vigilantism, several strategies that could assist to combat vigilante actions were made. The participants suggested that government should improve the criminal justice system as a whole in order to reduce vigilantism. The respondents also indicated that government should create jobs for the youths because other people become involved in criminal activities, because of poverty and lack of employment opportunities. Furthermore, the participants proposed that government should enact tough laws on offenders.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Details	Page
Declaration	i.
Acknowledgements	ii.
Dedication	iii.
Abstract	iv.
Table of contents	vi.
List of figures	xvi.
List of tables	xvii.
CHAPTER ONE: GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE STUDY	
1. introduction	1
1.1. Definition of key concepts	2
1.2. Background to the study	3
1.3. Preliminary literature review	5
1.3.1. Concept definition	5
1.3.2. The status quo of the incidents of 'Mob Justice' in the Eastern Cape	6
1.3.3. Causes of vigilantism	7
1.3.4. Danger and effects of vigilantism	8
1.3.5. Responses from authorities	9
1.4. The research problem	9
1.5. Research aim and objectives	10
1.6. Research questions	11
1.7. Theoretical framework	11
1.7.1. Differential association theory	11
1.7.2. Social learning theory	12
1.8. Research design and methodology	12
1.8.1. Population	13
1.8.2. Sampling techniques	13
1.8.3. Data collection techniques	14

1.8.4. Construction of the instrument	15
1.8.5. Piloting of instrument	15
1.8.6. Analysis of the data	15
1.9. Research methods linked to research questions	17
1.10. Significance of the study	17
1.11. Gaining access to the respondents	18
1.12. Ethical considerations	18
1.13. Chapter outline of the study	19
1.14. Summary of the chapter	20
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE AND THEORETICAL REVIEW	
2. Introduction	21
2.1. Conceptual definition of vigilantism	22
2.2. Historical background of policing in South Africa	23
2.3. Theoretical framework on vigilantism	24
2.3.1. Differential association theory	25
2.3.2. Social learning theory	27
2.4. Profile of the study areas	28
2.5. Types of ‘mob justice’	30
2.5.1. Community ‘mob justice’	30
2.5.2. Organized ‘mob justice’	30
2.6. Sections of vigilantism	31
2.6.1. Individual level vigilantism	31
2.6.2. Wider-scale vigilantism	32
2.6.2.1. Vigilantism against communities	32
2.6.2.1.1. Where the suspected criminal cannot be found	32
2.6.2.1.2. Where an act of individual level of vigilantism provokes a violent act	32
2.6.2.2. Vigilantism against institutions	33
2.7. Features of vigilantism	33

2.8. Causes of vigilantism	33
2.9. The danger and impact of vigilantism on communities and the possible long term effects	41
2.10. The consequences of vigilantism	46
2.11. Human rights suspected criminals are entitled to as well as their judicial rights	48
2.12. The current status quo and incidents of 'mob justice' in the Eastern Cape	51
2.13. Vigilante groups operating in townships of Port Elizabeth	54
2.13.1. Iliso lomzi (Eye of the house)	54
2.13.2. Amadlozi (Ancestors)	54
2.14. Preventative measures that can be employed to reduce vigilantism	56
2.14.1. Improvement of communities' attitudes towards the criminal justice system	56
2.14.2. The improvement of the conviction rate	56
2.14.3. Education	57
2.14.4. Employment	58
2.14.5. Police force	58
2.14.6. The judicial system	59
2.14.7. Sensitization	59
2.14.8. Spreading awareness of human rights	60
2.14.9. Collaboration	60
2.14.10. Improve local justice system and demand accountability	61
2.14.11. Teaching non violence	61
2.14.12. Don't participate	61
2.14.13. Addressing the real and practical failings of the CJS	62
2.14.14. Prioritizing and tackling vigilantism as a form of crime	63
2.14.15. Human rights education and further research	64
2.14.16. A co-ordinated strategy for researching and tackling vigilantism	65
2.15. Summary of the chapter	65
CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY	
3. Introduction	67

3.1. Research design and methodology	67
3.2. Population	68
3.3. Sampling techniques	69
3.4. Data collection techniques	70
3.5. Construction of the instrument	72
3.6. Piloting of instrument	72
3.7. Analysis of the data	74
3.8. Reliability and validity of research instrument	76
3.9. Gaining access to the respondents	77
3.10. Ethical considerations	77
3.10.1. Confidentiality	77
3.10.2. Avoidance of harm	77
3.10.3. Anonymity	78
3.10.4. Informed consent	78
3.10.5. Privacy	79
3.11. Limitations of the study	79
3.12. Summary of the chapter	80
CHAPTER FOUR: PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS OF DATA	
4. Introduction	81
4.1. Questionnaire to community members of New Brighton	81
4.1.1. Section A: Biographical information of the respondents	82
4.1.1.1. Gender representation of the respondents	82
4.1.1.2. Representation of the age of participants	83
4.1.1.3. Representation of the race of participants	84
4.1.1.4. Representation of marital status of the respondents	85
4.1.1.5. Illustration of the school background of the respondents	86
4.1.1.6. Illustration of the vocational status of the respondents	88
4.1.1.7. Illustration of the total household income of the respondents	89

4.1.2.	Section B: Responses to open and closed ended questions contained in the questionnaire.	90
4.1.2.1.	What do you think is an act of vigilantism (‘mob justice’)?	90
4.1.2.2.	Do you think there has been increase in vigilante activity in this area since 1994?	91
4.1.2.3.	Do you think there has been increase in vigilante activity in this area since 2000?	92
4.1.2.4.	Do you think there has been increase in vigilante activity in this area since 2010?	93
4.1.2.5.	Has there ever been an incident of vigilante activity in the area where you live?	94
4.1.2.6.	In your opinion what kinds of crimes are more likely to result in vigilantism in this area?	95
4.1.2.7.	If there has been an incident of vigilantism in your area when did the last act of vigilantism take place?	96
4.1.2.8.	Can you describe what happened to the victim/victims during the incident?	97
4.1.2.9.	Do you know the gender of the victim/victims?	99
4.1.2.10.	Do you know the age of the victim/victims?	99
4.1.2.11.	Did the police intervene?	100
4.1.2.12.	Were there any children and women involved as perpetrators in such incidents?	101
4.1.2.13.	Was the occurrence reported to the police?	102
4.1.2.14.	In your opinion are the perpetrators of vigilantism more likely to be caught by police officers in this area?	103
4.1.2.15.	Have you ever participated in any vigilante activity?	104
4.1.2.16.	If you have ever participated in any vigilante activity, under what circumstances would you take such action?	104
4.1.2.17.	If you have never participated in any vigilante activity, would consider participating?	105
4.1.2.18.	If you would consider participating in vigilante activity, under what circumstances who you take such actions?	106
4.1.2.19.	Have any members of your household or any one you know ever been participated in any vigilante activity?	107
4.1.2.20.	Have you ever been a victim of vigilante activity?	108
4.1.2.21.	If you have been a victim of vigilante occurrence, when did this happen?	109
4.1.2.22.	If you have been a victim of vigilante occurrence, can you describe what happened?	109

4.1.2.23.	Has any person in your family or anyone you know ever been a victim of vigilante activity?	110
4.1.2.24.	If anyone you know has been a victim of vigilante activity, when did this happen?	111
4.1.2.25.	If anyone you know has been a victim of vigilante activity, can you describe what happened?	112
4.1.2.26.	Which effective preventative measures do you think can be used to reduce vigilante activities?	113
4.1.2.27.	What do you think might be the cause of young adults/adults to engage in criminal activities in this area?	115
4.1.2.28.	What types of crimes are more likely to be committed by these individuals mentioned above and what do you think is the reason behind this?	116
4.1.2.29.	Are there any police officers that are patrolling in this area?	118
4.1.2.30.	If there are police officers that are patrolling in your area, at what time?	118
4.1.2.31.	How far is your nearest police station?	119
4.1.2.32.	How would you rate the condition of the police station?	120
4.1.2.33.	Do you support vigilantism (‘mob justice’)?	121
4.1.2.34.	If you support vigilantism, please explain why you say you support it?	121
4.1.2.35.	In your opinion what are the motives of individuals/communities who take the law into their own hands?	122
4.1.2.36.	In your opinion what impact do vigilante incidents have in this area?	124
4.1.2.37.	In your opinion what are the consequences of vigilante activities in this area?	126
4.1.2.38.	Are there any vigilante groups you know that are operating in this area?	127
4.2.	Questionnaire to community members of Kwazakhele	128
4.2.1.	Section A: Biographical information of the respondents	129
4.2.1.1.	Gender representation of the respondents	129
4.2.1.2.	Representation of the age of participants	130

4.2.1.3.	Representation of the race of the respondents	131
4.2.1.4.	Representation of marital status of the respondents	132
4.2.1.5.	Illustration of the school background of participants	133
4.2.1.6.	Illustration of the vocational status participants	134
4.2.1.7.	Illustration of the total household income of the respondents	136
4.2.2.	Section B: Responses to open and closed ended questions contained in the questionnaire.	137
4.2.2.1.	What do you think is an act of vigilantism ('mob justice')?	137
4.2.2.2.	Do you think there has been increase in vigilante activity in this area since 1994?	138
4.2.2.3.	Do you think there has been increase in vigilante activity in this area since 2000?	139
4.2.2.4.	Do you think there has been increase in vigilante activity in this area since 2010?	140
4.2.2.5.	Has there ever been an incident of vigilante activity in the area where you live?	141
4.2.2.6.	In your opinion what kinds of crimes are more likely to result in vigilantism in this area?	141
4.2.2.7.	If there has been an incident of vigilantism in your area when did the last act of vigilantism take place?	143
4.2.2.8.	Can you describe what happened to the victim/victims during the incident?	144
4.2.2.9.	Do you know the gender of the victim/victims?	145
4.2.2.10.	Do you know the age of the victim/victims?	146
4.2.2.11.	Did the police intervene?	147
4.2.2.12.	Were there any children and women involved as perpetrators in such incidents?	147
4.2.2.13.	Was the occurrence reported to the police?	148
4.2.2.14.	In your opinion are the perpetrators of vigilantism more likely to be caught by police officers in this area?	149
4.2.2.15.	Have you ever participated in any vigilante activity?	150
4.2.2.16.	If you have ever participated in any vigilante activity, under what circumstances would you take such action?	151
4.2.2.17.	If you have never participated in any vigilante activity, would	152

	consider participating?	
4.2.2.18.	If you would consider participating, under what circumstances who you take such actions?	153
4.2.2.19.	Have any members of your household or any one you know ever been participated in any vigilante activity?	154
4.2.2.20.	Have any members of your household or any one you know ever been participated in any vigilante activity?	154
4.2.2.21.	If you have been a victim of vigilante occurrence, when did this happen?	155
4.2.2.22.	If you have been a victim of vigilante occurrence, can you describe what happened?	156
4.2.2.23.	Has any person in your family or anyone you know ever been a victim of vigilante activity?	156
4.2.2.24.	If anyone you know has been a victim of vigilante activity, when did this happen?	157
4.2.2.25.	If anyone you know has been a victim of vigilante activity, can you describe what happened?	158
4.2.2.26.	Which effective preventative measures do you think can be used to reduce vigilante activities?	159
4.2.2.27.	What do you think might be the cause of young adults/adults to engage in criminal activities in this area?	161
4.2.2.28.	What types of crimes are more likely to be committed by these individuals mentioned above and what do you think is the reason behind this?	162
4.2.2.29.	Are there any police officers that are patrolling in this area?	164
4.2.2.30.	If there are police officers that are patrolling in your area, at what time?	164
4.2.2.31.	How far is your nearest police station?	165
4.2.2.32.	How would you rate the condition of the police station?	166
4.2.2.33.	Do you support vigilantism (‘mob justice’)?	167
4.2.2.34.	If you support vigilantism please explain why you say you support it?	167
4.2.2.35.	In your opinion what are the motives of individuals/communities who take the law into their own hands?	168
4.2.2.36.	In your opinion what impact do vigilante incidents have in this area?	170
4.2.2.37.	In your opinion what are the consequences of vigilante activities in this area?	172

4.2.2.38. Are there any vigilante groups you know that are operating in this area?	173
4.3. Comparison between communities	174
4.4. Summary of the chapter	177
CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	
5. Introduction	178
5.1. Research findings in association with the objectives of the study	178
5.1.1. To examine the motives of individuals/communities who take the law into their own hands.	178
5.1.2. To explore the impact that the vigilante incidents have on communities.	179
5.1.3. To ascertain the effective preventative measures that can be utilized to combat vigilantism.	180
5.2. Recommendations	181
5.3. Conclusions	183
References	185
Appendix A: Questionnaire	
Appendix B: Research Confidentiality and Informed Consent Form	
Appendix C: Ethical clearance certificate	
Appendix D: Letter of permission to the councilor to conduct research in Kwazakhele	
Appendix E: Letter of permission to the councilor to conduct research in New Brighton	

LIST OF FIGURES

Details	Page
Figure 4.1: Gender of the participants	82
Figure 4.2: Age of participants	83
Figure 4.3: Race of the respondents	84
Figure 4.4: Marital status of participants	85
Figure 4.5: School background of the participants	86
Figure 4.6: Vocational status of participants	88
Figure 4.7: Total household income of participants	89
Figure 4.8: Gender of the respondents	129
Figure 4.9: Age of the respondents	130
Figure 4.10: Race of the respondents	131
Figure 4.11: Marital status of the respondents	132
Figure 4.12: School background of participants	133
Figure 4.13: Vocational status of the participants	134
Figure 4.14: Total household income of the respondents	136

LIST OF TABLES

Details	Page
Table 4.1: Thoughts of participants about vigilantism	90
Table 4.2: The respondents' perceptions on the increase in vigilante activity in their area since 1994	91
Table 4.3: The respondents' views on the increase in vigilante activity in their area since 2000	92
Table 4.4: The respondents' opinions on the increase in vigilante activity in their area since 2010	93
Table 4.5: The participants' views on the incidents of vigilante activity in the area where they live	94
Table 4.6: Participants' opinions on the kinds of crimes that are more likely to result in vigilantism in their area	95
Table 4.7: Respondents' views on the last occurrence of vigilante activities in their area	96
Table 4.8: Respondents' perceptions on the description of what happened to the victim/victims during the incident of vigilantism in their area	97
Table 4.9: Participants' opinions on the gender of victim/victims	99
Table 4.10: Participants' views on the age of victim/victims	99
Table 4.11: Opinions of respondents on involvement of police officers in vigilante activities	100
Table 4.12: Respondents' views on the involvement of children and women in vigilante occurrences	101
Table 4.13: Report of the incidents of vigilantism to the police officers	102
Table 4.14: Views on the likelihood of perpetrators of vigilantism being caught and arrested by police officers	103
Table 4.15: Participation of participants in vigilante activities	104
Table 4.16: Views of those participants who said they had participated in vigilante activity	104
Table 4.17: Opinions of those participants who said they had never participated in any vigilante activity.	105
Table 4.18: Opinions of those participants who said they would consider participating in vigilante activity	106
Table 4.19: Participation of other community members in vigilante activities	107
Table 4.20: Participants as victims of vigilante activities	108
Table 4.21: The occurrence of vigilantism on those participants who had been victims of vigilante activity	109
Table 4.22: The description of what happened to those participants who had been victims of vigilantism.	109
Table 4.23: Other community members as victims of vigilante activities	110

Table 4.24: The occurrence of vigilante activity on other community members as victims of vigilante activity	111
Table 4.25: The description of what occurred to the victim/victims of vigilante activity during the incident.	112
Table 4.26: Opinions of participants on the effective preventative measures that can assist to reduce vigilante activities	113
Table 4.27: Participants' perceptions on the causes of young adults to engage in criminal activities in their area	115
Table 4.28: The respondents' views on the types of crimes that are more likely to be committed by young adults and their reason for committing those crimes	116
Table 4.29: Patrolling of the police officers in New Brighton	118
Table 4.30: The time of patrolling of police officers in their area	118
Table 4.31: The distant of participants' nearest police station	119
Table 4.32: Condition of the police station (New Brighton)	120
Table 4.33: Support of vigilantism by community members of New Brighton	121
Table 4.34: The views of those participants who said they do support vigilantism	121
Table 4.35: Participants' opinions on the motives of individuals who take the law into their own hands	122
Table 4.36: Participants' opinion on the impact of vigilante activities in their area	124
Table 4.37: Respondents' opinion on the consequences of vigilante activities in their area	126
Table 4.38: Participants' views on vigilante groups they know that are operating in their area	127
Table 4.39: Thoughts of participants about vigilantism	137
Table 4.40: The respondents' perceptions on the increase in vigilante activity in their area since 1994	138
Table 4.41: The respondents' views on the increase in vigilante activity in their area since 2000	139
Table 4.42: The respondents' opinions on the increase in vigilante activity in their area since 2010	140
Table 4.43: The participants' views on the incidents of vigilante activity in the area where they live	141
Table 4.44: Participants' opinions on the kinds of crimes that are more likely to result in vigilantism in their area	141
Table 4.45: Respondents' views on the last occurrence of vigilante activities in their area	143
Table 4.46: Respondents' perceptions on the description of what happened to the victim/victims during the incident of vigilantism in their area	144
Table 4.47: Participants' opinions on the gender of victim/victims	145
Table 4.48: Participants' views on the age of victim/victims	146
Table 4.49: Opinions of respondents on involvement of police officers in vigilante activities	147

Table 4.50: Respondents' views on the involvement of children and women in vigilante occurrences	147
Table 4.51: Report of the incidents of vigilantism to the police officers	148
Table 4.52: Views on caught of perpetrators of vigilantism by police officers	149
Table 4.53: Participation of participants in vigilante activities	150
Table 4.54: Views of those participants who said they had participated in vigilante activity	151
Table 4.55: Opinions of those participants who said they would consider participating in vigilante activity	152
Table 4.56: Participation of other community members in vigilante activities	153
Table 4.57: Participation of other community members in vigilante activities	154
Table 4.58: Participants as victims of vigilante activities	154
Table 4.59: The occurrence of vigilantism on those participants who had been victims of vigilante activity	155
Table 4.60: The description of what happened to those participants who had been victims of vigilantism	156
Table 4.61: Other community members as victims of vigilante activities	156
Table 4.62: The occurrence of vigilante activity on other community members as victims of vigilante activity	157
Table 4.63: The description of what occurred to the victim/victims of vigilante activity during the incident.	158
Table 4.64: Opinions of participants on the effective preventative measures that can assist to reduce vigilante activities	159
Table 4.65: Participants' perceptions on the causes of young adults to engage in criminal activities in their area	161
Table 4.66: The respondents' views on the types of crimes that are more likely to be committed by young adults and their reason for committing those crimes	162
Table 4.67:Patrolling of the police officers in Kwazakhele	164
Table 4.68: The time of patrolling of police officers in their area	164
Table 4.69: The distant of participants' nearest police station	165
Table 4.70: Condition of the police station (Kwazakhele)	166
Table 4.71: Support of vigilantism by community members of Kwazakhele	167
Table 4.72: The views of those participants who said they do support vigilantism	167
Table 4.73: Participants' opinions on the motives of individuals who take the law into their own hands	168
Table 4.74: Participants' opinion on the impact of vigilante activities in their area	170
Table 4.75: Respondents' opinion on the consequences of vigilante activities in their area	172
Table 4.76: Participants' views on vigilante groups they know that are operating in their area	173

CHAPTER ONE

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE STUDY

1. Introduction

This chapter will first provide the reader with a short overview of an introduction followed by the description, and explanation of certain terms the readers will need in order to understand a proposed research project, and then followed by the back ground of the study. This will proceed with a literature review, research problem, the research aim and objectives and three research questions. The theoretical framework, research design and methodology and the significance of the study will be incorporated. The last section will explain ethical considerations and chapter outline of the study.

In South Africa vigilantism (or 'mob justice') has become a critical problem for the government and the members of the public, as well as the society at large. The word 'vigilantism' as used in this research refers to the people in a community coming together, and taking the law into their own hands and administering their own punishments, or notions of 'justice' on suspected criminals, who they perceive as not being arrested by the police officers, convicted and sentenced by the courts, and punished (Johnston, 1996). What is being done by the perpetrators of 'mob justice' is wrong as it is against the law and the Constitution of South Africa. Hence, this research will focus on vigilantism as a crime and a serious concern in communities. However, the fact that, as posited by Buur (2008), the incidents of 'mob justice' which emerged as a result of a high crime rate have become a regular occurrence in many townships and informal settlements in the Eastern Cape is one of the reasons why the researcher decided to conduct an in-depth research on vigilantism.

Furthermore, the seaside city of Port Elizabeth, situated in the western part of the Eastern Cape Province which the researcher will focus on, has experienced numerous incidents of vigilantism ranging from so-called disciplining of delinquent community members, to eliminating alleged troublesome societal offenders (Buur, 2007).

However, these incidents as stated by Buur and Jensen (2004) had brought serious concern to Port Elizabeth communities in general, and the South African Police Services (SAPS) in particular, because of the indiscriminate and ineffective approach by the SAPS of addressing community policing and crime problems.

1.1. Definition of key concepts

Mtika (2011) in his study contended that '**mob justice**' could be regarded as the act of a group of people who take the law into their own hands and administering violent justice on suspected societal offenders.

Minnaar (2001, p8) argued that **necklacing** "is a practice of forcing a tyre filled with petrol over a victim's head and shoulder and setting it alight".

Moller (2005) defined the term **crime victim** as a person who suffered direct or threatened physical, psychological and emotional or financial harm as a result of a criminal act against them perpetrated by another person.

Violence is any form of behaviour by an individual that deliberately threatens to or does cause physical, sexual or psychological harm to others or themselves (Stanko, 2001) .

Van Ginneken (1992) described **mob psychology** as a phenomenon that was understood to be part of the study of social psychology. However, he added that this concept actually claims that the way an individual thinks and behaves differ from the way the larger group think and behave, although the same individuals often adjust to the expectations of the surrounding culture and modify individual traits in order to identify with the crowd. In a sense, this can be conceptualized as 'a moral diffusion" of individual responsibility.

Justice can be defined as a concept involving the fair, moral, and impartial treatment of all persons. It is prerequisite for peace and harmony in the society (Bodenheimer, 1962).

Buur (2008) indicated that a **people's court** referred to an illegal court developed by vigilante groups or the community members with the objective of convicting and sentencing alleged troublesome societal offenders.

According to the Oxford Mini School Dictionary (1998) **beating** refers to punishment or assault in which the victim is hit repeatedly.

Sekhonyane (2003) well defined the term **burning** as the destruction or killing of somebody by fire.

Jeffery (2013) in his study explained **stoning** as a form of punishment whereby a group of people throw stones at a person causing their eventual death.

Awuni (2007) stated that **lynching** referred to the punishment of a person without legal process or authority, especially by hanging for an alleged offense.

1.2. BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

Haysom (1986) indicated that vigilantism (or so-called 'mob justice') is not a new occurrence in South Africa and it has become prevalent long before the South African government change to democracy. The previously cited author added that vigilante incidents in South Africa had extended over some years, but they became more pronounced in the mid-eighties and 1990s as a vehicle for organizing communities and restricting residents from joining forces with the Apartheid system. Literature points out that the causes of vigilante incidents in South Africa differed from time to time. However, incidents of vigilantism became apparent in 1985 (Minnaar, 2001).

More details were provided by Haysom (1986) and Bruce and Komane (1999) who stipulated that before the Apartheid era of democratic government, vigilante actions were based on political purposes and occurred in the context of liberation ideology, and the struggle against the injustice of Apartheid. Generally, in that particular time vigilantism was used to describe violent activities that were conducted to support the Apartheid state. The position adopted by Minnaar (2001) was supported by Harris (2001) who postulated that between the 1980s and the four years from 1990 to 1994, there were subtle shifts in how such violence was inflicted, but in essence the term remained politically biased, and indeed during the Apartheid era, the use of the necklacing against government supporters and informers, was a fairly common occurrence.

In that particular time the necklace method was used to expose and eliminate “impimpi” also so-called sell-outs (informers). Minnaar (2001) presented a detailed explanation when he argued that the necklace became known in South Africa during the 1980’s and 1990’s. The ‘necklace’ first known use was in 1984 in the African National Congress (ANC) training camps in Angola, where it was used as a punishment for traitors in the ‘liberation struggle’. Its’ use in South Africa first developed in the townships surrounding Uitenhage and Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape in 1985. It was widely viewed at the time as a method of eliminating or destroying all those who were against Apartheid, specifically unpopular town councillors of the Black Local Authorities Councils.

Furthermore, throughout the early 1990s, the necklace method continued to be ascribed to political motives, but it extended beyond conservative vigilantism to explain a wider range of activities in terms of victims (Jeffery, 2013; Coleman, 1998). An alternative explanation was proposed by Schonteich (2000) when he asserted that in the mid-nineties, vigilante incidents began to re-develop all over South Africa, and particularly in the Western Cape, the Eastern Cape and the Northern Province. However, the reasons for the re-development of vigilantism were related to the change in South African government to democracy after 1994 and the challenges it caused for effective criminal justice and policing, and also the empty promises that were made by new democratically elected South African government shortly after 1994.

Schonteich (2000) further indicated that between 1994 and 1996, the majority black government that came to power in the year 1994 set itself complicated task of re-arranging old Apartheid legislation with the newly established Constitution and the Bill of Rights. This, as asserted by the previously cited author, presented huge challenges both to the legislators, police officers and prosecutors who had to establish the new laws. In the process, the society was left behind and the understanding of this new 'human rights culture' remained restricted and somewhat diminished.

Another explanation for this phenomenon was provided by Lee and Seekings (2002) and Martin (2010) when they insisted that it was also probable that the first fully-franchised national election also meant high expectations from the people that the country would finally be in a position to protect its entire people in South Africa equally, and deliver basic municipal services. A more critical perspective was put forward by Van Beek (2001) when the author posited that two years after the first elections in 1994, disappointment with slow delivery of municipal services, escalation in the crime rate and rising perceptions that the Criminal Justice System (CJS) was ineffective, useless and slow led many people to frustration. As a result, this led to a significant number of the public taking the law into their own hands.

This point was supported by Jeffery (2013) when he expressed that, 'mob justice' also remained prevalent in 2011 because there was still no improvement in the criminal justice system, and according to the cited author the Constitution was still too lenient when it came to criminals. This was demonstrated by the common explanation among supporters of vigilantism that the ANC led government and the country's new Constitution had afforded the criminals' rights at the expense of the victims (Van Beek, 2001).

1.3. Preliminary literature review

1.3.1. Concept definition

The etymology of the word "vigilante" is of Spanish origin and means "watchman" or "guard", but its Latin root is vigil, which means, "awake" or "observant" (Johnston, 1996). When it is said that people are taking the law into their own hands, it simply means that they are involving in vigilante actions, or so-called 'mob justice' (Johnston, 1996). The previous author further asserted that "vigilantes was the term given to self-appointed law enforcement groups which appeared occasionally in older communities where police officers and courts were non-existent, inefficient or corrupt, and where municipal institutions were disorganized, or where established authorities seemed unable to cope with lawlessness and disorder" (Johnston, 1996, p26).

Johnston (1996, p26) in his study also mentioned six elements that characterize vigilante activities, which included:

- “Minimal planning, preparation or premeditation.
- Private agents acting in a voluntary capacity.
- Activity undertaken without the state's authority or support.
- Force is either used or threatened.
- A reaction to the real or perceived transgression of institutionalized norms.
- Aims to offer people the assurance that established order will prevail”

1.3.2. The status quo of the incidents of ‘mob justice’ in the Eastern Cape

Abrahams (2010) argued that ‘mob justice’ had increased dramatically in South Africa and the escalation was because of government’s failure to combat violent crime and drugs. Sekhonyane (2003) who conducted a research on vigilantism presented that the media had brought daily shocking reports of citizens taking the law into their own hands. These often sensationalized reports were more prevalent in black townships, and even more so in informal settlements characterized by low socioeconomic status and disorganized community structures. Furthermore, Jeffery (2013) in his findings stressed that in 2011, there was an escalation in the killing of alleged troublesome societal offenders by the ‘necklace’ method. However, during the period under review, “the increase in necklacing began in June 2011 in New Brighton (Port Elizabeth), after two young men broke into the home of an elderly woman, stole her television, and stabbed her renter to death” (Jeffery, 2013, p45).

There were four more necklacing incidents in Port Elizabeth afterwards reported by local newspapers as indicated by Jeffery (2013), followed by some more incidents in Umtata, East London and Idutywa, between 2012 and 2014. Many of the incidents that had occurred as stressed by the previously cited author had been where the alleged societal offenders were caught in the act, and either beaten up, stoned, burnt and killed by angry community members. Nevertheless, beating and stoning were two of the most common methods the killings were carried out. These violent actions were not merely an expression of communities’ anger and frustration only, but also of their apprehension, frustration, and fear.

However, in each occurrence, most people in the mob demonstrated no sympathy or remorse concerning their actions (Jeffery, 2013). According to Buur (2007) this activity was being perpetrated by some furious and misguided community members including young adults and adults of both genders. Their victims were young adults most of the time and the majority were males. However, results of the research conducted by Shaw and Tshiwula (2002) demonstrate a close correlation between youths from single parent household and their involvement in crime, which means that people who are more likely to engage in criminal activities are people from single parent household. Another correlation was found between the victims of 'mob justice' and the level of education, and the commission of crime (Cloete and Stevens, 2004). This position was supported by Buur (2007) who argued that poverty and alcohol and drug abuse are some of the factors (criminogenic risks) that can cause some youths to commit crime. Therefore it is those young people's unlawful actions that turn the community members against them, resulting in the development of vigilantism.

1.3.3. Causes of vigilantism

High level of crime is the major reason that causes people to take the law into their own hands (Attafuah, 2008). Baefele (2006, p4) added that "particularly what drives people to 'mob justice' it is lack of trust in the SAPS because of a slow reaction time to complaints, weak statement-taking, poor detective work and evidence gathering, no follow-up on cases and no communication between the detectives and the community". An alternative explanation was provided by Awuni (2007) when he indicated that 'mob justice' emanated because of police corruption, poor police-community relations, ineffectiveness of policing, lack of visible policing, corruption within the judicial system and poor service delivery.

This claim argued by Awuni (2007) was supported by Yankson (2013, p43) when he contended that "one of the main reasons that led to 'mob justice' is judicial inefficiency". However, a more critical point of view was put forward by Harris (2001) who posited that after 1994, vigilantism in South Africa re-emerged as a result of expectations regarding democracy, these were dissatisfaction and disappointed expectations concerning political and economic change.

The previously cited author further asserted that vigilantism is described as a demonstration of emotion, motivated by frustration and disappointment. Therefore, from this perspective, vigilantism is not only about depression of seeing individuals who were arrested for serious crimes moving on the streets but also represents a high degree of dissatisfaction with the justice system, and disappointment with democratic government. The sense of disappointment about current governance as asserted by Harris (2001) is situated in the whole criminal justice system and slow delivery of municipal services which drive individuals to criminal activities. Furthermore, Harris (2001) concluded that vigilantism is based on perceived and actual ineffectiveness of the criminal justice system as a whole, together with the feeling that the individuals feel powerless, and taking the law into their own hands is seen as a form of empowerment.

1.3.4. Danger and effects of vigilantism

Crac (2000, p45) in his research conceded that 'mob justice' is not helping to combat crime, but instead is socializing communities into further violent behavior". Meaning it increases a cycle of violent behavior through revenge. Another point was raised by Mtika (2011) who stipulated that 'mob justice' undermined the rule of law and threatened the human rights culture on which this democracy was supposed to be founded. A more critical view was raised by Madienyane (2013) who found that children had become so desensitized to the violence in the environment around them. For example, they could be playing soccer in a field and there would be a dead body next to them and they wouldn't be bothered.

Moreover, vigilantism is seen by the community members in Minnaar's (2001) research to provoke and destroy rather than building the community. Furthermore, this incident for them is about performing control over communities and involving in personal affairs, instead of solving crime. Therefore, occurrences of vigilantism are structured in terms of emotions, such as revenge or hatred. Nevertheless, the position adopted by Mtika (2011) was explained in detail by Sekhonyane and Louw (2002) who postulated that 'mob justice' is wrong because it violates a person's right to a fair trial and right to be held innocent until proven guilty. Without a trial in a legitimate court of law, it is all too easy to hurt or kill a person without proof of their guilt.

However, short-term effects based on exposure to ‘mob justice’ have also been recognized in recent literature which includes aggression and delinquency. Aggression was particularly mentioned to be more prevalent later in life on children and young adults (Madienyane, 2013).

1.3.5. Responses from authorities

There is much evidence that the government had acknowledged the problem of ‘mob justice’ and had taken actions (Sekhonyane and Louw, 2002). The cited authors in their research on vigilantism found some ideas taken by the Department of Safety and Security and Justice and Constitutional Development, that could significantly diminish the high rate of vigilante actions and these included:

The improvement of the performance of the criminal justice system as a whole, the improvement of conviction rate and municipal service delivery to the public, enacting of tough laws on offenders, and the assistance of the police and the courts through crime prevention partnerships. Harris (2001) provided other justifications for vigilantism that exists with the crime fighting rationale. These include personal and emotional factors, as well as fundamental disagreements with the human rights framework that underlies the Constitution. Therefore, according to the previously cited author it is not enough only to tackle practical failings of the formal CJS and offer education about due process but the human rights framework must be enacted also at a societal as well as Constitutional level.

1.4. The research problem

Significant number of the researchers had reported that the incidents of vigilantism which emerged as a result of high crime rate and the perspective of lack of effectively policing have become a regular occurrence in many townships in Port Elizabeth especially in Kwazakhele and New Brighton. Many of these occurrences were never reported to the police (Buur, 2007; Minnaar, 2002). This phenomenon as reported upon by the previously mentioned authors has destroyed many young men’s lives and ambitions.

This is a paradoxical situation that violates human rights because South Africa is a country with a Constitution that prioritizes human dignity for all, and citizens that are totally free from violence of any kind. This is supported by section 12(1) (c) (e) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act No. 108 of 1996, which stipulates that “every accused person has the right to freedom and security of the person, which includes the right to be free from all forms of violence from either public or private source, not to be tortured in any way, and not to be treated or punished in a cruel, inhumane or degrading way”. However, vigilantism in these townships is a serious problem particularly for individuals living in these communities. Literature suggests that vigilantism is common in these townships to the extent that it is threatening the communities it aims to protect (Madienyane, 2013).

This was confirmed by Buur (2008) who argued that its predominance has created anxiety, fear and insecurity within the minds of the communities. Some of the daily shocking reports of vigilante activities that were reported by the media in 2013, was foreign owned shops were looted in New Brighton area, and spread to Kwazakhele and other townships in Port Elizabeth area. These xenophobic actions followed the shooting of a young boy by a Somalian shop keeper after a dispute. These grim reports were more prevalent in poorer communities such as Kwazakhele and New Brighton (Buur, 2008). Furthermore, over the past few months newspapers in New Brighton have often featured stories and disturbing front page photos of violent vigilante attacks, after three young men (South Africans) broke into the home of an elderly couple’s house, stole a television, radio, videos and shot his neighbour to death who saw them (Witbooi, 2013). By conducting this study the researcher seeks to examine and compare and contrast the vigilante occurrences between these two townships from the perspective of the community members. In order to come up with recommendations that will be key in combating the incidents of vigilantism.

1.5. Research aim and objectives

The aim of the study is to explore, analyze and compare the occurrences of vigilantism in two selected communities in Port Elizabeth; the following are specific objectives;

- To examine the motives of individuals/communities who take the law into their own hands.
- To explore the impact of vigilante incidents in communities.
- To ascertain the effective preventative measures that can be utilized to combat vigilantism.

1.6. Research questions

The questions are as follows:

- What are the motives of individuals/communities who take the law into their own hands?
- What impact do vigilante incidents have in communities?
- Which effective preventative measures can be utilized to combat vigilantism?

1.7. Theoretical framework

In this research two theories are utilized, a) Differential Association Theory and b) Social Learning Theory. These theories will be used in examining what factors cause community members to involve themselves in vigilantism.

1.7.1. Differential association theory

Sutherland (1947) in his study described criminal behavior as learned behaviour just like any other behavior. This approach claimed that people actively learn criminal methods as they interact and communicate with other individuals who are significant to them and guides to crime, as criminality cannot occur without the support of others. Because of these contacts, a person would be more likely to learn and accept values and attitudes that look more favourably on criminality (Sutherland and Cressey, 1974). Therefore, this theory emphasized that individuals who grow up in a community where ‘mob justice’ occurs, may be more likely to learn violent and aggressive behavior in the community through communication and close association with other individuals who are perpetrators of ‘mob justice’ and consequently become persons who commit acts of vigilantism themselves (Sutherland and Cressey, 1974).

Therefore, this theory shall be utilized in this research to discover whether the individuals who engaged in vigilante occurrences in these selected communities have learned that, in interaction, and association with others, or not.

1.7.2. Social learning theory

Bandura (1977, p1) argued that "Social Learning Theory focused on the learning that occurs within a social context. It considered that individuals learn from one another, including such concepts as observational learning, imitation, and modelling". This theory claimed that moral thinking and moral behavior are influenced by observation and modelling, as well as the crucial development of empathy (Bandura, 1986). Furthermore, this theory believed that exposure of young adults to acts of vigilantism, could be more likely to lead to a process of learning and imitation, and finally, concluding in the acceptance of vigilante actions as a normal mode of combating crime.

However, the community members who are perpetrators of vigilantism may notice this and praise the observers for modelling and imitating such actions therefore reinforcing that behavior (Van Ginneken, 1992). This theory shall therefore, be utilized to discover whether individuals who involved in vigilante incidents in these selected communities have learned that behavior from others through modelling, imitation and observation, or not.

1.8. Research design and methodology

Monette, Sullivan and DeJong (2008, p9) described a research design as "a plan outlining how observations will be made and how the researcher will carry out the project". The research method that is employed in this study is qualitative research. This approach focuses on describing and understanding a particular phenomenon in a less formalised setting, thereby gaining an insider perspective of the participants' social reality (De Vos, Strydom, Fouche and Delport, 2011).

However, the researcher intended to utilize this approach to examine the experiences, feelings, thoughts, perceptions, attitudes and behaviors of the community members in the selected Port Elizabeth communities, about the phenomenon of vigilante activities. Specifically, by utilizing qualitative methodology the researcher aims at obtaining the in-depth information regarding vigilante occurrences so as to obtain a more complete understanding of the research topic, focusing on the exploratory research design. Since the objective of the research is to produce seminal documentary research on vigilante occurrences in the selected communities (Babbie, 2007).

However, a case study research method was utilized in this study in order to develop a holistic understanding of vigilante occurrences in two communities in Port Elizabeth. However, case studies present data of real life situations and provide better insights into the detailed behaviors of the subjects of interest (Yin, 1984). Yin (1989) describes case study research as a flexible form of inquiry best suited for studying a particular phenomenon within its natural context.

1.8.1. Population

Bless, Higson-Smith and Kagee (2006) asserted that population is all the people, events, organisation units, case records or other sampling units with which the research problem is concerned. However, the research project was undertaken in Port Elizabeth, in the province of the Eastern Cape. Two communities were selected for the study. These were Kwazakhale and New Brighton. The rationale for the selection of this City and these two communities is that these communities have been reported to have experienced numerous incidents of vigilantism as compared to other places in the Eastern Cape (Jeffery, 2013). However, the researcher also decided to select two communities in order to make the comparison between these two communities. The study was conducted using a total population of one hundred (100) participants who were divided by two. Each community had a sample of fifty (50) participants. The chosen sample participants were aged 18 and older.

1.8.2. Sampling techniques

Sampling is the process of selecting participants for a research project (Unrau, Gabor and Grinnell, 2007). The cited authors described the concept “sample” as a group of elements drawn from the population that is considered to be representative of the population, and subsequently studied in order to acquire some knowledge about the entire population. The sample for this study were the members of the selected communities in Port Elizabeth. The purposive sampling technique which is non-probability sampling was employed in this study as an instrument for participants’ selection. “Non-probability sampling is a sampling technique where the samples are gathered in a process that does not give all the individuals in the population equal chance of being selected” (Unrau, et al., 2007, p23).

Once more, the previously cited authors defined purposive sampling as the sampling that is based on entirely on the judgement of the researcher, in that a sample is composed of element that contain the most characteristics, representative of the attributes of the population that serve the purpose of the study. However, in this technique units to be investigated were based on researcher’s judgement. Therefore, this sample assisted the researcher to select amount of participants that yield the required information about a particular phenomenon.

1.8.3. Data collection techniques

The study utilized questionnaires for data collection which sought to cover a wider area. However, Babbie (2007, p186) defined a ‘questionnaire’ “as a document containing questions and or other types of items designed to request information appropriate for analysis”. This technique was utilized to obtain facts and opinions from people who have knowledge about a phenomenon. Data collection for this instrument was done through field work. The questionnaire contained more open - ended questions since the study is based on a qualitative methodology. However, use of open-ended questions allowed respondents to answer questions in detail.

Specifically, open-ended questions provided participants with the opportunity to express their own feelings, thoughts, experiences and perceptions directly without being constrained by rigid predetermined questions (Monette, et al., 2008).

The researcher utilized self-administered questionnaire, where fifty (50) questionnaires were distributed to fifty (50) different people in each community, who completed them on their own, but the researcher was available in case they needed more clarity and explanation (Babbie, 2007). The target population for this study were the individuals in the selected communities who were above the age of 18 years. The researcher ensured that the study included both males and females residing in the selected communities.

1.8.4. Construction of the instrument

Monette, et al., (2008) proposed that a well-designed questionnaire must address the research objectives. In constructing the research questionnaire the researcher was guided by the theories chosen for the study, the literature review and objectives of the research project. The researcher also constructed the questionnaire by writing items; reviewing items; constructing general format; conducting pre-test; revising; conducting pilot test and revising again before the researcher administered it to the respondents for data collection. Constructing the questionnaire involved many decisions about the wording and the ordering of the questions, formatting and mode of administration of the questionnaire (Foddy, 1994).

1.8.5. Piloting of instrument

Sheatsley (1983) indicated that pilot testing also called pre-testing or retesting. The previously cited author argued that it is important to test the questionnaire before using it to collect data. Pretesting and piloting can help the researcher to identify questions that don't make sense to participants, or problems with the questionnaire that might lead to biased answers. However, pilot testing involves the use of a small number of respondents to test the appropriateness of the questions and their comprehension. This is done to improve reliability and validity of the research instrument (Sheatsley, 1983). The main aim was to test the questionnaire. The researcher pilot tested the questionnaire from the neighbouring community members of Motherwell where the researcher was residing during data collection period, which also experienced numerous incidents of vigilantism. The administration of the questionnaire was the same as the one utilized in the study.

1.8.6. Analysis of the data

The qualitative method of analysis is applied in this research for the purpose of analysing the data obtained through field work. In this method of analysis, researchers use “non-numerical examination and interpret observations for the purpose of discovering fundamental meanings and mode of relationships” (Taylor and Bogdan, 1984, p45). This research utilized thematic content analysis and Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software as the means of analysing the data collected in the study. Thematic content analysis will be utilized for the interpretation of open-ended questions, and SPSS software will be employed to examine the closed-ended questions. The use of the SPSS software will allow the researcher to tabulate the responses of all participants into frequency tabulation with variables under study.

The researcher will manually store questionnaire data. The researcher will store data in a spreadsheet of Microsoft excel, and then the researcher will utilize SPSS to open the data that will be stored in Microsoft excel. The data in SPSS will be stored in a spreadsheet like table similar to that of Microsoft excel. Therefore, the researcher will utilize descriptive statistics analysis for question responses, such as frequency counts of closed-ended questions. Thus, the researcher will create graphical presentations of questionnaire data for reporting and presentations (Babbie, Halley and Zaino, 2003). On the other hand, thematic content analysis will enable the researcher to pinpoint, examine and record themes within data. This method will be performed through coding in different phases. Data analysis in this method will involve the categorization, grouping, re-arrangement and ordering of data through coding (Gibbs, 2007).

The researcher will analyse the data according to Braun and Clarke’s six phases of conducting a thematic analysis (Braun and Clarke, 2006). However, thematic analysis is described by the previously cited author as the process of identifying themes within qualitative data. Alternatively, themes are explained as the patterns across data sets that are fundamental to the description of a phenomenon and associated to a specific research questions (Braun and Clarke, 2006).

1.9. Research methods linked to research questions

Research question	Data source and method	Justification
What are the motives of individuals/communities who take the law into their own hands?	Community members : questionnaires	It is in the questionnaire that the community members brought out the reasons that cause them to take the law into their own hands.
What impact do vigilante incidents have in communities?	Community members : questionnaires	Use of questionnaire to this question enabled the community members who have experienced and witnessed the incidents of vigilantism to state their thoughts and perceptions about its impact in communities.
Which effective preventative measures can be utilized to combat vigilantism?	Community members : questionnaires	By using questionnaires to answer this question, community members were able to explain in detail the effective preventative measures they think can be utilized to combat vigilantism.

1.10. Significance of the study

In this research, the focus is on vigilantism in Port Elizabeth with the intention to include the study of vigilante occurrences from the perspective of the selected communities. However, researching into people's perceptions on vigilantism would be significant for various reasons: the results from the study will assist the authorities to develop strategic plans to deal with the issue of vigilantism on communities.

This research will critically assist in adding information regarding the issue under discussion to the existing body of knowledge, considering the fact that in the Eastern Cape there is very limited research that has been conducted on the topic (Buur, 2008). This research will also be a helpful method which will be used to educate and enlighten the members of the selected townships, together with the public about vigilantism and its impact on communities. This research will also highlight the importance of protecting other people's rights, and human rights suspected criminals are entitled to, as well as their judicial rights. Important as well, is to change the community's attitudes and perceptions towards vigilantism and the criminal justice system.

1.11. Gaining access to the respondents

The researcher had gained access to the participants to conduct the study by requesting permission from the local councilors of Kwazakhele and New Brighton.

1.12. Ethical considerations

The highest degree of social science ethics will be observed at all times for the duration of this research project as it is the researcher's aim to ensure that the research is conducted in accordance with the rigorous standard of academic research. The following are some of the important ethical requirements the researcher is obliged to adhere to:

The researcher was granted permission to undergo research at the two communities by local councillors of the selected communities. The researcher sought the consent of the participants before the commencement of the research process by clearly explaining the objectives of the research project, the overall design and on top of that the researcher explained if there were any risks or benefits from participating in the project. The voluntary consent was obtained in writing. The researcher also explained that the participants have the right to withdraw at any time they wish to do so from participation, as the research procedure was entirely voluntary. The participants before taking part in the research project had to sign an informed consent form that was attached on the questionnaire.

The researcher also has ensured that information provided by respondents, specifically sensitive and private information will be kept in a safe place and made unavailable to anyone, except the researcher and the supervisors (Bless, et al., 2006). The researcher also has ensured anonymity by not associating the participant's data with his/her first name or last name or any other form of identity (Bless, et al., 2006). Furthermore, the researcher verbally approached locally-based social workers before the commencement of the research, and they offered their professional assistance should it become necessary.

1.13. Chapter outline of the study

This research project will be constituted as follows:

Chapter one: Provides a broad overview of the topic, presents the introduction and background to the study as well as problem statement. Various concepts are also defined. Preliminary literature review and the theories that will be employed in this study to analyze the research project are presented. The research questions, research aim and objectives, research methods, sampling technique and sample size are outlined, as well as data analysis and significance of the study.

Chapter two: Review the related literature that is relevant to the objectives of the study. Aspects discussed include historical background of policing in South Africa, profile of the selected study areas, types of 'mob justice', sections of vigilantism and features of vigilantism. General causes of vigilantism, consequences of vigilantism, human rights of the alleged criminals, status quo of the incidents of 'mob justice' in the Eastern Cape and preventative measures that can be employed to combat 'mob justice' are also examined. The theoretical framework is also explained and linked to the present study. However, the theories are outlined as they relate to this research project. These theories utilized are, a) Social Learning Theory and b) Differential Association Theory.

Chapter three: This chapter includes an explanation of the specific instruments utilized to collect the data for the study and the procedures for administering the instruments.

The researcher also provides an explanation for using a specific data collection method. The researcher further describes the procedures that were followed during data analysis. Finally, this chapter includes information on the population and sample involved.

Chapter four: This chapter details the data representation and analysis. It illustrates the interpreted findings of the study. However, a theme approach is utilized to outline the findings of the research. These themes are discussed by exploring whether they are related to theories and concepts within the literature or not.

Chapter five: Will constitute the conclusion of the study by summarising the themes. Recommendations by the researcher based on the findings of data gathered and analyzed are also presented to the reader.

1.14. Summary of the chapter

This chapter presented a general introduction and background of the study. The study design and the instruments utilized in carrying out this research have been discussed and the key words defined. Theories and literature review relevant to the study have been examined. The next chapter (chapter two) will review the literature related to the research project. It will also present the theoretical framework underpinning the study.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE AND THEORETICAL REVIEW

2. Introduction

According to Bless, et al., (2006) the literature review is an integrated summary of all available literature related to a particular research question, and this is obtained mainly by reading whatever has been published that appears relevant to the research topic. The purpose of this chapter is to review the literature related to the research project. Specifically, this chapter's objective is to highlight the existing knowledge on the incidents of vigilantism on communities, and extend the existing knowledge beyond what has been presented and published by previous researchers. It ascertains what has already been accomplished, and what is yet to be studied on this phenomenon.

However, relations, disagreements or other connections between different research findings are discovered by comparing and contrasting a variety of studies. It is this chapter that provides the conceptual definition of vigilantism and literature relating to history of policing in South Africa. Furthermore, this chapter also provides the theoretical framework underpinning the study, the profile of the selected fieldwork research areas, sections of vigilantism and its typology. It places an emphasis upon the impact and dangers of vigilantism, reasons and causal factors for the community members to take the law into their own hands, instead of letting the criminal justice system deal with alleged offenders. Incidents of vigilantism in the Eastern Cape as well as human rights of suspected criminals are entitled to, and their judicial rights are discussed. This in turn, points out where some changes have to be made in order to combat vigilantism.

2.1. Conceptual definition of vigilantism

This violent phenomenon of vigilantism as explained by Glad, Stromberg and Westerlund (2010) who described it as a group of people, sometimes numbering in their hundreds, who take the law into their own hands, act as prosecutors, adjudicators and judges and punish suspected societal offenders on the spot. However, incidents of vigilantism would not occur without the social support from the community. It is an action that is being illegally carried out by a group of people in a community anonymously, something that they would not do as individuals. Therefore, vigilantism is perceived by Johnson (1996) as an activity that is carried out by a group of people in a community that attempt to increase the safety of their communities as the state is perceived to loosening its grip, (especially in policing) on services and privatizing many of its agencies.

An alternative explanation was provided by Eick (2003) who stipulated that vigilantism is a response to the noticeable increase of abnormal and violent behavior in a community. This perception is increased by the lack of reaction from the institutions of the state that are lawfully supposed to combat crime, such as the police, the judiciary system, border guards and municipal police, etcetera. In this respect, vigilantism is an in-dependent action that does not need the support of the state, and can be directed against the institutions of the state as they cannot control a perceived climate of deviance and crime. Glad, et al., (2010) also asserted that the person accused of a crime is not given a chance to defend him/herself, or claim their innocence. As a result, this procedure often ends with the victim being beaten to death, or at the very least seriously injured. The victim of a mob is denied a fair trial and the right to life which violates the UN Standards of Human Rights, as well as the South African Constitution of 1996 (http://www.un.org).

Petrus (2014) provided another explanation when he contended that vigilantism is symbolic of distress by a population struggling to survive in a society characterized by perceptions of lawlessness and corruption. Further, the cited author indicated that it is also symbolic of the chronic lack of good leadership and accountability by those in power, to protect the interests and lives of those who are powerless and vulnerable.

Finally, the previous author postulated that vigilantism is symbolic of a growing dissatisfaction among communities who feel that their voices are not being heard, or listened to. A different explanation was adopted by Cohen (1989) who claimed that vigilantism is a deliberate criminal action, undertaken and acted upon, by a group of people in a community, in reaction to an offense(s) committed by a private citizen(s), targeting the suspected offender(s) for that crime.

2.2. Historical background of policing in South Africa

The South African Police Force (SAPF) originated during April of 1913, as the first national, rather than provincial police force. However, by the mid-1950s and early 1990s, the duties of the SAP were to assist the military to overwhelm and oppress liberal (mainly ANC) opposition to the Apartheid government. This role became pronounced during the Apartheid years, when South Africa was generally described as a 'police state', and underwent several State of Emergencies, especially during the 1980s. Policing before the Apartheid era of democratic government was determined by rules, regulations and hierarchies, rather than initiatives, discretion and consultation with social structures or society-at-large (Brewer, 1994).

These manifestations of rules-based policing were of a paramilitary style and nature. The SAP officers could not use their discretion; consequently working together with communities on policing matters was never given any consideration by the upper-echelons of the SAP. The manner of policing was largely reactive, meaning that policing was ineffective and incapable in reducing or fighting crime. As a result of this style, the old South African Police force lacked both the transparency and credibility among its supposed beneficiaries (Ministry of Safety and Security, 2007). Although the South African police organization during the Apartheid era, demonstrated the colonial legacies and power, and the use of indiscriminate force, especially against black people, its efficacy on preventing or reducing crime, was questionable.

According to Brogden and Shearing (1993) police officers all over the world still remained focussed on repression of citizens, rather than their social empowerment. Furthermore, colonial policing was closely linked to the interest and structure of the state, and corporate power.

From a factual perspective, the police were centralized under the control of the government and they served the government with 'perverse efficacy' (Van der Westhuizen, 2001). Furthermore, during the Apartheid era, the government of South Africa was dependent on the police force (and army) to sustain its colonial and Apartheid policies, to retain its firm grip on political power. This style of policing, isolated the police officers from large sections of the community, whose safety the police officers were supposed to protect (Brewer, 1994).

A significant majority of blacks were hostile to the white-officered SAP. Attention to this issue of policing was also raised by Steinberg (2001) when he stressed that policing black communities in South Africa for the better part of the twentieth century, boiled down to two imperatives, which included, controlling the movement of people, and squashing political opposition. Additionally, Van der Westhuizen (2001) argued that police work was also defined mainly as the policing of race relations and policing turned out to be a political action. Meaning it was used for political purposes and all too often forcibly so. Conversely, during the transition in government and the universal franchise after 1994, the African National Congress (ANC) won the national elections and became the government of the Republic of South Africa.

The new ANC led government transformed the South African police into the South Africa Police Service (SAPS) in the new dispensation. Change in South African police after 1994 involved total reorganization and restructuring of management and administration, as well as in the way in which services to the public were rendered. When the government of national unity assumed power in 1994, it made a decision to restructure and reorganize the police force to accomplish its effectiveness, and improve its efficacy. Community policing was identified as one of mechanisms for achieving effective policing, by being proactive, rather than reactive (Brewer, 1994).

2.3. Theoretical framework on vigilantism

Theory is a coherent and systematic ordering of ideas, concepts and models, with the point of building meaning to explain, interpret and shape practice (Moore, 1973). Most theories attempt to explain why certain individuals in communities become involved in incidents of vigilantism.

However, the theories utilized in this research specifically, attempt to explain and explore why some people engage in these occurrences/incidents and others do not. Furthermore, the theoretical approach of this research will be employed in critically reviewing two theoretical frameworks of the social process theories namely: Social Learning Theory and Differential Association Theory. The consistent position of these two theories are that individuals who are exposed to incidents of vigilantism or who grow up in a community where 'mob justice' occurs, may be more likely to learn violent and aggressive behavior towards others. This 'learned behavior' occurs in the community through the personal interaction and association with perpetrators of vigilantism. Or conversely, a person (normally male) may 'learn' such a behavior through imitation, modeling and the observational learning processes. Consequently, because of these learning processes, over a period of time individuals in a community may become perpetrators of the 'mob justice' themselves.

2.3.1. Differential association theory

Sutherland (1947) in his study described criminal behavior as a 'learned behavior' not inherited or genetic and emphasized that it was learned just like any other behavior. This view was clearly expressed by Sutherland and Cressey (1974) who posited that people who became involved in illegal or criminal activities did so because of an excess of contacts with other people that promoted such behavior(s). Because of the personal and social nature of these contacts, a person would be more likely to learn and accept values/norms/mores and attitudes, that look more favorably on illegal behavior.

The perspectives expressed by Sutherland and Cressey (1974) was supported by Sutherland (1947) who argued that people actively learn illegal activities, as they interact and communicate with other individuals who are significant to them and guide them to such illegal activities, as vigilantism cannot occur, without the support of others. Because vigilantism it is an action that is being accomplished by others, a kind of 'groupthink' mentality seems to prevail that transforms a crowd into a 'bloodthirsty mob,' that becomes absolutely merciless in its quest for revenge, against a suspected criminal. According to this theory (Differential Association Theory), it is something they cannot or would not do as an individual person.

Moreover, because of these contacts with perpetrators of ‘mob justice’, a person would be more likely to learn and accept values/norms/morals and attitudes that perceive such behavior much more favorably (Sutherland and Cressey, 1974). It can be argued that individuals, who grow up in communities where vigilante incidents occur, can become involved in such incidents, because of an excess of contacts with people that supported or promoted this kind of criminal behavior (Sutherland and Cressey, 1974). For example, young adults who grow up in a community where ‘mob justice’ occurs often may learn violent and aggressive behavior in the community through interaction, communication and association with perpetrators of vigilante activities, and consequently become perpetrators of ‘mob justice’ themselves. Developing a pathological lack of empathy, they may also become aggressive, violent and cruel in nature. However, Differential Association Theory can also be summarized in the following nine principles (Sutherland and Cressey, 1974, p75–76):

1. “Criminal behavior is learned,
2. Criminal behavior is learned through communicative interaction,
3. Criminal behavior is learned from intimate personal groups,
4. Learning criminal behavior includes learning techniques of specific motives for attitudes toward and rationalizations of crime,
5. The specific direction of motives is learned from definitions of the legal code as favorable or unfavorable,
6. A person becomes delinquent because of an excess of definitions favorable to the violation of law over definitions unfavorable to the violation of law,
7. Differential association varies in frequency, duration, priority, and intensity,
8. Learning criminal behavior involves all the learning mechanism that learning non-criminal behavior involves and,
9. While crime is an expression of general needs and values, it cannot be explained by these since non-crime is also an expression of these same needs and values”.

2.3.2. Social learning theory

Bandura (1977) argued that Social Learning Theory focused on the learning that occurs within a social context. It considered that people learned from one another, including such concepts as observational learning, imitation, and modeling. General principles of Social Learning Theory are as follows as indicated by Bandura (1977, p20).

- "People can learn by observing the behavior of others and the outcomes of those behaviors.
- Learning can occur without a change in behavior. Behaviorists postulated that learning has to be represented by a permanent change in behavior in contrast. However, social learning theorists anticipated that because people can learn through observation alone, their learning may not necessarily be demonstrated in their performance. Learning may or may not result in a behavior change.
- Cognition plays a role in learning. Awareness and expectations of future reinforcements or punishments can have a major effect on the behaviors that people exhibit.
- Social Learning Theory can be considered a transition between behaviorist learning theories and cognitive learning theories".

A more critical position was inferred by Bandura (1986) who posited that moral thinking and moral behavior are influenced by observation and modeling. This included moral judgments regarding right and wrong, which could in part develop through modeling. The cited author also added that much behavior could be learned through modeling, for example, aggression. Bandura (1986) supported his view by reporting that much research indicated that a significant number of young adults who were aggressive had observed aggressive or violent role models (especially parents) during their childhood. Furthermore, in this theory for example, continuous exposure of children and young adults to acts of violence and vigilantism could be more likely to lead to a process of learning and imitation, concluding in the acceptance of vigilante actions as the normal method of punishing suspected criminals.

However, the community members who are perpetrators of vigilantism may notice this and praise the observers for modeling and imitating such actions, and therefore reinforcing that behavior. Consequently, because of reinforcement, observers would be more likely to repeat the 'learned behavior.' Adolescent males are particularly susceptible to these factors, and may become violent with the assumption that violence is the only way of solving problems (Van Ginneken, 1992).

2.4. Profile of the study areas

Port Elizabeth is home to thousands of families. According to Statistics South Africa (2011) its population was 1,152,115, with a crime rate of 73.44%. The population was relatively young (http://citypopulation.pe.html). In South Africa it is one of the secondary metropolitan areas. It was as posited by Minnaar (2002), a microcosm of the rest of the country, with all racial groups in South Africa, represented to a greater or lesser degree. Port Elizabeth had a similar history of political and economic inequality, racial oppression and past incidences of frequent police brutality against the mainly black residents of its townships. Moreover, the city faced similar challenges to both larger and smaller urban areas, of South Africa as a whole. As a result of both the stages of development and the unfair distribution of resources in the past, the environment and health/welfare and income inequality of the residents demonstrate the dramatic differences, between the richer whites and poorer blacks.

For example, there are widely differing levels of access to basic services such as water and sanitation, health services, education and employment opportunities, etcetera (http://www.ecsecc.org.html). Furthermore, Kwazakele as one of the selected communities the researcher conducted the research in is located on the borders of the industrial section of the city of Port Elizabeth. This township as reported by census (2011) consists of a large number of Apartheid-era cheaper housing schemes for blacks. There are plenty of informal settlements and backyard shacks for mainly younger individuals, who cannot meet the expense of establishing their own families' residences. Larger housing schemes to meet the growing black population were constructed under the ANC's Reconstruction and Development Program (RDP) (http://www.ecsecc.org.html).

The Census results reported that population of Kwazakhele increased by about 4 million from 1996 to 2001, and from 2002 to 2011, above 7 million people had been added to the population (http://www.bbc.co.uk.html). The crime rate was 53.26%, (http://www.crimestatssa.com.html). Crime in Kwazakhele is a concept with many meanings covering a variety of societal problems from teenage pregnancy, family arguments and HIV/Aids to theft, robbery and violence. All of these crimes belong to the same spheres of societal disorder (http://www.census2011.com.html). Alternatively, New Brighten as a second community the researcher conducted the research in is an overcrowded township located in the borders of Port Elizabeth. The residents are a diverse group of people who come from different backgrounds and therefore, have different socio-economic statuses (http://www.ecsecc.org.html).

According to census (2011) it was home to 47,915 people and as reported by crime statistics (2013) the crime rate was 4151. Poverty and unemployment are major problems experienced by the people residing in the township. People in the township also face familiar challenges in the form of service delivery, poor parental supervision, family violence and abuse and 107 239 of 289 000 households are classified as poor, with a 30% HIV/Aids infection prevalence rate (http://www.statssa.gov.za.html). However, research conducted by Buur (2008) posited that a lack of housing in this township had resulted in the establishment of informal settlements, areas in which are prone to high rates of crime. New Brighton as pointed out by Minnaar (2002) was the first officially black residential area in Port Elizabeth. Currently it is home to approximately 40,000 people, who reside in a mixture of wooden, and corrugated iron shacks, and more substantial RDP houses.

Upon considering the demographics of the township, the population is relatively young and that the majority of the youths are blacks. As a result, a significant number of these young adults engage in criminal or illegal activities because of poverty and unemployment (http://www.census2011.com.html). However, in these communities, disappointment with the promise of freedom after 1994 such as improving delivery of municipal services, a better life with full employment and education, forced many young people to turn to crime and gangsterism. Because of ineffectual policing, the townships became a breeding ground for criminal elements which led the community members organizing themselves for protection, in order to crack down alleged troublesome societal offenders (http://www.mype.co.za.html).

Therefore, it was those young people's criminal actions that turned the members of the community against them, and this resulted in vigilantism (Buur, 2003; Comaroff, 1999; Steinberg, 2001). Several researchers argued that vigilante activities in Kwazakhele and New Brighton are a demonstration and symbolic of poor service delivery, poor policing or police-community relations, and lack of visible policing (Buur, 2008).

2.5. Types of 'Mob Justice'

2.5.1. Community 'mob justice'

Moses (2009) indicated that community members are often in a 'state of confusion' as they cannot differentiate between community 'mob justice' and community justice, and as a result people resort to acts of murder of suspected criminals. Historically, community justice was mainly characterized by means of a dialogue and community service as attempts to resolve escalating conflicts (Moses, 2009). Additionally, Moses (2009, p11) argued that in community 'mob justice' "there are no structures and the mob is restricted to those who happen to be at the scene or with the community". One may interpret the concept of "community 'mob justice' as an informal activity undertaken by any member of the community who is available when the act is occurring (Moses, 2009).

2.5.2. Organized 'mob justice'

According to Mugunga (2005, p9) "organized 'mob justice' is well mobilized and has leadership structures known as vigilantes". Citizens who possess identical beliefs and it happens that such values and beliefs are not being enforced or even enforced unsatisfactorily by government/police, leads to organized 'mob justice' (Scharf, 2005). It should be noted that in 'mob justice' citizens and even in some instances non-citizens take a conscious decision to administer law and order at the level they think is appropriate. Again, Scharf (2005) pointed out that organized 'mob justice' groups are usually identified by a clear leadership structures under guidance of a president, with several branches scattered around the country. Also it has a well-crafted written constitution and registered members.

However, with the availability of resources, organized ‘mob justice’ groups can operate as enterprises where those who require private protection from criminals, are charged a fee for the services rendered.

2.6. Sections of vigilantism

Barron and Madden’s (2004) research confirmed that vigilantism is divided into two sections that correspond to the two levels at which vigilantism occurred. These sections include vigilantism against individuals (individual level vigilantism) and vigilantism against communities and institutions (wider-scale vigilantism).

2.6.1. Individual level vigilantism

Barron and Madden (2004) defined the term “Individual level vigilantism” as the use of force to punish an individual or a group of people, who are suspected to be wrongdoers. Individual level of ‘mob justice’ as asserted by the cited authors occurs in two different ways. It can be either spontaneous or premeditated. Spontaneous vigilantism occurred when an individual or group of people are apprehended in the act of committing a crime. It is that time that the community’s emotions specifically their sense of anger are at their height. Those who caught someone who has transgressed the law usually dispensed harsh punishment immediately.

On the other hand, premeditated vigilantism occurred in two ways, when an individual is either accused or well-known to be a criminal in the community. On that case no investigation is made whether one is or is simply accused of doing something wrong. Accusation is enough since he/she has been convicted of an offence before. When the angry community members decided to take an action, the suspected criminal when found is killed (Barron and Madden, 2004). In both spontaneous and premeditated vigilantism, the punishment is usually death. Most of the time, the alleged criminals are killed by being burnt alive or beaten with stones. When the suspected criminal is caught it’s not only the aggrieved individuals (victims) who impose punishment, but also members of the community.

2.6.2. Wider-scale vigilantism

Violent acts can sometimes provoke vigilantism on a wider-scale. For example institutions can become targets of vigilantism and vigilantism may also increase to target communities (Barron and Madden, 2004).

2.6.2.1. Vigilantism against communities

Communities can become the target of vigilantism if following the action of violence; the alleged criminals cannot be readily identified. Therefore, wider-scale vigilantism against communities is best understood as an increased form of vigilantism. However, there are two distinguishable situations under which vigilantism can increase and target a community: the first situation it's where the alleged criminals cannot be found by vigilantes, and when an action of individual level of vigilantism provokes a violent reaction (Barron and madden, 2004).

2.6.2.1.1. Where the suspected criminal cannot be found

A specific community may become the target of vigilantism where the alleged criminals cannot be found. In these circumstances those who try to find and punish the suspected criminal may treat the community as a substitute for the incident done by the missing offender. There is generally an assumption that the community is protecting the alleged criminal (Barron and Madden, 2004). The previously authors also stressed that the community is punished not only for the present crime committed by the alleged criminal or criminals, but for all the alleged wrongs of the past.

2.6.2.1.2. Where an act of individual level of vigilantism provokes a violent act

Barron and Madden (2004) posited that in this circumstance, vigilantism can target a community because of a previous action of vigilantism. If a person, crowd or mob punishes someone from another community, members of the accused community may strike back, and seek revenge. However, since most of the time the vigilantes are not likely to be identified by the angry community, the vigilantes' whole community can be targeted, creating a repetitive cycle of violence, revenge and vigilantism. The reason for revenge as indicated by the cited authors in their research findings was the unjust action of vigilantes in the first instance.

2.6.2.2. Vigilantism against institutions

In this situation, institutions/municipalities can become the target of vigilantism if they are suspected to be responsible for some form of injustice in a community. Vigilantism against institutions/municipalities usually takes the form of violence against the physical property of these organizations rather than violence against those people who represent the institutions. Because of this, vigilantism against institutions/municipalities normally involves torching buildings and the commission of arson (Barron and Madden, 2004). The cited authors conceded that vigilantism is a reaction to the unjust or illegal use/abuse of institutional/municipal power. This occurs when a government body or a private company uses their disproportionate power against a community in an unfair or illegitimate manner that causes a community to become upset and deeply angry. In some instances, if an institution/municipality has taken actions beyond its powers or remit, or failed in its services to the people, it may become the target of an angry community. Sometimes vigilantism against institutions/municipalities occurs when the police arrested the wrong person(s) (Barron and Madden, 2004).

2.7. Features of vigilantism

Minnaar (2001) argued that vigilantism occurred in different forms in South Africa ranging from burning, beating, stoning, stabbing and chasing away the wrongdoers, and lynching (hanging). The cited author added that sometimes the perpetrators of ‘mob justice’ destroy properties and even attack and physically assault the family members of alleged offenders. In other instances, if the mob does not find the suspected criminals, they attack the whole community. Another point was raised by Jeffery (2013) who confirmed that the victims of vigilante acts were often stoned to death.

2.8. Causes of vigilantism

A high level of crime is the primary reason that causes people to take the law into their own hands (Barron and Madden, 2004). These two authors added that failure of legal system and specifically the police is what motivates people to commit acts of ‘mob justice’.

The police are seen as being understaffed, under resourced and unresponsive. According to the findings of these authors the police are underpaid, overloaded, and incapable of investigating the large number of cases/dockets they are allocated. As a result of this, they often end up accepting bribes or payment from the criminals themselves, or from their families rather than detain/arrest an alleged offender, or motivate for a criminal prosecution. Minnaar (2001) confirmed that vigilantism after 1994 was expressed as being a high level of frustration and anger by members of the public, with the ineffectiveness of the policing and the dysfunctional criminal justice system of South Africa. Furthermore, many people felt frustrated and angry that the Constitution benefited criminals more than the victims of crime. The previously cited author in his research also found a subsequent breakdown of law and order as the other motive that drove people to commit acts of 'mob justice'.

An alternative explanation was proposed by Buur (2008) when he indicated that previous studies of vigilantism in South Africa had pointed out that vigilantism had developed because of rising crime levels, and the government's failure to enforce its own laws, specifically criminal law. Buur (2008) further asserted that many political analysts or non-state actors argued that vigilantism was activated when the government after 1994, failed to police properly and protect its citizens. Therefore, the problem conceptualized by the above author was that from mainstream perspectives on vigilantism, the law had not been applied constantly. A significant number of participants in Harris's (2001) research confirmed occurrences of vigilantism, as being motivated by perceived failures of the criminal justice system.

These incidents began as a strong reaction to the shortages of police officers and by a perception that the criminal justice system cannot be trusted to achieve justice for criminal elements. From this perspective, vigilantism is not completely reducible to dissatisfied and disappointed expectations about South Africa's transition to democracy after 1994, and ineffectiveness of policing and the criminal justice system as a whole. Rather, vigilantism seems to be a phenomenon originated through fundamental misunderstandings and disagreements about democratic principles and processes (Harris, 2001). To support this position adopted by Harris (2001) several respondents in Harris's study reported that they felt that it is not fair that the alleged criminals should be released with minimum sentences, and given bail.

Because of this, many community members came out in support the community courts, and by extension non-traditional courts which imposed illegal sanctions or punishments on alleged offenders. Harris (2001) further discovered that a significant number of black citizens were not aware of how the criminal justice system operates. Not only were many of his (Harris's) participants against the system of bail, and the varying difficulties of obtaining bail for very serious offences, they simply could not understand why some people were released from police custody, and others not. For example, if a suspected criminal was arrested today and given bail tomorrow, some people would think that the police officer was the one who was responsible for his/her release, rather than a court's decision. Certainly some of the community members will think that the perpetrator will never stand trial, because he/she has been set free.

Specifically the bail conditions as indicated by Harris (2001) were reported by his research participants as the main causal factor behind vigilante activities. It was interpreted and seen as a space in which criminals are able to come back to their communities and show off their freedom, and in addition to threaten/intimidate their victims and continue again with their criminal actions. Bail is seen by various participants to be in the interests of criminals rather than their victims, and the community at large. However, it is not understood as a method of protecting human rights and upholding the innocent until proven guilty principle. Instead, it seems as a stumbling block to justice. The pervasive public perceptions were that it creates a space for continued crime.

Bail is also rejected as an obstruction to instant justice, and the concept that 'justice must be seen to be done.' These respondents explained that for them, 'the process of formal justice is difficult to understand for the reason that it delays punishment because communities want to see things happening quickly.' This was indicated by Harris (2001) who confirmed that vigilante activities are caused by a 'lack of understanding and limited appreciation of the principles of the due processes of the South African legal system. Seekings (2001) in his seminal research on "why people support vigilantism" reported that the respondents from different groups mentioned the following causal factors of vigilantism:

Corruption within the judicial system: The respondents mentioned this factor as causing the greatest sense of frustration among community members. The respondents' premises as confirmed by Seekings (2001) was that the system only succeeds for those people who are wealthy, because they have the money to pay for the police to come to the crime scene and bribe the judicial officers, so that they can perform their duties with efficacy. The position adopted by Seekings (2001) was supported further by Glad, et al., (2010) who postulated that in other circumstances when individuals have economic power and commit a certain crime, whether intentionally or unintentionally they go to the authorities and bribe them. As a result, they often return back to the community. It is this perception that causes people to distrust the judicial system, and force them to take the law into their own hands, and commit vigilante type activities. An alternative position to this issue of corruption was asserted by Levine (2011), who claimed that if the police officers are called to an incident even if it is a violent or urgent one, they can take some time to arrive, or forever.

Weak law enforcement: Delays in the judicial system was one of the factors indicated by Seekings (2001) in his findings that caused 'intense frustration' and increased the risk of 'mob justice'. Providing more clarity on the matter, his research respondents reported that it could take years to try and convict a criminal. During this time, witnesses will have to come to court and give evidence/testimony. As a result, this will cost the witnesses money for transport/food/accommodation and it is not assured that the trial will be held, and is often postponed which means that the witnesses have to return home and come back some other time when they are called. Significant numbers of the people do not have sufficient funds to pay transport costs repeatedly. As a result, some will not be present in court to give evidence which can lead to the dismissal of a case and the alleged offender being freed.

Furthermore, Seekings (2001) emphasized that the police force was considered by many people to be highly inefficient, and often delayed their arrival when called to a crime scene. Because of this 'delayed arrival' factor, this provided like-minded people with enough time to get together and carry out acts of 'mob justice'.

The respondents also pointed out the problems people experienced when calling the police to report a crime. Either police phones were not answered, or if they were the police took too long a time to arrive at a crime scene. Another problem with the police force was brought up by the male respondents. These participants reported that the lack of enough police officers especially in the distant rural areas, left many members of those communities with no choice but to deal with wrongdoers in their own way.

Legislation: The lack of strictly-enforced laws was averred by several respondents on this subject, both concerning law offenders and people engaged in incidents of 'mob justice'. Research participants believed that people became when angry when they saw an alleged offender who was caught and arrested the previous day and out on the street the next morning (Seeking, 2001). According to Seekings (2001) findings there was an impression among respondents that the punishments imposed by the courts on offenders were not equal to the crimes they have committed. This led to the alleged offenders being subjected to criminal actions ('mob justice') because the alleged criminal(s) did not get punished at all, or were punished too lightly and would return to committing their criminal activities again.

Education: All of the respondents as indicated by Seekings (2001) reported that illiteracy as one of causes to 'mob justice' because people who are uneducated, or conversely, those with very low educational qualifications do not understand how the legal system operates. The participants also confirmed that these uneducated people experienced difficulties when it comes to reading and understanding the law, and knowing where to find information about the law. This covers the issue of the ignorance of the law and the legal system generally. However, as reported by the respondents in Seekings (2001) research, it is frequently the people from the rural traditional areas that were more likely to experience higher levels of illiteracy. These were people who had not developed their view on how to solve legal/criminal problems, or to use other methods of dealing with alleged societal offenders. The male respondents also confirmed that the lack of integration of law in the educational system for young people, as another causal factor that resulted in the occurrence of 'mob justice' (Seekings, 2001).

Unemployment: Both female and male respondents in Seekings's (2001) research mentioned unemployment as the biggest issue in South Africa that needs to be taken into serious consideration (by government), as it leads to joblessness and poverty and social and economic disempowerment. As ably demonstrated by Seeking's (2001) research, the people who committed acts of 'mob justice' were the people who were present at the scene, when someone committed a crime and they were easily galvanized into action when someone shouted/screamed out the word, 'thief or rapist', etcetera. According to the respondents it was mostly unemployment or underemployment that caused many people to reside in corrugated iron shacks in along the roadsides, where most 'mob justice' situations occurred. All of the respondents were of a similar opinion, emphasizing that something has to be done regarding the employment issue, as a matter of urgency. The participants concluded the issue of unemployment by repeating their position that people engaged in 'mob justice' simply because they have nothing to do, and are bored (Seekings, 2001).

Frustration: Frustrations about rising crime levels have been frequently reported to result in vigilante activities in many communities (Campbell and Meer, not dated). All of the respondents in Seeking's (2001) research also confirmed that frustration and anger as the main causal factors that motivated people to engage in acts of 'mob justice.' Tangential to this connection, was a complete lack of trust in the judicial system and the police because of their ineffectiveness, inefficacy and corruption. The previously mentioned authors (Campbell and Meer, not dated) argued that some people cannot control both their anger and emotions. In this angry and emotional state some people act as being out of control and commit incredible violence towards others. Then people realize afterwards that 'We have done something very wrong'. Vigilantism as an act to satisfy peoples own emotional/psychological needs was another issue raised by respondents, and it contains a number of different points of view or opinions. One of them was the act revenge on an alleged societal offender for earlier criminal actions perpetrated by him/her. A significant number of respondents reported that the act of revenge was one of the crucial factors that motivated people to commit 'mob justice'.

More clarity on the issue was provided by several respondents who stressed that various people, who had been involved in incidents of ‘mob justice,’ have in actual fact been victims of crime in the past where the alleged criminal was never caught. Because of this they take out their depressed emotions and repressed anger on different alleged societal offenders (Seekings, 2001). Another perspective was raised by one of the female participants, was that people deal with stressful situations on a daily basis. She added that those who become involved in ‘mob justice’ situations, was a way to relieve some of that stress.

Easy bail conditions: Was defined as when the criminals were arrested for serious crimes, and then the following day were released and could be seen on the streets by members of their communities. This aspect led to a lot of anger and frustration in their respective communities. The fact that the criminal would be out on bail to commit other crimes, often drove desperate people to take the law into their own hands (Seekings, 2001).

Lack of trust in the prosecution system: Some respondents in Seekings’s (2001) research also reported a general mistrust in the legal system, a lack of knowledge on how the courts operated, and also felt that the perpetrators should receive much harsher sentences. They also reported that a lot of cases were withdrawn because of a lack of evidence and then the criminals were back on ‘their turf and committing more crimes.’ Steffen (2007) provided a better explanation for this phenomenon when he argued that a vigilante organization frequently developed when there is the perception of increased criminality, which threatens social order. However, these groups of vigilante occurrences are more prevalent not only in places where the State lacks the ability to protect its citizens from crime, but also where the State itself is commonly believed to be corrupt or untrustworthy.

The main issue that encourages vigilantism as posited by the previous author its deep mistrust of the State and the formal security providers, driven by the inability of the police to provide basic security and protect its citizens’ human rights.

Furthermore, providing a better explication on the issue Steffen (2007), insisted that vigilantism arose from the fact that the State is entirely negligent in guaranteeing the safety of a community, and communities' demands on the State to do something constructive are considered to have been ignored, or dismissed.

Ineffectiveness of the local justice system: An ineffective of local justice system (specifically the lower courts) is one of the main factors that can exacerbate the problem of vigilantism. For example, in communities where the police cannot be counted on or trusted to deal with crime and criminal offenders, it is obvious that the victims and the community members will be left with no choice but to take the law into their own hands (Levine, 2011). The position adopted by the previously cited author was supported by Sekhonyane and Louw (2002) who both concluded that vigilantism was an option for vulnerable communities in the face of high crime rate, an ineffective police service and a law that values the rights of criminals more than those of their victims. Furthermore, an analysis of Seekings (2001) research interviews demonstrated that the majority of his research participants confirmed that the Constitution was too soft on criminals and knew they would get easy bail condition and return on the streets to commit more crime.

They also felt that poverty, unemployment and availability of alcohol and drugs motivated some young people to commit crime and join gangs. For the research participants it was these young people's criminal activities that turned the community against them and resulted in acts of vigilantism. Greater clarity on the issue was addressed by Seekings (2001) and supported by Bezuidenhout and Joubert (2008) who both asserted that young males are the ones that are more likely to engage in criminal activities simply because they spent most of their time outdoors. Some respondents confirmed that other acts of vigilantism were the justifiable expression of anger and frustration at the quick release of criminals, who seemed to be protected from being arrested, prosecuted and sentenced (Seekings, 2001).

2.9. The danger and impact of vigilantism on communities and the possible long term effects

Mtika (2011) asserted that vigilante activities instead of eliminating crime, added exponentially to the workload of the police and courts. Another point was raised by Minister of police (Nkosinati Nhleko) who argued that the problem with vigilantism is that it produced a violent revenge cycle. This position was supported by Oomen (1999) who indicated that vigilantism provokes revenge and initiates a cycle of vigilantism, because its actions are motivated by emotions rather than logical or rational thinking. As a result incidents of vigilantism have left many communities living in a state of continuous fear and insecurity. The previous author added that the significant number of the respondents reported that vigilantes used excessive violence, often causing death or serious injury to their victim(s). The position expressed by Oomen (1999) was supported by Sekhonyane (2000) when he stipulated that the vigilante organizations when imposing punishments do not consider, or take into account aggravating and mitigating factors. With this approach as asserted by Sekhonyane (2000), anyone could fall a victim to a false accusation from someone who was trying to save himself/herself.

A more critical view was put forward by Madienyane (2013) who posited that vigilantism would never reduce crime and people supported it just because they know if they do not; the community would rise up against them. Some are worried about the risk of the innocent ones being punished for crimes they did not even commit because vigilantes have no paperwork, no hearing, and usually no sufficient evidence. Sekhonyane and Louw (2002) adopted a far stronger position when they proposed that the cruel and illegal methods employed by vigilante groups had also forced reactions from the communities in which they operated, which in turn resulted in more crime. The previously cited authors also stipulated that vigilantism as a crime-fighting tool is problematic, as concerned and motivated citizens struggle to maintain a balance between achieving order and public safety.

The position of Sekhonyane and Low (2002) was supported by Cavallaro (2003) and Martin (2010) who emphasized that incidents of vigilantism were contributing to crime and lawlessness themselves, and in doing so are undermining and threatening the human rights culture upon which the new South African democracy was supposed to be founded. Rather than preventing the crime situation, Cavallaro (2003) claimed that vigilantes were indeed worsening it. This means that the limited resources of the police are stretched even more by having to investigate vigilante violence in addition to the initial crime that brought it on. This ineffectiveness of the criminal justice system can therefore contribute to high rate of crime. A different explanation was also offered by Madienyane (2013) who felt that growing up in a climate of widespread and pervasive incidents of vigilantism, in which children and youths learned how to live, socialize and how to be, was a cause of considerable concern.

Greater clarity on this specific point was provided by Baker (2002) who stressed that the concern was that children exposed to ongoing vigilante attacks would be emotionally and psychologically damaged by their experiences. In particular, it exerts a profound influence on children's lives, on their sense of security, morality and the value they place on human life. Regarding the psychological effects of exposure to vigilante attacks, Baker (2002) pointed out that anxiety and depression were some of the major psychological effects on children (who witnessed acts of vigilantism) he found in his research. Anxiety as reported by Baker (2002) was more likely to affect attendance at school and academic performance.

An alternative explanation for the effects of vigilantism was expressed by Madienyane (2013) who postulated that youths and children could become conditioned to violence in their adolescent and adulthood stages, and their moral and anticipatory socialization could become affected as well. The position raised by Baker (2002) was supported by Horne (2007) who asserted that some of psychological effects of 'mob justice' he found in his research included pervasive fear and anxiety to protect themselves and their loved ones. Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms such as nightmares and flashbacks, and other psychosomatic disorders have also been reported (Madienyane, 2013).

The cited author stressed that children/adolescents who are exposed to vigilante activities adapt to visual violence in such a way that they become impulsive and possibly violent as well. Cavallaro (2003) in Campbell and Meer (not dated) research emphasized that incidents of vigilantism cause a danger to civil security and therefore provides potential for political instability. (Cavallaro, 2003) also pointed out that vigilante activities construct an environment which militates the maintenance of human rights standards as they directly violate the rights of both the perpetrators and the victims of crime. This means that an act of 'mob justice' compromises the liberties of the victims, where those responsible for the occurrence have no such right to do so.

Secondly, it poses an environment of massive public insecurity and creates negative civic sentiments. In South Africa the occurrences of 'mob justice' not only violate the human rights of its victims, but also create bitterness over the rights of criminals and create an atmosphere of fear in which human rights become meaningless. The local threats at the maintenance of human rights standards are a major threat to the preservation of acceptable standards of human rights in South Africa (Sekhonyane and Louw, 2002). Perry (2001) in his research on children, who had witnessed acts of vigilantism, conceded that children exposed to incidents of 'mob justice' adjust to the atmosphere of fear. However, persistent fear and the neurophysiological adjustments to this fear can change the development of the child's brain resulting in changes in physiological, emotional, behavioral, cognitive and social functioning.

The previous author rendered a better explanation for this phenomenon when he argued that when the child perceives a threat (e.g., anticipating an assault on loved one), their brain will organize a whole body mobilization to adapt to the challenge. Their emotional, behavioral, cognitive, social and physiological functioning will change. These responses to the threat are different. The degree and nature of a specific response will differ from individual to individual in any single event and across events (Perry, 2001). Two interactive response patterns to threat, hyper-arousal and dissociative memory disorder have been described (Perry, Pollard, Blakely, Baker and Vigilante, 1995 and Perry, 1999). Significant numbers of people as posited by Perry (2001), use various combinations of these two different response patterns during any given traumatic event.

The predominant response patterns and combinations appear to shift from dissociative memories on young children to hyper-arousal during development. In young children, exposure to continuous mob violence may clinically present with a variety of dissociative experiences. For example, if a child dissociates in response to a severe trauma and stays in that dissociative state for a period of time, she/he will change the homeostasis of the systems mediating the dissociative response. A sensitized neurobiology of dissociation will result and he/she may develop major dissociative related symptoms (e.g., withdrawal, somatic complaints, dissociation, anxiety, helplessness, dependence) and related disorders (e.g., dissociative disorders, somatoform disorder, anxiety disorders, and major depression) (Perry, 2001).

The premises expressed by Perry (2001) were supported by Perry, et al., (1995) who stipulated that on the other hand, if the child exposed to violence uses a predominately hyper-arousal response, the altered homeostasis will be in different neurochemical systems. The child will be vulnerable to developing persistent hyper-arousal related symptoms and related disorders (e.g., PTSD, ADHD, and Conduct Disorder). These children are more likely to be characterized by persisting physiological hyper-arousal and hyperactivity. Another idea to this issue of hyper-arousal was posited by Kaufman (1991) and Perry (1994) who argued that these children are also observed to have increased muscle tone, frequently a low grade increase in temperature, an increased startle response, and profound sleep disturbances, and affect (emotional) regulation problems and generalized anxiety. Furthermore, as reported by Perry (1994) and Perry, et al., (1995) these children are more likely to have also abnormalities in cardiovascular regulation.

The specific symptoms a child exposed to incidents of vigilantism develops can vary depending upon the nature, frequency, pattern and intensity of the violence, the adaptive style of the child and the presence of attenuating factors such as a stable, safe and supportive home (Perry, 2001). Observations from clinical work as pointed out by Perry, et al., (1995) suggest that there are noticeable gender differences in the response to violence. More details were provided by the previous authors when they indicated that females, for example are more likely to disassociate and males more likely to display a classic “fight or flight” response.

As a result of the classic response, the majority of males are more likely to develop the aggressive, impulsive, reactive and hyperactive symptom presentation (more externalizing). These characteristics may misinterpret a behavior as threatening and will more likely to respond in a more impulsive and violent fashion; while females will be more anxious, dissociative and dysphoric (more internalizing). The position adopted by Perry (2001) was also supported by Loeber, Wung, Keenan, Giroux, Stouthamer-Loeber, Van Kammen, and Maughan (1993); Lewis, Mallouh, and Webb (1989) who concluded that children who grow up in an environment of exposure to persistence violence, were much more likely to become violent themselves.

Barron and Madden (2004) in their research critically analyzed the problem of the effects of vigilantism and found that the individual level vigilantism had resulted in the deaths of many alleged criminals. Some of them were left seriously injured. In other instances the houses and property of the alleged criminals would be damaged and vandalized. Alternatively, wider scale vigilantism as reported by the previously mentioned authors does not usually result in death, instead people are often severely beaten to the extent they require hospitalization. In wider scale vigilantism death and injuries are specifically not common in the cases of vigilantism against institutions/municipalities, but possible in cases acts of vigilantism against communities. However, it seems that it is normally the physical structures (buildings and properties) that are attacked rather than their employees in acts of vigilantism against institutions/municipalities.

Another perspective was proposed by Barron and Madden (2004) when they claimed that another effect of wider-scale vigilantism is the damage to and loss of physical assets and infrastructure. The authors further stressed that wider-scale vigilantism in particular, can have a huge socioeconomic impact on communities. For example, where the alleged criminal(s) cannot be found, the mob may threaten the entire community for the crime allegedly committed by the missing suspect, with the assumption that the community members are hiding the alleged wrongdoer(s) from the crowd. Conversely, in the case where the individual level of vigilantism provokes a violent act, the members of the accused community may burn down the entire community. Because of this type of incident houses, properties and infrastructure, etcetera, may be damaged costing hundreds of thousands of rands.

Furthermore, the effects of vigilantism against institutions/municipalities may occur when the authorities are suspected to have perpetrated some form of injustice on a community. As seen in the widely- televised ‘service delivery protests’ the angry residents may damage the physical property of these institutions/municipalities and severely disrupt the infrastructures (Barron and Madden, 2004). A different explanation was described by the above cited authors who asserted that incidents of vigilantism also affect the community members physically and psychologically. The authors (Barron and Madden, 2004) reported that although the psychological impact of ‘mob justice’ may not always be clear; but exposure to incidents of ‘mob justice’ have a deeply psychological, social, mentally and emotionally disturbing effects on people, especially for those who experience it directly. These occurrences were reported by these authors to also have psychological effects on the entire community. As the literature emphasized that the predominance of vigilantism had created fear and insecurity within the minds of the communities. As a result, these vigilante occurrences may have also effect on the relationships between communities. They create pervasive fear and insecurity both for the victim(s) and for the entire community who feel increasingly threatened, intimidated and vulnerable (Barron and Madden, 2004).

2.10. The consequences of vigilantism

Levine (2011) argued that vigilantism causes cyclical acts of revenge. The cited author added that acts of wider scale vigilantism reinforced mistrust, hatred and tensions within and between communities. However, the author also demonstrated that vigilantism or so-called ‘mob justice’ spread a cycle of violence, creates a culture of fear, and rejects personal responsibility for violent acts that are committed in the name of justice. The position of Levine (2011) was supported by Baker (2001) who asserted that occurrences of vigilantism promote brutalism and interpersonal acts of violence generally. The author further stressed that the accused offender/the victim may suffer spiritual or physical/psychological/emotional injury as a result of being beaten or assaulted. In other recorded situations violent methods of ‘mob justice’ may often result in death, and the victim will not get any financial compensation or recourse to justice.

The position of Levine (2011) was supported by Harris (2001) who contended that vigilante action does not only revolve around issues of crime. Or rather, the ways in which crime is defined by a variety of vigilante groups are not limited to activities such as theft and murder. Like vigilantism, crime itself represents a challenged environment. Often, what is considered to be crime spread beyond the common legal categories to include personal arguments and domestic relationships, as well as the definition of sexuality. For these respondents, in Harris's 2001 research vigilante intervention in domestic issues is negative and unrelated to any crime-fighting activities. Vigilantism is perceived by the community members to provoke and destroy rather than building the community. Incidents are framed in terms of emotions, such as anger, revenge or hatred.

For example, a respondent explains that her son openly seeks revenge, following a vigilante attack. Although he has not acted on his hatred, his expression is about an emotionally-driven action, rather than the crime itself (Harris, 2001). A more critical position was also inferred by Levine (2011) who stressed that these incidents have also a negative impact on the self-concept of individuals. For example, the alleged offender may be beaten for something he/she did not do and labelled as a criminal and stigmatized by other members of his/her community. Therefore, the person may bear a stigma and reputation which cannot easily be erased. Consequently, this may ultimately lead to the development of a poor self-concept (self-image) when the individual identifies with such label and assumes that role. The individual may blame the community for his/her injury and seeks revenge, which may result in committing further crime, or deviant and antisocial acts.

The anger which develops as a result of being punished for something the alleged criminal is innocent of and constant criticism from the community may result in aggression and goal-driven violent behaviour which is directed at those who are responsible for this person's demise. The victims' family or relatives may also become harmed or assaulted and suffer financial hardship. For example, when an individual who was a bread winner died or got injured to the extent that he/she cannot work again the family of the victim may experience a lot of financial problems. The family members may also need money to repair damaged property because vigilantes sometimes destroy the houses of their victims.

The children of victims of vigilantism will be deprived of security, food, clothes, possibly accommodation and emotional needs. Consequently the children may develop antisocial tendencies such as truancy, running away from home and hanging around in the streets, etcetera. In other circumstances the mother may even resort to prostitution as a means to feed her children (Cloete and Stevens, 2004). Another point was put forward by Cloete and Stevens (2004) who argued that the sibling or a child of the victim may become aggressive and violent because of the community members who injured/killed the member of his/her family. The child may develop a deep inferiority complex. In order to compensate, the child may intrinsically adapt to antisocial tendencies and become difficult and display problematic behaviour patterns. Moreover, both Cloete and Stevens (2004) confirmed that the incidence of 'mob justice' has also affected the South African economy. The authors posit that young people who with their productive labour, could have been an economic asset to the country, become killed and injured in significant numbers.

2.11. Human rights suspected criminals are entitled to as well as their judicial rights

South Africa is a country with a Constitution that prioritizes human dignity for all, and citizens that are totally free from violence of any kind. This is supported by section 12(1) (c) (e) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act No. 108 of 1996, which stipulates that "every accused person has the right to freedom and security of the person, which includes the right to be free from all forms of violence from either public or private sources, not to be tortured in any way, and not to be treated or punished in a cruel, inhumane or degrading way". It further instituted the right to life therefore, ending capital punishment (death penalty). However, as a rule, this Bill, Chapter 2 of the Constitution (1996) continues to highlight the right of everyone, charged with a criminal offence to be given an opportunity to prove his or her innocence in a court of law. But 'mob justice' is against the principle of the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty.

Other notable rights violated during this process include the right to protection from deprivation and protection of property as communities destroy property of the perceived criminals. This premise was supported by Moses (2009) when he emphasized that 'mob justice' might also result in victims being tortured, their property being destroyed, as they are denied the right to a fair hearing in a court of law. The researcher proposed that perpetrators of 'mob justice' disregard the rule of law and threatened the numerous human rights culture on which this democracy was supposed to be built (Madienyane, 2013).

According to the (United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948, p4-5) as reflected on Article 10, "everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal in the determination of his/her rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him/her". The above quotation implies that an accused person has a right to a just and fair trial that should be conducted within the limits of the law. However, the perpetrators of 'mob justice' ignore this fundamental human right as they are quick to take the law into their own hands. Legal experts pronounce that in terms of section 35 (3) (h) every accused has a right to a fair trial, which include the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty. This declaration is comprehensively supported by (United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948) as demonstrated in Article 11. South African law and jurisprudence rightfully guarantees that victims of crimes are totally entitled to the right to redress, which requires government to make use of its available resources to launch investigations, to enable a victim of crime to have access to justice.

Government institutions particularly law enforcement agencies have to take into consideration that suspected perpetrators of crimes have a right to due process and access to justice (Human Rights Watch, 2010, p4). "Evidence obtained in a manner that violates any right in the bill of rights must be excluded if the admission of that evidence would render the trial unfair or otherwise be detrimental to the administration of justice". This implies that relevant evidence must also be excluded if it was obtained in an improper or unconstitutional manner (Section 35 (5) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act, No. 108 of 1996).

As perpetrators (vigilante agents) violate the alleged criminal offenders basic human rights to secure the evidence of their conviction, by their acting as Judge, Jury and Executioner. Some of the basic human rights of the alleged criminals that are violated when the vigilantes want to obtain evidence included the right to privacy. The right to privacy is violated when the vigilantes enter the house of the alleged offender without his/her permission. Secondly, the right of the alleged criminal to freedom and security of the person is violated in two ways: by him/her being immediately deprived of their freedom without just or legal cause and his/her rights are further seriously violated by him/her being subjected to severe and brutal physical violence inflicted on him/her by the vigilantes.

Finally, the right to dignity is violated because every lack of freedom and every assault bring with them a violation of the dignity of the victim. As extensively discussed by Akumu (2011) a number of human rights activists across the world have, and are continuing to condemn the incidents of 'mob justice'. The same author further pointed out that the incidents of 'mob justice' are described as violating the right to life and are classified as a form of torture, or rather as an inhuman and degrading treatment of another human being. This position was echoed by Moses (2009) when he pointed out that 'mob justice' is wrong and it is a very serious violation of globally-accepted principles of human rights. This author added that vigilantism also brutally demonstrates a total disregard for these fundamental human rights.

Providing more explication on this aspect, Moses (2009) insisted that in most cases, the punishments meted by vigilantes out do not correspond, or are remotely proportionate to the crime allegedly committed. For example, he posited that even petty criminals are condemned to death and this is not acceptable and is against the law of South Africa. In South African it is construed by the Roman Dutch legal system to be an act of murder dolus directus (with direct intent). The American equivalent to this crime is 1st degree murder, or premeditated murder. Internationally binding Human Rights Conventions and Treaties, of which South Africa is a signatory, all harshly condemn acts of vigilantism regardless of which country it occurs, as it deprives the victim's rights to life.

2.12. The current status quo and incidents of 'mob justice' in the Eastern Cape

The researcher is of the opinion that it is of paramount importance to record, that even in the current democratic setting in South Africa, 'mob justice' continues to be a very serious issue. As a result, law enforcement agencies particularly the SAPS is tasked with handling this phenomenon that is now widely regarded as a form of torture. Furthermore, the writer strongly believes that other stakeholders within the criminal justice system and other government institutions have a significant role to play in bringing about an end to 'mob justice'. Vigilantism is an issue facing the government and the civil society in South Africa, and not only in the Eastern Cape. The government is aware of the incidents of 'mob justice' occurring in South Africa and has called for citizens to stop taking the law to their own hands (Sekhonyane and Louw, 2011).

On the other hand, Shabangu (2007) declared that the police and the general criminal justice system in South Africa are experiencing high levels of inefficiency, and the public has lost faith in the system. Therefore, it can be ascertained that with these high levels of inefficiency, confronting the SAPS and requesting a proper investigation/explanation into this phenomenon of so-called 'mob justice' is long overdue. It can even be rationally argued that the incidents of 'mob justice' can be specifically blamed on the breakdown of administration of justice, as well as that of law and order. According to Sekhonyane and Louw (2002, p8-9) the acts of 'mob justice' emanated from "poor service delivery and inaccessibility of the criminal justice system," and both authors further confirmed that in the criminal justice system, police corruption was the main reason behind mob attacks.

The democratically elected government under the Presidency of Jacob Zuma is very vocal about 'mob justice' and condemns it constantly. The former Minister of Police, Nathi Mthethwa has publicly warned against acts of 'mob justice', and in his own words Mthethwa said "We strongly warn the perpetrators of such disturbing incidents because 'mob justice' is unjustifiable. You cannot resolve crime through committing crime, it is simply unacceptable". From the above statement it becomes evident that mob attacks are doing a government an injustice, as government has committed itself in fighting crime.

Furthermore, it is the responsibility of government to ensure that suspected criminals receive fair trials, but mob attacks deny suspected persons this opportunity. The author of this research project is firmly of the opinion that our respective communities expects us to report illegal acts to relevant authorities, and avoid taking the law into our own hands. The Former Minister of Police Mthethwa again emphasized that “As a government we shall never tolerate kangaroo courts that are illegally convened and decide the fate of the people’s lives” (Statement by Nathi Mthethwa, Former Minister of Police, 04/11/2013).

Furthermore, the increase in crime in the Eastern Cape means that the people of this region, children and women in particular will continue to live in a state of fear. Recent studies of vigilantism in South Africa have suggested that it had emerged as a result of increase in crime levels, and the state’s failure to enforce its own laws and to protect its citizens (Buur, 2008). Moreover, Jeffery (2013) in his findings stressed that in 2011, there was an increase in the killing of alleged criminals by the ‘necklace’ method. Ms. Nosipho Magaqa, a New Brighton resident, pronounced that in the cited author’s research: "We are tired of these criminals”. The system protected the criminals more than the victims of crime. Another angry woman reported that: “Even if criminals have been arrested today, tomorrow you will see them walking in the street. Enough is enough” (Jeffery, 2013).

Minnaar (2002) critically analyzed the problem and found that significant number of the alleged criminals who were killed by mobs were male young adults. It was also estimated that male youths were three times more likely than adults to be victims of vigilantism. Some of them had been in prison and were part of the prison gangs, (external members), known as the 26s, 27s and 28s (the ‘Numbers’ gang) which terrorized Kwazakele. All these incidents of vigilante actions as confirmed by the cited author were never reported; neither do any witnesses come forward or attend court to give evidence. Minnaar (2002) insisted that the first indication that police had of a vigilante style crime is when they discovered a body lying in the streets, burnt or beaten to death. In some instances, the police merely received an anonymous phone call telling them where they could find the ‘necklaced’ remains of a burnt corpse. According to Minnaar (2002) women were more likely to participate in vigilante activities when compared to men. The reason it was established because women were more likely to be victims of crime.

On the other hand, children were more likely to be observers. However, some of the more daily sensationalized reports of vigilante occurrences that were reported by the media in 2011, is where two men were 'necklaced' in New Brighton, Port Elizabeth on the 20th of June. Another incident that was reported in the past where two men were burnt to death for being suspected of breaking into a house in the area, said Warrant Officer Dumile Gwavu. The house was broken into on Sunday, the 26th of June, 2011 in the evening and one of the tenants was murdered. Residents also recovered a stolen television from Sunday's break-in. No arrests have been made on these incidents because of lack of evidence (http://www.news24.com.html).

Furthermore, another occurrence that was reported in the past is where the neighbours tracked down the two suspected thieves, put tyres around their necks, covered them with petrol and set them alight. These two boys that had been 'necklaced' had been reported by residents to have caused problems in the community for a long period of time. "They terrorised us," said one resident of the township in South Africa's industrial city of Port Elizabeth. Over a period of less than two weeks after these incidents outlined above, a report by police spokesperson Gwavu indicated that another six incidents of this nature had occurred, and all were vigilante-related. "In three incidents that occurred on that particular year, police attempted, but could not rescue the victims of the vigilantes. In other incidents officers arrived on the crime scene just in time, before people were actually killed.

In some incidents police found that several live victims had petrol poured all over them while others were severely assaulted with stones" (http://www.news24.com.html). Police statistics demonstrated that out of the 46 killings (homicides) committed on an average day in South Africa, five percent are the result of vigilantism and about 80 percent of violent crime occurs in poor and impoverished neighborhoods. It has been well-established in criminological researches that in eighty percent (80%) of the cases of homicide, offenders and victims knew each other and were often on intimate terms with each other. However, one of the residents on the issue of vigilante acts said that "we report these criminals to the police. They come out the next day and commit the crimes again, so we got tired of opening cases that never go anywhere and if the situation remains like this, then we will do this again because we got rid of the problem for good".

‘No arrests have been made in any of the ‘necklacing’ cases because residents, as reported by Gwavu (SAPS spokesperson) were protecting each other’ (http://www.csvr.org.za.html).

2.13. Vigilante groups operating in townships of Port Elizabeth

The most recognizable vigilante groups in Port Elizabeth include the following:

2.13.1. Iliso lomzi (Eye of the house)

Bundy (2000) pointed out that the ‘***Iliso lomzi’*** (Eye of the house) became visible in more than fifteen urban areas in the Eastern Cape, including New Brighton, and frequently claimed a broader representation of a given urban community. According to Bundy (2000) these black middle-class groups were generally administered by educated residents. The groups originated to address the problems of safety and the maintenance of peace and order that resulted from increased urbanization. These problems included the disruption of family and community ties, depressed living standards, poverty, material deprivation, violence and social disorder (Seekings, 2001).

2.13.2. Amadlozi (Ancestors)

According to Buur (2006) ‘***Amadlozi’*** (Ancestors) came into being in 1999. The group emerged because of the failure of political organizations, state agencies and the police officers to deal with crime. The group particularly was provoked into action by a group of young armed criminals masked in traffic police uniforms who hijacked trucks delivering furniture and refrigerators to private homes and shops, in New Brighton and Kwazakele. After a warning from a local resident as reported by the previously cited author, the ‘***Amadlozi’*** detained one of the young hijackers. Instead of handing him over to the police they severely beat him, during which he told them where the stolen uniforms were hidden and with whom he worked. As a result of the work done by the group more residents joined them not only from New Brighton and Kwazakhele, but also from the surrounding black townships.

The group as indicated by Buur (2006) consisted of well-known individuals, including the director of the New Brighton Community Hall, Mr Majoli, an influential ANC member from a famous sports family in New Brighton. Together with the chief of staff, he was one of eight people who started the concerned residents' group. Several local businessmen, including high-ranking union leaders from COSATU, belonged to '***Amadlozi***'s backstage leadership structures. However, even though the group was officially disapproved of by the local authorities in New Brighton, community members continued to support it. Membership commonly was a mix genders, but generally there were more men than women who participated in 'criminal' investigations. The '***Amadlozi'*** investigators effectively managed to track down the right criminals through the extensive use of their local knowledge. But it was a brutal strategy because frequently, the wrong/innocent people were approached and beaten in order to extract information. Interrogations involved severe physical punishment and were also held 'in camera' (Buur, 2003; 2005).

The strategy of '***Amadlozi'*** was even more effective as reported by Buur (2006) in his research, than that of the Community Police Forums (CPF). Consequently, the group was eventually asked to work together with the police. '***Amadlozi'*** had worked with small numbers police officers from their beginning as the group, sharing case numbers and exchanging information on crime and criminals in their areas of operation. In late July 2001, the area commissioner had given the station commander of New Brighton police station the order to close down the ***'Amadlozi'***. At the same time, the SAPS Central Headquarters in Pretoria were developing a comprehensive policy on preventing vigilantism.

In 2001 as reported by Buur (2006) vigilantism began to spread pervasively in many townships across the country, causing a great international embarrassment to both the South African police and the State. Vigilantism was perceived by South African authorities as undermining the State's principles of providing justice and fairness for all its citizens. Significantly, younger and more active members of the '***Amadlozi'*** were arrested for excessive use of violence and were later released on bail. As a result of these arrests, contemporary contact with the '***Amadlozi'*** is more informal than it was in 2000.

To avoid trouble with the law, when residents bring cases to them, they are asked to register the case with police first and to bring back the case number. In an act of certain perversity, the modern day '***Amadlozi'*** often tell criminal suspects of their right to press charges against them, before interrogation sessions (Buur, 2006).

2.14. Preventative measures that can be employed to reduce vigilantism

Horne (2007) in his academic dissertation mentioned several strategies that could assist in reducing vigilantism; some of them included the following:

2.14.1. Improvement of communities' attitudes towards the criminal justice system.

Buur (2006) contended that firstly the justice system should improve access to the courts, followed by improvement in public educational campaigns on the workings of the legal system, and bail applications and the rights of the accused, etcetera. Horne (2007) added that enhancement between communities and the police could also help because it's the community members who knew the perpetrators of crime. The cited author Horne (2007) provided a better explanation for the strategy. He expressed the idea that the justice system should also improve the formation of partnerships between the police and the community, and within communities themselves.

2.14.2. The improvement of the conviction rate

The improvement of the conviction rates (specifically in 'common cause' or 'accessories to murder') as is present in all vigilante acts as the other strategy that could help to eliminate the 'mob justice' was postulated by (Horne, 2007). Horne (2007) also proposed that good responsive investigations should be followed by well-prepared and in timeous prosecutions. He further posited that the enacting of tough laws and introduction of harsher punishments on offenders (vigilantes), and including improvement of victim support and feedback (Horne, 2007).

2.14. 3. Education

Furthermore, an alternative strategy was recommended by Glad, et al., (2010) in his research who opined that Government should add the law and the legal system in the national education curriculum, to educate the children to be aware of their rights, obligations and responsibilities. The strategy adopted by the previous authors was supported by their participants who proposed that in order to reduce the incidents of vigilantism, the improvement of educational system for school children would be necessary. This was commented on by many of the respondents, and would prevent truancy and at the end of the day, reduce unemployment and poverty. Because all/most contemporary employment, vacancies require good educational standards and professional or artisanal skills (Glad, et al., 2010).

An alternative position was raised by Levine (2011) who proposed that vigilantism could be reduced significantly by educating traditional rural communities about its dangers, effects and consequences. By informing them about its impact, they may change their attitude towards the justice system and let it do its work and by promoting awareness about human rights and human rights violations, and by improving traditional councils to promote a climate of judicial effectiveness and reliability. Madienyane (2013) recommended that education in the methods and workings of the criminal justice system, and the benefits of a human rights culture are also necessary. The cited author confirmed that because of the role played by the police under the Apartheid era, black communities often depended on their own informal institutions for justice and control of crime and social order.

Therefore, the formal justice system has had to create its own recognized legitimacy over these previously used methods that were widely utilized during the Apartheid era. The absence of summary justice is linked in some minds as the reason that crime is increasing. This is coupled with misunderstanding of the way in which the criminal justice system operates. For example, a National Survey conducted in 1998 found that over eighty-five percent (85%) of respondents opposed bail for murder or rape suspects. The Survey also reported that many South Africans do not understand the reasons for the bail system, or the methods of bail applications (Madienyane, 2013).

The position adopted by Madienyane (2013) was supported by Harris (2001) who confirmed that along with the failure of the CJS, vigilante violence also appears to emerge as a result of misunderstandings and disagreement about the CJS. Therefore, educating South Africans about how the formal justice system operates is a vital necessity. For example, the purpose of bail applications specifically, seems to be a problem that is not well understood. However, while this is perhaps understandable given that many South Africans have never experienced the benefits of a properly functioning criminal justice system, it is therefore important to make people aware of the intentions and more importantly the benefits of due process. When a suspected criminal is released on bail, the community must be aware that the suspect is not necessarily free forever. He/she must appear in court at a later date to stand trial for the crime or crimes he/she have been charged with. Therefore, it can be argued that a strategy of education and awareness campaigns about how the formal justice system is needed at national, regional and local levels (Harris, 2001).

2.14.4. Employment

Other participants mentioned job creation as another strategy that could help to reduce vigilantism. These respondents argued that people involved in criminal activities, because they have nothing to do as a result they become frustrated and bored. To escape from frustration they reject the socially accepted means of achieving their goals, and look some alternatives means that could help them to achieve their goals and this is when they resort to crime (Glad, et al., 2010).

2.14.5. Police force

Glad, et al., (2010) also proposed that police structures needs to be strengthened. These authors believed that if the police officers would react in time and arrest the alleged criminals, this timeous reaction would prevent many alleged offenders from being killed in mob violence. However, during the data analysis of this research, significant numbers of participants had also indicated that a quick response to the crime scene was necessary in preventing an act of ‘mob justice’. They also agreed that an increase in man power within the police force could also be a solution.

Bezuidenhout and Joubert (2008) stipulated that a good relationship between the police and the community could also help to reduce crime, which drove members of the community to take the law into their own hands. Glad, at el., (2010) further, proposed that positive participation from communities is required. The author posited that creative strategy by one community has been to form an organization that walks/escorts people to their homes from the taxis and buses at night, to ensure that their vulnerability to become victims of crime is reduced by the presence of others. Other communities have to work to make sure that their Community Policing Forums are functioning and effective.

2.14.6. The judicial system

Transparency between the government, the court system and the public concerning law making (legislation) and how the law is practiced was suggested by Glad, et al., (2010) with the intention to not only regain the confidence of the public, but also to make people understand better the way the judicial system operates. In addition to that the cited authors also pointed out that people involved in 'mob justice' get punished too softly, and called for harsher sentence for those convicted of this category of murder. Some of the respondents in the research of these authors pointed out that laws should be stricter concerning those involved in the incidents of vigilantism. Further, a fair trial for all criminals in a court was also recommended by some of the participants in order to prevent 'mob justice'.

2.14.7. Sensitization

The sensitization of the people based on the information on the rule of law, and how the legal system operates, human rights and the dangers and criminal consequences of taking the law into their own hands was suggested by Glad, et al., (2010) in their study. Significant numbers of the respondents in this author's research suggested that an effective method to sensitize the public and to promote people's rights is through workshops in the communities where 'mob justice' is discussed and addressed. The participants further proposed the empowering of the communities by creating encouraging activities that could help the community members to gather around. Examples of these activities included vegetable groups or crafts. According to the respondents these activities could be a way of promoting togetherness and social-cohesion as opposed to individualism.

An alternative explanation was also offered by the respondents in Glad's, et al., (2010) research who indicated that the local police officers should provide information feedback about what had happened to a caught and arrested offender. For a community where a crime has been committed the emphasis is that by working together closely with the police, 'mob justice' would be prevented. The respondents added that a follow up on criminals should be seen by social workers after serving their sentences, and counselling services should be provided (Glad, et al., 2010). Promotion for human rights and the rights of criminals was also a proposed method which should be discussed and debated with communities by means of constructive dialogue with the interested parties. One of the participants pointed out that there is a need to enlighten people that those rights and obligations also apply to the criminal elements as well.

2.14.8. Spreading awareness of human rights

The position of sensitization of communities adopted by Glad, et al., (2010) was augmented by Levine (2011) who averred that the spreading of awareness of human rights could also help to reduce vigilantism in communities. For example, Levine (2011) expressed that significant numbers of the people may have heard about the term "Human Rights," but are not completely sure about or fully understand its meaning. Whereas some people especially those in rural areas may have never heard about it at all. By teaching people about their human rights with which they themselves are endowed and the benefits they would obtain from the protection of these rights, one can empower people to say "I don't want my rights violated, so I don't want to violate someone else's."

2.14.9. Collaboration

Another suggestion that was proposed by the respondents was that the government and NGOs orientated towards human rights should create a partnership and work together in promoting human rights and assist in preventing acts of 'mob justice'. Finally, the respondents of this research proposed that the police also need to work together with the local councillors who are in charge of rural/urban communities. In view of the fact that the police officers stationed in rural areas often experience problems with transport, local assistance is often necessary to bring them to crime scenes.

Therefore, they sometimes require the assistance of local councillors to catch offenders and rescue them from harm at the hands of the vigilantes (Glad, et al., 2010).

2.14.10. Improve local justice system and demand accountability

A method for the government of South Africa to fight 'mob justice', especially the problem of the ineffectiveness of local justice system in the country, would be to enhance the local justice systems and demand accountability and full liability for the way the local justice system deal with criminals, specifically in townships and rural areas (Levine, 2011). However, a police chief (station commander) in charge of an area that includes rural villages could help to ensure access to justice in those rural villages. The previous author emphasized that it is unacceptable that villages and villagers who experience violent crimes, have to wait for a long time for a police investigator to arrive to the crime scene.

2.14.11. Teaching non-violence

Levine (2011) indicated that 'mob justice' more often only occurs in a culture where violence is an acceptable form of punishment. The author postulated that the way of combating 'mob justice' from the ground up is to teach children that violence is an ineffective way to resolve problems. By teaching children mediation skills, raising levels of empathy and encouraging them to observe the Traditional Council Mediating local disputes would drastically reduce violence overall and prevent them from inflicting violence against others and animals, by teaching that it is socially unacceptable and will not be tolerated. The author concluded that a community that refuses to accept violence as a way of solving problems will not accept violent retribution for an un-convicted person.

2.14.12. Don't participate

Every community needs to have this tool in order to combat 'mob justice.' The most important and powerful weapon against vigilantism is the 'human mind' and individual cognitive thought processes. Even if a person does not involve him/herself directly in the harming of a suspected wrongdoer, it is significant for those individuals who are delivering violent retribution that there is a group of people supporting them.

Therefore, by not participating in the mob mentality, it means declining to support that torture of an alleged criminal, and encouraging others to support human rights. Anyone can play a role in combating 'mob justice' (Levine, 2011).

2.14.13. Addressing the real and practical failings of the CJS

Harris (2001) in his research on vigilantism recommended that, vigilante violence, which is often explained as a reaction to a failing of criminal justice system can be reduced by addressing the real and practical failings of the CJS. For example, the police, courts and prisons are blamed for being ineffective in combating crime for a variety of reasons. For Harris (2001) the real practical failings of the criminal justice system which are the inefficiency, inaction, lack of resources and poor training, as well as corruption and complicity with criminals must be tackled head-on and directly. This will require national co-ordination to ensure an organized and systematic approach. The co-ordination should also accommodate local dynamics to make sure that problems, specifically to a particular area are accurately acknowledged and addressed, and corrective action taken (Harris, 2001). Examples of some of the recommendations made by the Human Rights Committee of South Africa (1997) to curb vigilante violence include the following:

- The government should make sure that an amount of funds is available to reconstruct and renovate the magistrate courts and police stations.
- Local police should be properly trained in order for them to handle investigations and be taught the correct method of securing evidence through a complete examination of a crime scene.
- In order to allow for a speedy response to reports of crimes police vehicles must be repaired.
- The magistrates' should place adverts for more criminal prosecutors.
- An improved witness protection programme should also be developed to ensure the safety of witnesses who are very important to effectively prosecuting the perpetrators of violence.

Harris (2001) further posited that evaluative research of the CJS at a local level is important, in order to inform the interventions and ensure the appropriate application of national strategies for improving the CJS and secondly, to monitor local conditions to ensure on-going benefits from particular interventions and develop new strategies to accommodate local changes. If the CJS wants to gain any public credibility and trust as stipulated by the previously cited author these real failings of police corruption and inefficiency, specifically must be addressed and corrective action taken. Crimes must be carefully and thoroughly investigated. Also a system of effective communication and follow-up for victims and communities must be developed. Similarly, police violence, criminality and related vigilante-type violence must be stopped and punished harshly. A culture of human rights needs to be created inside the police, service and police impunity and specifically the incidence of police brutality must be reduced (Harris, 2001).

Harris (2001) suggested that real actions to change the police service must be accompanied by a publicity campaign to ensure the public that steps are being rigorously taken to reduce the criminality of the police officers, and to put in public confidence in the good police officers inside the system. Once the police are believed and experienced and trusted to be performing their assigned duties effectively, it will be extremely difficult for people in communities to commit vigilante violence and blame their actions on the lack of effective and visible policing. In addition to dealing with real failings in the police service, courts and prisons, it is also important to assess and evaluate the relationship between vigilantism and community policing forums (CPFs). In conclusion, vigilante members need to be made fully aware that any form of corporal punishment is unconstitutional and is illegal, constituting the crime of assault (South African Law Commission, 1999).

2.14.14. Prioritising and tackling vigilantism as a form of crime

Harris (2001) also proposed that incidents of ‘mob justice’ can be eliminated by recognising, researching and addressing real failings within the CJS, so that there is no reason for vigilantes to fill the void in effective policing. For Harris (2001) it was further justified to develop interventions aimed at criminalizing vigilantism itself and diminish the symbolic power of such actions. The link between vigilante violence and crime must be made clear.

However, there are two levels on which to develop this link. Firstly, it is crucial to highlight that vigilantes despite their objectives, are criminals because they work beyond the restrictions of the law and violate human rights. Secondly, it is important to implement and publicize the link between vigilantism and pure crime, that is crime such as theft, murder, and bribery conducted under the guise of crime fighting vigilantism for personal gain. Furthermore, another alternative suggestion was also presented by Harris (2001) who indicated that in order to criminalize vigilante violence, the police and courts must make sure that present cases involving vigilantes are prioritized and fast tracked through the system. This is particularly important because vigilante violence relies on threats and fear. Besides, fast tracking specific cases, the witness protection programme needs to be strengthened to ensure that witnesses feel physically secure enough to give evidence in court and are free from threats/intimidation or retaliation. A strong social message, supported by legal action must be sent out to discourage people from taking the law into their own hands.

2.14.15. Human rights education and further research

Harris (2001) offered a more explicit suggestion when he indicated that educational and research strategies aimed at reducing vigilantism need to engage with South Africa's National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. The cited author further proposed that research is needed also to assess the extent to which people do or do not experience their rights on a daily basis and to compare and contrast this, with their attitudes to beatings and corporal punishment. Similarly, it is important to appraise and address views about the rights of criminals. Human rights education and life-skills training may also offer individuals alternative, nonviolent options for vigilante incidents that are explained as emotion-driven for example, those motivated by revenge, anger, jealousy, prejudice and fear. Similarly, the social promotion of non-violent role models and activities is also important to diminish violence as the primary solution to emotional frustrations. Beyond the individual level, community-based reconciliation strategies together with human rights education may also work to address vigilantism that is also encouraged by revenge (Harris, 2001).

2.14.16. A co-ordinated strategy for researching and tackling vigilantism

A different strategy was also offered by Harris (2001) who felt that it is important that any interventions aimed at eliminating and preventing vigilante violence were co-ordinated to prevent duplication and to ensure maximum benefit from each specific initiative. In this regard, a national strategy of co-ordination would prove valuable. For example, it would allow for mapping and monitoring vigilantism, to identify changing patterns and trends and to isolate vigilante hot spots (this would be particularly important in cases where revenge violence is a product of transmigration). A national strategy would also allow for the co-ordination of regional and local non-violent alternatives. Along with a programme of intervention, it is also important to invest in on-going research into this phenomenon.

Harris (2001) further proposed a detailed explanation of this strategy when he posited that research into vigilante incidence, patterns and dynamics, will inform intervention approaches within specific areas. It will similarly expose transformations and continuities within contemporary forms of vigilantism. Intervention strategies must be tailored to match particular vigilante groups. As this report proposes, vigilantism is not static but rather extremely dynamic, and it exists in the context of transition as a symptom of South Africa's changing culture of violence. Therefore, a holistic approach complemented by localized interventions and in-depth research must be adopted and sustained.

2. 15. Summary of the chapter

Vigilantism is a very serious concern for both the government as well as the society-at-large. Arguably, it needs to be taken into consideration by everyone, because authorities cannot fight it alone and they require the support of the communities. This chapter explored and examined that the lack of visible policing; ineffectual policing and the loss of faith in the criminal justice system are the leading causes/ motivations for community members to commit acts of ‘mob justice’. The chapter also examined the impact and dangers of the incidents of vigilantism and it is clear that vigilantism does not reduce crime. Instead it produces a violent cycle because its actions are motivated by emotions rather than logical or rational thinking.

Continuous exposure of young adults and children to occurrences of vigilantism has been reported to affect them psychologically, socially and emotionally. This chapter further examined the types/categories of ‘mob justice’ which included community and organized ‘mob justice’. Also the chapter investigated the consequences of vigilantism, the current status quo and incidents of vigilantism in the Eastern Cape including the human rights the suspected criminals are entitled to as well as their judicial rights. Finally, the chapter discussed the strategies that can be utilized to combat vigilante activities, and researchers have pointed out that recent cases involving vigilantes should be prioritized and fast tracked through the system. Further, those communities should be taught the methods and workings of the criminal justice system. Moreover, improvement of the criminal justice system as a whole was also recommended. In Chapter 3, the study will focus on the research design and methodologies utilized to gather data and their justification.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

3. Introduction

This chapter explores the research design and methodology employed in this research project, and the researcher provides an explanation on how the research was conducted. The chapter further examines the population sampling techniques, methods of data collection and data analysis. The researcher in this chapter also provides justification for using specific data collection methods, sampling techniques, and the systematic analyses the data obtained. The significance of this research project is also documented. Ethical considerations and obligations for researchers interacting with human subjects are addressed in detail. These include confidentiality, avoidance of harm, anonymity, informed consent and privacy. Finally, some problems were experienced during this study and these are explained in this chapter.

3.1. Research design and methodology

Kumar (2011, p94) postulated that a research design is “a procedural plan, structure, and strategy of a research project, that is adopted by the researcher to answer the research questions”. The research design is therefore useful to develop research techniques and logistical arrangements required to conduct the study. Place the emphasis on the significance of quality in these research techniques, to ensure their validity, objectivity and accuracy. On the other hand, research methodology is also defined by the previously cited author as the total strategy from the identification of the problem, to the final plans for data collection and analysis. Qualitative research methodology was utilized in this study to examine the experiences, feelings, thoughts, perceptions and attitudes of community members, in the selected Port Elizabeth communities about the phenomenon of vigilante activities. Specifically, case study qualitative research method was utilized by the researcher in this study to gather and obtain the information required to provide an in-depth understanding of the research topic, focusing on the exploratory research design.

Since the objective of the research project is to produce a seminal academic document on vigilante occurrences in the selected communities (Babbie, 2007). Case studies allow the exploration and understanding of complex problems. However, a case study was employed in this research to enable the researcher to closely examine the data within a specific context. Case studies present data of real life situations and they provide better insights into the detailed behaviors of the subjects of interest (Yin, 1984). Yin (1984:23) defines the case study research method "as an empirical inquiry that investigates a contemporary phenomenon within its real life context; when the boundaries between phenomenon and context are not clearly evident; and in which multiple sources of evidence are used." The researcher selected a case study as a research method in order to develop a holistic understanding of vigilante occurrences in two communities in Port Elizabeth (Yin, 1989).

Burns and Groove (2001) asserted that in exploratory research, the research is undertaken to obtain new insights, determine new ideas, and for increasing knowledge and experience of the phenomenon. However, the qualitative research approach as employed in this study refers to a research method for exploring and understanding the meaning people ascribe to social issues. This method allows the researcher the flexibility to investigate initial participants' responses. The process of this qualitative methodology includes emerging questions and procedures; data collected in the respondent's location, data analysis and inductively building from particulars to general themes, and the researcher making interpretations of the meaning of the data (Kumar, 2011).

3.2. Population

Bless, et al., (2006) asserted that population refers to all the individuals, events, organization units, case records or other sampling units with which the research problem is concerned. The research project was undertaken in Port Elizabeth, in the province of the Eastern Cape. Two communities were selected for the study. These were Kwazakhale and New Brighton.

The rationale for the selection of this City and these two communities is that these communities had been reported in the past, to have experienced numerous incidents of vigilantism as compared to other places in the Eastern Cape (Jeffery, 2013). However, the researcher decided to select these two communities, in order to compare and contrast the issues of the occurrence of vigilantism between these two communities). The study was conducted using a total population of one hundred (100) participants who were divided by two. Each community provided a sample of fifty (50) respondents. The use of one hundred (100) participants was to obtain a greater depth of information to enable the researcher to draw more representative, and accurate conclusions. The study targeted the individuals in the selected communities who were aged 18 and older including some victims of vigilantes (four of the respondents were victims of this crime in New Brighton and three of them in Kwazakhele), perpetrators of vigilantism, and other community members. The study included both males and females residing in the selected communities.

3.3. Sampling techniques

Sampling is the process of selecting respondents for a research project (Unrau, et al., 2007). The previous authors described the concept “sample” as a group of people drawn from the population that is considered to be representative of the population, and subsequently studied in order to obtain some knowledge about the whole population. The sample for this study was the members of the selected communities in Port Elizabeth. The purposive sampling technique, which is non-probability sampling, was employed in this research as an instrument for participants’ selection. However, “non-probability sampling is a sampling technique where the samples are gathered in a process that does not give all the individuals in a population equal chance of being selected” (Unrau, et al., 2007, p23).

Furthermore, the previously mentioned authors defined purposive sampling as the sampling that is based entirely on the judgment of the researcher. The sample is composed of elements that contain the most characteristics, representative of the attributes of the population that serve the purpose of the research. However, purposive sampling is also called judgmental sampling because units to be investigated are based on the researcher’s judgement.

The researcher in this sample used her own judgment as to which respondents to select for the study and the researcher only chose those participants who mostly met the purposes of her research project (Monette, et al., 2008). Therefore, purposive sampling assisted the researcher to select the number of the respondents that yielded the required degree of information about this specific phenomenon.

3.4. Data collection techniques

The study utilized questionnaires which were completed by the participants for data collection purposes. Babbie (2007) defined a ‘questionnaire’ as a document that consist of questions or other types of items designed to ask information suitable for analysis, and the answers are written down by the respondent. This technique was employed in this research to obtain facts and opinions about vigilante occurrences in these two selected communities (Kwazakhele and New Brighton). Information was obtained from people who have knowledge/experience on this particular phenomenon. Specifically, this technique was used to answer the research questions contained in this research project. Data collection for this research instrument was accomplished through field work. The questionnaire contained more open-ended questions since the study is based on a qualitative methodology. However, use of open-ended questions allowed respondents to answer questions in detail. Open-ended questions provided respondents with the opportunity to express their own feelings, thoughts, experiences and perceptions directly, without being constrained by rigid predetermined questions (Monette, et al., 2008). Open-ended questions as cited by the previous authors also enabled the researcher to obtain answers that are:

- meaningful and culturally crucial to the participant,
- unexpected by the researcher and
- rich and explanatory/exploratory in nature

The first section on the questionnaire was to ascertain the biographical information of each participant, followed by open and closed-ended questions, which provided the information on perceptions, experiences and attitudes of community members towards 'mob justice'. The data was obtained by utilizing a self-administered questionnaire, where fifty (50) questionnaires were distributed to fifty (50) different people in each community, who completed them on their own. The researcher was available in case they needed more clarity and explanation (Babbie, 2007).

Monette, et al., (2008) mentioned advantages and disadvantages of using a questionnaire and these included the following:

Advantages of using a questionnaire

- It is inexpensive because the researcher does not verbally ask participants questions, instead the respondents are given questionnaires to provide answers on their own. Furthermore, it is comparatively convenient (Monette, et al., 2008).
- It offers anonymity because the researcher generally does not interact face-to-face with the participants. As a result, in some situations where sensitive questions are asked, it assists in increasing the possibility of obtaining accurate information (Monette, et al., 2008).

Disadvantages of using a questionnaire

- There's a self-selecting bias because not everybody who is given a questionnaire hands it back and their findings may not be representative of the total study population (Monette, et al., 2008).
- Answers from a question may be affected by the answer to other questions: in this case, as the participants can read the whole questions before they respond in a particular question, the way they respond to that question may be influenced by their information of other questions (Monette, et al., 2008).

3.5. Construction of the instrument

Babbie (2007) defined questionnaire as a research instrument consisting of a series of questions and other prompts for the purpose of gathering information from respondents. The cited author added that it is generally a series of written questions for which the respondents have to provide the answers. Monette, et al., (2008) proposed that a well-designed questionnaire must address the research objectives. In constructing the research questionnaire the researcher was guided by the theories chosen for the study, the literature review and objectives of the research project. The researcher also constructed the questionnaire by writing items; reviewing items; constructing general format; conducting pretest; revising; conducting pilot test and revising again before the researcher administered it to the respondents for data collection. Constructing the questionnaire involved many decisions about the wording and the ordering of the questions, formatting and mode of administration of the questionnaire (Foddy, 1994).

To collect the needed data from the community members, the researcher developed closed-ended questions and open-ended questions. In closed-ended questions, the respondents were able to indicate whether they agree or disagree to what the research was asking or they do not know the answer. The respondent had to give a single response in each question. The questionnaire also contained more open-ended questions since the study is based on a qualitative methodology. However, use of open-ended allowed respondents to answer questions in detail (Monette, et al., 2008).

3.6. Piloting of instrument

Sheatsley (1983) indicated that pilot testing also called pre-testing or retesting. The previously cited author argued that it is important to test the questionnaire before using it to collect data. Pretesting and piloting can help the researcher to identify questions that do not make sense to participants, or problems with the questionnaire that might lead to biased answers.

Therefore it is important to pilot test the instrument to make sure that there are no problems with the wording or measurements. However, pilot testing involves the use of a small number of respondents to test the appropriateness of the questions and their comprehension. This is done to improve reliability and validity of the research instrument (Sheatsley, 1983). Oppenheim (1992) adhered to the notions that the consistency with which questionnaire items are answered or individual's scores remain relatively the same can be determined through test-retest method at two different times. The instrument used in this study was a questionnaire administered to community members. The main aim was to test the questionnaire.

Pilot testing of the instruments is necessary so as to modify any aspect of the instruments that may confuse participants during the actual study, thereby enhancing the validity and reliability of the research (Oppenheim, 1992). The researcher pilot tested the questionnaire from the neighbouring community members of Motherwell in Port Elizabeth where the researcher was residing during data collection period, which also experienced numerous incidents of vigilantism (Buur, 2008). The administration of the questionnaire was the same as the one utilized in the study. This enabled the researcher to know whether the questionnaire would take too long to complete and whether the items were clear. It took the community members who filled the questionnaire 15 others 20 minutes to complete.

The responses given enabled the researcher to estimate reliability and whether there was sufficient variability in the answers (Schleicher, Siniscalco, Postlethwaite, 1995). The questionnaire was pilot tested using ten community members. Two community members did not comprehend the terms 'mob justice' and 'vigilantism'. The researcher explained the words to them in IsiXhosa and they understand the words. Some of the questions that were confusing the community members were identified by the researcher and changes were made. The researcher decided to verbal translate the words 'vigilantism' and 'mob justice' for the participants in the actual sample in case they do not comprehend the words. Some of the community members responded well to the asked questions and provided relevant responses in every question.

3.7. Analysis of the data

Qualitative method of analysis is applied in this research. In this systematic analysis, researchers use “non-numerical examination and interpret observations for the purpose of discovering fundamental meanings and mode of relationships” (Taylor and Bogdan, 1984, p45). The qualitative method of analysis was applied in this research for the purposes of interpreting the data obtained through field work. Specifically, this research utilized content thematic analysis and Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software as the means of analyzing data collected in the study. Thematic content analysis as utilized in this research is explained by Braun and Clarke (2006) as a descriptive presentation of qualitative data, whereby thematic content analysis portrays the thematic content of interview transcripts, by identifying common themes in the texts provided for analysis. Conversely, SPSS is a data management and statistical analysis tool which has a very versatile data processing capability. It is utilized to perform data entry and analysis (Russell and Booth, 2005).

Content thematic analysis was utilized to examine open- ended questions, and SPSS software was employed to analyze closed-ended questions which included the biographical information of participants. Use of SPSS software allowed the researcher to tabulate the responses of all respondents into frequency tabulations, with the variables, under study. The researcher manually stored questionnaire data. Data was stored in a spreadsheet of Microsoft excel, and then the researcher utilized SPSS to open the data that was stored in Microsoft excel. The data in SPSS was stored in a spreadsheet like table similar to that of Microsoft excel. Therefore, the researcher utilized descriptive statistics analysis for question responses, such as frequency counts of closed-ended questions. Thus, the researcher created graphical presentations of questionnaire data for reporting and presentations (Babbie, Halley and Zaino, 2003).

On the other hand, content thematic analysis enabled the researcher to pinpoint, examine and record themes and codes within the data (Gibbs, 2007). This methodology of analysis was performed through coding in different phases. Kumar (2011, p380) posited that “coding is the process of organizing the material into segments of text, and assigning a phrase to the segment in order to develop a general sense of it”.

Data analysis in this method of analysis involved the categorization, grouping, re-arrangement and ordering of data through coding (Gibbs, 2007). The researcher analyzed the data according to Braun and Clarke's explanation of conducting a thematic analysis. Braun and Clarke (2006) identified a six-phase guide in order to determine themes and conduct a thematic analysis. Phase one as indicated by the previously cited authors involves familiarizing oneself with the data. Braun and Clarke (2006) added that it is important for the researcher to immerse him/herself with the transcribed scripts. The initial reading and re-reading provided the researcher with an even better idea of the depth and breadth of the content of the data.

Therefore the key to this step was to completely immersing oneself and becoming knowledgeable of the transcripts (Braun and Clarke, 2006). Braun and Clarke stated that this provides the underlying principles for the remainder of the analysis. Phase two requires the generating of initial codes (Braun and Clarke, 2006). The researcher in this phase systematically worked through the data, payed complete attention to each data item and identified interesting aspects in the data on the basis of repeated patterns. The next step is the search for themes in the transcripts (Braun and Clarke, 2006). Once all the data was coded, the researcher shifted the narrow focus of coding to a broader level and focused on the themes of which the codes were indicative. The previously cited author proposed that the researcher may not initially see the bigger themes, but rather sub-themes.

Therefore the researcher should also review the themes under consideration. Once the initial themes are drawn, Braun and Clarke (2006) suggested that step four requires an examination of these themes. In some cases some themes overlap and other times some themes are realized as not being valid. Once this process is complete, the researcher is able to see the importance of certain themes, the manner in which it complements or contradicts each other and the overall results of the analysis (Braun and Clarke, 2006). Defining and identification of the themes is the fifth step in the analysis process (Braun and Clarke, 2006). Here, the researcher identified the 'essence' of each themes as well as the feature of the data that each theme captures.

This information was then also used in the identification of the themes. However, in step six the researcher produced the report based on the first five steps, therefore, the analysis of the data. In some cases where some themes overlapped and other times some themes were realized as not being valid. The researcher searched for data that supports the proposed theories. The researcher looked at how the themes support the theoretical perspective. This allowed for further expansion on and revision of themes as they developed (Braun and Clarke, 2006). However, thematic analysis is described by Gibbs (2007) as the process of identifying themes within qualitative data. Alternatively, the previously cited author explained themes as the patterns across data sets that are fundamental to the description of a phenomenon, and associated to a specific research questions.

3.8. Reliability and validity of research instrument

De Vos, et al., (2011) provided a rich description of validity as a concern on whether the measuring instrument used to measure the data, really measures what it is intended to measure. On the other hand the previously cited authors went on to explain reliability as referring to the extent to which results are consistent over time and an accurate representation of the total population under study if the results of a study can be reproduced under a similar methodology. Validity is made possible when the research instrument measures what is supposed to be measured (Babbie, 2007). To ensure validity the questionnaire was tested to make sure that the questions are understood by the respondents and that there are no problems with measurements. The researcher also ensured the validity by presenting any relevant documents collected with other methods. Reliability on the other hand, is achieved when the research instrument consistently produces the same results each time it is used (Bless, et al., 2006). Getting information from people who had conducted research on the topic helped to enhance the measure of reliability. The researcher compared and contrasted the findings of the results to those reported by previous scholars.

3.9. Gaining access to the respondents

The researcher was granted permission to undergo research at the two communities (Kwazakhele and New Brighton), by the local black councillors of the selected communities.

3.10. Ethical considerations

"The word ethics is derived from a Greek word "**ethos**" meaning ones character and it is related to the term morality derived from a Latin term "**moralis**," which is defined as one's manners" (Bless, et al., 2006, p140). Ethical issues as emphasized by the previously cited authors are concerned with whether the behavior conforms to a code or set of principles. In addition, research ethics are essential in preventing research abuses, and assists investigators in understanding their responsibilities/obligations as ethical academic scholars. This suggests that there is a stringent requirement for the researcher to conform to the standards of conduct of a given profession. This study was conducted and considered the following ethical considerations that are crucial in social sciences research:

3.10.1. Confidentiality: Confidentiality refers to the handling of information in a confidential manner. The perspective provided in this position is that information handed over by respondents, specifically sensitive and private information should be kept in a safe place and made unavailable to anyone other than the researcher. Therefore, data gathered from the respondents should be at all times be protected and secured (Bless, et al., 2006). The researcher has assured the research participants that data collected from them will be only available to the researcher and the supervisors.

3.10.2. Avoidance of harm: An ethical obligation rests on the researcher to protect respondents, within all possible reasonable limits, from any form of physical discomfort, or emotional/psychological harm that may result from the research project. In order to do this, the researcher should inform participants beforehand about the potential effect on them, the research might have.

This means that the respondents have the right to withdraw from the research project, at any time, if they feel the need to do so. However, the researcher should also identify individuals who might be vulnerable, and eliminate them from the project (Babbie, 2007). The participants were fully informed of the nature and objectives of the research prior to its commencement. As a result, some of them refused to participate citing personal reasons.

3.10.3. Anonymity: Babbie (2007) suggested that anonymity means that no one, including the researcher, should be able to recognize any individual participant after the data has been collected. No names must be required from respondents or their data associated with their names, and the participant's identity must never be disclosed. Data and other information provided by respondents should always remain anonymous and confidential. As a result, no names of participants were required by the time the respondents were completing the questionnaires for the study, and no names of participants were attached to the data.

3.10.4. Informed consent: This means that participants have an absolute right to know what the research project is about before they agree to participate. They must also be informed if it will have an effect (emotional/psychological/physical) on them, and about the dangers and benefits of being participation in the study. Based on this, the respondents have the right to refuse to participate if they feel, for personal reasons they need to. Respondents must be legally and psychologically competent in order to give consent, as well as being 18 years, or older (Babbie, 2007). However, the objectives of the study were explained to the respondents before the commencement of the research process, and the informed consent was attached on the front page of the questionnaire. On that questionnaire, participants were informed about their rights, the right to refuse to participate in the research at any time, and for any reason. The respondents were also informed about the objectives and purpose of the research project.

3.10.5. Privacy: De Vos, et al., (2011, p119-120) indicated that "privacy means to keep to oneself that which is normally not intended for others to observe". The authors further argued that each and every individual has the right to privacy, and it is his/her right to choose when, where, to whom and to what extent his/her attitudes, beliefs and behavior will be disclosed.

In the light of this, the researcher should also be reminded of the importance of protecting the privacy and identity of the respondents. The researcher assured the respondents that information provided by them will not be revealed to anyone other than the researcher and the supervisors. Furthermore, due to the sensitivity of the research topic which might cause harm to other participants, the researcher verbally approached locally-based social workers before the commencement of the research, and they offered their professional assistance should it become necessary. Fortunately, no respondents were in any way harmed by the research. Even seven of the victims of vigilantism who participated in the project, did not experience any problems, and willingly engaged with the researcher.

3.11. Limitations of the study

The term "**limitations**" as used in this research refers to designated structural problems relating to methodological aspects of the study (Kumar, 2011). This section as suggested by the cited author, lists any problems the researcher thinks he/she has encountered concerning, for example, the validity of the data, securing permission from the community to carry out the study, obtaining the sample, or any other aspects of the study. Some of the people approached refused to participate in this research because the topic was too sensitive for them. This was especially the case when an individual had been involved in a vigilante occurrence, or conversely, where he/she actually knew people who were perpetrators of acts of vigilantism. It was not easy to get participants in New Brighton area because of the weather, it was cold. The local councillor told the researcher not to enter inside the participant's house, as it is not safe in that particular area. The researcher had to find people who were moving on the streets, and approached them in public spaces.

Furthermore, significant number of the respondents did not comprehend the terms 'vigilantism' or 'mob justice'. This was because they could not understand the words. The researcher had to translate the words for them in isiXhosa. The closest isiXhosa word that is relevant is: 'ukuthathela umthetho kwabahlali ezandleni'.

3.12. Summary of the chapter

This chapter has critically outlined and discussed the research design and methodology. The chapter, further examined the population from which the sample was drawn; the selection of sampling techniques to identify participants of the study and procedures of data collection. Data analysis is also explained and discussed in in detail. Finally, this chapter addressed the ethical considerations, and the problems the researcher has encountered during the fieldwork of the research process.

In the next chapter (Chapter 4), will be a discussion of research findings and an analysis of the results.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

4. Introduction

This chapter presents the findings of the study and interprets the data gathered. It provides an overview of the responses of participants and illustrates the interpreted findings. The data interpreted by the researcher was drawn from the responses of fifty (50) community members of New Brighton and fifty (50) community members of Kwazakhele. Content thematic analysis is utilized to critically outline the findings of this research. Themes in content analysis are discussed by exploring whether they are related to theories selected by the researcher (Social Learning and Differential Association Theory) and concepts within the literature review.

Specifically, content thematic analysis is utilized in this research to analyze open-ended questions contained in the questionnaire, while Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software is employed to examine closed -ended questions. Since this research is a comparative exploratory analysis of vigilante occurrences in two communities. The researcher will analyze one community at a time, then after compare and contrast the findings between these two communities.

4.1. Questionnaire to community members of New Brighton

A questionnaire was designed and utilized to obtain different views regarding vigilante occurrences from the community members of New Brighton. The questionnaire was divided into two sections, section A which contained biographical details of the respondents who participated in the research project, and section B which provided for opinions and attitudes of the respondents, about vigilante occurrences in their community. Biographical information of participants included the following: gender of the respondents, their age, racial group, marital status, educational levels, vocations, and total household income of the respondents, in order to present the general information of New Brighton, and the findings of the study. All the fifty (50) questionnaires distributed were returned.

4.1.1. Section A: Biographical information of the respondents

4.1.1.1. Gender representation of the respondents

The results are presented in Figure 4.1

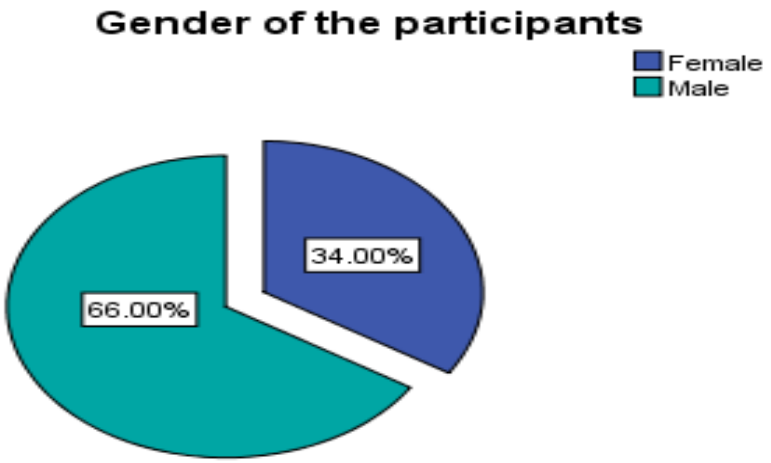

Figure 4.1

Figure 4.1 denotes the gender of the respondents who responded to the questionnaires that were distributed by the researcher in New Brighton, during data collection. Sixty six percent (66%) or (33) of these participants were males and thirty four percent (34%) or (17) were females.

Male respondents were the dominant gender in this sample, because the particular area is dominated by males who are there to look for job opportunities. The researcher collected the data mainly from the people who were moving on the streets, because it was not considered safe to do door to door data collection, as the crime rate is high in this particular community.

Minnaar (2002) in his research found that significant number of the people who are more likely to be victims of vigilantism, are male young adults. Based on the results of Shaw and Tshiwula (2002) the reason is that females are involved in less frequent and less serious criminal activities than males, and males are more likely to live in a wider geographic area than females. The previously cited authors also added that males are more likely to spend more time outside the home (public spaces), and engage less in adult role activity when compared with females.

4.1.1.2. Representation of the age of participants

The results are presented in Figure 4.2

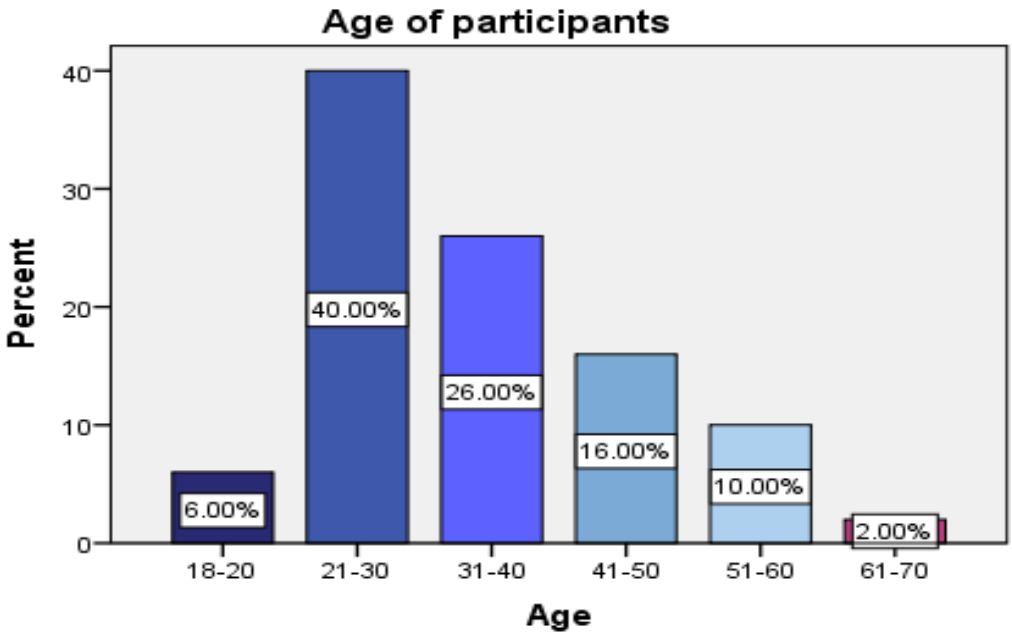

Figure 4.2

The ages of the respondents were categorized into seven (7) groups. Group one (1) ranged from 18-20 years, group two (2) from 21-30 years, group three (3) from 31-40 years, group four (4) from 41-50 years, group five (5) from 51-60, group six (6) from 61-70 years and, lastly, group seven, which ranged from 71 to 80 years. From the one hundred percent (100%) or (50) of the participants, forty percent (40%) or (20) were between ages of 21-30 years. Twenty six percent (26%) or (13) of the respondents were between ages of 31-40 years. Nevertheless, sixteen percent (16%) or (8) of the participants were between ages of 41-50 years while ten percent (10%) or (5) of the respondents were between the ages of 51-60 years and six percent (6%) or (3) of the participants were between the ages of 18-20 years.

Only two percent (2%) or (1) participant was between the ages of 61-70. No respondents who ranged from 71-80 years participated in this research project because of the fact that the area is dominated by young adults (Census, 2011). All the participants were residing in New Brighton in the city of Port Elizabeth.

It is clear as demonstrated by the above graph that the township of New Brighton is dominated by youth. As a result, a significant number of them engaged in illegal activities because of unemployment. As the unemployment rate is high in South Africa (Census, 2011). Minnaar (2002) conducted a study on vigilantism and found that youth are three times more likely than adults to be victims of vigilantism. This position was supported by Shaw and Tshiwula (2002) who suggested that the high crime rate may be attributed to the significant percentage of crimes committed by young people (usually males). According to Buur (2007) it is those young people's criminal activities that turned the members of the community against them resulting in vigilantism.

4.1.1.3. Representation of the race of participants

The results are presented in Figure 4.3

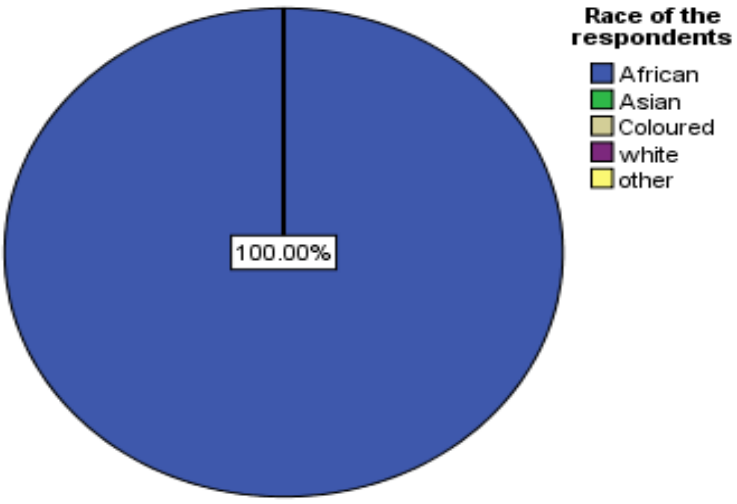

Figure 4.3

The race of the respondents was categorized into five (5) groups. Group one (1) was for Africans, group two (2) was for Asians, group three (3) was for Coloureds, group four (4) was for Whites and the last group, which is group five (5) was for the other races not mentioned in these groups. From the one hundred percent (100%) or (50) of the participants who responded to this study, all were Africans.

The reason is that the area is dominated by Africans as New Brighton was the first officially black residential area in Port Elizabeth, with diverse groups of people who come from different backgrounds (Minnaar, 2002). Several researchers who have conducted a research on vigilantism discovered that people who are more likely to be victims of vigilantism are Africans (Buur, 2007; 2008; Jeffery, 2013). To support this position, in South Africa Demombynes and Ozler (cited in Bhorat and Oosthuizen, 2006) analyzed inequality in relation to racial groups and crime involvement. They found the correlation between property crimes and inequality within all racial groups.

4.1.1.4. Representation of marital status of the respondents

The results are presented in Figure 4.4

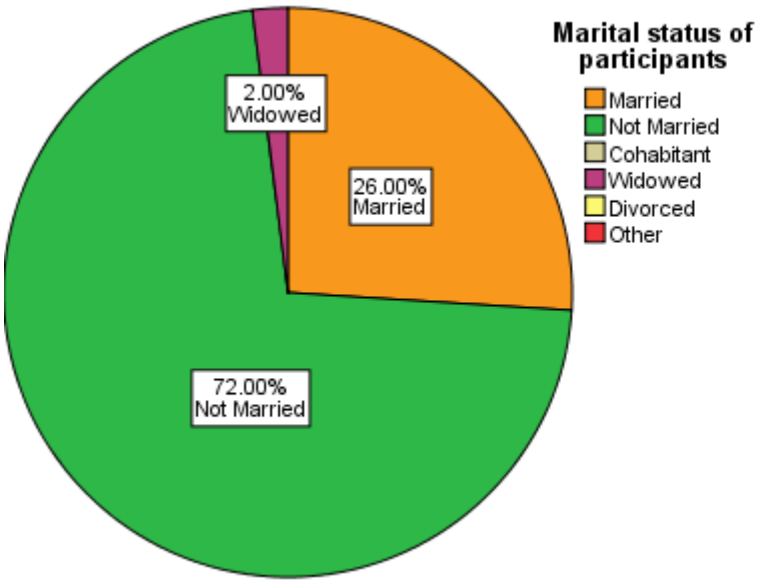

Figure 4.4

The marital status of the participants was categorized into six groups as demonstrated in Figure 4.4. Group one (1) was for those who were married, group two (2) for those who were not married; group three (3) was for those who were cohabitating. The fourth (4) group was for those respondents who had been widowed and group five (5) was for those who were divorced. The last group, which is group six (6) was for the other marital statuses not mentioned in these categories.

Of the one hundred percent (100%) or (50) of the participants, seventy two percent (72%) or (36) of the participants were single or not married. Twenty six percent (26%) or (13) of the respondents were married. Nevertheless, two percent (2%) or (1) respondent was widowed. None of the respondents who were cohabitating and divorced participated in the study and none of the respondents selected the marital status that was not mentioned in these categories.

Figure 4.4 illustrates that a significant number of the respondents who participated in this research were single, or not married. Considering the demographic population of New Brighton it is evident that the township is mainly dominated by young individuals who cannot meet the expenses of establishing their own families (Census, 2011).

4.1.1.5. Illustration of the school background of the respondents

The results are presented in Figure 4.5

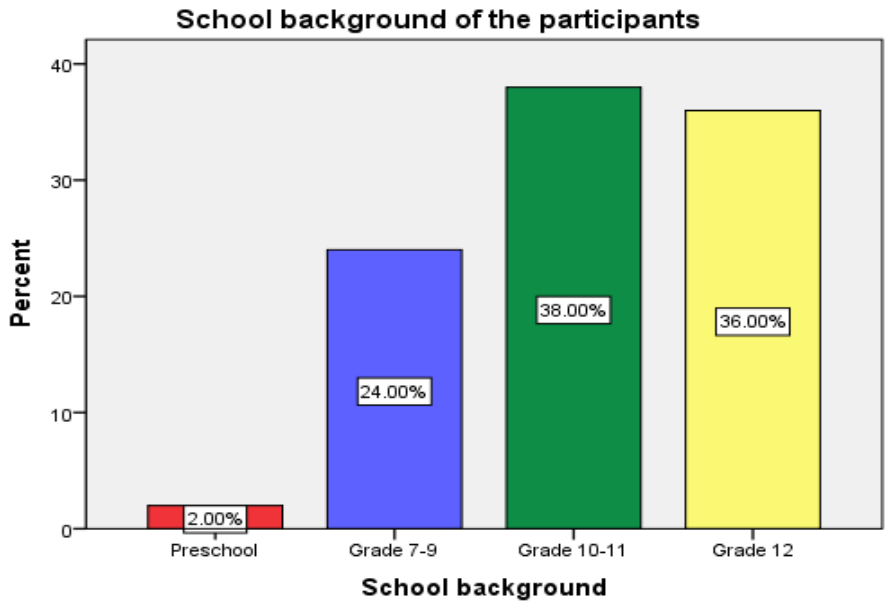

Figure 4.5

Out of the one hundred percent (100%) or (50) of the respondents who participated in the study, thirty eight percent (38%) or (19) of the respondents had obtained Grade 10-11, which also means that significant number of participants never reached Grade 12.

However, thirty six percent (36%) or (18) had obtained Standard 10 with some managing to complete Grade 12. Twenty four percent (24%) or (12) of the respondents had obtained Grade 7-9. Finally, two percent (2%) or (1) participant had only obtained primary education.

There is an almost direct relationship between the victims of vigilantism and the low levels of education. Cloete and Stevens (2004) stressed that unskilled employment which is caused by children who leave school at an early stage, may influence individuals towards crime. Because their employment is generally not financially well-rewarded, they often drift towards criminal activities, or petty crime. As a result, in other circumstances an individual may change from one employment to another, and finally becomes unemployed. An individual may become a victim of vigilantism because of poor educational qualifications/skills and a small salary may result in crime, and crime may result in vigilantism (Buur, 2007).

It was also found that people who are more likely to become connected in incidents of vigilantism (either as a victim or perpetrator), are people who are not well educated. This kind of person(s) as claimed by Harris (2001), often do not understand how the police and justice system operates and are ignorant of law and procedures. Further, have little regard for ‘human rights.’ Levine (2011) suggested that significant number of the people may have heard about the term “Human Rights” but are not completely sure about its meaning.

4.1.1.6. Illustration of the vocational status of the respondents

The findings are presented in Figure 4.6

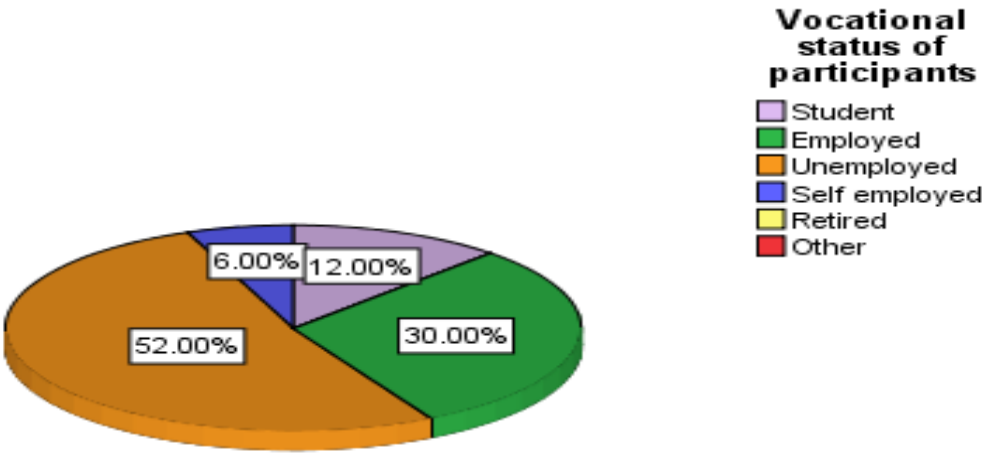

Figure 4.6

The vocational status of the participants was categorized into six groups (6), the first (1) group was for the respondents who were current studying, and the second (2) group was for people who were employed. The third (3) group was for those who were unemployed and the fourth (4) group was for those who were self-employed. The second last group was, which is the fifth (5) group was for those who have been pensioned off. The last group, which is the sixth (6) group was for any other occupations not mentioned in these categories. Fifty two percent (52%) or (26) of the sample were unemployed out of the one hundred percent (100%) or (50) of the respondents. Thirty percent (30%) or (15) of the participants were fully employed and twelve percent (12%) or (6) of the respondents were students. Six percent (6%) or (3) of the participants were self-employed. No persons were getting pensions, or other social grants participated in this study.

Buur (2008) in his research found that people who are unemployed are more likely to be victims of vigilante actions, as compared to people who are employed because they are always busy with their employment. Furthermore, another point was raised by Seekings (2001), who asserted that people who engaged in ‘mob justice’ are the people who were there at the scene, when someone committed a crime.

Seekings (2001) suggested that a crowd easily mobilized, when someone was shouted out the word “thief”. However, the previously mentioned author in his study found that it is mostly the unemployment and boredom that cause the individuals to live in the conditions, where most ‘mob justice’ incidents occur.

4.1.1.7. Illustration of the total household income of the respondents

The findings are presented in Figure 4.7

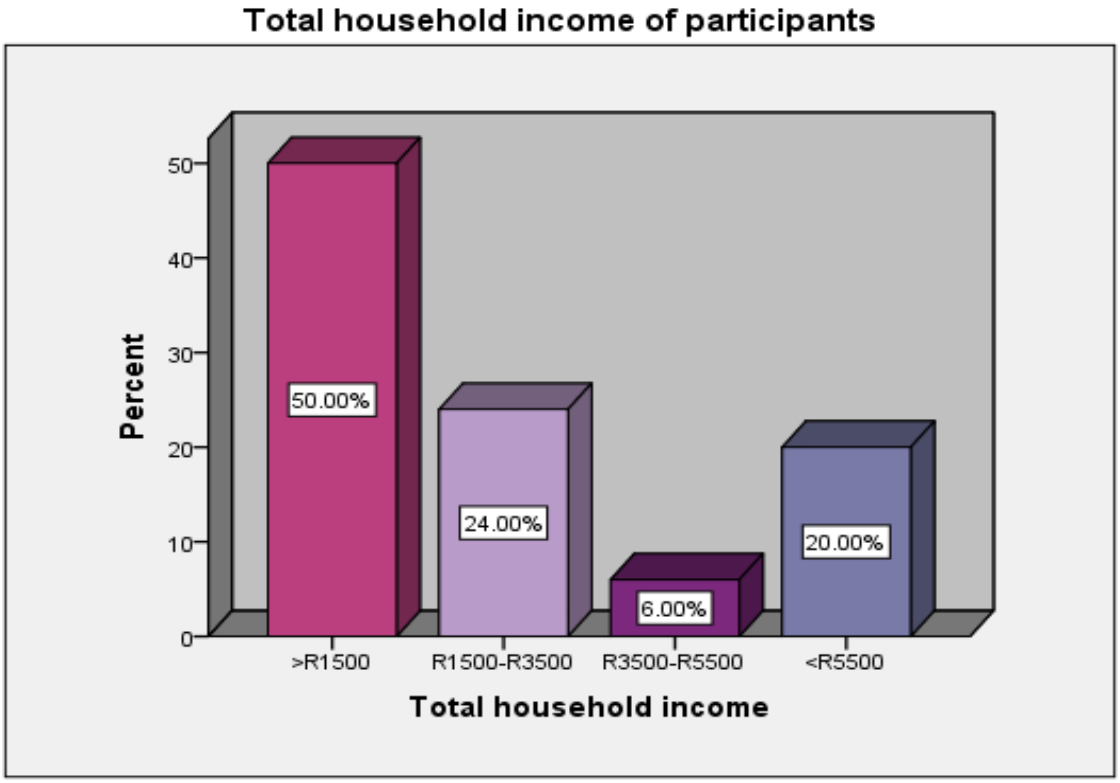

Figure 4.7

From the one hundred percent (100%) or (50) of the respondents who participated in the study, fifty percent (50%) or (25) of the participants’ total household earned less than R1500 per month, and twenty four percent (24%) or (12) of the respondents’ total household earned between R1500-R3500 per month. Twenty percent (20%) or (10) of the participants’ total household earned more than R5500 per month while six percent (3) of the sampled participants earned between R3500-R5500.

A positive relationship between people's total household income and their involvement in criminal activities was found by several authors (Jeffery, 2013; Buur, 2007). These authors suggested that lower income earners are more likely to be victims of vigilantism, than higher income earners because they have limited means, and unlimited wants, and often resort to criminal enterprises.

4.1.2. Section B: Responses to open and closed-ended questions contained in the questionnaire.

This section outlines and describes the responses, which the researcher obtained from the community members. Open-ended questions are analyzed using content thematic analysis and closed-ended questions are analyzed using SPSS software.

4.1.2.1. What do you think is an act of vigilantism (mob justice)?

The findings are presented in the Table 4.1

Table 4.1: Thoughts of participants about vigilantism

Meta Theme	No. of participants	Percentage
It's a group of people who take the law into their own hands.	40	80%
Vigilantism is an unlawful act that is perpetrated by members of the community because of ineffectiveness of policing.	3	6%
It's an action where by the members of the community take the law into their own hands and administer their own punishment on alleged societal criminals.	2	4%
It's a form of punishment of alleged criminals by a group of people in a community because of the failure of the justice system to deal with criminals.	5	10%
Total	**50**	**100**

In this section of analysis, eighty percent (80%) or (40) of the respondents said that vigilantism is a group of people who take the law into their own hands. The last ten percent (10%) or (5) of the sample saw vigilantism as a form of punishment of alleged criminals by a group of people in a community, because of the failure of the criminal justice system to deal effectively with criminal elements. Six percent (6%) or (3) of the participants thought that vigilantism or so-called 'mob justice' was an unlawful act that was perpetrated by members of the community, because of ineffectual policing. Four percent (4%) or (2) thought that it was an activity where by the members of the community take the law into their own hands and administer their own punishment on alleged societal criminals.

All the participants enabled to state their thoughts about vigilantism. The participants had different views concerning vigilantism. According to the findings of the study the participants were aware that vigilantism is wrong as is it is against the Constitution of South Africa.

4.1.2.2. Do you think there has been increase in vigilante activity in this area since 1994?

The findings are presented in the Table 4.2

Table 4.2: The respondents' perceptions on the increase in vigilante activity in New Brighton since 1994.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	12	24.0	24.0	24.0
	No	31	62.0	62.0	86.0
	Don't know	7	14.0	14.0	100.0
	Total	50	100.0	100.0	

From the one hundred percent (100%) or (50) of the respondents who participated in the research project, sixty two percent (62%) or (31) reported that there had not been an increase in vigilante incidents in their community since 1994.

Twenty four percent (24%) or (12) of the participants stated there had been an increase in vigilante activity in their community since 1994, while it was only fourteen percent (14%) or (7) of the respondents who were not sure about the answer to this question. The majority of respondent's opinion was that there had not been an increase in vigilante activity in New Brighton since 1994.

Even though these incidents re-development after 1994 in Port Elizabeth because of the change in South African government to democracy and the challenges it caused for effective criminal justice and policing but these incidents were not prevalent in New Brighton. The reason is that the people wanted to give the new government the chance (Schonteich, 2000). There is no SAPS official crime statistics on vigilante activities, because most of the incidents of 'mob justice' are not reported to the police officers, and those that are reported, are not officially recorded because of lack of evidence (http://www.crimestatssa.com).

4.1.2.3. Do you think there has been increase in vigilante activity in this area since 2000?

The findings are presented in the Table 4.3

Table 4.3: The respondents' views on the increase in vigilante activity in New Brighton since 2000

		Frequency	Percent		Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	35	70.0	70.0	70.0
	No	13	26.0	26.0	96.0
	Don't know	2	4.0	4.0	100.0
	Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Seventy percent (70%) or (35) of the respondents agreed that there had been an increase in vigilante activity in their respective areas since 2000.

Twenty six (26%) or (13) thought there had not been an increase in vigilante activities while, four percent (4%) or (2) of the sample were not sure whether there had been increase or not. The majority of the respondent's perception was that there had been increase in vigilante activity in their area since 2000.

The findings of the research demonstrate that there was an increase in vigilante incidents in vigilantism in New Bridgton since 2000. This indicates that after the first elections in 1994, disappointment with slow delivery of municipal services, escalation in the crime rate and rising perceptions that the Criminal Justice System (CJS) was ineffective, useless and slow led many people to frustration. As a result, this led to a significant number of the public taking the law into their own hands (Van Beek (2001).

4.1.2.4. Do you think there has been increase in vigilante activity in this area since 2010?

The findings are presented in the Table 4.4

Table 4.4: The respondents' opinions on the increase in vigilante activity in New Brighton since 2010

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	45	90.0	90.0	90.0
	No	5	10.0	10.0	100.0
	Total	50	100.0	100.0	

From the one hundred percent (100%) or (50), ninety percent (90%) or (45) of the participants thought that there had been an increase in vigilante activity in their area since 2010. Only ten percent (10%) or (5) of the respondents thought there had not been an increase in vigilante activity in their area since 2010.

In addition, the vast majority of respondents agreed that there had been an increase in vigilante activity in their area since 2010.

According to the findings of Jeffery (2013), in 2011 there was an escalation in the killing of alleged troublesome societal offenders by the 'necklace,' and other methods. The cited author stated that "the increase in necklacing began in June 2011 in New Brighton (Port Elizabeth), after two young men broke into the home of an elderly woman, stole her television, and stabbed her renter to death" (Jeffery, 2013, p45). These grim occurrences were more prevalent in townships and even more so in informal settlements, characterized by low socio-economic status and disorganized community structures.

4.1.2.5. Has there ever been an incident of vigilante activity in the area where you live?

The findings are presented in the Table 4.5

Table 4.5: The participants' views on the incidents of vigilante activity in New Brighton

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	50	100.0	100.0	100.0

One hundred percent (100%) or (50) of the respondents indicated that there had been an incident of vigilante activity in their respective areas. This demonstrates that all the participants agreed that there had been an incident of vigilantism in their communities.

Looking at these findings in Table 4.5., it is evident that there has been a dramatic increase in incidents of vigilante activities in New Brighton (Buur, 2007). According to police statistics (2013), out of the 46 killings committed in an average day in South Africa, five percent (5%) are the result of vigilantism. The SAPS estimated that eighty percent (80%) of violent crimes occur in poor neighborhoods, most of the times are committed by perpetrators who personally know their victims.

4.1.2.6. In your opinion what kinds of crimes are more likely to result in vigilantism in this area?

The findings are presented in the Table 4.6

Table 4.6: Participants' opinions on the kinds of crimes that are more likely to result in vigilantism in New Brighton

Meta Theme	No. of participants	Percentage
Street robbery	15	30%
Rape	15	30%
House breaking	12	24%
Murder	3	6%
Theft	3	6%
Armed robbery	2	4%
Total	**50**	**100**

From this section of analysis, street robbery, rape, house breaking, murder, theft and armed robbery were the types of crimes that were reported by participants, to more likely to result in acts of vigilantism. However, thirty percent (30%) or (15) of the sample reported street robbery, as the common category of crime, that was more likely to result in acts of vigilantism in their respective areas. Other respondents, thirty percent (30%) or (15) recorded rape. House breaking was reported by twenty four percent (24%) or (12) of the participants as the category of crime that was more likely to result in vigilantism. While murder, was recorded by six percent (6%) or (3) of the participants, followed by theft that was also reported by six percent (6%) or (3) of the sample. Finally, armed robbery was reported by minority, four percent (4%) or two (2) of the respondents, as the type of crime that would lead people into acts of vigilantism.

Street Robbery, rape and house breaking are the categories of crime that were reported by the majority of participants to more likely to result in vigilantism in New Brighton. These results demonstrate that the crime rate which led to incidents of vigilantism is on the increase in that particular area.

The Victims of Crime Survey results (2013/2014) in the Eastern Cape confirmed that housebreaking (4, 7%) was the most prevalent household crime during the period April 2012 to February 2014, although it decreased by (0, 7%) when compared to 2011 victimization rates. The second most common crime during the same period was home robbery (1, 6%) which increased by (0, 1%) in the Eastern Cape. The prevalence of livestock theft (1, 4%) amongst households in the Eastern Cape increased by (0, 1%) percent during the same period, although this type of crime decreased from (4, 9%) in 1998 to (1, 4%) in 2012/14. The prevalence of car theft (carjacking or hijacking) and crop theft, each decreased by (0, 1%) between 2011 and 2012/14. However, during the same period, murder incidents increased by (0, 1%), while motor vehicle vandalism, remained unchanged.

4.1.2.7. If there has been an incident of vigilantism in your area when did the last act of vigilantism take place?

The findings are presented in the Table 4.7

Table 4.7: Respondents' views on the last occurrence of vigilante activities in New Brighton

Meta Theme	No. of participants	Percentage
2015	14	28%
2014	10	20%
2013	11	22%
2012	5	10%
2011	3	6%
2010	2	4%
2000	5	10%
Total	**50**	**100**

Twenty eight percent (28%) or (14) out of the one hundred percent (100%) or (50) of the participants, who reported that there had been an incident of vigilantism in their area, stated that the last act of vigilantism occurred, recently this year (2015). Twenty two percent (22%) or (11) of the respondents reported that the last act of vigilantism occurred in 2013, in their area. Twenty percent (20%) or (10) of the participants said that there had been an incident of vigilantism, in their area last year (2014). Other respondents asserted that, the last incident of vigilantism occurred in 2012 in their area. This was only reported by ten percent (10%) or (5) of the participants out of the one hundred percent (100%). Ten percent (10%) or (5) of the sample stated that the last incident of vigilantism in their area occurred in 2000, and six percent (6%) or (3) of the participants reported that the last act of vigilantism in their area occurred in 2011. Finally, four percent (4%) or (2) of the respondents asserted that the last incident of vigilantism in their respective areas occurred in 2010.

The majority of the participants asserted that the last act of vigilantism in their areas occurred in 2013, 2014 and 2015. These findings demonstrate that the occurrences of vigilantism are more prevalent in New Brighton because of high crime rate. This is confirmed by Jeffery (2013) who stressed that the increase in vigilantism began in June 2011 in New Brighton (Port Elizabeth), after two young men broke into the home of an elderly woman, stole her television, and stabbed her renter to death.

4.1.2.8. Can you describe what happened to the victim/victims during the incident?

The findings are presented in the Table 4.8

Table 4.8: Respondents' perceptions on the description of what happened to the victim/victims during the incident of vigilantism.

Meta Theme	No. of participants	Percentage
The victims of vigilante activity during the incident were beaten others burnt and necklaced, were accused to have raped little girls and others for raping an old woman.	23	46%
The victims were severe beaten and other victims were burnt, were alleged to have broken into houses.	15	30%
The victims were beaten, were accused of having robbed people in their area several times.	8	16%
The victim of vigilante occurrence was beaten, was accused to have stolen a tablet that costs R7000.	4	8%
Total	**50**	**100**

Forty six percent (46%) or (23) of the respondents indicated that the victims of vigilante action during the incident were beaten, others were burnt and necklaced were accused to have raped little girls and others for raping an old woman. Thirty percent (30%) or (15) of the participants reported that the victims were severe beaten and other victims were burnt, were alleged to have broken into houses. Sixteen percent (16%) or (8) of other respondents stated that on the last occurrence of vigilantism they remember the victims were beaten and were alleged to have robbed people in their area several times. Finally, eight percent (8%) or (4) of the participants reported that the victim of vigilante activity was beaten, was accused to have stolen a tablet that costs R7000.

The majority of the respondents indicated that the victims of vigilante actions during the incidents of ‘mob justice’ were severe beaten and burnt. Beating and burning were two of the most common methods the killings were carried out in many incidents in Port Elizabeth (Jeffery, 2013). This is a paradoxical situation that violates human rights because South Africa is a country with a Constitution that prioritizes human dignity for all, and citizens that are totally free from violence of any kind.

This is supported by section 12(1) (c) (e) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act No. 108 of 1996, which stipulates that “every accused person has the right to freedom and security of the person, which includes the right to be free from all forms of violence from either public or private source, not to be tortured in any way, and not to be treated or punished in a cruel, inhumane or degrading way”.

4.1.2.9. Do you know the gender of the victim/victims?

The findings are presented in the Table 4.9

Table 4.9: Participants’ opinions on the gender of victim/victims

Meta Theme	No. of participants	Percentage
Male	50	100%
Total	**50**	**100**

In this section, all the respondents stated that to all the vigilante activities that occurred in their respective areas, males were the victims of vigilantism (ages between 18 and 40 years).

Results of the research conducted by Buur (2007) demonstrated a relationship between the gender and the victims of vigilante occurrences. The above author found that significant number of the people who were more likely to be victims of vigilante actions were young male adults. Because of the crimes they commit.

4.1.2.10. Do you know the age of the victim/victims?

The findings are presented in the Table 4.10

Table 4.10: Participants’ views on the age of victim/victims

Meta Theme	No. of participants	Percentage
18-30	38	76%
31-40	11	22%
41-50	1	2%
Total	**50**	**100**

Out of the one hundred percent (100%) or (50) of the respondents who participated in this research, seventy six percent (76%) or (38) of the participants asserted that the victims of vigilante actions were between the ages of 18-30 years. While, twenty two percent (22%) or (11) of the respondents indicated that the victims were between the ages of 31-40 years. Finally, two percent (2%) or (1) of the respondent stated that the victims were between the ages of 41-50 years-old.

The majority of the participants were of the view that the victims of vigilante actions were between ages of 18 to 30 years old. It was also estimated that youths are three times more likely than adults to be victims of vigilantism, because of the fact that they are more likely to involve themselves in criminal activities, when compared to adult males (Buur, 2007).

4.1.2.11. Did the police intervene?

The findings are presented in Table 4.11

Table 4.11: Opinions of respondents on involvement of police officers in vigilante activities

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	35	70.0	70.0	70.0
	No	15	30.0	30.0	100.0
	Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Out of the one hundred percent (100%) or (50) of the participants, seventy percent (70%) or (35) the vast majority of the respondents reported that the police officers did attend the scene at the incidents of vigilantism that happened in their respective areas. Alternatively, thirty percent (30%) or (15) of the sampled participants stated that the police officers did not attend the scene of crimes in vigilante activities that occurred in their areas, which means that some police officers do attend the scene at the incidents of vigilantism and they are trying to fight these incidents in communities.

4.1.2.12. Were there any children and women involved as perpetrators in such incidents?

The findings are presented in Table 4.12

Table 4.12: Respondents' views on the involvement of children and women in vigilante occurrences

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	30	60.0	60.0	60.0
	No	15	30.0	30.0	90.0
	Don't know	5	10.0	10.0	100.0
	Total	50	100.0	100.0	

In this section, sixty percent (60%) or (30) of the respondents reported that women and children were involved as perpetrators in vigilante activities that had occurred, in their respective areas. Thirty percent (30%) or (15) of the sample stated that they were no women and children who were involved as perpetrators in the vigilante actions that occurred in their respective areas. While a small minority of ten percent (10%) or (5) of the respondents did not know what to say, and were not sure whether the women and children were involved or not.

The view of participants was that women and children were involved as perpetrators in vigilante incidents that occurred in their respective areas. To support the findings of the researcher, Minnaar (2002) argued that women are more likely to participate in vigilante activities when compared to men. The reasons for this gender difference are because women and girls are more likely to be victims of crime (murder, sexual assault and rape). The author also found that children are more likely to be observers, rather than perpetrators in most of the cases when there is vigilante action occurring.

4.1.2.13. Was the occurrence reported to the police?

The findings are presented in Table 4.13

Table 4.13: Report of the incidents of vigilantism to the police officers

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	41	82.0	82.0	82.0
	No	7	14.0	14.0	96.0
	Don't know	2	4.0	4.0	100.0
	Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Eighty two percent (82%) or (41) of the participants reported that the vigilante actions that occurred in their respective areas, were reported to the SAPS. Fourteen percent (14%) or (7) of the respondents asserted that the incidents of vigilantism that occurred in their area were not reported to the police. Only four percent (4%) or (2) of the participants were not sure about the answer to this question.

The view of the respondents was that the vigilante actions that occurred in their respective areas were reported to the SAPS, which means that some of the people in these communities do not support vigilantism and they only do so because they know if they don not the communities would rise against them (Jeffery, 2013).

4.1.2.14. In your opinion, are the perpetrators of vigilantism more likely to be caught by police officers in this area?

The findings are presented in Table 4.14

Table 4.14: Views on the likelihood of perpetrators of vigilantism being caught and arrested by police officers in New Brighton

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	15	30.0	30.0	30.0
	No	33	66.0	66.0	96.0
	Don't know	2	4.0	4.0	100.0
	Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Sixty six percent (66%) or (33) of the participants reported that perpetrators of vigilante actions were not likely to be caught by police officers while, thirty percent (30%) or (15) of the respondents stated that perpetrators of vigilantism were likely to be caught by police officers in their area. Four percent (4%) or (2) were not sure how to answer this particular question.

The perception of the respondents was that the perpetrators of vigilantism were not likely to be caught by police officers. Minnaar (2002) confirmed that perpetrators of vigilantism were not more likely to be caught by police officers and even though some of the occurrences of vigilante actions were reported to the police, no witnesses came forward, and no sworn affidavits could be obtained, by the police. Therefore, because of a lack of evidence, a considerable number of cases of incidents of vigilantism, did not go to court or were dismissed. In some case, the police only received an anonymous phone call from a member of the public, telling them where they could find the dead body, or badly injured victim.

4.1.2.15. Have you ever participated in any vigilante activity?

The findings are presented in Table 4.15.

Table 4.15: Participation of the respondents in vigilante activities

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	4	8.0	8.0	8.0
	No	46	92.0	92.0	100.0
	Total	50	100.0	100.0	

From the one hundred percent (100%) or (50) of the participants, ninety two percent (92%) or (46) stated that they had not participated in any vigilante action while, eight percent (8%) or (8) of them indicated that they had taken part in acts of vigilantism. Those who said they had participated indicated that they had been victims of crimes before (direct and indirect).

Jeffery (2013) asserted that most of the times people who are more likely to participate in vigilante occurrences, are people who have been victimized by crimes in the past, where the suspected criminals were never punished.

4.1.2.16. If you have ever participated in any vigilante activity, under what circumstances would you take such action?

The findings are presented in the Table 4.16

Table 4.16: Views of those participants who said they had participated in vigilante activity

Meta Theme	No. of participants	Percentage
To get back the stolen property	2	4%
To punish the criminals who raped an old woman and a three year old girl	2	4%
Total	**4**	**8**

From the eight percent (8%) or (4) of the participants who said they had taken part in vigilante actions, four percent (4%) or (2) of them indicated that they did so to get back their stolen property, because the police did nothing to recover it. Another four percent (4%) or (2) of the respondents reported that they engaged in the vigilante action to punish the criminals who raped an old woman and a three year old girl. These two research participants both asserted that "the sentences the criminals received from the courts were too soft." Three young men were identified as the perpetrators of the rapes were severely beaten with sjamboks by members of the community, including the two respondents.

Minnaar (2002) in his findings discovered that significant numbers of the people who have been victims of crimes, took part in so-called 'mob justice' to retrieve their stolen goods and others are driven by the motives of anger and revenge.

4.1.2.17. If you have never participated in any vigilante activity, would you consider participating?

The findings are presented in Table 4.17

Table 4.17: Opinions of those participants who said they had never participated in any vigilante activity.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	18	36.0	39.1	39.1
	No	25	50.0	54.3	93.5
	Don't know	3	6.0	6.5	100.0
	Total	46	92.0	100.0	
Missing	System	4	8.0		
Total		50	100.0		

In this section, out of the ninety two percent (92%) or (41) of the respondents who indicated that they had not participated in vigilante activity. Fifty percent (50%) or (25) of the participants reported that they would not consider participating in any vigilante action, under any circumstances. Thirty six percent (36%) or (18) of the sample asserted that they would consider participating in this kind of activity. Six percent (6%) or (3) were not sure how to answer this particular question, since they had never been victims of crimes before.

4.1.2.18. If you would consider participating in vigilante activity, under what circumstances who you take such actions?

The findings are presented in the Table 4.18

Table 4.18: Opinions of those participants who said they would consider participating in vigilante activity

Meta Theme	No. of participants	Percentage
If the criminals broke into my house and police did not come on time at the crime scene.	9	18%
If my children or anyone I knew in the area was raped	5	10%
If I reported the case to the police officers	3	6%

and the police did not follow it up		
If the criminals robbed me or one of my siblings.	1	2%
Total	**18**	**36**

Out of the thirty six percent (36%) or (18) of those participants who reported that they would consider actually taking part in vigilante action, the vast majority, eighteen percent (18%) or (9) indicated that they would do so, if criminals broke into their houses and police did not arrive on time at the crime scene. However, ten percent (10%) or (5) of the sample asserted that they would engage in vigilante activity if their children were raped or anyone they knew was raped in their respective areas. Six percent (6%) or (3) asserted that they would take action, if they reported the case to the police, and the police did not follow it up. Two percent (2%) or (1) of the sampled participants indicated that he would participate in vigilante activity, if criminals robbed him or one of his siblings. All the participants reported that they would consider actually taking part in vigilante action, if they could be victims of crime whether direct or indirect. Minnaar (2002) confirmed that people who are more likely to participate in vigilantism are people who had been victims of crime in the past whether direct or indirect.

4.1.2.19. Have any members of your household or any one you know ever been participated in any vigilante activity?

The findings are presented in Table 4.19

Table 4.19: Participation of other community members in vigilante activities

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	12	24.0	24.0	24.0
	No	38	76.0	76.0	100.0
	Total	50	100.0	100.0	

The vast majority, seventy six percent (76%) or (38) of the participants reported that no one they knew had participated in vigilante activity. While twenty four percent (24%) or (12) of the sample, indicated that some of the people that they knew, had been engaged in vigilante activities and they had been victims of crime in past where the alleged criminals were never brought to justice.

4.1.2.20. Have you ever been a victim of vigilante activity?

The findings are presented in Table 4.20

Table 4.20: Participants as victims of vigilante activities

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	4	8.0	8.0	8.0
	No	46	92.0	92.0	100.0
	Total	50	100.0	100.0	

From the one hundred percent (100%) or (50) of the participants who responded to this question, ninety two percent (92%) or (46) reported that they had not been victims of vigilante actions. This contrasted with eight percent (8%) or (4) of the sample, who claimed that they had been victims of vigilante activities.

The four victims, who reported vigilante actions taken against them, were all males, aged between 18 and 30 years. Cloete and Stevens (2004) reported that most crimes in South Africa are committed by young people.

The authors added that a high crime rate may be attributed to the high percentage of crimes committed by young people, as criminal careers of the youth usually start during adolescence and early childhood (17-20) and peak during adulthood (30 years of age).

4.1.2.21. If you have been a victim of vigilante occurrence, when did this happen?

The findings are presented in Table 4.21

Table 4.21: The year of the occurrence of vigilantism on those participants who had been victims of vigilante activity

Meta Theme	No. of participants	Percentage
2014	1	2%
2011	1	2%
2000	1	2%
1998	1	2%
Total	**4**	**8**

Of the eight percent (8%) or (4) of the sampled participants who reported that they had been victims of vigilante activities, one of the respondents indicated that this had occurred in 2011. Another participant stated that the incident happened in 2014. The third respondent asserted that this occurred in 2000, and the fourth participant stated that he was a victim of vigilantism in 1998.

4.1.2.22. If you have been a victim of vigilante occurrence, can you describe what happened?

The findings are presented in Table 4.22

Table 4.22: A description of what happened to those participants who had been victims of vigilantism.

Meta Theme	No. of participants	Percentage
I was severely beaten by vigilantes for robbing people and breaking into houses in the area	3	6%
I was badly beaten for breaking into houses	1	2%
Total	**4**	**8**

From the eight percent (8%) or (4) of those sampled who reported that they had been victims of vigilante actions, six percent (6%) or (3) of them stated that they were severely beaten with sjamboks and stoned by community members, for robbing people and breaking into their houses, in their respective areas. Two percent (2%) or (1) of the participants asserted that he had been badly beaten with knobkerries and sticks for breaking into houses. All four of the respondents who alleged they were victims of so-called 'mob justice' meted out by members of the community, stated that they had been hospitalized as a result of the assaults on them.

4.1.2.23. Has any person in your family or anyone you know ever been a victim of vigilante activity?

The findings are presented in Table 4.23

Table 4.23: Other community members as victims of vigilante activities

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	23	46.0	46.0	46.0
	No	27	54.0	54.0	100.0
	Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Out of the one hundred percent (100%) or (50) of the participants who responded to this question, fifty four percent (54%) or (27) reported that there had been no one they knew who had been a victim of vigilante action. While, forty six percent (46%) or (23) asserted that some people they knew, had been victims of vigilante activities.

4.1.2.24. If anyone you know has been a victim of vigilante activity, when did this happen?

The findings are presented in Table 4.24

Table 4.24: The occurrence of vigilante activity on other community members as victims of vigilante activity

Meta Theme	**No. of participants**	**Percentage**
2015	5	10%
2014	4	8%
2013	5	10%
2011	5	10%
2010	4	8%
Total	**23**	**46**

Out of the forty six percent (46%) or (23) of the sample who reported that there had been some people they knew who had been victims of vigilante actions.

Ten percent (10%) or (5) of the respondents indicated that this “action” occurred recently, this year (2015). With the other ten percent (10%) or (5) of the sampled asserted that this “action” had occurred in the year 2011. Another ten percent (10%) or (5) of the respondents stated that the vigilante activity had happened in 2013. However, eight percent (8%) or (4) of them said that this “action” took place last year (2014), while the other eight percent (8%) or (4) of the participants, asserted that this activity occurred in 2010. These findings demonstrate that incidents of vigilantism in New Brighton are increasing instead of decreasing.

4.1.2.25. If anyone you know has been a victim of vigilante activity, can you describe what happened?

The findings are presented in Table 4.25

Table 4.25: The description of what happened to the victim/victims of vigilante activity during the incident of vigilantism.

Meta Theme	No. of participants	Percentage
The victims were badly beaten by community members, were accused of having robbed people.	9	18%
The victims were severely beaten by community members, were accused of having broken into houses.	8	16%
The victims were severely beaten, some to death (4), were accused of having raped three little girls, and two old women.	6	12%
Total	**23**	**46**

From the forty six percent (46%) or (23) of the sampled respondents who indicated that there had been some people they knew who had been victims of vigilante actions.

Eighteen percent (18%) or (9) reported that the victims were badly beaten by community members, were accused of having robbed people. Sixteen percent (16%) or (8) of the respondents described the occurrences as follows: the victims of vigilantism were severely beaten by community members, and were accused of having broken into their houses, and robbed them of their personal belongings. Furthermore, twelve percent (12%) or (6) of participants indicated that the victims were severely beaten, and four (4) or (2) were beaten to death. These four victims of 'mob justice' were accused of having raped three little girls, and two old women.

Minnaar (2001) argued that vigilantism metamorphosed into different forms in South Africa. These ranged from burning, stoning, necklacing, shooting, beating, lynching and chasing away the wrongdoers. Jeffery (2013) in his findings asserted that at times the perpetrators of vigilantism often threw the stones to the victims until death occurred.

4.1.2.26. Which effective preventative measures do you think can be used to reduce vigilante activities?

The findings are presented in Table 4.26

Table 4.26: Opinions of participants on the effective preventative measures that can help to reduce vigilante activities

Meta Theme	No. of participants	Percentage
Government should create job opportunities for the youths because they involved in criminal activities because of poverty	15	30%
Government should improve the criminal justice system as whole	12	24%
Police officers should work together with the community members to stamp out the acts of so called 'mob justice'.	6	12%

Police officers must arrive on time at the crime scene	5	10%
Government should stop easy bail conditions for more serious crimes	5	10%
Government should enact tough laws on offenders	3	6%
Community members need to be taught on how the criminal justice system works	2	4%
Laws should be stricter on those people involving in vigilante incidents	2	4%
Total	**50**	**100**

In this section of the research, thirty percent (30%) or (15) of the respondents suggested that government should create job opportunities for the youths because they were involved in criminal activities, because of poverty and lack of employment opportunities. While, twenty four percent (24%) or (12) of the participants recommended that government should improve the criminal justice system as whole. Twelve percent (12%) or (6) of the respondents proposed that the police officers should work together with the community members to stamp out the acts of vigilantism. Ten percent (10%) or (5) of the sample indicated that government should put a stop to easy bail conditions, and restrict the use of bail for more serious offences.

Other responses included: the police officers must arrive on time at the crime scene and this was recommended by ten percent (10%) or (5) of the participants. Six percent (6%) or (3) of the respondents suggested that government should enact tough laws on offenders, and this was proposed by the minority of the sample. Four percent (4%) or (2) asserted that community members need to be taught on how the criminal justice system operates, and another four percent (4%) or (2) of the respondents proposed that laws should be stricter, on those people who became engaged in vigilante actions.

Glad, et al., (2010) in his research recommended that the government should add the law on Children's Rights in the national educational curriculum to make the children aware of their rights, responsibilities and obligations. The previously mentioned authors further added that government should also improve the educational system for children. This argument presented by Glad, et al., (2010), would be a system of measures to prevent truancy and at the end of the day, reduce unemployment and poverty. However, Horne (2007) reinforced the introduction of harsher punishments on those who break the law (participate in vigilante actions), including improvement of victim empowerment, support and feedback.

The authors previously cited added that the criminal justice system should improve peoples' access to the courts, and create public awareness campaigns on the workings of the new laws. An alternative position was raised by Levine (2011) who proposed that there is need to prioritize and inject more resources in the police force law and order enforcement operations particularly with regard to enhancing the force's capacity to respond to incidents of vigilantism. The previously cited author added that police posts need to be well funded in order to facilitate at least effective and timely patrolling of communities. Mugunga (2005) proposed that support required ensuring a minimal number of vehicles, communication equipment and even stationery that are indispensable in crime prevention among others should be availed.

4.1.2.27. What do you think might be the cause of young adults/adults to engage in criminal activities in this area?

The findings are presented in Table 4.27

Table 4.27: Participants' perceptions on the causes of young adults to engage in criminal activities in New Brighton

Meta Theme	No. of participants	Percentage
Unemployment and poverty	27	54%
Drugs and alcohol	18	36%

Peer pressure	5	10%
Total	**50**	**100**

In this section, fifty four percent (54%) or (27) out of the one hundred percent (100%) or (50) of the participants mentioned unemployment and poverty as the main causes of young adults and adults to become involved in criminal activities, in their respective areas. Thirty six percent (36%) or (18) of the sample proposed that the abuse of drugs and alcohol, often led people to commit crime. Ten percent (10%) or (5) asserted that peer pressure was another cause of young adults in their respective areas, to engage in criminal actions or behaviors.

Buikhusen and Mednick (1988) posited that there is a relationship between social class and the youth involvement in criminal activities. The authors argued that an individual is unlikely to avoid criminal actions, if he/she resides in a neighbourhood/community where a high rate crime exists. Or conversely, they come from a poverty-stricken family in which the parents are unable to provide for basic needs. Further, the individual is from an environment where peers and friends are involved in criminal actions and arrested for breaking the law. Unemployment was singled out by several authors and cited to be the major cause of young adults engaging in criminal activities, and delinquent behaviors. Furthermore, Harrison (cited by Thio, 2007) claimed that drug enslavement theory stated that dependency on alcohol or drugs are expensive, and may drive people to commit crimes if they have no other means of supporting their addictive habits.

4.1.2.28. What types of crimes are more likely to be committed by these individuals mentioned above and what do you think is the reason behind this?

The findings are presented in Table 4.28

Table 4.28: The respondents' views on the types of crimes that are more likely to be committed by young adults and their reason for committing those crimes

Meta Theme	No. of participants	Percentage
Street robbery, to buy drugs or alcohol	20	40%
House breaking with intent to steal to buy drugs or alcohol	13	26%
Rape, intoxicated by drugs or alcohol	9	18%
Armed robbery, to buy drugs or alcohol	5	10%
Murder, intoxicated by drugs or alcohol	3	6%
Total	**50**	**100**

Out of the one hundred percent (100%) or (50) of those sampled, forty percent (40%) or (20) of the respondents to this question, asserted that street robbery was the category of crime that was more likely to be committed by young adults, in their respective areas. While twenty six percent (26%) or (13) of the participants stated that house breaking was the most common category of crime committed. Other responses included rape and was indicated by eighteen percent (18%) or (9) of the sample. Armed robbery was recorded by ten percent (10%) or (5) of the participants. The very serious crime of murder was reported by only six percent (6%) or (3) of the respondents.

All those sampled respondents who mentioned street robbery, house breaking, and armed robbery, indicated that the motives/reasons of the perpetrators were to buy drugs or alcohol and to support their habit. A few of the respondents indicated that some of the perpetrators had been engaged in criminal activities to support their families. Those who mentioned the rapes and murders reported that the perpetrators were driven to commit the offences and were intoxicated by alcohol and drugs, at the time of the offences.

Cited below are the serious SAPS crime statistics for the 2013/2014 financial year:

According to the SAPS ‘crime statistics’ data, murder in the Eastern Cape increased by 3.3% from 3344 in 2012/2013 financial year to 3453 in 2013/14 financial year.

Total sexual offences in the province increased by 3.4% from 9 567 in 2012/2013 financial year to 9 897 in 2013/2014 while, robbery worsened by 14.3% jumping from 11 794 cases in the 2012/2013 financial year to 13 485 in 2013/2014. Robbery at residential premises in the Eastern Cape recorded an 11.5% increase and robbery at non-residential premises increased by 25.6% while, burglaries at non-residential places increased by 1.6%. Burglaries at residential premises fell from 25 902 in the 2012/2013 financial year to 24 750 in 2013/2014.

Drug-related crimes increased by 17% in the past financial year, while the illegal possession of firearms saw a 19.8% increase in the past year (http://www.crimestatssa.com).

4.1.2.29. Are there any police officers that are patrolling in this area?

The findings are presented in Table 4.29

Table 4.29: Patrolling of the police officers in New Brighton

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	24	48.0	48.0	48.0
	No	26	52.0	52.0	100.0
	Total	50	100.0	100.0	

As illustrated in Table 4.29, fifty two percent (52%) or (26) of the participants reported that there were no police officers patrolling in their respective areas. While forty eight percent (48%) or (24) of the sample indicated that there were some police officers patrolling, in their respective areas.

Some of the participants' view was that there were police officers patrolling in their areas and other respondents' opinion was that there were no police officers patrolling which also mean that police officers were not visible in other areas in New Brighton.

4.1.2.30. If there are police officers that are patrolling in your area, at what time?

The findings are presented in Table 4.30

Table 4.30: The time of patrolling of police officers in New Brighton

Meta Theme	No. of participants	Percentage
At night	8	16%
In the evening	7	14%
During the day	5	10%
In the morning	4	8%
Total	**24**	**48**

From the forty eight percent (48%) or (24) of the sampled respondents who indicated that there were police officers patrolling in their respective areas, sixteen percent (16%) or (8) of the participants reported the police officers were patrolling at night. While, fourteen percent (14%) or (7) of the sample averred that they (the police) patrolled in the evening. Ten percent (10%) or (5) of the participants asserted that they patrolled during the day. Only eight percent (8%) or (4) of the respondents who reported that the police officers patrolled in the morning only, and were not seen for the rest of the day. All the participants reported that the police officers were only patrolling when there was an incident, or crime that had occurred.

4.1.2.31. How far is your nearest police station?

The findings are presented in Table 4.31

Table 4.31: The distant of participants' nearest police station

Meta Theme	No. of participants	Percentage
Less than thirty minutes away using	23	46%

transport		
More than thirty minutes using transport	18	36%
Less than ten minutes using transport.	9	18%
Total	**50**	**100**

Forty six percent (46%) or (23) of the respondents reported that their nearest police station was less than thirty minutes away using transport. Alternatively, thirty six percent (36%) or (18) of the participants recorded that their closest police station was more than thirty minutes away using transport. While, other respondents, eighteen percent (18%) or (9) asserted that their police station was less than ten minutes away using transport. All the participants' nearest police station was New Brighton police station.

4.1.2.32. How would you rate the condition of the police station?

The findings are presented in Table 4.32

Table 4.32: Condition of the police station of New Brighton

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Good	4	8.0	8.0	8.0
	Acceptable	31	62.0	62.0	70.0
	Poor	15	30.0	30.0	100.0
	Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Out of the one hundred percent (100%) or (50) of the participants, sixty two percent (62%) or (31) reported that the condition of their police station was acceptable. Thirty percent (30%) or (15) of the sample stated that the conditions in their police station were poor. While, only eight percent (8%) or (4) of the respondents asserted that the condition of their police station was good. The perception of the vast majority of the respondents was that the conditions of their police station were acceptable.

It is general knowledge that the police force is not well facilitated in terms of resources, unfortunately even the inadequate resources they receive, seem not to be managed well (Mugunga, 2005). Mugunga (2005) confirmed that police corruption is also a complex phenomenon that causes police force to be ineffective. It is a problem that does not only affect law enforcing personnel by restricting their efficiency and effectiveness but drastically affects the entire citizens whose security law enforcers are supposed to guarantee. Unfortunately although many aspects of policing have positively changed, the element of corruption has not changed (Mugunga, 2005).

4.1.2.33. Do you support vigilantism ('mob justice')?

The findings are presented in Table 4.33

Table 4.33: Support of vigilantism by community members of New Brighton

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	14	28.0	28.0	28.0
	No	32	64.0	64.0	92.0
	Don't know	4	8.0	8.0	100.0
	Total	50	100.0	100.0	

The majority, sixty four percent (64%) or (32) of the respondents indicated that they did not support any acts of vigilantism, under any circumstances. Twenty eight percent (28%) or (14) proposed that they did support vigilante actions, and eight percent (8%) or (4) said they did not know whether they did or did not, because they had not been victims of any crimes.

4.1.2.34. If you support vigilantism, please explain why you say you support it?

The findings are presented in Table 4.34

Table 4.34: The views of those participants who said they do support vigilantism

Meta Theme	No. of participants	Percentage
Because police officers are not effective	6	12%
Because police officers take a long time to arrive at the crime scene	3	6%
Because criminals got arrested today and tomorrow you will see them moving on the streets	3	6%
Because it reduces crime in the community	2	4%
Total	**14**	**28**

From the twenty eight percent (28%) or (14) of the participants who stated that they did support vigilantism, and twelve percent (12%) or (6) of the sample asserted that they did so, because police officers were not effective, in reducing crime and arresting criminals. Other six percent (6%) or (3) of them reported that they supported vigilantism because police officers took a long time to arrive at a crime scene. Another six percent (6%) or (3) of the respondents averred that they supported vigilante acts, because 'criminals who got arrested today and tomorrow you will see them moving on the streets.' Four percent (4%) or (2) respondents asserted that vigilante acts reduced crime in their community.

Sekhonyane and Louw (2002) in their research argued that vigilantism is an option for vulnerable communities in the face of high crime rates, an ineffective police service and a law that values the rights of criminals, more than those of their victims.

Baefele (2006, p4) added that "people support 'mob justice' because of lack of trust in the SAPS due to slow reaction time to complaints, weak statement-taking, poor detective work and evidence gathering, no follow-up on cases and no communication between the detectives and the community".

4.1.2.35. In your opinion what are the motives of individuals/communities who take the law into their own hands?

The findings are presented in Table 4.35

Table 4.35: Participants' opinions on the motives of individuals who take the law into their own hands

Meta Theme	No. of participants	Percentage
Ineffectiveness of visible policing	18	36%
Easy bail conditions	10	20%
Frustration and anger	10	20%
We have lost faith in the criminal justice system	7	14%
Lack of visible policing	3	6%
Lack of information on the way the criminal justice system operates.	2	4%
Total	**50**	**100**

When the participants were asked this question, out of the one hundred percent (100%) or (50) of the respondents, thirty six percent (36%) or (18) of the sample reported the ineffectiveness of visible policing as one of the main motives of communities who take the law into their own hands, and commit acts of 'mob justice.' They pointed out that the police officers do not arrive on time at the crime scene when called. Twenty percent (20%) or (10) of the participants reported that easy bail conditions were the reason.

While the other twenty percent (20%) or (10) recorded the high degree of frustration and anger of the community members who did not see the criminals being arrested, as behind the motives that had driven many community members to commit acts of vigilantism. Fourteen percent (14%) or (7) of the respondents stated ‘that they had lost faith in the criminal justice system’. However, only six percent (6%) or (3) of the participants mentioned that the lack of visible policing was the cause of vigilante acts. Only four percent (4%) or (2) of the sample reported that a lack of information on the way the justice system operates, was a main cause of vigilante actions.

Awuni (2007) indicated that people take the law into their hands because of police corruption, poor police-community relations, ineffectual policing, lack of visible policing and corruption within the judicial system. Seekings (2001) pointed out that frustration, fear and anger as the main factors that drive people to commit ‘mob justice.’ The previously mentioned author provided greater clarity and explanation on this position. Seekings (2001) asserted that once an individual is angered, he merely takes the law into his own hands, and then the person just realizes afterwards that 'I have done a something very wrong'. Levine (2011) suggested that illiteracy as another cause of vigilante activities because people, who are uneducated, do not communicate well and do not understand how the legal system works. The cited author averred that these uneducated people experienced difficulties when it comes to reading and understanding the law, and knowing where to find information about the law and they don’t even understand why some criminals got bail, and others do not.

4.1.2.36. In your opinion what effects do vigilante incidents have in this area?

The findings are presented in Table 4.36

Table 4.36: Participants’ opinion on the impact of vigilante activities in New Brighton

Meta Theme	No. of participants	Percentage
Vigilante activities affect children (psychologically, socially, emotionally and academically).	32	64%
Parents are living in fear because they do not know what will happen to their sons	11	22%
Have no negative effects in the community	5	10%
Violate the rights of the accused criminals especial their right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty.	2	4%
Total	**50**	**100**

Out of the one hundred percent (100%) or (50) of the participants, significant number of the respondents, sixty four percent (64%) or (32) reported that vigilante activities had affected children in their areas (psychologically, socially, emotionally and academically). The respondents recorded that these vigilante activities also taught the children violence because they sometimes imitate what they saw, and think that violence it is a normal way of dealing with problems. However, twenty two percent (22%) or (11) of the respondents indicated that their parents were living in fear because they did not know what would happen to their children. Ten percent (10%) or (5) of the sample reported that vigilante activities had no negative effects in their community. Four percent (4%) or (2) of the participants pointed out that these vigilante actions had violated the rights of the accused criminals, in their respective areas, especially their right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Perry (2001) in his study, conceded that children exposed to incidents of so-called ‘mob justice’ adjust to the atmosphere of fear. However, persistent fear and the neurophysiological adjustments to this fear can change the development of the child’s brain. This can result in changes in physiological, emotional, behavioral, cognitive and social functioning.

In addition to the position adopted by Perry (2001), Madienyane (2013) argued that youths and children can also become violent in their adulthood, and their moral development and anticipated socialization can become negatively affected as well. Sutherland's Differential Association Theory described criminal behavior as learned behavior, just like any other behavior. This theory emphasized that individuals who grow up in a community where 'mob justice' occurs, may be more likely to learn violent and aggressive behavior through communication and close association with other individuals who are perpetrators of 'mob justice', and consequently become persons who commit acts of vigilantism themselves (Sutherland and Cressey, 1974). Furthermore, Bandura's Social Learning Theory believed that exposure of young adults to acts of vigilantism, could be more likely to lead to a process of learning and imitation, and finally the acceptance of vigilante actions as a normal means of combating crime (Van Ginneken, 1992). This opinion was supported by Madienyane (2013) who asserted that adolescents, who are often exposed to vigilante activities, adapt to the violence in such a way that they become impulsive.

4.1.2.37. In your opinion what are the consequences of vigilante activities in this area?

The findings are presented in Table 4.37

Table 4.37: Respondents' opinion on the consequences of vigilante activities in New Brighton

Meta Theme	No. of participants	Percentage
Lead to further crime because of revenge	26	52%
Promote brutality and violent behavior	9	18%
Vigilantes sometimes got arrested and leave their families suffering	7	14%
Reinforce mistrust between the	6	12%

communities and individuals		
Have no negative consequences in the area.	2	4%
Total	**50**	**100**

In this section of analysis, fifty two percent (52%) or (26) of the participants reported that vigilante activities led to further crime in their respective areas, because of revenge. Eighteen percent (18%) or (9) of the respondents asserted that vigilante actions had promoted brutality and violence, in their respective areas. Alternatively, fourteen percent (14%) or (7) of the sample indicated that perpetrators of vigilantism sometimes got arrested, and leave their families suffering because they were the breadwinners of the households. Other responses included, vigilante activities had reinforced mistrust between their communities and individuals and this was stated by twelve percent (12%) or (6) of the respondents. Four percent (4%) or (2) of the sampled participants pointed out that vigilantism had no negative consequences, in their respective areas.

Oomen (1999) argued that vigilantism provoked revenge and initiates a cycle of interpersonal violence and vigilantism, because its actions are motivated by emotions, rather than logical or rational thinking. The cited author added that acts of vigilantism reinforce mistrust and tensions within and between communities. Levine (2011) claimed that vigilante activities created a culture of fear, and rejected personal responsibility for violent acts that are committed in the name of justice. He further posited that ‘a kind of moral diffusion of individual responsibility occurs in a crowd when they commit acts of ‘mob justice’ (Levine, 2011).

4.1.2.38. Are there any vigilante groups you know that are operating in this area?

The findings are presented in Table 4.38

Table 4.38: Participants' views on vigilante groups they know that are operating in New Brighton

Meta Theme	No. of participants	Percentage
There are no vigilante groups	43	86%
There are some vigilante groups I know (Street committees, Anti-crime committees and '***Pendla***' vigilantes)	7	14%
Total	**50**	**100**

Eighty six percent (86%) or (43) respondents out of the one hundred percent (100%) or 50 reported that there were currently no vigilante groups operating in their respective areas. Fourteen percent (14%) or (7) of the participants indicated that there were some vigilante groups operating in their areas and were called the Street Committee, the Anti-Crime Committee and the '***Pendla'***, who were considered by these respondents to act as vigilantes.

Bundy (2000) indicated that there was a group called '***Iliso lomzi'*** (who acted as vigilantes) and it emerged in more than fifteen urban areas in the Eastern Cape, including New Brighton. The group developed to address the problems of safety and crime, the maintenance of peace and order that resulted from increased urbanization. According to Buur (2006) another group that operated in New Brighton, was called the '***Amadlozi'***. The group developed in 1999 because of the failure of political organizations, state agencies, and the police officers to deal with crimes in local communities.

4.2. Questionnaire to community members of Kwazakhele

A questionnaire was designed and utilized to draw different opinions about vigilante activities from the community members of Kwazakhele. The questionnaire was divided into two sections, section A which contained biographical details of the respondents who participated in this research project, and section B which provided for the responses of participants, about vigilante activities in their community. All the fifty (50) questionnaires distributed were returned.

4.2.1. Section A: Biographical information of the respondents

4.2.1.1. Gender representation of the respondents

The results are presented in Figure 4.8

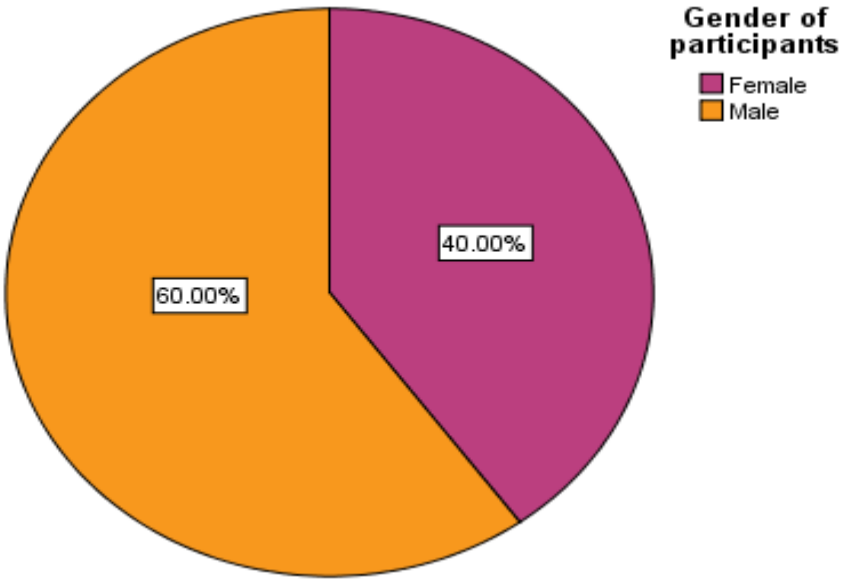

Figure 4.8

The number of females who completed the questionnaires in Kwazakhele was lower than the males. Male respondents were sixty percent (60%) or (30) and female participants were forty percent (40%) or (20) of the sample. The majority of respondents in this section were males. The reason for this is that by the time the researcher was collecting the data, the females were busy with domestic work, and as a result some women were unable to participate in the research project.

When examining the victims of vigilante activities the researcher should consider the gender of the victims. Males are more likely to be victims of vigilante activities as compared to females. The reason is that males are more likely to involve in criminal activities, and generally spend more time in public spaces than women (Buur, 2007).

4.2.1.2. Representation of the age of participants

The results are presented in Figure 4.9

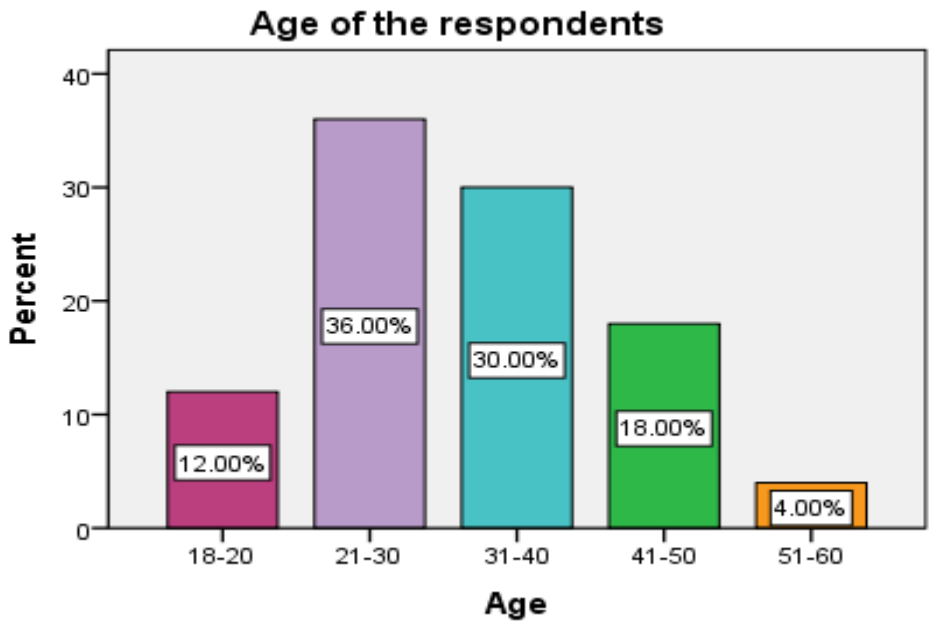

Figure 4.9

The ages of the respondents were categorized into seven (7) groups. Group one (1) ranged from 18-20 years, group two (2) from 21-30 years, group three (3) from 31-40 years, group four (4) from 41-50 years, group five (5) from 51-60, group six (6) from 61-70 years and, lastly, group seven, which ranged from 71 to 80 years. Out of the one hundred percent (100%) or (50) of the respondents, thirty six percent (36%) or (18) the majority of the participants who completed the questionnaires in Kwazakhele, were between the ages of 21-30 years.

Thirty percent (30%) or (15) of the sample were between the ages of 31-40 years. Eighteen percent (18%) or (9) of those sampled were between the ages of 41-55 years. However, twelve percent (12%) or (6) were between the ages of 18-20 years and four percent (4%) or (2) were between the ages of 51-60. None of the respondents who were between the ages of 61-70 and 71-80 years completed the questionnaires, because the area is dominated by young adults (Census, 2011). The majority of the respondents who participated in this study were between the ages of 21-30.

Several researchers who conducted research on vigilantism found that the vast majority of the people who are more likely to be victims of vigilante activities are male young adults, because they are more likely to be involved in criminal activities, when compared to other age groups (Jeffery, 2013; Sekhonyane, 2003; Minnaar, 2002).

4.2.1.3. Representation of the race of the respondents

The results are presented in Figure 4.10

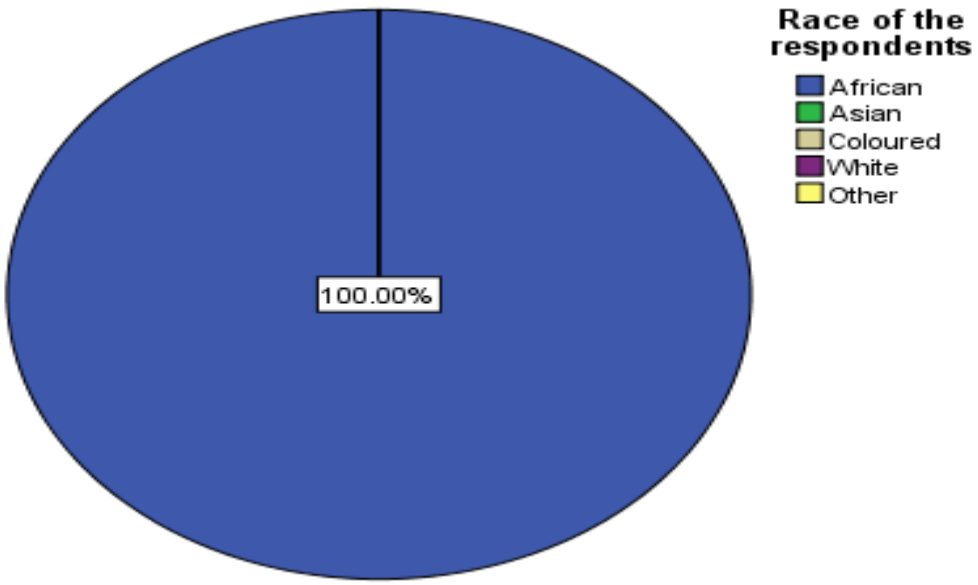

Figure 4.10

The race of the respondents was categorized into five (5) groups. Group one (1) was for Africans, group two (2) was for Asians, group three (3) was for Coloureds, group four was for Whites (4) and the last group, which is group five (5) was for the other races not mentioned in these groups. All the respondents who participated to this research were Africans. The reason is that the area is dominated by Africans.

4.2.1.4. Representation of marital status of the respondents

The results are presented in Figure 4.11

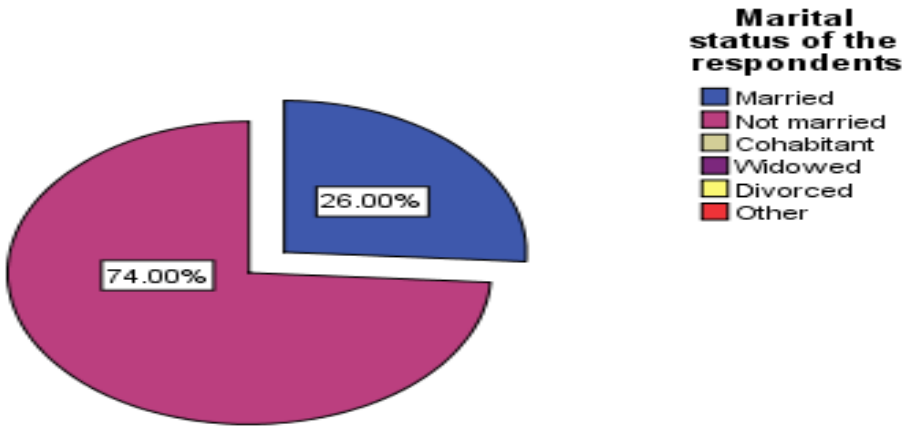

Figure 4.11

The marital status of the participants was categorized into six groups as demonstrated in Figure 4.11. Group one (1) was for those who were married, group two (2) for those who were not married; group three (3) was for those who were cohabitating. The fourth (4) group was for those respondents who had been widowed, the fifth (5) group was for those who were divorced and the sixth group (6) was for other marital statuses not mentioned in these categories.

Out of the fifty (50) or one hundred percent (100%) of the participants, thirty seven (37) or seventy four percent (74%) of the respondents were single or not married. Thirteen (13) or twenty six percent (26%) of the sample were married. None of the participants were widowed, divorced or cohabitating took part in the research project.

4.2.1.5. Illustration of the school background of participants

The results are presented in Figure 4.12

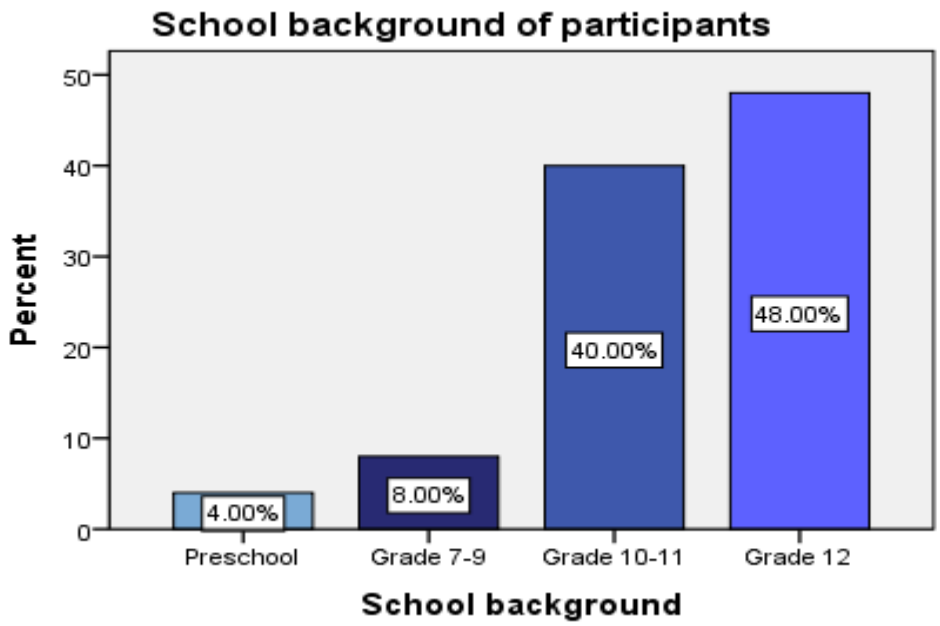

Figure 4.12

Out of the one hundred percent (100%) or (50) of the respondents who participated in this research in Kwazakhele, forty eight percent (48%) or (24) of the participants had obtained a Standard 10 Certificate, with some managing to complete Grade 12. However, forty percent (40%) or (20) of the respondents had obtained Grades 10-11. Eight percent (8%) or (4) of the sample had obtained Grades 7-9 while four percent (4%) or (2) of the sample had only obtained a primary education.

Difficulties in school may be the best predictor of criminality in South Africa (Buikhusen and Mednick, 1988; Buur, 2007). The previous authors found that the people who do well academically in school and those who regularly attend school are far less likely to be victims of vigilante activities.

At the same time, are less likely to become connected to incidents of vigilantism (either as a victim or perpetrator), as compared to those who do not succeed in school and those who do not regularly attend school.

4.2.1.6. Illustration of the vocational status of the participants

The findings are presented in Figure 4.13

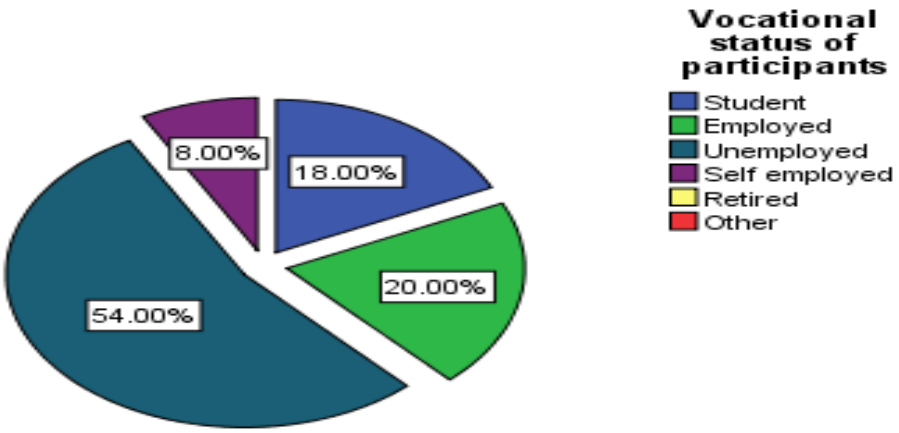

Figure 4.13

The vocational status of the participants was categorized into six groups (6) as illustrated in figure 4.13. The first (1) group was for the respondents who were current studying, and the second (2) group was for people who were employed.

The third (3) group was for those who were unemployed and the fourth (4) group was for those who were self-employed. The second last group was, which is the fifth (5) group was for those who have been pensioned off. The last group, which is the sixth (6) group was for any other occupations not mentioned in these categories.

From the one hundred percent (100%) or (50) of the sampled respondents, fifty four percent (54%) or (27) of the participants were unemployed. Twenty percent (20%) or (10) of the sample were fully employed and eighteen percent (18%) or (9) of the participants were students. Nevertheless, only eight percent (8%) or (4) of the respondents were self-employed and none of the sample participated were getting pensions, or other social grants.

Several authors found a relationship between vocational status and being a victim of vigilante activity (Minnaar, 2002; Sekhonyane, 2003). However, Buikhusen and Mednick (1988) postulated that unemployment and crime go hand in hand. Greater clarity on this position was suggested by Jeffery (2013) who argued that because of unemployment, some people became involved in criminal activities and consequently, become victims of vigilantism. Furthermore, Buur (2007) asserted that people who are unemployed are more likely to become connected in vigilante occurrences because they have nothing to do.

4.2.1.7. Illustration of the total household income of the respondents

The findings are presented in Figure 4.14

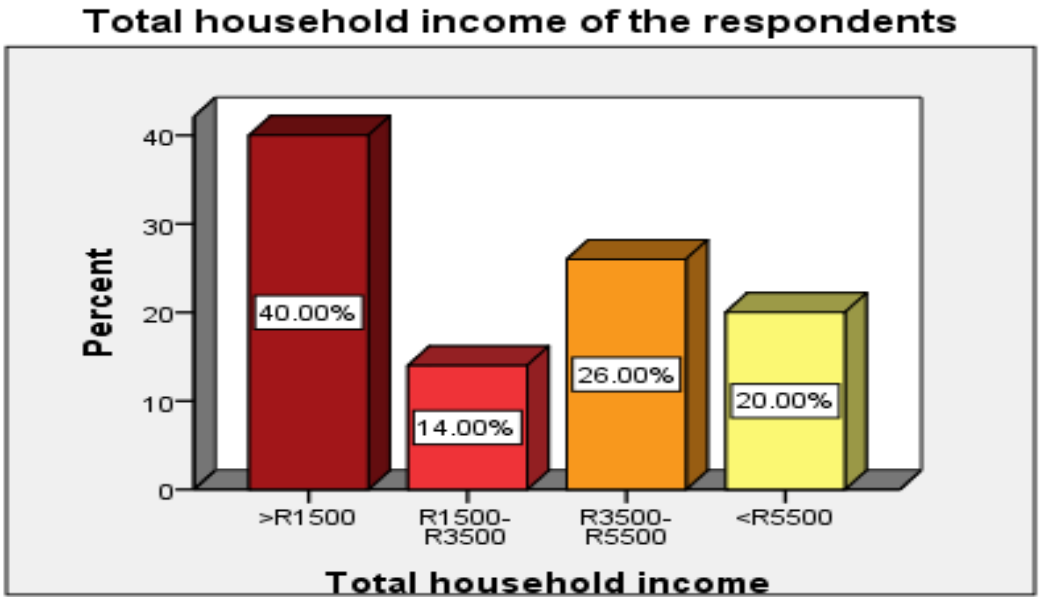

Figure 4.14

Of the one hundred percent (100%) or (50) of the respondents who participated in this research on vigilante actions in Kwazakhele, forty percent (40%) or (20) of the participants' total household earned less than R1500.00 each month. Twenty six percent (26%) or (13) of the samples' total household earned between R3500-R5500 per month, and twenty percent (20%) or (10) of the participants' total household earned more than R5500.00 per month. Fourteen percent (14%) or (7) of the respondents,' total household earned between R1500- R3500 per month.

A positive relationship between people's total household income and their involvement in criminal activities was demonstrated by several authors (Jeffery, 2013; Buur, 2007). The cited authors suggested that lower income earners are more likely to be victims of vigilantism, than higher income earners because they have limited means, and unlimited wants, and often resort to criminal enterprises.

4.2.2. Section B: Responses to open and closed-ended questions contained in the questionnaire

This section outlines and describes the responses, which the researcher obtained from the community members. The open-ended and closed-ended questions are examined.

4.2.2.1. What do you think is an act of vigilantism (mob justice)?

The findings are presented in the Table 4:3

Table 4.39: Thoughts of participants about vigilantism

Meta Theme	No. of participants	Percentage
It is a group of people who take the law into their own hands	30	60%
It is an illegal activity that is perpetrated by members of the community because of the police officers who do not do their job	10	20%
It is an action where by the community members take the law into their own hands and administer their own punishment on alleged societal criminals.	5	10%
It is a form of punishment of alleged criminals by a group of people in a community because of the failure of the criminal justice system as whole to deal with criminals.	5	10%
Total	**50**	**100**

Sixty percent (60%) or (30) of the respondents stated that 'mob justice' was a group of people who take the law into their own hands. Twenty percent (20%) or (10) of the participants thought that vigilantism or so-called 'mob justice' was an illegal activity that was perpetrated by members of the community because of the police officers who are not doing their job. Ten percent (10%) or (5) thought that it was an action where the community members take the law into their own hands and administer their own punishment, on alleged societal criminals. The other ten percent (10%) or (5) of the respondents conceptualized vigilantism as a form of punishment of alleged criminals by a group of people in a community because of the failure of the criminal justice system as whole, to deal with criminals.

According to Johnson (1996) vigilantism is an action that is carried out against perceived criminals by a group of people in a community that attempts to increase the safety of their communities, as the State is regarded as incapable, ineffective or unwilling to police the community with efficacy.

4.2.2.2. Do you think there has been increase in vigilante activity in this area since 1994?

The findings are presented in the Table 4.40

Table 4.40: The respondents' perceptions on the increase in vigilante activity in Kwazakhele since 1994

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	18	36.0	36.0	36.0
	No	17	34.0	34.0	70.0
	Don't know	15	30.0	30.0	100.0
	Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Form the one hundred percent (100%) or (50) of the respondents who participated in this study, thirty six percent (36%) or (18) of the sample agreed that there had been an increase in vigilante activity in their respective areas since 1994, while thirty four percent (34%) or (17) of the participants disagreed. Thirty percent (30%) or (15) of the respondents were not sure about the answer to this question. The vast majority of the respondents agreed that there had been an increase in vigilante actions, in their respective areas since 1994.

4.2.2.3. Do you think there has been increase in vigilante activity in this area since 2000?

The findings are presented in the Table 4.41

Table 4.41: The respondents' views on the increase in vigilante activity in Kwazakhele since 2000

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	32	64.0	64.0	64.0
	No	10	20.0	20.0	84.0
	Don't know	8	16.0	16.0	100.0
	Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Out of the one hundred percent (100%), the majority sixty four percent (64%) or (32) of the respondents agreed that there had been an increase in vigilante activity, in their respective areas since 2000. Twenty percent (20%) or (10) of the sampled participants thought that there had not been an increase in vigilante actions in their respective areas while, sixteen percent (16%) or (8) of the sample were not sure whether there had been an increase, or not. The majority of the respondents' perception was that there had been an increase in vigilante activity in their area since 2000.

4.2.2.4. Do you think there has been increase in vigilante activity in this area since 2010?

The findings are presented in the Table 4.42

Table 4.42: **The respondents' opinions on the increase in vigilante activity in Kwazakhele since 2010**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	42	84.0	84.0	84.0
	No	8	16.0	16.0	100.0
	Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Eighty two percent (82%) or (42) of the participants thought that there had been an increase in vigilante activity in their respective areas since 2010. Only sixteen percent (16%) or (8) of the respondents reported that there had not been an increase in vigilante actions in their respective areas since 2010.

The majority of the participants agreed that there had been an increase in vigilante actions in their respective areas since 2010.

These findings demonstrate that the township of Kwazakhele has experienced numerous incidents of vigilantism. Literature suggests that vigilantism is common in townships of Port Elizabeth to the extent that it is threatening the communities it aims to protect (Madienyane, 2013). There are no SAPS official crime statistics on vigilante activities, because most of the incidents of vigilantism are not reported to the police officers, and those that are reported, are not officially recorded because of lack of evidence against the perpetrators (http://www.crimestatssa.com).

4.2.2.5. Has there ever been an incident of vigilante activity in the area where you live?

The findings are presented in the Table 4.43

Table 4.43: The participants' views on the incidents of vigilante activity in Kwazakhele

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	50	100.0	100.0	100.0

All the participants (100%) or (50) of the respondents to this question agreed that there had been an incident of vigilante action, in their respective areas.

Buur (2007) indicated that incidents of vigilantism which emerged as a result of high crime rate and the public's perspective of lack of effective policing have become a regular occurrence in many black townships in Port Elizabeth and informal settlements characterized by low socioeconomic status and disorganized community structures.

However, some of the sensationalized reports of vigilante occurrences in these communities were reported by the media in 2011 (http://www.news24.com.html).

4.2.2.6. In your opinion what kinds of crimes are more likely to result in vigilantism in this area?

The findings are presented in the Table 4.44

Table 4.44: Participants' opinions on the kinds of crimes that are more likely to result in vigilantism in Kwazakhele

Meta Theme	No. of participants	Percentage
Rape	15	30%
House breaking	13	26%
Street robbery	12	24%
Murder	4	8%
Theft	4	8%
Armed robbery	2	4%
Total	**50**	**100**

From this section of analysis, rape, house breaking, street robbery, murder, theft and armed robbery were the types of crimes that were reported by participants of Kwazakhele, to more likely to result in acts of vigilantism. However, a significant numbers (30%) or (15) of the respondents reported rape, as the common category of crime, that was more likely to result in acts of vigilantism in their respective areas. This was followed by house breaking with intent to steal and theft. House breaking was the second highest category of crime that was reported by twenty six percent (26%) or (13) of the respondents to more likely to result in vigilantism and street robbery was third highest type of crime and was recorded by twenty four percent (24%) or (12) of the participants, followed by murder that was recorded by eight percent (8%) or (4) of the sample. Theft was also recorded by eight percent (8%) or (4) of the participants.

Finally, armed robbery was reported by minority, four percent (4%) or (2) of the respondents, as the type of crime that would lead people into acts of vigilantism.

According to the Victims of Crime Survey (2013/2014) in the Eastern Cape, housebreaking (4, 7%), home robbery (1, 6%) and theft of livestock (1, 4%) were the crimes that were mostly experienced by households during the period April 2012 to February 2014. However, theft of personal property was the most prevalent crime experienced by individuals (2, 4%).

4.2.2.7. If there has been an incident of vigilantism in your area when did the last act of vigilantism take place?

The findings are presented in the Table 4.45

Table 4.45: Respondents' views on the last occurrence of vigilante activities in Kwazakhele

Meta Theme	No. of participants	Percentage
2015	24	48%
2014	15	30%
2012	4	8%
2010	3	6%
2008	4	8%
Total	**50**	**100**

Forty eight percent (48%) or (24) out of the one hundred percent (100%) or (50) of the participants, who reported that there had been an incident of vigilantism in their respective areas, stated that the last act of vigilantism occurred, recently this year (2015). Thirty percent (30%) or (15) of the respondents reported that the last act of vigilantism occurred in 2014, in their respective areas.

Eight percent (8%) or (4) of the participants stated that there had been an incident of vigilantism, in their respective areas in 2012. Other respondents asserted that, the last incident of vigilantism occurred in 2008 in their respective areas. This was only reported by eight percent (8%) or (4) of the sample. Six percent (6%) or (3) of the participants stated that the last incident of vigilantism in their respective areas, occurred in 2010. These findings demonstrate that incidents of 'mob justice' in Kwazakhele Township are on increase and are increasing instead of decreasing.

4.2.2.8. Can you describe what happened to the victim/victims during the incident?

The findings are presented in the Table 4.46

Table 4.46: Respondents' perceptions on the description of what happened to the victim/victims during the incident of vigilantism in their area

Meta Theme	No. of participants	Percentage
The victims known as criminals were severely beaten and others died, were alleged to have broken into houses.	16	32%
The victims were beaten, were accused to have robbed people several times in their area.	12	24%
The victims were beaten by vigilantes, were accused to have stolen a gate yard and others were accused to have stolen money.	11	22%
The victim was beaten to death was accused to have raped a little girl.	7	14%
The victim was beaten to death, was accused for raping an old woman.	4	8%
Total	**50**	**100**

Thirty two percent (32%) or (16) of the respondents indicated that the victims of vigilante action during the incident were severely beaten, others were beaten to death (3) were alleged to have broken into houses. Twenty four percent (24%) or (12) of the participants reported that the victims were badly beaten were accused to have robbed people, in their respective areas. Twenty two percent (22%) or (11) of the sample averred that on the last occurrence of vigilantism they remember, the victims were beaten by community members and were alleged to have stolen a yard gate, and others were accused of having stolen money. Fourteen percent (14%) or (7) of the participants asserted that the victims of vigilante actions were beaten and burnt to death (2) and were alleged to have raped a little girl. Finally, eight percent (8%) or (4) of the sample reported that the victim of vigilante activity was beaten to death (1), was accused for raping an old woman.

Minnaar (2001) argued that vigilantism metamorphosed into different forms in South Africa. These ranged from burning, stoning, necklacing, shooting, beating, lynching and chasing away the wrongdoers. Jeffery (2013) in his findings asserted that at times the perpetrators of vigilantism often threw the stones at the victims, until death occurred.

4.2.2.9. Do you know the gender of the victim/victims?

The findings are presented in the Table 4.47

Table 4.47: Participants' opinions on the gender of victim/victims

Meta Theme	**No. of participants**	**Percentage**
Male	50	100%
Total	**50**	**100**

All the respondents stated that to all the vigilante activities that occurred in their respective areas, males were the victims of vigilantism. The majority of the victims were between 18 and 30 years.

Buur (2007) found a relationship between gender and the victims of vigilante activities. The previously mentioned author argued that males are more likely to be victims of vigilante activities as compared to females, because they are more likely to involve in criminal activities.

4.2.2.10. Do you know the age of the victim/victims?

The findings are presented in the Table 4.48

Table 4.48: Participants' views on the age of victim/victims

Meta Theme	No. of participants	Percentage
18-30	36	72%
31-40	11	22%
41-50	3	6%
Total	**50**	**100**

Out of the one hundred percent (100%) or (50) of the respondents who participated in this research, seventy two percent (72%) or (36) of the participants asserted that the victims of vigilante actions were between the ages of 18-30 years. While, twenty two percent (22%) or (11) of the respondents indicated that the victims were between the ages of 31-40 years. Finally, six percent (6%) or (3) of the respondents stated that the victims were between the ages of 41-50 years-old.

A close correlation was found by Jeffery (2013) between the victims of vigilante activities and the age.

The author discovered that people who were likely to be victims of vigilante actions were male young adults because of the fact that they were more likely to involve themselves in criminal activities, when compared to adult males.

4.2.2.11. Did the police intervene?

The findings are presented in the Table 4.49

Table 4.49: Opinions of respondents on involvement of police officers in vigilante activities

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	34	68.0	68.0	68.0
	No	10	20.0	20.0	88.0
	Don't know	6	12.0	12.0	100.0
	Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Out of the one hundred percent (100%) or (50) of the participants, sixty eight (68%) or (34) of the sample reported that the police officers did attend the scene at the incidents of vigilantism that happened, in their respective areas. Alternatively, twenty percent (20%) or (10) of the respondents reported that the police officers did not attend the scene of crimes in vigilante activities that occurred in their areas. Twelve percent (12%) or (6) did not know how to answer this particular question.

Majority of the respondents agreed that police officers did attend the scene at the incidents of vigilantism that occurred in their respective areas.

4.2.2.12. Were there any children and women involved as perpetrators in such incidents?

The findings are presented in Table 4.50

Table 4.50: Respondents' views on the involvement of children and women in vigilante occurrences

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	40	80.0	80.0	80.0
	No	5	10.0	10.0	90.0
	Don't know	5	10.0	10.0	100.0
	Total	50	100.0	100.0	

In this section, eighty percent (80%) or (40) of the respondents reported that women and children were involved as perpetrators in vigilante activities that had occurred, in their respective areas. Ten percent (10%) or (5) of the sample stated that they were no women and children who were involved as perpetrators in the vigilante actions that occurred in their respective areas. While the other ten percent (10%) or (5) of the participants did not know what to say, and were not sure whether the women and children were involved or not. The view of the majority of the respondents was that women and children were involved as perpetrators in vigilante actions that had occurred, in their respective areas.

Minnaar (2002) in his research postulated that women were more likely to participate in vigilante actions when compared to men. The reasons for this gender difference were because women and girls were more likely to be victims of crime (murder, sexual assault and rape). The author also found that children were more likely to be observers, rather than perpetrators in most of the cases when there was vigilante action occurring.

4.2.2.13. Was the occurrence reported to the police?

The findings are presented in Table 4.51

Table 4.51: Report of the incidents of vigilantism to the police officers

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	30	60.0	60.0	60.0
	No	18	36.0	36.0	96.0
	Don't know	2	4.0	4.0	100.0
	Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Sixty percent (60%) or (30) of the participants reported that the vigilante actions that occurred in their respective areas, were reported to the SAPS. Thirty six percent (36%) or (18) of the respondents asserted that the incidents of vigilantism that occurred in their respective areas were not reported to the police. Only four percent (4%) or (2) of participants were not sure about the answer to this question.

Minnaar (2002) in his findings posited that incidents of vigilante actions were not more likely to be reported to the SAPS. The above author asserted that in some cases, the police only received an anonymous phone call from a member of the public, telling them where they could find the dead body, or badly injured victim.

4.2.2.14. In your opinion are the perpetrators of vigilantism more likely to be caught by police officers in this area?

The findings are presented in Table 4.52

Table 4.52: Views on caught of perpetrators of vigilantism by police officers in Kwazakhele

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	3	6.0	6.0	6.0
	No	42	84.0	84.0	90.0
	Don't know	5	10.0	10.0	100.0
	Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Eighty four percent (84%) or (42) of the participants reported that perpetrators of vigilante actions were not likely to be caught by police officers while; ten percent (10%) or (5) of the respondents were not sure how to answer this particular question. Six percent (6%) or (3) of the sample stated that the perpetrators of vigilantism were likely to be caught by police officers, in their respective areas. The perception of the majority of participants was that the perpetrators of vigilante activities were not likely to be caught by police officers, in their respective areas.

The position adopted by Minnaar (2002) argued that perpetrators of vigilantism were not more likely to be caught by police officers. Even though some of the occurrences of vigilante actions were reported to the police, no witnesses came forward, and no sworn affidavits could be obtained, by the police. Therefore, because of a lack of evidence, a considerable number of cases of incidents of vigilantism, did not go to court or were dismissed.

4.2.2.15. Have you ever participated in any vigilante activity?

The findings are presented in the Table 4.53

Table 4.53: Participation of participants in vigilante activities

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	5	10.0	10.0	10.0
	No	45	90.0	90.0	100.0
	Total	50	100.0	100.0	

From the one hundred percent (100%) or (50) of the participants, ninety percent (90%) or (40) stated that they had not participated in any vigilante action while, ten percent (10%) or (5) of the sample indicated that they had taken part in acts of vigilantism. Those who said they had participated indicated that they had been victims of crimes before (direct and indirect).

Jeffery (2013) asserted that most of the times people who are more likely to participate in vigilante actions, are people who have been victims of crimes in the past, where the alleged criminals were never punished.

4.2.2.16. If you have ever participated in any vigilante activity, under what circumstances would you take such action?

The findings are presented in the Table 4:54

Table 4.54: Views of those participants who said they had participated in vigilante activity

Meta Theme	**No. of participants**	**Percentage**
To get back the stolen property because the police didn't follow the case	3	6%
To punish the wrongdoers known as criminals in the area.	2	4%
Total	**5**	**10**

From the ten percent (10%) or (5) of the participants who reported that they had taken part in vigilante actions, six percent (6%) or (3) of the respondents indicated that they did so to get back their stolen property, because the police officers did not follow up their cases. Four percent (4%) or (2) of the participants asserted that they engaged in the vigilante actions to punish the criminals, in their respective areas.

Jeffery (2013) in his study found that people engaged in vigilante actions because they are saying it is pointless to hand over a suspected criminal to the police for the reason that they will not bring offender to justice. Some of the participants in the cited author's study reported that "the suspected criminals are arrested today and come out the next day and commit the crimes again, so we got tired of opening cases that never go anywhere and if the situation remains like this, then we will do this again because we got rid of the problem for good".

4.2.2.17. If you have never participated in any vigilante activity, would consider participating?

The findings are presented in the Table 4.55.

Table 4.55: Opinions of those participants who said they would consider participating in vigilante activity

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	14	28.0	31.1	31.1
	No	26	52.0	57.8	88.9
	Don't know	5	10.0	11.1	100.0
	Total	45	90.0	100.0	
Missing	System	5	10.0		
Total		50	100.0		

In this section, out of the ninety percent (90%) or (45) of the respondents who indicated that they had not participated in vigilante activity, fifty two percent (52%) or (26) reported that they would not consider participating in any vigilante action, under any circumstances. Twenty eight percent (28%) or (14) of the sample asserted that they would consider participating in this kind of activity. Ten percent (10%) or (5) of the participants were not sure how to answer this particular question, since they had never been victims of crimes before.

4.2.2.18. If you would consider participating, under what circumstances who you take such actions?

The findings are presented in the Table 4:56

Table 4.56: Participation of community members in vigilante activities

Meta Theme	No. of participants	Percentage
If the criminals raped my children, siblings, wives or anyone of my neighbors	7	14%
If criminals broke into my house and the police took a long time to arrive at the crime scene.	5	10%
If criminals robbed me.	2	4%
Total	**14**	**28**

Out of the twenty eight percent (28%) or (14) of those participants who reported that they would consider actually taking part in vigilante action, the vast majority, fourteen percent (14%) or (7) indicated that they would do so, if their children were raped or anyone they know was raped, in their respective areas. However, ten percent (10%) or (5) asserted that they would engage in vigilante activity if criminals broke into their houses and police did not arrive on time at the crime scene.

Four percent (4%) or (2) of the sampled participants indicated that they would participate in vigilante activity, if criminals robbed them.

All the participants who reported that they would consider participating in vigilante activity indicated that they would if they could be victims of crime direct and indirect. Minnaar (2002) indicated significant number of people who become involved in vigilantism, are people who had been victims of crime in the past where alleged criminals were never arrested.

4.2.2.19. Have any members of your household or any one you know ever been participated in any vigilante activity?

The findings are presented in Table 4.57

Table 4.57: Participation of other community members in vigilante activities

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	11	22.0	22.0	22.0
	No	39	78.0	78.0	100.0
	Total	50	100.0	100.0	

The vast majority, seventy eight percent (78%) or (39) of the participants reported that no one they knew had participated in vigilante activity. While twenty two percent (22%) or (11) of the sample, indicated that some of the people that they knew, had been engaged in vigilante activities.

4.2.2.20. Have you ever been a victim of vigilante activity?

The findings are presented in Table 4.58

Table 4.58: Participants as victims of vigilante activities

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	3	6.0	6.0	6.0
	Don't know	47	94.0	94.0	100.0
	Total	50	100.0	100.0	

From the one hundred percent (100%) or (50) of the participants who responded to this question, ninety four percent (94%) or (47) reported that they had not been victims of vigilante actions. This contrasted with six percent (6%) or (3) of the respondents, who claimed that they had been victims of vigilante activities.

The three victims, who reported vigilante actions taken against them, were all males, aged between 18 and 30 years, which mean that youth are more likely to become involved in criminal activities as compared to adults (Cloete and Stevens, 2004).

4.2.2.21. If you have been a victim of vigilante occurrence, when did this happen?

The findings are presented in Table 4:59

Table 4.59: The occurrence of vigilantism on those participants who had been victims of vigilante activity

Meta Theme	**No. of participants**	**Percentage**
2015	1	2%
2008	1	2%
2005	1	2%
Total	**3**	**6**

Of the six percent (6%) or (3) of the sampled participants who reported that they had been victims of vigilante activities, one of them indicated that this had occurred in 2015.

Another respondent reported that the incident occurred in 2005. The third person of the sample asserted that he had been a victim of vigilante actions in 2005.

4.2.2.22. If you have been a victim of vigilante occurrence, can you describe what happened?

The findings are presented in Table 4.60

Table 4.60: The description of what happened to those participants who had been victims of vigilantism

Meta Theme	No. of participants	Percentage
I was severely beaten by vigilantes for breaking into a house in my area	2	4%
I was beaten by vigilantes for murdering my girl-friend accidentally	1	2%
Total	**3**	**6**

From the six percent (6%) or (3) of those sampled who reported that they had been victims of vigilante actions, four percent (4%) or (2) of them stated that they were severely beaten with sjamboks by community members, for breaking into their houses, in their respective areas. Two percent (2%) or one (1) of the participants asserted that he had been badly beaten with knobkerries and stoned for accidentally murdering his girl-friend. All three of the respondents who alleged they were victims of so-called 'mob justice' meted out by members of the community, stated that they had been hospitalized as a result of the assaults on them.

4.2.2.23. Has any person in your family or anyone you know ever been a victim of vigilante activity?

The findings are presented in Table 4.61

Table 4.61: Other community members as victims of vigilante activities

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	18	36.0	36.0	36.0
	No	32	64.0	64.0	100.0
	Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Out of the one hundred percent (100%) or (50) of the participants sampled who responded to this question, six four percent (64%) or (32) reported that there had been no one they knew who had been a victim of vigilante action. While, thirty six percent (36%) or (18) asserted that some people they knew, had been victims of vigilante activities.

4.2.2.24. If anyone you know has been a victim of vigilante activity, when did this happen?

The findings are presented in Table 4.62

Table 4.62: The occurrence of vigilante activity on other community members as victims of vigilante activity

Meta Theme	No. of participants	Percentage
2015	9	18%
2014	3	6%
2012	3	6%
2011	3	6%

Total	**18**	**36**

Out of the thirty six percent (36%) or (18) of the sampled participants who reported that there had been some people they knew who had been victims of vigilante actions. Eighteen percent (18%) or (9) of the respondents indicated that this “action” occurred recently, this year (2015). With the other six percent (6%) or (3) of the sampled participants asserted that this “action” had occurred in the year 2014. Another six percent (6%) or (3) of the respondents stated that the vigilante activity had happened in 2012. However, six percent (6%) or (3) of the sample reported that this activity occurred in 2011.

This demonstrates that the vigilante incidents have become a regular occurrence in in the year 2015 in Kwazakhele.

4.2.2.25. If anyone you know has been a victim of vigilante activity, can you describe what happened?

The findings are presented in Table 4.63

Table 4.63: The description of what happened to the victim/victims of vigilante activity during the incident.

Meta Theme	No. of participants	Percentage
The victims were badly beaten by vigilantes and were accused of having broken into the houses	10	20%
The victims were severely beaten by community members and were accused of having robbed people in the area	5	10%
The victims were badly beaten and were accused of selling drugs in the area.	3	6%

Total	**18**	**36**

From the thirty six percent (36%) or (18) of the sampled respondents who indicated that there had been some people they knew who had been victims of vigilante actions. Twenty percent (20%) or (10) reported that the victims were badly beaten by community members, were accused of having broken into their houses and robbed them of their personal belongings. Furthermore, ten percent (10%) or (5) of the participants indicated that the victims were severely beaten were accused of having robbed people, in their respective areas. Six percent (6%) or (3) of the respondents described the occurrences as follows: the victims of vigilantism were severely beaten by community members, and were accused of selling drugs, in their respective areas.

Many of the incidents of vigilantism that had occurred had been where the alleged societal offenders were caught in the act, and either beaten up, stoned, burnt and killed by angry community members (Jeffery, 2013). This phenomenon as reported upon by Buur (2008) has destroyed many young men's lives and ambitions and it is a paradoxical situation that violates human rights.

4.2.2.26. Which effective preventative measures do you think can be used to reduce vigilante activities?

The findings are presented in Table 4.64

Table 4.64: Opinions of participants on the effective preventative measures that can help to reduce vigilante activities

Meta Theme	No. of participants	Percentage
Government should improve the criminal justice system as a whole	11	22%
Government should enact tough laws on those who break the law	9	18%

Police officers must arrive on time at the crime scene	6	12%
Police officers must patrol or be visible in communities	6	12%
Police officers should work together with the community members	5	10%
Government should stop easy bail conditions for serious crimes	4	8%
People need to be taught on how the criminal justice system works	4	8%
Government should create the job opportunities for youths	3	6%
Government should build more police stations because one police station is not enough for Kwazakheke.	2	4%
Total	**50**	**100**

In this section of the research, twenty percent (22%) or (11) of the respondents recommended that government should improve the criminal justice system as whole in order to reduce vigilante actions. While eighteen percent (18%) or (9) of the participants suggested that government should enact tough laws on offenders. Other responses included: the police officers must arrive on time at the crime scene and this was recommended by twelve percent (12%) or (6) of the participants and another twelve percent (12%) or (6) proposed that the police officers must patrol or be visible in the communities. Ten percent or (10%) or (5) of the respondents proposed that the police officers should work together with the community members to stamp out the acts of vigilantism.

Eight percent (8%) or (4) of the sample indicated that government should put a stop to easy bail conditions, and restrict the use of bail for more serious offences while, another eight percent (8%) or (4) asserted that community members need to be taught on how the criminal justice system operates. Six percent (6%) or (3) of the participants suggested that government should create job opportunities for the youths because they were involved in criminal activities, because of poverty and lack of employment opportunities. Four percent (4%) or (2) of the respondents proposed that government should build more police stations, because one police station was not enough for Kwazakhele community.

Levine (2011) suggested that in order to fight the problem of the ineffectiveness of local justice system, government should enhance the local justice system and demand accountability for the way the local justice system deal with criminals, specifically in townships and rural areas. The improvement of the conviction rate as the other strategy that could help to eliminate vigilante activities was postulated by (Horne, 2007).

Levine (2011) proposed that there is need to prioritize and inject more resources in the police force law and order enforcement operations particularly with regard to enhancing the force's capacity to respond to incidents of vigilantism. The previously cited author added that police posts need to be well funded in order to facilitate at least effective and timely patrolling of communities. Mugunga (2005) proposed that support required ensuring a minimal number of vehicles, communication equipment and even stationery that are indispensable in crime prevention among others should be availed.

4.2.2.27. What do you think might be the cause of young adults/adults to engage in criminal activities in this area?

The findings are presented in Table 4.65

Table 4.65: Participants' perceptions on the causes of young adults to engage in criminal activities in Kwazakhele

Meta Theme	No. of participants	Percentage
Unemployment and poverty	27	54%
Alcohol and drugs	18	36%
They are lazy, they do not want to go to school	3	6%
Peer pressure	2	4%
Total	**50**	**100**

In this section, fifty four percent (54%) or (27) out of the one hundred percent (100%) or (50) of the participants mentioned unemployment and poverty as the main causes of young adults, and adults to become involved in criminal activities, in their respective areas. Thirty six percent (36%) or (18) of the sample proposed that the abuse of drugs and alcohol, often led people to commit crime. Six percent (6%) or (3) of the respondents asserted that the young adults were lazy and they did not want to go to school. Finally, four percent (4%) or (2) of the participants reported that peer pressure was another cause of young adults to engage in criminal actions or behaviors.

Maree and Prinsloo (2002) posited that the major cause of young adults to become involved in criminal activities is unemployment. Furthermore, Bezuidenhout and Joubert (2008) argued that substance abuse and excessive alcohol use may contribute to violent crimes specifically, if it occurs in a group context where there is strong social pressure to conform to the group's rules/norms, and where there are (gang) rituals.

4.2.2.28. What types of crimes are more likely to be committed by these individuals mentioned above and what do you think is the reason behind this?

The findings are presented in Table 4.66

Table 4.66: The respondents' views on the types of crimes that are more likely to be committed by young adults and their reason for committing those crimes

Meta Theme	No. of participants	Percentage
Street robbery, to buy drugs or alcohol	19	38%
Theft, to buy drugs or alcohol	14	28%
House breaking, to buy drugs or alcohol	12	24%
Rape, intoxicated by drugs or alcohol	5	10%
Total	**50**	**100**

Out of the one hundred percent (100%) or (50) of those sampled, thirty eight percent (38%) or (19) of the respondents to this question, asserted that street robbery was the category of crime that was more likely to be committed by young adults, in their respective areas. While twenty eight percent (28%) or (14) of the participants reported that theft was the most common category of crime committed. Other responses included house breaking and was indicated by twenty four percent (24%) or (12) of the sample. The very serious crime of rape was reported by ten percent (10%) or (5) of the respondents. All those sampled respondents who mentioned street robbery, theft, and house breaking indicated that the motives/reasons of the perpetrators were to buy drugs or alcohol and to support their habit.

Those who mentioned the rapes reported that the perpetrators were driven to commit the offence and were intoxicated by alcohol and drugs, at the time of the offences. According to Cloete and Stevens (2004) youth commit any types of crimes just like adults.

Cited below are the serious SAPS crime statistics for the 2013/2014 financial year in the Eastern Cape:

According to the SAPS ‘crime statistics’ data, murder in the Eastern Cape increased by 3.3% from 3344 in 2012/2013 financial year to 3453 in 2013/14 financial year. Total sexual offences in the province increased by 3.4% from 9 567 in 2012/2013 financial year to 9 897 in 2013/2014 while, robbery worsened by 14.3% jumping from 11 794 cases in the 2012/2013 financial year to 13 485 in 2013/2014.

Robbery at residential premises in the Eastern Cape recorded an 11.5% increase and robbery at non-residential premises increased by 25.6% while, burglaries at non-residential places increased by 1.6%. Burglaries at residential premises fell from 25 902 in the 2012/2013 financial year to 24 750 in 2013/2014. Drug-related crimes increased by 17% in the past financial year, while the illegal possession of firearms saw a 19.8% increase in the past year (http://www.crimestatssa.com).

4.2.2.29. Are there any police officers that are patrolling in this area?

The findings are presented in Table 4.67

Table 4.67: Patrolling of the police officers in Kwazakhele

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	27	54.0	54.0	54.0
	No	23	46.0	46.0	100.0
	Total	50	100.0	100.0	

As illustrated in Table 4.67, fifty four percent (54%) or (27) of the participants reported that there were police officers patrolling in their respective areas. While forty six percent (46%) or (23) of the sample indicated that there were no police officers patrolling, in their respective areas. The opinion of the majority of the respondents was that there were police officers patrolling in their respective areas which also mean that the police officers are trying to reduce crime in Kwazakhele.

4.2.2.30. If there are police officers that are patrolling in your area, at what time?

The findings are presented in Table 4.68

Table 4.68: The time of patrolling of police officers in Kwazakhele

Meta Theme	No. of participants	Percentage
At night	17	34%
In the evening	5	10%
During the day	5	10%
Total	**27**	**54**

From the fifty four percent (54%) or (27) of the sampled respondents who indicated that there were police officers patrolling in their respective areas, thirty four percent (34%) or (17) of the participants reported the police officers were patrolling at night. While, ten percent (10%) or (5) of the sample averred that the police officers patrolled in the evening. Another ten percent (10%) or (5) of the participants asserted that they (the police) patrolled during the day.

4.2.2.31. How far is your nearest police station?

The findings are presented in Table 4.69

Table 4.69: The distant of participants' nearest police station

Meta Theme	No. of participants	Percentage
Less than thirty minutes away using transport	20	40%
More than thirty minutes away using transport	15	30%
Less than five minutes away using transport.	15	30%
Total	**50**	**100**

Forty percent (40%) or (20) of the respondents reported that their nearest police station was less than thirty minutes away using transport. Alternatively, thirty percent (30%) or (15) of the participants recorded that their closest police station was more than thirty minutes away using transport. The other thirty percent (30%) or (15) of the respondents, asserted that their police station was less than five minutes away using transport. All the participants' nearest police station was Kwazakhele police station and the majority of them were not staying far from the police station.

4.2.2.32. How would you rate the condition of the police station?

The findings are presented in Table 4.70.

Table 4.70: Condition of the police station of Kwazakhele

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Good	11	22.0	22.0	22.0
	Acceptable	20	40.0	40.0	62.0
	Poor	19	38.0	38.0	100.0
	Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Out of the one hundred percent (100%) or (50) of the participants, forty percent (40%) or (20) reported that the condition of their police station was acceptable. Thirty eight percent (38%) or (19) of the sample averred that the conditions in their police station were poor. While, twenty two percent (22%) or (11) of the respondents, asserted that the condition of their police station was good.

The findings of this research demonstrate that the condition of Kwazakhele police station is not good. To support the view of participants, the police force without the basic logistics such as transportation facilities and the most update but expensive communication devices cannot effectively combat crime and the increasing 'mob justice' related to it (Mugunga, 2005).

With escalating criminality, especially robberies, the police lack the necessary equipment to respond. Police stations have few phone lines, radio communication facilities and a limited supply of vehicles which may or may not have fuel (Mugunga, 2005).

4.2.2.33. Do you support vigilantism ('mob justice')?

The findings are presented in Table 4.71.

Table 4.71: Support of vigilantism by community members of Kwazakhele

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	19	38.0	38.0	38.0
	No	26	52.0	52.0	90.0
	Don't know	5	10.0	10.0	100.0
	Total	50	100.0	100.0	

The majority, fifty two percent (52%) or (26) of the respondents indicated that they did not support any acts of vigilantism, under any circumstances whatsoever. Thirty eight percent (38%) or (19) proposed that they did support vigilante actions, and ten percent (10%) or (5) reported that they did not know whether they did or did not, because they had not been victims of any crimes.

Jeffery (2013) argued that people who support vigilantism are people who have been victims of crimes in the past, where alleged criminals were never caught.

4.2.2.34. If you support vigilantism please explain why you say you support it?

The findings are presented in Table 4.72

Table 4.72: The views of those participants who said they do support vigilantism

Meta Theme	No. of participants	Percentage
Because police officers are not doing their job properly	9	18%
Because I am tired of the criminals who got arrested today and tomorrow you will see them moving on the streets	7	14%
Because police officers take a long time to arrive at the crime scene.	3	6%
Total	**19**	**38**

From thirty eight percent (38%) or (19) of the participants who reported that they do support vigilantism, eighteen percent (18%) or (9) of the sample asserted that they did so, because police officers are not doing their jobs properly. Fourteen percent (14%) or (7) of the sample confirmed that they supported vigilantism because they were tired of criminals who 'got arrested today and tomorrow you will see them moving on the streets.' Six percent (6%) or (3) of the respondents asserted that they supported vigilantism, because police officers take a long time to arrive at a crime scene.

Harris (2001) postulated that community members supported vigilante actions because they felt that it was not fair that the alleged criminals should be released with minimum sentences and given bail. However, significant numbers of the people as indicated by Seekings (2001) predict incidents of vigilantism that are motivated by perceived failings of the criminal justice system, as well as being symbolic of ineffective policing.

4.2.2.35. In your opinion what are the motives of individuals/communities who take the law into their own hands?

The findings are presented in Table 4.73

Table 4.73: Participants' opinions on the motives of individuals who take the law into their own hands

Meta Theme	No. of participants	Percentage
Ineffectiveness of visible policing	22	44%
Easy bail conditions	12	24%
Frustration and anger	6	12%
Lack of visible policing	5	10%
Community members do not know how the justice system operates.	5	10%
Total	**50**	**100**

When the participants were asked this question, out of the one hundred percent (100%) or (50) of the respondents, forty four percent (44%) or (22) of the sample reported the ineffectiveness of visible policing as one of the main motives of communities who take the law into their own hands, and commit acts of 'mob justice'. Twenty four percent (24%) or (12) of the participants averred that easy bail conditions were the reason. While twelve percent (12%) or (6) recorded the high degree of frustration and anger of the community members who did not see the criminals being arrested, as behind the motives that had driven many community members to commit acts of vigilantism. Ten percent (10%) or (5) of the respondents confirmed that the lack of visible policing was the cause of vigilante acts. However, the other ten percent (10%) or (5) of the sample reported that a lack of information on how the criminal justice system operates, was a main cause of vigilante actions.

Barron and Madden (2004) indicated that failure of the legal system and specifically the police officers is what drives people to commit acts of 'mob justice'. The police officers, as pointed out by the previously cited authors who suggested as being 'understaffed, under resourced and unresponsive'. However, Harris (2001) argued that the bail conditions were confirmed as a major factor behind vigilante activities. It was interpreted as a space in which criminals were able to come back to their communities, show off their freedom, threaten their victims and continue again with their criminal actions.

The previously cited author further asserted that vigilantism is described as a demonstration of emotion, motivated by frustration and disappointment. Therefore, from this perspective, vigilantism is not only about depression of seeing individuals who were arrested for serious crimes moving on the streets but also represents a high degree of dissatisfaction with the justice system, and disappointment with democratic government (Harris, 2001).

4.2.2.36. In your opinion what impact do vigilante incidents have in this area?

The findings are presented in Table 4.74

Table 4.74: Participants' opinion on the impact of vigilante activities in Kwazakhele

Meta Theme	No. of participants	Percentage
Vigilante activities affect children (psychologically, socially, emotionally, and academically).	23	46%
Vigilante occurrences cause fear in my area especially in our parents	14	28%
Creates more violence	10	20%
Has no negative impact in my community	3	6%
Total	**50**	**100**

Out of the one hundred percent (100%) or (50) of the participants, significant numbers of the respondents, forty six percent (46%) or (23) reported that vigilante activities had affected children in their areas (psychologically, socially, emotionally and academically). The respondents confirmed that these vigilante activities also taught their children violence because they imitate what they saw and thought that it is a 'normal' way of dealing with problems. However, twenty eight percent (28%) or (14) of the respondents indicated that vigilante actions had caused fear in their respective areas, specifically its effect on their parents. Twenty percent (20%) or (10) of the sample asserted that vigilante activities had created more violence in their respective areas, while six percent (6%) or (3) of the participants pointed out that vigilante actions had no negative effects in their communities.

Madienyane (2013) postulated that growing up in a climate of widespread fear of the incidents of vigilantism, in which children and youths learned how to live and how to cope, was a great concern. Greater clarity on this opinion was provided by Baker (2002) who stressed that the concern was that children exposed to on-going vigilante actions could become violent in their adulthood, and be emotionally and psychologically damaged by their experiences. In particular these vigilante activities have a negative influence on children's lives, on their sense of morality, and the value they place on human life. The previously mentioned author pointed out that anxiety and depression were some of the major effects of the exposure of children to vigilante actions (Madienyane, 2013)

Sutherland's Differential Association Theory described and defined criminal behavior as learned behavior, similar to any other learned behavior. This theory emphasized that individuals who grow up in a community where 'mob justice' occurs, may be more likely to learn violent and aggressive behavior through communication and close association with other individuals who are perpetrators of 'mob justice' and consequently, possibly become persons who commit acts of vigilantism themselves (Sutherland and Cressey, 1974).

Furthermore, Bandura's Social Learning Theory believed that exposure of young adults to acts of vigilantism, could more likely to lead to a process of learning and imitation (conditioning), and finally the acceptance of vigilante actions as a normal means of combating crime (Van Ginneken, 1992). This opinion was supported by Madienyane (2013) who asserted that adolescents, who are often exposed to vigilante activities, adapt to the violence in such a way that they can become impulsive, as well as violent and aggressive.

4.2.2.37. In your opinion what are the consequences of vigilante activities in this area?

The findings are presented in Table 4.75

Table 4.75: Respondents' opinion on the consequences of vigilante activities in Kwazakhele

Meta Theme	No. of participants	Percentage
Lead to further crime because of revenge	22	44%
Promote brutality and violent behavior	14	28%
Vigilantes sometimes murdered bread winners and leave their families suffering	8	16%
Vigilantes sometimes got arrested and leave their families suffering	3	6%
Vigilantism have no negative consequences in my area	3	6%
Total	**50**	**100**

In this section of analysis, forty four percent (44%) or (22) of the participants reported that vigilante activities led to further crime in their respective areas, because of revenge.

Twenty eight percent (28%) or (14) of the respondents asserted that vigilante actions had promoted brutality and violence, in their areas. Alternatively, sixteen percent (16%) or (8) of the sample indicated that perpetrators of vigilantism sometimes murdered bread winners and leave their families suffering (financially) because they were the breadwinners. Other responses included, perpetrators of vigilantism 'sometimes got arrested, and leave their families suffering because they were the breadwinners of the households' and this was confirmed by six percent (6%) or (3) of the respondents. The other six percent (6%) or (3) of the sampled participants pointed out that vigilantism had no negative consequences, in their respective areas.

Levine (2011) claimed that vigilante activities or so-called 'mob justice' spread a cycle of violence, created a culture of fear, and rejected personal responsibility for violent acts that are committed in the name of justice. He further posited that 'a kind of moral diffusion of individual responsibility occurs in a crowd when they commit acts of 'mob justice' (Levine, 2011). Cloete and Stevens (2004) added that the victims' family or relatives may become further harmed and suffer financial problems, where the victim of vigilante justice, was the bread winner of the household.

4.2.2.38. Are there any vigilante groups you know that are operating in this area?

The findings are presented in Table 4.76

Table 4.76: Participants' views on vigilante groups they know that are operating in Kwazakhele

Meta Theme	No. of participants	Percentage
There are no vigilante groups	46	92%
There are some vigilante groups I know (***Amachaka*** and Young Devils)	4	8%
Total	**50**	**100**

Ninety two percent (92%) or (42) respondents out of the one hundred percent (100%) or 50 reported that there were currently no vigilante groups operating in their respective areas. Eight percent (8%) or (4) of the participants indicated that there were some vigilante groups operating in their areas and were called the 'Young Devils' and the '***Amachaka***,' who were considered by these respondents to act as vigilantes.

4.3. Comparison between communities

In both communities (Kwazakhele and New Brighton) significant numbers of the participants who responded in the study were males and the majority of them were between the ages of 21-30, followed by respondents between the ages of 31-40. All the research subjects in both communities were black Africans. However, in both communities, significant numbers of the participants who took part in this research were single, unemployed and their total household income was less than R1500 each month. When comparing and contrasting the educational background of the two (2) samples, in Kwazakhele the majority of the sampled participants had obtained Standard 10 with some managing to complete Grade 12 while, the significant majority in New Brighton had obtained Grade 10-11.

Upon considering the demographics of the two selected townships, it is evident that the population is relatively young and that the majority of the youth are blacks. Poverty and unemployment are major problems experienced by the people residing in the townships and that there are plenty of informal settlements and backyard shacks for mainly younger individuals, who cannot meet the expense of establishing their own families' residences. As a result, a significant number of these young adults engage in criminal or illegal activities because of poverty and unemployment (http://www.census2011.hmtl).

When the participants were asked whether there has been an increase in vigilante activities in their areas since 1994, some participants in Kwazakhele agreed that there had been an increase in vigilante actions in their respective areas since 1994. Some of them reported that there had not been an increase in vigilante actions.

In New Brighton, respondents confirmed that there had not been an increase. However, in both Kwazakhele and New Brighton communities the respondents reported that there had been an increase in vigilante actions, in their areas since 2000 and 2010 and all the sampled participants indicated that there had been at least one incident of vigilante activity, in their respective areas. This means that 'mob justice' became to be prevalent in these communities in 2000.

In both communities, the common categories of crimes that were reported by the majority of participants to more likely to result in vigilante activities were the following crimes: rape, house breaking and robbery. Additionally, in both communities significant numbers of the participants, who reported that there had been an incident of vigilantism in their respective areas, asserted that the last act of vigilantism occurred, recently this year (2015). Other respondents from Kwazakhele asserted that the last incident of vigilantism occurred in 2014 while; others in New Brighton stated that the last act of vigilantism in their respective areas occurred in 2013. In both communities the majority of the participants reported that the last incidents of vigilantism that occurred in their areas the victims were severely beaten and others were beaten to death, were alleged to have broken into houses.

Other respondents in Kwazakhele asserted that the victims were severely beaten, and were accused of having robbed people, several times. In New Brighton other participants stated that the victims were severely beaten, and other victims were beaten and burnt to death, were alleged to have raped little girls and others for raping an old women. In vigilante activities that occurred in both Kwazakhele and New Brighton communities, significant numbers of the participants indicated that all the vigilante activities that occurred in their areas, males were the victims of so-called 'mob justice' (ages between 18 and 30 years). In both communities the vast majority of the respondents reported that the police officers did attend the scene at the incidents of vigilantism that occurred in their areas.

However, almost all the respondents in both communities confirmed that women and children were involved as perpetrators and bystanders in the vigilante actions that had occurred, in their respective areas. Most of the respondents in both communities also asserted that the vigilante actions that occurred in their respective areas, were reported to the SAPS, but the perpetrators of vigilante actions were not likely to be caught or arrested by police officers. Almost all the respondents in both communities had not participated in any vigilante action.

Moreover, a significant number of the participants asserted that they would not consider participating in any vigilante action, under any circumstances whatsoever. When the respondents in both communities were asked whether any members in their households or anyone they know have ever participated in any vigilante activity, significant numbers of the participants reported that no one they knew had participated in vigilante activity. Furthermore, in both communities almost all the respondents averred that they had not been victims of vigilante actions. The majority of the participants also reported that there had been no one they knew who had been a victim of vigilante action.

In both communities a significant number of the respondents suggested that government should improve the criminal justice system as a whole, in order to reduce and stamp out vigilante activities in their areas. Others in New Brighton proposed that government should create employment opportunities for the youths. While other sampled participants in Kwazakhele asserted that government should enact tough laws on offenders and arrest and detain them. Almost all the respondents in both communities mentioned unemployment, poverty, and alcohol and drugs as the main causes of young adults and adults to become involved in criminal activities. Moreover, in both communities nearly every participant asserted that street robbery and house breaking were the category of crimes that were more likely to be committed by young adults, in their areas. Other respondents in New Brighton stated that rape was the most common category of crime committed. While others in Kwazakhele reported that it was theft.

All the participants indicated that the motives/reasons of the perpetrators were to buy drugs or alcohol to support their addictive habits. Those who reported rapes indicated that the perpetrators were driven to commit the offences and were intoxicated by alcohol and drugs, at the time of the offences. However, in Kwazakhele majority of the respondents reported that there were police officers patrolling in their areas while in New Brighton some participants disagreed. In both communities, significant numbers of the participants asserted that the condition of their respective police stations was acceptable. Significant number of the respondents in both communities also proposed that they did not support any acts of vigilantism, under any circumstances whatsoever.

In both Kwazakhele and New Brighton communities ineffectual policing and easy bail conditions were reported by significant numbers of participants as one of the main motives of communities to take the law into their own hands, and commit acts of 'mob justice'. Others in New Brighton confirmed the high degree of frustration and anger of the community members who did not see the criminals being arrested, as behind the motives that had driven many community members to commit acts of vigilantism. In both communities the respondents also reported that vigilante activities had negatively affected their children, both psychologically, socially, emotionally and academically. Moreover, the participants also indicated that their parents were living in fear because they did not know what would happen to their children.

The respondents in both communities also reported that vigilante activities led to further crime and "acts of brutality" in their respective areas, because of acts of revenge had further promoted brutality and violence. Almost all of the respondents in both communities indicated that there were currently no vigilante groups operating in their respective areas and a few of the participants in New Brighton reported that there were some vigilante groups operating in their areas and were called the Street Committees, Anti-Crime Committees and ***'Pendla'***. In Kwazakhele the participants pointed out that the vigilante groups that were operating in their areas were called ***'Amachaka'*** and 'Young Devils', who were considered by these respondents to act as vigilantes.

4.4. Summary of the chapter

In this chapter, the data which was obtained by means of questionnaires was analyzed. The data interpreted was drawn from the responses of the community members of New Brighton and Kwazakhele. The participants expressed their perceptions, opinions, feelings, attitudes and experiences about the incidents of vigilantism in the selected communities. Interpretations were analyzed against the objectives of the study which were formulated by the researcher in Chapter one. The analysis was presented together with the results and findings of the research. The researcher made comparisons between the two communities. The following chapter, which is the final chapter of the research project, provides an overview of conclusions and recommendations.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5. Introduction

This chapter presents the recommendations and conclusions drawn from the study of vigilante occurrences in two communities in Port Elizabeth and discusses them based on the findings of the research project.

5.1. Research findings in association with the objectives of the study

The objectives of the study were as follows:

5.1.1. To examine the motives of individuals/communities who take the law into their own hands.

This objective was accomplished by asking direct questions to the respondents who participated in this study. The respondents provided different reasons for the individuals/communities who take the law into their own hands. The findings revealed that the ineffectiveness of visible policing, easy bail conditions and frustration and anger of the community members, who did not observe the criminals being arrested, as behind the motives that had driven many community members to commit acts of vigilantism. The study also revealed that vigilantism is an option for vulnerable communities in the face of a high crime rate, an ineffective police service and a law that values the rights of criminals more than those of their victims. However, bail as another cause of ‘mob justice’ is interpreted as a space in which criminals are able to come back to their communities, show off their freedom, threaten their victims and continue again with their criminal actions, and it is seen to be in the interests of criminals rather than the victims, and the community at large.

The study also demonstrated that various people, who had been involved in incidents of 'mob justice,' have in actual fact been victims of crime in the past where the alleged criminal was never caught and because of that they take out their depressed emotions and repressed anger on different alleged societal offenders. The findings also demonstrated that many community members do not know how the justice system works. They don't not understand why some people are released from police custody, and others not. The study confirmed that vigilante activities are a result of lack of understanding and limited appreciation of the principles of the due processes of the South African legal system. The findings also revealed that people become involved in incidents of 'mob justice' due to lack of visibly policing. Finally, the findings of the study demonstrated that people have lost faith in the criminal justice system to handle criminals in an effective way.

5.1.2. To explore the impact of vigilante incidents in communities.

The researcher achieved this objective by conducting an investigation on the impact of vigilante incidents in communities. Respondents provided different opinions on this particular phenomenon. The findings confirmed that vigilante activities had an effect in communities particularly, on children and had affected them both psychologically, socially, emotionally and academically. The study revealed that anxiety and depression were some of the major psychological effects found on children who witnessed acts of vigilantism. The study also confirmed that young adults who grow up in a community where 'mob justice' occurs often may learn violent and aggressive behavior in the community through interaction and association with perpetrators of vigilante activities.

When it comes to socialization these children may become aggressive, cruel and violent in nature with the assumption that violence is the only way of solving problems. The findings of the study also indicated that parents were living in fear because they did not know what would happen to their children, which means that vigilante activities are common in these townships to the extent that are threatening the communities they aim to protect.

The findings also presented that vigilante incidents violated the rights of the accused criminals especial the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty and further these incidents created more violence in these communities through revenge. The study discovered that vigilantism provokes revenge and initiates a cycle of violence, because its actions are motivated by emotions rather than logical or rational thinking. Furthermore, these incidents as revealed by this study also contribute to crime and lawlessness themselves, and in doing so are undermining and threatening the human rights culture upon which the new South African democracy was supposed to be founded.

5.1.3. To ascertain the effective preventative measures that can be utilized to combat vigilantism.

The researcher achieved this objective by asking direct questions to the respondents who participated in this study as illustrated in Table 4. 26 and Table 4. 64. The participants gave several suggestions with regard to the issue of vigilantism. However, the findings demonstrated that in order to reduce vigilante actions in communities, government should improve the criminal justice as a whole. The study demonstrated that there is need to prioritize and inject more resources in the police force law and order enforcement operations particularly with regard to enhancing the force's capacity to respond to incidents of vigilantism.

The findings also confirmed that government should create job opportunities for the youth because others become involved in criminal activities because of poverty, and should enact tough laws on those who break the law. The study confirmed that job creation could help to reduce vigilantism. The study revealed that people become involved in criminal activities, because they have nothing to do as a result they become frustrated and bored. To escape from frustration they reject the socially accepted means of achieving their goals, and look some alternatives means that could help them to achieve their goals.

The findings revealed that police officers must arrive on time at the crime scenes and be visible on communities. The study demonstrated that support required ensuring a minimal number of vehicles, communication equipment and even stationery that are indispensable in crime prevention among others should be availed. Furthermore, the findings also revealed that police officers should work together with the community members in order to stamp out the acts of vigilantism. This could help the police officers to arrest the perpetrators because it's the community members who know these criminals. The findings also demonstrated that Government should stop easy bail conditions for serious crimes as bail is seen as a stumbling block to justice. The study confirmed that South Africans need to be educated about how the formal justice system operates as bail seems to be a problem that is not well understood.

5.2. Recommendations

The researcher discovered that vigilantism is a critical and serious problem that needs to be taken into consideration by everyone as these occurrences brought serious concern in communities. Therefore, it is important for the researcher to come up with recommendations in order to set out the alternative actions that could be implemented based on the findings of the research project. In addition, the recommendations will focus on the strategic plans to deal with the issue of vigilantism, which is caused by high levels of crime in communities. In order to combat vigilante activities, attention needs also to be put an actions that could help to reduce crime, as there would be no or at least, very little acts of vigilantism, if the crime rate was much lower in those affected communities.

The researcher has come up with the following recommendations which can be utilized for further research:

1. Significant numbers of the respondents reported unemployment and poverty, and alcohol and drugs as the main causes of young adults and adults to become involved in criminal activities, in their respective areas.

Therefore, the creation of job opportunities for local people especially young adults in communities is needed as these job opportunities will keep them busy, productive and provide people with financial incentives. When the crime rate decreases, the incidents of vigilantism will also decrease.

2. With the issue of the police officers who did not patrol in communities, the local police station commanders should make sure that the police officers patrol both during day and night, as criminal activities occur at any time, but especially during the hours of darkness.

3. In order to address the issue of ineffective policing as the major motive for the communities who take the law into their own hands, SAPS should make sure that the local police officers get better training, in order for them to be able to handle investigations with efficacy.

4. Local communities need to be taught how policing and the criminal justice system operates, because significant numbers of the people from both communities, do not understand the reasons for the bail system, or why people who are alleged to have committed crimes are released on bail.

5. Communities need to be informed and educated about the impact of vigilante activities and its consequences. Collective criminal conduct by members of the community must be firmly dealt with by the police.

6. Local churches, schools, councilors and SAPS members should gather together and lead the campaign against so-called ‘mob violence’.

7. The Department of Social Development should assist treating the children affected by exposure to vigilante activities and there should be victim support services and trauma counselling for victims of the vigilantes to encourage people to verbalize about their experiences of vigilante incidents.

8. Government should impose a much harsher punishment on those people who are involving in vigilante activities and cases concerning perpetrators of alleged vigilantism should be taken seriously by police officers, and criminal charges laid and prosecuted.

9. Community members should be taught about human rights, the rights that the alleged criminals are entitled to as well as their judicial rights.

10. Government should establish community police forums at all police stations in order to create an active partnership between the police and the community.

There is a need for further research in the area of vigilantism. In the considered opinion of the researcher, the following questions could form the basis of future research:

- What are the challenges faced by authorities in fighting vigilantism?
- Do victims of vigilante activities get any assistance and support from the local government departments?
- How do vigilante activities affect the future of children who live in those communities where 'mob justice' is prevalent?

5.3. Conclusions

The findings of this study indicated that vigilante activities had become a regular occurrence in many communities in Port Elizabeth. Male young adults were the majority of the people who were likely to become victims of vigilantism because of the crimes they commit. However, unemployment, poverty and alcohol and drugs were the main factors that have turn young adults to criminal activities. Vigilante occurrences in Port Elizabeth communities led to further crime because of revenge, and had promoted brutality and violence, in their respective areas. Furthermore, these occurrences of vigilante actions in Port Elizabeth communities had negatively affected children (psychologically, socially, emotionally and academically).

Also the parents and the community as a whole had become affected by the acts of vigilantism. Even though the vigilante actions were prevalent in communities of Port Elizabeth, but it did not mean it was supported by everyone in those communities. As the findings indicated that significant numbers of the people did not support vigilantism what so ever and they only did so because they knew if they did not the communities would rise against and possibly assault them. Significant number of participants proposed that government should improve the criminal justice as a whole in order to reduce vigilantism and as well create jobs for the youth. Other respondents suggested that Government should enact tough laws on those who break the law.

REFERENCES

Abrahams, A. (2010). *A synopsis of urban violence in South Africa*. International Committee of the Red Cross. Vol. 92 (878): p495-519.

Akumu, P. (2011). *Rights commission slams mob justice.* [Online]; Available: http://www.observer.ug [Accessed on 31 March 2015].

Anderson, C. and Stavra, A. (2001). *Youth delinquency and the criminal justice system in Dar es Salaam.* Tanzania, Nairabia. UN Habitat.

Annual crime statistics for the Eastern Cape. (2013/2014). [Online]; Available: http://www.rnews.co.za [Accessed on 30 August 2015].

Attafuah, K. (2008). *Fighting armed robbery in Ghana.* The Justice of Human Rights Institute. Tudu, Abjabeng Road.

Awuni, A. (2007). *Mob justice is a crime*. The Mirror: p35. General Assembly Resolution 49/184, 23, December 1994.

Babbie, E. (2007). *The practice of social research.* 11th Ed. Belmont. Thomson Wadsworth.

Babbie, E., Halley, F. and Zaino, J. (2003). *Adventures in social research: Data analysis using SPSS 11.0/11.5 for Windows.* 5th Ed*.* Thousand Oaks, Ca. Sage Publications Ltd. [Online]; Available: http://www.uvm.edu. [Accessed on 2 June 2016].

Baefele, B. (2006). "*Vigilantism in the Western Cape*"; [online]; Available:http://www.westerncape.gov.za/Text/2006/4/vigilantism_in_the_western_cap. Accessed on 16 November 2014].

Baker, B. (2001). *Taking the law into their own hands: Fighting crime in South Africa.* African Studies Centre, School of International Studies and Law. Coventry University. [Online]; Available: http://www.ecpr.eu [Accessed on 31 March 2015].

Baker, B. (2002). *Living with non-state policing in South Africa: The issues and dilemmas.* Journal of Modern African Studies. Vol. 40 (1): p29-53. [Online]; Available: http://journals.cambridge.org [Accessed on 28 October 2014].

Bandura, A. (1977). *Social learning theory.* Englewood Cliffs, NJ. Prentice Hall. [Online]; Available: http://www.Isrhs.net [Accessed on 11 June 2014].

Bandura, A. (1986). *Social foundations of thought and action: A social cognitive theory*. Englewood Cliffs. NJ. Prentice Hall.

Barron, P. and Madden, D. (2004). *Violence and conflict resolution in non-conflict regions: The case of Lampung, Indonesia.* Mimeo. World Bank, Jakarta. [Online]; Available: http://www.documents.worldbank.org [Accessed on 31 March 2015].

Bezuidenhout, C. and Joubert, S. (2008). *Child and youth misbehavior*. 2nd Ed. Pretoria. Van Schaik Publishers.

Bhorat, T. and Oosthuizen, M. (2006). *Evolution of the labor market: 1995-2002*. In Bhorat, H. and Kanbur, R. (Eds). Poverty and Policy in Post-Apartheid South Africa. Cape Town. HSRC. p143-200.

Bless, C., Higson-Smith, C. and Kagee, A. (2006). *Fundamental of social research methods: An African perspective*. 4th Ed. Cape Town. South Africa. Juta.

Bodenheimer, E. (1962). *Jurisprudence: The philosophy and method of the law*. USA. Harvard University Press. [Online]; Available: http://www.ijhssnet.com [Accessed on 29 May 2016].

Braun, V. and Clarke, V. (2006). *Using thematic analysis in psychology: Qualitative research in psychology*, 3: p77-101. [Online]; Available: http://www.tandfonline.com [Accessed on 31 March 2015].

Brewer, J. (1994). *Black and blue: Policing in South Africa*. Oxford. Clarendon Press.

Brogden, M. and Shearing, C. (1993). *Policing for a new South Africa.* London: Routledge. Democratic Party, 1999. Fight Back for a Better Future: The Democratic Party's Plan for South Africa. Cape Town.

Bruce, D. and Komane, J. (1999). *Taxis, cops and vigilantes: Police attitudes towards street justice*. Crime and Conflict, 17: p39-44.

Buikhuisen, W. and Mednick S. A. (1988). *Explaining criminal behavior*. New York. Library of Congress Cataloguing.

Bundy, C. (2000). *Survival and resistance: Township organization and non-violent direct action in twentieth century South Africa.* In Adler, G and Steinberg, J. (Eds). From Comradeto Citizens. The South African Civics Movement and Transition to Democracy. p26–51. London. Macmillan Press.

Burns, N. and Grove, S. (2001). *The practice of nursing research: Conduct, critique and utilization.* 4th Ed. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. W. B. Saunders.

Buur, L. (2003). *Crime and punishment on the margins of the post-apartheid state.* Anthropology and Humanism . Vol. 28 (1): p23–42.

Buur, L. (2005). *The sovereign outsourced: Local justice and violence in Port Elizabeth*. In Hansen, T. B. and F. Stepputat. (Eds). Sovereign Bodies: Citizens, Migrants, and States in the Postcolonial World. p192–217. Princeton, NJ. Princeton University Press.

Buur, L. (2006). *Reordering society: Vigilantism and expressions of sovereignty in Port Elizabeth's townships.* Development and Change. Vol. 37 (4): p735–757, UK. Blackwell. [Online]; Available: http://www.onlinelibrary.wiley.com [Accessed on 31 March 2015].

Buur, L. (2007). *Fluctuating personhood: Vigilantism and human rights in the Port Elizabeth's townships.* In Pratten, D and Sen, A. (Eds). Global Vigilantes. London and New York. Hurst and Columbia University Press. p127-150.

Buur, L. (2008a). *Fluctuating personhood: Vigilantism and citizenship in Port Elizabeth's townships*. In Pratten, S. and Artyee, S. (Eds). Global Vigilantes. p127-150. New York. Columbia University Press.

Buur, L. and Jensen, S. (2004). '*Introduction: Vigilantism and the policing of everyday life in South Africa'*. African Studies. Vol. 63 (2): p139–52.

Campbell, C. and Meer, T. (nd). *The impact of crime on human rights*. [Online]; Available: http://www.ddp.org.za [Accessed on 31 March 2015].

Cavallaro, J. L. (2003). *Crime*, *public order and human rights*. (Ed). International Council on Human Rights Policy. Geneva.

Cloete, M. G. T. and Stevens, R. (2004). *Introduction to criminology.* 2nd Ed. Southern Africa. Oxford University Press.

Cohen, R. L. (1989). *The legitimacy of vigilantism*. Brigham Young University Law Review, 4: p1261–1276. [Online]; Available: http://www.springerlink.co.za [Accessed on 12 October 2014].

Coleman, M. (1998). *A crime against humanity: Analyzing the repression of the apartheid state*. Braamfontein. HRC. [Online]; Available: http://www.unisa.ac.za [Accessed on 18 May 2014].

Comaroff, J. (1999). *Occult economies and the violence of abstraction: Notes from the South African post colony*. American Ethnologist Vol. 26 (2): p279–303.

Crac, E. (2000). *Abahlali concerned residents against crime (CRAC) Progress report*. New Brighton. CRAC.

Demombynes, G. and Ozler, B. (2006). *Crime and local inequality in South Africa*. In Bhorat, R. and Kanbur, R. Kanbur, Poverty and Policy-Apartheid South Africa. Cape Town. HSRC. p288-320.

De Vos, A. S., Strydom, H., Fouche, C. B. and Delport, C. S. L. (2011). *Research at grass roots for the social sciences and human service professions.* 4th Ed. Pretoria. Van Schaik Publishers.

Eick, V. (2003). (Eds). *New strategies of policing the poor: Berlin's neo-liberal security system.* Policing and Society 13, Vol. 4, December. p365–79. [Online]; Available: http://www.pds.ceu.edu [Accessed on 20 April 2015].

Foddy, W. (1994). *Constructing questions for interviews and questionaires*. Cambridge University Press. [Online]; Available: http://www.icc.leeds.ac.uk. [Accessed on 4 June 2016].

Gibbs, G. R. (2007). *Thematic coding and categorizing: Analyzing qualitative data.* London. SAGE Publications, Ltd.

Glad, R., Stromberg, A. and Westerlund, A. (2010). *Mob justice: A qualitative research regarding vigilante justice in modern Uganda.* Social Work Program Thesis, Gothenburg. University of Gothenburg. [Online]; Available: http://www.chagataikhan.blogspot.com [Accessed on 23 November 2014].

Haefele, B. (2006). *Vigilantism in the Western Cape*. [Online]; Available: http://www.westerncape.gov.za/Text/2006/4/vigilantism_in_the_western_cape [Accessed on 16 November 2014].

Harris, R. (2001). *As for violent crime that is our daily bread: Vigilante violence during South Africa's period of transition*. Violence and Transition Series, Vol. 1, May. [Online]; Available: http://www.csvr.org.za [Accessed on 20 April 2015].

Haysom, N. (1986). *Mabangalala: The rise of right-wing vigilantes in South Africa*. Occasional Paper 10. University of Witwatersrand. Centre for Applied Legal Studies.

Horne, J. S. (2007). *Community justice: A threat or solution to policing.* University of South Africa. [Online]; Available: http://www.dspace3.mak.ac.ug [Accessed on 27 October 2014].

Human Rights Committee of South Africa. (1997). *Dimensions of the continuing violence of Tsolo and Qumbu: Murder, gunrunning, stock-theft and intimidation*. Special Report 4. Braamfontein. Human Rights Committee of South Africa.

Human Rights Watch. (2010). *Mob justice in Burundi: Official complicity and impunity.* New York. Human Rights Watch.

Jeffery, A. (2013). *The rainbow index 2011-2012*: *South African institute of race relations*. Johannesburg. South Africa.

Johnston, J. (1996). *What is vigilantism?* British Journal of Criminology. Vol. 36 (2): p220), Spring Publishers.

Kaufman, J. (1991). *Depressive disorders in maltreated children.* Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Vol. 30 (2): p57-265.

Kumar, R. (2011). *Research methodology: A step by step guide for beginners*. 3rd Ed. Los Angeles. London. Sage Publications.

Lee, R. and Seekings, J. (2002). *Vigilantism and popular justice after apartheid*. In D. Feenan. (Ed). Informal Criminal Justice. p99-116. Dartmouth. Ashgate. [Online]; Available: http://www.academia.edu. [Accessed on 27 October 2014].

Levine, T. V. (2011). *Combating mob justice: An overview*. Cameroon. [Online]; Available: [Accessed on 15 November 2014].

Lewis, D. O., Mallouh, C. and Webb, V. (1989*). Child abuse, delinquency, and violent criminality.* In Chiccetti, D and Carlson, V. (Eds). Child Maltreatment: Theory and Research on the Causes and Consequences of Child Abuse and Neglect. Cambridge. Cambridge University Press.

Loeber, R., Wung, P., Keenan, K., Giroux, B., Stouthamer-Loeber, M., Van Kammen, W. B. and Maughan, B. (1993). *Developmental pathways in disruptive child behavior.* Development and Psychopathology. Vol. 5: p103-133.

Madienyane, D. (2013). *Effects of vigilantism on the community of Diesploof*. University of Witwatersrand. [Online]; Available: http://www.wiredspace.wits.ac.za [Accessed on 18 May 2014].

Maree, A. and Prinsloo, J. H. (2002). *The causes of crime: Is South Africa on the right track?.* Strategic Review for Southern Africa. Vol. 24 (2): p96-113.

Martin, J. R. (2010). *Vigilantism and informal social control in South Africa.* Acta Criminological. Vol. 23 (3). Molbourne. Monash University. [Online]; Available: http://www.sourceafrica.net [Accessed on 18 May 2014].

Ministry of Safety and Security. (2007). *Justice crime prevention and security cluster media briefing: First cycle of 2007*. Pretoria, South Africa, May.

Minnaar, A. (2001). "*The new vigilantism in post-April 1994 South Africa: Crime prevention or an expression of lawlessness*". Institute for Human Rghts and Criminal Justice Studies, Pretoria. Technikon SA, May. [Online]; Available: http://www.unisa.ac.za [Accessed on 18 May 2014].

Minnaar, A. (2002). *The new vigilantism in post April 1994 South Africa: Searching for explanations*. In D. Feenan. (Ed.). Informal Criminal Justice. p117-134. Dartmouth. Ashgate.

Moller, V. (2005). *Resilient or resigned: Criminal victimization and quality of life in South Africa.* Social Indicators Research. Vol. 72: p263–317. [Online]; Available: http://www.springer.com [Accessed on 18 May 2014].

Monette, D. R., Sullivan, T. J. and DeJong, C. R. (2008). *Applied social research: A tool for the human services.* 7th Ed. Belmont, CA. Thomson Wadsworth.

Moore, M. G. (1973). *Towards a theory of independent learning and teaching*. Journal of Higher Education. Vol. 44: p661-679. [Online]; Available: http://www.ajde.com [Accessed on 22 May 2015].

Moses, N. (2009). *The challenges faced by the police in eliminating mob justice in Kampala*. Masters of Arts in Human Rights, Makerere University, December. [Online]; Available: http://www.dspace3.mak.ac.ug [Accessed on 26 October 2014].

Mtika, G. (2011). *Horror of mob murder*. City press newspaper. Published, June. [Online]; Available: www.citypress.co.za [Accessed on 5 June 2014].

Mugunga, E. F. (2005). *Rule of law and access to justice: Eliminating rough justice in Uganda.* (Unpublished Master's Thesis). England. University of Birmingham.

Oomen, B. (1999). *Vigilante justice in perspective: The case of mapogo amathaga*. Netherlands. Leiden University. Acta Criminological. Vol. 12 (3). [Online]; Available: http://dspace3.mak.ac.ug [Accessed on 26 October 2014].

Oppenheim, A. N. (1992). *Questionnaire design, interviewing and attitude measurement.* London. Pinter Publishers Limited. [Online]; Available: http://www.unesco.org. [Accessed on 4 June 2016].

Perry, B. D. (1994a*). Neurobiological sequelae of childhood trauma: Post-traumatic stress disorders in children.* In Murberg, M. (Ed). Catecholamines in Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder: Emerging Concepts. p253-276. Washington, D. C. American Psychiatric Press.

Perry, B. D. (1999). *Memories of fear: How the brain stores and retrieves physiologic states, feelings, behaviors and thoughts from traumatic events*. In Goodwin, J. M. and Attias, R. (Eds). Splintered Reflections: Images of the Body in Brauma Basic Books. p26-47.

Perry, B. D. (2001). *The neuro-developmental impact of violence in childhood*. In Schetky. D and Benedek, E. P. (Eds). Inc., Washington, D.C. American Psychiatric Press. p221-238. [Online]; Available: http://www.childtrauma.org [Accessed on 31 March 2015].

Perry, B. D., Pollard, R., Blakely, T., Baker, W. and Vigilante, D. (1995). *Childhood trauma, the neurobiology of adaptation and use dependent development of the brain: How states become traits.* Infant, Mental Health Journal. Vol.16 (4): p271-291.

Petrus, T. S. (2014). *Caring governance can wean us off the necklace.* Dispatch Live. [Online]; Available: http://www.dispatchlive.co.za [Accessed on 31 May 2015].

Republic of South Africa. (1996). *Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996*. Pretoria. Government Printer.

Russell, J. and Booth, B. (2005). *Quantitative Data Analysis Using SPSS12.* University of Sheffield. Resource produced by the Corporate Information and Computing Services. [Online]; Available: http://www.uvm.edu. [Accessed on 2 June 2016].

Scarf, W. and Nina, D. (Eds). *The Other Law: Non-State Ordering in South Africa*. p71–97. Lansdowne, Cape Town. Juta and Co.

Scharf, W. (2005). *No justice systems in Southern Africa: How should government respond.* Cape Town. University of Cape Town Press.

Schleicher, A., Siniscalco, M. T. and Postlethwaite, N. T. (1995). *The conditions of primary schools: A pilot study in the least developed countries*. A report to UNESCO and UNICEF. [Online]; Available: http://www.unesco.org [Accessed on 4 June 2016].

Schonteich, M. (2000). *Justice versus retribution: Attitudes to punishment in the Eastern Cape*. Pretoria. Institute of Strategic Studies. Monograph Series. Vol. 45. [Online]; Available: http://www.journals.cambridge.org [Accessed on 31 March 2015].

Seekings, J. (2001). *Social ordering and control in the African townships of South Africa: An historical overview of extra-state initiatives from the 1940s to the 1990s*. In

Sekhonyane, M. (2000). *Using crime to fight crime: Tracking vigilante activity*. Ned Bank ISS Crime Index. Vol. 4, 4: p1-4.

Sekhonyane, M. (2003). *Vigilantes supported as crime levels soar*. Sowetan, June.

Sekhonyane, M. and Louw, A. (2002). *Violent justice: Vigilantism and the state response*. ISS Monograph Series. Vol. 72, April. Pretoria. Institute for Security Studies. [Online]; Available: http://www.dspace.cigilibrary.org [Accessed on 2 June2014].

Shabangu, T. (2007). *A comparative inquiry the nature of violence and crime in Mozambique and South Africa*. Pretoria. Institute for Democracy in South Africa.

Shaw, M. and Tshiwula, L. (2002). *Developing citizenship amongst urban youth in conflict with the law in Africa.* Paper delivered at the international conference on youth in conflict with the law. Port Elizabeth. South Africa. p17-19, June.

Sheatsley, P. B. (1983). *Questionnaire construction and item writing.* In: Rossi, P. H; Wright J. D; Anderson A. B. Handbook of survey research. New York. Academic Press. [Online]; Available: http://www.unesco.org. [Accessed on 4 June 2016].

South Africa. *Statement by Nathi Mthethwa, Former Minister of Police*, 04/11/2013.

South African Law Commission. (1999a). *The harmonisation of the common law and the indigenous law: Traditional courts and the judicial function of traditional leaders.* Discussion paper 82, project 90, May.

Stanko, E. A. (2001). *The day to count: Reflections on a methodology to raise awareness about the impact of domestic violence in the UK*. Criminal Justice. Vol. 1 (2): p215-226. [Online]; Available: http://www.sagepub.com [Accessed on 29 May 2016].

Steffen, J. (2007). *Security and violence on the frontier of the State: Vigilant citizens in Nkomazi, South Africa.* In (Eds). Ahluwalia, et al., Violence and Non-violence in Africa. [Online]; Available: http://www.umb4.dignityinstitute.dk [Accessed on 23 March 2015].

Steinberg, J. (2001). *Crime wave: The South Africa underworld and its foe*. Johannesburg. Witwatersrand University Press.

Sutherland, E. H. (1947). *Principles of criminology*. 4th Ed. Chicago, J.B. Lippincott Co.

Sutherland, E. H. and Cressey, D. R. (1974). *Criminology*. 9th Ed. New York. Lippincott Co.

Taylor, S. J. and Bogdan, R. (1984). *Introduction to qualitative research methods: The research for meaning*. New York. John Wiley.

Thio, A. (2007). *Deviant behavior*. 9th Ed. Boston, MA. Pearson.

United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. (1948). United Nations. New York.

Unrau, Y. A., Gabor, P. A. and Grinnell, R. M. (2007). *Evaluation in social work: The art and science of practice.* London. Oxford University Press.

Van Beek, M. (2001). *Beyond identity fetishism: "Communal" conflict in Ladakh and the limits to autonomy*. Cultural Anthropology.

Van der Westhuizen, J. (2001*). Ethics in police management and administration: A South African perspective.* Acta Criminologica. Vol. 14 (1): p31-39.

Van Ginneken, J. (1992). *Crowds, psychology, and politics (1871-1899)*. Cambridge. Cambridge University Press.

Victims of Crime Survey. (2013/2014). South Africa: Statistics South Africa. [Online]; Available: http://www.beta2.statssa.gov.za [Accessed on 15 September 2015].

Witbooi, B. (2013). *MEC condemns Port Elizabeth looting and violence*. Sunday times, September. p2. [Online]; Available: http://www.sundaytimes.co.za [Accessed on 22 May 2015].

Yankson, C. A. O. (2013). *Public perceptions of mob violence in Kumasi*. Winneba. University of Education. (Master of Philosophy in Human Rights).

Yin, R. K. (1984). *Case study research: Design and methods.* Beverly Hills, Calif. Sage Publications.

Yin, R. 1989. *Case study research design and methods*. Newbury Park, CA. Sage.

INTERNET SOURCES ACCESSED

http://www.crimestatssa.com [Accessed on 5 August 2014]

http://www.statssa.gov.za [Accessed on 5 August 2014]

http://citypopulation.pe.html [Accessed on 6 August 2014]

http://www.ecsecc.org.html [Accessed on 6 August 2014]

http://www.bbc.co.uk [Accessed on 6 August 2014]

http://www.census2011.com [Accessed on 10 August 2014]

http://www.mype.co.za [Accessed on 10 August 2014]

http://www.news24.com [Accessed on 7 March 2015]

http://www.csvr.org.za.html [Accessed on 7 March 2015]

http://www.un.org.html [Accessed on 8 June 2015

APPENDIX A

Self-administered questionnaire

Title: A comparative exploratory analysis of vigilante occurrences in two communities in Port Elizabeth (Kwazakhele and New Brighton).

Name of the community: .....

Section A: Biographical details of the respondents

1. Your gender?

1=Female	
2=Male	

2. Your age?

1=18-20	
2=21-30	
3=31-40	
4=41-50	
5=51-60	
6=61-70	
7=71-80	

3. Your race?

1=African	
2=Asian	
3=Coloured	
4=White	
5=Other(specify)	

4. Your marital status?

1=Married	
2=Not married	
3=Cohabitant	
4=Widowed	
5=Divorced	
6=Other(specify)	

5. Your school background?

1=Preschool	
2=Grade 7-9	
3=Grade 10-11	
4=Grade 12	

6. Your vocational status?

1=Student/Scholar	
2=Employed	
3=Unemployed	
4=Self-employed	
5=Retired	
6=Other(specify)	

7. Your total household income?

1=>R1500 per month	
2=R1500-R3500 per month	
3=R3500-R5500 per month	
4= <R5500 per month	

Section B: Vigilantism (mob justice)

1. What do you think is an act of vigilantism (mob justice)?

.....
.....
.....
.....

2. Do you think there has been increase in vigilante activity in this area since 1994?

1=Yes	
2=No	
3=Don't know	

3. Do you think there has been increase in vigilante activity in this area since 2000?

1=Yes	
2=No	
3=Don't know	

4. Do you think there has been increase in vigilante activity in this area since 2010?

1=Yes	
2=No	
3=Don't know	

5. Has there ever been an incident of vigilantism in the area where you live?

1=Yes	
2=No	
3=Don't know	

5(a). In your opinion what kinds of crimes are more likely to result in vigilantism in this area? for example rape, murder, street robbery, armed robbery, theft etc.

.....
.....

5.1. If **yes** in question 5, when did the last act of vigilantism take place?

.....

5.2. Can you describe what happened to the victim/victims during the incident?

.....
.....
.....

5.3. Do you know the gender of the victim/victims

.....

5.4. Do you know the age of the victim/victims?

.....

5.5. Did the police intervene?

1=Yes	
2=No	
3=Don't know	

5.6. Were there any children and women involved as perpetrators in such incidents?

1=Yes	
2=No	
3=Don't know	

5.7. Was the occurrence reported to the police?

1=Yes	
2=No	
3=Don't know	

5.8. In your opinion are the perpetrators of vigilantism more likely to be caught by Police in this area?

1=Yes	
2=No	
3=Don't know	

5.9. Have you ever participated in any vigilante activity? **This question is entirely voluntary and the answers are, as with the rest of the information contained herein strictly confidential.**

1=Yes	
2=No	

5.9.1. If **yes**, under what circumstances would you take such action?

.....
.....

5.9.2. If **no**, would you consider participating?

1=Yes	
2=No	
3=Don't know	

5.9.2.1. If **yes**, under what circumstances would you consider taking such action?

.....
.....
.....

5.9.3. Have any members of your household or any one you know ever participated in any vigilante activity?

1=Yes	
2=No	

5.9.4. Have you ever been a victim of vigilante activity?

1=Yes	
2=No	

5.9.4.1. If **yes**, when did this happen?

.....

5.9.4.2. If **yes**, can you describe what happened?

.....
.....
.....

5.9.5. Has any person in your family or anyone you know ever been a victim of vigilante activity?

1=Yes	
2=No	

5.9.5.1. If **yes**, when did this happen?

.....

5.9.5.2. If **yes**, can you describe what happened?

.....
.....
.....

6. Which effective preventative measures do you think can be used to reduce vigilante activities?

.....
.....
.....
.....

7. What do you think might be the cause of young adults/adults to engage in criminal activities in this area?

.....
.....
.....

8. What types of crimes are more likely to be committed by these individuals mentioned above and what do you think is the reason behind this?

.....
.....
.....

9. Are there any police officers that are patrolling in this area?

1=Yes	
2=No	
3=Don't know	

9.1. If **yes**, at what time?

.....

10. How far is your nearest police station?

.....

10.1. How would you rate the condition of the police station?

1=Good	
2=Acceptable	
3=Poor	

11. Do you support vigilantism (mob justice)?

1=Yes	
2=No	
3=Don't know	

11.1. If **yes**, please explain why you say you support vigilantism?

.....
.....
.....

12. In your opinion what are the motives of individuals/communities who take the law into their own hands?

……
……
……

13. In your opinion what impact do vigilante incidents have in this area?

.....
.....
.....

14. In your opinion what are the consequences of vigilante activities in this area?

.....
.....
.....

15. Are there any vigilante groups you know that are operating in this area?

.....
.....
.....

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR COOPERATION

APPENDIX B

University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

Ethics Research Confidentiality and Informed Consent Form

Please note:

This form is to be completed by the researcher(s) as well as by the interviewee before the commencement of the research. Copies of the signed form must be filed and kept on record

(To be adapted for individual circumstances/needs)

Loqani Anelisa is asking people from the **community of Kwazakhele and New Brighton** to answer some questions, which we hope will benefit your community and possibly other communities in the future.

Loqani Anelisa is conducting research regarding **vigilantism**. We are interested in finding out more about **vigilante occurrences on these communities mentioned above.** We are carrying out this research **to help the authorities to develop some strategic plans to deal with the issue of vigilantism** (*adapt for individual projects*)

Please understand that you are not being forced to take part in this study and the choice whether to participate or not is yours alone. However, we would really appreciate it if you do share your thoughts with us. If you choose not take part in answering these questions, you will not be affected in any way. If you agree to participate, you may stop me at any time and tell me that you don't want to go on with the interview. If you do this there will also be no penalties and you will NOT be prejudiced in ANY way. Confidentiality will be observed professionally.

I will not be recording your name anywhere on the questionnaire and no one will be able to link you to the answers you give. Only the researchers will have access to the unlinked information. The information will remain confidential and there will be no "come-backs" from the answers you give.

The interview will last around **20** minutes *(this is to be tested through a pilot).* I will be asking you a questions and ask that you are as open and honest as possible in answering these questions. Some questions may be of a personal and/or sensitive nature. I will be asking some questions that you may not have thought about before, and which also involve thinking about the past or the future. We know that you cannot be absolutely certain about the answers to these questions but we ask that you try to think about these questions. When it comes to answering questions there are no right and wrong answers. When we ask questions about the future we are not interested in what you think the best thing would be to do, but what you think would actually happen. (*adapt for individual circumstances*).

If possible, our organisation would like to come back to this area once we have completed our study to inform you and your community of what the results are and discuss our findings and proposals around the research and what this means for people in this area.

INFORMED CONSENT

I hereby agree to participate in research **regarding comparative exploratory analysis of vigilante occurrences in two communities in Port Elizabeth (Kwazakhele and New Brighton)**. I understand that I am participating freely and without being forced in any way to do so. I also understand that I can stop this interview at any point should I not want to continue and that this decision will not in any way affect me negatively.

I understand that this is a research project whose purpose is not necessarily to benefit me personally.

I have received the telephone number of a person to contact should I need to speak about any issues which may arise in this interview.

I understand that this consent form will not be linked to the questionnaire, and that my answers will remain confidential.

I understand that if at all possible, feedback will be given to my community on the results of the completed research.

……..

Signature of participant **Date**:……..……...

I hereby agree to the tape recording of my participation in the study

……..

Signature of participant **Date**:…..…...……..