

A SURVEY OF REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES FOR INMATES IN KUJE MEDIUM SECURITY CORRECTIONAL SERVICE ABUJA, NORTH CENTRAL, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The study examined the rehabilitation of inmates in Kuje Medium Security Correctional Service, Abuja, North Central, Nigeria. The objectives of the study were to ascertain the effects of the rehabilitation programmes on the lives of the inmates, identify the existing policies of rehabilitation programmes and to find out if condition in the correctional centre or access to basic needs affects inmate's participation in the rehabilitation programmes. The study adopted the reformatory theory as the theoretical orientation. Mixed methods research design was used for the study. Questionnaire and In-Depth Interview (IDI) Guide were the quantitative and qualitative instruments of data collection used in this study. A sample size of 150 was used in the study and the target population consisted of convicted inmates. Data collected from the questionnaire were processed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software. Findings of the study indicated that while the programmes will impact positively on the lives of inmates on their reintegration into the society, they were fairly successful due to lack of funds and equipment. Also, findings of the study showed that Kuje Medium Security Correctional Service has not successfully achieved the rehabilitative objective according to the Nigerian Prison Act which is to reform and rehabilitate inmates to be good and useful citizens instead the traditional punitive method is still very much in practice. Therefore, the study recommends that Correctional Service should be adequately funded to acquire state of the arts equipment to enhance effective rehabilitation of inmates.

Key Words: Correctional Service, inmates, reformation, rehabilitation programmes, reintegration

Introduction

In recent time, recidivism has not only been on the increase but has become a major social problem affecting the society; governments, multinational humanitarian organizations and

the world (Agyi, 2015). Discharged inmates find it difficult to reintegrate into the society because of some social and cultural factors which seem to inhibit all efforts geared towards their reformation. In every civic society, the Correctional Centre ought to be more than a place for detention but a place where inmates or potential offenders are resocialized and prepared for their final reintegration into the society. Regrettably, this has not turned out to be so. Available evidence indicates that inmates or offenders in most countries of the world, particularly in third world countries such as Nigeria, have not been able to reintegrate into the society (Diyoke, 2013). It has been noted that Nigerian correctional institutions have proved dysfunctional rather than serve as avenue for reconciling the offender with the social order and its laws; the Correctional Centre has become a centre for the dissemination and exchange of criminal influences and ideas and centre for human rights abuse. This has usually rendered the prison processed offenders unable to reintegrate into the society (Ugwuoke, 2010).

Ayuk, Owan and Ekok (2013) attributed this to the general paucity in infrastructure, policies, workshops and corrupt disposed system which have made the prison conditions terrible and incapable of guaranteeing the expected reformation of inmates. Again, the radical shift in penal philosophy and prison management globally which emphasizes the identification of the reason for individual's anti-social behavior for treatment with the hope that the offender is reintegrated into the society not as a social misfit but reoriented and equipped for productive life, has posed a challenge to Nigeria Correctional Service. Ugwuoke (2010) observed that Nigeria Correctional Service preaches reformation and rehabilitation but in practice advocates for retributive punishment. He maintained that punishment continues even after discharge from the Correctional Centre due to public attitude towards inmates as they are branded and treated as ex-convicts and consequently violating the fundamental human rights of the offenders, which however is the greatest obstacle to a discharged inmate's reintegration. This stigma is emphasized by the legal or state law which so defines the discharged inmates. Therefore, the law as it exists today further stigmatizes the discharged inmate and prevents him from reintegrating successfully.

The aim of imprisonment according to Section 2(4) of the Nigerian Prison Act (2000) is to endeavor to identify the reason for anti-social behavior of the offenders; to train, rehabilitate and reform them to be good and useful citizens (Ugwuoke, 2010). It is therefore expected that recidivism will decrease if the objective of correction is achieved by planning and providing proper rehabilitation of inmates. This will enable them to be law abiding citizens of the society and engage in productive activities for their daily living on release from the Correctional Centre. However, because of its colonial origin, prisons in Nigeria were designed for or intended to be punitive rather than reformatory or rehabilitative prisons. Hence, inmates were used mainly for public works and other jobs

for the colonial administrators as a form of punishment (Investigating Human Right, 2009).

Therefore, in Nigeria criminal behaviors and delinquency have become common occurrences, armed robbery, kidnapping, drug trafficking, fraud, traffic offence, rape, murder and theft have become more serious to tackle as they have manifested with new methods and techniques. The nefarious activities of Boko Haram today in terms of bombing, hijacking and life threatening incidences are worrisome. These high rates of criminal behaviors and manifestation with new methods and techniques are of great concern to the society, rehabilitation social workers and other behavior modifiers (Diyoke, 2013). Convicted criminals are sentenced to Correctional Centres for purpose of rehabilitation, in most cases however, the providers of rehabilitation services are either ill-equipped or inadequate to give wholesome services that can affect inmates' lives positively. Rehabilitation services are notable for their pivotal role in changing lives of the inmates; unfortunately they are either not there or grossly inadequate.

It is therefore disheartening to see that a crucial aspect of identifying inmates' needs is grossly neglected in Nigeria. This is the crux of the matter. For rehabilitation services to help Correctional Service inmates to develop social and vocational skills, keep them meaningfully busy, change their attitudes and behavior so that they will have better understanding of themselves and the society, their felt needs must be addressed so as to enable them get employment and advance more educationally after serving their terms. It is against this background that this study examined the rehabilitation programmes of Nigerian Correctional Service with particular reference to Kuje Medium Security Correctional Service, Abuja, North Central, Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

Reformation and rehabilitation of inmates has not been effective as every year criminals who become more hardened and deadly are released as against changed individuals expected by the society. Civil Liberty Organization (1993) reported that the prison is just where one learns one or two mistakes that led to one being arrested, so that inmates get smarter by sharing experiences with more learned colleagues. In line with this, Adelaja (2009) noted that prisoners in Nigeria are left unoccupied with constructive and positive activities and are likely to perfect their criminal activities through the learning of new tricks from other inmates.

Earlier Odekunle (1981) observed that the contemporary criminal justice system is incapable of controlling crime because it operationally tilts against the poor and under privileged members of the society. He argued that criminal laws are enacted, broken and sanctioned differentially within a certain socio-economic and political context. According to him, their mode of operations and other attributes of the agencies of prevention, control

and correction do sometimes aggravate rather than reduce the crime problem. He therefore opined "that these agencies by their mode of operations are sifting system where the great flies are usually screened off to legal innocence and freedom, and the small ones are retained" (Odekanle, 1981: 26). One consequence of this is that the Correctional Centres regularly receive almost half of those they have reformed and rehabilitated.

Ogundipe (2006) argued that the state of the Nigeria Correctional Service was equally exacerbated by the dominant military leadership that Nigeria has experienced since independence. The military in its years of political leadership saw the prison as a punitive institution and thus did not give it any attention as to develop its infrastructure and conditions. Ogundipe (2006: 29) noted that "the military did not periodically visit the prisons but only made sure that those they had detained were not allowed any measure of comfort". Furthermore, the prison system in Nigeria is regarded as the least developed institution in the criminal justice sector. No new prison has been constructed in more than forty years and the prison population continues to grow (Osayi, 2015). The Prison Act of 1945 and accompanying regulations have not been reviewed for over 50 years. It is equally noteworthy here that most of the persons in the prison custody who are primarily the cause of the overcrowding are not convicts but persons awaiting trial. For instance, in Kuje Medium Security Correctional Service, while lamenting the problem of overcrowding of inmates, the Deputy Controller in charge, DCP Musa Tanko said that while the Correctional Service was meant for 500 inmates, the prison currently harbors over 850 inmates with only 150 as convicted criminals leaving 700 people as awaiting trials (The Union, 2015).

In Kuje Correctional Service like every other Correctional Service in Nigeria, the issue of overcrowding and substandard living conditions has led to violence and riots among inmates in Kuje Correctional Service. The March 28th 2007 riot which resulted in the death of six inmates and left many others injured easily comes to mind (Amnesty International, 2008). The prevailing poor conditions (poor feeding, toilets, beddings) which the officials of the Correctional Centre and inmates are subjected to have provided a fertile ground for violence and revolt. Indeed, most of the incidents of jailbreak that have been recorded in the country were occasioned by the unbearable inhuman situation in our prisons (Uduteba, 2010). In view of the aforementioned problems, this study examined the rehabilitation programmes for inmates in Kuje Medium Security Correctional Service Abuja, North Central, Nigeria.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided this study:

1. What are the existing rehabilitation programmes in Kuje Medium Security Correctional Service Abuja, North Central, Nigeria?

2. How effective are the rehabilitation policies in addressing the problems of inmates in Kuje Medium Security Correctional Service Abuja, North Central, Nigeria?
3. How does condition in the Correctional Service or access to basic needs affect inmates' participation in rehabilitation programmes in Kuje Medium Security Correctional Service Abuja, North Central, Nigeria?

Review of Related Literature

Rehabilitation Services and Programmes in Nigeria Correctional Service

The radical shift in penal philosophy and prison management globally which emphasizes the identification of the reason for individual's anti-social behavior for treatment with the hope that the offender is reintegrated into the society not as a social misfit but reoriented and equipped for productive life has necessitated Nigeria Correctional Service to shift from the punitive idea of imprisonment to reformation and rehabilitation of offenders. However, in Nigeria, available studies indicate that most rehabilitation programmes or services provided in Nigeria Correctional Service are largely influenced by the popularity of such programmes as well as the necessary facilities that are required for the actualization of such programmes.

For instance, Asokhia and Osumah (2013) conducted a study to determine the availability and status of rehabilitation services in Nigeria Correctional Service using six Prisons in Edo State. The instrument that was used to gather data for the study is a checklist titled, Adapted Rehabilitation Services in Nigeria Prisons in Edo State Checklist (ARSNPFSC), originally developed by Welfare Department of Nigeria Correctional Service (2011). Results of the study showed that it is only religious services that are available in all the Correctional Services in Edo State. Asokhia and Osumah (2013) attributed this to the popularity of Christianity and Muslim religion in the country. Other rehabilitation services or programmes such as carpentry and tailoring were available in only four out of the six Correctional Services respectively while for instance, adult and remedial educational programmes were only provided in Correctional Services that have class rooms. Agricultural skills acquisition namely, farming methods, animal husbandry and group work programmes were only available in two Correctional Service out of six Correctional Services. For the recreational services, football and indoor games (card, ludo and draft) were played in all the Correctional Service while table tennis was played in two out of the six Correctional Services. Again, "this was not unconnected with the non-availability of facilities for games in some Correctional Service as well as Correctional Service farm centres", (Asokhia & Osumah 2013: 6).

The study was however limited by the fact that it was not aimed at determining the impact or how relevant these programmes are to the inmates or offenders in Edo State Correctional Services. In another study conducted by Tanimu (2010) on 'Nigeria Correctional Service

and Rehabilitation ideas in Zaria and Kaduna Correctional Services', data were collected with the use of a structured questionnaire, documentary source and direct observation. The findings indicated that in terms of its facilities, personnel and programmes, the prisons are not predisposed to reforming and rehabilitating prisoners. He therefore concluded that the rehabilitation rhetoric is common but the business of confinement still dominates the Nigerian penal practices. Results of the study indicated that 64.6% of his sampled inmates were of the opinion that the prison is an instrument of oppression. Only 22.6% perceived the prison as a reformatory.

Similarly, in her purely descriptive and narrative analysis of the patterns, trends and control of female criminality in Nigeria from 1983 to 1992, Ozo-Eson (2004) observed that the control mechanisms of incarcerated female offenders from the perception of both female offenders and the criminal justice officials are largely apprehension, prosecution and imprisonment; only 25% of the sampled respondents discerned elements of rehabilitation and training, religious knowledge and campaign against crime. Furthermore, majority (53%) of the sampled inmates described the measure as relatively effective.

Though the research was basically on female inmates, her findings notwithstanding further revealed that the control mechanisms of both male and female offenders were not different. The scholar suggested that "government should do more by providing the basic needs for existence, job opportunities, etc. than just locking individuals up in prisons" (Ozo-Eson, 2004:93).

Impact of Rehabilitation Programmes and Policies on Offenders in Nigerian Correctional Service

On the impact of rehabilitation programmes on inmates, Uche, Uche, Ezumah, Ebue, Okafor and Ezegebe (2015) investigated the effectiveness of such programmes in Enugu Correctional Service from the perception of the inmates. A total of 145 inmates constituted the study participants. One of the findings of the study shows that the entire sampled inmates maintained that rehabilitation programmes exist in the Correctional Service. These include adult literacy, arts/crafts, carpentry, tailoring and welding. Assessment of these programmes by the inmates shows that the programmes were successful, as 85% accepted that the rehabilitation programmes have impacted positively on their lives by teaching them those skills which they will utilize on release. Knowledge of these skills will equip the offenders and prepare them to cope with life outside the Correctional Service.

The study further identified "lack of fund/inadequate funding, lack of physical infrastructures, poor management/administration and breakdown of equipments as obstacles to their rehabilitation" (Uche, et al, 2015:169). The finding is in agreement with the Prison Annual Report (2001/2002) which indicated that inadequate funding was a

major constraint which hampers both rehabilitation and after care of inmates. The research work however did not involve correctional officers neither did it involve those released from the Correctional Service after rehabilitation.

Uche et al (2015) suggested that the prison authorities should provide earning schemes to inmates to enhance their effective rehabilitation and reintegration into the society. They also recommended that rehabilitation programmes should not be left in the hands of correctional officers alone. Social workers, NGOs and FBOs should be fully involved in rehabilitation of inmates.

Conditions in Correctional Service and Inmates' Participation in Rehabilitation Programmes

In another study Akunne (2014) conducted a study on access to basic need and desire to participate in rehabilitation programmes among inmates in Nigeria Correctional Service. The study purposively selected 230 inmates of Kirikiri-Maximum Security Correctional Service Lagos to respond to a structured questionnaire titled Desire to Participate in Rehabilitation Test (DPRT). Data were analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software. The findings indicated that there is no significant relationship between quality and quantity of feeding and desire of inmates to participate in rehabilitation services. In other words, the quality and quantity of food available to inmates in Nigeria Correctional Service do not influence their desire to participate in rehabilitation programmes. On the other hand, the study further showed a significant correlation between sanitary condition, medical healthcare, adequacy of rest, recreation and availability of training materials and desire to participate in rehabilitation programmes.

Akunne (2014) therefore concluded that the conditions (lack of modern sanitary facilities, prompt medical care etc.) to which inmates in Nigeria Correctional Service are subjected to, affect their desire to participate in rehabilitation programmes negatively.

Theoretical Orientation

The study was anchored on the rehabilitative theory otherwise known as reformative theory which was an offshoot of reactions to the early schools of penology and the idea that something more was needed which slowly gained acceptance throughout the nineteenth century. According to Hampton (1995), the major adherent of this theory, punishment is seen from different points of view and the aim of the penal system should be treatment and correction. The assumption of rehabilitation is that people are not natively criminals and that it is possible to restore criminals to a useful life, to life in which they can contribute positively to the development of themselves and the society.

According to Packer (cited in Databazau, 2007:310), the rehabilitation theory teaches us that "we must treat each offender as an individual whose special needs and problems must be known in order to enable us deal effectively with him". Analyzing rehabilitation as a justification for punishment, Packer further noted that the rehabilitative idea may be used to prevent crime by changing the personality of that offender that punishment in the theory is forward looking; that the inquiry is not into how dangerous the offender is but rather into how amenable to treatment he is. In addition, Siegel (2005) affirmed that rehabilitation embraces the notion that given the proper care and treatment, criminals can be changed into productive, law abiding citizens. Influenced by the positivist criminology, the rehabilitation school suggests that people commit crimes through no fault of their own. Instead criminals themselves are the victims of social injustice, poverty and racism, their acts are response to a society that has betrayed them and because of their disturbed and impoverished upbringing, they may be suffering psychological problems and personality disturbances that further enhance their committing capacities.

Additionally, the exponents of the reformatory theory maintain that a crime is committed as a result of the conflict between the character and the motive of the criminal. One may commit a crime either because the temptation of the motive is stronger or because the restraint imposed by the character is weaker. Therefore, reformatory theory aims at strengthening the character of a man, so that he may not become an easy victim to his own temptation. This theory would consider punishment to be curative or to perform the function of a medicine. According to this theory, crime is like a disease. This theory maintains that you cannot cure by killing.

Applying this theory to Correctional Service and rehabilitation of inmates in Nigeria, the exponents of the reformatory theory argued that Correctional Service is established in Nigeria to rehabilitate offenders to be better members of the society. In other words, Correctional Service should serve to re-educate criminals and to reshape their personalities in a new mould. To the followers of this theory, execution, solitary confinement and maiming are relics of the past and enemies of reformation. Thus, the ultimate aim of the reformists is to try to bring about a change in the personality and character of the offender, so as to make him a useful member of the society. Therefore, if criminals are to be sent to Correctional Service in order to be transformed into law-abiding citizens, Correctional Centres must be turned into comfortable, dwelling houses.

The perspective by Siegel (2005) on this theory indeed captures the rationale behind the treatment of offenders by changing the attitude and behavior of criminals so that they will be able to choose lawful means in satisfying their needs. Reformatory theory has been adopted as the theoretical orientation to guide this study because it is relevant, suitable, appropriate and best explains the rehabilitation and reformation of inmates in Correctional

Centres in Nigeria particularly in Kuje Medium Security Correctional Service, Abuja, North Central which is the study area for this research work.

Materials and Methods

Mixed methods research design was adopted in this study. A combination of questionnaire and Key Informant Interview (KII) were quantitative and qualitative instruments of data collection used in the study. The study was conducted in Kuje Correctional Service, located in Kuje town, one of the six Area Councils in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja. Abuja is the Federal Capital of Nigeria and is one of the 37 semi-autonomous units that make up the country (36 states and the FCT). Established in 1989, the Kuje Medium Security Correctional Service is a Medium Security Convict Correctional Service. It is a male convict Correctional Service originally designed for a capacity of 320 inmates. The Correctional Service serves offenders in Abuja and those from other states in the country. In this Medium Security Correctional Service, there are two types of cells. Cell one is for convicted offenders and the second cell which is sub-categorized into two harbor offenders who are Awaiting Trial Persons (ATPs).

The population of the study comprised inmates and correctional officers of Kuje Medium Security Correctional Service Abuja, Federal Capital Territory (FCT), North Central, Nigeria. Awaiting Trial Persons (ATPs) were excluded from the study since they are not allowed to participate in the rehabilitation programmes (Ozo-Eson, 2004:72, Nigeria Prison Service, 2015). During the preliminary visit by the researcher, it was observed from the record books of the Superintendent in charge that the total inmates at the Correctional Service were 850 with only 150 as convicted inmates (Kuje Prison Notice Board, 2016)

The target population for the study consisted of 150 convicted inmates. This category of inmates was selected because they were those that participated in the rehabilitation programmes and so were more knowledgeable and aware of the existing programmes in the Correctional Service. The researcher studied the total number of convicted inmates in Kuje Medium Security Correctional Centre since the population is small. Also, 10 correctional officers were selected for KII using purposive sampling of non-probability method. The purposive sampling technique is a type of non-probability sampling that is most effective when one needs to study a certain cultural domain with knowledgeable experts within. In this light, selection of the correctional officers particularly from the rehabilitation department in the study was based on their willingness and availability to divulge tangible information. For a period of one month, the researcher frequently visited the Correctional Service for familiarity with the environment by listening to inmates who had committed various crimes and correctional officers, this process provided a substantial background knowledge which prevented misunderstanding and enabled the researcher to be sensitive to differences prior to, during and after the distribution of topics of

questionnaire to inmates and interview of correctional officers. The data collection procedure was through self-administration of the questionnaire by the researcher with the assistance of research assistants. The purpose of the study and assurance of confidentiality of information were explained to the respondents through a cover letter that was attached to the questionnaire. The questionnaire formed the main instrument used for data collection in this study. It contained two sections; the first section contained information on socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents like age, marital status, educational qualification, religious affiliation etc. while the second section contained information on substantive issues of the study raised in the research questions. The questionnaire contained both close and open ended questions. In addition to the questionnaire, a Key Informant Interview (KII) was conducted on key correctional officers particularly from the rehabilitation department. The respondents for the Key Informant Interview (KII) were notified and appointment was booked before the interview. Like the questionnaire, the interview guide also contained two parts or sections, the first part dealt with the participants' background information like age and years in service while the second part dealt with the substantive issues of the research i.e. questions on the rehabilitation programmes in the Correctional Service in line with objectives of the study. In order to ensure both authenticity and trustworthiness, the narratives (Key Informant Interview) of the 10 correctional officers were recorded and taken down with note with the consent of the study participants. The quantitative data collected from the questionnaire were processed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software. Descriptive statistics such as frequency tables and simple percentages were used to analyze the quantitative data. In addition, content analysis was used to analyze the qualitative data. Also, verbatim quotes and ethnographic summaries were used to enrich and elucidate the quantitative data.

Findings/Results

Out of the 150 copies of questionnaire administered, only 130 were correctly filled and returned. However, 20 copies of the questionnaire were not filled correctly and so were discarded and not included in the analysis. The response rate was 87%.

Table 1: Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents

Variables	Frequency	Percent
Age		
20-24	20	15.3
25-29	34	26.1
30-34	34	26.1
35-39	15	11.5
40-44	17	13.0
45+	10	7.6
Total	130	100
Marital Status		

Married	35	26.9
Single	75	57.6
Married but Separated	20	15.3
Total	130	100
Religion		
Christianity	58	44.6
Muslim	65	50
African Traditional Religion	7	5.3
Total	130	100
Level of Educational Attainment		
Quranic School Only	9	6.9
Primary School	25	19.2
Secondary School	76	58.4
Post-Secondary School	20	15.3
Total	130	100
Occupation of Respondents Before Incarceration		
Employed	10	7.6
Self Employed	10	7.6
Unemployed	57	43.8
Student	38	29.2
Others	15	11.5
Total	130	100
Number of Time in Correctional Service Including this One		
Once	96	73.8
Two Times	30	23.0
Three Times	4	3.0
Total	130	100

Table 1 shows that majority (52.2%) of the respondents in the study were between the ages of 25 and 34 years. However, the least number (7.6%) of the respondents were 45 years and above. The inference that could be drawn from this statistics is that most persons in the Correctional Service were young men in their productive age. This further corroborates the earlier facts available from the Federal Office of Statistics, (2008:5) that "individuals within the age range of 18-45 who are implicated for crime commission are actually more (90.7%) than other age categories". Therefore, one can conclude that being in the working age invariably exposes them to crime. In addition, this result is clearly not unexpected especially in a society like Nigeria where there is mass unemployment and underemployment and where poverty level has assumed unimaginable proportion. The table also indicates that majority (57.6%) were single while 15.3% were separated. This is not surprising since many of them are still young, particularly as they are men. It is observed from the table that majority (50%) of the respondents are Muslims. This is not strange since the Correctional Service is located in Northern Nigeria where the practice of Islam is dominant. However, few (5.3%) of the respondents said that they practice African Traditional Religion. Table 1 further reveals that all the respondents have gone to formal

school. This implies that all the respondents are literate hence they can read and write. In addition, the table further showed that more than half (58.4%) have gone to secondary school. On the number of times in Correctional Service, majority (73.8%) responded that they were in Correctional Service for the first time in their life. The implication is that we have more first time offenders than recidivists in Kuje Medium Security Correctional Service, Abuja.

Analysis of Research Questions

Research Question One: What are the existing rehabilitation programmes for inmates in Kuje Medium Security Correctional Service, Abuja, North Central, Nigeria?

Table 2: Respondents' views on the existence of rehabilitation programmes in the Correctional Centre

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	115	88.4
No	10	7.6
Don't know	5	3.8
Total	130	100

Table 2 above shows that majority (88.4%) of the respondents agreed that training programmes exist for offenders in the Correctional Centre, 7.6% said that training programmes did not exist while 3.8% said that they did not know whether training programmes exist in the Correctional Centre or not.

An official in Kuje Correctional Service said that: "The inmates are taught carpentry, shoe making, computer but sometimes the computer gadgets are not easily available for practice" (Male, 32 years, Correctional Officer, Kuje Correctional Service).

The inference one can easily draw is that training programmes do not only exist in the Correctional Centre but that the inmates and correctional officers are very much aware of its existence. Some of the respondents who attested to the availability of training programmes in the Correctional Service also identified available programmes in the Correctional Service and they are presented in Table 3 below:

Table 3: Respondents' views on the type of rehabilitation programmes available in the Correctional Centre

Response	Frequency	Percent
Adult Literacy	20	15.0
Carpentry	55	42.0
ICT Training	26	20.0
Shoe Making	15	12.0
Welding work	14	11.0
Total	130	100

Table 3 clearly indicates the type of rehabilitation programmes available in the Correctional Centre, 15% of the respondents said adult literacy, 20% ICT training, 12% and 11% shoe making and welding work respectively. However, one-third (42%) of the respondents mentioned carpentry works suggesting that it is probably the most common training programme in the Correctional Centre. On the other hand, while reacting to the above, many of the Key Informant study participants also identified similar programmes. They were however of the view that the training programmes are very good especially when compared to other Correctional Service in Nigeria. To them, offenders here are benefiting from many training and rehabilitation programmes which are not obtainable in other Correctional Services in the country which they should be thankful for. One key informant participant claimed that where she was transferred from in Kogi State nobody cared about rehabilitating them. According to her, *"The truth is that the Correctional Service is so busy with the security and safe custody of Correctional Service inmates, especially with the rising population and its consequent overcrowding, to bother about rehabilitation"* (Female, 35years, Correctional Officer, Kuje Correctional Service).

Research Question Two: How effective are these policies in rehabilitating or addressing the problems of inmates in Kuje Medium Security Correctional Service Abuja, North Central, Nigeria?

Table 4: Respondents' views on the effects of the training programmes on their lives

Response	Frequency	Percent
Positive effects	80	61.5
Negative effects	10	7.6
No Effect	40	30.7
Total	130	100.0

Table 4 above shows the effects of the training programmes from the inmates' perspective. Majority (61.5%) of the inmates were of the view that the programmes would have positive

effects on their lives when they are discharged from the Correctional Centre. Also, a correctional officer in the Key Informant Interview admitted that inmates who freely participate in the training are less likely to return to the Correctional Centre because of the effectiveness of the training in their lives. However, one key informant participant from Welfare Department argued that recidivism should not be blamed on the inability of correctional officers alone since it is not easy for other citizens to survive in the society. According to her, *"The general perception is we don't do our work here well to rehabilitate these inmates forgetting that there is no job opportunity even for normal people in outside world"* (Female, 34 years, Correctional Officer, Kuje Correctional Service). The implication here is that the society itself is ill-equipped to take care of everybody (both ex-offenders and non-offenders). Therefore, the society gets the kind of Correctional Service it deserves i.e., the Correctional Service system is just a microcosm of the larger society. Put differently, if the Nigerian society cannot take care of its teeming unemployed youth that have not committed any crime, one should expect less from those who have been convicted. The Correctional Service like other criminal justice institutions mirrors the contradictions in the society.

In addition, the respondents were asked the level of their assessment of the training programmes and their responses were presented in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Respondents' views on the assessment of the rehabilitation programmes

Response	Frequency	Percent
Successful	27	20.7
Fairly Successful	74	56.9
Not Successful	23	17.6
Don't know	6	4.6
Total	130	100

Table 5 shows that 20.7% of the respondents said that the programmes were successful, 56.9% said that it was fairly successful while 17.6% said that it was not successful. However, 4.6% did not know whether the rehabilitation programmes were successful or not. The inference one can draw is that the rehabilitation programmes have not fully achieved their potentials/goals of reformation in Nigeria Correctional Service.

Research Question Three: How does condition in the Correctional Service or access to basic needs affect inmates' participation in rehabilitation programmes in Kuje Medium Security Correctional Service Abuja, North Central, Nigeria?

Table 6: Respondents' views on whether condition in the Correctional Centre or access to basic needs affects inmates' participation in rehabilitation programmes

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	79	61.0
No	46	35.0
Don't know	5	4.0
Total	130	100

The data in Table 6 show that majority(61.0%) of the inmates claimed that conditions in the Correctional Centre and access to basic needs affect their participation in rehabilitation programmes in the Correctional Centre. However, majority of the correctional officers said that this may be because the officers are not directly involved. Furthermore, this work contradicts the findings of Akunne (2014) in Kirikiri Correctional Service that there was no significant relationship between quality and quantity of feeding and desire of inmates to participate in rehabilitation services.

Respondents were further asked to identify the factors that hinder their successful participation in the training programmes and they are presented in Table 7 below:

Table 7: Factors that hinder rehabilitation programmes in Kuje Correctional Centre

Response	Frequency	Percent
Lack of fund/Inadequate funding	56	43.0
Lack of physical infrastructure	26	20.0
Poor Management/Administration	21	16.0
Lack of Correctional Officers	11	8.0
Break down of equipment	16	12.0
Total	130	100

Table 7 shows factors that hinder rehabilitation programmes in Kuje Correctional Centre, 43% of the respondents said that it is lack of fund/inadequate funding, 20% said that it is lack of physical infrastructure while 16% of the respondents said that it is poor management/administration. Finally 8% and 12% answered lack of correctional officers and break down of equipment respectively.

However, more than one-third (43%) of the respondents identified lack of fund as a major impediment to rehabilitation programmes in the Correctional Centre. In the same vein, the correctional officers also have a consensus and similar view with the inmates as information from the participants shows that lack of fund and obsolete equipment etc. are major setback to rehabilitation programmes in the Correctional Centre.

In support of this a Chief Superintendent of Correctional Service in the key informant interview noted that.

It is common knowledge that Nigeria Correctional Service is not adequately equipped for the purpose of reformation and rehabilitation that lack of adequate fund, accommodation, shortage of professionals and qualified personnel among others are the basic problems hindering reformation and rehabilitation of inmates (Male, 55years, Chief Superintendent, Kuje Correctional Service).

He concluded that, *"Even with the current Correctional Service philosophy of rehabilitation and reintegration, the traditional punitive method is still very much in practice"* (Male, 55years, Chief Superintendent, Kuje Correctional Service).

Discussion of Findings

This study examined the rehabilitation programmes for inmates in Kuje Medium Security Correctional Service Abuja and its effects on the lives of inmates. Findings of the study indicated that there are training programmes available for the rehabilitation or training of inmates in Kuje Medium Security Correctional Service Abuja. Furthermore, results of the study showed that the training programmes include ICT training, shoe making, carpentry, adult literacy, welding works etc. This is in line with the findings of Uche et al (2015) on the types of training programmes in Enugu Correctional Service. Again, it was discovered that inmates in Correctional Service freely choose the trade they wish to participate. It is however based on the availability of such programmes in the Correctional Service. This is also in line with findings of Asokhia and Osumah (2013) in Edo Correctional Service which indicate that most rehabilitation programmes or services provided in Nigeria Correctional Service are largely influenced by available facilities. However, it negates the position of UN (1990) that that Correctional Service inmates should be provided with education necessary for their reintegration into the society.

One important aim of this study was to evaluate the impact and effectiveness of rehabilitation programmes in Kuje Medium Security Correctional Service. Therefore, findings of the study showed that the programmes were seen to be fairly successful from the perspective of both inmates and correctional officers. Further findings indicated that many inmates were not sure if they would sustain them and their families after discharge. Equally significant from the findings was that conditions in the Correctional Service and access to basic needs affect inmates' desire to participate in the rehabilitation programmes. However, some correctional officers did not agree with the inmates on this matter during the interview. These findings contradict the work of Akunne (2014) in Kirikiri Correctional Service that there is no significant relationship between quality and quantity of feeding and desire of inmates to participate in rehabilitation services. Also, the major obstacle to rehabilitation was identified as lack of fund/inadequate funding. In addition, it

was observed that the inmates and correctional officers perceive their relationship differently. Furthermore, results of the study showed that rehabilitation programmes were ineffective and obsolete because of lack of equipment/facilities for training. Again, it was discovered that inmates should not just be trained but they should be provided with money/capital to start up what they have learned when they are finally discharged from the Correctional Service. Other findings from the study suggest that most of the inmates and even the correctional officers did not see the Correctional Service as a reformatory and rehabilitation centre. This is in line with the findings of Taminu (2010) where inmates perceive the Correctional Service as an institution of oppression. In addition, it also negates the Prison Act which is to reform and rehabilitate offenders to be good and useful citizens. Finally, it was discovered that inmates who actively participated in rehabilitation programmes were less likely to return to Correctional Service due to the impact of the training in their lives.

Conclusion

It is worthy to note that the rehabilitation of offenders remains a major challenge to Correctional Service across the country. This is because most Correctional Service such as Kuje Correctional Service have not successfully achieved the rehabilitative objective according to the Nigerian Prison Act of (2000) which is to reform and rehabilitate offenders to be good and useful citizens. The resultant effect is that criminals who become more hardened and deadly are released as against changed individuals expected by the society. Thus it is important for Correctional Service in Nigeria to acquire the necessary facilities, infrastructure and trained personnel that will go a long way in reforming, rehabilitating and reintegrating inmates.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made;

1. The Correctional Service should be funded adequately to acquire state of the arts facilities to enhance effective rehabilitation of inmates.
2. Correctional officers should create awareness on the need for every convicted inmate to be involved in one rehabilitation programme or the other.
3. Conditions and schedules in the Correctional Service should be made more flexible to enable the inmates participate fully in the rehabilitation programmes.
4. Rehabilitation programmes should not be left in the hands of correctional officers alone. Social workers, NGOs, religious groups among others should be fully involved in the rehabilitation of inmates by regularly giving relief materials to inmates, Education of inmates through award of scholarships to deserving ones should be encouraged.
5. Authorities in the Correctional Service should provide earning schemes to inmates to enhance their effective rehabilitation and reintegration into the society.

6. Increasing public awareness efforts aimed at engaging the community/public in offender treatment and the need to correct public stigmatization especially utilizing the print and broadcast media should be encouraged.
7. Officers of Nigeria Correctional Service should be trained properly to be in better position to handle the antagonistic relationship between correctional officers and inmates in the Correctional Service.
8. Government should implement past reports of Commissions particularly those that recommended measures to reduce the population, improve the standard of living and human rights conditions in the Correctional Service.

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