



SOCIO- ECONOMIC DETERMINANTS OF FEMALE CRIMINALITY AMONGST INMATES OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES IN SOUTH-EAST NIGERIA

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Abstract

In traditional societies, women were perceived as bearers and nurturers of children. Thus, their involvement in crime was perceived as a deviation from this basic nature. However, reports in the media and academia validate the notion that females involvement in crime is increasing in frequency and scope in contemporary societies. Consequently, the interest of this study was to examine the socio-economic determinants of female criminality among inmates of correctional services in south-eastern Nigeria. The Structural- Strain theory and women liberation theory were adopted as theoretical framework while the mixed-method was adopted as the research design. Both quantitative (questionnaire) and qualitative (In-depth interview guide) were instruments of data collection used. A total of 267 respondents that constitute the population of females in the federal prisons that make up south east, Nigeria at the time of data collection were purposively selected. In addition, criminal justice officials were interviewed. The statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) was used to process the data collected. Specifically, the quantitative data collected from the field was presented, interpreted, and analyzed using descriptive statistics such as frequency tables and simple percentages. Findings revealed that female criminality is determined by socio-economic factors—frustration, family problems, peer influence, poor parenting, and the influence of social media, spousal/relationship issues, widening socio-economic opportunities open to women in the labour force. There is also a strong nexus between unemployment, poverty and female criminality. The study recommended that effective control measures of female criminality should address the factors which women associate with their criminality. The study also advocated that individuals and social institutions should care for and protect the female folks. Women should have access to education, skills acquisition, and employment opportunities in order to minimize their involvement in criminal activities.

Keywords: Crime, Female Criminality, inmates, correctional services, socio-economic



Introduction

In traditional societies, women were bearers and nurturers of children and the social responsibilities that go with these biological and social functions demand that they should be worthy in character (Ameh, 2013). This reinforced the notion that they were unlikely to commit crime (Rennison, 2014). However, reports in the media and academia validate the notion that female involvement in crime has been increasing in frequency and scope.

In contemporary society, the new wave of crime cuts across all sections of the society involving men, women and children (Chukuezi, 2009). Unlike in the traditional society, crime cannot be said to be solely a male phenomenon as there has been a steady increase in the population of women involved in crime. Report by the Institute for Criminal Policy Research [ICPR] (2015) reveals that the female prison population worldwide has increased by more than 50% since the year 2000. Nonetheless, it also states that the proportion of females within the total prison population is comparatively low in African countries. Chukuezi (2006) attributes this to the apparent under-reporting of criminality, unavailability of forensic instruments and ineffectiveness of law enforcement agencies in dealing with crime situations prevalent in most African nations. A typical example can be seen in Nigeria. The Nigerian Prison Records (2017) show the percentages of female inmate population in all Nigerian prisons as follows: 1.9% in 2000; 1.9% in 2005; 1.9% in 2010; 2.0 % in 2014 and 2.7% in 2016. Sequel to this, the Nigerian prison survey report (2017) categorically states that female prisoners in Nigeria are few and constitute a minority in the prison population. A fact which clearly calls for closer examination of how they are treated within the criminal justice system and whether in fact the criminal justice system in general and the prison service can be said to be gender sensitive or not. Pollack (1950) nevertheless, perceives female criminality as a “hidden crime” claiming that women commit just as much crime as men but their crime is more easily hidden because of the chivalry of law enforcement officials in dealing with female offenders.

In Nigeria, female criminality is becoming a cliché as the number of females involved in suicide bombing, ritual killings, public funds embezzlement and other forms of violent



and non-violent crimes is steadily increasing posing a challenge to the nation's security. A case in point is the arrest of Maryam Sanda by the Nigerian Police Force on the suspicion that she stabbed her husband, Bilyaminu Halliru Bello, on the grounds that he was having extra-marital affairs. In the media/ national news, women are paraded alongside men by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) for cases of internet fraud. More to worry is also the involvement of women in terrorist activities in Nigeria, cases of women involved in kidnapping, human trafficking, the list is long. Women not only act as accomplices but also, perpetrators of crimes. This situation is mind-boggling as it presents an immediate threat to the majority of Nigerians because of the roles of females in the process of socialization and childcare. It affects the family structure, family stability, and disturbs the whole applecart of the family and society at large (Meixiang, 2013). In concurrence to this, Adebayo (2013) avers that female criminality is a threat to the security of a nation and a major factor associated with underdevelopment because it reduces the quality of life, destroys human and social capital and damages relationship between citizens and the states and discourages both local and foreign investments. Female criminality is a cankerworm that is gradually eating deep into all regions of the country. Consequently, it is necessary to gain insight into the socio-economic factors that influences it amongst inmates of correctional services particularly in South-east, Nigeria.

Review of Relevant Literature

The subject of female criminality cannot be understood without an understanding of the concepts of crime and criminality. Every society has social expectations; “do’s and “don’ts” that guide virtually all human behaviors and actions— sociologically referred to as norms. Deviance occurs when these societal or cultural norms are violated. Crime is one distinct category of deviance which entails the violation of norms a society formally enacts into criminal law. Sutherland (1978) perceives it as that behavior that is prohibited by the state and injurious to the state against which the state may react by meting out punishment. Emile Durkheim theorized that crime is a normal aspect of the society which serves as part of the fundamental conditions of social life which are indispensable to the normal evolution of morality and law (Pavlich, 2011). Hence, to Durkheim, crime is a healthy component of a society and a society without crime is



impossible. But how much of it can a society tolerate? It thus, becomes one of the major causes of social dysfunction when its incidence is rampant in the society as to constitute a threat to the security of persons and property, as well as social order and solidarity (Onoge, 1988). On the other hand, the behavioral definition of crime focuses on criminality. Criminality refers to conditions and behaviors that the State has agreed constitute "crimes" (Darroch, 2016). Female criminality is crimes committed by women. It corresponds with the male crime, and is a crime classification made from a gender perspective (Meixiang, 2016). It is any form of criminal law violation by females and its differences from male criminality is not the gravity of the crime but gender differentials (Mustapha, 2018).

A number of studies suggest socio-economic variables that influence female criminality. Adler (1975) made a significant contribution in explaining the determinants of female criminality in her publication, *Sisters in Crime: The rise of the female offender*. She argued that as women gained more opportunities outside the home, positions previously unavailable to them, its resultant effect is the increase in female criminality. Thus, with the increase in the number of females in the work force, there would be an analogous rise in female offending and criminality (Rennison, 2014). Adler further opined that the empowered woman is more involved in serious violent crime than the non-empowered woman. Simon (1976) gave a similar explanation stating that the involvement of women in criminal activities increases when women have different social and economic opportunities. She however, explains that increasing opportunities of women reduces the rates of violent female offending but increases the rate of property crimes (Islam, Barjee & khtun, 2014). In the same vein, Campanello (2014) avers that the number of women committing crimes is on the rise, partly because, the socio-economic gender gaps have been shrinking; Women have more freedom than in the past, and with that come more opportunities for crime.

Studies on female criminality and educational background suggest that female criminals have limited educational background, predominantly quit education at young ages or graduate without skills. The females who lack education have a hard time finding jobs and thus, resort to crime as a means to an end. On the contrary, Adler (1975) opines that



educated girls and women are keener to defy traditional restrictions and social roles. In line with this, Lochner & Morretti (2003) posit that it is also possible that education raises the direct marginal returns of crime like in the case of certain white collar crimes that are likely to require higher levels of education. Furthermore, drug use and abuse is linked to crimes at various levels. According to a United Nations Report (1989), the use of illegal drugs and crime go hand in hand. In so many cases, drug users will literally do anything to obtain enough money to satisfy their drug use habits. Rushforth & Willis (2003) perceive women's drug use as a defining factor in their participation in crime. They argued that the severity of women's drug use is more closely related to their criminality than it is for men, particularly for prostitution and property crime. This is because female offenders are more likely than males to be incarcerated for non-violent crimes, such as drug offences whereas male offenders are more likely to be incarcerated for violent crimes such as murder. To Obafemi (2018) drug use and abuse is the primary reason many females have been incarcerated and a source of in the society today. The number of females' incarcerated in various prisons across the country has increased over the last few decades and majority of these females have been arrested for drug offences.

Sutherland (1947) is of the view that social variables such as place of residence and associations are important factors that influence female criminality. People who share the same socio-economic conditions prefer living in same environment. Ghettos can be good examples of this preference. Naturally, this situation brings about interaction between common people with common language. In this sense, a crime committed by a female is a normal situation in an environment where the residents generally accept crime as normal (Clelik, 2008). Similarly, Esiri (2016) submits that females become delinquent through association with people who are the carriers of criminal norms and criminal behaviour is learned within primary groups in particular, peer groups. Moreover, Martins (2010) submits that females who partake in religious terrorism for instance, believe that any act they commit will be forgiven and perhaps rewarded in the afterlife, hence their involvement in crime. In the same manner, he asserts that in nations where religion is like opium, most crimes are committed along religious lines. Some



preachers stoke the embers of violence and urge their adherents to see anyone who is not of the same religion as an enemy.

To Aristotle, crimes are committed mostly for acquiring superfluous things. Maslow (1943) stated that people are motivated to achieve certain needs and that some needs take precedence over others. The most basic need is survival- food, clothing, and shelter. His postulation is a stated case as to why there are conflicts in the society. When females go clandestine, they use criminal means to pursue and satisfy their basic needs either as small groups or individuals. High degree of unemployment increases poverty and at the same time engenders criminal activities due to depression associated with unemployment (Short, 2007). Ameh (2013) identifies poverty as the main reason for the increase in female criminality. He explains that when females are deprived of certain resources and opportunities, it can create resentment which in turn results to female criminality in order to satisfy basic needs. Oyelade (2019) relates the rising rate of criminality as that caused by high unemployment, the soaring prices of food and raw materials, increasing gap between the rich and the poor, and lack of education.

Research Question The understated research question guided the study

What are the socio-economic determinants of female criminality among inmates of correctional services in south-eastern Nigeria?

Theoretical Framework

The Structural-Strain theory by Robert K Merton and the Women Liberation Theory by Freda Adler forms the theoretical framework for this study. This is mainly because the basic assumptions of the theory are relevant in articulating and explaining the socio-economic determinants of female criminality. Robert Merton's theoretical idea holds that there are certain goals strongly emphasized in the society alongside legitimate means to reach those goals. When these goals that are strongly stressed by the society are not in consensus with the means of achieving them, the stage is set for anomie. He identified five types of responses to the strain that arises from the social structure — '*conformity*',



'*innovation*', '*ritualism*', '*retreatism*' and '*rebellion*'. The *conformists* hold that the approved goals of society should be maintained alongside the institutionalized means. They hold fast to the good and approved means of meeting up cultural expectations. The second mode, *innovation*, is a situation whereby approved goals of the society are replaced by non-approved means. This mode of adaptation offers a pertinent explanation to why individuals commit crime. If on the other hand, the goals themselves are rejected and focus is shifted to the means, the mode of adaptation is *ritualism*. *Retreatism*, involves a rejection of both the goals and means. Retreatists are those individuals who opt not to be innovative and, at the same time reject both cultural goals and means. Examples are drug addicts, alcoholics. Lastly, *Rebellion* is a situation whereby members of a society reject both the cultural definition of success and the institutionalized means but go further in establishing a new social order. Example includes political revolutions. With regards to this study, *Innovation* is the response of interest. It is the desired direction of females who feel that the honest way of achieving societal goals cannot ensure that they achieve all their material needs. As a result, the stage is set for criminality – theft, corruption, dealing in illegal goods and services, terrorism, assault. Females who are thwarted in attaining desired socio-economic goals legally may seek to obtain them illegally. The standards— socio-economic values of a society are important determinant of female criminality.

In addition the Women Liberation Theory by Freda Adler in her work, "*Sisters and Crime*" (1975) proposes that the emancipation of women will lead to increasing crimes rates for women and a decreasing sex ratio in crime (Berger, 1989). She admits that changes in female criminality are directly related to changes in roles of women in society because of their increased numbers in the workforce and greater freedoms as a result of the women's liberation movement. This also implies that females' involvement in crime will closely resemble that of men as gender inequality, inequality of opportunity and inequality of condition between men and women are diminished by women's greater social participation and equality. She asserts that in traditional societies, gender roles suggest that women should be timid, quiet, attentive and soft. This suggests traditionally why fewer women were engaged in criminal activities. However, due to women's liberation and feminism, society is changing her views towards gender. This change



implies that women are becoming more confident, and have higher self esteem. It also means that women have more opportunities in many aspects of their lives including opportunities in the criminal world and are more likely to commit masculine crimes.

Materials and Methods

The study employed the mixed method research design. This is a research methodology that enables the integration of both qualitative and quantitative techniques in the collection and analyses of data. The sample for this study is two hundred and sixty seven (267) female prison inmates derived from the five federal correctional services (prisons) in the states that make up South-East Nigeria. These inmates alongside criminal justice officials were purposely selected as respondents for this study. The rationale for choosing these respondents was that they are familiar with the issues relating to crime and female criminality so, provided primary information needed to make this study substantive. Both quantitative and qualitative tools were employed for this study. The qualitative data was derived from the female inmates' while the quantitative data was derived from the criminal justice officials. With the aid of research assistants, the prisons were visited with approved letters from the controller of prisons in each south-east state and on the days and time scheduled by the prison management. The In-Depth Interview (IDI) involving the criminal justice officials (the police, lawyer and prison officials) was conducted also with the help of research assistants on the days scheduled by the participants. Responses from the questionnaire were processed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) and that of the In-depth Interview were tape-recorded and transcribed verbatim.



Research Findings/Results

Table 1: Composite Table Showing the Analysis of Socio-Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents.

Socio-Demographic Variables	Frequency	Percent
Age Categories		
18 - 27 Years	70	29.9
28 - 37 Years	117	50.0
38 - 47 Years	39	16.7
48 - 57 Years	8	3.4
Total	234	100.0
Marital Status		
Single	126	53.8
Married	79	33.8
Divorced/Separated	14	6.0
Widowed	15	6.4
Total	234	100.0
Religious Affiliation		
Christian	196	83.8
Islam	12	5.1
African Traditional Religion	26	11.1
Total	234	100.0
<i>(Table 1 Continued)</i>		
Occupation/Profession		
Civil servant	14	6.0
Business woman/trader	61	26.1
Student	40	17.1
Farmer	12	5.1
Unemployed	97	41.5
Artisan	3	1.3
Others	1	.4
Sub-Total	228	97.4
Missing Values	6	2.6
Total	234	100.0
Level of Educational Attainment		
No formal education at all	29	12.4
Primary/FSLC	32	13.7
GCE/SSCE/WAEC	70	29.9
OND/Diploma	53	22.6
HND/First Degree	34	14.5
Higher Degree/MSc/PHD	4	1.7
Others	1	.4
Sub-Total	223	95.3
Missing Values	11	4.7
Total	234	100.0

Field Survey, 2019



Result of table 1 shows that majority (50.0%) of the respondents fall within the age range of 28-37 years, those within age 18 to 57 years, has a mean age of (31.4%), (29.9%) of respondents fall within the age category of 18-27 years old, (16.7%) within the age range of 38-47 years; while the least proportion (3.4%) fall within the age range of 48-57 years. This finding implies that the majority of female prison inmates in the South-east Nigerian correctional services fall within the youthful ages. Furthermore, the table shows that majority (53.8%) of the respondents were single, (33.8%) were married, (6.0%) indicated being divorced/separated, while (6.4%) were widowed. The data on religious affiliation show that majority (82.5%) were Christians, (11.1%) practiced African Traditional Religion (ATR); while (5.1%) of them were Muslims. With respect to the occupation/profession of the respondents prior to incarceration, majority (41.5%) indicated being unemployed before they were incarcerated; this is followed by (26.1%) who indicated that they were into business/trading prior to incarceration. 17.1% were students, (5.1%) were farmers, (1.3%) were artisans, while (0.4%) belong to other occupational groups prior to prison incarceration. Additionally, majority (29.9%) of the respondents only obtained GCE/SSCE/WAEC certificate – implying that they only completed the secondary school academic level. This is followed by (22.6%) who obtained OND/Diploma certificate. (14.5%) obtained first degree certificates, (13.7%) obtained the First School Leaving Certificate (FSLC) and (12.4%) indicated that they had no formal education. Moreover, while a lower proportion (1.7%) of the respondents obtained Higher Degree certificates (M.Sc/PhD).



Analysis of Research Question: What are the socio-economic determinants of female criminality among inmates of correctional services in south-eastern Nigeria? The analysis of this research question is as shown on Table 2 below.

Table 2: Respondents' Views on the Socioeconomic Factors Influencing Female Criminality

Descriptions	Options	Frequency	Percentage	Decision
Drug as a factor influencing female criminality.	Disagree	29	12.4	Affirmative
	Strongly Disagree	7	3.0	
	Agree	105	44.9	
	Strongly Agree	78	33.3	
	Sub-Total	219	93.6	
	Missing Values	15	6.4	
	Total	234	100.0	
Peer influence as a factor influencing female criminality and incarceration.	Options	Frequency	Percentage	Decision
	Disagree	31	13.2	Affirmative
	Strongly Disagree	3	1.3	
	Agree	116	49.6	
	Strongly Agree	67	28.6	
	Sub-Total	217	92.7	
	Missing Value	17	7.3	
Total	234	100.0		
Frustration/Family problems as a factor influencing female criminality and incarceration.	Options	Frequency	Percentage	Decision
	Disagree	11	4.7	Affirmative
	Strongly Disagree	1	.4	
	Agree	118	50.4	
	Strongly Agree	86	36.8	
	Sub-Total	216	92.3	
	Missing Values	18	7.7	
Total	234	100.0		
<i>(Table 3 Continued)</i>				
Spousal/Relationship issues as a social factor influencing female criminality and incarceration.	Options	Frequency	Percentage	Decision
	Disagree	23	9.8	Affirmative
	Strongly Disagree	31	13.2	
	Agree	116	49.6	
	Strongly Agree	47	20.1	
	Sub-Total	217	92.7	
	Missing Values	17	7.3	
Total	234	100.0		



	Options	Frequency	Percentage	Decision
Place of Residence as a social factor influencing female criminality and incarceration	Disagree	48	20.5	Affirmative
	Strongly Disagree	40	17.1	
	Agree	85	36.3	
	Strongly Agree	36	15.4	
	Sub-Total	209	89.3	
	Missing Values	25	10.7	
	Total	234	100.0	
Poor education as a social factor that influence female criminality and incarceration	Options	Frequency	Percentage	Decision
	Disagree	39	16.7	Affirmative
	Strongly Disagree	44	18.8	
	Agree	90	38.5	
	Strongly agree	39	16.7	
	Sub-Total	212	90.6	
	Missing Values	22	9.4	
Total	234	100.0		
Poor parental care as a social factor influencing female criminality and incarceration	Options	Frequency	Percentage	Decision
	Disagree	20	8.5	Affirmative
	Strongly Disagree	11	4.7	
	Agree	116	49.6	
	Strongly Agree	68	29.1	
	Total	215	91.9	
	Missing Values	19	8.1	
Total	234	100.0		
Social Media as a social factor influencing female criminality and incarceration	Options	Frequency	Percentage	Decision
	Disagree	33	14.1	Affirmative
	Strongly Disagree	21	9.0	
	Agree	106	45.3	
	Strongly Agree	52	22.2	
	Total	212	90.6	
	Missing Values	22	9.4	
Total	234	100.0		
Widening socio-economic opportunities open to women in the labour force as a factor that influences female criminality in the Southeast Nigeria.	Options	Frequency	Percentage	Decision
	Disagree	62	26.5	Negative
	Strongly disagree	63	26.9	
	Agree	65	27.8	
	Strongly agree	24	10.3	
	Sub-Total	214	91.5	
	Missing Values	20	8.5	
Total	234	100.0		

(Table 3 Continued)



	Options	Frequency	Percentage	Decision
poverty as a Socioeconomic factor that influence female prison inmate’s incarceration	Disagree	2	.9	Affirmative
	Strongly Disagree	3	1.3	
	Agree	62	26.3	
	Strongly Agree	167	71.4	
	Total	234	100.0	
Unemployment as a socioeconomic factor that influences female criminality.	Options	Frequency	Percentage	Decision
	Disagree	1	.4	Affirmative
	Strongly disagree	2	.9	
	Agree	74	31.6	
	Strongly Agree	144	61.5	
	Sub-Total	221	94.4	
	Missing Values	13	5.6	
Total	234	100.0		

Field Survey, 2019

Data from the qualitative data also fall in line with these findings. An interviewee stated that:

Everyone in our country now knows we are all facing economic hardship. Before now, the men are in charge of providing for the home, children, relations etc. that is why women answer such names as Obiageri, Oriaku, Odozi-aku, but now, no woman likes to stay at home. Women move out to look for wealth because of the changes of time. Men can no longer do it alone and if women fold their hand, they cannot live the kind of life they want to live. Women are more educated now, some are luckier than their husband, so they become the bread winner of the family. No woman wants the children to die of hunger, so, some will take into prostitution, armed robbery etc. it was very rare those days to hear that women are part of armed robbery gang, but today it is common. So, economic hardship and poor job opportunities influence female criminality. Nothing seems to be working. The economic aspect of life is biting everybody and those who cannot cope will devise a means to survive. And the government equally is not helping. No social welfare (Female, 54 years, Lawyer, Enugu state).

A respondent stated that:

Poor education plays a role in influencing female criminality—most of the women involved in crime are usually illiterate, some are drop-outs. Also, place of residence—those in the rural areas are more involved in crime than those in the urban areas because of the opportunities and resources available to them. Peer



influence too is another important factor that influences female criminality. Young girls of today will want to belong and some would want to become slay queens so, would want to do what others do. So if a slay queen for instance, is into robbery to get the money she uses to look fly, the other would want to imitate. In addition, women are usually responsible for taking care of the family, so when they don't give the children proper parental care and upbringing, these children tend to become at risk of being deviant (Male, 40 years, lawyer, Anambra State).

Another respondent stated that:

Poor parental care is one social factor that influences female involvement in crime—parents a times don't give special attention to females knowing full well that their pattern of behavior is quite different from men (Female, 35 years, police officer, Enugu state).

Correspondingly, an IDI respondent stated that:

Relationship issues from peers, spouses, lovers etc, family problems and those faced emotional abuse at home from husband, peer group makes them get frustrated and turn to crime. Also, family structure which involves the method of parenting is a factor. Some mothers these days do not care for their children as much as they should because of one thing or the other. Some are carried away with their career without knowing that their children are a great investment. This attitude affects the female children especially and makes them vulnerable to whatever comes their way (Female, 42 years, Prison officer, Imo state).

Another interviewee stated that:

Of course, unemployment is a major factor women get involved in crime. The society is very difficult and the government is doing little for them. So, man must survive. The likelihood of employed women involving in crime is low (Male, 49 years, Prison officer, Abia state).

It was also the opinion of a respondent that,

When someone is jobless definitely, crime becomes the easiest way to get what you need. The likelihood of employed women involving in crime is very remote. The crimes employed women commit differ from unemployed. Unemployed women are more involved in crimes such as prostitution which is also poverty driven. If they are married, they are



involved in passion related crimes (Male, 47 years, Prison officer, Ebonyi state).

The item-by-item analysis of the socio-economic factors that influence female criminality among inmates of correctional services in Southeast, Nigeria in table 1 shows that majority of the respondent were affirmative in all the items given. This implies that the respondents affirmed that socio-economic factors including drug abuse, peer influence, frustration/family problems, spousal/relationship issues, place of residence, poor education, poor parental care, and social media, poverty and unemployment are factors that influence female criminality in southeast Nigeria. However, poverty and unemployment were strongly affirmed by respondents as a major determinant of female criminality-- (71.4%) of the respondents strongly agreed that poverty and (94.4%) of the respondents strongly agreed that unemployment is a significant factor that influence female criminality. The data on the widening socioeconomic opportunities open to women in the labour force, show that the cumulative percentage of affirmative responses (strongly agree and agree - $10.3 + 27.8 = 38.1$) is lesser than the negatively rated responses (Disagree and Strongly Disagree - $26.5 + 26.5 = 53.4$), which implies that majority of the respondents disagreed with the view that widening socioeconomic opportunities open to women in the labour force is not a significant factor that influences female criminality in Southeast, Nigeria.

Conclusion/Recommendations

Female criminality is influenced by socio-economic factors. There is need to explore the idea to rehabilitate women offenders as well as institute preventive measures against female involvement in crime. This calls for the need to incorporate the socio-economic measures in order to address this issue. It is therefore, recommended that, Parents/guardians should consider giving adequate and proper parenting to their children/wards. They should be constantly reminded of their roles in the society as leaders of the society hence, the importance of possessing good morals and virtues.

Secondly, Nigeria's educational system should be re-organized and re-strategized in a



way that it delivers critical knowledge and skills that will contribute to the growth of the economy by providing graduates from tertiary institutions with required skills to make them self-reliant at the end of their studies. All hands must also, be on deck. Every member and institutions of the society should conceive the issue of female criminality as a matter of concern and gear their attention towards the care and protection of the female folks.

Furthermore, the government should gear their utmost attention towards the provision of the basic needs of life to all members of the society. Welfare programmes such as unemployment support, educational support, child support, etc should be instituted to ameliorate the issues of socio-economic hardships plaguing most Nigerians. Correctional services in Nigeria should be renovated and re-modified in order to satisfy its purpose of reforming, rehabilitating and re-integrating female criminals into the society.

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