

INFLUENCE OF KENYA PRISON REHABILITATION STRATEGIES ON REFORMATION OF INMATES: A CASE STUDY ON KISII MAIN PRISON

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Abstract: Kenya prison rehabilitation strategies are strategies that are used in reforming offenders in prisons. The programs consists of training activities which include vocational training such as carpentry, masonry, tailoring and building that are carried out to reform offenders. The researcher adopted a case study design. It targeted a sample of 150 inmates through snow ball and stratified sampling. Data was collected through administration of questionnaire to the selected respondents. Descriptive statistics such as tabulations, frequencies, percentages were used to summarize, describe, analyze, and present the statistical information of this study. Correlation and regression analysis were used to establish the strength and causality of the study variable relationships especially in meeting the study objectives. Data was analyzed using correlation and regression analysis to determine relationship between the dependent and independent variables. Correlation and regression analysis were used to establish the strength and causality of the study variable relationships especially in meeting the study objectives. The study findings concluded that industry skills training for the inmates contributes greatly towards reformation of inmates and that increasing the education level of inmates does necessarily contribute significantly to reformation of inmates. The study established that spiritual emphasis of the life of inmates significantly contributes to the reformation of inmates

Keywords: Industry Skills, Education Level, Spiritual Programmes, Reformation, Reformation.

1. INTRODUCTION

Prison rehabilitation is the process of instilling knowledge, skills and attitudes for the purpose of reformation, resettling and reintegration of an offender to fit back into the society as a result of a reformed character after discharge from prison. Rehabilitation is one of the core functions of the prison system. To realize this goal, prisoners must receive counseling and guidance along with training in some skill for gainful employment upon leaving prison. The level of rehabilitation achieved in prison determines, to large extent, how well the inmate will adjust in society. Welfare officers are responsible for the provision of counseling and guidance to the inmates (Steutrer and Smith 2003). The chaplaincy within the prison department seeks to rehabilitate prisoners through preaching and teaching the word of God, and offering spiritual counseling and guidance. The process of penal reform was started by the Kenya prison service through round table conference on prison policy in 2001. This was shortly after the infamous King'ong'o deaths when prisoners were allegedly bludgeoned to death by prison officers. There was public outcry over the conditions of prisons especially the treatment of prisoners, with one judge calling prison "death chambers".

Worldwide prisons have adopted prison rehabilitation programmes for correcting and reforming criminal. Each of this programme targets specific group of people with specific needs for reformation and aims at reducing recidivism (Igbo, 2007). Countries like New Zealand, Australia and Britain where rate of recidivism remain low, the offenders are taken through planned and schedule activities (Ippr,2013) which are facilitated by prison officers who are professional in those activities.

Farrington and Nuttall (2001) argues that the largest prisons in the US which are Texas and California have experienced an eight fold increase in number of prisoners in the past three decades. However, funding for these facilities has hardly increased; a situation which has made it difficult to cater for the needs of the prisoners. The US has only about 5% of the world population yet its prisons have more than 25% of the world's prisoners, which shows the magnitude of the problem. The increase in crime in the US over recent years coupled with crime recidivism is largely to blame for the congestion in prisons in the United States. Congestion in these prisons largely defeats their major role which is rehabilitation.

Congestion makes it difficult for prisoners to access individualized attention from counselors or health care professionals who would assist them with their mental and physical needs. Congestion also makes prisoners interact with people from different backgrounds at close proximity and this may make them develop undesirable habits such as physical confrontations, substance abuse or sexual molestation. When such occur, it is difficult for authorities to detect them on time and to take the necessary action to discourage the vice (Mackenzie 2002). Another problem which is inherent in modern US prison environments is social vices and criminal behavior. Many prisoners engage in crimes within prison due to influence from peers or collaboration with unethical prison wardens. These crimes include substance abuse, immoral behavior or violent acts against each other. There are established drug rings inside many prisons and prisoners have access to drugs as long as they can access funds to finance the same. Many prisoners who have drug problems are taken to prison instead of drug rehabilitation facilities and they continue abusing these drugs inside prison. Corruption within prison allows some wardens to assist prisoners in accessing drugs. This defeats the central role of prisons which is rehabilitation. Finally, poor finance of prison systems makes it difficult for prison systems to teach prisoners skills which would be useful to the outside world (Miller 2011)

Omboto (2011) points out that, prisoners commit crimes out of desperation and due to lack of employment, when they are released without these crucial skills they find themselves forced to commit illegal activities to survive and they end up in prison again. These problems inside modern US problems should be addressed if criminal recidivism is to drastically reduce. Correctional services in Canada are actively utilizing the parole system, which is provided for by the Canadian law. Inmates who serve below three years are constantly reviewed for consideration to service their sentence outside prison. While serving their sentence, the character and ability to cope with the community is assessed. Correctional officers make recommendations on those inmates who should be put under parole system. In Uganda the prison department is a semi-Autonomous Government Agency. The government of Uganda has introduced the chain link system. This enhances collaboration between agencies working in the criminal justice system. Through this system, a certain degree of equilibrium has been achieved in which each agency is conscious of the capacities of other players. (Mushanga, 2006).

People perish for lack of knowledge and information. In a country like Kenya, many of her citizenry are illiterates and those who manage to have the basic normal education do not have access to information regarding their day to day activities. The media's provisions are not the best for the neo-literates. Hence, criminal behaviors and delinquency are common occurrences in Kenya. In recent time, armed robbery, kidnapping, drug trafficking, fraud, traffic offence, rape, murder and theft have become more serious to tackle as they have manifested with new methods and techniques (Omisakin, 1998).

The first rehabilitation programme was introduced by pope clement XI in Rome to correct and reform religious offender. Starting from that time different countries introduced rehabilitation strategies in prisons to rehabilitate and reform offenders (Mushanga, 2006) unlike before where incarceration was used for punishment and deterring. The prison now focuses on rehabilitation to reform the character of the inmates and prevent recidivism. Countries vary in the type of rehabilitation strategies they use. Some have special programme geared towards rehabilitating particular criminals and other have a general programmes for all criminals. An example of countries with special programme for particular crime includes Canada, Australia, Britain and Seychelles where rate of re-offending has remained low. Professional officers are used in providing skills to the inmates. In Kenya, the correctional facilities uses a common rehabilitation for all offenders irrespective of the crime committed, The programme used focuses on reforming different types of offenders by equipping them with skills and technologies for self-reliance and income generation after leaving the prison(Tanimu,2010).

In order to solve the problem of prison recidivism in Kenyan prisons, overcrowding and crime in prison should be first tackled through prison expansion, alternative rehabilitation forms and passage of harsh laws which guard against crime in prison. Once this is addressed, prisoners should have access to personnel, facilities and training which will satisfy their needs and impart them with skills in line with the rehabilitation objective. Finally, the society should accept them back through dialogue with families and community leaders who should provide moral and financial support to inmates. The state and correction facility should ensure that such prisoners have access to employment opportunities in line with their skills in order to empower them to be independent. Once these steps are taken, prisoners will have no reason to revert back to crime and the problem of crime recidivism will be solve once and for all. Ministry of justice (2003)

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Various studies have analyzed the relationship of loan lending policies and financial performance of commercial banks in various regions internationally, regionally and locally. Majority of the studies conclude a positive relationship between credit appraisal and financial performance. The studies reviewed have used various variables to analyze the relationship, with different methodologies such as logistical linear regression and Pearson's correlation employed. This section presents the major studies related to this study in order to assess and identify the research gap.

On review of the differential association theory by Minneka (2006) he proposes that through interaction with others, individual learn the values, attitudes, techniques and motives for criminal behavior. This theory focuses on how individual learn to become criminals. They learn how to commit criminal acts, they learn motives, drives, rationalization and attitude, it grows socially for the individual to commit crime. Differential association predicts that an individual will choose the criminal path when the balance of definition for law breaking exceeds those for law abiding. Due to congestion in prison, Some ex-prisoners leave correctional facilities and prisons more hardcore, more intelligent, more courageous and more smart than they came, reason being that inmates share a lot of sensitive information .Imagine a mobile telephone IT expert sharing a cell with a criminal banker, or a convict ex-police sharing a room with convict hacker. Understanding the behavior change can facilitate the adoption of effective correctional methods in prison policy making .This theory is not universally accepted since it emphasizes on individual behavior and it disregard the influence of the environment factors on behavior, it focuses on how individual learn to become criminals but does not concern itself with why they become criminals.

Miller (2011) argues that prison inmates who receive general education and vocational training are significantly less likely to return to prison after release and are more likely to find employment than peers who do not receive such opportunities. To improve employment opportunities on release prisoners are encouraged to participate in educational programmes. Education programme are delivered at the prison by teachers and prison officers. Both primary and secondary education is provided at the prison, Training programmes are structured to ensure prisoners are able to continue their courses as they move through the prison system. Education centres at each prison contain several classroom, a small library and a computer lab. Eligible prisoners may be permitted to have a computer in their cell for study or to assist them with their criminal trials, Davies (2013)

Sutton (2008) observes that there are three main immediate objectives of prison education at the basic level, reflecting differing views of the purpose of a criminal justice system; To keep inmates meaningfully busy, to change attitude and behavior, to enable employment, vocational skills and advance to further education and training. The general assembly of the UN basic principles for the treatment of prisoners was adopted on 14 December, 1990 (Resolution 45/111). One of these principles is that all prisoners should have the right to take part in cultural activities and education aimed at full development of the human personality. It emphasized that the educational level of offenders be considered if education is to be provided and the education must be of the appropriate type. The importance of recreational activities to healthful living, particularly at this present age of technology, is no longer in doubt. In fact, literature is replete with the attributions of recreational activities to the maintenance of good health and longevity (Igbo 2007). This is of particular importance to prison inmates as it will make them meaningfully busy and to help them in their education and vocational training. Correctional education has been linked as a factor in reduction of recidivism and post-release employment.

Steutrer and Smith (2003) surveyed 3170 inmates from Maryland, Minnesota and Ohio prisons in United States of America to compare correctional education participants in three States- Maryland, Minnesota and Ohio on a number of key socio-demographic and outcome variables. Specifically, the study was designed to assess the impact of correctional education on recidivism and post-release employment. A quasi-experimental research design with a release cohort was used for the study.

The study showed that correctional education participants had statistically lower rates of re-arrest, re-conviction, and re-incarceration than non-participants. The effect of correctional education on recidivism varied across states with all the states showing a reduction in recidivism in the analyses. The findings of the study showed strong support for educating prison inmates. According to Davies (2013), in America recidivism remains high nationally with four in ten inmates returning to prison within three years of release. In general, prisoners in America have less education than the general population. In 2004, 36% of individuals in state prisons had less than a high school diploma compared to 19% of the general American population. In addition, ex-offenders frequently lack vocational skills and a steady history of employment. Researchers say the dynamics of prison entry and re-entry to society make it hard for ex-offenders to find work and build employment.

The advancement in technology has aided new complex and sophisticated crimes such as cyber-crimes and terrorism. The service is not well prepared to deal with these trends due to its obsolete technology. For instance, lack of telephone jammers in prisons has seen inmates engage in unauthorized communication and crime using mobile phones. Similarly, communication network in prison is not well developed for secure and quick communication. Surveillance has been largely manual leading to serious security lapses. Prison relies on data to make informed planning for the organization. However, data collection and storage is still done manually making the whole process cumbersome and unreliable. The service has recruited skilled personnel in modern technology in order to tap the existing technology to secure prisons and modernize the general management of penal institutions. This entails procurement of the necessary equipment and training of staff in information technology (Omboto 2010).

There are no signs of reforms related to juvenile offenders, development of a probation service or alternative sanctions measures. Kenya's prison still lacks support and development of a probation service oriented toward the sustainable rehabilitation of ex-inmates. And the laws are so bad that the Government has no capacity or response to track records, trace ex-inmates and ensure respects of juvenile offenders' rights and contribute to their rehabilitation and reintegration into society (Strivastar 2011).

Given the fact that world unemployment rates are on a sharp increase, easy access to hardcore drugs, online and mobile cell phone criminality, plus huge security lapses especially here in Kenya, gangs will casually take advantage of it. Some ex-inmates will easily fall back to criminal activity, if not properly followed and traced, even after serving 20 years with hard labor. "Some ex-inmates leave correctional facilities and prisons more hardcore, more intelligent, more courageous!!", more and more smart than they came, reason being that nowadays convicts do share a lot of sensitive information or knowledge (especially when depressed or feel betrayed), just imagine a mobile telephone IT expert sharing a cell room with a criminal banker!!!. Imagine a convict ex-police sharing a cell room with a convict hacker!! of convicts, the Kenyan penal system has not deterred crime nor rehabilitated the penal institutions (Sabol, 2009).

At the Government of Kenya (GK) prison at Hola a prisoner No. Hol/61/94LS, Samuel Kitsao (Karisa), wrestled prison constable Mugambi who was manning the watchtower and grabbed his gun. He used the gun to shoot prison constable Aden Hassan Mohammed and Omar Abdi Mohammed who were working at the prison compound on 16th January 1996 at 13.30hrs. Officer Aden Hassan Mohammed died instantly while one of Omar Abdi's forelimbs was permanently deformed. Despite numerous correspondences regarding this matter, the Government is yet to compensate them. On 18th June, 2003 at Naivasha maximum security prison, a prisoner named Victor Ochieng Okello, set upon a prison constable Isaiah Nyakaba Onduso with a blunt object as he conducted the morning head count at 7.45am. He sustained serious head and facial injuries and even lost twelve teeth. Five years down the line, the officer is still serving and he is yet to be compensated (Madoka, 2008).

The service operates largely under CAP 90 and 92 of the laws of Kenya which were last reviewed in 1977 and 67 respectively. The existing legal framework needs to be revised to accommodate numerous amendments in related legislature and to domesticate various international protocols to which Kenya is signatory. Despite an existing Law Reform Commission, the existence of various legal and paralegal organizations, numerous proposals and cabinet memos, the speed of adoption of laws by parliament has been slow. Another significant issue is the status and level of prisoners' earning scheme which is currently moribund and out of use. The department has established the Directorate of Legal Affairs Research and employed prison officers who are lawyers. However, the staffing is low and the capacity to study and propose amendments to the legal framework is slow. Linkage with players in the legal sector is weak and therefore needs to be strengthened (Legal Resources Foundation, 2012).

The Kenya prisons service has developed a training curriculum which is in use at the prisons staff training college. There is need to constantly revise the curriculum to keep up to date with the emerging trends in penal issues and management. There is also need to expand facilities at the prisons staff training college to accommodate more trainees and be able to mount senior management courses. There should be radical reshuffle of the current training office holders and their places be taken over by competent and qualified professional staff, in order to streamline the training component in prison service. The college should be fully utilized with regular training programmes to build the capacities for the prison staff of all ranks. The service has signed memorandums of understanding with Kenyatta University to offer diploma and degree courses at the prisons staff training college (Klare 2003).

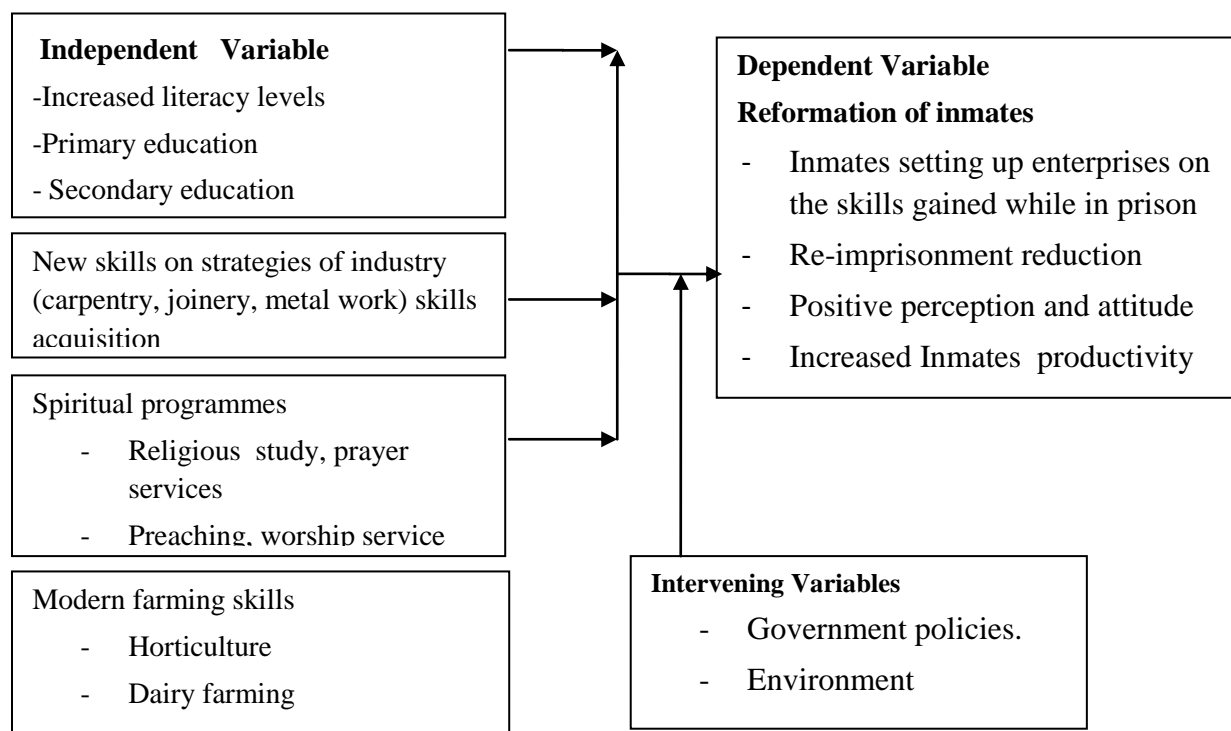


Figure 1: Schematic Conceptual Framework

General objectives:

The main objectives of the paper are to examine the influence of Kenya prison rehabilitation strategies on reformation of inmates: a case study on Kisii main prison, Kenya.

Specifically, the study intended to find out the effect of increasing education level of inmates on reformation of inmates in prison.

Research Hypothesis:

In an attempt to achieve the above objective, this study developed the following null hypothesis;

H₀₂: There is no significant relationship between advancement of education level alongside training of inmates and reformation of inmates.

Limitations:

However, the study was constrained with unwillingness by the respondents to reveal information which was thought to be confidential. The researcher had to assure the respondents that the information they were to offer would be held confidential and would be used for academic purposes only in seeking to assess the influence of prison rehabilitation strategies on inmate reforms in Kenya and this was backed by an authority letter from The Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology. The respondents were reluctant to provide information for the study through interviews that were conducted because of ethical reasons such as confidentiality and anonymity. The researcher

convinced them that their confidentiality and anonymity was to be upheld by providing an interview schedule to justify its significance both to the researcher and the commercial banks that were involved. The researcher also sourced for more information from The Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology library and various financial journals to help gather the required information. The researcher experienced a challenge in securing the prison inmates time bearing in mind their busy working schedules. The researcher made proper arrangements with the inmates to avail themselves for the study during off-time hours as well as motivating the employees and inmates on the value of the study.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A logistic regression model was applied to determine the relationship between prisons rehabilitation strategies and inmate reformation in Kenya.

The logistic regression used in this model was;

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + E$$

Where:

Y= Reformed inmates

β_0 = is the constant term

X_1 = Advancement of education level and training of inmates

E= the error term captures all relevant variables not included in the model because they are not observed in the data set. The error term in the equation was used for inferential analysis.

Data and Variables:

Data from the study was collected from The Kisii main prison situated at the outskirts of Kisii town. Data was also obtained from documented records which included government records, management circulars, convicted and non-convicted inmates. The sample data begins 2011 to 2015 to ensure accuracy and up-to-date collected data and a number of filters were applied.

In order to analyze the effects of rehabilitation strategies on inmate reforms in prisons in Kenya, inmate reforms is measured by inmates setting up enterprises on the skills gained while in prison, re-imprisonment reduction, positive perception and attitude, increased inmates productivity

Rehabilitation strategy is used as the independent variable and is considered for measuring prisons inmate reforms as a dependent variable. Moreover, government policies and environment are introduced as intervening variables.

Analytical Approach:

Quantitative data was analyzed using SPSS. They are presented by Pearson's correlation analysis, regression analysis and analysis of variance.

4. ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

Pearson Correlation Analysis:

Table 1: shows the Pearson correlations for the advancement of education level and training of inmates' variable.

		Prison rehabilitation strategy: Increasing education level of inmates	Reformation of inmates
Prison rehabilitation strategy: Increasing education level of inmates	Pearson Correlation	1	.467**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	129	129
Reformation of inmates	Pearson Correlation	.467**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	129	129

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

At 0.01 significance level, and two tail student t - test, the correlation between Prison rehabilitation strategy of increasing education level of inmates and Reformation of inmates was established at .467 implying an almost average positive association of 46.7 percent between Prison rehabilitation strategy of increasing education level of inmates and Reformation of inmates. The positivity of the correlation means that increase in education level occurs, reformation of inmates improves. Miller (2006), Prison inmates who receive general education and vocational training are significantly less likely to return to prison after release and are more likely to find employment than peers who do not receive such opportunities. To improve employment opportunities on release prisoners are encouraged to participate in educational programmes.

Regression:

In order to test the hypothesis, logistic regression analysis has been conducted to determine if there is significant relationship between educational level and inmate reforms as shown in table 2.

Table 2: Model summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.731 ^a	.534	.523	.339

Predictors: (Constant) Level of education

Dependent Variable: Reformation of inmates

The multiple correlation coefficient ($R = 0.731$) shows a strong association between the education level and the inmate reforms. The coefficient of determination ($R^2 = 0.534$) shows the explanatory power of the independent variables on the variation of the response variable. It implies that 53.4 percent variation in the dependent variable is attributable to the independent variable.

Analysis of Variance:

Table 3: Analysis of Variance

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	16.479	3	5.493	47.819	.000 ^b
	Residual	14.359	125	.115		
	Total	30.837	128			
a. Dependent Variable: Reformation of inmates						
b. Predictors: (Constant) Level of education						

From analysis of the variance, the computed F test (47.819) is greater than the significant F = 0.000. This means the null hypothesis is rejected thereby accepting the alternate hypothesis.

Coefficients									
Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.	95.0% Confidence Interval for B		Collinearity Statistics	
	B	Std. Error				Beta	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Tolerance
(Constant)	2.503	.203		12.300	.000	2.100	2.906		
INDUSTRY SKILLS: Industry skills contribute towards reformation of inmates	.041	.025	-.101	-1.647	.102	-.091	.008	.995	1.005
Level of education	.287	.062	.288	4.650	.000	.165	.409	.972	1.028
SPIRITUAL PROGRAMS: Perception of spiritual programs towards rehabilitation of inmates	.715	.062	-.717	-11.577	.000	-.837	-.593	.971	1.030
a. Dependent Variable: Reformation of inmates									

$$Y = 2.5 + 0.041X_1 + e$$

The Prisons industry education level and training of inmates explains 28 percent only in reformation of prisoners. The student t test for the constant is significant since the computed student t statistic (t = 12.3) is greater than the significant t statistic (t = 0.0). This individual significance of education of inmates (t = 4.6) is greater than significant t = 0.0.

5. CONCLUSIONS

Prisons in Kenya have invested heavily in rehabilitation strategies. This signals that the way education training levels will have an effect on inmate reforms. The study found out that there was highly positive correlation between education level and inmate reforms. The results concluded that increasing the education level of inmates does necessarily contribute significantly to reformation of inmates.

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