

**CORRELATES OF QUALITY TRAINING OF PRIVATE SECURITY  
GUARDS AND CRIME PREVENTION IN NAIROBI COUNTY, KENYA**

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**A Thesis Submitted to the Graduate School in Partial Fulfilment of the  
Requirements for the Award of the Degree of Master of Arts in Criminology and  
Security Studies of Chuka University**

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**DECLARATION AND  
RECOMMENDATION**


**Declaration**


This thesis is my original work and has not been presented for an award of diploma or conferment of a degree in this or any other University

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**Recommendation**

This thesis has been examined, passed and submitted with our approval as University supervisors.

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## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this work to my beloved wife, Lilian Karambu Kobia, my son, Liam Kimutai Koros, my mother, Rechael, my father, Mathew, and my brother, Steve. Your steadfast support throughout my studies has been invaluable. May the Almighty God bless you all and fulfill the desires of your hearts.

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## **ABSTRACT**

Crime rates in Kenya, particularly in Nairobi, have been steadily increasing, surpassing those in other cities in the world. To combat this, private security personnel have been hired to safeguard both private and public areas. Despite this, crime continues to rise in Nairobi County. While the National Police Service ensures rigorous training for all officers at the Kenya Police Training College, private security agencies do not own well-equipped training schools with facilities such as classrooms for theory lessons and fields for practical and physical training. Thus, training varies by company, leading to inconsistent quality. The impact of these training variations on crime prevention remains unclear. Therefore, this study aimed to investigate how quality of training relates with crime prevention among private security providers in Nairobi County. The study objectives were to; assess the relationship between quality of training programs, the quality of training content and quality of content delivery strategies of private security guards and crime prevention in Nairobi County in Kenya. Human Capital and Routine Activity Theories guided the study. The target population were 2,817 security officers and instructors from 55 licensed private security firms in Nairobi County, along with employees from regulatory bodies and associations. A sample of 350 respondents were surveyed, including 283 security officers, 55 instructors, and 12 key informants who were employees from the Private Security Regulatory Authority (PSRA), Private Security Industry Association (PSIA), and Kenya Security Industry Association (KSIA). Instructors and regulatory body and associations employees were purposively selected, while security officers were chosen through simple random sampling. The study utilized both descriptive and correlational research designs, integrating quantitative analysis of crime data with qualitative insights gathered from questionnaires and interviews. Data collected for the study was analysed using Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS) software version 25.0, and the results were presented in terms of frequencies, percentages, and correlations. The analysis revealed that the quality of training programs has no significant relationship with crime prevention in Nairobi County, a finding that also applied to training content and delivery strategies. The study recommends that various stakeholders, including policymakers and decision-makers, develop effective strategies for enhancing crime prevention through improved guard training, while also addressing underlying social and environmental factors. These findings contribute to a deeper understanding of how guard training impacts crime prevention and offer actionable insights for key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government, the Private Security Regulatory Authority (PSRA), the Private Security Industry Association (PSIA), and the Kenya Security Industry Association (KSIA).