

Across the Wall: the Perception of Rehabilitation, Reformation and Reintegration Programmes in Anambra State Prison Command

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ABSTRACT

The key essence of establishing modern prison system in Nigeria is predicated on the goals of reformation, rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders. This is based on the understanding that those who have fallen foul of the collective norms and laws of the society expressed in criminal laws, should be assisted to live a better life. Indeed, most of the previous studies on prison system examine the living condition of prison inmates. However, moving beyond the conventional focus and analysis of prison system in Nigeria, the current study looks at the perception of rehabilitation, reformation and reintegration programmes across the wall of Anambra State Prison Command. The study was anchored on Jean Hampton rehabilitation theory and employed the cross-sectional survey design; using the proportionate stratified sampling technique in the selection of 396 respondents that cut across various levels of prison inmates and prison officials in four prison locations in Anambra State. The structured questionnaire and In-depth Interview (IDI) Guide served as the instruments for data collection. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software was used to code and analyze the quantitative data. Frequency tables and charts were employed to present and describe the data while the qualitative data were analyzed using the theme-based method of content analysis. Findings revealed that there is a mixed perception about the functionality of programmes among the members of the prison community. The study recommends the need to set up a committee that would periodically supervise the activities and programmes in the prisons.

Keywords: Perception, Reformation, Rehabilitation, Reintegration, Wall

INTRODUCTION

Reformation, rehabilitation and reintegration (three Rs) of offenders are key goals for the establishment of modern prison system; which is predicated upon the understanding that those who have fallen foul of the collective norms and laws of the society expressed in criminal laws, should be reformed or assisted to live a better life (Ayuk, Owan&Ekok, 2013).

Hence, modern corrections process in the prison system is expected to be one that upholds human dignity, provides "humane treatment" for all offenders and focus on rehabilitation rather than punishment (McAree, 2011). It is also predicated upon the belief that when rehabilitative, reformatory and reintegration policies and programmes are effectively and meaningfully

pursued and implemented for prisoners under conducive structural and environmental as well as legal conditions, that there may be decrease or significant reduction in antisocial behaviours among prisoners and the members of the society in general (Ekpenyong & Undutimi, 2016; Esiri, 2016).

In the prison system, the idea embedded in the three Rs rests on the assumption that criminal behaviour is caused by some socio-economic factors. It does not deny the facts that people make choices to break the law, but it does assume that the choices are not matters of pure 'free will'. Instead, the decision to commit crime is assumed to be determined or at least heavily influenced, by a person's social surrounding, psychological development, or biological make-up. Thus, rehabilitation, reformation and

reintegration are processes involved in treating the offenders so as to integrate them back to the society. This is why the term 'treatment' is often used interchangeably with rehabilitation (Encyclopedia of Crime and Justice, 2017). It was the view of Hayner and Ash (1940) cited in Ssanyu (2014) that, if the function of the prison is to protect the society, then the convict must learn during their period of incarceration how to live in society. They need to learn to play the role of a good citizen, must be engaged in activities similar to those taking place outside the prison, and develop a sense of responsibility and this is the sole aim of the three Rs of the prison system.

Indeed, rehabilitation, reformation and reintegration as key concepts within the context of the prison correctional agendas reflect the ideas of: (1) rehabilitation and reformation as the processes of restoring the useful life through therapy and education or the process of helping an individual convict adapt to the society (Campbell, 2005); (2) integration as the process of working with the offender to effect change and reintroduce the offender into the community, encourage law abiding behaviour and prevent further engagement in criminal activity (Singh, 2016). However, rehabilitation, reformation and reintegration programmes cannot augur well without the active involvement of the entire prison community which comprises of the prison inmates, the prison officials and significant groups associated with the prison system, in the reformation and rehabilitation process (Munaku kaama, 2005). How the prison community perceive the programmes (whether negative or positive) has a significant implication on the overall success of the prison programmes (Ekpenyong & Undutimi, 2016). For instance, how the prison inmates feel about the programmes offered to them would determine their readiness to undergo through the programmes; which is vital in the rehabilitation, reformation and reintegration process. Also, the perception of prison officials and significant members of the prison community has an impact on how well the rehabilitation, reformation and reintegration processes are enforced. This is owing to the fact that the aim of the three Rs may become counterproductive if there is a negative perception of the programmes on the part of the active participants in the prison policies and programmes (Obioha, 2011). Therefore, understanding how the prison community feel about programmes of

rehabilitation, reformation and reintegration in the prison system may form a basis to understanding the challenges associated with recidivism and other antisocial behaviours that render the prison system ineffective.

PHILOSOPHY OF REHABILITATION, REFORMATION AND REINTEGRATION IN THE NIGERIAN PRISON SYSTEM

The philosophy of the Nigerian prison system ideally, did not stem differently from the global philosophy that is embedded in the concept of 'correction' which entails: (involvement in programmes that target offending behaviour), development (education and training needs), security (right to safety in prison), care (physical and emotional well-being), and facilities (humane living conditions), and after-care (support after release) (McAree, 2011). With this philosophy, the Nigeria prison system has experienced various reform programmes initiated by the government pending to the various observed inconsistencies and inefficiencies. These reform programmes are often formulated to address the problem of congestion, overcrowding, improve the living conditions of inmates and ensure the proper rehabilitation of the inmates. This is based on the philosophy that treatment and rehabilitation of offenders can be achieved through carefully designed and well-articulated administrative, rehabilitative, reformatory and reintegration programmes aimed at inculcating discipline, respect for law and order, and regard for the dignity of honest labour (Aduba, 2012; Opafunso & Adepoju, 2016).

The introduction of modern prisons in Nigeria came courtesy of colonialism. Colonial masters used native prison system to compel obedience from the natives through the native rulers. It was one of the instruments used by the colonial masters to conquer and subdue the Nigerian nation (Ugwoke, 2010). Pre-colonial Nigeria did not employ prisons as penalties. Punishment took the form of fines, mutilation, castration, excommunication, lynching, and dedication or sacrifice to the gods, whereby the offender became an untouchable. The British imperial government introduced the prison system in Lagos between 1861 and 1900. By 1960, there was a prison in every provincial headquarters in Nigeria; some District Headquarters established minimum security prisons. The largest prison complex in Nigeria, which has both medium and maximum security branches, is Kirikiri Prison, in Lagos. As of 1983, there were a total of 123

prisons, 2 Bostal homes, and 244 county lock-ups in Nigeria (Rita, 2008).

Modern prison in Nigeria is therefore seen by the Federal Government Decree 9 of 1972 as a state of captivity, a place of safe custody while on trial for an offence or after trial and conviction. It is any building or place in Nigeria declared by the Minister of Internal Affairs, through an order in a federal gazette as a prison, or a location for the establishment of a prison (Prison act, 2013: 29). It is obvious that in the modern prisons, apart from keeping custody of offenders or convicts, it also houses those who are on trial pending their acquittal or conviction. This means that prison, apart from protecting the society, is also a way of protecting the culprit from unofficial retaliation which may bring chaos in the society (Obioha, 2011). This presupposes that prison is a vital agency of the government for the maintenance of internal security and for changing the world view of the incarcerated through honest labour that leads to productivity in the short run and long run. It assists to reduce the fears in the economic activity of an area, as miscreants are taken out of the society and thereby productivity is not thwarted. It also ensures that human capital is not allowed to decay or waste (Orakwe, 2013).

Prison Act (1990) stated that a prison inmate is any person lawfully committed to custody. It listed the four broad classes of prison inmates in Nigeria as:

- Convicts: these are prison inmates serving specific jail terms.
- Remand prison inmate: these are those who are known as awaiting trial prisoners (ATPs) who may be male or female.
- Detainees: these are those detained under the preventive detention laws.
- His Excellency's pleasure (HEP) detainees: these are persons who commit crimes in circumstances of diminished responsibility (such as insanity, juveniles that have not attained age of criminal responsibility), who are held in prison for an indefinite period at the pleasure of the state.

Inferring from the foregoing however, prisons exist to reduce stress and problems in the society. It seemed to have intentionally and purposefully been made to house those that the government, through its agencies, have convicted or remanded pending trial for violation of the law

of the state. Prison is meant to restrain or minimize to the barest minimum, the nefarious criminal activities of some citizens that adversely affect the orderliness of the society and also serve as retribution, deterrence, rehabilitation and reformation of its inmates.

STATE OF REHABILITATION, REFORMATION AND REINTEGRATION PROGRAMMES IN NIGERIAN PRISONS

A survey study was conducted by Asokhia and Osumah (2013) to determine the status of reformation and rehabilitation services in Nigerian prisons in Edo State. A total of 147 respondents (prison inmates) were selected through stratified random sampling technique. The findings of the study showed that, though a majority of the respondents affirmed that programmes of reformation and rehabilitation were available in the prison, the provision for services needed for reformation and rehabilitation of prison inmates were inadequate, neglected and not compliant with international best practices.

Accordingly, Ndukwe and Nwuzor (2014) conducted a survey to ascertaining the extent to which welfare services viz. reformation programmes were being administered in Abakaliki prison and the factors affecting it. The study adopted a combination of simple random sampling and stratified sampling techniques to select a representative sample of 98 respondents who were administered with the structured questionnaire. The study discovered that Abakaliki prison was unable to meet minimum U.N standard in reformation and rehabilitation services because of congestion. There was a continuous use of bucket latrines which exposed inmates to health hazards. Also, there were out-dated equipment used in the reformation and rehabilitation programmes in the prison. Apart from inadequate funds, it was discovered that mismanagement of welfare funds exposed inmates to unhealthy situation, which resulted to epidemics and untimely deaths of the inmates.

FACTORS THAT AFFECT REHABILITATION, REFORMATION AND REINTEGRATION PROGRAMMES IN NIGERIA PRISONS

Obi (2000) carried a survey study of the Nigeria prisons and the correctional facilities available to them and its consequent impact on reformation of inmates in Okigwe prison. The study adopted of 205 respondents selected through a purposive sampling technique. In summarizing his findings, he states that the reality on ground was

that, what is expected for reformation and rehabilitation of prison inmates was not available in the Nigeria prisons. He identified the gross neglect of welfare of prison staff as an obvious obstacle to reformation and rehabilitation of prison inmates. The neglect leads to material deprivation and loss of self-worth and motivation of the prison staff. For instance, some prison staff (especially officers) resided in hovels, which served as their barracks. It was noted in the study that when prison staffs are uncomfortable in terms of general welfare, they possibly can't carry out effective reformation and rehabilitation of prisoners.

A similar survey was conducted by Papa (2015) on "factors influencing rehabilitation programmes performance and recidivism of male inmates in GK prison in Kisii county, Kenya". The study made use of simple random sampling technique in selecting a sample of 130 respondents. The findings of the study revealed that among many things, that about half proportion of the respondents (50%) were of the opinion that inadequate resources leads to inefficient rehabilitation of the prisoners hence leading to reconviction. In other words, it was gathered through the study that when resources are inadequate it leads to inadequate trainings, lack of learning resources, absence of the practical aspect of technical trainings hence leading to insufficient trainings; making the inmates not to gain the required skills and knowledge. Therefore resource allocation was found to be one of the major influencing factors on rehabilitation programmes of prison inmates. More so, it was gathered through the study that inadequate training and retraining of prison staffs is a constraining factor towards the rehabilitation and reformation of prison inmates. According to the findings of the study, some dishonest prison officials were machineries for the smuggling of tobacco, and illicit substances into the prison; thereby making the efforts towards inmates' reformation impossible.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The theoretical framework for this study is Jean Hampton rehabilitation theory. According to this theorist, the aim of the penal system should be treatment and correction. The assumption of rehabilitation is that people are not natively criminal and that it is possible to restore a criminal to a useful life, to life in which they contribute positively to the development of themselves and the society (Ugwuoke & Ameh,

2014). It is with this view that Dambazau (2007) noted that rehabilitation theory posits that offender should be treated as an individual whose special needs and problems must be known in order to enable prison officials to deal effectively with him. He also argued that one cannot inflict a severe punishment or inhuman treatment to inmates in the prison and expect them to be reformed and be reintegrating into the society upon release. Although it is important to inflict punishment on those persons who breach the law, so as to maintain social order, the importance of rehabilitation is also given priority as it is the best assured way of ensuring that offenders do not return to crime particularly since they have acquired skills that will help them engage in productive activities upon release (Wikipedia, 2009). In line with this view, 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 a 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 tendencies for crimes commission (Ugwuoke & Ameh, 2014).

The theory of rehabilitation therefore seeks to reduce recidivism because it believes that through retraining programmes for offenders, a more purposeful life would be guaranteed to ex-convicts. Rehabilitation theory promotes the humanizing belief in the notion that offenders can be saved and not simply punished and recognizes the reality of social inequity. To say that some offenders need help to be rehabilitated is to accept the idea that circumstances can constrain, if not compel and lead to criminality; it admits that we can help persons who have been overcome by their circumstances. It rejects the idea that individuals, regardless of their position in the social order, exercise equal freedom in deciding whether to commit crime, and should be punished equally according to their offence irrespective of their social background (Tan, 2008). In the context of this study, rehabilitation theory tries to establish the justification or rationale behind the treatment of the convict by changing the attitude and

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behaviour of criminals so that they will be able to choose lawful means, in satisfying their needs (Dinitz & Dine, 1989). It also helps to emphasize the need to retrain the convict so that he can live a lawful and independent life upon release, and advocates that vocational training be designed to transform convicts' life styles through the vigorous application of discipline, education, work and other relevant programmes.

METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

Data for this study were collected through primary and secondary sources. The primary

sources include questionnaire administration to respondents and in-depth interviews. On the other hand, data were secondarily sourced through the library and other documents dealing with the prison system. Accordingly, both qualitative and quantitative components of data collected for this study were analysed. Qualitatively, responses from respondents, as were generated through interviews, were subjected to content analysis while the quantitative components of data generated were presented using frequencies and percentages.

DATA PRESENTATION

Table1. Composite table containing the demographic characteristics of the respondents

Variables	Prison Location		Total
	Prison Inmates (n = 292, Mean Age = 33.4)	Prison Officials (n = 86, Mean Age = 38.4)	
Gender			
Male	251 (66.4%)	54 (14.3%)	305 (80.7%)
Female	41 (10.8%)	32 (8.5%)	73 (19.3%)
Total	292 (77.2%)	86 (22.8%)	378 (100.0%)
Age Category			
18-22 years	44 (11.6%)	0 (0.0%)	44 (11.6%)
23-27 years	106 (28.0%)	0 (0.0%)	106 (28.0%)
28-32 years	100 (26.5%)	1 (0.3%)	101 (26.7%)
33-37 years	41 (10.8%)	18 (4.8%)	59 (15.6%)
38 years/above	1 (0.3%)	67 (17.7%)	68 (18.0%)
Total	292 (77.2%)	86 (22.8%)	378 (100.0%)
Marital Status			
Single	164 (43.4%)	9 (2.4%)	173 (45.8%)
Married	90 (23.8%)	48 (12.7%)	138 (36.5%)
Divorced	17 (4.5%)	6 (1.6%)	23 (6.1%)
Separated	20 (5.3%)	11 (2.9%)	31 (8.2%)
Widowed	1 (0.3%)	12 (3.2%)	13 (3.4%)
Total	292 (77.2%)	86 (22.8%)	378 (100.0%)
Educational Qualification			
No Formal Education	52 (13.8%)	0 (0.0%)	52 (13.8%)
FSLC	70 (18.5%)	12 (3.2%)	82 (21.7%)
GCE/SSCE/WAEC	97 (25.7%)	29 (7.7%)	126 (33.3%)
OND/NCE	28 (7.4%)	24 (6.3%)	52 (13.8%)
HND/B.Sc	40 (10.6%)	16 (4.2%)	56 (14.8%)
M.Sc/Ph.D	5 (1.3%)	5 (1.3%)	10 (2.6%)
Total	292 (77.2%)	86 (22.8%)	378 (100.0%)
Religious Affiliation			
African Traditional Religion	38 (10.1%)	11 (2.9%)	49 (13.0%)
Christianity	215 (56.9%)	70 (18.5%)	285 (75.4%)
Muslim	39 (10.3%)	5 (1.3%)	44 (11.6%)
Total	292 (77.2%)	86 (22.8%)	378 (100.0%)

Source: Field Survey, 2016.

As contained in the table 1 above, a greater proportion of the respondents in the prison

inmates category were males 251(66.4%) compared to females who were 41(10.8%). This

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gives the impression that males have greater odds of being remanded in the prison institution than the females. In the same way, there was higher number of male prison officials 54(14.3%) compared to female prison officials 32(8.5%); which implies that males occupy greater position in the prison system in Nigeria. The mean age of the respondents in the prison inmates category was 33.4years, while that of prison officials was 38.5years which implies that a majority of the sampled respondents were matured enough to clearly express their feelings with regards to the objectives of the study.

Also, a majority of the respondents 173(45.8%) were single while about a quarter proportions of

them 138(36.5%) were married. Similarly, the educational characteristics of the respondents show that a majority of the respondents in the prison inmates' category (25.7%) finished up to secondary school level. This was followed by 70(18.5%) of them who only finished up to primary school level. However, 52(13.8%) of them had no formal education while only 40(10.6%) of them finished up to tertiary level of education. On the other hand, a majority of the prison officials 29(7.7%) were secondary school certificate holders, while 24(6.3%) and 16(4.2%) of them were OND/NCE and HND/B.Sc certificate holders respectively.

Table2. Perceived Barriers to the Rehabilitation, Reformation and Reintegration Programmes in the Prisons.

Items	Prison Status		Total
	Prison Inmate	Prison Official	
Irresponsibility of prison authorities to the immediate needs of the programmes	85 (29.1%)	11 (12.8%)	96 (25.4%)
Inadequate fund for the programmes	39 (13.4%)	17 (19.8%)	56 (14.8%)
Irregularity and inconsistency of the government/prison management in the programmes	58 (19.9%)	7 (8.1%)	65 (17.2%)
Corruption among prison officials	26 (8.9%)	3 (3.5%)	29 (7.7%)
Government Insincerity	67 (22.9%)	16 (18.6%)	83 (22.0%)
Poor Programme planning Implementation by the Prison management	10 (3.4%)	5 (5.8%)	15 (4.0%)
Unwillingness of prison inmates	7 (2.4%)	27 (31.4%)	34 (9.0%)
Total	292 (100.0%)	86 (100.0%)	378 (100.0%)

Source: Field Survey, 2016.

This study sought to find out from the perception of the prison community, the factors that affect positive implementation of rehabilitation, reformation and reintegration programmes in the studied prisons. From the total, a majority of the respondents 96(25.4%) had the perception that a major factor affecting the positive implementation of the programmes is 'irresponsibility of the prison authorities to the immediate needs of the programmes'. This is followed by 83(22.0%) of them who affirmed that 'government insincerity' is a major factor affecting the programmes. The third major factor affecting the programmes as indicated by 56(14.8%) of the respondents is 'irregularity and inconsistency of the government/prison management in the programmes'. However, from the perception of prison inmates, the first three major factors affecting positive implementation of the programmes include: Irresponsibility of prison authorities to the immediate needs of the programmes, government insincerity and irregularities and inconsistency of the government/prison management in the

programmes. On the other hand, the prison officials perceived unwillingness of prison inmates, inadequate fund for the programmes and government insincerity as the first three major factors affecting rehabilitation, reformation and reintegration programmes of the prisons. The qualitative finding support aspects of these findings:

Well to be sincere, I cannot say that all the policies made by the government for the reformation of prisoners are judiciously carried out. We have to understand that there are constraints affect ing such policies; some of them arise due to the endemic corruption of officials in the government and other technicalities in the judicial process. However, we as prison officials, our duty is to make sure that the prisoners receive the best form of rehabilitation for them to be reintegrated into the society through the resources made available to us by the government and we cannot do these effectively if the resources are inadequate. What we use is what we receive

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from the government. So the point is that, if the government enacts effective policies that would make adequate provisions for the welfare of prisoners, we will not fail in our duties as prison officials. Therefore, the problems affecting programmes in the prisons can be attributed to the governments' policies (IDI, Senior Prison Officer, Onitsha Prison).

Another respondent added:

The promises often made by government officials with regards to prisoners' welfare are not often fulfilled. Delays or procrastination in releasing funds and equipment by the government is a drawback to the effective reformation of prisoners and when the prison staffs are not being supported or rewarded with incentives such as better allowances and promotions, it dampens their spirits and demoralizes them from putting more energy to their duties. In a situation where an officer stays in a particular rank up to seven years or more without being promoted to a higher rank, do you think such an officer will feel happy to put up more effort? The answer is no; but these are the situations we face in the prison system and all these affect the reformation and rehabilitation programmes. When the workers are motivated, you expect quality output from them and vice versa (IDI, Senior Prison Officer, Aguata Prison).

However, a 32 years old prison inmate implicated the prison officials and prison management policies as being responsible for the problems affecting reformation and rehabilitation programmes in the prisons:

The prison officers are very selfish. They are only interested on what they can use us to achieve for their own gains. They don't care for

our welfare; most of them are corrupt. Even the policies in the prisons make it difficult for the reformation process to have an impact. I mean, the prison officers should be made to understand that prisons should be a reformation centers and not punishment centers as they take it to be. If the prison staffs are good, then the inmates can as well be good inmates, but where the staffs are dangerous, how can we the inmates improve ourselves? In fact, let the corrupt prison officers be sacked **"Na so we want am bros"** meaning that is how we want it (IDI, Male Prison Inmate, 34years, Aguata Prison).

Another respondent supported the finding that unwillingness of prison inmates towards the programmes is a major barrier to positive implementation of the programmes:

The most problem affecting the effective implementation of reformation and rehabilitation programmes is the nature of inmates in the prison. Most of them are not interested in the programmes; and because most of them do not have homes, they feel comfortable staying in the prisons. They are being fed, clothed and given some other benefits that they may not ordinary find so easy to obtain on the streets where they came from. Some others are only interested in 'freedom' and some are interested in making money. So, talking to most of them about reformation and rehabilitation programmes seems to be a waste of energy and time. Despite these challenges, we try as much as we can as reformation officers to see that the programmes get to them because these are the same issues that brought them to the prison in the first place (IDI, Senior Prison Officer, Onitsha Prison).

Table3. Distribution of Respondents on the Perceived Measures to improving rehabilitation, reformation and reintegration programmes in the prisons.

Items	Prison Status		Total
	Prison Inmate	Prison Official	
Financial investment in the programmes by the government	53 (18.2%)	17 (19.8%)	70 (18.5%)
Provision of good working condition/welfare packages for prison staff	41 (14.0%)	23 (26.7%)	64 (16.9%)
Government Sincerity	20 (6.8%)	7 (8.1%)	27 (7.1%)
Periodic retraining of prison staff of current global rehabilitation, reformation and reintegration practices	69 (23.6%)	17 (19.8%)	86 (22.8%)
Abolition of Corporal Punishment	94 (32.2%)	12 (14.0%)	106 (28.0%)
Involvement of social workers, Religious bodies, NGOs etc in the reformation/rehabilitation programmes	15 (5.1%)	10 (11.6%)	25 (6.6%)
Total	292 (100.0%)	86 (100.0%)	378 (100.0%)

Source: Field Survey, 2016.

As contained in table 13, a majority of the respondents 106(28.0%) were of the perception that ‘abolition of corporal punishment’ will serve as one of the best measures to improve rehabilitation, reformation and reintegration programmes in the prisons. However, this perception was more among the prison inmates 94(32.2%) compared to the prison officials 12(14.0%). Secondly, it was affirmed by 86(22.8%) of the respondents that ‘periodic retraining of prison staff of current global rehabilitation, reformation and reintegration practices’ would be a viable measure for the programmes. 70(18.5%) of the respondents also perceived ‘financial investment in the programmes by the government’ as a viable measure to improve rehabilitation, reformation and reintegration programmes of the prison. However, a substantial proportion of the respondents within the prison officials category 23 (26.7%) perceived ‘provision of good working condition/welfare packages for prison staff’ as a viable measure to improve the programmes, while a majority of the prison inmates perceived ‘abolition of corporal punishment’ as a viable measure to improve rehabilitation, reformation and reintegration programmes in the prisons.

The respondents were also obliged to express their views on other ways of improving rehabilitation, reformation and reintegration programmes in the prisons through the open-ended questions. Some of the responses were categorized based similar opinions. Thus, some of the popular opinions include: “strict inspection of the prison by higher auditory bodies” “No prison official should stay more than three years in a prison” “games should be introduced to help the inmates psychologically” “provide good instructors” “change the logo: no inmate is important” “removing and punishing corrupt prison staffs” “provision of more equipments and good instructors” “serious supervision of prison officials to make sure they carry out their duties to the best interest of the inmates” “wrongly convicted prisoners should be compensated” “stop corporal punishment, flogging, single cell punishment; there should be freedom in prison” “government should increase the salaries of prison officials so they can stop extorting from inmates” “there should be regular training for the prison officers; most of them don’t know their job well”.

In support of the above findings, a respondent through the IDI made an important suggestion

with regards to the measures to improving the rehabilitation, reformation and reintegration programmes in the prisons:

You see, one problem that affects the reformation and rehabilitation programmes is its relevance to the prison inmates. Most of them tend to abandon their vocational skills because the skills are not yielding any output for them in terms of monetary benefit. There should be an avenue whereby the prisoners are taking outside for works or the public can be made into the prisons to patronize their services through bill boards or adverts; this would give prisoners a sense that their skills are useful to the society and you will see that many of them would become serious with the programmes (IDI, Senior Prison Officer, Onitsha Prison).

CONCLUSION

The correctional institutions are very necessary institutions in the modern era and the prisons in particular plays a major role in this regards. It is expected that prisoners will be rehabilitated, reformed and reintegrated back to the society after serving their prison terms. However, it appears that this has not always been the case due to the numerous challenges affecting the prison institution in Nigeria. This study therefore examined prison community perception of the rehabilitative, reformation and reintegration programmes of the prisons. The essence was to ascertain the manner in which the prison inmates and prison officials perceive the rehabilitation, reformation and reintegration programmes in the prisons in Anambra state. Following the result of data analysis in this study, the researcher therefore concludes that: there is a mixed perception about the functionality programmes among the members of the prison community. While the prison inmates tend to perceive the programmes as less functional, the prison officials tend to perceive the programmes as fairly functional.

RECOMMENDATION

- The study found that vocational training is perceived as the most influential programmes of reformation and rehabilitation in the prisons; therefore, it is important that more attention and resources be channeled to the vocational training of the prisoners while they serve their periods of sentence.
- There should be a committee set up to periodically supervise the activities and

programmes in the prisons. This will help to ensure that the prison officials perform their duties appropriately and to make sure that the resources provided for the programmes are utilized efficiently by the prison management.

- There is also the need for urgent legislation on realistic prisons reforms and policies that would emphasize on eradicating corruption among the prisons officials and increase in the budgetary allocations for the prisons. This would help to improve the right human resources needed for optimal reformation and rehabilitation of prisoners and the provision of the required equipment for the reformation and rehabilitation programmes.

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