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Prison Correctional Rehabilitation Programme for the Empowerment of Inmates in Nigeria

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Abstract

This article investigates prison correctional rehabilitation for inmate empowerment at Oke Kura prison. The study investigated the effect of rehabilitation programs on prisoners and ex-offenders in terms of empowerment and recidivism, and the greatest advantages gained by inmates were in the areas of improved literacy skills, correctional and empowered vocational training. The qualitative element was dominated by a focus group with 10 informants from Oke Kura prison in Kwara State, North Central Nigeria, and it was analyzed thematically using NVivo 10. In general, determining the rehabilitation program that shapes the trajectory of recidivism among offenders. The findings revealed that correctional rehabilitation programs are the key players in the process of re-integrating inmates into society. The findings revealed that correctional rehabilitation programs are the key players in the process of re-integrating inmates into society. The study's findings also revealed that the major factors impeding the prison rehabilitation program include rejection, assimilation challenges, and difficulty in maintaining the program's continuity, as well as insufficient training materials and a conducive learning environment, which affects inmates' performance in learning outcomes and practices of their skills.

Keywords: *Empowerment; Ex-offender; Inmate; Recidivism; Rehabilitation*

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Introduction

Increased correctional rehabilitation attainment generally is associated with increased income for the inmates, even among those with relatively low cognitive skills (Donaldson & McLellan, 2008). Increased income is connected with a decreased incidence of crime (Alipoyo, 2022). This can be explained because people choose between committing crimes and pursuing employment in the labor market. The risks associated with committing crimes are larger when having a job pays more, or getting a job is easier. As a result, choosing to commit a crime is a less attractive option to those who could earn more money with a legal job (Aliyu, Mustaffa, & Mohd, 2017). An increase in an individual's educational attainment is therefore likely to be associated with increased earnings, which is in turn associated with a decreased level of criminal activity.

Prison correctional rehabilitation programmes give inmates the opportunity to learn "pro-social norms" by providing an enclave removed from the "criminal subculture" predominant among inmates. Interacting with educators can familiarize inmates with the norms that law-abiding citizens observe while also reducing the feeling of "alienation that inmates tend to experience while in prison." The resulting improvement in social skills can make it easier for inmates to find and grasp a job upon release, which in turn reduces their likelihood of re-offending recidivism among inmates (John, 2009).

Correction correctional rehabilitation is believed by many experts to be the most challenging and frustrating component of criminal justice. There are the challenges of managing the inmates daily as well as the frustrations of inevitable mismanagement at attempting to accomplish multiple goals (Aliyu, Mustaffa & Nasir, 2016). New challenges present themselves every day. In a very real sense, employees in a correctional education programme are doing time the same as the inmates are doing time. It's easy to conduct a trial and sentence somebody; what's difficult is what to do with them after they're sentenced. Everything in corrections education is done on a large scale because there is never-ending flow of inmates.

Since the inception of the prison service in Nigeria, there have been little systematic educational provisions for inmates due to limited resource allocation. Early colonial studies have emphasized the custodial functions of the prison while silent on correctional functions of the modern prison (Aliyu, Mustaffa, & Nasir, 2017). In view of the increasing emphasis on correctional education in most European countries and North America, the need for prison education in Nigeria gradually begins to get attention. Literacy education is viewed as helping ex-offenders develop positive social skills. Therefore in order to improve the Nigerian prison education, there is an urgent need to adopt recent UN Minimum Standard for the Treatment of Offenders approved in 1990 (Olufemi et al., 2010).

Literature Review

Improvement/empowerment is more than a belief; it is a concept that governs the way we interact with people. It is also a method which reflects the values of human dignity, respect for growth of consciousness and the integrity of relationships (Donaldson

& McLellan, 2008). Paulo Freire's ideas about improvement/empowerment education developed out of his work with illiterate, Brazilian peasants in the late 1950s. Freire advocated for an educational experience that contrasted traditional what he called 'banking system' pedagogy, whereby teachers open student's heads to the treasures of civilized knowledge.

This lack of educational rehabilitation ability may have led to each inmate's incarceration. Family relationships are also part of the characteristics of the prison student. The educational, employment, and criminal histories of the family all impact the prisoner beliefs about socialization, the importance of school, vocational empowerment and incarceration.

According to Garcia, correctional education serves three purposes: first, it enhances inmates' chances of employment once released from prison by enriching their level of knowledge and skills; second, it increases inmates' ability to think more responsibly; third, it diminishes the inmates' odds of returning to prison by being more apt to be employed and making better decisions(Garcia, 2013). The ultimate goal of correctional education programs is to generate a change in the inmates' behavior (Messemer & Valentine, 2004, Gordon & Weldon, 2010 cited in Garcia, 2013), and to help inmates become self-sufficient, enabling their reintegration into society (Gonzalez et al., 2007 cited in Denise, 2013).

According to Torre and Fine (2005 cited in Garcia, 2013) agree that education within and after prison, has a positive impact on inmate's behavior, the prison environment, and post-release transitions. They conducted a four-year study of a college prison program at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility (BHCF), a maximum security women's prison in New York State. The purpose of the study was to assess the impact that the BHCF's college program had on the prisoners, their children, the prison environment, recidivism rates, tax expenditures, and prisoners' post-release outcomes (Torre & Fine, 2005 cited in Garcia, 2013). The data were obtained through participant observations, focus groups, and individual interviews with 65 inmates that were enrolled in the program, 20 former participants of the program, nine adolescents whose mother was a program participant, and four correctional officers and two prison administrators; faculty surveys; and a quantitative analysis of recidivism rates (Torre & Fine, 2005 cited in Garcia, 2013).

It is the process of producing in the inmate better view of life by trying to change his criminal behaviours. It means instilling in him the will to change from criminal behaviour to accept a life free of crime, the establishment should seek to exploit all the corrective, enlightening, moral, spiritual, and other forces and forms of assistance, which are appropriate and available and should seek to apply them according to the individual treatment needs of the prisoner (Cook, Kang, Braga, Ludwig, & O'Brien, 2015). Rehabilitation of inmates in many prisons in Nigeria are faced with many challenges from physical to mental, which affect the staffs, the inmates and even the society at large (Miceli, 2009). Collaboration between government, private sector and community-based care service providers through joint trainings of the social workers, location visit exchanges by the participant, and funding initiatives that support continuity of care for

inmates and the released inmates who are repentant and are transform by the prison rehabilitation care programme and perhaps serve as a model for inmate empowerment care that can resort to their improvement overall.

Research Methods

The method used in this paper is qualitative and the choice of respondents drawn from the staff and inmate of selected Kwara state prison, Nigeria, the qualitative aspect the focus group with 10 Informants from Oke Kura prison in Kwara Sate, Nigeria were used dominantly and it was analyzed thematically through NVivo 10. The decision of forthright unequal testing was to guarantee that each individual from the population had an equal and free round of being chosen as an informants in the study.

Results and Discussion

It is clear from the discoveries of this examination that human experience response to certain wonder is a result of a certain factorial transaction in their lives. The finding in theory 1 demonstrates that the subjects trust that detainees' recovery is not identified with formal and professional instruction. It is amazing to take note of that the finding demonstrated that there is no connection between detainees' recovery and instruction.



Figure 1. Main theme, Sub-themes and Sub Sub-themes of Informants Focus Groups Rehabilitation Programme
Source: Processed by Authors with Nvivo 10 (2021)

It is pertinent to know that the main theme of the qualitative study emerges from the research topic, since the whole issue rest on correctional rehabilitation programme in reducing recidivism among inmates in Oke Kura prison. So many activities and actions of people in the society are part of what bring about Correctional rehabilitation programme is a right for all and for inmate it is fundamental. Inmates are exceptionally defenseless stratum of society; they are significantly more prone to have malingered or been excluded from school because of one reason or the other and more are probably going to have left school without any capabilities as the case perhaps. The figure 1 shows

the main theme, sub-themes and sub sub-themes of informants focus group' rehabilitation programme.

The Influence of Correctional Rehabilitation on Ex-offender

These findings were meant to fulfill research objective of the study. The study revealed that there was no influence between ex-offenders and correctional rehabilitation prison programmes; because as at when they were released from prison there was no educational rehabilitation programme in the prison only a skeleton vocational programme without adequate equipment to facilitate practical knowledge on the ex-offender when they were in the prison.

Meanwhile, findings from the study also revealed ex-offender wellness level differed according to what they were able to do to keep their life out of crime in the society. The results indicated ex-offender at younger age with less work experience before they went into prison might experience lower wellness level possibly due to unaffordable stress at work upon that gradually magnified their wellness condition compared to ex-offender with more experience. At that point of time, these ex-offender did not have sufficient experience in ways to cope with their stress exhausting their wellness level and adaptability in the society. Nevertheless, their wellness level would gradually increase the moment their experience on how to manage their work stress in the society.

The first part of hypothesis testing relates to the relationship between the rehabilitation, empowerment, and economy (inmate and ex-offender) and inmate empowerment problem of recidivism assessment in addition, it would have been a great deal if was available during the ex-offender incarceration period. The relationship between rehabilitation, empowerment, and economy (ex-offender and inmate) and preventive or incapacitation related problem representation and finally, the relationship between preventive or incapacitation related problem representation and inmate empowerment problem of recidivism assessment.

Prison Staff Perceptions on the Impact of Correctional Rehabilitation

The study discovered that rehabilitation play a significant role in the collection of inmates' behaviour that eventually result to a life of crime in the society whether in Nigeria or outside Nigeria. This character, which matches the conclusion of literature, is specifically obvious and more penetrating to the prisoners through the type of rehabilitation received while in the prison. When viewed by definition of rehabilitation, so many activities and actions of people in the society are part of what bring about rehabilitation programme, it is a "right for all" and for inmate it is fundamental.

Inmates are exceptionally defenseless stratum of society; they are significantly more prone to have malingered or been excluded from school because of one reason or the other and more are probably going to have left school without any capabilities as the case perhaps (Miceli, 2009). The views as expressed by the Informants on the regularly they need to utilize time conveniently yet can't take an interest in the classroom environment and the standard instruction in prison (where it exists) concentrates on

fundamental and life attitudes and may not be proper for their level or what they sought to be. The figure 2 show how the items; such as programme, empowerment of the inmate, their behaviour can reduce recidivism and get the inmate rehabilitated.



Figure 2. Perception of Prison Staffs on the Impact on of Correctional Rehabilitation
Source: Processed by Authors with Nvivo 10 (2021)

Empowerment of the Inmate

The empowerment programme model as a recurring action and reflection process that enables people to learn from their collective attempts at change and to become more deeply involved to surmount the cultural, social, or historic barriers" in their communities (Bennett, 2015). Empowerment, as Freire conceptualized it, involves much more than simply improving self-esteem or self-efficacy" but aspires for greater systematic change study. Children additionally learn behavior from external sources, similar to improved loved ones, buddies, and academics. Astray-caneda, Busbee, & Fanning argued that radio and television personalities have an inspiration on children's public conduct. These outside sources have an influence on the child's rational and conduct as they progress and improve (Astray-caneda, Busbee, & Fanning, 2011).

Bennett's (2015) self-efficacy theory is an extension of the social learning theory. The self-efficacy theory is used to explain a man or woman potential to overcome life's barriers by persevering in problematic times, children overcome daily difficulties (Bennett, 2015). Being self-efficient is a significant part of reaching individual goals, which children achieve with inspiration and support provided by caregivers. An offender, for instance, may reach self-efficiency through contact with others who have overcome difficulties. In distinction, the reduction in self-efficiency occurs when the offender surrounds him or herself with individuals who fail.

The informant from experience that most people when empowered mean individuals will not go into crime once they are fully employed or engaged in one work, business or the other, they were motivated to give the inmate an empowerment skills so as to be reliable and be able to provide for themselves.

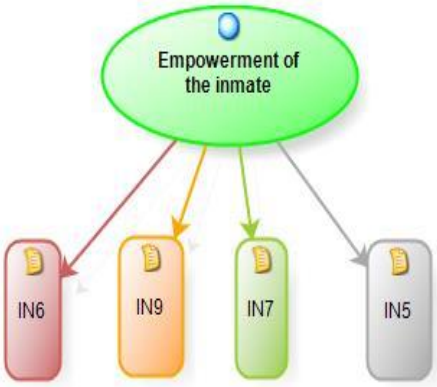


Figure 3. Empowerment of the Inmate
Source: Processed by Authors with Nvivo 10 (2021)

That people and communities have the ability to define and deal with their own problems without resulting to crime life. That successful self-management requires access to and control of proper resources for personal needs, but lack of access in no way reduces the precision with which affected people perceive their own problems and needs as one out of reach. So this propel me to do all within my reach to empower and start a process of redistributing power among the powerless inmates. Given these staffs' perceptions one important point that is understood in this perspective is the fact that the pattern of empowerment is crucial in determining the role that that social worker plays in the rehabilitation programme.

Challenges of Rehabilitation Programme for the Empowerment of Inmates

The Nigerian prison facilities have been immensely described by a few issues, which a few examines have shown to be the purposes behind the insufficiencies of the framework as a restorative organization. In different regards, life in Nigerian jails when all is said in done is excessively controlled to the degree that there is strict control in practically all exercises of the detainees. This regularly leaves the detainees in a rationally brutalized way with broken body and soul, which demolishes the people.

In such manner, it is clear that the detainment facilities framework in Nigeria is confronted with the issue of devastating the individual individuals of the group, which refutes the pith of detainment, adding up to human advancement wastage in the national math. It is apparent that different jails in Nigeria are saddled with the issue of turning out maladjusted discharges. The burdens faced are the training method of the rehabilitation which is inadequate, lack of enabling environment, and lack of funding.

Training and development are essential to success in achieving the service goals. The role of training inmates in custody is therefore primarily determined by overall purpose of the organization or service. This provides those responsible for implementing training and development with the best possible raison deter (Miceli, 2009). The stimulus for adopting a systematic approach to raining and development arises from the intensity of internal and external pressure for change in the service. The first step in a systematic approach is to devise a policy statement to act as a guide to the service's intention

concerning the weight and direction to be given to training and development. The second step is to define an initial set of roles for those responsible for implementing the policy, notable trainers. The third step is to set up a suitable structure of training post and procedures, and to allocate sufficient funds to the training organization.

Several studies were conducted to evaluate the validity of the correctional education programmes provided to prisoners. While previous researches shows an association between prison education program and reduction of recidivism among inmates. Methodological limitation have been identified with the studies in relations to the definition of recidivism, bias in selection of sample and inaccuracy in the analysis of the collected data (Gatotoh, 2011). Among the first critics of the effectiveness of prison education, Robert Martison in 1970s reviewed 231 studies published work between 1945 and 1967 on prison education and concluded that the rehabilitation effort published between this periods had no appreciable effect on recidivism (Aliyu, Mustaffa, & Nasir, 2017). The consequence of this study became noticeable as the number of federal prisons who have enrolled in post-secondary education has saturated at 12% and thereafter reduced dramatically. The conclusion of Martison that nothing works in educating prisoners further affected the prison programs. Thus, fueling the shift from the rehabilitation model to the punitive model (Aliyu, Mustaffa, & Mohd, 2017).

Hence, the result of Martison was embraced by the critics of rehabilitation to push towards the philosophy of correction and the practices that highlight incapacitation (Lee et al., 2014). Even though it was asserted in the study that there is no meaningful effect of prison education programs, however, it was acknowledge in the current time that prison education has effect on the prisoners but the methodological flaws of the validity of the prison education studies were criticized.

Furthermore, the rate of recidivism was analyzed as the main means in assessing the effect of prison education programs because of its transparency ability to reveal how money is spent in executing the correctional system. Empirical evidences in the aspects of rehabilitation programs are as well provided by recidivism to the policy makers who are in support of the effectiveness of the rehabilitation program (Quan-Baffour & Zawada, 2012). However, the studies on recidivism are criticized by scholars due to inconsistencies which affects the accuracy of the conclusions of recidivism studies (Wolfgruber, 2010).

In every society the access to basic facilities like electricity, drinking water, sanitation, health care facilities and solid waste management are critical determinants of quality of life. As important as these amenities are to the cherished existence of any community, most especially the inmates, on the other hand the staff of the prison, they are seriously deficient and unequally distributed in some societies and prisons inclusive, one of which is Nigeria. Though, the imbalances in access to social amenities may be due to inefficiency in the distribution and allocation as a result of social barriers like classroom, workshop, rehabilitation centers in the prison, but in the case of Nigerian prison service, according to some staffs, it is mostly as result of government failure and deliberate abandonment of prison facilities all over Nigeria (Aliyu, Mustaffa, & Mohd, 2017). This observation was equally echoed by all the people the researcher come in

contacts with during the course of this study as a serious source of worry and aggressive behaviours from the people. For instance, one of them stressed that, insufficiency in the instructive capacity of the detainees has prompted to further recidivism among the detainees, just to have daily food.

Funds are not adequately provided to the Nigerian Prison Service for the procurement of tools, machinery and other correctional materials, for the reformative programmes which are being carried out in the prisons. As a result of this, most of the times the inmates are idle. An idle mind, they say is the devil's workshop. Another problem or challenge may be that of manpower Disposition and Training. There has been a dearth of qualified manpower in Nigeria prisons workshops, cottage industries and farms, which constitute a great hindrance to correctional programmes. In addition, the recent downsizing has swept away the experienced technical manpower which has created a vacuum in the training and reformation of the prison inmates (Aliyu, Mustaffa, & Nasir, 2017). Even the existing staffs that are remaining lack the required training to impart skills to the inmates in our various prisons. The resultant effect of this is the reduction in the capacity to generate revenue for government through the prison industry and level of skill acquisition among the inmates.

Conclusion

The UN Standard Minimum Rules do say that all cells and perimeter walls and dormitories must have adequate heating, lighting and ventilation and that every prisoner or inmate should have their own bed or mattress with clean blanket to enhance the psychosomatic welfare of the inmate. But this study discovered that many of these inmates fall short of these basic needs in Kwara state prison.

Rehabilitation of inmates in many prisons in Nigeria are faced with many challenges from physical to mental, which affect the staffs, the inmates and even the society at large. Collaboration between government, private sector and community-based care service providers through joint trainings of the social workers, location visit exchanges by the player, and funding initiatives that support continuity of care for inmates and the released inmates who are repentant and are transform by the prison rehabilitation care programme and perhaps serve as a model for inmate empowerment care overall. This exploration studies of current rehabilitation programs and systematic provision of the standards of practice for inmates in Correctional Settings will change the cause of inmate recidivism. More rigorous research into the efficacy of specific programme interventions would further refine the care standards for the inmates.

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