
AN EXAMINATION OF CORRECTIONAL ADMINISTRATION AND CRIME PREVENTION IN NIGERIA

NACHANUAYA BENISON

benisonnachuaya09@gmail.com

09064022405

Federal University Dutse
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Department of Political Science

MAINA MACKSON ABGA

abgamainamackson@gmail.com

07035665501 & 08112004001

Federal University Dutse
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Department of Political Science

ABSTRACT

Correctional centers are institutions established to house people who have been convicted of crime or are awaiting trial; the study was aimed at evaluating prison administration and crime prevention in Nigeria, specifically the Correctional Service Center at Dutse, Jigawa State Command. Survey research method was adopted and the data was collected through primary and secondary sources. The primary source was obtained through questionnaire and In-depth Interview. While, the secondary source was obtained through reading of books, academic journals, conference and workshop papers and e-resources. The population of the study was the correctional staff and inmates from Dutse Commanded; a total number of 100 respondents were randomly selected; out of which 90 questionnaires were returned. The data collected were analyzed, using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) software package; findings of the study revealed that lack of functional correctional facilities, inequitable distribution of resources and poor working attitude of some of the prison staff were the internal factors which constrain the correctional institution from effectively performing its statutory functions. The study was limited by the reluctance of the inmates to grant interview to get relevant data. The study recommends that increase in budgetary allocation, establishment of Open University for training and retraining of staff and inmates organizing regular workshops, provision of places of worship such as church and mosque within the prison yards, as well as periodic review of reforms policies would reduce corruption among the prisons officials and enhance effective correctional administration and crime prevention in the Custodial Centres

Keywords: Crime, correctional, prevention, Nigeria

Introduction

Correctional centers are institutions established to house people who have been convicted of crime or are on awaiting trial; inmates are kept in custody either on a

short or long-term basis, those who committed atrocious crime are sent to correctional centers, the more serious the offence the longer the correctional term imposed (Adedokun, 1990). According to McCorkle and Korn (1970), correctional center can be defined as a physical structure in a geographical location, where a number of people living under highly specialized conditions as the only alternatives presented to them within an exclusive social environment. A correctional center is thus a place of residence where individuals are cut off from the wider society for certain period of time and live a confined life after being convicted of offence.

The main purpose of incarceration are usually to punish criminals and to deter offenders from committing further crime; though correctional education and vocational training programs are often provided at the centers by the institution to realize these objectives but the way inmates perceive the objectives for the detention often impact on their responsiveness to correctional administration or rehabilitation programs, yet this continues to be the ideal picture of correctional centers generally and Dutse Jigawa state in particular. According to Awake (2005), there are four reasons why law breakers are put in correctional centers: to punish the offender, to rehabilitate the criminal by teaching him or her to be law abiding and be productive after release, to protect the society and prevent future crimes; this has been the ideal role of Nigeria correctional centers.

Man by nature is selfish and self-centered hence there is need for the presence of state institutions for the enforcement of law and order to curtail any criminal behavior; philosophically, the Nigerian correctional centers Service is an institution meant to administer penal treatment to offenders. It is an important and indispensable institution in the bid to reduce crime in the society (Ayo, 2008). On the basis of imprisonment policy, the Nigerian correctional Service was established to manage criminals in correctional yards. These constitutional functions empower the correctional operatives to keep convicted offenders in safe custody, keep awaiting trial inmates in custody until law courts determine their cases, punish offenders as prescribed by law, reform the convicted inmates, rehabilitate and re-integrate those who have completed their prison terms in the correctional center (Hannah, 2012).

Correctional Administration is a complex dynamics of various divisions and units that provide varieties of services in the management of correctional center; such services may include policy formulation and implementation, finance and budgeting, personnel management and operations (Aina, 2010). Correctional Administration is further implemented by other institutions of government as partners in ensuring a holistic management of the correctional system; such institutions include the police which are saddled with the responsibility of arresting, investigating, interrogating and

prosecuting offenders. However, many are of the view that the Nigerian correctional Service has not lived up to expectation in terms of impacting positively on the lives of inmates which has ultimately raised several questions that have not yet been completely addressed on the system's functions and existence.

The drive to re-position the Nigerian correctional Service for an improved service delivery in concert with other key players involved in the correctional administration in Nigeria has therefore necessitated this study. It is against this background that this study examines correctional administration and crime prevention in Nigeria with a particular reference to Nigeria Correctional Service, Dutse Command, and Jigawa State - Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

The correctional system is an integral component of the whole process of criminal justice system and crime prevention; the main aim of establishing the correctional institution in Nigeria, specifically Dutse, Jigawa state is to punish offenders, deter future occurrences and to provide rehabilitation and correctional facility for those who have violated the law. However, the extent to which this aphorism is true in practice has been a subject of debate. Often, criminal became hardened after coming out from penitentiary which makes correctional centers become training ground for criminals instead of rehabilitation home in Nigeria (Obioha, 1995). Issues have been raised on security of lives and property of the citizens, safe custody of the inmates, correctional center congestion, unavailability of detainees in court resulting in adjournment of cases, unhygienic and dilapidated correctional environment sometimes resulting in epidemics, ill treatment of inmates resulting in recidivism, low level of training resulting into failure in rehabilitation of inmates and proper integration into the society after correctional terms (Adedokun, 1990).

Despite all efforts made by successive governments through the enactment of new laws, amendments and policies to ensure an effective and efficient correctional administration to bring about the desired crime prevention, the rate of crimes in the society seems to be on the increase; there is high rate of recidivism and that deterrence whether specific or general is not being achieved by the Nigeria Correctional service, this makes people to questions the effectiveness of the correctional administration system in crime prevention. There is therefore the need for the Nigerian correctional Service to improved service delivery in concert with other key players involved in correctional administration in Nigeria; it is against this background that this study examines correctional administration system and crime prevention in Nigeria with a particular reference to Nigeria Correctional Service, Dutse Command and Jigawa state – Nigeria.

This study is guided by the following research questions

1. What are the objectives the establishment of the Nigerian Correctional in Jigawa State?
2. What is the relationship between effective correctional administration and crime prevention in Nigeria, especially in Jigawa State - Nigeria?
3. What are the factors that constraints the correction of inmates in Nigerian correctional center in Dutse Jigawa State?
4. What are the possible measures to enhance the effectiveness of correctional administration in crime prevention in Nigeria with particular reference to Jigawa State – Nigeria?

Aim and Objectives of the Study

The main aim of this study is to examine the correctional administration and crime prevention in Dutse, Jigawa state - Nigeria. The specific objectives are:

1. To identify the objectives of establishing the Nigerian Correctional Service
2. To determine the relationship between effective correctional administration and reduction in the occurrence of criminal activities in Nigeria
3. To identify the factors that constraints the correction of inmates in correctional centers in Dutse, Jigawa State - Nigerian.
4. To proffer possible measures of enhancing the effectiveness of the correctional administration in crime prevention in Nigeria.

Literature Review

This section reviewed the existing literatures related to the discourse; it deals with the concept of correctional center, crime, crime prevention, correctional administration, objectives for establishing correctional centers in Dutse, internal and external factors that enhances the correction of inmates as well as the theoretical framework.

Conceptualization of Correctional administration and Crime prevention

Correctional Center

Oxford dictionaries (1995) simply define correctional center as a building in which people are legally kept as a punishment for a crime or while awaiting trial; implicit in the definition is the legality or lawfulness of the correctional center, globally, government makes provision for rehabilitation Centre where those who violate the

laws of the land are kept for some time or for life and given corrective measures to help them become better citizens. Aboki (2007) state that correctional center is responsible for the custody of the final product in the criminal justice process through maintenance and taking measures to prevent escapades by erecting high walls or chain link, fence, placing guards, constant checks on cell perimeter walls and surveillance from time to time. Superlatively, correctional centers are not expected to be beds of roses as the inmates are there for penal purposes, neither is it supposed to be a bed of thorns and thistles meant to make life unpleasant for the occupants; rather, ideally they serve as reformatory institutions (Suleman, 2011).

Crime

Crime is the breach of a rule or law for which a punishment may ultimately be prescribed by some governing authority or force. The word crime originates from the Latin word *crimen* (genitive *criminis*), from the Latin root *cernō* and Greek *κρίνω* = "I judge". Originally it meant "charge (in law), guilt, accusation (Attenborough, 1922). A normative definition views crime as deviant behavior that violates prevailing norms, specifically, cultural standards setting how humans should behave.

Tappan (1947), defined crime as an intentional act in violation of criminal law committed without defense or justification and penalized by the state as felony or misdemeanor. Laws that define crimes which violate social norms are set by legislatures, and are called 'mala prohibita'; such laws vary from time to time and place to place, for example gambling laws; other crimes called 'mala in se', are often universally outlawed; especially murder, theft and rape (Gagarin Michael, 1987). Crime can be defined as any act or omission resulting from human conduct which is considered in itself or its outcome to be harmful which state wishes to prevent, which renders the person responsible liable to some kind of punishment as a result of proceedings which are usually initiated on behalf of the state and which are designed to ascertain the nature, extent and legal consequences of that person responsibility (Curzon, 1973).

Crime prevention

The rate of crime today in the society has become an issue of concern among scholars of criminology and other social science disciplines; the menace of crime undermines the social fabric by corroding sense of safety and security and has become a threat to the economic, political and social security of a nation and a major factor associated with underdevelopment; because it discourages both local and foreign investment, reduce the quality of life and destroy human and social capital (Adebayo, 2013).

The concept of crime prevention and Control came about for the purpose of

controlling, reducing and preventing crime in the society in order to ensure rapid socio-economic growth and development and to help society to achieve social order; it has to do with efforts made by the government and society to reduce and deter crimes and criminality, it involves the effort to reduce crime, enforce laws and maintenance of social order. According to the United Nation office on drugs and crimes (2004), crime prevention comprises strategies and measures that seek to reduce the risk of crime occurrences and their potential harmful effects on individual and society, including fear of crime and the attempt to reduce their multiple causes while crime control refers to the measures taken to reduce crime in the society which has to do with both formal and informal strategies that are used to reduce the impact of crime in the society.

For Clifford (1974), crime prevention refers to the measures taken by law enforcement agents or institutions to prevent committing crime or reduce it to the barest minimum. Crime prevention is an intervention in the causes of crimes and disorderly event; to reduce, prevent and control the risk of their resource and the potential seriousness of their consequences (Steven, 2010); this definition addresses both crime and its impact on individuals and society as well as the measures to combat its menace, he went further to claims that crime prevention entails any action designed to reduce the level of crime or its perceived fear. Nigeria is among the countries that are ridden with so many criminal activities such as corruption, armed robbery, theft, murder, kidnapping, insurgency, cybercrime and so on. As a result of the rapid increase of criminal cases, the need for crime prevention became a necessity in order to safe guards, and protects citizens from fear of danger and harm (Adebayo, 2013). Crime prevention involves community, governments, individuals and strong and efficient criminal justice system. Maguire, Morgan and Reiner (1997) posits that criminologists that have devised several ways of preventing crime in the society rest on three principles. These principles include:

1. Since crime consists of diverse behavior, we should not look for universality in techniques of prevention.
2. Because an action is a crime, this does not mean that best way to control it is through the police and courts. The behavior itself must be understood, to determine where change could best be brought about.
3. The scope of the criminal is morally problematic. A society in which more crime is prevented is not necessarily a more pleasant society. The burdens and restrictions imposed on people to prevent crime must be balanced against the harm caused by the crime prevented.

The definition of crime prevention differs depending on the discipline and the orientation of the scholars Ekblom(ed) (as cited in Steven, 2010). According to Steven (2010), crime prevention can be categorized in to primary, secondary, and tertiary crime prevention and control. Primary crime prevention has to do with the identification of the conditions and opportunities that predisposed or precipitate criminals to commit crime. Accordingly, crime can be prevented through environmental design, and neighborhood watch among others. In secondary crime prevention, it involves the identification and prediction of potential offenders and seeks to intervene before the commission of a crime. Tertiary crime prevention on the other hand encompasses dealing with actual offenders and involves intervention in such a way that they will never commit crime. In other words, their behavior will be rehabilitated and reformed so as to become conforming members of the society.

Nigerian Correctional Administration

Administration refers to performance of functions through a collective effort; administration exists whenever people cooperate to achieve a given task (Ezeali&Edeh, 2007). The Nigerian Correctional Service (NCS) operation under correctional Act (1990) CAP 366, laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, section 15 and 16 of the act provide for regulation to achieve its goal through these divisions which are technical inspectorate and welfare units. The idea was that based on the stipulation of decree no 9 of 1972, there was need to introduce specialized units to take specific areas of the correctional services. While technical division takes charge of general administration, the inspectorate oversees staff recruitment, deployment, training, discipline, promotion, punishment and dismissal while the welfare division takes care of inmates' treatment, training and rehabilitation (Aboki 2007).

All correctional centers in Nigeria are managed by the Nigerian Correctional services (NCS), a parastatal under the Ministry of interior, headed by a comptroller of correctional center. The Nigerian correctional center had been generally administered under one director, but now, it has in addition to the director three principal agencies or divisions performing different roles to enable the correctional center executed its programs. There has been massive transformation in the service since 1972 from three directorates in 1980 to six in 1993. There was the 1986 re-organization of correctional center consequent upon the creation of the customs, immigration and correctional center (NCS annual report, 2009).

Nweze (2012) wrote on the vision and mission of Nigerian Correctional Service (NCS) as follows:

1. The vision is the evolution and sustenance of safe and secure Nigeria society

where individuals, families and group will be free to pursue their legitimate interests with full assurance of their safety and security at all times.

2. The mission is to protect the public by ensuring that persons committed to correctional center by courts are held in safe and healthy conditions with their fundamental rights respected except for those rights removed by the fact of their imprisonments.

Purposes of Establishing Nigeria Correctional Service in Dutse, Jigawa State - Nigeria

The Establishment of the Nigeria Correctional Service in Dutse, Jigawa State – Nigeria is not different from the National objective; the Nigerian correctional system was established in accordance with three forms of penal legislation in the country; the Penal Code and the accompanying Criminal Procedure Code Cap 81 Laws of the Federation 1990 (CPC); the Criminal Code and the associated Criminal Procedure Act Cap 80 Laws of the Federation 1990 (CPA) and the Sharia penal legislation in 12 northern states (which applies to only Muslim states); the Nigerian correctional service is an institution meant to administer penalty to adult offenders to reduce crime in the society; Based on imprisonment policy, the correctional service was established to manage criminals in correctional yards, thus the constitutional function empowers the Nigeria Correctional Service in Dutse, Jigawa State to (as cited in Adetula et al. 2010) to:

1. Keep convicted offenders (inmates) for safe custody
2. Keep awaiting trial inmates in custody, until law courts ask for their production
3. Punish offenders as instructed by the law courts
4. Reform the convicted inmates
5. Rehabilitate and to re-integrate inmates who have completed the sentences in the correctional center (extract from correctional training manual).

Depending on the above, the main aim of establishing the prison institution in Dutse, Jigawa state is to punish offenders of law and to provide rehabilitation and correctional facility for those who have violated the rules and regulations of the society (Obioha 1995).

Internal Factors that constrain the Correction of Inmates in Nigeria Correctional centers

Akam (1997) tried to study the reason for recidivism in Nigeria; using the

Calabar correctional center as his case study, his study revealed that convicts return to society hardened after serving jail terms which reduces the reason for imprisonment unachieved because they were not reformed during incarceration; furthermore, high level corruptions among the correctional officials, inadequate cell facilities and lack of proper welfare does not lead to reformation of the of the prisoners and the type of skills being imparted on the inmates do not transform them even when they were discharged; they acquired the skills without knowledge and understanding of how to operate the machines. Most times the correctional facilities are not functioning properly because the correctional centers still uses old and outdated training equipment to train the inmates. Amaeze (2009), in his study of Sapele correctional center tried to ascertain the causes of inmates' riot within the correctional walls and found out that lack of proper means communication between staff and the inmates limit the functionality of the correctional centers; Amaeze's study also indicates that the overcrowded nature of the correctional centers constitutes a major problem towards achieving effective reformation as it tend to put a lot of strain on maintenance cost and other services in the correctional centers, thus the few facilities available become grossly inadequate or overstretched.

External factors that constrain the Correction of Inmates

The correctional centers are among the most important arm of the criminal justice system that are assigned responsibility of keeping convicts in safe custody and are expected to treat and reform the offenders before they are released and re-integrated into the society. Poor or non-availability of facilities tend to affect how the inmates are corrected. Obi (2000) took a survey of the Nigeria correctional centers and the facilities available and its consequent impact on the correction of inmates in Okigwe correctional center; he found that the reality on ground is that the resources needed for the rehabilitation of the inmates were not available and that lack of motivation and neglect of welfare of staff is among the major obstacles to the de-radicalization and rehabilitation of the inmates; the neglect leads to material deprivation such as residential quarters; when there is no welfare, they might not be able to carry out effective custody and reformation of the inmates.

Adedokun (1990) in his study carried out in Lagos Kirikiri correctional center found that one of the external factors militating against the correction of inmates in Nigeria correctional center is policy ineffectiveness; the policies and recommendations by several reform panels were either not effective or hardly implemented, he posited that, the supervising ministry in charge of the correctional centers attack the challenges facing the correctional system in Nigeria. Studies like Obioha (1995), Delay in the administration of justice in Nigeria has contributed to the high rate of

awaiting trial inmates which has had a bad effect on the convicted inmates especially when they are eventually discharged (Adetula et al 2010); this is supported by Gendrea et al (1991) in their study in Canada, they found a positive correlation between length of stay in the correctional centers and the rate of reoccurrence. This suggests that the longer an offender stays in the correctional centers, the more the possibility of recidivism Obioha (1995).

Internal factors that enhance the Correction of Inmates in Nigeria

Correctional centers Amnesty international (2008) conducted a study on the status of Nigeria correctional centers; the study was conducted in ten correctional centers in Nigeria including Dutse correctional center. Findings from the study showed that effective deployment of available resources in setting up new structures, cells, appropriate feeding and medical care for inmates, helped in improving the correction of convicts. Asokhia et al (1989) used survey method to assess the Rehabilitation Services in Nigerian correctional centers in Edo State. The study found that equitable allocation of resources enhances correction of inmates; where resources were not equitably distributed, it often leads to ineffective implantation of correction programmes.

Ayuk, et al (1997) used ex-post facto method to study the impact of correctional reforms on the Welfare of the Inmates at Afokang correctional center, Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria; findings shows that functions of the Nigerian correctional centers would be more effective if correctional staffs are well informed on the activities and workings of the correctional centers, and that the correctional management should allow the staff to participate in decision making which will make them to more dedicated to their work and that all inmates should be treated equally (Osaze 1996); the study also revealed that, job satisfaction of correctional staff will lead to effective correction. Osaze (1996) asserts that availability of functional correctional facilities will help in the effective correction of inmates. Finally his study showed that cordial relationship between the inmates and correction staff will go a long way in promoting easy correction of inmates.

External factors that enhance the correction of correctional inmates

There are a several external factors that promote effective and efficient method of correcting the inmates; Orakwe (2011) in his study about the high rate of recidivism in Southern Nigeria discovered that the nature of staffing enhances the correction of inmates, the study revealed that when recruitment are based on merit without sentiments, it will assist the management to ensure job satisfaction are obtained by employees. In executive studies of the Nigeria correctional centers carried out by Eke

(2012) to address the challenges of correcting inmates in Nigeria; involving one correctional center from each geopolitical zone of the country, it was found that prompt release of finance for the administration of the activities of the correctional centers enhances the correction of inmates and that cordial relationship existing between the correctional center and their host community aids correction of convicts.

Anekwe (1999) drew six directorates existing in the Nigeria correctional centers; these directorates were to ensure smooth running of the correctional centers; they include: administration, personnel and training, operation and inspection, agriculture and industry, medical and welfare, supplies and finance and the works and logistics directorates' respectively. He advanced that when these directorates are properly funded and perform at optimal capacity, they would enhance proper functioning of the correctional centers. Finally, Ije (1979) conducted a research on how offenders are treated in Sapele correctional centers, it was learnt that faith based organizations (FBO) and Nongovernmental organizations (NGO) also help in the enhancement of correction of inmates, above all, the location of a correctional center has an effect on the correction/treatment of inmates in Nigeria correctional centers.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

For the purpose of this study, two theories are reviewed and one of them is adopted for the explanation of the topic under study; they are the Marxian theory of social conflict, Social learning theory.

Marxian Theory of Social Conflict

Karl Marx in 1848, made a remarkable contribution to the conflict theory, the theory holds that social order is maintained by domination rather than compromises; the Marxian Conflict theory held that those with wealth and power try to sustain mostly by suppressing the poor and the powerless and that the state of economy which is capitalist oriented and the means of controlling power in the society through democracy are attempts to control the masses rather than to ensure social order (Marx, 1848). For Marx, punishment is one of the mechanisms used by the bourgeoisie (State) to consolidate its grip onto power especially through the law which is seen as an elitist apparatus of which anyone that violates it is severely dealt with. The theory was however criticized as the basic reason for class inequality in the society but relating the theory to the topic of this study, there are correctional centers established across Nigeria including Dutse, Jigawa state - Nigeria to get offenders the law established by constituted authority punished and keep them under check. This theory suggests that correctional centers in Nigeria are more of punitive than corrective.

Social Learning Theory

Social learning theory was propounded by Albert Bandura (1977); the theory states that behavior is acquired from the environment mostly through observation; the theory assumed that humans are always conscious of the relationship between their behavior and its consequences (Obiajulu, 2014). This is usually acquired through observation especially the way children observe the behavior of people around them. Individuals that are observed are called models; in our societies, children are surrounded by many influential models, such as parents and family members, characters on children's TV, friends, peer groups and teachers at school. These models exhibit behavior that the children imitate, hence the influence and response to the behavior imitated will either be good or bad so if a child imitates a model's behavior and the consequences are rewarding, the child is likely to continue practicing the behavior.

Following the assumptions of this theory, the theory is important and relevant to this study because it shows how inmates behaviour could be enhanced at the correctional centers if the correctional staff and officers are well behaved and are seen as good role models to the inmates; the second assumption of the theory posited that certain behavior will facilitate inmate's reformation when the inmates demonstrate certain behavior that is worth commending, they should be adequately rewarded to encourage them practice those actions to become part of their life style; on the other hand whenever any convict exhibits any behavior that is not commendable, he or she should be punished accordingly (Obiajulu, 2014). The social learning theory was also criticized of not being a unifying factor and that the different aspects of the theory did not give a cohesive explanation of behavior; that not all social learning can be directly observed which makes it difficult to quantify the effect that social cognition has on the behavioral development; despite the limitations leveled against the social learning theory it is still relevant in the explanation of the way the correctional staff should behave towards the inmates.

For the purpose of the topic under consideration the study adopts the Marxian social conflict theory; the social Conflict theory is adopted as the macro theory which gives a socio-structural explanation to the topic under consideration because it explains the deprivation of the powerless by the powerful as whoever contravenes the established laws of the state and lacks the ability to defend his/her action is often punished, most often the punishment is imprisonment. So structurally, the society is fashioned in a way that some members of the society are deprived of their rights and privileges and when they protest, they are termed offenders and are imprisoned to unjustly suffer for their offences. The Marxian Conflict Theory therefore appropriately explains the challenges of correctional administration in Nigerian correctional centers. Bye and

large, the Marxian social conflict is considered more appropriate for the explanation of the topic discussed in this study.

Empirical Review

Ndukwe & Nwuzor (2014) conducted a study on “Nigerian Correctional Service (NCS) and the challenges of social welfare administration: A study of Abakaliki correctional center. The study aimed at ascertaining how welfare services were being administered and to determine the factors affecting it but it was discovered that the correctional center did not meet the minimum U.N standard in welfare services because of congestion, in addition inadequate funds, mismanagement of welfare funds exposes inmates to poor health condition which often leads to epidemics among of the inmates. Ardo, et al., (2020) examined the relationship between the methods of rehabilitation and its effectiveness on the lives of the inmates in relation to rehabilitation programs available at the custodial Centres; it was found that the living condition of inmates in Sokoto Medium Security Custodial Centre was very poor, and that there is a relationship between the general condition of the inmates and the effectiveness of the rehabilitation of inmates in the Centre.

Emerho (2016) evaluated the various internal and external factors which influence the correction of convicts in Aguata and Onitsha correctional centers; the study revealed that the internal factors influencing the correction of inmates include: Staff briefing inmates on any matter that affects them (effective communication), inmates appreciating the goodwill of correctional officials to meet some of their needs outside the correctional walls, correctional environment were kept very tidily and hygienic, inmates were fed adequately and clothed properly and the attitude of correctional officials towards inmates were cordial and worth emulating. The external factors include: cordial relationship between the correctional centers and their host communities, activities of faith-based organizations and nongovernmental organizations and prompt releases of finance from the government. However, Ekpenyong et al (2012), conducted a research on the inmates' perception in Okaka correctional center, Bayelsa state which revealed that, the correctional center organizes rehabilitation programmes which were not successful due to lack of fund, inadequate rehabilitation equipment, lack of trained personnel, and poor management of rehabilitation programs among others. The findings show that correctional centers have not effectively achieved their objective according to the Nigerian Correctional Act of (2000) which was aimed at rehabilitating and re - orienting offenders to be good and useful citizens; as a result, rehabilitation programs in Okaka correctional centers was not very successful, due to limited resources (McAree, 2011, Swenson, Waseleski, & Hartl, 2008), lack of rehabilitation facilities

(Hesselink & Herbig, 2010). These affect the effectiveness of rehabilitation and reformation thereby leaving the inmates unchanged or made them worse after being discharged.

Method of data Collection

Methods of data collection used for this study were primary and secondary source; the primary method of data collection utilized Questionnaire and interview; the questionnaire which contain structured and unstructured questions based on the research questions to allow respondents provide answers on what they believe, feel or experienced regarding the topic under examination while the Secondary data were collected through a descriptive analysis of published and unpublished literature, that include textbooks, Academic journals, magazines, newspapers, internet materials, and papers presented at seminars and conferences. Both quantitative and qualitative tools were employed through descriptive and explanatory method to analyze the data using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software application and data were presented using statistical tables showing frequency distribution and percentages of variables investigated..

This section is concerned with the presentation and analysis of data gathered to discuss the topic examined in this study.

		Staff			Inmates		
		Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Agree e	Not Sure	Disagree
1.	Do you think staff briefing inmates on any matter that affects them influences correction of inmates	25(83.3%)	5 (16.7%)	0 (0%)	35 (58.3%)	3 (5%)	22 (36.7%)
2.	Do you think inmates using the goodwill of correctional officials to meet some of their pressing needs outside the correctional walls influences correction of inmates	20(66.7%)	4 (13.3%)	5 (20.0%)	40 (66.7%)	17 (28.3%)	3 (1.7%)
3.	Do you think correctional environment being kept very clean and hygienic enhances correction of inmates	30 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	58 (95.7%)	2 (5.3%)	0 (0%)
4.	Do you think inmates being fed and clothed properly enhances the correction of inmates	28 (93.3%)	2 (6.7%)	0 (0%)	60 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
5.	Do you think periodic training of correctional staff on correctional programmes and skills enhances the correction of inmates?	30 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	48 (80%)	7 (11.7%)	5 (8.3%)
6.	Do you think periodic training of correctional staffs on the latest correctional programs and skills to enhance the correctional functions of PRISONS and inmates?	30 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	50 (83.3%)	3 (5%)	7 (11.7%)
7.	Do you think that the availability of training facilities influences the possibility of inmates' correction?	30 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	56 (93.3%)	0 (0%)	4 (6.7%)

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

The Table above shows that all the items in the table received a positive response from the respondents. In other words, the 7 variables were identified by respondents as factors which influence the correction of inmates. The data shows that the responses were the same between both the correctional staff and the inmates in Dutse medium custodial center. By implication, if the above factors are put in place, there would be a positive step towards the correction of the inmates

Tabele 1.2 External administrative factors influencing the reduction in the occurrence of criminal activities

		correctional Staff			Inmates		
		Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree
1.	Cordial relationship between the inmates and their host community helps in the correction of inmates	30 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	14 (23.3%)	24 (40%)	22 (36.7%)
2.	The activities of faith-based organizations and non-governmental organizations with regards to meeting some of the inmates' need help in the correction of inmates.	21 (70%)	4 (13.3%)	5 (16.7%)	43 (71.7%)	13 (21.7%)	4 (6.6%)
3.	Prompt release of finance helps in the correction of inmates	30 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	38 (63.3%)	17 (28.3%)	5 (8.4%)
4.	The location of the correctional custodial center helps in the correction of inmates	12 (40%)	13 (43.3%)	5 (16.7%)	26 (43.3%)	3 (5%)	31 (51.7%)
5.	Frequency of ministerial supervision of correctional facilities enhances correction of inmates	28 (93.3%)	2 (6.7%)	0 (0%)	44 (73.4%)	8 (13.3%)	8 (13.3%)

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

The findings from the above table revealed that, while correctional staff appeared to agree that there is cordial relationship between the correctional center and their host communities, the inmates disagreed. Also the activities of faith-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, prompt release of finance from the government and the frequency of ministerial supervision of correctional centers were agreed by both inmates and correctional staffs among the major external factors that help in the correction of inmates. On the other hand, while majority of the inmates (51.7%) disagreed that the location of the correctional helps in the correction of inmates, the correctional staff agreed that the location of the correctional helps in the correction of the inmates. In light of quantitative findings, a respondent in the in-depth interview opined that:

“I believe that if there are interventions of NGOs and Religion groups, it will assist in the correction of inmates” **(Staff E/IDI/Male/45year**

**Another staff in an in-depth interview
was of view that:**

“Assisting discharged inmates with finance to start up a business. Also, establishment of Open University, and constant workshops within the correctional yards would be very effective in correcting the inmates.” (**S t a f f C/IDI/Male/40years**)

Another in-depth interview session with a correctional officer agreed that:

“The released of well-behaved inmates a mid-way to their correctional sentence will help reduce the rate of correctional center congestion” (**Staff B/IDI/Male/42years**)

Poor funding of the correctional center by the government, late release of funds meant for the inmates and delays in the criminal justice system with constant strike actions and other logistical problems constrain the corrective roles of correctional centers which hampers the efforts towards inmates' correction while prompt release of correctional funds, release of well-behaved convicts a mid-way to their correctional sentence, assisting discharged inmates with finance to start up a business would help in reforming inmates; the findings further suggest that establishment of Open University, workshops and worship centers within the correctional yards would be very effective in correcting the inmates. The respondents were emphatic on the training and retraining of correctional staffs as well as the employment of more qualified trainers, as important measures that would help to solve the inefficiencies of the correctional staffs in their correctional duties (ASC2, Abdulkadir. B. Abdulkadir).

Table 1.3 Internal factors that constrain the correction of inmates

		correctional Staf			Inmates		
		Agre	Not Sure	Disagree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree
1.	Insufficient correctional cells constrain the correction of inmates	26 (86.7%)	0 (0%)	4 (13.3%)	53 (88.3%)	5 (8.3%)	2 (3.4%)
2.	Corruption of correctional officials constrain the correction of inmate	21 (70%)	3 (10%)	6 (20%)	52 (86.6%)	4 (6.7%)	4 (6.7%)
3.	Over-crowded nature of the custodial center constrain inmates' correction	28 (93.3%)	2 (6.7%)	0 (0%)	49 (81.7%)	2 (3.3%)	9 (15%)
4.	Lack of functional training/correctional facilities constrains inmates' correction	19 (63.3%)	8 (26.7%)	3 (10%)	53 (88.3%)	7 (11.7%)	0 (0%)
5.	Power struggle between correctional staff constrains inmates correction	2 (6.7%)	5 (16.7%)	23 (76.6%)	21 (35%)	29 (48.3%)	10 (16.7%)
6.	Poor communication between correctional staff and inmates constrains inmates correction	18 (60%)	9 (30%)	3 (10%)	38 (63.3%)	12 (20%)	10 (16.7%)
7.	Inequitable distribution of resources meant for correctional inmates constrains inmates correction	2 (6.7%)	12 (40%)	16 (53.3%)	32 (53.3%)	19 (31.7%)	9 (15%)
.		9 (30%)	14 (46.7%)	7 (23.3%)	46 (76.7%)	12 (20%)	2 (3.3%)

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

In the table above, the respondents were requested to express their views with regards to the internal factors that constrain the corrective capacity of the prison as a corrective institution by ticking to show their level of agreement or disagreement to the items presented to them. The findings show that all the items as shown in the table received a highly positive response from the respondents at the Dutsecorrectional center; thus, while majority of the correctional staff do not believe that inequitable distribution of resources meant for correctional inmates constrains inmates correction and Poor attitude to work of some staff constrains inmates' correction, majority of the inmates thinks it affects.

Table 1.4 External factors that constrain the correction of inmates

		correctional Staff		Inmates	
		Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree
1.	Poor funding of the correctional center constrain inmates' correction	28 (93.3%)	2 (6.7%)	44 (73.3%)	16 (26.7%)
2.	Late release of finance allocated to the custodial center for correction constrains inmates' correction	27 (90%)	3 (10%)	35 (58.3%)	25 (41.7%)
3.	Transfer of correctional officials often without justifiable reasons constrains inmates' correction	18 (60%)	12 (40%)	47 (78.3%)	13 (21.7%)
4.	Attitudes of the relations/friends of the inmates constrain inmates' correction	21 (70%)	9 (30%)	11 (18.3%)	49 (81.7%)
5.	Unstable market prices of correctional materials constrain inmates' correction	15 (50%)	15 (50%)	22 (36.7%)	38 (63.3%)
6.	Routine visits of judicial staff to the prisons to release inmates constrain inmates' correction	13 (43.3%)	17 (56.7%)	19 (31.7%)	41 (68.3%)
7.	Political directives on how certain inmates should be handled constrain inmates' correction	28 (93.3%)	2 (6.7%)	22 (36.7%)	38 (63.3%)

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

The table above contains the data on the external factors that constrains the corrective capacity of prison as indicated by the respondents. The findings show that there is a mixed response from the respondents on the items given. The items that received higher positive responses include poor funding of the prison constrains inmates' correction and late release of funds meant for the inmates. Majority of the respondents strongly agreed with the notion that transfer of correctional officials without justifiable reasons and attitudes of the relations/friends of the inmates constrains inmates' correction. With regards to unstable market prices of correctional materials, routine visits of judicial staff to the correctional centers and political directives on how certain convicts should be handled, there was a no significant difference between the number of respondents that agreed and those that disagreed to the notions; although a slightly higher proportion of the inmates agreed that political directives on how certain inmates should be handled, than the correctional staff.

The finding therefore indicates that the major external factors that constrain the corrective capacity of correctional center as indicated by the respondents include poor funding of the correctional center by the government and late release of funds meant for the inmates' welfare and that frequent transfer of correctional officials without justifiable reasons and attitudes of the relations/friends of the inmates are part of the major external factors that constrain the corrective ability of the correctional institutions.

External factors considered needful for proper inmates correction

In an in-depth interview conducted with the correctional institution staffs, one of the staff indicated

“Vocational skills training such as tailoring and carpentry”
(Staff A/IDI/Male/38years)

Another staff corroborates

“Skills acquisition, as it will be useful for the inmate when they are released and get back into the society” **(Staff B/IDI/Male/42years)**

In another in-depth interview session, another correctional officer believed that;

“Community people should make sure the ex-convicts are not neglected”**(Staff C/IDI/Male/40years)**

While the above participants emphasized on skill acquisition and non-negligence of ex-convicts, some other correctional officers averred during the in-depth interview that:

“The external factor I consider necessary is the assistance from NGOs, State government intervention etc.”**(Staff D/IDI/Male/27years)**

In a similar view, another officer declared that:

“I believe that if there are interventions of NGOs and Religion groups, it will assist in the correction of inmates”**(Staff E/IDI/Male/45years)**

Lastly, a correctional officer highlighted the following as the external factors that should be encouraged to assist in the successful correction of inmate for proper integration back into the society. He asserted that:

- i. Material for production of goods like sewing machines, mechanics, carpenters
- ii. Companies like Dangote and Bua should invest in the custodial centers
- iii. There should be the intervention of both government and individuals in the society.”(Staff F/IDI/Male/31 years)

Possible ways that Correctional Institutions need to employ in tackling correctional challenges faced by correctional institutions

Based on data derived from some in-depth interview sessions there were series of factors or ways that could be employed in tackling correctional challenges. One of the correctional officers was quoted:

“To me, one of the greatest challenges is fund; I believe if there is prompt release of correctional funds, it will help put necessary things in place at the right time” (Staff A/IDI/Male/38years)

Another respondent was of the view that;

“The releases of well-behaved inmates a mid-way to their correctional sentence will help reduce the rate of correctional congestion” (Staff B/IDI/Male/42years)

While another one explained that:

“Assisting discharged inmates with finance to start up a business or the establishment of Open University, organizing regular workshops provision of places of worship within the correctional yards would be very effective in correcting the inmates.”(Staff C/IDI/Male/40years)

Conclusion

This study has provided a conceptual, theoretical as well as empirical perspectives on the factors influencing the correctional administration and crime prevention in Dutse medium custodial center in Jigawa state; findings of this study shows that the Nigeria correctional system is beleaguered with various challenges, the study thus gave insights into various internal and external factors which influence and constrain the corrective roles of the correctional center as a corrective institution with the hope that proactive measures would be taken to curtail the lapses observed in the Nigeria correctional system especially in Jigawa State.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are hereby suggested:

1. There is the need for urgent legislation on realistic correctional reforms and policies that would ensure increase in the budgetary allocations for the correctional centers.
2. There must be regular training and retraining of the correctional staffs so as to apprise them with the latest ideas and knowledge on management and effective correctional administration and crime prevention.
3. There is the need to introduce a recognized academic certificate programs and entrepreneurial skills for inmates through the Open University system that will enable them to be economically productive after being discharged from the prison.
4. There laws militating against the employment of ex-convicts into public offices must be reviewed to help to break the barrier of stigmatization and enhance the integration of ex-convicts back into the society
5. Places of worship such as churches and mosques should be established at the correctional centers which would facilitate the spiritual and moral psyche of the inmates.

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