

## CHALLENGES OF WELFARE ADMINISTRATION OF INMATES IN NIGERIA PRISON SYSTEM IN SOUTHWESTERN NIGERIA

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### ABSTRACT

*The study examined and identified the challenges facing welfare administrators of inmates 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 questionnaire and focus group discussion. The set of questionnaire was administered to prison staff to elicit information on both internal and external challenges confronting the administrators. Also stratified sampling technique was used to select 63 prison staff respondents which constituted 10% of the total population (630) of the purposively selected prisons (Ibadan, Akure and Abeokuta) in Southwestern Nigeria. In-depth interview was held with 6 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.*

*Finally, the findings revealed and identified some challenges facing prison administrators to include inadequate funding and ineffective administration of criminal justice by the stakeholders among others ( $\chi^2_c = 2.371$ ). Inadequate funding constituted a stumbling block to improve the welfare programmes which manifested in poor reformation and rehabilitation programmes among others. In-depth interview revealed that the prisons' inability to upgrade its infrastructural facilities as well as provide the require empowerment and rehabilitation for prison-inmates make it difficult for their re-integration into the larger community after being released.*

*The study concluded that administration of inmates' welfare by Nigerian Prisons Service in Southwestern Nigeria was ineffective and inefficient.*

### 1.INTRODUCTION

No society is immune from committing crime by its members and to that extent, there is need for establishment and management of an institution to punish and reform the criminals that are found guilty, hence the need for institutions like court, the police and the prison. Prison is defined as a place delimited and declared as such by the law of the state and created to ensure restraint and custody of individual accused or convicted of violating the criminal laws of the

state (Opara, 1998). It could simply be put as a secured place where culprits are confined as punishment for the committed offence or a place of safe keeping for the accused.

The right of administering punishment is the right of sovereign as with the Supreme Power to inflict pain upon a subject on account of a committed crime. Transgression of any public law makes whoever that commit it incapable of being a citizen constituted a crime either as a private crime or as a public crime (Kant, 1887). Private and criminal crimes are usually dealt with by a civil and a criminal court respectively. Crime is further categorised into blue-collar crime, corporate crime, juvenile crime, organised crime, political crime, public order crime, state crime and white-collar crime. Equality principle by which the pointer of the Scale of Justice is made to incline precisely equal on both side is the yardstick and measure of punishment which Public Justice takes into account as its principle and standard.

Crime is an action which is punishable by law. The perpetrators of these crimes are referred to as „criminals“. However, this objective still governs the mind of Nigerian courts and in particular the Nigerian public when sentenced is been pronounced for offence committed. It is evident in section [i] of Prison Decree of 1972 Captioned “Hard labour” and which is as stated:

*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 is expected to prevent both the prisoner and the public at large as everyone dreads deprivation of liberty, however short; thus incarceration terrorises the mind of the majority of people which tends to make them better law abiding citizens. However, the Nigerian Prison Act. No. 9 of 1972 Laws of Nigeria Cap. 366 Section2, subsections 1 and 2 states:

*The Minister of Internal Affairs/ Interior may, by order in the Federal Gazette, declare any building or place in Nigeria to be a prison, and by the same, or subsequent order, specify the area for which the prison is established.*

Arising from the above, the Federal Minister, by order in the federal gazette (Cap. 366), that every prison shall include the grounds and buildings within the prisons enclosure and any

lock-up house for the temporary detention or custody of prisoners that are newly apprehended or under remand to be part of the prison.

The prisoners' welfare administration has been largely under criticism in the recent time. The prisoners retain all of the human rights and fundamental freedoms voiced in the UN Declaration of Human Rights, especially those on „Prisoners' Rights“. The Advocates for Prisoners Rights argued that with the cooperation of the prison authority, inmates are often deprived of very basic rights. Alleged violations include those that affect the prisoners' welfare in particular feeding, education, access to legal representations, and freedom of religion etc.

Opara (1988) emphasised that while there is specific deterrence that brings punishment personally to the door of convict and with the hard and unnatural life experience in the prison, the prisoner will learn a lesson and avoid violating the law. Opara (1988) further asserted that the society is better protected when the criminal is in safe custody but this could be temporary as the criminal will come back on released to the society as the same predatory beast if not properly tamed, reformed and rehabilitated. The only seemly permanent protection for the populace is the execution of the convict as is the case with the armed robbers.

At the time of the concept of imprisonment, the focus was on the punishment of the offenders. Offender pays for the wrong done. The idea of reformation and rehabilitation was not rooted in the minds of the prison service operators rather, imprison the offender as a punishment for the committed offence as was the case of early prisoners of the Nigerian Prisons, where inmates were those who had gone contrary to the Native Authority laws or offended the colonial masters. Imprisonment was the punishment. Then, no one thought of changing or reforming the convicted prisoners to be good to the larger society on release.

However, aims of modern prison system in the civilized countries of the world have been modified to include the protection of society, deterrence, retribution, reformation and rehabilitation of the convicted prison inmates. Since Nigeria was a signatory to the UN Charter, the objectives of the Nigerian Prisons Service were not different from those adopted by the civilized world. The prison plays the role of safe custody of the inmates. Since reformation and rehabilitation are very important and form the dominant aspects of the aim

and objectives of the Nigerian Prisons Service, the service is helping to create a safe Nigerian society environment that is free of crimes and violence.

Administration has come to be clearly recognised in every aspect of human endeavour as the cornerstone of the existence and success of any organisation. 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, 2009; 2010; Oladimeji, 2016; Oluwasemire, 2017) for years.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Prison inmates are members of the larger society whose freedom has been curtailed for a specified period as punishment for the committed offence. Apart from serving as a remand home and custody for the convicted people, prison doubles as a reformatory and rehabilitative centre. Prison inmates are the product of the Nigeria Police who apprehends offenders and the courts who pronounced verdicts. These become a source of administrative burden which the prison authority has to cope with. However, aims of modern prisons system have been modified to ensure safe custody, reformation and rehabilitation of the convict. But the existing literatures indicate 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. This study attempts to investigate the existing welfare administration of Nigerian prisons inmates in Southwestern Nigeria with the view of determining the causes of administrative challenges which hinders inmates welfare programme implementation.

### **Research Questions**

What are the factors that hinder the efficient performance of the prison officials?

### **Objectives of the Study**

Broad objective of the study is to assess the challenges of inmates' welfare administration in Nigerian Prisons Service in Southwestern Nigeria. Specific objectives of the study is to (i) identify the challenges facing welfare administrators of inmates in the study area.

### **Hypotheses of the Study**

This hypothesis has been tested in the study

H<sub>0</sub>: The challenges facing prison administration in Nigeria negatively affect reformation programme of the prisoners.

## **Review of Literature**

### **1. The Prison as a Corrective Institution**

The prison has been described both as a place where offenders are kept as punishment for crime committed... as well as served as a place where indicted offenders are kept for crime committed as well as a place where awaiting trials inmates are kept (Opara, 1998). Being kept in prison is to serve as reformation and not for punishment. Confinement entails deprivation that is not limited to movement and privacy but as well as uninterrupted control of personal belongings, sexual relationship and host of other life pleasure, constitute sufficient punishment for the offender.

Nigeria Prison Act Cap 366 laws of the Federation 1990, Section 2(i) and section 2(i) of Nigeria Prison Decree no. 9 of 1972, state that:

- i. The Federal Minister of Internal Affairs may through the order in the federal gazette declare any building or place in Nigeria as a prison yard and through subsequent order specify the area for which the prison is established.
- ii. As declared by the Federal Minister by order in the federal gazette, every prison shall include the grounds and buildings within the prison enclosure and any lock-up house for the temporary detention or custody of prisoners that are newly apprehended or under remand to be part of the prison.

Hence, the Minister of Internal Affairs pronouncement(s) can create a prison in any area within the geopolitical entity called Nigeria. As a result, a prison can be defined as a place where offenders are kept with duly issued warrant or order of arrest which bears the signature of the proper authority. The court affirmed that a person becomes a prisoner from the date of his admission into the prison custody as punishment for the committed offence. Also, It serves as a place of safe custody where culprits are kept while awaiting trial. The Prison Act provided that female prisoner with a child may be admitted together into the prison if the child is at the breast and less than eighteen months old. The Prison Act in Section 19 also

defines a prisoner as a person lawfully committed to prison custody. This implies that if anyone is lawfully committed to prison custody, he or she is a prisoner.

As provided by Regulation 2 which states that: “no person may be admitted into a prison without a warrant of arrest, a warrant or order of detention, or a warrant of conviction or commitment; and the superintendent shall clarify that the prisoner is the person whose name appeared in the warrant or order, that the crime, sentence and date of conviction are recorded therein. This implies that Male and Female awaiting trial (ATM & ATF) are prisoners because they are normally admitted pursuant to issuance of a court order and steps in Regulation 2 of the Prison act that are taken to court before they are taken to prison custody.

The aim of modern prison system as obtained in the civilized countries of the world is protection of society, deterrence, retribution, reformation and rehabilitation of the convicted prisoners. The aim and objectives of the Nigerian Prisons Service are not quite different from the above. The service plays the role of safe custody of prison inmates to ensure recovery of those who serve the cause of disorder. Reformation and rehabilitation programmes are very important and indeed form/constitute dominant aspect of the aim and objectives of the Nigerian Prison Service. Through these statutory roles, the service is helping to create a safe environment and Nigerian society that is crimes and violence free. The Nigerian Prisons Service is a sensitive stakeholder in the administration of criminal justice system.

## **2. The Concept of Retribution, Vengeance and Retaliation**

The incarceration philosophy that is founded on the “eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth” which emphasizes that if one person harms another, then an equivalent harm should be done as a reward. The aim here is to prevent vigilantism, gang or clan warfare and other actions by those who have an unsatisfied need to “get even” for a crime against them, their family, or their group. It is difficult to determine how to equate different types of “harm”. A literal case is where a murderer is punished with the death penalty, the argument being “justice demands a life for a life”.

## **3. Prison Service Reform: The Global Context**

The international Covenant on Civil and Political Right (ICCPR) remains the core international treaty on the protection of the right of prisoners. India and many other countries of the world that ratified the covenant in 1979 and are bound to incorporate its provisions into

domestic law and state practice. The International Covenant and Economic, Social and Cultural Right (ICESR) recognize that prisoners have right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. Aside from civil and political right, the second generation economic and social human rights as laid down in the ICESR are equally applicable to the prisoners (Suresh et. al, 2011).

The earlier United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (1955), consists of five parts and ninety-five rules in which part one provides rules for general applications. It declares that there shall be no discrimination either on basis of colour, race, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or on social origin, property, birth or other status. Also, there is a need for respecting the religious belief and moral precepts of the group to which a prisoner belongs. It proposes that men and women be detained in separate prisons. The under-trial prisoners are to be kept separately from convicted prisoners and advocated total separation of the prisoners detained under civil law and criminal offences. The UN Standard Minimum Rule also made it compulsory to provide separate residence for young and child prisoners separated from the adult prisoners. Subsequent UN directives have been the Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners (United Nations, 1990) and the Body of Principles for the safety and Protection of All Persons under any form of incarceration or imprisonment (United Nations, 1998)

The standard minimum rules stated that prisoner shall be punished after been duly informed of the prison offences allegedly committed and given the opportunity of self defence. It recommends that dehumanizing punishment, by placing in a dark cell and „cruel, inhuman or degrading punishments, shall be completely out-law as a form of punishment and disciplinary action in jails“.

Prison service reform is a global phenomenon that is not restricted to the Nigerian Prison Service alone. The reform has been introduced in the prison services of most countries of the world for the purpose of improving their levels of efficiency, performance and effectiveness. Most of the prison service reforms that have taken place in Africa were part of the global phenomenon that has touched all parts of the world including all countries without exception. Steel (2005) posit that if each prison can be operated as a problem solving within a restorative and therapeutic justice environment, then we may just be on the road to successful rehabilitation of the inmates. It was a popular belief in most countries of the world that the

increase use of prison provides a safer community. On the contrary is the studies relating to a prison inability to combat criminal behaviours which instead provide a brutalizing environment in which to learn more about crime (Coyle, 2004). Despite these facts, the increases in the rates of imprisonment continually rise as the penal system moves unhindered over nation states. Instead of imprisonment being the last option of sanction, they are often the default position for criminal justice systems with zero tolerance and mandatory incarceration laws.

Presently, the effectiveness of imprisonment to curtail crime and rehabilitate prisoners remains doubtful, with the rising costs, in social and economic terms remains unquestionable. As Hall, Goulding and Steel (2009) posit that, “Prisons by their nature, their hierarchical organization and their architecture, are the embodiment of secrecy, invisibility, isolation and lack of accountability”. Accordingly, Goulding (2007) assert that these factors encourage brutality, coercion and violence among prisoners and prison staff. The consequences of this are the inability to guide and transform prisoners into pro-social and productive citizens living valued lives upon release.

Prisons are renowned not only for destroying law abiding and pro-social networks of prisoners but as well as removing citizenship opportunities. As a result, they are known for replacing any valued social roles found within families and communities with marginalized social stigma that remain permanent with the prisoner on release. This is because the prisoner’s previous roles may have been displaced and the social stigma associated with prison becomes permanent feature of rejection. Prisons, in comparison with many other institutions such as schools, hospitals etc., often fail to embrace international calls to submit to acceptable standard for human rights and the principles surrounding rehabilitation and normalization. Overcrowding and warehousing have become the vogue across many countries of the world. Hence, the time for prison reform is long overdue, a fact recognized by a few Nation States including Britain and Belgium who have begun to look at ways in which prisons may perform some of the obligations as desired by the community.

It was Barrows who advocated improved prison structures and method as well as assisting in the Federal Parole law programme implementation and promoted civil service for prison employees, having travelled around in 1907, to bring back detailed operational plans of thirty six of the best prisons located in 14 different countries. However, it was President Obasanjo

an ex-inmate, who after 40 years of Nigeria Independence introduced prison reforms programs in June 2001, with a proposition to view the prisons laws, train prison's personnel, rehabilitate inmates and review the prison system with a view to harmonize and make prison programme effective. Accordingly, several committees and working groups on prison reforms who are saddled with different mandates and terms of reference from 2000-2007 were put in place (Obiora, 2011). The agenda set for the most of the committees were made to focus on either one of the following pressing decadence area, welfare of inmates, congestion, overcrowding of physical infrastructure facilities, logistics, and skill development (Obiora, 2011). Also, Amnesty International (2008) highlighted several committees and working groups on prison reforms that have been put in place since the year 2000 as including the following:

- The National Working Group on Prison Reform and Decongestion who reviewed 144 prisons and revealed in its 2005 report that the population of Nigerian prisons over the previous 10 years had totalled between 40,000 and 45,000 inmates, most of them concentrated in the state capitals of which 65% were awaiting trials.
- The Inter-Ministerial summit on the state of remand inmates in Nigeria's prisons was established in 2005 to review the report of the previous Working Group on Prison Reform. It recommended that the Federal Government should respond to the problem of inmates awaiting trial, pay more attention to rehabilitation and address the issue of the large number of inmates awaiting trial due to the shortage of defence counsel.
- In 2006, the Presidential Committee on Prison Reform and Rehabilitation was established. This committee recommended improving the conditions of service of prison and police officials; and addressing the issues of prison congestion and the large number of prisoners awaiting trial. The recommendations which President Obasanjo promised to implement.
- The Presidential commission on the reform of the administration of justice (PCRAJ), established on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2006 to review the administration of justice in Nigeria and propose sustainable reforms, expressed concern that imprisonment was being overused, including the cases of the non-violent persons suspected of minor offences.
- The committee on the Harmonization of Reports of Presidential Committees Working on Justice Sector Reform reiterated in April 2007 the recommendations of the PCRAJ.

Despite the Federal Government willingness to reform the criminal justice system, these recommendations are yet to be implemented (Amnesty International, 2008).

#### **4. Easton Theory in Brief**

This research study was anchored on Easton's system theory (1967) which was a product of General system theory but based on the assumption that a system is characterised by the interactions of its components and the nonlinearity of those interactions. Also, it recognises that a system could be fragmented into subsystems in such a way that each unit could be analysed as an independent entity, but the component parts could be sum together to describe the totality of the system. Thus system laid emphasis on relationships and not on individuals.

The administration of criminal justice could be likened to a system which consists of the Nigerian Prisons Service, Nigerian Courts System and Nigerian Police and other security agents as sub system. According to system theory, each subsystem could be analysed as an "independent entity" while the sub system could as well be added together to describe the "totality of the system". In which case, Nigerian Police Service, the Courts System and the Nigeria Prisons Service can be treated independently for analysis.

#### **Methodology**

This study employed the use of both primary and secondary data. Primary data were obtained through the administration of a set of questionnaire and in-depth interview. The set of questionnaire was administered to prison staff to elicit information on both internal and external challenges confronting the administrators. For the purpose of questionnaire administration random sampling technique was used to select 63 prison staff respondents which constituted 10% of the total population (630) of the purposively selected prisons (Ibadan, Akure and Abeokuta) in Southwestern Nigeria. This was followed by in-depth interview which was held with five (6) 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 through the use of the questionnaire and interview from the staff of Nigeria Prisons Service are analysed using descriptive statistics such as percentages, tables and frequency distribution as well as inferential statistics such as chi square test.

#### **4. Results**

**Table 1. Percentage Distribution of Staff Respondents on Legal Matters**

s/n	Options	Frequency	Percentage
<b>a</b>	<b>Long Trial</b>		
	Strongly agreed	40	66.7
	Agreed	11	18.3
	Indifferent	3	5.0
	Disagreed	6	10.0
	Strongly disagreed	-	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>b</b>	<b>Political/Economical changes</b>		
	Strongly agreed	23	38.3
	Agreed	28	46.7
	Indifferent	3	5
	Disagreed	6	10
	Strongly disagreed	-	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>c</b>	<b>Adequate Logistics on ground</b>		
	Strongly agreed	14	23.3
	Agreed	23	38.3
	Indifferent	5	8.3
	Disagreed	17	28.3
	Strongly disagreed	1	1.7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>d</b>	<b>Transfer of prosecuting police officer</b>		
	Strongly agreed	4	6.7
	Agreed	10	16.7
	Indifferent	4	6.7
	Disagreed	23	38.3
	Strongly disagreed	19	31.6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>e</b>	<b>Ability of inmates to pay and secure a lawyer</b>		
	Strongly agreed	8	13.3
	Agreed	15	25.0
	Indifferent	12	20.0
	Disagreed	21	35.0
	Strongly disagreed	4	6.7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>f</b>	<b>Long court adjournment and long trial</b>		
	Strongly agreed	21	35.0
	Agreed	25	41.7
	Indifferent	2	3.3
	Disagreed	7	11.7
	Strongly disagreed	5	8.3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey, January, 2018

Table 1 shows the percentage distribution of staff respondents on long trial of inmates which promote overcrowding. It could be seen from the table above that majority of the respondents strongly agreed that long trial of inmates promote overcrowding, agreed 11(18.3%), disagreed 6(10.0%) while 3(5.0%) reported indifferent. This means that majority 40(66.7%) of staff strongly agreed that long trial of inmates promotes overcrowding.

Table 1 presents the percentage distribution of respondents according to changes brought about by political and economic environment and breakdown of societal values associated with crime, promote overcrowding in the prison, 28(46.7%) reportedly agreed, strongly agreed 23(38.3%) and 6(10.0%) disagreed while 3(5.0%) were indifferent.

Table 1 presents the percentage distribution of staff respondents on adequate logistics. 23(38.3%) of the respondents reported agreed, 17(28.3%) respondents disagreed 14(23.3%) of the respondents strongly agreed, 5(8.3%) respondents were indifferent while 1(1.7%) respondent strongly disagreed. It could be concluded that there were enough and adequate logistic on ground to sustain their operations.

Table 1 describes the percentage distribution of staff respondents on routine transfer of prosecuting police officer as it affects trial. 23(38.3%) of the respondents disagreed, which means that the routine transfer of prosecuting police do delay trial; 19(31.6%) of the respondents strongly disagreed, 10(16.7%) respondents agreed while strongly agreed and indifferent claimed the same 4(6.7%) respondents respectively. This indicates that majority of the staff respondents agreed that transfer of prosecuting police officer affect and delay trial.

Table 1 shows the percentage distribution of staff respondents on the ability of inmates to pay and secure lawyers 21(35.0%) respondents disagreed, 15(25.0%) of the respondents agreed, 12(20.0%) respondents were indifferent, and 8(13.3%) strongly agreed while 4(6.7%) reported strongly disagreed. This shows that majority of the staff respondents were of the opinion that prisoners have ability to pay and secure lawyers.

Table 1 presents the percentage distribution of staff respondents on long court adjournment and long trials. 21(35.0%) respondents strongly agreed and 25(41.7%) of the

respondents agreed, 7(11.7%) respondents disagreed and 5(8.3%) respondents strongly agreed while 2(3.3%) respondents were indifferent. Justice delayed is justice denied. The long court adjournment and trial promote overcrowding which could lead to miscarriage of justice.

**Table 2 Percentage Distribution of Staff Respondents on Prison Staff Matters**

s/no	Options	Frequency	Percentage (%)
<b>a</b>	<b>Centralization of resources</b>		
	Strongly agreed	20	33.3
	Agreed	20	33.3
	Indifferent	6	10.0
	Disagreed	8	13.3
	Strongly disagreed	6	10.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>b</b>	<b>Non-commitment by the government</b>		
	Strongly agreed	23	38.3
	Agreed	16	26.7
	Indifferent	8	13.3
	Disagreed	7	11.7
	Strongly disagreed	6	10.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>c</b>	<b>Inadequate and obsolete infrastructure</b>		
	Strongly agreed	20	33.3
	Agreed	16	26.7
	Indifferent	<b>5</b>	<b>8.3</b>
	Disagreed	16	26.7
	Strongly disagreed	3	5.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>d</b>	<b>There is inadequate professional in various field</b>		
	Strongly agreed	4	6.7
	Agreed	23	38.3
	Indifferent	4	6.7
	Disagreed	17	28.3
	Strongly disagreed	12	20.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>e</b>	<b>Command system of communication in the prison</b>		
	Strongly agreed	29	48.3
	Agreed	21	35.0
	Indifferent	1	1.7
	Disagreed	5	8.3
	Strongly disagreed	4	6.7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey, January, 2018

Table 2 presents the percentage distribution of staff respondents on the centralization of resources allocation hinders the efficiency. Majority of 20(33.3%) of the respondents agreed and strongly agreed respectively that centralization of resources hinders efficiency. Also 6(10.0%) respondents were indifferent and strongly disagreed, while 8(13.3%) respondents supported the idea that centralization of resources allocation did not hinder the efficiency.

Table 2 shows the percentage distribution of staff respondents on the non-commitment by the Government as prison does not generate revenue. While 16(26.7%) and 23(38.3%) agreed and strongly agreed that the government was not committed. And also, 8(13.3%) of the respondents claimed to be indifferent and disagreed while 7(11.7%) reported strongly disagreed. This shows that majority of respondents were in support that the government is not committed to prison welfare and development as it does not generate revenue.

Table 2 shows the percentage distribution of staff respondents on the inadequate and obsolete infrastructure in the Nigerian prisons. 16(26.7%) respondents agreed and 20(33.3%)

respondents strongly agreed that Nigerian prisons service is faced with inadequate and obsolete infrastructure; 16(26.7%) respondents disagreed and 3(5.0%) strongly disagreed that there were no cases of inadequate and obsolete infrastructure in prisons. As well, 5(8.3%) remained indifferent.

Table 2 presents the percentage distribution of staff respondents on the inadequacy of professional in various field in which 23(38.3%) respondents agreed, and 17(28.3%) respondents disagreed; also 12(20.0%) of the respondents strongly disagreed while strongly agreed and indifferent claimed 4(6.7%) respondents respectively. This means that government should employ various professionals in various fields to strengthen existing staff strength in particular in the area of reformation, rehabilitation and general welfare that require specialists.

Table 2 shows the percentage distribution of staff respondents on command system of communication in the prison. 29(48.3%) of the respondents strongly agreed that there is

command system of communication in the prison system. 21(35.0%) respondents agreed 5(8.3%) of the respondents disagreed and 4(6.7%) respondents strongly disagreed while only 1(1.7%) respondent were indifferent. This indicates that majority of staff respondents agreed that prison authority employed command system of communication in all their transactions. Committee system could be employed along with command system to allow for innovations.

#### 4.1 Testing of Hypothesis

$H_0$  : The challenges facing prison administrator in Nigeria negatively affect reformation programme of the prisoners.

The variables used to test this hypothesis are “centralization of resource allocation hinders efficiency; inadequate and obsolete equipment in the prison; as well as there is inadequate professional in various fields respectively as indicated in Table 2 respectively using Chi Square inferential statistic.

**Table 3 Testing of Hypothesis**

Observed (o) Value	Expected (e) Value	$ o - e $	$(o - e)^2$	$(o - e)^2 / e$
25.0	27	2.0	4.0	0.148
33.3	35	1.7	2.89	0.0825
8.3	10	1.7	2.89	0.289
21.7	20	1.7	2.89	0.14
11.7	8	3.7	13.69	1.7113

Source: Field Survey, September, 2017.

Using chi-square test to test the Hypothesis

Chi-Square ( $\chi^2$ ) calculated is given as

$$\sum \left[ \frac{(o_i - e_i)^2}{e_i} \right]$$

Note:  $o_i$  is the observed frequency and  $e_i$  is the expected frequency

$$\chi^2_c = 2.371$$

$$\chi^2_\tau = 3.841$$

$\chi^2_\tau$  at 5% significance level (0.05) with degree of freedom (1) = 3.841 which implied that

$$\chi^2_c < \chi^2_\tau$$

Then the Null hypothesis  $H_0$  which stated that the challenges facing prison administrator in Nigeria negatively affect reformation programme of the prisoners is accepted.

### **Interpretation of Result**

Since the value of chi square (i.e. 2.371) calculated for hypothesis above is lesser than the value of chi square tabulated (i.e. 3.841), the Null hypothesis which state that the challenges facing prison administrator in Nigeria negatively affect reformation programme of the prisoners is accepted. The consequence of this hypothesis is that the prison authorities are confronted with inadequate financial and material resources which could have been used to

improve the decayed infrastructures and employed various professional needed for proper implementation of inmates" reformation.

### **Findings through the in-depth interview**

The interview sessions held with the prison officials revealed that the institution was faced with challenges which include both improper funding of the inmates" programmes, inadequate professionals, obsolete equipment, dilapidated buildings, low level of motivation resulting from merger of resource and promotion of staff (The Nigerian Prisons Service is administered by the Custom, Immigration and Prisons Services Board (hereinafter) referred to as the (C.I.P.B). Other challenges are those encountered through the activities of Nigeria Police, long court adjournment, and inability of the inmates to secure lawyer or pay fines.

### **Discussion of Findings**

On turbulent political and economic environment as well as long trial of inmates, the majority of the staff 51(85.0%) either agreed or strongly agreed that breakdown of societal values and harsh economic environment as well as long trial of inmates respectively promote overcrowding in the prison. This opinion was as expressed by Coyle (2001) that high rates of imprisonment are frequently an indicator of the breakdown of society"s sense of community values.

Also, 37(61.6%) of staff respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that there were enough and adequate logistic on ground to sustain their operations. However, majority (69.9%) of the

staff opined that transfer of the prosecuting police officer as well as inability of the inmates (38.3%) to secure and pay their lawyer stall trial; as well as long court adjournment as declared by 46(76.7%) staff respondents promote long and compound the prison congestion.

The sudden increase in the prison inmates population (51.6%) becomes a challenge to the prison authority as majority (88.4%) attributed the ability to feed the inmates every day to adequate funding that are not always obtainable. Despite efforts at ensuring proper feeding, hitches from the food suppliers (61.6%) might results in food rationing or poor quality of food (73.3%) as confirmed by the interview.

On rehabilitation, majority (80.0%) either agreed or strongly agreed on enlightenment programmes to educate the society to change their negative mind-set about prisoners on release. For the programme to be meaningful the respondents (73.3%) subscribed that released inmates that have acquired one vocational skill or the other should be aided with financial support to establish the trade under supervision. Equally, 88.3% either agreed or strongly agreed that after care services which are not on ground must be provided to monitor the activities of the released prisoners to ensure compliance, commitment and desired adjustment to the society. This was as emphasized by Mace (2002) that the released prisoners who would have lost necessary links with the community might be faced with the challenge of resuming a law abiding life outside prison walls hence recidivism prevails.

On prison staff administrative matters 40(66.6%) either agreed or strongly agreed that centralization of resources (of Immigration Services, Custom Services and Prison Services) allocation hinders efficiency. The interview corroborated this when it stresses that the last promotion exercise was done ten years ago. The staff respondents 50(83.3%) consented that the authority employed the command system of communication as a Para-military organization.

Meanwhile, the philosophy of punishment and deterrence couple with non-revenue generation by the prison made 65% respondents emphasized why the government was not committed to the welfare and development of the prison. The non-commitment by the government was responsible for decades of inadequate and obsolete infrastructure as pointed

out by 36(60%) staff respondents. Similarly, shortages of staff in all departments, as well as inadequate professionals in various fields as highlighted by staff respondents.

Since the value of chi square (i.e. 2.371) calculated for the hypothesis is lesser than the value of chi square tabulated (i.e. 3.841), the Null hypothesis which stated that the challenges facing prison administrator in Nigeria negatively affect reformation programme of the prisoners is accepted. The consequence of this hypothesis is that the prison authorities are confronted with inadequate financial and material resources which could have been used to improve the decayed infrastructures and employed various professionals needed for proper implementation of inmates' reformation.

Other challenges facing administrators which include improper rehabilitation, poor health services, poor living conditions, inadequate funding, lack of vocational training, inaccessibility to legal representation and poor working condition of prison staff affect reformation programme.

### **Recommendations**

After a thorough study of the findings of this study, the following recommendations are directed to the stakeholders, in particular the government, the police, the judiciary and prison authority.

The government of the federation must have political will to embrace restorative justice system as against the criminal justice system to improve the conditions of persons deprived of their liberty. This will manifest in the development of government policies and engagement of donors in promoting the welfare of prisoner.

- The government must increase the budgetary allocation to prisons in order to improve and modernize the prison infrastructures and ensure that basic necessities of life are provided for the prisoners.
- The merging of Nigeria Prison Service, Custom Services, and Nigerian Immigration Service together for resource allocation and promotion exercise is counterproductive and should be dispensed with without any further delay.
- Overcrowding is the by-product of court system and police inefficiency, government should establish more courts and implement prerogative of mercy,

amnesty, parole and alternative to sentences such as community service should be encouraged. This will decongest the prisons.

- Government should establish legal aid council in all states of the federation, nearer to the prison, which should be ready to take up legal representation of prisoners who could not afford to engage the services of a lawyer.
- The criminal investigation department of Nigeria police should be exposed to more training and retraining that will improve their efficiency in crime investigation within the shortest time frame.
- Proper transfer of case file must be done in the process of transferring police officer to another station.
- There should be a review of criminal justice procedure act such that litigation and trial will not last more than three months.
- The prerogative of mercy should be exercise with caution at regular interfere to implement parole and release of the first offenders to ease prison congestion.
- Prison authorities, the police and the judiciary and other stakeholders should meet regularly to appraise and discuss ways of enhancing the welfare of the prison inmates.
- Prison staff should be adequately trained, retrained, remunerated and motivated to enable them perform efficiently.

## **CONCLUSION**

The effective implementation of any programme requires a conducive enabling environment which is absent in the case of Nigerian Prisons Service who carries the burden of criminal justice administration. The decayed infrastructure, prison congestion brought about by the police and the courts as well as unmotivated staff are responsible for inmate's programmes ineffectiveness. Thus the study concluded that administration of inmates' welfare by Nigerian Prisons Service in Southwestern Nigeria was ineffective and inefficient.

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