

Challenges Confronting Rehabilitation Programmes in Keffi Correctional Centre of Nasarawa State, Nigeria

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Abstract - *The problems of rehabilitation of inmates is a major social problem in almost all the security custodial services in Nigeria. The study assesses the challenges confronting rehabilitation programmes in Keffi correctional centre of Nasarawa State, Nigeria. The study anchored on the social bond/the control theory as a theoretical orientation. The study utilizes the survey research design. The study population was restricted to the convicts. This is the segment of the inmate population that have access to the rehabilitation programmes in the correctional centre. Since the population was restricted to convicted inmates, the study therefore take census of all convicted inmates in Keffi correctional centre. The study combined the use of primary and secondary data. Quantitative data were analyzed using univariate analysis on the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS v26). Similarly, the study employed thematic analysis to analyse the qualitative data. Findings show that the various rehabilitation programmes in the correctional centres are inhibited with some challenges. It was revealed that that among the challenges inhibiting rehabilitation programmes in the correctional facility include the inhumane condition of the environment, overcrowding, poor medical facility. Poor training of staff, lack of required facilities needed for training and poorly equipped school. This is reported by larger percentage of the inmates outlined the aforementioned challenges. Based on these premises, the study recommends that there is need to ensure that the available rehabilitation programmes are properly executed to enhance efficiency. More so, training and retraining of correctional centre officials should become a major priority to the government and skills acquisition workshops in correctional centre should be revitalized. Also, the Nigerian correctional centre should be sufficiently funded to be able to meet up with its mandates.*

Index Terms- *Challenge, Confronting, Rehabilitation, Programmes, Correctional Centre*

I. INTRODUCTION

Globally, there are over 10 million inmates worldwide, of whom around half are in the United

States, China, Russia and Brazil (World Prison Brief, 2023). Asia holds around 3.9 million of the world's inmates and America about 3.8 million. In Europe, there are around 1.6 million inmates, and Africa has around 1 million. The far smaller continent of Oceania has a total prison population of about 55,000. These numbers give a sense of unevenly distributed correctional centre populations globally, greater insight can be gained from correctional centre population rates, usually measured by the number of inmates per 100,000 of the national population. The median rate worldwide is 142. A comparison of the median rates of geographic regions reveals that five regions have a rate of over 200; namely: Northern America, Central America, South America, the Caribbean, and Europe/Asia (encompassing Russia, Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia). By contrast, the regions of Central Africa, Western Africa, Southern Asia, Northern Europe and Western Europe all have median rates fewer than 100 (World Prison Brief, 2023).

One of the reasons for imprisonment is to ensure rehabilitation of the inmates. Omagbemi and Odunewu (2007) note that Correctional centres are saddled with the responsibility to rehabilitate, transform and reform the inmates towards reintegration into the larger society on completion of their terms. For correctional centres to achieve the objective of rehabilitation, there is need for the training and re-training of the inmates. Rehabilitation entails the act and process of changing and improving the behaviour of the inmates. Ugwoke and Ameh (2014) observe that the aim of imprisonment according to section 10 (d) of 2019 Nigerian Prison Act, is to endeavour to identify the reason for anti-social behaviour of the offenders; to train, rehabilitate and reform them to be good and useful citizens towards reintegration to the larger society. It is therefore, expected that the recidivism will decrease if the objective of imprisonment is

achieved by planning and providing proper rehabilitation of inmates. This will enable them to be law abiding citizens of the society and engage in productive activities for their daily living on release from the correctional facility.

Many rehabilitation services for the inmates are widely available around the world. Each of these rehabilitation services targets specific groups of people with specific needs for reform. A rehabilitation service provides education in the correctional centres about various aspects of life. These are useful for getting inmates prepared for life outside the correctional system. Asokhia (2011) in their assessment of rehabilitation services in Nigerian correctional centre in Edo State identified “education programmes and educational development project; skills acquisition programmes such as carpentry, tailoring, printing, building and masonry; counselling services such as; academic, vocational, social, and religious service. Mid-range industrial production such as furniture, soap, toiletries, fabrication and shoe making; recreational activities such as table tennis, football, volleyball, badminton, indoor games (card, ludo and draft); agricultural skills such as farming and animal husbandry group work programmes”.

The programmes also outlined the proposed change mechanisms in the rehabilitation process, for example, the elimination of criminogenic tendencies, the development of alternative strategies for achieving rewarding outcomes or the successful engagement with desistance factors, such as education and skills acquisition. It also ought to specify the attitudinal, motivational and relational aspects for the treatment of the inmates and provide guidance on how to manage the therapeutic alliance and issues related to the practical aspect of these skills. In countries like America, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, South Africa and many others around the globe as it is in Nigeria, inmates are engaged in vocational skills acquisitions, such as shoe-making, carpentry, weaving and tailoring, among others. There are also institutional programmes, which include behavioural group therapy with a variety of activities all of which can have an impact either directly or indirectly on the rehabilitation of offenders and their successful reintegration into the community after release.

Convicted criminals are sentenced to correctional centres for the purpose of rehabilitation. Asokhia (2011) said that in most cases especially in Nigeria, the rehabilitation services are either ill-equipped or not at all to give wholesome services that can affect inmates’ lives positively. Rehabilitation services are notable for their pivotal role in changing lives of the inmates; unfortunately, these are either not there or grossly inadequate. Rehabilitation services were established in Nigerian correctional centres for the purpose of reforming the inmates. For any meaningful rehabilitation to take place in the correctional facilities, rehabilitation services must first be improved upon; adequate provisions made and these should be accessible to the inmates (Asokhia, 2011). Some of the problems the correctional service faced include shortage of staff resulting from retirement, dismissals, resignations and death; abandonment of capital projects leading to congestion of the correctional centres; inadequate funding for the maintenance of existing infrastructures; inadequate office accommodation for staff; lack of vehicles to convey staff and inmates to areas of need; lack of promotion to eligible staff with the resultant low morale, frustrations and by extension low productivity (Suleman, 2011). Similarly, Ibeabuchi (2018) identified the factors affecting social welfare services/administration in Nigeria correctional centres to include Overcrowding, inadequate fund to cater for the inmates; politicization of correctional centres welfare programmes, lack of clear objectives lack of discipline among inmates and staff, and frequent jail breaks leading to security threats.

Studies have shown that correctional facilities in Asia, America and Europe are rapidly reforming their correctional centres so as to offer inmate rehabilitation, correctional counselling and treatment services as opposed to punishment. This however, has not been without challenges. These changes have consequently begun to also change the correctional officers’ roles from a purely custodial role to a human service role, in which officers are expected to manage rehabilitation and treatment programs. The same trend is reported in China in a study by Zhang, Liang and Zhou (2009). Correctional facilities in Africa are also moving towards behaviour change approaches for inmate rehabilitations. Indeed, some correctional facilities in Africa have incorporated correctional counselling in inmate rehabilitation programmes (Gatotoh,

Omulema & Dankitt, 2011). The degree of success in implementing behaviour change approaches in these correctional facilities are wanting. In spite of the fact that correction centres are supposed to be a place for transformation and rehabilitation, Nigerian correctional centers have become training ground for inmates to become hardened criminals. This raises the question as to whether correctional officers have the requisite attitudes to match the paradigm shift in correctional facilities (Gatotoh, Omulema and Dankitt, 2011). It is against this backdrop that the study assesses the challenges confronting rehabilitation programmes in Keffi correctional centre of Nasarawa State, Nigeria

II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The aim of establishing correctional institutions in all parts of the world including Nigeria is to provide reformation and rehabilitation services for those who have violated the laws of their society. The rehabilitation and reformation of offenders are the principal objectives of the correctional centre in modern societies. These programmes are meant primarily for the incarcerated individuals with the expectation that they will undergo adequate reformation and become law abiding members of the society once they are released. Despite these noble objectives, most people still perceive the correctional centre as a place where those who violated the law are punished rather than corrected. Over the years, Nigerian correctional centres have experienced various reforms programmes initiated by the government. These include, The National Working Group on Prison Reform and Decongestion, the Inter-Ministerial Summit on the State of Remand Inmates in Nigeria's Prisons, Presidential Committee on Prison Reform and Rehabilitation, the Presidential Commission on the Reform of the Administration of Justice (PCRAJ), the Committee on the Harmonisation of Reports of Presidential Committees Working on Justice Sector Reform, etc (Opafunso & Adepoju, 2016). These reforms programmes were expected to address the problem of congestion, overcrowding, improve the living conditions of inmates and ensure the proper rehabilitation of the inmates.

Though reformation and rehabilitation have been said to be the ultimate aim of the Nigerian Correctional Service, evidence suggests that this goal has not been attained in Nigeria. Inmates'

welfare and rehabilitation continues to receive low priority. Omagbemi and Odunewu (2007) said that provisions made for qualitative and vocational education of inmates are inadequate. Obioha (2011) noted that the Nigerian correctional system is more punitive and dehumanizing than the supposed corrective assignment it should be focused on. The same conclusion was reached by the World Prison Brief, (2023) who said that current facilities and programmes of the correctional centre are outdated, unsuitable, and irrelevant to the declared reformatory and rehabilitation ideals and where available is of low quantity and quality.

In line with the above, Ameh (2010) argued that one of the fundamental issues confronting correctional centre administrators today in Nigeria is the apparent lack of agreement as to what should be its aim in dealing with convicted offenders. The reality is that, despite the claims for the well-articulated administrative, reformatory and rehabilitative programmes, Nigerian correctional centres have continued to remain more or less punitive centres. By extension, this affected the perception of the public and the inmates in particular on the function of the correctional centre as a correctional institution. In Nigerian correctional centres, there are a number of factors that impedes the efficacy of the correctional programmes on the inmates and their ability to successfully be rehabilitated and be reintegrated into the larger society. Among the problem associated with correctional centres that can negatively affect the inmates' perception on the correctional programmes is the poor condition of the correctional centres. According to a report by the National Human Rights Commission (2023), Nigerian correctional centres are congested with infrastructural decay and inadequate recreational/vocational facilities. Other issues were the inmates' deplorable conditions of living. It should, however, be noted that the condition of correctional centres and the quality of service provided through correctional programmes shape the perception of the beneficiaries (inmates). As noted by Gibbs (1975), the effectiveness of correctional programmes and whether or not they rehabilitate offenders depend on the extent to which they are perceived by the inmates. The perception of convicted inmates is, therefore, essential for having insight regarding their interests on the aspects of the correctional programmes they perceive as useful while serving correctional terms and after their

release. Their perception will equally provide an answer as to whether convicted inmates are interested in correctional programmes and perceive the programmes as useful or not. The perception of the inmates on the correctional programmes they receive is an important aspect of correction and worth exploring, yet there are no ample studies on this particular subject even by indigenous researchers. Instead, some of the available literatures, focused more on the conditions of correctional centres (Esiri, 2016), the types of programmes (rather than the perception on these programmes by the inmates) provided to the inmates (Aremu, 2015); the legal rights of inmates (Madaki, 2011); correctional centre subculture (Adetula & Fatusin, 2010); historical perspectives on correctional centre in Nigeria (Ahire, 1990); correctional centre management (Alemika & Chukwuma, 2001) etc. The need to study the challenges confronting rehabilitation programmes in Keffi correctional centre of Nasarawa State, Nigeria is the main impetus for the conduct of the study. This is what set this study different from the previous studies.

III. RESEARCH QUESTION

In achieving the purpose of the study, the following research question was examined.

- i. What are the challenges confronting rehabilitation programmes in Keffi correctional centre of Nasarawa State, Nigeria?

IV. CONCEPTUAL REVIEW

Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation is a concept that has myriads of definition arising from the fact that scholars define it according to the school of thought they belong to. The term “rehabilitation” connotes changing the defective behaviours of offenders of the law to an acceptable one. Rehabilitation is the transformation of the inmates into law abiding and productive citizens but it also sends the strong message that it can only be achieved through human punishment and compensating the offender through corrections. It is also predicated upon the belief that when rehabilitative, reformatory and reintegration policies and programmes are effectively and meaningfully pursued and implemented for inmates under conducive conditions, there will be decrease or significant reduction in the rate of recidivism among

inmates (Ekpenyong & Undutimi, 2016; Esiri, 2016). Rehabilitation is the processes involved in treating the offenders so as to integrate them back to the society. Awopetu (2014) posits that rehabilitation with specific reference to correctional rehabilitation means “bringing the offender to normal life”. Thus, felons are condemned to correctional for the objective of re-integration after rehabilitation (Asokhia & Agbonlua, 2013).

Ugwuoke and Ojunugwa (2014) attest that rehabilitation simply means the modification of a trait or character and actions of a convicted felon through a good educational scheme or corrective treatment, making sure that individual offenders are reverted back into the society as an accomplished, self-rooting and recognized member of the society. Ekpe and Mammah (1997) posit that rehabilitation is the effort to change felons through treatment and beneficial measures so that when granted the chance he or she will desist from indulging in crime. Rehabilitation in this background is the entire procedure of making an inmate useful to him or her and the wider society by instilling in him or her essential expertise and wisdom that will enable the inmate to recover his or her social functioning after regaining freedom. Adana (1985) defined rehabilitation as the various attempts which aim at helping individual to be adequately prepared to be reabsorbed into the society and to function as a useful and productive member of the society.

Within the context of the study, rehabilitation is the transformation of the inmates into law abiding and productive citizens but it also sends the strong message that it can only be achieved through human punishment and compensating the offender through corrections. It is also predicated upon the belief that when rehabilitative, reformatory and reintegration policies and programmes are effectively and meaningfully pursued and implemented for inmates under conducive conditions, there will be decrease or significant reduction in the rate of recidivism among inmates

Correctional Centre

The meaning, concept and definition of correctional centre has been hotly debated and contested for years by both academics, governments, freedom fighters, nationalists and even international organizations. These disagreements and lack of

consensus on the precise wording of the definition of correctional centre has resulted into almost every group, governments, institutions and organizations adopting its own meaning and definition of correctional centre to suite its own peculiar preferences and interests. The correctional centre is a closed and regimented institution where people who are convicted below life imprisonment and death penalty after trial are physically confined for rehabilitation so as to be law-abiding and acceptable human beings in the society upon release. Abba and Mbagwu (2016) described a correctional centre as a physical structure in a geographical location where a number of people living under highly specialized condition adjust to the alternatives presented to them by the unique kind of social environment. Similarly, Ogwuoke and Ameh (2014) conceived correctional centre as a place where people are highly secluded from the rest of the world with entirely new order of control. The above conceptualizations as advanced by scholars are limited towards an understanding that a correctional centre is a physical environment, and could be described geographically or spatially.

Correctional centre is a total institution or a place of residence and work, where a large number of like situated individuals are cut off from the wider society for an appreciable period of time together, lead and enforce formally administered round of life. This new environment is expected to provide the inmates with particular opportunities of rethinking, stock taking and repentance from old ways (Omorogiuwa, 2014). Orakwe (2011) submits that Correctional centre is a location outlined and avowed as such by the rule of the state and established to guarantee captivity and confinement of individuals' suspect or convicted of disrespecting the rule of the criminal code of the state.

For the purpose of the study, correctional centre is a confinement where convicted persons by the court of competent jurisdiction are kept for reformation, rehabilitation and final reintegration into the society. These individuals are known as inmates/inmates/offenders and are kept in custody on a short- or long-term basis.

Inmate

There has been no established general or universal definition by various scholars and researchers on the concept of inmate. A variety of attempts at defining inmate which were encountered in works of literature reviewed show that inmates are defined

either by configuration, size or user perspective. Inmates are persons confirmed culpable of an offense supposed against him or her, who are lawfully condemned to punishment of incarceration in a correctional. Inmates are dispossessed of their freedom during incarceration. This suggests that virtually all inmates are in correctional against their desire. However, the minute an inmate is first absorbed into the correctional institution, he or she is barred from virtually all manner of self-identity (Omoni & Ijeh, 2011). In the words of Abba and Mbagwu (2016), inmate can be seen as a person who is kept in a confined place known as the prison, as an accused or convicted of violating the criminal law. Hence, in the context of this study, prison inmate can be seen as a person legally confined in an institution designed to securely house and rehabilitate the convicted or those on trial.

V. EMPIRICAL REVIEW

Challenges Confronting Rehabilitation Programmes in Correctional Centre in Nigeria

There are many challenges faced by the inmates while receiving correctional services. Most of these challenges emanate from the correctional institution, perhaps, due to ineffectiveness of the institution. In line with the above, Obioha (2011) opine that, the cardinal objective for establishing the correctional institution everywhere in the world is to provide a rehabilitation and facility for the reformation of individuals who violated the rules and regulations of their society. However, the practical challenges of these institutions have made the attainment of the correctional centre's objectives a subject of controversy, especially in Nigeria. Some other challenges faced by the inmates are conditioned by the inmates's inability to cope with the changing environment. This experience leads to a lot of medical and psychological problems.

Obioha (2011) carried out research on the challenges and reforms in the Nigerian correctional systems. In his analysis he applied tables, charts and graphs. The findings of the study show that the reforms introduced in the past have not yielded much result. The researcher recommends that in order to deal finally with correctional congestion, the committee needs to be strengthened in its work by changing their periodic visit to the correctional centres to be more regular and frequent, more correctional yards need to be built, more non-governmental

organizations should be encouraged and allowed to visit the correctional centres to monitor the activities there, from which they can make an input in form of suggestions to the various reform committees on what to do.

Chukwuemeka (2010) examined institutional reforms and the development of the Nigerian Correctional Service. The study focused on reforms centered on administrative reforms, logistics, and convenience with complete disregard for structural changes, inmate's conditions, international standards, and the rights of awaiting trial inmates. The study revealed that the reforms failed because of the class character of the inmates and the objectives for the establishment of the correctional service in Nigeria. A secondary method of data collection was used to carry out the study. The study recommended that Nigeria Correctional Services should pursue structured pro-inmate International Standard Reforms as a negation to the interest of the ruling class.

Emeka (2011) examined the challenges affecting rehabilitation in the Nigerian Correctional System. The study focused on the aim of establishing the Correctional Service, which is to provide a rehabilitation and correctional facility for those who have violated the rules and regulations of their society. The research used both primary and secondary methods of data collection for the elicitation of information for the work. It reveals that the correctional system has not been able to live up to its expected role in Nigeria. The paper recommended that the decongestion committee should be strengthened. It also recommended that more correctional centers should be established. Finally, more NGOs should be encouraged and allowed to visit correctional facilities and monitor their activities so as to be able to provide their input.

Ugwuoke and Ojonugwa (2014) investigated the rehabilitation of convicts in Nigeria's correctional centers. The research was carried out in Kogi State and its focus was the rehabilitation of convicts. The researcher made use of primary and secondary methods of data collection for the study. Findings from the study show that despite the official claims that correctional centers are operating on the principles of rehabilitation and reformation, it was revealed that correctional centers are still largely retributive in nature. The researchers recommended

that the government should take action and not just lip service to address correctional rehabilitation.

Ajiboye (2020) conducted a study for the Nigerian Correctional Service. The unavoidable adjustment from deterrence to rehabilitation. The study discussed how the name of the Prison Service was changed to Correctional Service in 2019 reforms. The research made use of secondary sources for collecting the needed information. The work, however, shows the shortcoming of the institution in the aspect of rehabilitation and recommends that the Nigerian Criminal Justice System deserves reformation and overhaul as well as to guide against the congestion of various correctional centers.

VI. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The study was positioned within the social bond/the control theory. The social bond/the control theory was developed by Travis Hirschi (1969, cited in Akers & Sellers, 2004). For Hirsch, delinquency or crime and social bonds are inversely related. As a control theory, the main thrust of Hirschi's theory is that "delinquent acts result when an individual's bond to the society is weak or broken". Hirsch was influenced by Durkheim for the recognition of the importance of social bonds and social forces that hold society together. He further theorized that individuals who are most tightly bonded to social groups, such as the family, the school and peers, are less likely to commit delinquent acts. Bonding to the society, according to Hirsch, is made up of four elements: attachment, commitment, involvement and belief.

Attachment: An individual's attachment to conventional others is the first element of the social bond. Sensitivity towards others, argues Hirschi, relates to the ability to internalize norms and to develop a conscience. Attachment to others also includes the ties of affection and respect children have for parents, teachers and friends. The stronger the attachment to others, the more likely that an individual will take this into consideration when and if he or she is tempted to commit a delinquent act.

Commitment: The second element of the social bond is commitment to conventional activities and values. An individual is committed to the degree that he or she is willing to invest time, energy and the self in attaining conventional goals, such as education,

property or reputation. When a committed individual considers the cost of committing crime or delinquent act, he or she uses common sense and thinks of the risks of losing the investment already made in conventional behaviour. Hirsch contended that if juveniles are committed to these conventional values and activities, they develop a stake in conformity and will refrain from delinquent behaviour.

Involvement: Involvement also protects an individual from delinquent behaviour. Because an individual's time and energy are limited, involvement in conventional activities leaves no time for crime or delinquent behaviour. The person involved in conventional activities is tied to appointments, deadlines, working hours, plans and the like. Therefore, the opportunity to commit deviant acts rarely arises. To the extent that he is engrossed in conventional activities, he cannot even think about deviant acts, let alone act out his inclinations.

Belief: The fourth element of the social bond is belief. Delinquency results from the absence of effective beliefs that forbid socially unacceptable behaviour. Such beliefs, for example, include respect for the law and for the social norms of society. This respect for the values of the law and the legal system develops through intimate relations with other people, especially parents. Hirsch portrayed a causal chain "from attachment to parents, through concern for the approval of persons in positions of authority, to the belief that rules of society are binding on one's conduct. Finally, Hirsch argued that those who believe that they should obey the rules of society are less likely to violate them.

As it relates to this work, the social bonding/control theory can be linked with the correction of inmates. In other words, each element of the theory depicts one state of the inmates' correction either within or outside the correctional environment. Firstly, through religious programmes provided in the correctional centre, the inmate will learn to embrace moral uprightness and obedience to norms and values, as well as adherence to his/her "belief" system. Secondly, the inmate's "involvement" into various rehabilitation programmes in the correctional centre is another effective rehabilitation strategy that could mould his or her behaviour to

conform to societal expectations after serving a correctional term.

On the concept of "commitment", which the Bonding theory made mention, the inmate has acquired some vocational skills in the correctional centre and will subsequently utilize such skills when he/she is reintegrated into community. "Attachment" will then be achieved when the other three elements mentioned above are fully functional in the ex-convict. Although this hypothetical portrayal of inmate treatment did not follow the sequence of the four elements of the theory mentioned by Hirschi, the theory has proven to have explanatory power on the issues related to inmate rehabilitation. Hirschi's theory was criticized for offering adequate explanations on delinquency in juveniles who are involved only in relatively trivial offences, whether its finding apply as well to serious delinquents can be earnestly questioned. The Social control theory also fails to describe that chain of events that weakens the social bond and divides delinquents into either socialized or unsocialized youths. The theory also fails to give greater attention to the operational definitions of the elements of the social bond.

Despite the criticism, Hirschi's social bond theory has been subjected to numerous empirical tests. He was able to test his theory with a population of adolescents. The basic theoretical constructs of the control theory concepts, such as attachment to parents, involvement in school and commitment to conventional activities, are clearly defined and measurable. The theory has provided valuable insights into delinquent behaviour. For example, the importance of the intra-family relationship has been substantiated. The relationship between the school and delinquency is another important area that social control theory addresses. Especially valid is the proposition that attachment and commitment to societal institutions are associated with low rates of delinquency. Researchers are increasingly using this theory to develop integrated explanations of delinquent behaviour. Although the social control theory cannot explain all the acts of delinquency, it still has more empirical support today than any other explanation of delinquency, (Frank & Clemens, 2008). The social bonding theory also provides plausible explanation for the control of crime. The theory is emphasizing that in any treatment meted out to the inmates' rehabilitation programmes must

address all the aspects of their relationship to the community. Inmates should be provided with the skills that will enable them to create jobs and pursue a legitimate life through conventional means and reattach them to family and community members.

The Social bonding/control theory as the most relevant theoretical frame of reference in dealing with rehabilitation programme among inmates. As stated earlier, the theory is apt for adoption because it covers a wide range of themes that is applicable to the rehabilitation programmes, as used in this study. In brief, attachment with spouse, children, parents and friends will complement the role of correctional institution that ex-convicts will hardly repeat crime; commitment in conventional activities like activities in the neighborhood associations, football clubs will correct an inmate and schools and political participation in the larger society preclude the mind of an ex-convict from recidivism; involvement in conventional and time consuming education, business or vocational training will help in correcting the inmates within and outside the correctional centres; and finally, belief in the moral, religious, and civic rights and responsibilities in the rehabilitation programmes could change the inmates for the better.

VII. METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Keffi correctional centre of Nasarawa State, Nigeria. The study utilizes the survey research design. This design involves collecting data from respondents for the purpose of analysis. The population of the study are inmates in Keffi correctional centre of Keffi Local Government Area of Nasarawa State, Nigeria. Keffi Correctional centre has a population of nine hundred and seven (917) inmates. This is made of convicts (395), awaiting trial persons (463), lifer (12), and condemned (47) in the correctional centre. Therefore, the study population was restricted to the convicts. This is the segment of the inmate population that have access to the rehabilitation programmes in the correctional centre. Since the population was restricted to convicted inmates, the study therefore take census of all convicted inmates in Keffi correctional centre. Therefore, the sample size for the study is three hundred and ninety-five (395) inmates. This technique was employed because the population of the convicted inmates is not large to necessitate sampling, hence, the census

technique. For the in-depth interview, purposive sampling method was employed utilizing the typical case in the selection process of participants as the study was strictly qualitative using a case study design. This depicts that the population was selected based solely on the knowledge and experience they have acquired which is useful for the study. In order to combine the beauty of thoroughfulness and validity of findings of the study, a blend of both primary sources (questionnaire and in-depth interview) and secondary sources through periodical journals and other various publications were utilized. Quantitative data were analyzed using univariate analysis on the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS v26). The univariate analysis involves the use of descriptive statistics, such as frequency distribution, mean, graphs and percentage. Similarly, the study employed thematic analysis to analyse the collected data. The interviews conducted was interpreted, transcribed and content-analyzed. Thematic analysis is a technique for making inferences by objectively and systematically identifying specified characteristics of messages.

VIII. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 1: Age Distributions of Respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
18-23	67	25.7
24-33	91	34.9
34-43	62	23.8
45 & above	41	15.7
Total	261	100

Source: Field Survey, 202

Table 1 is the analyses of the age distribution of respondents in Keffi Correctional Centre in Nasarawa State, Nigeria. Data generated from the study illustrates that 34.79 percent of the respondents fall within the age range of 24-33 years, 25.7 percent are within the range of 18-23 years, 23.8 percent fall within the age range of 34-42 years, while 19.4 percent are within the ages of 44 years and above. The study established that majority of the inmates in the correctional centre are between the ages of 24-33 years in Keffi Correctional Centre in Nasarawa State, Nigeria. Previous studies provided that larger percentage of inmates in the various correctional centres in the world are people between the ages of 18-33 years. This segment of the

population is prone to commit crimes and criminalities in the society

Table 2: Sex Distributions of Respondents

Sex	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	218	83.5
Female	43	16.5
Total	261	100

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Table 2 shows the sex distribution of respondents in Keffi Correctional Centre in Nasarawa State, Nigeria. Data collected from the study sampled population indicated that 83.5 percent of the respondents were males and 16.5 percent of the respondents were females. The data justified that majority of the inmates in Keffi Correctional Centre in Nasarawa State, Nigeria were males while the proportion of women is very small. Therefore, the study concluded that majority of the respondents were males. However, in the world over, the male population is said to overwhelm that of the female in the correctional centre, literatures are replete with various argument that men commit serious crimes of various degrees while little percent of female commit similar crime, hence, most correctional centre are dominated by male all over Nigeria and the world over.

Table 3: Distribution of Respondents by Marital Status

Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Single	69	26.4
Married	105	40.2
Divorced	58	22.2
Widow/widower	29	11.1
Total	261	100

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Table 3 demonstrates the distribution of respondents by marital status in the study location. The study established that majority of the respondents with the highest response in this study in Keffi Correctional Centre in Nasarawa State, Nigeria are married. This was established by 40.2 percent of the total respondents followed by the single who made up 26.4 percent of the population of the study. The study data further affirmed that 22.2 percent of the respondents are divorced and 11.1 percent of the respondents are widow/widower respectively.

Therefore, the study concluded that majority of the inmates' respondents were married. However, prior to this study, most studies conducted in that past have it that majority of inmates were youths who were single, this was because it was believed in the past that married people do not engage in criminal activities. Thus, this study is different because it indicated that majority of the inmate population were married; this could be attributed to increase poverty, unemployment, militancy, corruption and other criminal activities.

Table 4: Distribution of Respondents by Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No formal education	63	24.1
Primary	114	43.7
Secondary	51	19.5
Tertiary	33	12.6
Total	261	100

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Table 4 indicated that 43.7 of the respondents have obtained primary education, 24.1 percent of the respondents have not acquired formal education, 19.5 percent of the respondents have obtained secondary education and 12.6 percent of the respondents have obtained tertiary education in Keffi Correctional Centre in Nasarawa State, Nigeria. Hence, the study concluded that majority of the respondents have acquired primary education in Keffi Correctional Centre in Nasarawa State, Nigeria. Nevertheless, the current correctional centre population is a literate population; they could read and write in English language and possesses one certificate or the other. Unlike in the past where majority of the correctional centre population was mainly illiterates.

Table 5 Occupation of the Respondents before Conviction

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Farming	63	24.1
Civil Servants	25	9.6
Business	143	54.8
Artisans	23	8.8
Others	07	2.7
Total	261	100

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Table 5 presented occupation of the respondents before conviction in Keffi correctional centre in Nasarawa State, Nigeria. The study data revealed 54.8 percent of the respondents engage in various business activities as their major occupation. They also engage in some other occupations ranging from farming, civil service, artisans, and others to earn a living. The study asserted that majority of the respondents are doing business before conviction. Hence, most studies conducted in the past affirmed that majority of the inmates in Nigerian correctional centre have been engage in different occupational activities before their conviction.

Table 6 Response on the Kind of Offence Brought the Respondents to the Correctional Centre

Kind of Offence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Armed robbery	71	27.2
Burglary	22	8.4
Theft	51	19.5
Advanced Fee Fraud (419)	31	11.9
Assault	18	6.9
Domestic Violence	15	5.7
Kidnapping	08	3.1
Others	03	1.1
Total	261	100

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Table 6 is the illustration of the kind of offence brought respondent to the correctional centre. The study data provided that the kinds of offence brought the respondents to the correctional centre are armed robbery representing 27.2 of the respondents, theft for 19.5 percent of the respondents, advanced fee fraud (419) for 11.9 percent of the respondents, burglary for 8.4 percent of the respondents, assault for 6.9 percent of the respondents, domestic violence for 5.7 percent of the respondents, kidnapping for 3.1 percent of the respondents and others for 1.1 percent of the respondents respectively. The study reported that majority of the respondents were brought to the correctional centre because of armed robbery. This implies that armed robbery is rampant in the country.

Table 7: Challenges Confronting Rehabilitation Programmes in Keffi Correctional Centre, Nasarawa State, Nigeria

Challenges	Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Inhumane living condition	Yes	186	65.7
	No	75	34.7
	Total	261	100.0
Overcrowding	Yes	199	76.2
	No	62	23.8
	Total	261	100.0
Poor medical facility	Yes	147	67.4
	No	71	32.6
	Total	261	100.0
Poor training of correctional staff	Yes	155	71.1
	No	63	28.9
	Total	261	100.0
Lack of required facilities for training	Yes	155	71.1
	No	63	28.9
	Total	261	100.0
Poorly equipped school	Yes	139	63.8
	No	79	36.2
	Total	261	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

Table 7 reveals that rehabilitation of inmates his inhibited with enormous challenges. The table shows that among the challenges inhibiting rehabilitation programmes in the correctional facility include the inhumane condition of the environment, overcrowding, poor medical facility. Poor training of staff, lack of required facilities needed for training and poorly equipped school. This is reported by large percent of the inmates outlined the aforementioned challenges. The correctional centre and correctional facilities in Nigeria remain harsh and life threatening rather than rehabilitative and so it is faced with many challenges that hampers the process of rehabilitation. Still reiterating this point, the correctional officers from the in-depth interview reveals that there are certain conditions in the correctional centre that affects the process of rehabilitation in the correctional facilities. Among such challenges mentioned include lack of required facilities needed for training of inmates, poorly equipped adult educational centres and lack of proper training of officers to ensure that they are

equipped with the appropriate skills to train inmates in the various rehabilitation programmes.

IX. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Findings show that the various rehabilitation programmes in the correctional centres are inhibited with some challenges. It was revealed that among the challenges inhibiting rehabilitation programmes in the correctional facility include the inhumane condition of the environment, overcrowding, poor medical facility. Poor training of staff, lack of required facilities needed for training and poorly equipped school. This is reported by larger percentage of the inmates outlined the aforementioned challenges. The correctional centre and correctional facilities in Nigeria remain harsh and life threatening rather than rehabilitative and so it is faced with many challenges that hampers the process of rehabilitation. Chukwudi (2012) noted that correctional centre in Nigeria is characterized by harsh and life threatening environment. Nigerian correctional centre and its officials don't see the prison as a reformation centre but rather a form of punishment thus, making rehabilitation secondary. The infrastructure and logistics in Nigerian correctional centres are neglected. The condition of most correctional centres in Nigeria is seen to be damaging to the physical and mental well-being of incarcerated inmates, which in most cases constitute a great threat to their health.

X. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Rehabilitation of inmates is the most important role of the correctional facilities in Nigeria. This has not been adequately achieved as the Keffi correctional centre has not adequately performed the role of increasing the vocational skills of inmates while in custody. Correctional facilities are designed to reform and re-integrate inmates into the society thus the need to encourage inmates to participate in the available rehabilitations programmes. This is important especially as most of the inmates are socially, educationally and economically disadvantaged hence the need to provide them with means of livelihood after living the prison. Despite the availability of some of the rehabilitation programmes in the correctional centres, they have not been effective as they are faced with some challenges such as lack of the needed training materials, lack of funds, inhumane condition of the

correctional centre as well as poor training of wardens.

Following the findings of the result, some recommendations are proffered;

- i. There is need to ensure that the available rehabilitation programmes are properly executed to enhance efficiency.
- ii. Training and retraining of correctional centre officials should become a major priority to the government. The status quo where staff are not sufficiently and efficiently trained should be changed. They should be sent on refresher courses, seminars, conferences and workshops to broaden their horizon and also improve their professionalism.
- iii. Skills acquisition workshops in correctional centre should be revitalized. This will go a long way in providing a platform where inmates will be trained in various handicrafts and skills so that they can lead crime free lives when they are discharged from prison.
- iv. The Nigerian Correctional Centre should be sufficiently funded to be able to meet up with its mandates. Funding options should not only come from the federal government alone. The state and local governments should also be compelled to fund the correctional centre. This will help a great deal in making funds available for the service in the rehabilitation process.

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