

Rehabilitation and Welfare of Inmates in Nigeria Prisons: A Case of Selected Prisons in Southwestern Nigeria

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Abstract

The study assessed the extent of implementation and administration of rehabilitation programme and also examined the welfare of inmates in selected Prisons in Southwestern Nigeria in the study area with a view to enhancing policies/programmes of prison service in the country. This study employed both primary and secondary data. Primary data were obtained through the administration of questionnaire on inmates to elicit information on their well-being. The simple random sampling method was used to select 204 respondents which constituted 10% of the total population (2042) of prison inmates in the purposively selected prisons (Ibadan, Akure and Abeokuta) in Southwestern Nigeria. Focus group discussion was held with 8 ex-convicts and 5 inmates' relatives. The secondary sources of information that were employed included relevant official publications and records from Nigerian Prisons Service, journal articles, periodicals and internet sources. Data collected were tabulated and analyzed using percentage and frequency as descriptive; and Chi-square as inferential statistics. The study finds that administration of rehabilitation programme of Nigerian Prisons Service was not effectively implemented. This was attested to by the obtained result ($\chi^2 = 1.101$). The consequence of this is that the inmates will not be able to provide for their daily needs on release and will find it difficult to integrate into the community. The temptation to take to crime is higher than before. Equally, the study found that the inmate's welfare in the selected prisons was not well taken care of, as this was confirmed by the obtained result ($\chi^2 = 1.500$). The study concluded that administration of inmates'

rehabilitation and welfare programmes by Nigerian Prisons Service in Southwestern Nigeria was ineffective and needed to be improved in order to achieve the goal for which it was established.

Key words: Rehabilitation; Reform; Welfare; Prisoner, Crime

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INTRODUCTION

No society is free from committing a crime by its members and to that extent, there is the need for establishment and management of an institution to punish, reform and rehabilitate the criminals that are found guilty, hence the need for institutions like the court, the police and the prison. Prison is defined by the law of the state as a place created to delimit and ensure restraint and custody of individual accused or convicted of violating the criminal laws of the state (Opara, 1998). It could simply be put in a secured place where culprits are confined as punishment for the committed offence or a place of safekeeping for the accused. The genesis of criminalities could be traced to the political tumour of the first republic which engulfed the country that crystallized into Nigerian civil war of 1967 to 1970. The successive military regimes after the civil war did not help the matter as free use of force in settling scores were encouraged. The second and third civilian governments did not help the matter as dialogue that was characterised by violence were embraced as a result of the total breakdown of norms and moral values in the society. Hence, criminal behaviors and delinquency seem to be common occurrences in Nigeria. This informs why Omisakin (1998) posits that in recent time, apart from rape, armed robbery, kidnapping, murder

and others not limited to drug abuse and trafficking, fraud, traffic offence and theft have defied solution as portrayed with new methods and techniques. The situation is becoming worsened as ethnic militia (Arewa Northern People Congress, Odua People Congress, Niger Delta Avengers, Indigenous People of Biafra, Movement of the Actualization of Sovereign States of Biafra (MASSOB) etc.), religion fundamentalist (Shiites, Maitasheni, Boko Haram etc.) and communal clashes (Fulani herdsman and farmers) have aggregated together to institutionalize criminality. Hence, the nefarious activities of the above criminals which are not different from that of terrorists in term of the bombing, hijacking and life-threatening incidences are worrisome. Criminalities have thus been raised to the status of professionals. With the behaviours that manifested with new methods and technologies are of great concern not only to the society but also to the social workers and other behaviour modifiers. These are the various forms of crimes and the suspected criminals that have become rehabilitation burden for the Nigerian prisons service.

Crime is an action which is punishable by law. The perpetrators of these crimes are referred to as 'criminals'. The potential external factors that must have damaged the perpetrators of these crimes and their social circumstances which include the moral and political atmosphere within which these acts take place must be considered. When violence becomes institutionalized, people, particularly who are constantly visited with violence, begin to resort to violence in their dealings with others.

The Nigerian prison system as established operate on tripod stands forms of penal legislation which operate side by side with each other in the country; the *Sharia* penal legislation in 19 northern states (which applies to only Muslim members of these states); the Penal Code and the accompanying Criminal Procedure Code Cap 81 Laws of the Federation 1990 (CPC); and the Criminal Code and the accompanying Criminal Procedure Act Cap 80 Laws of the Federation 1990 (CPA). By its founding philosophy, the Nigerian Prisons Service as a government agency is meant to administer penal treatment to all categories of offenders. Its vital roles are aimed at crime reduction in the society. Based on imprisonment policy, the prison service was established to administer the criminals in prison yards. Nigerian Prisons Service is constitutionally empowered to:

- a) keep convicted intern (prisoners) for safe custody,
- b) keep awaiting trial inmates in custody, until law courts request for their appearance
- c) institute punishment of offenders as pronounced and instructed by the law courts
- d) commence with the reformation of the convicted prisoners
- e) proceed with rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners who have completed the sentences in the prison (Adetula et al., 2010).

However, the main purpose of establishing the prison institution in most countries of the world not excluding Nigeria is to provide a rehabilitation and correctional facility for those who have violated the rules and regulations of their society as against strict punishment. Prison inmates' rehabilitation is likened to medical treatment in which scientifically trained experts provide required treatment to each individual accordingly. Unlike in medicine where training of physicians has been institutionalised, in prison rehabilitation, particularly in Nigeria such professionalization is absent or only partially accomplished (Ugwuoke, 2013). Prison inmate rehabilitation is logically compared with the hospital patients in which the causes of the antisocial behaviour are identified and treatment personalized accordingly. That is why Crewe, Liebling and Hulley (2011) (cited in Ugwuoke, 2015) refer to rehabilitation as treatment. In most cases, the rehabilitation service providers are assumed not well-equipped or practically unable to render essential services that can impact positively on the inmates' lives.

However, aims of the modern prison in the developed countries of the world have been modified not only to protect the society but also to include retribution, deterrence, reformation and rehabilitation of the convicted prisoners. Since Nigeria was a signatory to the UN Charter, the objectives of the Nigerian Prisons Service are not different from those adopted by the civilized world. The effectiveness and efficiency of Nigerian Prisons Service has thus been under criticism largely because of constant jailbreaks that have become a daily occurrence (Folarin, 2017; Okere, 2017; Njoku, 2016; Akpa, 2016; Chidozie, 2016; recidivism (Folarin, 2017; Obioha 1995; Adetula et al. 2010) and the crime rates and increasing level of insecurity (Oladimeji, 2016) that made Nigerians and the federal government to be apprehensive.

1. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Prisoners are members of the larger society whose freedom has been curtailed for a specified period as punishment for the offence committed. Apart from serving as a remand home and safe custody for the interned, prison operates as a reformatory and as well as rehabilitative centre. At the conceptualization of imprisonment, the focus was on the offender to be punished and pay restitution for the crime committed as was the case with Nigerian prisons inmates.

However, the focus of modern prison system in the civilized countries of the world have been modified not only for protecting the society but also to include retribution, deterrence, reformation and rehabilitation of the convicts as ratified by UN Charter in which Nigeria was a signatory.

Nigerian Prison Service administration has thus been under criticism largely because of constant jail-breaks that have become daily occurrence (Akintunde, 2011; Cairns,

2010; Edike, 2009; 2010; Oladimeji, 2016; Humbe, 2016; Akpa, 2016; Okere, 2017); and increasing rate of recidivism (Gendreau et al., 1999; Obioha, 1995; Adetula et al., 2010; Folarin, 2017) which constitute threat to security of lives and properties which is an indication that “nothing worked” (Lipton, Martinson and Wilks, 1975 and Martinson, 1974) in offenders treatment is still a reality. There seems to be rehabilitation programme failure or under-emphasised as prison inmates are found to become hardened and more willing to commit a crime on release.

went in. The apparent failure of Nigerian prisons to reform the convicted inmates may not be unconnected with the nature of welfare administration of the inmates which this study, therefore, attempts to investigate with a view of determining the extent to which it influences or deters rehabilitation of convicted prison inmates in Southwestern Nigeria.

1.1 Research Questions

(a) What are the impacts of vocation training and skill acquisition on inmates?

(b) What are the living conditions in relation to legal matters of the inmates?

1.2 Objectives of the Study

Specific objectives of the study are to

(a) assess the extent of administration and implementation of rehabilitation programme of Nigerian Prison service in Southwestern Nigeria; and

(b) examine the welfare of inmates in relation to legal matters in selected prisons in Southwestern Nigeria.

1.3 Hypotheses of the Study

The following hypotheses have been tested in the study

(a) H₀: rehabilitation programme of prison service is not effective.

(b) H₀: Nigerian prisons inmates are not well-taken care of.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW THE GLOBAL PRISON SERVICE REFORM

Prison service reform is not restricted to the Nigerian Prison Service. Prison reform is a global phenomenon. The reform has been introduced in the prison services of most countries of the world for the purpose of improving the levels of efficiency, performance and effectiveness. Most of the prison service reforms that have taken place in most countries both developed and developing nations.

As Steel (2005) argued that if all prisons could be a solution provider within a restorative and therapeutic justice environment, then we might be on the path to successful rehabilitation. But most countries believe that the increasing incarceration of prisoners in the prison yards brings about a safer community devoid of victimization. On the contrary to this are studies relating to a prison ineffectiveness to combat criminal behaviours

whilst providing a brutalizing environment in which to learn more about crime [Coyle, 2004]. Despite these facts, imprisonment rates have continued to increase unabated as the penal system moves uncontrollable over countries of the world. Rather than being the last option of sanction, they are often the default position for criminal justice systems with zero tolerance and mandatory incarceration laws.

Currently, the imprisonment effectiveness to prevent crime and rehabilitate prisoners seems unachievable, while the increasing costs, in social and economic terms, remains unquestionable. As Hall, Goulding and Steel (2009) point out, “Prisons by their nature, their hierarchical organization and their architecture, are the embodiment of secrecy, invisibility, isolation and lack of accountability”. Accordingly, Goulding (2007) opines the factors to encourage coercion, brutality and violence among prisoners and prison administrators. Consequently, the inability to guide and transform prisoners into pro-social and productive citizens living a valued life upon release prevails.

Prisons institutions are well known for destroying law-abiding and pro-social networks as well as removing citizenship traits. However, it is an institution known for displacement of any valued social bonds found within families and communities with the marginalized social stigma that remain permanent with the prisoner on release. This is because the prisoner’s prison become a mark of rejection. Prisons, in most cases often fail to transform to international calls to meet stringent standard for human rights and the principles surrounding rehabilitation and normalization. Overcrowding, sometimes christened warehousing in prisons seems to become the acceptable norms across many continents. The agitation for reformation of the prison system is long overdue and timely, a fact recognized by a few countries not excluding Britain and Belgium who have begun to look differently by which prisons may accomplish some of the obligations as required by the community. Restorative justice is defined as an approach to justice that focuses and attempt to heal the inflicted wound caused by crime equally holding the offender responsible for his or her actions, by providing an opportunity for the parties directly affected by a crime-victim(s), offender and community to identify and address their needs in the aftermath of a crime, as well as seek a panacea that affords healing, reparation, reintegration and prevent future harm (Cormier, 2002).

Restorative justice has continued to challenge current criminal justice system on the impression that crimes are perpetrated against the state, rather than recognising that crimes are perpetrated, in the main, against victims and/or communities. Accordingly, Cosedine (1995:11), philosophically describes restorative justice as a:

move from punishment to reconciliation, from vengeance for offenders to healing from the victim, from alienation and

harshness of community and wholeness, from negativity and destructiveness to healing, forgiveness and mercy.

Furthermore, restorative justice, as put forward by Gouling, Hall and Steel (2008), is conceptually based on the re-integrative shaming, put simply, “as a process that attempts to shame the action rather than the actor and encourage mutual understanding, healing and forgiveness amongst all parties involved”. From the analyses and quotations of erudite be successfully practised, transforming the brutalising and punitive characteristics of current prison regimes towards a more reparative and healing approach. This will benefit more not only victims and communities but also prisoners and prison service.

As argued by Coyle (2001) that prisons (in Britain) could become more effective as places of rehabilitation if run within a restorative framework that actively encouraged “prisoners to take responsibility for the consequences of their behaviours by providing greater opportunities to make amends and by establishing formal channels of mediation between prisoners to resolve conflict”. In the restorative prison environment, through meaningful work, prisoners have the opportunity to advance some form of reparation to local communities. This is achieved through supplying prison manufactured goods to charitable organisations or through a donation to the relevant organization from the profit obtained from the sale of such goods. According to Coyle (2001:9):

non-governmental organisations and other voluntary groups report that, when offered the chance, prisoners will work with enthusiasm on projects they know will help people who are more disadvantaged than they are: the old, the sick, the poor...

At Grendon Prison (in Britain), a dedicated multidisciplinary team of staff works together on the program that is based on therapeutic community principles with prisoners... this therapeutic dialogue leads to greater understanding of their usual behaviour (Liebmann, 2007) while Coyle (2001:10) emphasised that the truly restorative and therapeutic prison would:

present prisoners with a series of duties, challenges and learning opportunities. It would invest trust in the prisoners’ capacity to take responsibility for performing tasks, for meeting challenges and for using learning opportunities. the task for prison staff at every level.

the movement of those that went foul against societal norms and laws but also as an agency where offenders can be reformed to become better citizens. A well-implemented reformation programme that has impacted positively on inmate will decrease the rate of recidivism which will equally prepare offenders adequately to face the reality of life on released from gaol. Through a study conducted by Reichert (2010) at Illinois prison, crime commission does not have limitation rather the majority of the prisoners under investigation are both unskilled and uneducated. That is not to say that the educated do not commit a crime but criminality is more rampant with uneducated.

It was observed that punishment meted out to the offenders is functions of social status, the wealthy offenders’ properties may sized or face banishment. On the contrary, the poor offender may bear the full consequences of the law. The situation was not limited to the United States of America but prevalent in other nations where the purposes of imprisonment focus on retribution, incapacitation, deterrence and rehabilitation (Prison and Jail, 2000). However, the rate of recidivism was said to be very high in Europe as revealed in the study carried out in America by Lin (2000), which confirmed that before parole was completed, 19 percent of all those involved in suspended sentences returned to jails having committed a new crime. Similarly, it was noted in 1989 that by the end of the first year and close to the third year, 40.0 to 62.5 percent of released prisoners were rearrested for offences ranging from serious misdemeanour to felony. Hence, rehabilitation was not effective. Vocational training was the main focus of rehabilitation programme which was noted to be deficient as some challenges including lack of professionals in various fields and overcrowding still persist and remained unaddressed. Davit (1894) then suggested that any programme meant for prison inmates should be taken seriously to combine industrialism with that of reformation that Prison and Jail (2000) posits that Prisons Authorities are expected to put in place programmes that will address offenders’ needs as well as focussing on the cognitive and social skill through vocational training of inmates to reduce recidivism. However, information on the needs of the inmates are needed in order to address and make cognitive and intuitive effective. Equally, inmates required information at the point of entering the prison as well as at the time of release in order to explore opportunities around them. Accordingly, Fessler et al (2009), posit that to the definition of Mastery of Life, information aimed on how things are at present and how they should be in the future is critical at resolving the inherent challenges. Odusanya and Amusa (2003) quoted Hanson (1978) that “information is normally for use rather than for interest. It is sought by their final users for particular purpose and circumstances. It is of maximum potential use to the person who wants it when it meets his need not only in terms of the general subject”. Harpey (1991) cited in Kadiri & Haliso (2011) opines the task of the society is better realised by individual and/or group through adequate information. Like free citizen, prisoners need information regarding not only on their family and the opportunity that await them but as well as on what life looks like outside the prison on release. Information is required on daily basis for survival either for domestic or professional use. Omoni and Ijeh (2003) noted that the bane of Nigerian prisoners to checkmate recidivism stem from inadequate information and qualitative education. On Realisation of the importance of information, the United Nation’s Rule 39 emphasized that Prisoners shall

not only be kept informed regularly but have access to important news items, reading of newspapers, periodicals or institution publications as well as be hearing of wireless transmissions, lectures or any similar means as may be authorised by the administration (Ehonwa, 1993).

Alexander (2008) argued that Prison Authorities should seek for information that could assist and be of use to offenders of which public libraries was suggested. Shirley posits that under the guardian of Prison Chaplain, inmates on commencement of incarceration should be limited to the reading of the Bible, Quoran and similar religious material aimed at inculcating morality. This was to uphold religious belief that criminals are sinners that need to repent, absorbed and properly delivered. Similarly, the contribution of reading on inmates reformation was identified by Davitt (1894) who suggested the use of related books and provision of Sunday school teachers that will lecture the inmates.

The United Nations (Economic and Social Council) in Treatment of Offenders (1977) Article 40 states that “every institution shall have a library for the use of all categories of prisoners, adequately stocked with both recreational and instructional books and prisoners encouraged to make use of them”. Among youth and ex-soldiers who are considered as deviants, the act of reading has been used as alternative treatment. Cronje (1993) cited in Kadiri & Haliso, (2011) advocated bibliotherapy usage in the treatment of issues pertaining to character remoulding that would have a positive effect on personality; provide solution to personal challenges and issues; address abilities for growth and development as well as provision of instruction, knowledge, understanding and inspiration.

In the same vein, Shirley (2006) views “bibliotherapy as “therapeutic use of books in the treatment of illness or personal problems”. Accordingly, Campbell (2010), described how an inmate in his prison existence expressed the fact that he could not have overcome the stressful situation if prevented from reading the books in the library... it provides me with an escape route from the ongoing stress and boredom of incarceration of being away from larger society firsthand”. Regarding the means of reformation of prisoners from other sources where electronic media. However, the authority may prevent access when necessary.

As rehabilitation programme of prisoners has not been a popular cause with politicians, budgetary allocation for inmates information provision has become a challenge globally (Omoni and Ijeh, 2009). Like the universal community, prison deserves up to date functional libraries for the provision of information resources for the prisoners and the prison officials as Oketunji (2005) submits that libraries are built and maintained to provide information resources for a specifically defined community. As such, like academic libraries, school libraries, etc; we have prison libraries. Also Daramola (2004) posits that the prison yard was established to implement diverse

friendly programmes such as adult and remedial education for inmates, skills acquisition and vocational training, religious instructions recreational and attitude change and rehabilitation of inmates that may facilitate their social integration into the society after jail terms on release.

2. METHODOLOGY

The total population (2042) of the prison inmates in the three prison yards selected for the study constituted the study population. A further breakdown of the population by prison yard revealed that the Nigerian Prisons Service, Abeokuta, had the highest number of inmates (740), followed by that at Ibadan, with 702 inmates. The prison service with the least number of inmates was that in Akure, with 600 inmates. When the prison inmates were classified on the nature of their confinement, 907 were awaiting trial males (ATM), 140 awaiting trial females (ATF), 405 convicted males (CM), and 60 convicted females (CF).

Ten percent of the 2042 prison inmates were selected for the study. The decision to take ten percent of the sample frame as the sample population is in tandem with the submission in the existing literature on simple random sampling method, that 10% sample is an adequate have spent not less than 3 months in the prison and must be mentally stable.

For the purpose of this study, both primary and secondary sources of data were employed to obtain and gather information. The primary data involved the collection of first-hand information through the administration of the questionnaire and focus group discussion with the respondents. The administrations of the questionnaire were done by the researcher and the research assistants with due permission and cooperation of prison officials. The questionnaires were structured with open-ended and close-ended questions. The close-ended questions were precise, containing the bio-data, socioeconomic status and probing statements about their living conditions and daily routines in the prison yard. The prisoners were visited by the researcher at the appointed and approved time with adherence to the prison regulations. The prisoners that could fill the questionnaire without being guided were asked to do so under the supervision of Prison Welfare officer. Only 200 of the 204 copies of the questionnaire administered on the prison inmates were correctly filled, returned and used for analysis in the study. Thorough personal observations were made on physical appearance of prison inmates, environment in which they live, and prison infrastructures in all the prisons visited in the three states. Also, clarifications were sought on some grey areas as observed.

Secondary Data involved collection and recording of data emanating from the secondary source such as journals, official publications and records from Nigerian Prisons Service, magazines, periodicals, relevant books

and internet resources which were consulted on facts and figures relating to the administration of prisons service.

3. RESULTS OF FINDINGS

The results of this study are presented as the extent of implementation of rehabilitation programme and examination of the welfare (relating to legal) of inmates in selected prisons in Southwestern Nigeria.

The extent in the implementation of rehabilitation programmes.

Table 1
Percentage Distribution of Respondents on Recreation and Formal Education

Available recreation facilities are:	Frequency	Percentage
Very adequately	45	22.5
Adequately	19	9.5
Indifferent	25	2.5
Inadequately	50	25.0
Very inadequate	61	30.5
Total	200	100.0
Recreational activities to relieve boredom		
Strongly agreed	99	49.5
Agreed	35	17.5
Indifferent	16	8.0
Disagreed	33	16.5
Strongly disagreed	17	8.5
Total	200	100.0
Availability of formal school in the prison		
Strongly agreed	11	5.5
Agreed	5	2.5
Indifferent	21	10.5
Disagreed	63	31.5
Strongly disagreed	100	50.0
Total	200	100.0
Available Library facilities in the prison		
Strongly agreed	20	10.0
Agreed	12	6.0
Indifferent	30	15.0
Disagreed	80	40.0
Strongly disagreed	58	29.0
Total	200	100.0

Source: Field Survey, January 2018.

On recreation, Table 1 shows that 111(55.5%) of the respondents held the view that recreation facilities 50(25.0%) were 'inadequate' or 61(31.5%) 'very inadequate'; on the contrary, 64(32%) were of the view that recreation facilities 19 (9.5%) were 'adequate' or 45 (22.5%) 'very adequate' for their use. This shows that recreational facilities were not on the ground but focus discussion confirmed an improvised one. 134(67%) inmates believed very believes otherwise and 16(8%) remained indifferent. Large numbers of the respondents were fully in support of the provision of recreation facilities as it contributes to the physical wellbeing of the body system and relieves boredom.

On the existence of formal school 100(50.0%) of the

respondents 'strongly disagreed' or 63(31.5%) 'disagreed' on the existence of any formal education in the prison. But the contrary view was expressed by 16(8%). While 21(10.5%) were indifferent. This result indicates that any form of schooling is not available in the prison yard. 138(69%) either 'disagreed' or 'strongly disagreed' that library facilities were not available in the prison but less significant respondents 32(22%) held the contrary opinion. Unavailability of school and library will impact negatively on both reformation and rehabilitation.

(26.2%) disagreed or 86(42.5%) strongly disagreed that there was an effective skill acquisition training in the prison. While 34(16.8%) of the respondents were indifferent, 6(4.0%) and 21(10.4%) either strongly agreed or agreed respectively that there were availability effective skill and vocational training in the prison. On working materials and equipment impact 98(52.9%) respondents consented to its availability has been adequate and very adequate. 65 (35.2%) objected to its adequacy. 22(11.9%) were indifferent. On discussion with the prison, the official confirmed that artisan prisoners were engaged to teach others that may be interested in the field. Hence, there is no elaborate workshop or working materials and equipment on the ground, other than the traditional methods which are not consistent. Due to the inconsistency and irregularity of the acquired vocational training, 160 (86.3%) either disagreed or strongly disagreed with being competent to put into practice the acquired knowledge if provided with finance and equipment. The significance of this result is that prison inmates have declared that skill and vocational training is virtually not on the ground as the majority are not competent to establish and display the acquired skill. This is vital to life sustenance on proper rehabilitation of the prisoners after being discharged from the prison into the larger community.

Source: Field Survey, January 2018.

On the legal matter, Table 3 shows that 83(44.5%) inmates have been standing trial ranges between one to twelve months. Also, 65(32.5%) inmates claimed to have been standing trial for between 1-5 years. 52(26.5%) of the respondents said they have been on trial for over 5 years. However, some prisoners claimed that they have been on trial for more than ten years.

legal representation while 91(45.5%) of the respondents do not have legal representation. Various reasons were put forward in which 40(20.0%) and 43(21.5%) prisoners reported their inability to secure legal representation and inability to pay legal fees led to their long trials respectively; also 25(12.5%) and 57(28.5%) prisoners claimed that delay arising from their lawyers as well as delay by the court system are responsible for the long trials respectively. But 35(17.5%) prisoners emphasize undue adjournment by the court.

On how they feel as a result of long adjournment in which 25(12.5%) and 81(40.5%) prisoners reported either 'apprehensive' or 'very apprehensive', Likewise,

‘Not very apprehensive’ constituted 50(25.0%), and ‘not apprehensive’ 29(14.5%) while 15(7.5%) were indifferent. The long trial, long adjournment and inability of the inmates to secure a lawyer made them become hopeless and highly apprehensive which is a source of overcrowding and catalyst to jailbreak.

On the performance of the Court system, 56(28%) and 40(20.0%) inmates either agreed or strongly agreed satisfactorily. But 22(11.0%) and 67(33.5%) expressed that they disapprove or strongly disapprove unsatisfactory court performance while 15(7.5%) were indifferent.

Testing of Hypothesis one

H0: The extent of implementation and administration of rehabilitation programme of

Nigerian Prison Service is not effective H1: The extent of implementation and administration of rehabilitation programme of

Nigerian Prison Service is effective

available to the inmates in the prison; and with your knowledge in the vocation, if provided with equipment, you can practice very well” respectively. Using the chi-square test to test the Hypothesis

Chi-Square (χ^2) calculated is given as

$$\frac{\sum (oi - ei)^2}{ei}$$

$$\frac{\sum (oi - ei)^2}{ei} = 1.101$$

$$\frac{2.22}{2.22}$$

χ at 5% significance level (0.05) = 3.841 this implies that $\chi < \chi_{ct}$

Since the value of chi-square (i.e. 1.101) calculated for hypothesis two above is lesser than the value of chi-square tabulated (i.e. 3.841), the Null hypothesis which state that rehabilitation programme of Nigerian Prisons Service is not effective is accepted. The consequence of this hypothesis is that the inmates who are far from being reformed will not be able to provide for their daily need on release and will find it difficult to integrate into the community, and the temptation to take to crime is higher than before.

3.2 Testing of Hypothesis Two

H0: Nigeria prison inmates are not well-taken care of. H1: Nigeria prison inmates are well-taken care off.

The variables used to test this hypothesis are “and in your view, the court system could be said to have performed very satisfactorily”. Using the chi-square test to test the Hypothesis

$$\chi = 1.500$$

$$\frac{2.22}{2.22}$$

χ at 5% significance level (0.05) = 3.841 this implies that $\chi < \chi_{ct}$

t ct

of chi-square tabulated (i.e. 3.841), the Null hypothesis

which state that the prison inmates are not well-taken care off is accepted. The consequence of this hypothesis is that the inmates who are far from being reformed faced difficulties to procure and have access to legal representation as well as court processes and procedures that prolong their stay in the prison.

4. DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

On recreation, it was revealed that 111(55.5%) of the respondents held the view that recreation facilities were either ‘inadequate’ or ‘very inadequate’. This shows that recreational facilities were not on the ground but focus discussion confirmed an improvised one. 134(67%) inmates believed very strongly or strongly that provision of recreation facilities will relieve boredom. Large numbers of the respondents were fully in support of the provision of recreation facilities as it contributes to the physical wellbeing of the body system and relieves boredom. However, this revelation runs contrary to the Federal Government (1989) position on the objective of the recreational provision to prison inmates.

On the existence of formal school 100(50.0%) of the respondents ‘strongly disagreed’ or 63(31.5%) ‘disagreed’ on the existence of any formal education in the prison. Likewise, 138(69%) inmates either ‘disagreed’ or ‘strongly disagreed’ that library facilities were not available in the prison. This negates Oketunji’s (2005) position and violates the United Nations (Economic and Social Council) in Treatment of Offenders (1977) Article 40 which recommended that every institution shall have a well-stocked library for the use of all categories of prisoners. Ineffective therapeutic use of books by the inmates brought about by non-availability of the library (Daramola, 2004) has limited the horizon and free flow of information as expressed by Shirley (2006) and Campbell (2010) with negative impact and consequences on effective reformation and rehabilitation programme implementation.

On effective skill acquisition, the majority of inmates 139(68.7%) either 53 (26.2%) disagreed or 86(42.5%) strongly disagreed that there was an effective skill acquisition training in the prison. However, Kadiri & Haliso (2011), Omoni and Ijeh (2003) emphasized the need for adequate information, qualitative education and skill acquisition to stem the tide of recidivism which is as seen in the study is not obtainable in Nigerian prisons.

On working materials and equipment impact 98(52.9%) respondents consented to its availability has been adequate and very adequate. The discussion with the prison official confirmed that artisan prisoners were engaged to teach others that may be interested in the field. Hence, there is no elaborate workshop or working materials and equipment on the ground, other than the traditional methods which are not consistent. Due to the inconsistency and irregularity of the acquired vocational

training, 160 (86.3%) either disagreed or strongly disagreed with being competent to put into practice the acquired knowledge if provided with finance and equipment. The significance of this result is that prison inmates have declared that skill and vocational training is virtually not on the ground as the majority are not

competent to establish and display the acquired skill. The Null hypothesis ($\chi = 1.101$; c

$p=0.05$) which state that rehabilitation programme of Nigerian Prisons Service is not effective is hereby confirmed. This is vital to life sustenance on proper rehabilitation of the prisoners after being discharged from the prison into the larger community.

52(26.5%) of the respondents said they have been on trial for over 5 years. However, some prisoners claimed that they have been on trial for more than ten years. It can be inferred that highest percentage 109(54.5%) of the respondents claimed to have legal representation while 91(45.5%) of the respondents do not have legal representation. Various reasons were put forward in which 40(20.0%) and 43(21.5%) prisoners reported their inability to secure legal representation and inability to pay legal fees led to their long trials respectively; also delay by the court system are responsible for the long trials respectively. But 35(17.5%)

prisoners emphasize undue adjournment by the court. The Null hypothesis ($\chi = 1.500$; c $p=0.05$) which state that the prison inmates are not well taken care of legally is hereby confirmed. On how they feel as a result of long adjournment in which 25(12.5%) and 81(40.5%) prisoners reported either 'apprehensive' or 'very apprehensive', The long trial, long adjournment and inability of the inmates to secure a lawyer made them become hopeless and highly apprehensive which is a source of overcrowding and catalyst to jailbreak. But 22(11.0%) and 67(33.5%) expressed that they disapprove or strongly disapprove unsatisfactory court performance.

CONCLUSION

The operation of Nigerian Prisons Service is shrouded in secrecy and concealment which abhor corruption, inefficiency and maladministration. As a result of the above findings, the study deduced that Nigerian Prisons Service was unable to put in place rehabilitation programme that will impact positively on inmates which have promoted frequent jailbreak, increase in the rate of recidivism and high level of insecurity to lives and properties. Hence, the study concluded that the rehabilitation programme implementation by Nigerian Prisons Service is ineffective and inefficient.

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