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**EFFICACY OF REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION PROGRAMMES OF INMATES IN NIGERIA
CORRECTIONAL SERVICE: A PILOT STUDY OF KEFFI CUSTODIAL CENTRES, NASARAWA STATE**

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Abstract

The survival of man is education and is generally viewed as the most imperative instrument for change, progress and development by all communities the world over. The believe of scholars and have argued that educating human beings would go a long way to bring about the change desired in the development of our communities. Inmates in Nigerian Correctional facilities are part of the communities and in fact need forms of education that will prepare them for a change in life after serving their jail terms. There is no empirical evidence as to show how correctional centres are providing access to education due to the condition of the correctional centres irrespective of the nature of offenses, terms of judgments, etc. The study indicated an outcome of a study conducted on the Correctional Services in Keffi, Nasarawa State. From a population of 182 inmates, a sample of 60 was utilized for the study representing 10%. The study made use of exploratory research design. Interview and Focus Group Discussion (FGD) drawn from the five research questions were used as instruments. Results indicated that much have not been provided in term of recreational education activities because of the nature of the correctional centres, hence rehabilitation and reintegration of the convicts into new life after serving their jail terms is not promoted. It was established that many of the equipments in the correctional facilities are outdated which do not go along with the demand of the current situation. The study solicited for friendlier correctional services as enshrined in the Nigerian Constitution.

Keywords: Efficacy, Nigeria Correctional Service, Rehabilitation, Reintegration, Nasarawa State.

Introduction

A Custodian Centre is indeed as a deprivation of right. But, all over the world, it usually means a violation and deprivation of many other human rights as well, including the right to adult education. Access to adult learning is not only a basic human right. It is a crucial step towards the rehabilitation and the reintegration of inmates into the society. A correctional centre which is usually regarded as correctional is a physical structure within a specific geographical location which affords a unique social environment different from the larger society where people live according to specialized conditions having been convicted of an offence through a due process of Law (Akpan, 2016).

All over the world, corrections are established to serve as rehabilitation and reformatory institutions with the ultimate goal of reorienting and reforming inmates so that they could come out and serve as useful members of the society (Dode, 2014).

Thus, for the inmates to be successfully reintegrated fully into the society, they are being rehabilitated through different corrective measures, which inform the core of the establishment of the service.

However, considering the imperativeness of correctional centres in internal security and reintegration of rehabilitated inmates into the society, it is disheartening to note about the paucity of literature that exist in this

area (Bodunde et al, 2014, Tsuwa & Okoh, 2016), scholars, seems to have focused more on the issue of national security (Robert-Okoh, 2014) and neglecting the various agencies that are saddle with the responsibility of ensuring internal security in the Country and most especially the Nigerian Correctional Service and Investigating how inmates are being rehabilitated to ensure successful reintegration into the society.

One of the role of correctional centres is to provide an effective atmosphere that reduces the risk of reoffending. Many offenders have education and skill levels well below the average and are likely to be unemployed, which has an impact on their health and ability to good accommodation.

The introduction of Vocational Education and Training (VET) Programmes as part of inmates rehabilitation offers opportunities for criminals to reduce this demerits, thereby increasing likelihood of successful reintegration into the society and reducing the risk of offending. The programmes include the provision of pre-release/transition and employment programmes the opportunity to be involved in meaningful correctional work, the expansion of vocational training and more access to advice about health services, education, training and housing prior to release.

The education programmes offer literacy and numeracy courses as well as higher-level qualification, such as VET diploma and University degrees. The courses can be completed within the correctional period through distance learning. The high completion rate was attributed to undertaking a risk assessment and looking at the sentence management plan to determine the educational and VET Programmes needs of offenders, offering the courses as modules, having dedicated training workshops promoting the employment opportunities provided by the training, recognizing the achievement of students who completed a course.

Inmates believed that as well as providing technical skills, the course also improved their communication and organizational skills, all of which would aid them find employment and reintegrate them into the society after jail term.

Barriers to undertaking VET courses include the need for inmates to undertake criminally minded programmes and their desire to earn money through paid correctional work. Other factors were short sentences (under 12 months) and long waiting lists for course, being released early. There also exists, amongst some custodial staff, the view that correctional centres are primarily places of correction, not training. These barriers can be overcome by arranging for courses to be help at time that did not conflict with behavior management courses or paid work opportunities, through consultation with sentencing and releasing authorities, and through cultural and structural change (Callan & Gardner, 2007).

It was stressed that in many Countries, including industrialized and ones, human rights abuses in correctional centres are still common. Inmates are denied access to the most basic services such as education, personal hygiene, health and nutrition. Advocacy for the education of inmates is thus cumbersome, but vitally necessary. For the purposes of convenience and because of relatedness, correctional centre and prison service will be used interchangeably in this study to describe the service approach to Nigerian Correctional Services Custodial Centres. More than ever before, inmates rehabilitation and reintegration attract a great deal of attention in the correctional service area as it is used by the people and the government.

Efficacy of Rehabilitation Programme of Inmates

Scholars have picked interest in the study of efficacy of rehabilitation programmes. Such scholars include Mgbor and Enuke (2013) posit that the imperativeness of recreational activities to healthful living, particularly at this present age of technology is no longer in doubt; in fact literature is replete with the attributions of recreational programmes to the maintenance of good health and longevity (Mgbor & Enuke, 2003). Ashokia (2013) who worked on the Health and Social Welfare of Nigerian Correctional Services (2011) with conclusion that correctional inmates are provided with Adult and Remedial Education Programme (AREP).

Accordingly, Sutton (1993) there are three major immediate objectives of correctional education at the

basic level reflecting differing views of the purpose of a criminal justice system: to enable employment, vocational skills and to advance further education and training, to change attributes and behavior. and to keep inmates meaningful busy.

According to Enuke (2001), Prison inmates prefer one rehabilitation service or activities to the other. This stand was also in agreement with Tanimu (2010) that rehabilitation activities prison inmates engaged in depends on whether they are inside or outside their cells and the one they prefer. Tanimu also said that when in their cells inmates prefer games like draft, ludo and cards etc.

Correction

Correction is the ability to exercise control over criminal offenders which is dependent on authorized legislations. The Nigeria Correctional Code includes status governing sentencing, probation, confinement, community based programmes and pardon. These status are the foundation on which a criminal corrections system stood for. The basic philosophy of correction is the recognition that an offender is still a human being whose dignity must be protected while attempting to correct him. Hence, the policy stated among others: deterring members of the society from criminal tendencies, encouragement of correctional approach that taps and reinforces traditional values and customs and encouragement of community participation in the correction of the offenders or criminals; and Encouragement and facilitation of social, economic and psychological adjustment of the criminals.

Rehabilitation of Inmates

Rehabilitation is a set of measures that assist individual who experience, or are likely to experience disability to achieve and maintain optimal functioning in reaction with their environments. In the view of Awopetu (2011). Rehabilitation with specific reference to prison rehabilitation means bringing the criminal to normal life. Thus, criminal are condemned to prison for the objective of reintegration after rehabilitation (Asokhia and Agboluaje, 2013). Ekpe and Mammah (1997) posit that rehabilitation is the effort to change offenders through

treatment and beneficial measures so that when granted the chance he or she will desist from indulging in crime. Ugwuoke and Ojunugwa (2014) attest that rehabilitation simply means the modification of a trait or character and actions of a convicted felon through a good educational scheme or corrective treatment, making sure those individual offenders are reverted back into the society as an accomplished, self-rooting and recognized member of the society.

Rehabilitation according to (FRN, 1989) is a process whereby a disabled person (Prisoners as used in the Study) is reported to the fullest physical, mental, psychological, social vocational and economic usefulness of which the individual is capable. The Social Development Policy (SDP) for Nigeria as contained in the FGN (1989) further shows that Nigerian society have moral justification to cater for the needs of the disabled as well as prisoners. The fundamental objective of the SDP was to guarantee the handicapped conducive environment and opportunity to develop their potentials as citizens of the Country. By so doing, government aimed to achieve the following specific objectives: ensure an appropriate training for the handicapped in order to reduce dependency; ensure provision of relief materials and ensure effective administration of crisis situation of the handicapped; among others.

The major issue of rehabilitation is thus in line with the resolution of the general assembly of the United Nation (UN) basic principles of the treatment of inmates was adopted on 14th December, 1990 (Resolution 45/III). One of these principles is that all inmates should have the liberty to take part in cultural programmes and education aimed at full development of the human personality (No. 6) of resolution emphasized that: the education must be of the appropriate type and the educational level of criminals be considered if education is to be provided.

Reintegration of Inmates

The Nigerian Correctional Services is no doubt an indispensable department of the Federal Ministry of Interior saddle with responsibility of rehabilitating inmates so that they can be corrected and reintegrated into the society. The assumption is that an effective

rehabilitation and reformation that are coupled with proper community reintegration could prove pivotal in reducing the ever increasing rate of recidivism in the society. However, research has consistently indicated that time spent in correctional facilities does not successfully rehabilitate most inmates, and the majority of criminals return to a life of crime almost immediately (Ugwuoke & Ameh, 2014). If this is the case in Nigeria with convicts' criminals, then reintegrating ex-convicts that are not corrected into the society can be a high risk to internal security.

Many scholars contend that most inmates will actually learn new and better ways to commit crimes while they are locked up with their colleagues (convicts). They can also make connections and become more deeply involved in the criminal world. However, the ultimate responsibility of the prison is to correct every negative behavior or attitude of inmates to conform to societal high esteem values. Effective rehabilitation and reformation of prisoners depend largely on prison officers (Omboto, 2013). Correctional officers play vital roles in the proper functioning of correctional institutions and directly impact on the attitude of inmates through their daily contacts with them (Moon & Maxwell, 2004).

Reaction to the early schools of penology and the idea that something more was needed, slowly gained acceptance throughout the 19th century. Jean Hampton, the major adherent of this theory sees punishment from different points of view that the aim of the penal system should be treatment and correction.

The assumption of rehabilitation is that people are not negatively criminal and that it is possible to restore a criminal to a useful life, to life in which they contribute positively to the development of themselves and the society. Accordingly, Packer as cited in Dambazau (2007). The rehabilitation theory teaches us that "...we must treat each offender as an individual whose special needs and problems must be known... in order to enable us deal effectively with him". Analyzing rehabilitative as a justification for punishment, Packer further noted that rehabilitative idea may be used to prevent crime by changing the personality of that criminal that punishment

in the theory is forward looking, that the inquiry is not into how dangerous the criminal is but rather into how amenable to treatment he is. However, Packer also noted that the gravity of the offence committed may not give us clue as to the intensity and duration of the measures needed to rehabilitate.

In addition, Siegel (2005) affirmed that rehabilitation embraces the notion that given the proper care and treatment, criminals can be changed into productive, law-abiding citizens for internal security.

Influenced by the Positivist Criminology, the rehabilitation school suggests that people commit crimes through no fault of their own. Instead criminals themselves are the victims of social injustice, poverty and racism, their acts are a response to a society that has betrayed them and because of their disturbed and impoverished upbringing, they may be suffering psychological problems and personality disturbances that further enhance their committing capacities.

Similarly, Ugwuoke (2000) assert that "rehabilitation requires that the criminal be treated humanely with dignity and respect, be shown love, kindness and compassion not cruelty, contempt and hate". The theoretical framework for this study is hinged on the rehabilitative perspective by Siegel (2005). This theory indeed captures the thrust of this study as it tries to establish the justification or rationale behind the treatment of convicts by "changing the attitude and behavior of criminals so that they will be able to choose lawful means, in satisfying their needs" (Dinitz & Dine, 1979).

Literature Review

A couple of empirical investigations have been done in respect to the conditions of the Nigerian Correctional System and how they are faring in correcting and rehabilitating of inmates. These studies have touched on the areas of correctional administration (Onyekachi, 2016).

In order to examine the efficacy of Nigerian Correctional Service in rehabilitating and reintegrating inmates,

literature on correctional performance were interrogated. Considering the efficacy of rehabilitation programmes in the Nigerian Correctional Services, Uche, Ezumah, Ebue, Okafor and Ezenbe (2015). Study the perception of inmates in Keffi Correctional Centres. The result indicated that rehabilitation programmes in the correctional centres have not achieved much. It was also discovered that duration of service for the inmates does not make the inmates to be actively involved in rehabilitation programmes. Majority of the respondents agreed that lack of fund/inadequate funding was the main hindrance to the programmes. It thus recommended that social workers, Philanthropists should contribute in ensuring that adequate facilities are provided to enhance the efficacy of the rehabilitation programmes. However, Okwelle and Deebom (2018) assessed the training instructors' competencies in vocational education programmes of Nigerian Correctional Centre in Keffi, Nasarawa State. Using structured questionnaire validated by three experts and coefficient 0.83 was established using Paired Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) Coefficient reliability method, the study sampled 214 vocational instructors was randomly. It was found that the vocational instructors had varying levels of academic qualifications; years of experience and involved in various vocational training capacity building programmes to improve their competencies as vocational training instructors of Nigerian Correctional Service in Keffi, Nasarawa State.

Furthermore, Ugwuoke and Ojonugwa (2014) investigated rehabilitation of convicts in Nigerian Correctional Services. Their findings clearly indicated that despite the official claims that these Correctional Services are operating on the principles of rehabilitation and reformation, abundant evidence shows that these institutions are still largely retributive in nature. Though, the study Correctional in Kogi State, they expect retributive traits to be similar in other Nigerian Correctional Centres.

Recently, Otu (2015) analysed the causes and effects of recidivism in the Nigerian Correctional Service System. Looking at how Nigerian Correctional System is witnessing an enormous increase in people relapsing into

crime and criminality, recidivist. This development has challenged the practicality and feasibility of rehabilitation programmes in Nigerian Correctional Services. From the view, Otu (2015) established the criminal recidivism is caused by many factors: discrimination and stigmatization, lack of aftercare services or reintegration, support programmes, familial, structural, substance abuse, peer influence, etc. also, recidivism has negative effects on inmates, correctional institution and the general public, especially the tax payers, whose tax is used to run the Nigerian Criminal Justice System. The study also revealed that qualitative treatment of inmates and provision of educational and vocational programmes are leading recidivism-control strategies. However, this study failed to address the reasons behind increase of recidivism in Nigerian Judicial System.

Otodo and Ugwuoke (2015) examined the role of education in the rehabilitation, reformation and reintegration of inmates of Jos Correctional Centre. The rehabilitation of inmates through formal education is necessary. The study adopted the descriptive research design. Thus, a 23-item questionnaire was developed and administered to 250 respondents comprising of 150 inmates and 100 staff of Jos Correctional Centre who were chosen through stratified random sampling. The result indicated that the respondents agreed that education for inmates is key imperative in the rehabilitation, reformation and reintegration of inmates. Also, some challenges militating against the smooth operation of formal education in Jos Correctional Centre were highlighted.

Based on the finding, some useful recommendations were preferred on how to better the education of inmates for effective rehabilitation, reformation and reintegration of the inmates into the society as useful citizens.

Methodology

The exploratory research survey designed was deployed in this work. Bhat (N. D.) defined exploratory research as "a research used to investigate a problem which is not clearly defined. It is exploratory simply because the researcher seeks to know the efficacy of the

rehabilitation, reformation and reintegration programmes on the inmates' personality and mindset.

Area of Study

The area of study for this work is centered on the Correctional Services in Keffi (old & new) in Nasarawa State.

Population of the Study

The Population of the study consisted the two correctional Centres in Keffi (old and new). The total

number of inmates in the old correctional centre is 60 with 53 Males and 7 Female respectively. There are 45 inmates in the old correctional centre are awaiting trial, 5 condemned inmate and 10 inmates sentenced to various number of years. In the new correctional centre, the total number of inmates is 122 females. Amongst the 122 females, 50 are awaiting trial. When this survey was conducted, only 60 of the 182 inmates were picked for the study representing 30% of the total numbers and status in the correctional centres.

Table 1: Population for the study

S/N	Inmates	Old Keffi Correctional Centre	New Keffi Correctional Centre	Total No of Inmates	10% of Sample on Population
1.	Condemned inmates	5	-	5	2
2.	Awaiting Trial (ATM)	45	72	117	12
3.	Life imprisonment	-	-	0	NIL
4.	Serving Jail Time	10	50	60	6
5	Total inmates in correctional facilities	60	122	182	18

Source: Field work, 2020.

Samples and Sampling Technique

The samples and sampling technique used in the study was the non-probability sampling technique in selecting the sample size. Non-probability sampling is a process that does not give all the inmates in the correctional facilities same chance of being selected. The sampling technique used are purposive and convenience selection. Purposive sampling was used because the researcher needed to survey a group of inmates with certain characteristics appropriate for the research. For instance, were not used because of their circumstances. Secondly, convenience sampling was utilized by the researcher to obtain data from the available inmates at the moment.

Instrument for Data Collection

The research used the Structured Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and face-to-face interrogation (interview) with the inmates to collect data. The Focus Group Discussion (FGD) consist 12 questions in total. 8 questions were closed ended question while 4 were open ended

questions. he face-to-face interview was used to obtain information from inmates and then analysed using qualitative approach based on their responses.

Method of Data Collection

The researcher with the aid of Warders was involved in the conduct of interview and orderliness in interpretation of languages. The questions were screened by officials in the Correctional Centres and approved by a higher authority. The inmates were called out one after the other and the researcher conducted interviews. After the collation of data, the information was screened by the Superintendent (Officer-In-charge) before leaving the premises.

Result and Discussion

In order to measure inmates' perception of the efficacy of rehabilitation and reintegration programmes, the results from the study indicated that all the respondents agreed that rehabilitation programmes exist in the Keffi Medium Custodial Centres (100.0%), that rehabilitation programmes cover adult literacy and carpentry (28.0%) respectively, tailoring (20.0%), arts/crafts and welding (15.0%) respectively, and that the programmes last as long as one is in prison (96.0%). However, majority of the correspondents (60.0%) and (30.0%) perceived the programmes as fairly successful and not successful respectively. Moreso, the main hindrance to rehabilitation activities was lack of funds/inadequate funding (36.1%). However, most of the respondents

(86.0%) were of the view that rehabilitation activities have made positive impact in their lives.

The first question sought to find out the existence of rehabilitation activities in the Keffi Correctional Centres. All the respondents under investigation agreed that rehabilitation activities exist in the correctional center. These include literacy, arts/crafts, carpentry, tailoring and welding.

The second question focused on the types of rehabilitation activities inmates were involved in. This is presented in table 2:

Table 2: Types of rehabilitation programmes inmates were involved in.

	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Adult Literacy	16
2.	Carpentry	26
3.	Arts/Crafts	25
4.	Tailoring	18
5.	Welding	15

Source: Field work, 2020.

The types of rehabilitation programmes in the Keffi (old and new) correctional Centers indicated the types of rehabilitation programmes inmates participated in. Out of 182 correctional inmates used for the research, 16%

were involved in adult literacy respectively, 25% were involved in Arts/Crafts while 26% were involved in Carpentry respectively, 18% were also involved in tailoring and 15% were involved in welding respectively.

Table 3: Duration of rehabilitation in Keffi (old and new Correctional Center, Nasarawa State.

Duration of rehabilitation programme	Frequency	Percentage (%)
6months	2	1.4
12 months	8	5.5
As long as one is in prison	172	93.1
Total	182	100

Source: Field work, 2020.

Table 4: Respondents' Assessment of rehabilitation programmes in Keffi (Old & New) correctional centers.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Successful	20	20
Fairly successful	102	50
Not successful	60	30
Total	182	100

Source: Field work, 2020.

Table 4 shows that most of the inmates (50%) perceived the programmes as fairly successful, while (30%) perceived the programmes as not successful, while the

rest (20%) perceived the rehabilitation programmes to be successful. This implies that most of Keffi (Old and

new) correctional Centers inmates perceived rehabilitation programmes as fairly successful

Table 5: Shows the issues of implementing rehabilitation programmes.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Lack of fund/inadequate funding	61	35.2
Breakdown of equipments	50	27.6
Lack of physical infrastructures	36	18.6
Poor Management/Administration	33	17.9
Prison Staff	2	0.7
Total	182	100

Source: Field work, 2020.

Table 5 indicated that (35.2) of inmates identify lack of fund/inadequate funding as an issue to rehabilitation, 27.6% inmates indicated breakdown of equipment, 18.6% shows it was lack of physical infrastructures, 17.9 said it was poor management/Administration, while the

remaining 0.7% perceived the correctional staff care not to rehabilitate them.

The six questions focused on the impact of rehabilitation programmes to inmates. This indicated in table 6.

Table 6: The Impact of the Rehabilitation Programmes on Inmates

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Positive Impact	150	85.5
Negative Impact	2	1.4
No Impact	30	13.1
Total	182	100

Source: Field work, 2020.

Table 6 shows that 85.5% of the inmates said that rehabilitation programmes have impacted on them positively, 13.1% of the inmates had impact of the rehabilitation programmes, while 1.4% had negative impact of the rehabilitation programmes.

Discussion

The research investigated the inmates' perception of the efficacy of rehabilitation programmes in the Nigerian Conventional Centre in Keffi (old and new), Nasarawa state. One hundred and eighty two (182) Inmates were interrogated. In the analysis, the findings revealed that rehabilitation programmes exist in correctional centre and they include tailoring, carpentry, adult literacy, arts/crafts and welding. These findings are in agreement with the observation of inland (2009) correctional programmes include a variety of activities, all of which can have an impact either directly or indirectly on the rehabilitation of criminals and their successful reintegration into the society after release.

The study also revealed that as long as inmate is in the correctional facilities, he/she undergoes rehabilitation. However, the research showed that the rehabilitation programmes have been fairly successful. The main issue to rehabilitation was identified as lack of fund/inadequate funding. The funding is in agreement with Correctional Annual Report (2019) which showed that inadequate funding was the main obstacle which hinders both rehabilitation and after care of inmates. In addition, more than half of the inmates accepted that rehabilitation Programmes have impacted positively in their lives by teaching them skills which they utilize on release.

Conclusion/Recommendations

The study indicated that it is imperative to continue to provide rehabilitation programmes to the inmates because its effect has immensely changed the personality of the inmates for better life after serving their jail term and reintegrated into the society as useful citizens. The inmates especially those convicted and have less than six (6) years term in the correctional centre have great

interest on rehabilitation programmes and there is the needs to provide more programmes will enhance their capabilities. Research activities are essentials for the convicts to make them healthy and fell comfortable among each other especially as it is a form of exercise to keep the body and soul functionally active.

As a result of the findings and conclusion drawn from the study, the following recommendations are proffered:

1. There is need for qualified counselors in the custodian centers of the correctional services to give advice to inmates to participate in rehabilitation programmes while serving their jail terms.
2. Counselors are essentials in Nigeria Correctional Centres so as to give necessary advice and

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3. Government cannot do it all, therefore either is in the need for collaboration with non-governmental organization (NGO) Philanthropists and religion bodies to be fully involved in providing rehabilitation programmes.
 4. The Correctional inmates need to be motivated to attend adult literacy programmes especially those that are never been to school before or those that dropped out and have not achieved the basic education to functional effectively in the society.
 5. It is logically imperative for government to provide more materials for the vocational skills and rehabilitation programmes been taught.

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