

PSYCHOSOCIAL EFFECTS OF AWAITING TRIAL PERSONS (ATPS) ON CONVICTED OFFENDERS IN ENUGU STATE CORRECTIONAL SERVICE

Osayi, Kelechi Kenneth

Department of Sociology/Anthropology
Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka
E-Mail:kk.osayi@unizik.edu.ng

Onuoha, Ifeanyi Festus

Department of Sociology/Anthropology
Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka
E-Mail:gentlefestusonuoha@gmail.com

Abstract

Rehabilitation efforts of convicted offenders in Nigeria correctional service centers seem to have been undermined by the overwhelming population of the Awaiting Trial Inmates. The correctional institutions have been so overstretched that proper categorization, separation, housing and subsequent respective specialized treatments of the categories are somewhat deemphasized. This work is an assessment of the cumulative effects of overpopulation and inadequate handling of Awaiting Trial Persons on the psychological and social wellbeing of convicted offenders in Enugu correctional center, Enugu State Nigeria. The study adopted the differential association theory as its theoretical framework. Quantitative and qualitative data were collected from 200 respondents comprising offenders, Awaiting Trial Persons (ATPs) and correctional personnel selected through multi-stage sampling procedure. The findings revealed that the overwhelming presence of ATPs in Nigeria correctional centers affects the reformation and rehabilitation of offenders. ATPs are more prone to infectious diseases and therefore place the health status of convicted offenders in jeopardy and by extension their entire reformation and rehabilitation process. The study recommended among others, that there should be a periodic reform of the entire Nigeria criminal justice system with the aim of keeping abreast with global best practices in criminal justice administration. It is hoped that this reform will ensure speedy court judgment against the backdrop of incessant adjournment of cases. It will also help to decongest correctional institutions thereby reducing the negative influence of ATPs on the offenders with the hope of achieving maximum prisoners' rehabilitation and welfare.

Key Words: Awaiting trial persons, Nigeria Correctional Service, offenders, psychosocial, rehabilitation,

Introduction

Correctional Institution (Prison) has been an important part of the Criminal Justice System right from its emergence. In America and in most part of Europe, prison refers to facilities for holding convicted felons as well as individuals awaiting trials or who are being held

pending citations for non-custodial offences (Moore, 2009). Prisons in America operate at different levels of security, ranging from minimum-security prisons that mainly house non-violent offenders, to super-maximum security prison (supermax) that housed the most dangerous criminals (Moore, 2009). In Nigeria two major types of convict prison exist, and they are maximum security prisons; which take into custody all classes of prisoners including condemned criminals, lifers, long term prisoners and medium security prisons which take into custody both remand inmates and convicts.

According to Alison, and Shadd, (2011), prison is seen as a physical structure in a geographical location where a number of people living under highly specialized conditions utilize the resources and adjust to the alternatives presented to them by a unique kind of social environment. Nnonyelu (2009) sees prison as a centre for rehabilitation and correction whose aim is to help the prisoners imbibe new ways of life, hopefully to get re-integrated into the society. Oxford Advanced Dictionary defined it as a place in which people are physically confined and usually deprived of a range of personal freedoms.

The origin of modern correctional service in Nigeria can be traced to 1861 when conceptual western type of prison was established in Nigeria. The declaration of Lagos as a colony in 1861 marked the beginning of the institution of formal machinery of governance. At this stage, the preoccupation of the colonial government was to protect legitimate trade and guarantee the activities of the missionaries. To this end, by 1861, the Acting Governor of the Lagos colony and a prominent British merchant in Lagos formed a police force of about 25 constables. This was followed in 1863 by the establishment in Lagos of four courts; a police court to resolve petty disputes, a criminal court to try cases arising from the efforts to abolish the trade in slaves and commercial courts to resolve dispute among merchants and traders. The functioning of these courts and police in that colonial setting necessarily means that a prison was needed to complete the system, and it was not long in 1872, the Broad Street Prison was established with an initial inmate capacity of 300 (Dambazu, 2017).

However, that did not mark the beginning of a unified Nigerian prison, for if it had been so, it would have neglected official colonial policy, for it would have required funds which the powers was not prepared to expand. Over the years, there have been massive transformations in Nigeria prison. It has undergone some reorganization from its modest three directorates in 1980 to six directorates in 1993. It has developed a command structure, 1 FCT command, 144 prisons including farm centers and 83 satellite prisons. It also has four training schools, one Staff College and 3 Borstal institutions. However in the last ten years, not less than 12 new satellite prisons and 3 prison hospitals have been built for the purpose of modernizing and creating enabling environment for proper treatment of offenders (Uche, Uche, Ezumah, Ebue, Okafor, &Ezegbe, 2015). In August 2019,

President Buhari signed a Bill changing the name from Nigeria Prison Service (NPS) to Nigeria Correctional Service (NCoS).

The Nigeria Correctional Service (NCoS) constitutes one of the most under developed institutions in the Criminal Justice Sector (Eze, 2010). The Nigeria Criminal Justice System dates back to the colonization of the country in the late 1800s by Europeans who introduced imprisonment based on their own correctional systems. Some of the events that influenced its development include the British occupation of the country, the Nigeria-Europe confrontation, and the slave trade (Otu, 1999). The Nigerian Criminal Justice System was formed to protect the Europeans from the natives they were exploiting and oppressing. The British influence was strongest in police, courts and prison administration which are the three arms of the Criminal Justice System (Otu, 1999).

Ideally, the basic function of NCoS is to hold in custody the convicted and the ATPs. The NCoS is also meant to re-educate and re-socialize the convicted offenders and also serves to deter potential offenders (Ugwuoke, 2010). It also has the role of rehabilitating and reintegrating discharged offenders but in practice it advocates retributive punishment (Ugwuoke, 2010). Classification and separation of inmates into different cells based on their status; that is, ATPs, Condemned, Mentally ill inmates and Lifers is a function of the Nigerian Correctional Service. But scholars are of the view that it is not properly done. It has been revealed that people who have not been convicted of any crime are incarcerated along with convicted criminals, most of them are arrested in place of family members the police could not locate. The provision of the law, Section 36(5) states that an accused person should be presumed innocent until the contrary is proved. But the reverse is the case in Nigeria where accused persons are treated worse than convicted inmates. The presence of ATPs among convicted offenders causes congestion in the prisons and that is why Eze (2010) asserts that most of the persons held in the Nigeria correctional facility and who are primarily the causes of the overcrowding are not convicted offenders but persons awaiting trial. The overcrowded environment has adverse effects on the health status of convicts. The inmates in NCoS live and function in harsh, difficult, squalid and overcrowded conditions with the concomitant physical and mental health consequences (Olugbenga-Bello, et al, 2013). Therefore, for an effective reformation and rehabilitation of convicted offenders, the negative effects of ATPs on their psycho-social wellbeing should be critically examined.

Statement of the Problem

NCoS is filled with people whose human rights are systematically violated. The category of inmates mostly affected is Awaiting Trial Persons. Research shows that case files of most of these inmates are missing, therefore, no chance of bail. Majority of the inmates are not convicted of any crime yet most of them have been on awaiting trial for up to ten

years. More than sixty percent of inmates are too poor to afford a lawyer. Some were arrested in place of a family member the police could not locate, thereby violating their right of not being subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention, a right guaranteed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Jombo, 2016). Torture by police is also routine and widespread, used to extract confessions often used as evidence in trials. This shows the extent to which the Nigeria Criminal Justice is utterly failing Nigerian citizens it is meant to protect. In 2008, Amnesty International reported that The Legal Aid Council only has ninety one lawyers in the whole country to provide legal representation to detainees and the result is that only one in seven awaiting trial inmates had access to legal representation.

According to Ugwuoke (2010), the argument here is that prison congestion indirectly imposes both physical and psychological torture on inmates. Many experts have argued that one of the reasons for prison congestion is the reckless disregard of Section 35 of the 1999 Constitution which states that a person shall be tried within two months from the date of his detention (Ibrahim, Rohaida & Munzil, 2018). While some opined that abuse or reluctant use of prerogative of mercy by some State Governors partly contributes to the congestion in the Nigeria correctional centers. As a result of this, the senate blames the Director of Public Prosecutions for incessant cases of ATPs, arguing that the late issuance of advice from the DPP delays cases (Ibrahim, Rohaida & Munzil, 2018). Awaiting trials are known to affect the psycho-socio state and health status of prison inmates since there is no clear classification and separation of inmates (Eze, 2010). These inmates are also made of people with mental illness who are brought to prison by relations because they could no longer cope with them. Prison authorities classify such ATPs as civil lunatics who are accused of no crime and never brought before a judge. This set of people is detained with sane inmates thereby increasing the unsanitary level of our correctional environment which affects the wellbeing of other inmates. Poor sanitary conditions of the correctional environment are known to increase the health risk of inmates and convicted offenders in particular.

Correctional institutions are supposed to be correctional centers for offenders who are convicted for one crime or the other and not for the unconvicted ones who are still awaiting court trial (Ogadinma, Adejumo & Asamu, 2015). But according to Eze (2010), there is no reformation going on in our correctional centers. Ogadinma, Adejumo and Asamu (2015) see the reason as the way and manner in which offenders are treated in Nigeria which makes it very difficult for one to distinguish between the unconvicted and convicted inmates. In pursuance of this reason, convicted offenders undergoing reformation and rehabilitation are continually influenced by other inmates (ATPs) who are detained for various alleged criminal offences. No wonder Tanimu

(2010) pointed out that convicted offenders have lost faith in the rehabilitative ideals of the NCoS.

The state of affairs in our correctional centers is disgusting, shocking and horrible. Presumed innocent and convicted offenders live and function in harsh, difficult, squalid and overcrowded conditions with the concomitant physical and mental health consequences (Olugbenga-Bello, Adeoye, & Osagbemi, 2013). The most common major illnesses reported by these offenders were psychiatric, cardiovascular, musculoskeletal and respiratory illnesses (Olugbenga-Bello, Adeoye, & Osagbemi 2013). From this, it is evident that since more than sixty five percent of inmates are on awaiting trial, they are the mostly carriers of these diseases. They then pass the health and psychological implications on other convicted inmates. That is why Prisoners Rehabilitation and Welfare Action (PRAWA) states that correctional environment is not conducive for the psychological wellbeing of inmates. Healthcare is either inadequate or non-existent (Bassy, 2018).

Research has shown that ATPs have more health problems than convicted offenders. This is evident because the convicted offenders unlike the ATPs enjoy more freedom of movement within the prison yard; engage more in such activities as physical exercise and other recreational and sporting activities (Olugbenga-Bello, Adeoye, & Osagbemi, 2013). Also, the fact that convicts know the date of their release from custody would make them look forward to such dates with some feelings of hope, expectancy, joy or happiness. In contrast, nothing is known of the fate of the ATPs and this could precipitate feelings of anxiety, restlessness of mind, helplessness, hopelessness and powerlessness among them, which will make them susceptible to diseases (Olugbenga-Bello, Adeoye & Osagbemi, 2013). With the assistance of a non-governmental organization, "Initiatives for the Support and Encouragement of Prisoners and Other Inmates" (ISEPOI), it was discovered that most sick awaiting trial inmates are not adequately cared for. Some of these diseases can be contagious to healthy convicts and as well, may have psychological implication on their thinking. According to Commonwealth Law Bulletin "the effects of congestion and of having overpopulated number of awaiting trial inmates as well as institutionalizing them along with convicted inmates, makes the NCoS grounds for developing psychological or mental health as well as physical ailments" (Ibrahim, Rohaida & Munzil, 2018). Overcrowding which is believed to be caused by ATPs has greater influence on the health status and psychological thinking of convicts. Paulus is of the view that research on prison overcrowding reveals a pattern of distress symptoms (e.g. stomach disorders, headaches, sleep disturbances, fatigue, bodily pains) as the number of inmates sharing of space has a greater effect on stress than does the total amount of space available (Paulus, 1988). Offenders should be kept in a conducive environment for effective reformation but because of overcrowding, the correctional environment is not conducive for the psychological

wellbeing of inmates (Adonu 2019). Offenders are marginalized group whose health problems, care and needs exceed those of the general population (Olugbenga-Bello, Adeoye, & Osagbemi, 2013). Consequently, unhealthy living conditions account for the prevalence of numerous skin diseases like scabies, eczema, rashes, sores and so on among the convicts (Tanimu, 2010). As a result of overcrowding, facilities for the well being of convicted offenders were shredded to meet the needs of ATPs. This later led to limited bathing water, lying space, insufficient food and clothing problems, which are not adequate for convicted offenders' health status. Thus low quality of food, overcrowding and poor medical services have made offenders especially female ones become very vulnerable and open to sexual assaults because of promise of favour and special treatments (Eze, 2010).

Overcrowding which leads to congestion has been a problem NCoS has been trying to curtail since independence. It is a persistent problem that has refused to be curbed. It is all known that excessively long pretrial detention contributes to overcrowding. Pursuant to this, Eze (2010) opines that it is noteworthy that most of the inmates in prison custody who are primarily the cause of the overcrowding are not offenders but persons awaiting trial. Eneku (2001) also pointed out that most of the correctional institutions in Nigeria currently accommodate twice the number of inmates they were intended for.

It is on this note that this paper intends to find out the various ways and forms through which the presence of ATPs contribute to the psycho-social stress of offenders and the extent it hampers adequate reformation and rehabilitation in Enugu correctional center as well as make efforts to recommend strategies that could help improve the condition of prisoners and the prison environment in general.

It is hoped that the result of this study would spur the Federal Government, Nigerian Criminal Justice System and Nigerian Correctional Service to adopt necessary measures that are of global best practices to decongest the correctional institution. It will also help Nigerian citizens to acknowledge the fact that correctional system is their business, because one day offenders will be released into the society.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are:

1. To identify the various ways through which the ATPs affect the psycho-social wellbeing of offenders in Enugu State Correctional Service Center.
2. To examine the major factors affecting the wellbeing of offenders in Enugu State Correctional Service Center.
3. To examine the consequences of these factors on the rehabilitation and psychosocial wellbeing of offenders in Enugu State Correctional Service Center.

4. To recommend ways to improve the psychosocial wellbeing of offenders in Enugu State Correctional Service Center.

Theoretical Framework

Differential Association Theory (DAT) propounded by Edwin Sutherland in 1939 was adopted as the theoretical framework for this study because it lends a clearer and direct explanation to the influential relationship that exists between the ATPs and the convicted offenders. To the differential association theorists, criminal behavior is learned during various forms of interactions/association within intimate personal groups. In NCoS, there is a great deal of contact between ATPs and offenders. The contact however depends on the level of punishment given to the convicted offender. For instance, some offenders are convicted for one year, two years or more, depending on the nature of their crime. While there is very minimal or no contact at all with some convicts such as Lifers and those on death row, ATPs usually have easy contact with minor convicted inmates. DAT believes that with repeated contact/association with the ATPs, convicted inmates will be negatively influenced either to maintain such unacceptable behaviours for which they were convicted or learn new ones. This type of associations generally hampers and in most cases renders the whole process of reformation and rehabilitation of offenders useless. This type of differential association has been known to jeopardize the general welfare of convicted offenders. Experience has shown that offenders through constant interaction with the ATPs are lured to assist or partake in most prohibited acts in the correctional institution such as riot, prison break and other acts of violence. In most of such situations, reformation equipment and other valuable facilities meant for the benefit of the convicted offenders are destroyed. The punishments that follow these acts of violence are usually severe, affecting both the perpetrators and the innocent, thus exacerbating the already excruciating social and psychological wellbeing of the entire inmates and the offenders in particular.

The theory captures the theme of the study by insisting that the social and psychological wellbeing of offenders are negatively affected as a result of their association with the ATPs. Through this association, the convicts acquire unacceptable behavior the same way they acquire patterns of proper reformation and rehabilitation.

Materials and Methods

Nigeria Correctional Service Enugu otherwise known as Enugu Maximum Security Prison in Enugu State is one of the oldest correctional institutions in the country and probably with the highest inmate population within the southeast zone. It was established by the colonial masters in 1826 for the purpose of keeping slaves. It is situated at the heart of Enugu town, opposite Old Park and alongside Prison Training School. This area is part of Ogbete in Enugu North Local Government Area of Enugu State.

The paper adopted cross-sectional research design. It made use of both quantitative (questionnaire) and qualitative (In-depth) instruments to sample 200 respondents in Enugu correctional center. The respondents comprised of two major categories of inmates; convicted offenders and ATPs as well as the correctional staff. The different categories represent the strata from where the sample size was gotten through simple random sampling technique. Fifty five (55) participants out of sixty (60) convicted offenders were selected using lucky-dip method without replacement, One hundred (100) ATPs were selected out of a population of 1,250 through purposive sampling, those who have stayed six months and above in custody were selected. Forty five (45) correctional staff were also randomly selected using lucky-dip method out of a population of eighty two (82) persons. Two different questionnaire instruments were constructed, one for the convicted and unconvicted inmates and the other for the correctional staff. This was to enable the researcher include items that best suit each category in order to obtain reliable data. Each questionnaire was divided into two sections, A and B. Section A was designed to get information on the personal data of respondents like their age, sex, marital status, educational qualification while Section B contained questions on the substantive issues of the research.

For the qualitative method, in-depth interviews were conducted on four (4) purposively selected key informants who were staff of Initiative for the Support and Encouragement of Prisoners and other Inmates (ISEPOI), an NGO that is at the fore front of championing the course of the inmates in Enugu correctional institution. This was with the aim of gaining insight into the true life situations and experiences of the different categories of inmates with whom they have worked, within and outside the correctional facility over time. The interview guide contained open-ended questions which allowed the interviewees to give in-depth information on the subject matter.

The quantitative data collected were processed using SPSS software. Data were sorted and tabulated for easier explanation and understanding. The qualitative data collected were thematically analyzed to clearly bring out the relevant views and opinions of respondents on the subject matter.

Results/Findings

The findings of the study are presented in the tables below:

Table 1: Socio-demographic Characteristics of Respondents (N-139)

Distribution of respondents by sex	Frequency)	Percentage (%)
Male	116	83.5
Female	22	15.8
No response	1	.7
Total	139	100.0

Distribution of respondents by age	Frequency	Percentage
18-27	46	33.1
28-37	39	28.1
38-47	25	18.0
48-57	13	9.4
58-67	6	4.3
68-77	6	4.3
78+	3	2.2
No response	1	.7
Total	139	100.0
Distribution of respondents by marital status	Frequency	Percentage
Single	89	64.0
Married	26	18.7
Widow/widower	10	7.2
Divorced	7	5.0
Separated	6	4.3
No response	1	.7
Total	139	100.0
Distribution of respondents by of educational attainment	Frequency	Percentage
No formal education	9	6.5
Primary certificate	30	21.6
SSCE/GCE certificate	58	41.7
B.Sc./HND/NCE	34	24.5
Higher Degrees(M.Sc./Ph.D.etc)	6	4.3
No response	2	1.4
Total	139	100.0
Distribution of respondents by religious affiliation	Frequency	Percentage
Christian	66	47.5
Islam	45	32.4
Traditional religion	18	12.9
Atheist	6	4.3
No response	4	2.9
Total	139	100.0
Distribution of respondents by duration in prison custody	Frequency	Percentage
0-5years	49	35.3
6-10years	34	24.5
11-15years	24	17.3
16-20years	19	13.7
21years and above	7	5.0
No response	6	4.3
Total	139	100.0

Table 1 shows that 83.5% of the prison inmates are males, 33.1% were aged between 18-27 years. A greater percentage (64%) of them were single, with majority (41.7%) having Senior School Certificate. Many (59.8%) of the inmates have also been in the prison for less than 10 years.

Majority (84%) of the prison staff randomly selected for the study were males. Majority (32%) of them were within the age range of 29-36 years old with 58% of them married and 42% graduates. More than half of the staff participants (52%) were Igbos, probably because the study was conducted in a predominantly Igbo dominated area. A greater majority (58%) however have worked for a maximum period of 10 years.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents on the likely effects of ATPs on convicted offenders (N=139)

Responses	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
Bad influence	29	20.9
Congestion	28	20.1
Lack of prison fund	10	7.2
Shortage of food	27	19.4
Ineffective skill acquisition material	13	9.4
No response	32	23.0
Total	139	100.0

It was discovered in table 2, that bad influence (20.9%) and congestion (20.1%) as well as shortage of food (19.4%) are the most significant effects ATPs have on offenders.

Table 3: Distribution of respondents on whether ATPs affect the health and psychological state of convicted offenders in prison (N=139)

Responses	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
Agreed	21	15.1
Disagreed	14	10.1
Strongly agreed	43	30.9
Strongly disagreed	21	15.1
Neutral	38	27.3
No response	2	1.4
Total	139	100.0

Data gathered from the above table made it clear that a total of 46% of the respondents agreed that there are health and psychological implications on offenders arising from their contact with the ATPs which of course has strong link with prison congestion, those who disagreed (10.1%) and strongly disagreed (15.1) respectively were in the minority. However, a good number (27.3%) remained undecided.

An instance from the qualitative instrument shows that a room which is meant to accommodate two or three persons is now occupied by seven or eight persons. Therefore, there will be high rate of infections such as skin and respiratory diseases, most of which are airborne etc. It went further to say that ill inmates who are not well taken care of can be irritating to the eyes, depending on the sickness and this in one way or the other affects the psychological state of offenders. Findings from the quantitative data state that the correctional authority is making conscientious efforts towards curtailing these effects. Some of their actions are directed towards encouraging non-governmental organizations and private bodies to come to the aid of correctional inmates by way of helping to improve the rehabilitation programmes and general prisoner's condition.

It could also be observed that the findings of this research validate the theoretical framework; "Differential Association Theory". The proponents of DAT uphold that criminal behaviour is learned in interaction in a process of communication within intimate personal group. Relating this to the study reveals that it is mainly through association between ATPs and offenders that the ATPs can affect the wellbeing of offenders. Findings in table 3 attested to this by disclosing that there is a contact between ATPs and offenders.

Table 4: Respondents views on whether there is any contact between ATPs and convicted offenders (N=139)

Responses	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
Yes	88	63.3
No	50	36.0
No response	1	.7
Total	139	100.0

Table 4 indicates that 63.3% confirmed that contacts exist between the offenders and the ATPs.

The theoretical framework also stated that within this process of contact and interaction, the ATPs can socialize the convicted offenders into unacceptable behaviours or acts which on the other hand affect proper reformation of offenders. This idea supports the findings in table 4 which assert that the contact between ATPs and offenders contribute to the inefficiency of offenders' reformation and rehabilitation.

Table 5: Distribution of respondents on how the contact between ATPs affects proper reformation and rehabilitation of convicted offenders (N=139)

Responses	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
Bad influence	27	19.4
Vandalization of equipment	13	9.4
Lack of interest in reform/rehab programme	45	32.4

Creation of sub groups	13	9.4
Spread of diseases & illness	18	12.9
No response	23	16.5
Total	139	100.0

From Table 5, majority still maintained that the contact between the two categories of inmates results in lack of interest in the reformation and rehabilitation programmes meant for the convicted offenders. Even the qualitative data corroborates this finding, when a respondent stated that:

Since ATPs are much in number, they affect the means through which offenders are attended to, and also corrupt the minds of offenders undergoing rehabilitation. These effects on reformation and rehabilitation of offenders are mostly seen through vandalization of equipment, bad influence and creation of sub groups among other effects (Male, 47 years, ISEPOI Director, Enugu).

Discussion of Findings

The discussion of findings is based on the analysis of the table. It is however clear from the result of the tables on substantive issues that congestion which actually leads to bad influence and shortage of food is a big factor that negatively influences the wellbeing of convicted inmates. Tanimu (2010) confirmed this when he said that the congestion has reached a stage where convicted offenders sleep in shifts and some even squat all night. The reason for this might be because the ATPs are the majority in correctional centers while the offenders are in the minority. This is because the data collected reveal that the population of the ATPs outnumbers that of the convicted offenders. No wonder, Mr. Zakari Ibrahim said in 2012 that "over fifty thousand people are in custody, thirty six thousand of them are awaiting trial" (Ibrahim, 2012). To this effect, capacity of accommodation created for offenders are now overfilled with ATPs which in turn overstretch available infrastructure beyond their limits (Obioha, 2011). Therefore, majority of the respondents agreed that they cause congestion to the extent that majority of the respondents rated the population percentage of convicted offenders and ATPs as 30% and 70% respectively.

The study also reveals that ATPs also limit the rate of reformation and rehabilitation of offenders. The cross tabulated data reveal that majority of offenders who have stayed in prison custody between 0-5years affirmed that ATPs contribute in limiting the rate of reformation and rehabilitation of convicts. That was why Obioha (2011) asserts that the mission of reformation and rehabilitation in NCoS cannot be actualized except its main impediment which is the high population of ATPs is addressed first.

Further revelation in this study shows that ATPs are more prone to infections and other illnesses. Olugbenga-Bello et al (2013) supported this idea by giving the reason to be that convicted offenders unlike the awaiting trial men enjoy more freedom of movement within the correctional center; engage more in such healthy activities such as physical exercise and other recreational and sporting activities. Also, the fact that offenders know the date of their release from the prison, would make them look forward to such dates with some feelings of hope, expectancy, joy or happiness. While in contrast, nothing is known of the fate of the awaiting trial men and this could precipitate feelings of anxiety, restlessness of mind, helplessness, hopelessness and powerlessness among them which will make them susceptible to diseases (Olugbenga-Bello et al, 2013).

Conclusion

The work examined the effects ATPs have on the psychosocial wellbeing of offenders in Enugu State Correctional Center. It was clear from the findings that the ATPs out-number convicted offenders in Nigeria Correctional Centers. Findings therefore indicate that ATPs truly affect the social wellbeing of offenders through congestion, shortage of food and portable water, spread of communicable diseases and bad influence. The qualitative data corroborate the findings of the quantitative data by emphasizing that the presence of ATPs limit the reformation and rehabilitation of offenders through overcrowding, vandalization of equipment, spread of diseases and illness, creation of sub groups and spread of criminal influences among convicted offenders.

Recommendations

Based on the findings from this study, the following recommendations have been adduced for possible implementation.

1. The NCoS should be properly funded by the government to provide adequate social amenities for the offenders, repair or replace worn-out equipment for rehabilitation and provide good quality meals for prisoners.
2. The true meaning of 'corrections' should be implemented in the correctional centers as against the notion of punishment with hard labour or 'jail' which connotes where criminals are held.
3. There should be periodic correctional reform that will expedite court judgment against the backdrop of incessant adjournment of cases in order to decongest correctional facilities for better offender's welfare.
4. There is need for more correctional facilities to be built and proper categorization made to reduce over-crowding and unhealthy contacts between offenders and ATPs.
5. Prerogative of mercy by the Head of States of the federation should be encouraged and frequently utilized.

6. More non-governmental organizations and private individuals should encourage various forms of advocacies to contribute to the development of correctional centers in Nigeria.
7. ATPs should be regarded and treated as innocent citizens since the provision of Section 36(5) of the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria as amended states that an accused person should be presumed innocent until the contrary is proved.
8. The government should ensure that the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) dispenses its work effectively to avoid delay of cases which leads to incessant cases of awaiting trial inmates.

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