

# INFLUENCE OF ENTREPRENEURIAL TRAINING AT PENITENTIARY INSTITUTIONS ON CRIME AND CRIMINALITY MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH-SOUTH AND SOUTH-WEST, NIGERIA

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**Abstract:** Lack of vibrant and productive skills have been attributed to a high rate of crime and criminality in Nigeria, thus, necessitated the study. The population of the study comprised, inmates of penitentiary institution in the twelve states (Edo, Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers, Cross-Rivers and Akwa-Ibom) South-South and (Ondo, Oyo, Ogun, Osun, Lagos and Ekiti) South-West, Nigeria. the sample size of the study was one hundred and twenty (120) respondents from each state, ten (10) respondents were selected, through a snowballing sampling technique. A self-developed research instrument titled, “Ranking Scale on Effects of Entrepreneurial Training on Crime and Criminality Management at Penitentiary Institutions in south-south, Nigeria”, fashioned on four likert rating scale on Strongly Agreed (SA); Agreed (A), Disagreed (D) and Strongly Disagreed (SD). The research instrument was validated by an expert in Test and Measurement, while its reliability was determined through test retest method and 0.68 coefficient reliability was obtained. Research hypotheses were analysed using, inferential statistics (Spearman ranking correlation analysis). Based on the results obtained, conclusions were made that, entrepreneurial training could engender the inmates of penitentiary institution with entrepreneurial skills and values to embark on small scale business. Also, that crimes and criminality could be reduced. Based on the conclusions, recommendations were made that entrepreneurial training should be incorporated with criminal justice provision in Nigeria. Also, government should endeavour to provide adequate fund and logistics that will made entrepreneurial training feasible at penitentiary institutions in Nigeria and so on.

**Keywords:** Crime, Criminality, Entrepreneurial training, penitentiary.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### Background to the Study

Incarceration or imprisonment is a punishment given to offenders against the law of the land. However, it depends on the judgement giving at the law court. The major purpose of penitentiary institution or correctional centre is to rehabilitate and character reformation of those whose actions and behaviour in the society have violated the extant rules and regulation (Arinze, 2020). Being send to penitentiary institution does not mean exposing the prisoners to hardships. The

essence of correctional services or penitentiary institutions is for them to face the consequences of their offences, but not necessarily to punish them. The establishment of prisons or penitentiary institutions within the practice of criminal justice, globally is to reform the criminals, change their attitudes towards crime and criminality before they will be freed and integrated into the society.

Nigeria's experience negates this philosophy. What seems to be a general notion of penitentiary institution among many Nigerian is that simple offenders are imprisoned and released having spent the jail terms as a more hardened criminals. This negates the principles of criminal justice system, based on restorative justice and rehabilitations as against nurturing prisoners and reforming criminal to become a useful members of the society, when released. In the law, being sent to prison is nothing to do with putting you in a terrible prison to make you suffer. The punishment is that you lose your freedom. If we treat people like animals when they are in prison, they are likely to behave like the animals (Drew, 2020).

It is quite unfortunate, Nigerian penitentiary or correctional institutions are places when comparing with prisons in developed nations are established government institutions where animals are being made to be more hardened. The sorry brake of prison and harrowing experiences of inmates of Nigerian prisons or penitentiary institutions have partly been attributed as one of the major causes of recidivism. Soyombo (2009), reported that prevalence of recidivism in Nigeria was very high. Globally, in ranking recidivism occurrence is very high in the country. Although, recidivism is a global issue, particularly in Nigeria. Its consequential effect on the larger society is devastating to socio-peace stability in the society. Recidivism refers to the act of committing more crime after an offender had been released from the offences committed earlier and imprisoned for that purpose (Idowu and Odivwri, 2019). What this indicates is that correctional centres or penitentiary institution in Nigeria context have no impact on crime and criminality reduction.

Recidivism can only be reduced and control if prisoners condition of living become improved. This can be achieved if the standard of penitentiary institutions are expected to be practiced are strictly adhere to. In this wise, community based organisations, governments and individuals have roles to play towards improving prison services and republishing the inmates of Nigerian correctional centres. Public should not seen ex-prisoners as criminals, as stigmatization cannot change criminals, rather make them hardened.

It has also been contended by some scholars that inability to cope economically upon released from prison or penitentiary institutions make them highly prone to commit offence again in the society. Towards this end entrepreneurship training for the inmates of prisons in Nigeria as it is being practised in the developed nations. Entrepreneurial training

The programme will provide youths with insights into entrepreneurship and enterprise and make them consider the choice or option of starting a business for self-employment (Erinsakin, 2014).

Nigerian youths are confronted with the twin problems of poverty and unemployment. The crime rate among Nigerian youths is very high, thus, resulting into committing series of crimes (stealing, banditry, bunking, that scam, cultism, robbery, smuggling, and other social vices. Therefore, it is through wise and good to engender the spirit of entrepreneurship culture on inmates of; Akpomi (2009) argued that entrepreneurial training becomes very necessary in the present reality of economy and and poverty conditions of Nigerians.

Equipping the inmates of penitentiary institutions with entrepreneurial skills will inform them about the available opportunities they can harness upon "graduations" from prison, encourage them to venture into a small scale business. Hence, through the programme the needed appropriate entrepreneurial skills will be inculcated in them.

Issues relating to inmates of penitentiary or correctional institutions in Nigeria had been well researched. However, from the available extent literature, empirical analysis on entrepreneurial training at penitentiary institutions is yet to fully attract the attention of scholars and researchers in Nigeria. Thus, serves as the basis for carrying out this present study by the researchers.

### **Statement of the Problem**

It has been observed that the condition of inmates or penitentiary institutions in Nigeria is very appalling, due to lapses on the part of government to give them adequate attention. Rather than prisons to be rehabilitative and reformatory institutions, they are places where criminals become more hardened; thus, increases the rate of recidivism in the country, especially in the South-South, Nigeria. The South-South and South West region of the Nigeria is highly prone to crime and criminality due to neglect or lack of government focus on the condition of people, whose their main nature of economy (rivers and soil) have been devastated by the oil exploration of multinational company in the area.

It is this contention that makes entrepreneurial training for the inmates of penitentiary institutions applauded. It is against this backdrop the study was carried out on effects of entrepreneurial training at penitentiary institutions on crime and criminality management in South-South and South-West, Nigeria.

### **Research Hypotheses**

Two research hypotheses were also formulated to guide the conduct of the study.

Ho<sub>1</sub>: There is no significant relationship between entrepreneurial training and crime reduction among the inmates of penitentiary institutions in South-South and South-West, Nigeria.

Ho<sub>2</sub>: There is no significant relationship between entrepreneurial training and acquisition of business skills among the inmates of penitentiary institutions in South-South and South-West, Nigeria.

### **Purpose of the Study**

The general purpose of the study was on effects of entrepreneurial institutions on crime and criminality management in south-south, Nigeria. The specific purposes were to:

1. ascertain the effect of entrepreneurial training on engendering or inculcating the spirit of business values among inmates of penitentiary institutions in south-south, Nigeria; and
2. determine the influence of entrepreneurial training on ex-inmates of penitentiary institutions in South-South and South- West, Nigeria.

### **Significance of the Study**

The findings of the study will be significant to stakeholders of penitentiary institutions in Nigeria in the following ways;

Firstly, the finding of the study will establish whether entrepreneurial training of penitentiary institutions could reduce crime and criminality or not in south-south, Nigeria.

Also, the result of the study will enable the providers of entrepreneurial training to ascertain whether entrepreneurial training at prison or penitentiary institutions was influence on poverty and employment reduction among the inmates after completed their jail terms.

Besides, the findings of the study will enable the public to know whether or not they can assist prisoners when completed their jail terms to prevent them from going back to prison by empowering them with entrepreneurial skills for survival.

Lastly, the study will contribute to the literature within the confine or area of the study, thus, serves a useful source of reference for research in future.

## **2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Entrepreneurial Training and Crime Reduction**

One of the challenges militating against small business operation is lack of skills in business management. The success of any business depends on the ability of the business owner to harness the available human and non-human resources, locally, nationally and internationally to achieve the goal(s) of setting business. Entrepreneurial development training programme in Nigeria, and recent times, has been receiving attention of stakeholders in the sector. Acquiring the appropriate skills in small business or business management will go a very long way to sustain small business or small scale enterprises.

Benchard and Toulouso (1998), posit that, entrepreneurial training entails a collection of formalized training and teaching, which informs, educates everyone that is interested in business creation or small business development. Miltra (2002) ,notes that entrepreneurial training offers opportunities to address some of the contemporary needs of business education in a way traditional system does not. Salami (2011) opines that, entrepreneurial training will make individuals to seek out investment opportunities. This is in align with Mullins (2010) submission, that training is a process of acquiring job related knowledge, skill and attitude in order to perform effectiveness and efficiency, specific tasks in any organisation.

Today, the decision of governments at various levels is to put in place training in entrepreneurship, which will provide the relevant practical skills, which will promote entrepreneurial activities. Mullins (2010), classifies such as; technical, business management and personal entrepreneurial skills. Entrepreneurial training will enable people to be well acquainted with the world of business and manage small scale enterprises, successfully. European Union (2012), notes that, entrepreneurship training or education has positive impacts on entrepreneurial mindset of young people, their intentions towards entrepreneurship, their employability and their role in the society and economy of their nations. Entrepreneurship is being referred to as individuals' ability to turn ideas into action. It includes; creativity, innovation and risks taking. Also, ability to plan and manage projects in order to achieve the stated predetermined objectives. Ondo State Government (2006) states that, one of the objectives of entrepreneurial development training programme, among others is to inculcate the spirit of enterprise management, among the clientele or target groups, organisation implementation and management of business. According to Ondo State Government (2006),

*It is believed, that Entrepreneurial Development Training Programme (EDP) is a catalyst for enterprise creation and management, through private sector participation in community, state and the country's economy. The resultant effect will be increased job creation, through self-employment (pg 5).*

Thus, the programme will enable its participants appreciate cash management and also make them appreciate that fact, that working capital is the wire of business, and without its appropriate management, business could crumble. The programme also offers training to its participants on the importance of management to business, and how to manage their time judiciously. These among others, are the managerial skills, entrepreneurial development training programme in Ondo State offers to the people.

Corroborating this, Rao, Wright and Murherje (1990) note that, the focus of entrepreneurship skills include; development of managerial capability to the business and other self-employment activities, successfully. Also, development of entrepreneurial spirit, characteristics and personality, development of technical, technological and professional competencies needed for productive work, employment and development of enterprise building and small business development, capability to initiate and starts one's own business or self-employment. Training and development will positively help in reducing areas of shortcomings, which will lead to improved performance in managing entrepreneurial activities (Ogundele, 2000). He further states that, the levels, types of technical, vocational, managerial, other forms of specialized education, training and development will affect entrepreneurship. Hence, appropriate entrepreneurial educational training and development programmes must be provided for pupils and students of various levels of Nigeria's educational systems, and for the adults in other forms of social institutions of which they are members.

Ogundele (2004), posits that, functional approach to entrepreneurship training would equip the would-be entrepreneurs with planning, initiating, controlling, supporting information, evolution development of technical, enterprise building and managerial skills. Ogundele (2004), notes that, entrepreneurship management development encompasses thirteen elements, which include; time management; entrepreneurship self-development; managing change for competitive success; decision making; human resources; environment of business; helping people learn; team building; project management; re-engineering or business process redesign; total management; organizational development, corporate excellence and people's skills.

Emphatically, lack of entrepreneurial skills and vocational competencies have been identified as causes of crime and criminality in Nigeria, today. Ihonbare (2008), notes that many people are in pain, frustration, destruction and poverty, thus, forced many into crime and criminality in south-south and south-west in Nigeria today, just like other regions, kidnapping, illegal exploration of crude oil, stealing, robbery, prostitution, "419 scam", human rituals, banditry and so on permeating the nooks and crannies of the regions. The committers of these crimes after serving their jail terms still relapse, thus, increasing recidivism in the regions and the country at large. However, by equipping the inmates of penitentiary institutions with vibrant entrepreneurial training will result into acquisition of entrepreneurial skills and values that will make them to venture into business and eschew crimes and criminality. It is this philosophy that informs the implementation of entrepreneurial training at penitentiary institutions across the matter, Nigeria today.

### 3. METHODOLOGY

Descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. The population of the study, comprises ex-inmates of penitentiary institutions in South-South, Nigeria (Edo, Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers, Cross-River and Akwa-Ibom) and (Ondo, Oyo, Ogun, Osun, Lagos and Ekiti) South-West. The sample size of the study was one hundred and twenty (120) respondents, from each states, ten (10) respondents were selected. They were selected through a snowballing sampling technique.

A self-developed research instrument by the researcher was used to generate data for the study, titled, "Rating scale on effects of entrepreneurial training at penitentiary institutions on crime and criminality management in south-south, Nigeria", fashioned on four Likert rating scale: Strongly Agreed (SA); Agreed (A); Disagreed (D0 and Strongly Disagreed (SD).

The research instrument was validated by an expert in test and measurement, while the reliability was done through test-retest method at two weeks interval. 0.68 coefficient reliability was obtained. The data generated on research question was analysed, using descriptive statistics (frequency counts, simple percentages and mean), while data generated on research hypotheses was analysed, using inferential statistics (Correlation Coefficient Analysis).

#### Presentation of Findings and Discussion of Result

##### Research Hypotheses

Ho<sub>1</sub>: There is no significant relationship between entrepreneurial training and crime reduction among the inmates of penitentiary institutions in south-south, Nigeria.

**Table 1: Showing Spearman Ranking Correlation Analysis on there is no significant relationship between entrepreneurial training influence on crime reduction among the inmates of penitentiary institutions in south-south and south-west, Nigeria**

S/N	States in South-South /South-West Nigeria	Entrepreneurial Training	R <sub>x</sub>	Crime Reduction	R <sub>y</sub>	D = R <sub>x</sub> - R <sub>y</sub>	D <sup>2</sup>
1.	Edo	15	4	12	4	0	0
2.	Delta	3	11	0	12	-1	1
3.	Bayelsa	6	8	24	1	7	49
4.	Rivers	14	5	19	3	2	4
5.	Cross-Rivers	16	3	2	10	-7	49
6.	Akwa-Ibom	18	1	1	11	-10	100
7.	Ondo	8	7	7	8	-1	1
8.	Oyo	5	9	11	5	4	16
9.	Ogun	1	12	10	6	6	36
10.	Osun	17	2	9	7	-5	25
11.	Lagos	13	6	20	2	4	16
12.	Ekiti	4	10	5	9	1	1

$$\Sigma d^2=298$$

Variables	N	DF	D <sup>2</sup>	p-cal	p-critical	Decision
X	12	10	298	0.82	0.591	*
Y						

\* = significant at 0.05 alpha level

Since, p-calculated is greater than p-critical. Null hypothesis therefore rejected, thus indicates that there is a positive relationship between entrepreneurial training and crime reduction among the inmates of penitentiary institutions in south-south and south-west, Nigeria.

Ho<sub>2</sub>: There is no significant relationship between entrepreneurial training and acquisition of business skills among the inmates of penitentiary institutions in south-south and south-west, Nigeria.

**Table 2: Showing Spearman ranking correlation analysis on there is no significant relationship between entrepreneurial training and acquisition business skills among the inmates of penitentiary institutions in south-south and south-west, Nigeria**

S/N	States in South-South /South-West Nigeria	Entrepreneurial Training	R <sub>x</sub>	Crime Reduction	R <sub>y</sub>	D = R <sub>x</sub> – R <sub>y</sub>	D <sup>2</sup>
1.	Edo	24	1	4	11	-10	100
2.	Delta	3	11	20	1	10	100
3.	Bayelsa	8	8	6	10	-2	4
4.	Rivers	19	2	16	2	0	0
5.	Cross-Rivers	12	4	12	5	-1	1
6.	Akwa-Ibom	11	5	10	7	-2	4
7.	Ondo	9	7	7	8	-1	1
8.	Oyo	13	3	5	9	-6	36
9.	Ogun	1	1	14	3	-2	4
10.	Osun	6	9	2	12	-3	9
11.	Lagos	4	10	11	6	4	16
12.	Ekiti	10	6	13	4	2	4

$$\Sigma d^2=279$$

Variables	N	DF	D <sup>2</sup>	p-cal	p-critical	Decision
Entrepreneurial Training Business Skills	12	10	279	0.83	0.591	*

\* = significant at 0.05 alpha level

Table 2 shows that, there is a positive relationship between entrepreneurial training since, p-calculated is greater than p-critical. Thus, indicates that entrepreneurial training programme at penitentiary institutions could engender business skills on the inmates in south-south and south-west, Nigeria.

#### 4. DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

The finding on research hypothesis (1) indicates that there is a highly positive correlation between entrepreneurial training and crime reduction. The submission of Akinsuroju (2012), aligns with the result that, training and re-training of people, especially the youths on vibrant and productive entrepreneurial skills and values would dissipate their energies away from committing crimes and involving in heinous activities in the society. Erinsakin (2014) attributed crimes and criminality among people to poverty and lack of employment. Hence, he contended that entrepreneurial training is the solution.

The result of research hypothesis (2) now is corroborated by the submission of Benchard and Toulouso (1998) that entrepreneurial training entails a collection of formulized training and teaching which informs and educates everyone that is interested in business creation or small business development. Also, Ogundele (2000) opinion also aligns with the result that entrepreneurial training will lead to an improved performance in managing entrepreneurial activities.

#### 5. CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the study, conclusion were made that entrepreneurial training could positively impacted on inmates of penitentiary institutions by equipping in them vibrant and productive entrepreneurial skills and values for venturing into a small scale business and also become successful entrepreneurs. Also, that entrepreneurial training will prime the mindset of inmates of penitentiary institutions away from committing vices, perhaps, after life outside prison. Hence, lack of skills on entrepreneurship has been partly advised by scholars and researchers as causes of crimes and criminality by the people.

#### 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the conclusions the following recommendations were made;

1. Government should incorporate entrepreneurial training as part of criminal justice in which it is compulsory to inmates of correctional or penitentiary institutions to undergo in Nigeria.

2. Government should commit adequate fund for the implementation of entrepreneurial training at penitentiary institutions in Nigeria.
3. All logistic required to make entrepreneurial training feasible should be made available at penitentiary institutions in Nigeria and so on.

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