

**ADMINISTRATION OF INMATES' WELFARE AND  
REFORMATION PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION IN PRISON  
SERVICE IN SOUTHWESTERN NIGERIA**

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**ABSTRACT**

*The study investigated the causes of prison congestion in Southwestern Nigeria; examined the welfare of inmates in selected prisons in Southwestern Nigeria; and examined the reformation programme in Nigerian Prisons Service in the study area with a view to enhancing policies/programmes of prison service in the country.*

*Primary and secondary data were used for the study. Primary data were obtained through the administration of the questionnaire and focus group discussion. The questionnaire was administered on inmates to elicit information on their wellbeing. The simple random sampling method was used to select 204 respondents which constituted 10% of the total population (2042) of prison inmates in the purposively selected prisons (Ibadan, Akure and Abeokuta) in Southwestern Nigeria. Focus group discussion was held with 8 ex-convicts, 5 inmates' relatives and inmate's prison officials. The secondary sources of information that were employed included relevant official publications and records from Nigerian Prisons Service, journal articles, periodicals and internet sources. Data collected were tabulated and analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics.*

*The study found that prison congestion was the handiwork of Nigeria Police Service and Nigerian courts that have the power to apprehend in custody and date of release from prison. The study found that the inmates' welfare in the selected prisons was not well taken care of,*

*as this was confirmed by the obtained result ( $\chi^2_c = 0.121$ ). The consequence of this was that*

*the inmates who are far from being reformed were denied the life essentials which included quality foods and access to medical facilities within the prison. The study found that the Nigerian Prison administrative system did not promote the reformation of the inmates in*

*Southwestern Nigeria as attested to by the obtained result ( $\chi^2_c = 0.518$ ).*

*The study concluded that administration of prison inmates' reform programme by Nigerian Prisons Service in Southwestern Nigeria was ineffective and needed to be improved on in order to achieve the goal for which it was established.*

**Keywords:** *Reform, Administration, Criminality, Offence and Punishment.*

## **1. Introduction**

Prison as a public institution is established by the government for the purpose of reformation and rehabilitation as well as safe custody of individual's offenders who violate the law. Prison is viewed as a physical structure situated either in a rural or urban geographical location which affords a special kind of social environment that is different from the larger society where people live according to specialized conditions (McCorkle, 1954). All over the world, prisons establishment are aimed to serve as rehabilitation and reformatory institutions with the ultimate goal of re-orientating and reforming inmates, so that they could come out as useful members of society (Okeke, 2010). This institution was established to support criminal justice system in which criminal offenders are confined pending the final decision of the court on the plea of innocence or guilt of the accused person. Subsequently, incarceration in the event of being found guilty is implemented. Those who have been charged or convicted of one criminal offence or the other are expected to get reoriented and become better to live in the society on leaving the prison (Okeke, 2010).

The genesis of criminalities could be traced to the political tumour of the first republic which engulfs the country that metamorphosized into Nigerian civil war of 1967 to 1970. The successive military regimes after the civil war did not help the matter as free use of force in settling scores were encouraged. The second and third civilian governments did not perform differently as dialogues that were characterised by violence were embraced as a result of the total breakdown of norms and moral values in the society. Hence, criminal behaviours and delinquency are common occurrences in Nigeria. This informs why Omisakin (1998) posits that recently, baby warehouse, armed robbery, cybercrime, kidnapping, murder, drug trafficking, fraud, road traffic offence, rape and theft have become more serious to tackle as they have manifested with new methods and techniques. The situation is becoming worsened as ethnic militia (Arewa Northern People Congress, Odua People Congress, Niger Delta Avengers, Indigenous People of Biafra, Movement of the Actualization of Sovereign States of Biafra (MASSOB) etc.), religion fundamentalist (Shiites, Maitasheni, Boko Haram etc.) and communal clashes (Fulani herdsman and farmers) have aggregated together to institutionalize criminality. Hence, the nefarious activities of the above criminals which are not different from that of terrorists in term of the bombing, hijacking and life-threatening incidences are worrisome. Criminalities have thus being raised to the status of professionals. With the proliferation of firearms in war-torn Africa countries, the high incidence of criminal

behaviours and manifestation with new methods and technologies are of great concern not only to the society but also to the social workers and other behaviour modifiers.

Aristotle (1955) states that moral virtues are a confirmed disposition to act justly, the disposition is itself formed by a continuous series of right actions. Moral philosophers agreed that a man can be held morally responsible for his past actions only if it was avoidable. Responsibility is best understood as a kind of liability to responsive actions of various kinds by other people. Thus, to be responsible for a past action is to be properly subject to credit, praise or reward if the act was in some special way a good one; or to blame, censure, or punish with responsibility as the liability to criminal punishment and/or moral blame reasonably justified.

Crime is an action which is punishable by law. The perpetrators of these crimes are referred to as 'criminals'. The potential external factors that must have damaged the perpetrators of these crimes and their social circumstances which include the moral and political atmosphere within which these acts take place must be considered. When violence becomes institutionalized, people, particularly who are constantly visited with violence, begin to resort to violence in their dealings with others.

Punishment is a negative sanction intentionally applied to someone perceived to have violated a law, rule, norm or expectation. The punishment was viewed globally as a legal term that embraces four important concept which include vengeance, deterrence, rehabilitation and prevention (Alemika, 1987). Sanction as punitive was critically emphasized by retribution. The prisoner has transgressed the law of the state and the state pays him back in his own coin which is "an eye for an eye and tooth for a tooth". The life in the prison was conceptualized to be punitive to effect retribution, in which prison administrator concurred that the restriction of personal freedom of the prisoner is enough punishment as an emphasis on it will conflict with the idea of reformation that is important in the modern treatment of offenders.

However, when one is being sentenced for the offence committed the above objective still governs the mind of Nigerian courts as well as the Nigerian public. As it is shown in section [i] of Prison Decree of 1972 Captioned "Hard labour" and which states as follows:

*Section 4[i]: subject to this section,, the effect of a sentence of imprisonment with hard labour passed on a prisoner shall be that the prisoner shall be imprisoned for the period of the sentence and during his imprisonment shall work at such labour as may be directed by the superintendent.*

Imprisonment serves to deter both the prisoner and the public at large as everybody strongly fears deprivation of liberty, however short; as such most people are terrorised by imprisonment which tends to make them better law abiding citizens.

The word 'change' is constant; change is possible for everyone. Thus prison inmates can be changed from their delinquent way for the better and become productive citizens. Nigeria Prisons Service modelled after the British Prisons System lays emphasis on punishment and deterrence (Ibrahim, 2012) as in any other part of the world. This is clogging on the wheel of progress as called by the scholars (Ogwezzy, 2011, Obioha, 2011, Achu et.al, 2013) for the Nigeria Prisons Service reform fell on the deaf ears of the successive governments.

The Nigerian Prison Service operates on three legislative frameworks thus:

- The penal code and the accompanying criminal procedure code cap 81 laws of the Federation 1990 (CPC);
- The criminal code and the accompanying criminal procedure Act Cap 80 laws of the federation (CPA) and
- The Sharia penal legislation in 12 Northern States of Nigeria which is only applicable to Muslims.

Nigeria prison is one of the agency under the Federal Ministry of Interior, managed by the Nigerian Prisons Service (NPS) and headed by a Controller General of Prisons, who presides over the administration of all prison facilities. As an important arm of the criminal justice system NPS is solely charged with the responsibility of taking into safe custody all those who are meant for correction during their incarceration before being released and integrated into the society (Ibrahim, 2012). In the operations of Nigerian prisons, CAP 366 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 1990 empowered the prisons, to perform the following functions:

- taking into lawful custody all those certified to be so kept by courts of competent jurisdiction;
- making suspects available in courts on the stipulated dates and time;
- identifying the causes of anti-social behaviour exhibited by each inmates;
- setting in motion processes for their treatment;
- inmates training for eventual reintegration into society as normal law abiding

citizens on discharge and

- prisons farms and industries administration for this purpose; and in the process generating revenue for the government (Ibrahim, 2012).

Many scholars (Enuku, 2001, Tanimu, 2010 etc.) have alluded to the deliberate neglect of the prisons in attaining the purpose of its establishment as stated in the law; rather it has not only been accused of brutality and hardening of convicts but also subjecting inmates to deplorable, degrading and inhuman situations, apportioning punishment in excess of the committed crimes; in the process, rendering inmates physically and psychologically damaged in an uncaring environment (Ibrahim, 2012). According to Amnesty International (2012) report, over sixty percent of prison inmates in Nigeria are yet to be convicted of any offence; rather, they continue to wait endlessly for their trial in their degraded and worsened situations. The immediate Controller-General of Nigerian Prisons Service corroborated this claim while appearing during a public hearing on the proposed prisons amendment bill (Ogundipe, 2011). Among the challenges facing the Nigeria Prisons System, overcrowding brought about by awaiting trial inmates in prisons across the country poses to be in the forefront. The figure of awaiting trial persons is on the increase which has become a source of embarrassment to the nation (Onike, 2010). However, Ogundipe (2011) unveiled that the awaiting trial in prison custody constituted about 80 percent of the prison population. Many of whom are held for minor offences that could attract bail bond. While some of the inmates' case files have been reported missing or the legal fees could not be paid. Furthermore, inmate awaiting trial is roughly put at 30,000 persons, representing over 65 percent of the estimated prisoner's population of 46,000 (Ibrahim, 2012; Amnesty International, 2008). As a result of the unhindered increasing inmate awaiting trial is an unusual frustration of crime prevention and control as they are mixed up with the convicts whose influence compounded their behaviour negatively into becoming hardened criminals (Njoku, 2012).

Jailbreaks constituted a threat to the safety and are the negative indices used by the society to adjudge the inmates wellbeing and guards brutality level in the prison. The jailbreak could be internally or externally motivated. The external gangs (armed robber, kidnappers, religious sects, communal conflicts, etc.) used superior organised force to over-power the station guards and eventually break into the prison yard to set the inmates free. The internally motivated jailbreak is at the display of criminality of the inmates which may be at the instance or the result of poor welfares, guard brutality or the criminal tendencies of the

inmates. Both internally and externally motivated jailbreaks not only add to the high level of insecurity in the society with the grave consequences on the efficiency of the Nigeria Prison Service, it seems to portray the lack of capability of the government.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Prison inmates are members of the larger society whose freedom has been restricted for a specified period as punishment for the offence committed. Apart from serving as a remand home and custody for the convicted people, prison doubles as a reformatory and rehabilitative centre. When appropriations, personnel or facilities are inadequate, the historical view of the prison as a place of isolation and punishment seems to prevail and the reformation function is subordinated to the grim necessity of keeping the felon safely separated from the outside world. Offenders pay for what they have done as applicable to all prisoners globally, Nigeria inclusive, where prisoners were those who had gone contrary to the Native Authority laws or offended the colonial masters.

Considering reformation and rehabilitation as very vital and prominent aspects of the aim and objectives of the Nigerian Prison Service, the service is helping to create a Nigerian society that is free of crimes and violence. The effectiveness and efficiency of Nigerian Prison Service has thus been under criticism largely because of constant jail-breaks that have become daily occurrence (Akintunde, 2011; Cairns, 2010; Edike, 2010; Akpa, 2016; Njoku, 2016; Chiedozie, 2016; Okere, 2017) and the threat it poses to life and properties.

However, the welfare of the inmates seem not to have been given adequate attention as deplorable living conditions characterised by poor food quality, underfeeding, poor environmental condition that promote outbreak of communicable diseases, overcrowding and sleeping in turns on the bare floor are inhuman, coupled with lack of healthcare facilities and decayed infrastructures. Despite the fact that prisons were established principally to reform criminals in the society, the extant literature indicates that some prisoners come out of prison worse than when they went in. The apparent failure of Nigerian prisons to reform the convicted inmates may not be unconnected with the nature of welfare administration of the inmates. The present study, therefore, attempts to investigate the existing welfare administration of Nigerian prisons inmates in Southwestern Nigeria with the view of determining the extent to which it influences or deters reformation of convicted prison

inmates.

### **Research Questions**

1. What are the factors responsible for overcrowding in the Nigerian prisons?
2. What are the living conditions of the inmates?
3. What are the reformation programmes that are available in the prison?

### **Objectives of the Study**

1. investigate the causes of prison congestion in Southwestern Nigeria;
2. examine the welfare of inmates in selected prisons in Southwestern Nigeria; and
3. examine the reformation programme in Nigerian Prisons Service.

### **Hypothesis of the Study**

These hypotheses have been tested in the study

1.  $H_0$ : Nigerian prison inmates are not well-taken care off.
2.  $H_0$ : Nigerian Prison administrative system does not promote inmate reformation.

## **2. Review of Literature**

### **Nigeria Police**

The colonial and post-colonial governments established various forces including Police Force in Nigeria which was organized and maintained largely for protection of the interest of political and economic holders. Three important historical issues are relevant to the understanding of the development of police forces in Nigeria. Firstly, the Nigerian ethnic nationalities conquest by the colonial master which took place gradually over a long period (1861 to 1903), and the establishment of police force for the area or region secured the colonial presence. Secondly, various police force formations were established and deployed as an instrument of violence and oppression against the indigenous population. Thirdly, police forces were used as an instrument of oppression to sustain the alien domination of colonial rule. As a result, the police were accountable to the colonizer but not to the people. Hence, police excesses against the community were not put under controlled, looting and killing were common occurrence.

Consequently, as of the old, the police are been perceived and look upon by the people as an instrument of violence and subjugation as well as extortionists which still remained indelible character to date. Nigeria operated three types of police formations between 1930 and 1966, the Nigeria Police Force that co-existed with the police force in local government areas in Western Nigeria (Local administration) and the Native Authority police in Northern Nigeria (N/A). These two local forces were abrogated because of their inadequacy which was not limited to been poorly trained, corrupt and used for partisan political purposes; but also including brutalisation of opponents by traditional rulers as well as abuse of power by the government in power against the politicians and other political parties in the Western and Northern regions.

The administration of police bureaucracies are organised in such a way as to detect, investigate arrest, detain, persecute, harass, prosecute etc. those suspected and considered to be dangerous and viewed to be threats to the preservation of the status quo. The police are granted immense powers of coercion and violence in order to perform and function effectively, The Police duties are as enumerated below:

- (a) Arrest: the criminal justice process or procedure is initiated and triggered by the policeman through arrest, either when an offence has been committed in its presence or when police investigation uncovered the crime; and when an individual reports crime that has been committed. Hence, an arrest with authority can be defined as the taking of a person into lawful custody and holding that person accountable for a violation of a criminal law (Jike, 2003). Therefore arrest is effected when a person is held with or without an issued warrant. A warrant of arrest is an authority issued in writing by a competent court of law to the person making the arrest.
- (b) Criminal investigation: the word investigation is obtained from the Latin word “vestigare” meaning “to track or trace”. Investigation implies to unravel stepwise by thorough inquiry with/without observation; to find out by careful inquisition; examination; the taking of evidence; a legal inquiry. The criminal investigation seeks all facts associated with a crime to determine what happened and who is responsible and level of involvement. In some cases, the police carry out the investigation with the help of the specially trained personnel in the field of criminology depending on the type of committed offence.
- (c) Prosecution: when a crime is committed, the arrest has been made and police



investigation thoroughly conducted, the police go forward to give evidence on the prosecution of the criminal. The police role in this respect is to guide the court in taking the decision. The police initiate the legal process of the criminal justice system by effecting the arrest with thorough investigation properly conducted, then the case (suspect) will be taken to court for possible trial. The police prosecution will be supported by giving evidence based on their investigation on the suspect.

As identified by the National Advisory Commission on Criminal Justice Standard and Goals are the following police functions which have universal application thus: prevention of criminal activities, detection of criminality, criminal offenders apprehension, taking part in court proceedings of the offenders, protecting constitutional guarantees, rescue those who are in danger of physical harm, traffic control, conflicts resolution among family, friends and neighbours, crime investigation, provision of adequate security in the community, promotion and preservation of civil order.

### **Court System in Nigeria**

A court as an important component of criminal justice system is government agency established to administer the law, enforce it and resolutely settle individuals or groups point of disagreement and differences. A trial is said to be an adversary proceeding with the rules of evidence similar to the rule of a game and the judge as an impartial umpire. Before the advent of British rule in Nigeria, recognised chiefs administered local customary laws which had been in operation in different regions of the country for their people. The continued administration of customary laws was permitted and encouraged by the colonizers provided that the practice of such local laws was not repugnant to natural justice, equity and good conscience.

Upon the creation of the colony of Lagos in 1862, the main body of English law, by ordinance No. 3 of 1863, was introduced by the authority into the territory. British colonial policy recognising immemorial customs and usage of rules of law as understood and applied in the indigenous communities gives recognition to the traditional courts. As the traditional courts are well organised into different grades, so also, the customary courts are classified as A, B, C and D in descending order of magnitude. Customary courts were established in Yoruba land by decree W. R. No. 26, 1957, published in the legislation of the Western Region of Nigeria, as Cap 31 of 1957 which came to operation 1<sup>st</sup> of July, 1958 to replace the

old native courts throughout the Western Region of Nigeria.

However, customary courts are favoured as grassroots institutions charged with justice at the local level whose relationship with other higher courts is based on the appeal from lower court to the higher ones. The customary court grade C and D are headed by a layperson, an appeal can be made to a Magistrate Court or to the High Court in the area. The same goes for customary court A and B which are headed by Legal practitioners. Administrations of justice in Customary Courts are quicker and cheaper than in Magistrate Courts where legal arguments take a lot of time. Customary Courts dispense justice to more than two-thirds of the population of most of the States in the federation (Ajibola, 1982).

During the second republic, the administration of justice in Customary Courts throughout the federation came under the judicial commission of each State whose chairman and secretary must be the chief Judge and Registrar of the State High Court respectively. However, it was discovered that the added tasks given to the Chief Judge and the Registrar should have been separated for efficiency.

Law is defined as the whole system of rules that people in a particular country or areas must obey. Three main types of laws in operation in Nigeria are:

- (a) Common Law: originally, in the middle age, the “common law” meant the law that was common to the whole of England, as opposed to purely local systems. But with time, some local system disappeared and the common law changed to mean the basic law of the land which was developed by the judges based on their experiences from previous cases.
- (b) Equity: equity is the law developed by the old English court of Chancery as a result of the rigidity of the common law.
- (c) Customary Law: can be defined as a bundle of rules that are accepted by members of the community to regulate the behaviours of members. It should be appreciated that the use of the single term “customary law” does not indicate that there is a single uniform set of customs prevailing throughout the country. It is used as a description covering different systems which include ethic and religion. Islamic law, otherwise known as Sharia is derived from the Islamic religion. While customary law is unwritten, Islamic law is written from the Quoran and the Hadith.

Obilade (1979) classified customary law into two thus:

- (a) Criminal law which is the law related to the crime. A crime or an offence is an act or omission punishable by the state.
- (b) Civil law is the law governing proper citizen's conduct which is usually not punishable by the state. Criminal proceedings are instituted principally for the purpose of punishing wrongdoers, while civil proceedings are taken to enable individuals to enforce their rights and receive compensation for injuries to them by others.

At the centre of the criminal justice system is situated Criminal Courts that play a role of adjudicating in cases in which the accused person is reasonably believed to have violated a particular law or laws. The violator of the criminal law is made to stand trial before the court and the pronouncement of guilt or innocence verdict followed accordingly. If dissatisfied with the lower court judgement, an appeal could be made to the next higher court until finally to the Supreme Court which is the highest court in Nigeria.

According to Dambazau (1999) the principal actors in criminal court system are the accused person that is charged and brought before the court; the police who file charges, testify and present evidences during trial; the counsel to the accused or plaintiff who pleads for and against citing laws to support the claims; the State Counsel who represents the State and carries the burden of proving the case beyond reasonable doubt in order to earn the accused conviction; and the presiding judge as an impartial umpire, listen to the charges, analyse the facts and plea by the counsel according to the laws and pronounced verdict of innocence or guilt to the accused.

Courts are seen by the public as the platform for fairness and impartiality to the extent that they allow each side the opportunity of fair hearing on case presentation. As a platform for differences resolution through the application of the law, criminal courts are expected to enjoy judicial independence, free from outside pressure and interference as citizens perceived them as their fundamental human rights protector. A vital role played by the courts is the fact that it has wielded the power as an authoritative interpreter of the constitution. At the end of trials, the court pronounces the verdict which is an indication of tremendous power wielded

by the judge as provided for by the legal proceedings. Other functions of the courts are the determination of bail bond, conducting preliminary hearings, giving ruling on the evidence of admissibility and determination of the appropriate sentence when pronouncing a verdict of guilt or innocence.

### **Prison System in Nigeria**

Nigerian Prisons Service is one of the strategic Home Team Agencies under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Internal Affairs a / Interior. In collaboration with the other law enforcement agencies such as the Nigeria Police Force, Nigerian Civil Defence Corps, Nigeria Immigrations, National Food and Drug Agency Commission, Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC), Independent Corrupt Practices and Miscellaneous Offences Commission (ICPC), Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Armed Forces and other internal security department, who strive to make Nigeria a safe home devoid of criminals for all. Nigeria has witnessed serious crimes over the years. Criminal behaviour and delinquency are the common occurrences in Nigeria. The high rate of occurrence is of great concern to the society. In recent time, armed robbery, kidnapping, advanced free fraud, traffic offence, rape, the act of terrorism, murder, theft, bunkering, assault etc. have become serious to tackle as they have manifested with new methods and techniques (Omisakin, 1998). Apart from EFFCC and ICPC that directly prosecute and apprehended offender other security agencies that apprehend an offender will have to hand such to the police for investigation and prosecution in the appropriate law court for pronouncement. This inform why consideration is given to different types of prisons that house each convict and the awaiting trial inmates.

Convict Prisons receive prison inmates of all types as the highest categories of prisons. These types of prisons include the short term or long term prisoners, as well as lifers and condemned to death prisoners. Awaiting trial of all classes are accommodated. Some of them are gazetted as asylums prisons which receive mentally challenged inmates e.g. Lagos, Jos, Enugu, Port-Harcourt and Warri. However, all prison yards have been authorized to have certain section within the prison for the treatment of the mentally derailed person, irrespective of whether it is on gazette or not. In order to ensure safety, specially trained dogs are used by some convict prisons to reinforce security and arrest escapees. Executions are carried out in convict prisons. Senior officers as from the rank of Assistant Controller of Prisons and above are in control of Convict Prisons.

Provincial Prisons are the prison where incarceration of offenders is not below two years and these types of prisons can accommodate between 150 to 200 inmates. The prisons are under the control of Chief Superintendent of Prisons (CSP) or Superintendent of Prisons (SP). Divisional Prisons are prisons meant for the incarceration of prisoners serving sentences not more than two years. Such prisons have the capacity to accommodate not more than 50 inmates e.g. Okigwe Prison in Imo State.

Open Prisons is different from other types in that it is opened and not walled or fenced. Unlike heavily guarded prisons its security could be compared as been minimum likened to that of college campus. An open prison is put in place for the first offenders that show evidence of social adjustment to community standard. It means that any prisoner that wished to escape can conveniently do so, yet escapes are very rare because the prison authorities know the likes of prisoners on admission. The only open prison in Nigeria is Kakuri near Kaduna in which all prisoners would have served minimum of six months in a more secured prison before been transferred on the recommendation. Prison inmates are taught the variety of subjects and vocation of their interest which include commercial subjects, tailoring, weaving, bricklaying, mats making, sign writing, electrical and electronics etc.

Lock-ups prisons are established in a community having a court of law with no regular prison around to accommodate the offenders. These types of prisons are expected to accommodate incarcerated persons serving a jail term not above three months as well as for inmates who have other cases pending, because of security implication of taking the suspect for a long distance journey to court. The prison camp is the other type of prison which represents a system of combining reformatory policy with the best use of prison industry.

### **3.Methodology**

Reconnaissance survey by the researcher revealed that the total inmates' population in the three prisons (Agodi, 702; Abeokuta, 740; and Akure, 600) was put at 2042. Random sampling technique was used to select 204 prison inmates' respondents as sample size which constituted 10% of the total population (2040) of the selected prisons (Ibadan, Akure and Abeokuta) in Southwestern Nigeria. This study employed the use of both primary and secondary data. Primary data were obtained through the administration of a set of questionnaire and focus interview. The questionnaire was structured with open-ended and

close-ended questions. The close-ended questions were precise, containing the bio-data, socioeconomic status and probing statements about their living conditions and daily routines in the prison yard. The inmates were visited at the appointed and approved time as stipulated by the prison regulations. The prisoners that could fill the questionnaire without being guided were asked to do so under the supervision of Prison Welfare officer. Only 200 copies of the questionnaire administered on the prison inmates that were correctly filled and returned form part of analysis in the study. Focus group discussion was held with prison inmates relatives. The secondary sources of information that were employed included relevant official publications and records from Nigerian Prisons Service, journal articles, periodicals and internet sources. Data collected through the use of the questionnaire were analysed using descriptive statistics which generated percentages, frequencies of the respondents. In addition, inferential statistics using chi-square test analysis to examine the level of significance of inmates’ reform programme by the Nigerian Prisons Service.

#### 4. Results

The results of this study are presented as inmates’ prison status and offences; prisons inmates welfare (living conditions); and examination of reformation programme in Nigerian prisons.

##### **Inmates’ Prison Status and Offences**

Prison is a physical structure which affords a unique social environment that is quite different from the larger society apart from providing a safe custody to the criminals it equally avails the inmate the opportunity for reformation.

**Table 1 Percentage Distribution of Inmates by Prison Status and Offence**

s/n	Options	Frequency	Percentage
<b>A</b>	<b>Prison Status</b>		
	Convicted	25	12.5
	Awaiting Trial	175	87.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>Type of Offence</b>		
	Drug Trafficking	7	3.5
	Raping	9	4.5
	Armed robbery	142	71.0
	Assault	14	7.0
	Murder	16	8.0
	Unlawful Offence	9	4.5
	OBT (Obtain by Trick)	3	1.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Field Survey, July 2018*

Analysis of data collected revealed that the sample consisted of 12.5% convicted inmates and 87.5% awaiting trials. Table 1 shows that armed robbery (71.0%) top the list of the offences that were committed by the inmates. Others were murder (8.0%), assault (7.0%), unlawful offences and raping (4.5%) each, drug trafficking (3.5%) and obtaining by trick (1.5%) in that order. That as high as 71% of the inmates were engaged in the armed robbery is an indication that many youths in Nigeria might be easily lured into crime by prevailing ‘get-rich-quick syndrome.

### **Inmate’s Welfare (Living Condition)**

The living condition aspect of the welfare of the inmates was put under consideration by this study. Respondent's views on their feeding pattern, availability of medical care and living situation in the prisons were touched. According to the respondents, 49.5% said that the quantity of food given was either adequate or very adequate; similarly, 50% reported that the quantity of food given was either inadequate or very inadequate. While 21(10.5%) remained indifferent. As shown in Table 2, the large proportion of the respondents (62.5%) either reported or strongly reported that the quality of the food items given was very bad. Also 35.5% respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that the quality of the food was generally bad with 2.0% respondents remained indifferent. This distribution was an indication that the quality of foods given to the inmates was generally not of higher quality.

**Table 2 Percentage Distribution of Respondents on Inmates Welfare (Living Condition)**

s/n	Options	Frequency	Percentage
<b>a</b>	<b>On the Quantity of Food</b>		
	Very adequate	40	20.0
	Adequate	59	29.5
	Indifferent	21	10.5
	Inadequate	17	8.5
	Very inadequate	63	31.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>b</b>	<b>On the Quality of Food</b>		
	Strongly agreed	25	12.5
	Agreed	46	23.0
	Indifferent	4	2.0

	Disagreed	30	15.0
	Strongly disagreed	95	47.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>c</b>	<b>On the Regularity of Food</b>		
	Very regular	4	2.0
	Regular	187	93.5
	Indifferent	7	3.5
	Irregular	1	0.5
	Very irregular	1	0.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>d</b>	<b>Clinic/hospital well equipped with equipment and drug</b>		
	Well equipped	51	21.5
	Equipped	63	31.5
	Indifferent	21	10.5
	Less equipped	57	28.5
	Ill-equipped	8	4.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>e</b>	<b>How many of you are in the same room (overcrowding)</b>		
	1-4	1	0.5
	5-8	26	13.0
	9-12	7	3.5
	13-16	6	3.0
	17 and above	160	80.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Field Survey, July 2018*

On the regularity of the feeding pattern, a substantial proportion of 187(93.5%) among the inmates claimed that their feeding pattern was regular; 4(2.7%) of the respondents said it was very regular. While 7(3.5%) respondents were indifferent; the irregular and very irregular



shared the same 1(0.5%). Furthermore, it shows that whether the quality of foods given to the inmates was good or bad, the feeding pattern could be said to be regular. This researcher was privileged to interview some prisoners' family who claimed that they usually bring raw food materials and money for their inmates at regular intervals. A mother of an inmate even claimed that she could not recognize her son as a result of malnutrition. This corroborates the respondents' assertion on the quantity, quality of food supplied and the number of times they were fed is not enough.

Health is wealth, a considerable percentage 63(31.5%) claimed that the available clinic was equipped with equipment and drugs, 57(28.5%) of the respondents said that the hospital was less equipped, and also 51(25.5%) reported that the hospital was well equipped, 21(10.5%) of the respondents were indifferent while 8(4.0%) respondents reported that the hospitals were ill equipped. This means that the clinic/hospital was well equipped with equipment and drugs. Table 2 describes the number of inmates who lived in the same room. 160(80.0%) of the respondents reported that above 17 inmates lived in the same room. 26(13.0%) respondents claimed that between 5 to 8 inmates lived in the same room; but between 9 to12 and 13 to16 of the inmates lived in the same room claimed by the respondents with 7(3.5%) and 6(3.0%) respectively while few of them were living in the same room. This shows that a large number of prison inmates lived in the same room. In fact, some of the prisoners indicated that over one hundred of them lived in the same room.

### **Examination of Reformation Programme**

**Table 3 Percentage Distribution of inmates Perception on Reform Programme**

<b>s/n</b>	<b>Options</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>a</b>	<b>Whether moral education is taught in the Prisons</b>		
	Strongly agreed	5	2.5
	Agreed	21	10.5
	Indifferent	11	5.5
	Disagreed	69	34.5
	Strongly disagreed	94	47.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<b>b</b>	<b>Perception on the Effect of Moral Teaching</b>		
	Very closer to God	145	72.5
	Closer to God	49	24.5
	Indifferent	3	1.5
	Not closer to God	-	-
	Very far from God	3	1.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>c</b>	<b>On the Impact of Moral Education in the Prisons</b>		
	Strongly agreed	89	44.5
	Agreed	76	38.0
	Indifferent	2	1.0
	Disagreed	26	13.0
	Strongly disagreed	7	3.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>d</b>	<b>On Regular Counseling in the Prisons</b>		
	Strongly agreed	38	19.0
	Agreed	20	10.0
	Indifferent	3	1.5
	Disagreed	71	35.5
	Strongly disagreed	68	34.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>e</b>	<b>The ability of Inmates to control Temperament</b>		
	Very adequately well	71	35.5
	Adequately well	98	49.0
	Indifferent	9	4.5
	Inadequately well	8	4.0
	Very inadequately well	14	7.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Field Survey, July 2018*

On whether moral education is been taught to inmates, it was revealed that 13% respondents either strongly agreed or agreed that moral is been impacted but as high as 81.5% either strongly disagreed or disagreed that moral education does not exist in the prisons as indicated in the above Table 4. Further investigations revealed that the poor rating of this factor might not be unconnected with the fact that moral education has been impacted through non-formal or informal education, which not in tandem with formal education, most of the inmates was perceived as the only form of education.

Despite the high percentage of inmates who claimed that they were not provided formal moral education, it was revealed that 72.5% of respondents claimed that through moral education they received in prison bring them 'very closer to God', and 24.5% perceived the education as bringing them 'closer to God', thus emphasizing the positive roles moral education could play in reforming the prison inmates.

On whether moral education has impacted positively on the inmates, 89 (44.5%) of the respondents strongly agreed, 76(38.0%) agreed, 2(1.0%) indifferent, while those who claimed to disagree and strongly disagreed were 26(13.0%) and 7(3.5%) respectively. It could be seen that majority of the respondents appreciated the value of moral education in promoting existing mutual relationships between the neighbours and cohabitation in the prison.

From Table 4 above, it was observed that 139(69.5%) inmates either strongly disagreed or disagreed that no proper counseling was taking place in the prisons. While 20(10.0%) and 38(19.0%) of the respondents agreed and strongly agreed that proper counseling was taking place in the prison. These shows that majority of the respondents agreed that there was no proper counseling by specialists inside the prison.

On the response on the control of temperament, 98(49.0%) of prison inmates could control their temperament adequately well and also 71(35.5%) control their temperament very adequately well while 9(4.5%) were indifferent. On the other hand, 8(4.0%) and 14(7.0%) of the respondents could not control their temperament adequately well and very inadequately

well respectively. Notwithstanding this claim, the prison authority need to do more in as much as the vacuum yet to be filled for the specialists in other fields will have the negative consequence on the ability to control temperament.

### Testing of Hypothesis one

H<sub>0</sub>: Nigerian prison administrative system does not promote inmate reformation.

H<sub>1</sub>: Nigerian prison administrative system promotes inmates reformation.

Where H<sub>0</sub> is the Null hypothesis; and H<sub>1</sub> is the alternate hypothesis.

The variables used to test this hypothesis are "moral education is taught in the prison, and there is a regular counseling of the inmates in the prisons". Using Chi-Square inferential statistic.

Chi-Square ( $\chi^2$ )<sub>calculated</sub> is given as

$$\sum \frac{(o - e)^2}{e}$$

$$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(o - e)^2}{e} = 0.518$$

$\chi^2_T$  at 5% significance level (0.05) = 3.841 this implies that  $\chi^2_c < \chi^2_T$

Since the value of chi-square (i.e. 0.518) calculated for the hypothesis is lesser than the value of chi-square tabulated (i.e. 3.841), the Null hypothesis H<sub>0</sub> which state that Nigerian prison administrative system does n t promote inmates reformation is accepted.

Therefore, it is concluded that Nigerian prison administrative system does not promote inmates reformation in Southwestern Nigeria. This ascertains the assertion that Nigerian Prisons Service breeds criminals' consequence of which crime rate is on the increase.

### Testing of Hypothesis Two

H<sub>0</sub>: Nigeria prison inmates are not well-taken care off.

H<sub>1</sub>: Nigeria prison inmates are well-taken care off.

The variables used to test this hypothesis are "and in your view, the adequacy of the quantity of food supply;" "on the quality of food"; and "whether the clinic is well equipped".

Testing the hypothesis using the chi-square test

$$\chi^2 = 0.121$$

$\chi^2_t$  at 5% significance level (0.05) = 0.384 this implies that  $\chi^2_c < \chi^2_t$

Since the value of chi-square (i.e. 0.121) calculated for hypothesis three above is lesser than the value of chi-square tabulated (i.e. 0.384), the Null hypothesis which state that the prison inmates are not well-taken care off is accepted. The consequence of this hypothesis is that the inmates who are far from being reformed were denied the life essentials which include quality foods, toiletries, access to medical facilities and legal representation with the prison.

### **Discussion of Findings**

Data analysis showed that majority (87.5%) of prison inmates are in the category of awaiting trial with a minority as convicted prisoners. This was the position held by scholars including Amnesty International (2008, 2012), Onike, (2010), Ogundipe (2011) and Ibrahim, (2012) even though the situation is worsened than before. That as high as 71% of the inmates were engaged in armed robbery with other criminal offences trailing behind which justified the position of Omishakin (1998) which is an indication that many youths in Nigeria are easily lured into crime by prevailing ‘get-rich-quick-syndrome.

On the living condition, a substantial proportion of 187(93.5%) among the inmates claimed that their feeding pattern was regular; notwithstanding the fact that quantity and quality became contentious as claimed by 50% and 62.5% respondents respectively. Through interview some prisoners’ family who claimed that they usually bring raw food materials and money for their wards at regular intervals. A mother of an inmate even claimed that she could not recognize her son as a result of malnutrition. Health is wealth, despite the fact that sizable proportion (57.0%) claimed that the available clinic is well equipped with drugs and equipment; in contrast, an inmate said it took one week for the clinic to administer and give panadol to him. These assertions is confirmed by null hypothesis ( $\chi^2_c = 0.121$  at 5%

significance level; df=4). Similarly as high as 160(80.0%) of the respondents reported that more than 17 inmates lived in the same room which justifies the prisons congestion as lamented by the scholars (Obioha, 2011; Achu et al., 2013; Aduba, 2012; Njoku, 2012; and Ogundipe, 2012).

As high as 81.5% inmates objected that moral education does not exist in the prisons which are the responsibility professionals (sociology, psychology etc.). On the contrary, 82.5% inmates subscribed that moral education has impacted positively on them; which made the respondents (97.0%) to be “very closer to God” than before imprisonment. The prison chaplains and other religious groups that visit the prisons were responsible for this result as revealed through focus discussion. Similarly, 169(84.5%) claimed that they could control their temperament effectively. Also, this study revealed that 139(69.5%) inmates objected that no proper counseling, which is the duties of professionals is not taking place in the prisons. However, the null hypothesis ( $\chi^2_c = 0.518$  at 5% significance level;  $df=4$ ) confirmed that no proper reformation programme is been implemented in the prison yards. Finally, through the focus group discussion held at Akure, Ibadan and Abeokuta, the officials complaint of inadequate professionals, lack of motivation, poor working conditions as well as decayed infrastructure

#### **The main findings of the study are the following**

The Nigerian Prison administrative system does not promote the reformation of the prisoners in the Southwestern Nigeria as Psychiatrists, Sociologists, Criminologists and other professionals were not on the ground to impact on the prisoners.

The living standard of the prison inmates was poor and requires urgent solution. The issue of overcrowding in the prison has worsened the living standard of the inmates as all existing infrastructures have been overstretched and life essential become grossly inadequate and unavailable.

The study revealed that prison administrators were confronted with many challenges arising from stakeholders that are involved in the administration of criminal justice.

Majority of unmarried youths at the tender age engages in one form of criminality or the other and end up in prison.

The source of overcrowding is the fact that majority of the prison inmates are in the category of awaiting trial while very few have been convicted.

The prison administrator does not determine the date of admission or the date of release of prison inmates which are the mercies of Nigerian Courts and the Nigeria Police, hence, the resulting prison congestion.

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