

Challenges Facing Vocational Training of Prison Inmates in Nigeria: A Study of Abakaliki and Awka Prisons

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Abstract: One major objective of the prison system is the ability to give vocational training to prison inmates. This will help to equip them with surviving skills that will make them be meaningfully engaged and not to go back to criminal activities. The Nigerian prison system has failed in this regard. Previous studies on prison system and crime control have not been able to fully address the challenges facing vocational training of prison inmates in Nigeria. This study therefore underscores the challenges facing vocational training of prison inmates in Nigeria. The sample was drawn from 307 respondents: 117 inmates awaiting trials, 147 convicts, 5 lifers and 38 prison staff. The samples were drawn using stratified sampling method. Questionnaire and in-depth interviews were used to generate data for the study. The questionnaire focused on demographic characteristics of respondents, their knowledge of expected vocational and correctional facilities and the breakdown of vocational, recreational and educational facilities in the Nigerian prison system. The Marxist theory of state was the theoretical framework. Participants were 92.2% males and 7.8% females. Results reveal that the following vocational facilities do not exist in the Nigerian prison system: barbing and hair dressing saloon (52.1%), auto repairs and mechanics (79.5%), shoe making (65.8%), fashion designing (84.0%), carpentry and electrical repairs (91.2% respectively). Also, the recreational facilities that are lacking include: table tennis (64.8%), basket ball (77.6%) and volleyball (84.7%). The only recreational facility available is football (82.4%). In addition, the Nigerian prison system also lacks the following educational facilities: library (95.7%) and teaching aids (97.7%). Level of education of prison officers was found to be significant with awareness of the expected correctional facilities in prisons at $p = .004$ level of significance. There was no significant relationship between sex and attribution of availability of skill acquisition facilities as a prerequisite for effective correction of inmates at $p = .091$. The study therefore recommends the provision of vocational, educational and recreational facilities in the Nigerian prison system. This becomes necessary in order to overcome recidivism in the Nigerian prison system.

Key words: Convicts • Prison inmates • Prison System • Recreation and Vocational training

INTRODUCTION

One of the cardinal objectives of the prison system is to make convicts part ways with crime. It is expected to give the convicts a sense of direction and build their capacity to acquire industrial skills that will make them to become productive and avoid crime. The prison system is also expected to inculcate in the offenders basic moral values that will make become law abiding citizens. Prisons

are generally conceived as corrective institutions. This is the prime objective of establishing prisons all over the world. Prisons are usually structured to identify the peculiar problem of each inmate and devise means of guiding the individual out of the problem [1].

The Nigerian prison system was established in accordance with three forms of penal legislation which operate alongside each other 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 accompanying Criminal Procedure Act Cap 80 laws of the federation (CPA) and the Sharia penal legislation in 12 Northern States of Nigeria which is applied to only Muslims [2].

The Nigerian prison service is an institution meant to administer penal treatment to adult offenders. Its function is to reduce crime in the society. On the basis of imprisonment policy, the prison service was established to manage criminals in the prison yards. This constitutional function empowers the Nigerian prison operatives to be able to keep convicted offenders in safe custody, to keep awaiting-trial inmates in custody, to punish offenders as instructed by the law courts, to reform the convicted prisoners and to rehabilitate and re-integrate prisoners who have completed their sentences in the prison [2]. Thus the main aim of establishing the prison institution in all parts of the world including Nigeria is to provide rehabilitation and correctional facilities for those who violated the rules and regulations of their society. How this works out practically becomes a problem [3].

Many rehabilitation services for prison inmates are widely available around the world. Each of these rehabilitation services target specific groups of people with specific needs for reform. Rehabilitation services provide education in prisons, in about various aspects of life. This is useful for getting inmates prepared for life outside the prison system. The place of these rehabilitation services in the reformation and transformation of prison inmates has continued to be on the front burner of public discourse in recent times [4]. Leading this discourse are professionals like adult educators, counselors, social workers, psychologists and medical doctors. These professionals seem to agree that rehabilitation programs and services in prisons will help prison inmates acquire the much needed social, vocational, attitudinal and behavioural changes and skills to be more useful to themselves and the society upon release. To achieve the above, rehabilitation services in Nigerian prisons have been defined as services provided for prison inmates in order to restore them to fullest physical, mental, psychological, social, vocational and economic usefulness [5].

According to the Nigerian Prison Service Manual [6], the realization of one of the major objectives of the prisons service - the reformation and rehabilitation of convicts, is to be done through a complicated set of mechanisms consisting among others: creating

awareness, group work, case work session, recreational activities, religious services, adult and remedial educational programmes, educational development project, skills acquisition programmes, mid-range industrial production, agricultural services and after-care service programmes. The prisons' service providers should not only identify the causes of the inmates' anti-social behaviour but also endeavour to set them on road to reform through induced self-rediscovery and eventual change for the better.

Rehabilitation services in Nigerian prisons therefore, should be aimed at increasing the educational and vocational skills of inmates and their chances of success upon release. In order to accomplish these goals, the inmates are encouraged to participate in rehabilitation programmes made available to them while in prisons. This is crucial as many of them are assumed to have entered the prisons more socially, economically and educationally disadvantaged. The key to success in a free society for many of these socially, economically and educationally disadvantaged inmates is rehabilitation [7]. There is no better way to help prison inmates re-enter the larger society successfully than to provide them with skills that they need to succeed in the outside world. For rehabilitation services to help the inmates develop social and vocational skills, keep them meaningfully busy, change their attitudes and behaviours and have better understanding of themselves and the society, their felt needs must be addressed so as to enable them get employed and advance more educationally after serving their terms [7].

It is disheartening to see that a crucial aspect of identifying the inmates' needs is grossly neglected in Nigeria. Despite Nigeria's progress on democratic, economic and political reforms, Nigeria's prisons are yet to make appreciable impact on the welfare of the inmates [8]. A recurring debate within contemporary academic circles; criminologists, social workers and prison experts, is to ensure an appropriate template for proper prison administration that will reflect its objectives. Also, imprisonment in most areas is seen as an aspect of punishment. The deterrent philosophers and retributivists stress that a deviant should be punished in order to pay him back for his actions and to deter him or others would be offenders of same crime. Surprisingly, this general conception of imprisonment as a formal means of inflicting pain on the offenders is not baseless, as this has been an aspect of the traditional criminal justice system in various parts of the country, Nigeria [8].

According to Baccaria (1764), in Achu, Owan and Ekok [9], crimes that are produced by pleasure must be counteracted by pain such as imprisonment. But reasonably, Nigeria's prisons are "living hell", with twenty to thirty inmates arriving at the prison daily. Thus overcrowding the reformatory structure, which do not even exist in the true sense and more regularly stretching the original carrying capacity of the facilities? It is reported that in the prisons; diseases are widespread, cells are unclean and ventilation is poor [10]. Prison and detention conditions remain harsh and life threatening. Prison inmates are allowed outside their cells for recreation or exercise irregularly. Many inmates provide their own food. Only those with money or whose relatives regularly provide for had sufficient food. Petty corruption among prison officials makes it difficult for money provided for food to reach the prisoners; hence poor inmates often relied on "hand-out" from others to survive. These unwholesome treatments have contributed to the death in detention of numerous prisoners [11].

The report by Human Right Practice Commission for prisoners' dignity 1999, estimated that at least one inmate dies per day in the Kirikiri prison in Lagos alone. Dead inmates are promptly buried in the facility's compound usually without their families being notified. It is sad that claims like these are not investigated and the system is allowed to rot, leaving prison as charade of government propaganda. There is more to imprisonment than opening and closing of prison gates. Modern penal management techniques emphasized reform of the inmates or the convicts. The current attitude in penal circles is to see imprisonment from the perspective of reform and rehabilitation other than from the perspective of punishment. It is assumed that those who have committed crimes need help and should be assisted to live a good life. This view is predicated upon the understanding that those who have fallen foul of the collective norms and laws of the society expressed in criminal laws should be reformed; that is why the term "correction" is applied to reflect this thinking [12].

Literature Review: The review of literature is organized under the following headings: justification of punishment, rehabilitative/ vocational and correctional facilities existing in the Nigerian prison system.

Justification of Punishment: A variety of justifications and explanations are put forth for why people are imprisoned by the state. The most common of these are:

Rehabilitation: The idea of rehabilitation is based on the claim that the experience of being imprisoned will cause people to change their lives in a way that will make them productive and law-abiding members of the society once they are released [13]. However, this is not supported by empirical evidence and in practice prisons tend to be ineffective at improving the lives of most prisoners. As Morris and Rothman [14], pointed out: It is hard to train for freedom in a cage.

Deterrence: This assumes that by sentencing criminals to extremely harsh penalties, other people who might be considering criminal activities will be so terrified of the consequences that they will choose not to commit crimes out of fear [13]. In reality, most studies show that high incarceration rates increase crime, have no noticeable effect, or only decrease it by a very small amount. Prisons act as training grounds for criminal activity and the formation of criminal social networks, these expose prisoners to further abuse (both from staff and other prisoners), foster anti-social sentiments towards society (law enforcement/corrections personnel in particular), fragment communities and leave prisoners with criminal records that make it difficult to find legal employment after release. All of these things can result in a higher likelihood of recidivism.

Incapacitation: Justifications based on incapacitation claim that while prisoners are incarcerated, they will be unable to commit crimes, thus keeping communities safer. Critics point out that this is based on a false distinction between "inside" and "outside" and that the prisoners will simply continue to victimize people inside of the prison (and in the community once they are released) and that the harm done by these actions has real impacts on the larger society [13].

Retribution: Theories of retribution seek to exact revenge upon criminals by harming them in exchange for harms caused to their victims. These theories do not necessarily focus on whether or not a particular punishment benefits the community, but are more concerned with ensuring that the punishment causes a sufficient level of misery for the prisoner, in proportion to the perceived seriousness of their crime. These theories are based upon a belief that some kind of moral balance will be achieved by "paying back" the prisoner for the wrongs they have committed [13].

Rehabilitative/ Vocational and Correctional Facilities Existing in the Nigerian Prison System: According to Asokhia and Agbonluae [7], convicted criminals are sentenced to prison for purpose of rehabilitation. Rehabilitation services are notable for their pivotal prison role in changing lives of the inmates. Change is possible for everyone. Even prison inmates can change for the better and become productive citizens. However, changing for the better and becoming productive citizens need a little sacrifice from the prison inmates and a great help from government and concerned agencies. Prison rehabilitation services were established in Nigerian prisons for the purpose of reforming the inmates. For any meaningful rehabilitation to take place in the prisons system, rehabilitation services must first be improved upon; adequate provisions made and these should be accessible to the inmates.

A study by Amnesty International [15] on the status of Nigeria prisons found Nigeria prisons to be overcrowded with cells that hosts several under-aged children and adults, convicted felons as well as first time offenders, who are lumped together to share the same dormitory. Many of these people actually committed environmental offences. Many are in jail for such simple offences as being framed for offending a policeman who picks such persons up, frames the charges, gets the inmate sent for remand and the files gets missing for three to six years. This is the sorry state of Suleja prison.

Olajide [16] reported in Gong news that Nigeria prisons are worse than hell. A total inmate population of about 53,100 is overcrowded with population feast of children, under-aged, awaiting trial and sundry abandoned and untried inmates. The aims of the prisons are defeated by the reality we are facing. Yet no one seems to care. Olajide [16], noted that most of the nation's prisons are older than the nation. The facilities are not upgraded yet, the inmates sent there are far more in population than the facilities were designed to accommodate. Inmates are crammed; sanitary facilities are simply inhuman, diseases are freely shared, yet, more inmates are daily brought in to compound the already bad situation.

A survey research by Asokhia and Agbonhuae [7] on assessment of rehabilitation services in Nigerian prison in Edo state, with 147 sampled population of prison inmates, findings reveal that the provisions for rehabilitation services were still neglected and not in compliance with international best practices. Inmates of these prisons prefer one rehabilitation service to the other and the most preferred rehabilitation service is

recreational activities like football. Based on these findings, they recommended that deliberate efforts should be made by the Federal Government and prison service providers to reform the Nigerian prisons and make it international best practices compliant. There is also the need to introduce more rehabilitation services, facilities and reformative programmes such as training inmates on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and giving adequate awareness programmes so as to rehabilitate prison inmates and stop recidivism.

Achu, Owan and Ekok [9] conducted an ex-post-facto study on the Impact of prison reforms on the Welfare of the Inmates: A Case Study of Afokang prison, Calabar, Cross River state, Nigeria", with 200 sampled population using simple random sampling technique. They found Nigerian prisons to be a dungeon and represents inhumanity to man. Furthermore, it revealed that recidivism amongst ex-convict is high; because inmates were not trained in any particular trade hence on discharge they become frustrated and despondent. This argument is creditable in the work of Osefo [17] who asserted that: planned reforms in Nigeria prison was always unrealistic and that the supposed reformation/rehabilitation was nothing less than deformation and a charade.

Achu, Owan and Ekok [7] went further to argue that the carpentry workshop in the Calabar prison remains in a sorry state, while the mechanic workshop does not exist. The art and craft workshop existed but not constructive and productive enough to give it a pass mark. The hair dressing saloon had only four (4) driers and eight (8) sewing machines, which obviously cannot serve the rehabilitative needs of 450 inmates. Equally substantiated in terms of findings was that, there exists a significant relationship between the death of inmates and inadequate medical facilities and overcrowding. The findings reveal that health situations in Nigerian prisons are saddening and precarious. Equally significant from the findings in Afokangis study is that the existing "so-called" prison medical center is just a "resemblance" of a patent medicine store. It has no drugs and has only a few medical personnel to attend to growing and incessant sick prison population. Skin rashes, tuberculosis and kwashiorkor are most prevalent amongst inmates leading to death of prisoners. This confirms Salaudeen's [18] position that: those inmates who die are quickly buried without the authorities informing their relatives.

More appalling from the findings was that, because of excess population, most inmates have no bed and mattresses; they are forced to sleep on concrete floor

often without blankets. These unwholesome treatments have contributed to the death of numerous in prisoners in detention. Finally, the findings revealed that government has not totally abandoned the task of reforming and rehabilitating prisons and inmates. They had been planning and making funds available, though little to assuage the debilitating and unsavory state of the prisons, but these funds are either misappropriated or swindled out-rightly by court officials for purposes other than the original intentions [9].

Theoretical Framework: The theoretical framework adopted in this work is Marxist theory of state. In Marx's 1843 critique of Hegel's philosophy of right, his basic conception is that the state and civil society are separate. The political state everywhere needs the guarantee of spheres lying outside it. Marx viewed the state as a creature of the bourgeois economic interest. According to him, the executive of the modern state is nothing but a committee for managing the common affairs of the whole bourgeoisie. This represents the high point of conformance of the state theory to a strict economic interpretation of history: The forces of production determine peoples' production relations; their production relations determine all other relations, including the political. Some reciprocity of action is admitted. The bourgeoisie control the economy; therefore they control the state resources. The state, in this theory, is an instrument of class rule.

Ake [19] argues that the concept of state remains one of the most difficult to handle. He states that it is rich in meaning and beset with controversy. It is hard to understand the state and its laws of motion. This is a reflection of Africa where the common sense notions of the empirical referents of the state do not appear to apply.

The state is a specific modality of class domination. This modality is one in which class domination is mediated by commodity exchange so that the system of institutional mechanisms of domination is differentiated and disassociated from the ruling class and even the society and appears as an objective force standing alongside society [19]. Anikpo [20] argues that the emergence of class is usually associated with the emergence of the state structure. The dominant class therefore is made up of all those who are in the power position to take what they can from the nation's accumulated wealth either directly or through any form of patronage and are also in the position to decide what others will get. Thus, that citizens get protected under the

law is a function of the state. It is the responsibility of the state to design means of ensuring that her citizens rights are protected as provided in the constitution.

The state has three basic structures: the legislature whose responsibility it is to make laws, the judiciary with the function of interpreting the laws made by the legislatures and the executive whose mandate it is to give assent to bills and enforce citizens' compliance to laws. Other apparatus of the state exist like the armed forces, the police, the prisons, the bureaucratic structures under which other institutions like the civil service emerge.

In the context of this study, it is the responsibility of the state to ensure that the welfare of its citizens is protected. The fundamental human rights provisions in the 1979 constitution is one of those laws the state has made because of its obligations. The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is by the provision of the constitution charged with the responsibility of providing basic facilities that functions to promote the welfare of her citizens. The prisons system is one of the essential areas that need great attention. It is evidence to note that policies that would encourage reconstruction of dilapidated equipments in the Nigerian prisons system is inevitable. This would ensure that correctional facilities are functional to reposition prison inmates to be able to get back into the society and get properly integrated.

Methodology

Design and Area of the Study: Cross-sectional survey design was adopted for this study. The study was carried out in Awka and Abakaliki federal prisons. Awka and Abakaliki federal prisons were purposively chosen on the premise of convenience and uniformity in characteristics of prison inmates. Abakaliki and Awka federal prisons were built in 1904 and 1946 respectively by the British colonial government in Nigeria to shelter crime suspects awaiting trial and convicted offenders for reform and rehabilitation. Abakaliki is the capital city of Ebonyi state Nigeria. Abakaliki prison is located in the inner city of the state capital: sharing boundary with Ebonyi State Police Command Headquarters in the North. The Ministry of Works and Transport in the south and Federal Teaching Hospital (FETHA 1) are in the south. Abakaliki prison has the capacity to accommodate 387 inmates [21]. Awka where Awka prison is located is the capital city of Anambra State. Awka prison is located in the inner city of Awka: sharing boundary with Police Area Command and Awka South Local Government Headquarters in the North, Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)

Table 1: The Population Characteristics of Awka and Abakaliki Prisons

Category of Inmates and workers	Abakaliki Prison	Awka Prison	Total
Awaiting trial inmates (ATI)	734	394	1128
Convicts	104	46	150
Lifers	8	2	10
Staff or Prison workers	178	134	312
Total	1024	576	1600

Source: (Abakaliki and Awka prisons record, 18th March 2014).

Table 2: Stratified Sampling of Inmates and Workers in Abakaliki and Awka Federal Prisons, Nigeria

Respondents	Population	Value/ Chosen Sample
Awaiting Trial Inmates (ATI)	1128	282
Convicts	150	37
Lifers	10	3
Staff or Prison workers	312	78
Total	1600	400

Field survey 2015

and State Police Headquarters in the East. In the West is the NIPCO Filling-Station. Awka prison has the capacity to accommodate 238 inmates [21].

Population of the Study: The population consisted of all the prison inmates and staff in Abakaliki and Awka federal prisons. The total number of inmates and staff in Abakaliki prison were 846 for inmates and 178 for staff (Abakaliki prisons record, 18th March, 2014), whereas the total number of inmates and staff in Awka prison were 442 for inmates and 134 for staff (Awka prisons record, 18th March, 2014). This brought the total population in Abakaliki and Awka federal prisons as at 18th March, 2014 to 1600.

Sample Size: The sample size for this study was three hundred and twenty (320). In determining the sample size, the researcher used Alien Taro Yamane (1967) method of sample size determination. Yamane (1967) provides a simplified formula to calculate sample sizes. This formula was used to calculate the sample size for this study and is shown below. A 95% confidence level and level of maximum variability (P = 0.05) were assumed. The formula for the sample size estimation is given as:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

where:

n = the sample size

N = the population size

e = the level of precision (allowable error) that is 5% or 0.05.

Therefore, the sample size estimation is given as:

$$n = \frac{1600}{1 + 1600(0.05)^2}$$

n = 1600/1601 x 0.0025 = 399. Therefore, the sample size is approximately 400.

Sampling Technique: Stratified sampling technique which is a probability sampling technique was adopted in this study. The population was stratified under different categories of inmates and workers. This particular technique was used because it gave each element of the population an equal chance of being included in the study.

Methods of Data Collection: Both qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection were used in this study. The methods were divided into two: primary and secondary methods. The primary methods used were questionnaire and in-depth interviews. The questionnaire was used to gather quantitative data from the respondents. The questionnaire consists of closed-ended and few open-ended questions. The questionnaire consists of two sections; section 'A' which addressed the demographic characteristics of respondents such as age, sex, educational qualification etc, while section B, C, D, E and F addressed the substantive issues of the research. For the purpose of triangulation, the In-depth Interview Guide (IDI) was designed for the qualitative aspect of the study. This was used to complement the quantitative instruments of data collection for this study. The In-depth Interview was derived from the specific objectives of the study. The In-depth Interview Guide was used to interview the few inmates and staff of Abakaliki and Awka federal prisons.

Data Analysis: Both qualitative and quantitative data were collected for this study. In view of this, the analysis is both qualitative and quantitative in nature. Responses from respondents, as were generated through interviews, were subjected to content analysis while the quantitative components of data generated were analysed at two levels: univariate and bivariate levels. At univariate level, data were presented using frequencies and percentages. Also, at bivariate level, cross-tabulation was used to

show associations between some variables. These associations between variables were tested with chi-square and Pearson correlation statistics.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The questionnaire was distributed to 400 respondents out of which 307 were correctly filled and returned. The number that returned their questionnaire formed the basis for this analysis.

Demographic Characteristics of Respondents: This section deals with analysis of socio-demographic characteristics of respondents like sex, age, marital status, educational qualification, religious affiliation, occupation and ethnic of origin of respondents.

Findings reveal that 92.2% of the respondents were males while 7.8% were females. The implication is that males were greater in number in the prisons than females. This shows that men commit crime more than females. Data on age show that 36.5% of the respondents were within the age range of 18 and 27 years, 38.1% were within the age range of 28 and 37 years, 16.0% were within the age range of 38 and 47 years, while 6.2% were within the age range of 48 and 57 years. Also, 1.6% of the respondents were within the age range of 58 and 67 years and the age range that falls within the age bracket of 68 years and above was also 1.6%. This implies that the highest population of prisoners was those within the age range of 28 and 37 years. These were adult population. It is an indication that they were much matured while they commit their crimes. Therefore worthy of note is that the least in population are those who were within the age range of 58 years and above.

Information gathered indicates that 53.4% of all the 307 respondents were single, 33.6% were married and the percentage of divorcees was 2.6%, while 1.6% respondents were widows. This implies that majority of the respondents were single. It can also be discerned that 32.1% of respondents were SSCE / WAEC holders, 23.1% were OND/NCE holders, 16.6% were first degree holders, 14.3% were primary school leavers, while 7.2% had no educational qualification. This shows that we had more respondents who were SSCE/WAEC holders as inmates. This is an indication that majority of the respondents were school dropouts. Among the respondents, 75.3% were Christians, 12.7% were Muslims and 10.7% were traditional African worshippers, while 1.3% have other forms of religion not indicated. This shows that majority of the respondents were Christians.

Table 3: Respondents view on their level of awareness of expected correctional facilities in the Prison

Facility	Awareness Index			Total
	Necessary	Not necessary	Do not know	
Vocational	262 (85.3%)	45 (14.7%)	0 (0.0%)	307 (100.0%)
Recreational	214 (69.7%)	60 (19.5%)	33 (10.8%)	307 (100.0%)
Educational	283 (92.2%)	17 (5.5%)	7 (2.3%)	307 (100.0%)
Religious	261 (85.0%)	32 (10.4%)	14 (4.6%)	307 (100.0%)
Medical	307 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	307 (100.0%)

Field survey 2015

On occupational ground, 34.9%% were self-employed, 11.4% were in the private sector, 8.1% were farmers, 5.5% of the respondents were civil/public servants, 3.3% were teachers, while 27.4% were students. This implies that majority of the respondents were self-employed. On ethnic background, 75.6% respondents were Igbos, 14.0% were Yorubas, whereas 10.4% were Hausa. This shows that majority of the respondents were Igbos and this stems from the fact that the study took place in Igbo land.

Expected Correctional Facilities in the Nigerian Prisons: Views of respondents were sought on their level of awareness of the correctional facilities existing in the Nigerian prisons. Their responses are contained in Table 3.

Data in Table 3 indicates that majority of the respondents were quite aware of the expected correctional facilities. In this light, 262 of the 307 respondents, representing 85.3% were of the view that vocational training facilities were necessary for effective correction while 14.7% did not think vocational facilities were necessary while 69.7% of the respondents were of the view that recreational facilities could aid in effective correction, 19.5% did not agree that it was necessary while 10.8% did not know. Also, 283 of the 307 respondents, representing 92.2% viewed educational facilities necessary for effective correction, 5.5% saw it as unnecessary while 2.3% did not know. On religious facilities, 85% saw them necessary, 10.4% saw it unnecessary while 4.6% did not know. All the respondents saw the availability of medical facilities necessary for effective correction. This implies that prison inmates have knowledge of the need to provide correctional facilities in the Nigerian prison system.

The Usefulness of Correctional Facilities in the Nigerian Prison System: In view of the usefulness of correctional facilities in the prison system, we sought respondents'

Table 4: Respondents view on how the utilization of Prison facilities helps in the correction of inmates

Facility	Aid in Correction			Total
	To great extent	To a little extent	To no extent	
Vocational	290 (94.5%)	10 (3.3%)	7 (2.2%)	307 (100.0%)
Recreational	288 (93.8%)	10 (3.3%)	9 (2.9%)	307 (100.0%)
Educational	300 (97.7%)	7 (2.3%)	0 (0.0%)	307 (100.0%)
Religious	288 (93.8%)	10 (3.3%)	9 (2.9%)	307 (100.0%)
Medical	254 (82.7%)	50 (16.3%)	3 (1.0%)	307 (100.0%)

Field survey 2015

opinions on how correctional facilities will help in changing the life of prison inmates positively. Table 4 contains information generated on this.

Respondents were mostly of the view that the utilization of vocational facilities could help in enhancing the correction of inmates. In this regard, 290 respondents, representing 94.5%, were of the view that vocational facilities would aid correction to a great extent, 3.3% were of the view that it would only aid correction to a little extent while 2.2% said that it would not aid correction of prison inmates. This view was corroborated by the following IDI respondents:

Inculcating in the inmates the technical skills of fixing broken cars will in no small way facilitate their post-prison financial lives (IDI, prison staff).

Another IDI respondent had a similar opinion:

Vocational training is one of the rudimentary structures that is really needed in the prison not only to keep inmates meaningfully engaged but also to consolidate their post-prison lives (IDI, prison staff).

Similarly, majority of the respondents, representing 93.8% out of the 307, were of the view that, utilization of recreational training facilities will enhance the correction of inmates, 3.3% were of the view that it would only aid correction to a little extent while 2.9% were of the view that it would not aid correction. This finding agrees with the views of a respondent in an in-depth interview. These were his words:

The inmates I see daily are fully laden with great skills and abilities that without proper analysis one would think that they are professionally-trained, however, the scourges of idleness perniciously take these away.(IDI, prison staff).

The same view was held regarding the presence of educational facilities as 300 respondents, representing 97.7% think that the presence of educational facilities would aid the correction of inmates to a great extent even though 2.3% think that it would only aid correction at a minimal level. In line with this position, an IDI respondent stated that:

I deeply wish and dream to have formal education; this will not only gratify my childhood desire but also give me a lead to direct my post-prison life.(IDI, prison inmate).

Another IDI respondent had a similar opinion:

I agree with people who say that what we need is vocational training, that basically gives us the first level of economic freedom but still, no one survives outside these walls (prison) without knowing how to write and read. We do also need formal education (IDI, prison inmate).

The visit by religious teachers was also viewed as very key in the reformation of prison inmates and their preparation for a post-prison crime-free lifestyle. On this issue, 93.8% of the respondents saw that the inmates needed religious/moral teachings in order to get reformed, 3.3% thought that it would have little impact in inmates' lives. In their own perspective, 2.9% saw it not necessary. The position of this result confirms with the opinion of an IDI respondent who stated thus:

Over time we have seen the deep impact of religious teachings. Apart from the remorse the inmates occasionally exhibit which basically kills their criminal intent (first and most important stage of crime), we have also seen them preaching to one another to change their ways of thinking (IDI, prison staff).

Another IDI respondent stated that:

We all love and appreciate the preachers not only for their much-needed messages but also for the foods they bring to us. (IDI, prison inmate).

These findings agree with Asokhia and Agbonhuae [7] when they recommended that “deliberate efforts should be made by the Federal Government and prison service providers to reform the Nigerian Prisons and make

Table 5: Respondents view on correctional facilities existing in Abakaliki and Awka Prisons

Facility	Existence			Total
	Exists	Does not exist	Do not Know	
Vocational	194 (63.2%)	100 (32.6%)	13 (4.2%)	307 (100.0%)
Recreational	200 (65.1%)	89 (29.0%)	18 (5.9%)	307 (100.0%)
Educational	121 (39.4%)	166 (54.1%)	20 (6.5%)	307 (100.0%)
Religious	292 (95.1%)	0 (0.0%)	15 (4.9%)	307 (100.0%)
Medical	189 (61.6%)	118 (38.4%)	0 (0.0%)	307 (100.0%)

Field survey 2015

it international best practice compliant. There is also need to introduce more rehabilitation services, facilities and reformative programmes such as training inmates on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and giving adequate awareness programmes so as to rehabilitate prison inmates and stop recidivism”. The expected facilities recommended include vocational, recreational, educational and medical. These facilities include, as corroborated by Chukwudi [3]; Achu, Owan and Ekok [9]; shoe making facilities, carpentry, fashion design, painting, basic education, adequate healthcare, good nutrition and skill acquisition.

Identification of the Correctional Facilities Existing in the Nigerian Prisons: Respondents were asked to identify the available correctional facilities in their prisons. Based on their level of awareness and of the availabilities of facilities, their responses are presented in Table 5.

Table 5 shows respondents view on the existence of facilities, 63.2% of the respondents stated that vocational facilities existed, 32.6% stated that there were no vocational facilities while 4.2% do not know. 65.1% said that recreational facilities existed, 29% said it does not exist while 5.9% do not know. 39.4% were of the view that Educational facilities existed, 54.1% thought otherwise while 6.5% do not know. 95.1% stated that religious facilities existed while 4.9% do not know. On medical facilities, 61.6% thought it was present in their prisons while 38.4% thought it was absent.

Following this, we sought to determine the level of breakdown of vocational and educational facilities in Abakaliki and Awka prisons. Their responses are presented in Table 6.

Available results in table 6 show that 52.2% of respondents were of the view that there were no vocational training facilities in the Nigerian prison system. This was contrary to the views of only 45.6%. For auto repair and mechanics 79.5% said that they do not exist while 11.1% said that they exist.

Available data indicate that 65.8% of respondents were of the view that shoe making vocation does not exist while 27.4% were on the contrary. For fashion designing, 84.0% affirmed that it does not exist in the prison system, 91.2% said that both carpentry and electrical repairs do not exist at all. What it implies is that there are no vocational training facilities in the Nigerian prison system. This makes it difficult to inculcate any vocational skill on the prison inmates.

Table 6: Respondents view on the breakdown of vocational, recreational and educational facilities existing in Abakaliki and Awka Prisons

Facility	Existence			Total
	Exists	Does not exist	Do not know	
Vocational				
Barbing and hair dressing	140 (45.6%)	160 (52.1%)	7 (2.3%)	307 (100%)
Auto repair and mechanics	34 (11.1%)	244 (79.5%)	29 (9.4%)	307 (100%)
Shoe making	84 (27.4%)	202 (65.8%)	21 (6.8%)	307 (100%)
Fashion design	16 (5.2%)	258 (84.0%)	33 (10.8%)	307 (100%)
Carpentry	6 (2.0%)	280 (91.2%)	21 (6.8%)	307 (100%)
Electrical Repair	23 (7.5%)	280 (91.2%)	4 (1.3%)	307 (100%)
Recreational				
Football facilities	253 (82.4%)	19 (6.2%)	35 (11.4%)	307 (100%)
Table tennis	15 (4.9%)	199 (64.8%)	93 (30.3%)	307 (100%)
Basketball	17 (5.5%)	238 (77.6%)	52 (16.9%)	307 (100%)
Boxing	22 (7.2%)	221 (72.0%)	64 (20.8%)	307 (100%)
Volleyball	14 (4.6%)	260 (84.7%)	33 (10.7%)	307 (100%)
Educational				
Library	10 (3.3%)	294 (95.7%)	3 (1.0%)	307 (100%)
Classrooms	4 (1.3%)	287 (93.5%)	16 (5.2%)	307 (100%)
Teaching aids	3 (1.0%)	300 (97.7%)	4 (1.3%)	307 (100%)
Laptops & Projectors	0 (0.0%)	307 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	307 (100%)

Field survey 2015

Table 7: Cross tabulation of level of education of respondents and awareness of expected correctional facilities

Education of respondents	Are you aware of the expected correctional facilities within Nigerian prisons?			Total	X ² (N=38) 11.240, df=2, p=.004
	YES	NO			
Higher Education	17(100.0%)	0 (0.0%)		17 (100.0%)	
Lower Education	18(85.7%)	3(14.3%)		21 (100.0%)	
Total	35(92.1%)	3(7.9%)		38 (100.0%)	

Field survey 2015

Table 8: Cross tabulation of sex of respondents and vocational training

Sex of respondents	Do you think that these vocational training facilities, if provided will help achieve correctional objectives?			Total	X ² (N=307) 4.792, df=2, p=.091
	YES	NO	Can't say		
Male	265(93.6%)	6 (2.1%)	12 (4.3%)	283 (100.0%)	
Female	22(91.0%)	1(4.2%)	1 (4.2%)	24 (100.0%)	
Total	287(93.5%)	7(2.3%)	13 (4.2%)	307 (100.0%)	

Field survey 2015

For recreational facilities like football, 82.4% of respondents affirmed that it exist whereas only 6.2 stated otherwise. Concerning other facilities, majority of the respondents confirmed the non existence of the facilities as follows; table tennis 64.8%, basket ball 77.6%, boxing 70.0% and volleyball 84.7%. Similar result is recorded against the availability of educational facility. In this light, majority of the respondents affirmed that educational facilities do not exist as follows; library 95.7%, class rooms 93.5%, teaching aids 97.7%, laptops and projectors 100%.

The position of these results indicates danger of non availability of vocational training facilities that would have been helpful in training prison inmates to acquire basic skills for survival. Thus, it would have been possible for prison inmates to leave prison environment well equipped with knowledge of being very innovative and productive. This would have been also a way to help keep off their minds from committing more crimes that are capable of throwing them back into the prisons, hence to avoid being recidivists. Information in table 4.4.2 present the sorry state of the correctional facilities in Awka and Abakaliki prisons. Little needs to be desired as vocational and correctional facilities that would help in rebuilding the prisoner for positive change in character and skill acquisition are either not available or not functional. In view of this result, the Nigerian prison system is in a very pitiable state. This confirms the position held by Achu, Owan and Ekok (2013) that they found “Nigerian Prisons to be a dungeon which represents man’s inhumanity to man”.

Test of Hypotheses 1

Ho: Prison officers with higher level of education are not

more likely to be aware of expected correctional facilities than those with lower level of education.

H1: Prison officers with higher level of education are more likely to be aware of expected correctional facilities than those with lower level of education.

Level of education of prison officers was found to be statistically significant with awareness of expected correctional facilities in prisons at p = .004 level of significance.

Test of Hypothesis 2

Ho: Male respondents are not more likely to attribute availability of skill acquisition facilities as a prerequisite for effective correction of inmates’ in Abakaliki and Awka prisons than their female counterparts.

Hi: Male respondents are more likely to attribute availability of skill acquisition facilities as a prerequisite for effective correction of inmates’ in Abakaliki and Awka prisons than their female counterparts.

No significant relationship was observed between sex and attribution of availability of skill acquisition facilities as a prerequisite for effective correction of inmates at p = .091.

CONCLUSION

Vocational training is a fundamental force that would bring positive change in the life of prison inmates. This valued force for positive socio-psychological and economic change is seriously lacking in the Nigerian

prison system. Findings indicate that the Nigerian prison system does not have essential vocational training equipments/ facilities like; barbing and hair dressing saloon (52.1%), auto repairs and mechanics (79.5%), shoe making (65.8%), fashion designing (84.0%), carpentry and electrical repairs (91.2%) respectively. The challenge of non availability of these facilities is pronounced in prison management. Criminal recidivism is experienced and this has resulted in increase crime rate.

Findings also reveal that the recreational facilities Nigerian prison system lack is: table tennis (64.8%), basket ball (77.6%) and volleyball (84.7%). The only recreational facility available is football (82.4%). In addition, the Nigerian prison system also lacks the following educational facilities: library (95.7%) and teaching aids (97.7%). There was no significant relationship between sex and attribution of availability of skill acquisition facilities as a prerequisite for effective correction of inmates at $p = .091$.

Recommendations: From the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made:

- Vocational programmes such as welding, auto-mechanics, photography, barbing and hair dressing, shoe making, fashion designing, carpentry and electrical repairs should be introduced in the Nigerian prison system. This will help to equip prison inmates with basic skills of survival and it will function to prevent them from going back to criminality.
- Adequate modern recreational facilities such as standard football field, boxing gloves and rings, basketball equipments, gymnastic facilities need to be provided in prisons. This would help inmates to have regular exercises that will keep them fit and healthy.

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