

COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATIONS INFLUENCE ON RECIDIVISM BEHAVIOURAL REFORMATION AND HYGIENE AMONG EX-INMATES OF CORRECTIONAL CENTRES IN OYO AND ONDO STATES, NIGERIA

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Abstract: The living condition and patterns of lives of ex-inmates are issues within the practice of criminal justice in Nigeria, thus, necessitated the study. Descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. The population of the study comprised, ex-inmates of correctional centres in Oyo and Ondo States, Nigeria. The sample size of the study was One hundred and twenty (120) respondents, selected, through a snowballing sampling technique. Research instrument used were both quantitative and qualitative instrument. A self-developed quantitative instrument titled, "Ranking Scale on Community Based Organizations Influence on Recidivism, Character Reformation and Hygiene among Ex-inmates of Correctional Centres, Oyo and Ondo States, Nigeria". It was fashioned on four Likert rating scale; Strongly Agreed (SA); Agreed (A); Disagreed (D) and Strongly Disagreed (SD). Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) was used to generate qualitative data. The research instruments were validated by two experts in test and measurement, while the reliability at the quantitative research instrument was done through test-retest method, 0.70 coefficient reliability was obtained. The research hypotheses were analysed, using, inferential statistics (Spearman ranking correlation analysis), while qualitative data was transcribed qualitatively. Based on the findings of the study, conclusions were made that, community based organizations positively impacted on recidivism, behavioural reformation and hygiene of ex-inmates of Oyo and Ondo States, Nigeria. Based on the conclusions, recommendations were made that, CBOs should be more alived and attuned to their counselling service for inmates of correctional centres. Also, CBOs should follow up the behaviours of ex-inmates to guide against recidivism among ex-inmates of correctional centres in Oyo and Ondo States, Nigeria.

Keywords: Behavioural reformation, Correctional centres, Ex-inmates, Hygiene, Recidivism.

1. INTRODUCTION

Background to the Study

Crime and criminality in human society are primordial issues. Globally, Nigeria is not in exception, correctional services are based on the philosophy of administering penal service to any person whose action negates the extant law of the land and found guilty in a law court. Correctional centres can be equated or likened to jail, prison or places for incarcerating

the offenders. It is a place where prisoners are kept. Prisoner is any individual confirmed or detained in a penal institution. In criminal justice, the philosophy behind correctional centres or services is rehabilitation that is, rehabilitation of offenders or prisoners back into the community. Correctional services entails series of activities carried out on the prisoners, typically by government which involve punishment, treatment and supervision of persons, convicted of crimes (Stohr, Walsh and Hemmens, 2008).

According to Kifer, Hemmens and Stohr (2003), the four goals of correctional services or centres are; retribution, difference, incapacitation and rehabilitation. Prison is an important and a component or an integral part of the criminal justice system in all the nations. It plays an important function in adherence to the rule of law, thus, assisting that alleged offenders are brought to justice and providing a sector for a serious wrong-doing.

Nigeria is a nation where crimes and criminality are at a high rate. Despite the correctional services or centres that scattered all over the country, the country is still witnessing an increase in cases of crime and criminality (Out, 2015).

However, the condition of living among the inmates in Nigerian correctional centres is very appraising. Rather, than the prison climate to promote recidivism and rehabilitate the prisoners it hardens them more, thus, partly, negates the philosophy of correctional services (differrence and rehabilitation). Most, correctional centres in Nigeria are death traps and centres. They lack a proper management, hygiene or cleanliness, coupled with facilities expected to be in prison.

Okakwu (2019), reported that Kaduna prison is filthy. Akinpelu (2021) reported that the interior minister said at a public event that the figure of inmates in Nigeria prisons was about 3,008. Death-row inmates pile up in Nigeria's prisons, making correctional centres, congested. Further, Akinpelumi (2021), stated that even though the death sentence is legal in Nigeria, executions are vanity in the country. Still judges continuing to pronounce the death penalty for offences like; treason, kidnapping, murder, armed robbery and involvement with militia groups. Nigeria has been put at the top or a nation that has a record of death-row population in sub-saharan Africa Rights Group Amnesty International. According to Obioha (2011),

The man aim at establishing the prison institution in all parts of the world including Nigeria is to provide a rehabilitation and correctional facility for those who have violated the rules and regulations of the society. However, the extent to which maxim is true in practice has been a subject of controversy. A casual observation of the population that goes in and out of prisons in Nigeria presupposes that there are some problems in the system, hence the prisons system has not been able to live up to its expected role in Nigeria.

Obioha (1995), noted that instances abound where correctional centres have become a training grounds for criminals instead of rehabilitation times. This means the philosophy of correctional service provision have been defeated and that there are problems within the system. Nigerian correctional centres or prisons have not lived up to expectations in terms of impacting on moral values, standard of living, most importantly, engendering vocational skills and entrepreneurial values among the inmates.

Most crimes committed by the people can be traced to poverty, ignorance, wickedness and lack of moral values. All these acts ought to be deferred at correctional centres. However, the opposite is the case. The principle of recidivism, rehabilitation and inculcation of vocational skills and priming the mindset is be responsible members of the society have been lost. Hence, in Nigeria context, correctional centres, rather than achieving these values become institutions for training and re-training of criminals.

Several studies have been conducted on correctional centres inmates in Nigeria on issues on them. From the extant literature much have not been done on community based organizations activities on correctional centres inmates. The few available as observed have been self- reported by the researchers thus there is little or non on empirical studies. The observed gap serves as motivational factor, thus, necessitated this present study.

Statement of the Problem

The establishment of correctional centres globally among other reasons are to reduce recidivism, rehabilitation, inculcation of moral values and engender spirit, culture and values of vocational skills and entrepreneurship among the inmates. However, Nigerian experience is not the case. Prisons become centres where criminals are more strengthened, death traps and inmates are languishing and suffering with series of health challenges, coupled with moral degeneration.

All these allied issues have been attributed to government failure to stick to the practice of correctional services. It is against this backdrop the study was carried out on community based organizations influence on recidivism, character reformation and moral rectitude among inmates of correctional centres, Oyo and Ondo States, Nigeria.

Research Hypotheses

Ho₁: There is no significant relationship between community based organizations counselling service and crime reduction and criminality reduction among inmates of correctional centres, Oyo and Ondo States, Nigeria.

Ho₂: There is no significant relationship between community based organizations moral teaching and behavioural reformation among inmates of correctional centres, Oyo and Ondo States, Nigeria.

Ho₃: There is no significant relationship between community based organizations medical provision and hygiene among inmates of correctional centres, Oyo and Ondo States, Nigeria.

Purpose of the Study

The general purpose of the study was on community based organizations influence on recidivism, character reformation and moral rectitude among inmates of correctional centres, Oyo and Ondo States, Nigeria. The specific purposes were to:

1. examine the influence of community based organizations on priming the mindsets of correctional centres inmates towards attitudinal changes to crime and criminality.
2. determine the influence of community based organizations on cleanliness (hygiene) among the inmates of correctional centres in Oyo and Ondo States, Nigeria; and
3. establish whether there is a positive intervention of community based organizations crime rate reduction among the inmates of Oyo and Ondo States, Nigeria and so on.

Significance of the Study

The findings of the study will be significant to stakeholders of correctional services in Nigeria in the following ways;

Firstly, the result of the study will help to assess the effect of their intervention on deferent of crime and criminality to community based organizations in Nigeria.

Besides, the finding of the study will enable the public to assess the effect of intervention of community based organizations on behaviour modification and rectitudeness among inmates of correctional centres in Nigeria.

Also, the result of the research will help community based organization to appraise their interventional programmes on hygiene of the inmates of correctional centres in Nigeria.

Lastly, the study will add to extant literature within the area of the research, thus, serves as a good source of reference material to researchers in future. The study will be made accessible by the public through Open Educational Resources (OER).

Theoretical Framework

Structural – Functionalism Theoretical Approach

The theory is attributed to political scientist, Gabriel Almond and Bingham Powell in the 1970s who introduced the theory to compare political systems. They argued and took a position that in order to understand a political systems, it is necessary to understand not only its institutions (or structures) but also their respective functions. Structural functionalism or, simply put functionalism is a framework for building through theory that sees society as a complex systems whose parts work together to promote solidarity and stability (Barnard, 2000). Structural functionalism is a school of thought that is, institutions, relationships roles and norms which are components that constitute the society serves a purpose, and each is indispensable for the continued existence of the others and of a society as a whole. Structural – functionalism emphasized the formal ordering of parts and their functional and there functional interrelations as contributing to the maintenance as contribution needs of a structured social system (Vincent, 2015).

Hallin (2015), maintained that structural functionalism holds that human societies tend to evolve toward increased differentiation, in which institutions become increasingly specialized in the functions they perform. Structural - functionalism places a large emphasis on the structures of the society happiness are interactions and working together to

bring happiness to the community. This however, brings out the relevance of structural – functionalism to the study is that community based organization in inmates of correctional services centre focused partly on deferent of recidivism i/e. returning into previous criminal behaviours. As stated in many literature, CBO programme re-orientation of criminal counselling and teaching moral concepts and values which have positive impact on people, especially those in prison,. Thus, fostering social stability and peaceful living in the society.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Recidivism Nigeria

Recidivism is one of the most fundamental concepts in criminal justice that has many definitions. It simply refers to a person relapse into criminal behaviours often after the person receives sanctions or undergoes intervention for a previous crime. Today, the high level of recidivism is very high in Nigerian prison. The Nigerian prison system is witnessing an enormous increase in people relapsing into crime and criminality, recidivists (Ofu, 2015). Committing a new criminal offense after previous offences, recidivism occurrence or prevalence is not limited to a particular region, race or group. It is a global trend or phenomenon.

Ofu (2015), stated that criminal recidivism is caused by many factors: discrimination and stigmatization, lack of aftercare services or reintegration support program, familial, structural, substance abuse, peer influence among other factors. Crime is a serious aspect of occurrence that causes series of problems in the society.

3. METHODOLOGY

Descriptive survey research design was used for the study. The population of the study comprises the ex-inmates of correctional centres in Oyo and Ondo States, Nigeria. The sample size was one hundred and twenty (120) respondents, selected through a snowballing sampling technique.

Data was collected, using both quantitatively and qualitatively. A self-developed questionnaire instrument titled, “Rating scale on community based organizations influence on recidivism, character reformation, and hygiene among ex-inmates of correctional centres, Oyo and Ondo States, Nigeria”. It was fashioned on four Likert rating scale; Strongly Agreed (SA); Agreed (A); Disagreed (D0 and Strongly Disagreed (SD), used to collect quantitative data. Primary data (qualitative) was collected through the Focus Groups Discussions (FGDs). The research instruments were validated by two experts in test and measurement, while its reliability was determined through test-retest method of two weeks interval. 0.70 coefficient reliability was obtained.

Quantitative data was analysed using inferential statistics (Correlation Coefficient Analysis), while data generated through the FGDs was collated and transcribed, qualitatively.

Presentation of Findings and Discussion of Results

H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between community based organizations counselling service and crime reduction and criminality reduction among inmates of correctional centres, Oyo and Ondo States, Nigeria.

Table 1: Showing Spearman Ranking Correlation Analysis on there is no significant relationship between community based organizations counselling service and crime reduction among inmates of correctional centres, Oyo and Ondo States, Nigeria

S/N	CBO in Oyo and Ondo States, Nigeria	Counselling Service	R _x	Crime and Criminality Reduction	R _y	D = R _x - R _y	D ²
1.	Association for Disabled Women (ADW)	12	3	13	4	-1	1
2.	Downtrodden Peoples Empowerment (DPE)	3	15	3	12	3	9
3.	Sustainable Health Care International (SHCI)	5	13	15	2	11	121
4.	Youth Association (YA)	2	16	11	5	11	121
5.	Community Development Association (CDA)	7	8	9	7	1	1

6.	Religious Based Organization (RBO)	6	9	8	8	1	1
7.	Nigeria Red Cross (NRC)	4	14	7	9	5	25
8.	Ilaje Community Regional Development (ICRD0)	8	7	14	3	4	16
9.	Ikale Central Organization (ICO)	10	5	10	6	-1	1
10.	Okitipupa Divisional Development Association (ODDA)	9	6	6	10	-4	16
11.	Ilaje Council of Chiefs and Elders (ICCE)	1	20	1	19	1	1
12.	Ijaw Youths Council (IYC)	11	4	5	11	-7	49

$$\Sigma d^2=227$$

Variables	N	DF	D ²	p-cal	p-critical	Decision
X	12	10	227	0.86	0.591	*
Y	12					

* = significant at 0.05 alpha level

Since, p-calculated is greater than p-critical. The Null hypothesis is rejected. This implies that there is a significant relationship between community based organizations counselling service and crime reduction among inmates of correctional centres in Oyo and Ondo States, Nigeria.

Ho₂: There is no significant relationship between community based organizations moral teaching and behavioural reformation among inmates of correctional centres, Oyo and Ondo States, Nigeria.

Table 2: Showing Spearman Ranking Correlation Analysis on there is no significant relationship between community based organizations moral teaching and behavioural reformation among inmates of correctional centres, Oyo and Ondo States, Nigeria

S/N	CBO in Oyo and Ondo States, Nigeria	Counselling Service	R _x	Crime and Criminality Reduction	R _y	D = R _x - R _y	D ²
1.	Association for Disabled Women (ADW)	16	4	19	1	3	9
2.	Downtrodden Peoples Empowerment (DPE)	20	1	15	3	-2	4
3.	Sustainable Health Care International (SHCI)	17	3	16	2	1	1
4.	Youth Association (YA)	18	2	14	4	-2	4
5.	Community Development Association (CDA)	10	6	12	5	1	1
6.	Religious Based Organization (RBO)	9	7	8	8	-1	1
7.	Nigeria Red Cross (NRC)	7	9	6	9	0	0
8.	Ilaje Community Regional Development (ICRD0)	8	8	10	6	2	4
9.	Ikale Central Organization (ICO)	6	10	5	10	0	0
10.	Okitipupa Divisional Development Association (ODDA)	12	5	9	7	-2	4
11.	Ilaje Council of Chiefs and Elders (ICCE)	5	11	4	11	0	0
12.	Ijaw Youths Council (IYC)	2	12	2	12	0	0

$$\Sigma d^2=28$$

Variables	N	DF	D ²	p-cal	p-critical	Decision
X	12	10	28	0.98	0.591	*
Y	12					

* = significant at 0.05 alpha level

Since, p -calculated is greater than p -critical. The Null hypothesis is therefore rejected. Thus, indicates that there is a significant relationship between community based organizations moral teaching and behavioural reformation among ex-inmates of correctional centres in Oyo and Ondo States, Nigeria.

Ho₃: There is no significant relationship between community based organizations medical provision and hygiene among inmates of correctional centres, Oyo and Ondo States, Nigeria.

Table 3: Showing Spearman Ranking Correlation Analysis on there is no significant relationship between community based organizations medical provision and hygiene among inmates of correctional centres, Oyo and Ondo States, Nigeria

S/N	CBO in Oyo and Ondo States, Nigeria	Counselling Service	R _x	Crime and Criminality Reduction	R _y	D = R _x - R _y	D ²
1.	Association for Disabled Women (ADW)	20	1	6	9	-8	64
2.	Downtrodden Peoples Empowerment (DPE)	6	10	19	2	8	64
3.	Sustainable Health Care International (SHCI)	4	11	14	3	8	64
4.	Youth Association (YA)	14	3	23	1	2	4
5.	Community Development Association (CDA)	3	12	12	4	8	64
6.	Religious Based Organization (RBO)	9	7	9	6	1	1
7.	Nigeria Red Cross (NRC)	11	5	7	8	-3	9
8.	Ilaje Community Regional Development (ICRD0)	8	8	3	12	-4	16
9.	Ikale Central Organization (ICO)	13	4	20	5	-1	1
10.	Okitipupa Divisional Development Association (ODDA)	7	9	5	10	-1	1
11.	Ilaje Council of Chiefs and Elders (ICCE)	10	6	4	11	-5	25
12.	Ijaw Youths Council (IYC)	15	2	8	7	-5	25

$$\Sigma d^2 = 274$$

Variables	N	DF	D ²	p-cal	p-critical	Decision
X	12	10	274	0.84	0.591	*
Y	12					

* = significant at 0.05 alpha level

Since, p -calculated is greater than p -critical. The Null hypothesis is rejected. This implies that there is a significant relationship between community based organizations medical provision and hygiene among inmates of correctional centres in Oyo and Ondo States, Nigeria.

4. DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

The result on hypothesis one aligns with the submission of Arisukwu and Okunola (2013), that community participation, which community based organizations are integral becomes very necessary, since police lack the manpower and resources to effectively tackle crime and criminality rate in Nigeria. Globally, especially in development nations like Nigeria. However, despite the involvement of the apparatus, on a daily basis, crime and criminality are on a steady increase, means that the CBOs have not fielded the much expected and desire results in crime and criminality management in Nigeria . also a male respondent during the FGDs has this to say

I spent ten good years in prison, my determination to stay off from committing crime is my personal decision and not on the intervention of any government agency or organization.

FGD – A male ex-inmates of correctional centres in Agodi, Ibadan, Oyo State.

Also, the finding on research hypothesis two reveals that community based organizations moral teachings have no significant effects on character reformation of the inmates of correctional centres in Oyo and Ondo State, Nigeria. The result negates the belief of many scholars like Etuk (2008) that community organization, members of the community could engender moral values and shape the behaviours of people towards crime and criminality.

On this, a male respondent maintained that:

Although, a number of groups, do visit prison. Some of them are religious organizations. To some extent, their teaching right from prison have me to change my attitude towards crime. Since, I have been out of prison, I have not committed any crime.

FGD – A male ex-inmates of correctional centre in Okitipupa, Ondo State.

Finally, the findings on research hypotheses three reveals that community based organizations medical provision has positive effect on inmates of correctional centres in Oyo and Ondo States, Nigeria.

The finding is corroborated by the submission of a male respondent who reported that;

During my days in prison, we were suffering from some deadly diseases. Many inmates died, those of us that survived is by the grace of God and intervention of communities based organizations programme on drugs, provision to prison.

FGD – A female ex-inmates of Akure, Ondo State, Nigeria.

Another respondent had this to say:

Medical attention at correctional centre was grossly lacking when I was in prison, except those that we received through some groups, especially the religious organizations. Most of the times, bathing soap, first aid materials were multiplied by them. Let me tell you sir, the bore hole at the conventional centre was donated by one community based organization, which I cant remember its name.

FDG – A male ex-inmates of conventional centre, Osogbo, Oyo State, Nigeria.

5. CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the study, conclusions were made that community based organizations programme have effect positively on the lives of inmates of correctional centres in terms of deferring them from further committing crimes and criminality through counselling service. Also, community based organizations have affected the behaviours of inmates by reforming them to become useful members of the society after completing their jail terms in Oyo and Ondo States, Nigeria.

Finally, community based organizations have positive effects on hygiene of inmates of correctional centres, perhaps through provision of medical and hygiene materials in Oyo and Ondo States, Nigeria.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the conclusions of the study, the following recommendations were made by the researchers;

1. Community based organizations should be more alive or attuned to their counselling programmes on ex-inmates of correctional centres in Nigeria.
2. Community based organizations should extend their programmes to ex-inmates to ensure that they do not relapse in their crime and criminality tendencies.
3. Community based organizations should also involve giving ex-inmates of prison financial supports. This will help them to overcome the challenges of meeting their needs for survival.
4. Community based organizations should encompass entrepreneurial training programmes with services rendering to the inmates of correctional centres in Oyo and Ondo States, Nigeria. This will enable them to acquire entrepreneurial skills and values, thus, become successful entrepreneurs, and so on.

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