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**REFORMATIVE JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES IN KIRIKIRI
CUSTODIAL CENTRE IN LAGOS STATE, NIGERIA**

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Abstract

This study examines the effectiveness of reformatory justice in the Nigerian correctional services, focusing on rehabilitation programs at Kirikiri Custodial Centre, Lagos. The research evaluates the extent to which rehabilitation initiatives reduce recidivism and facilitate the reintegration of former inmates into society. Three research questions were raised for the study. Using a descriptive survey design, data were collected from correctional officers and inmates through a structured questionnaire and interview guide. Findings indicate that rehabilitation programs, including vocational training, education, and counseling, positively impact inmates' reintegration prospects and reduce the likelihood of reoffending. However, challenges such as overcrowding, inadequate funding, and a lack of skilled personnel hinder the full implementation of reformatory justice. The study highlights the need for improved funding, better-trained correctional staff, and stronger community support systems to enhance rehabilitation efforts. Addressing these challenges will foster a more effective correctional system, ultimately contributing to a decline in recidivism rates and better social reintegration outcomes. This research provides valuable insights for policymakers, correctional administrators, and stakeholders seeking to enhance Nigeria's correctional system through reformatory justice practices.

Keywords: Reformatory Justice, Rehabilitation Programs, Recidivism, Nigerian Correctional System, Kirikiri Custodial Centre.

Introduction

The Nigerian Correctional Service is a vital part of the country's criminal justice system, tasked with the custody, reformation, and rehabilitation of offenders. Legally, it is expected not just to imprison individuals, but to also help them become law-abiding citizens through structured rehabilitation and reintegration programmes. The Nigerian Correctional Service Act of 2019 clearly outlines these responsibilities, emphasising both security and transformation. However, many Nigerians question whether the system has truly lived up to this mandate, especially given the growing number of ex-inmates who return to crime after their release.

One major concern is the high rate of recidivism, which shows that many released prisoners eventually return to criminal activities. This trend suggests that rehabilitation efforts are not working as they should. According to Ugwuoke (2010; 2014), successful rehabilitation relies heavily on education, counselling, vocational training, and psychological support. Yet, overcrowding, outdated infrastructure, and lack of resources often limit access to such services in Nigeria's prisons. As a result, inmates frequently leave without the skills or mindset needed to reintegrate into society successfully.

Beyond these internal challenges, the worsening state of security in and around prison facilities further undermines the correctional system. The 2022 attack on Kuje Correctional Centre in Abuja by armed terrorists is one of many examples where national security failed, and hundreds of inmates escaped, including high-profile Boko Haram suspects (Buhari, 2022;2022). This incident raised critical questions about the preparedness of correctional centres to protect both inmates and the wider public. Observers noted the lack of CCTV systems, poor coordination among security agencies, and the absence of modern surveillance technology (Buhari, 2022). These failures not only risk public safety but also damage the credibility of the correctional system as a whole.

Moreover, the physical environment within many Nigerian correctional centres is troubling. Cells are overcrowded, poorly ventilated, and often lack basic hygiene. According to Adepoju (2016), such living conditions fall short of the standards needed to promote meaningful rehabilitation. These centres, instead of reforming inmates, often deepen their trauma and resentment. In some cases, solitary confinement is still used without proper engagement or mental health support, which experts like Sharma (2019) argue is both unnatural and damaging, especially when prisoners are left idle without any productive activity.

While the goal of punishment in any society includes deterrence, incapacitation, retribution, restitution, and rehabilitation (Oruta, 2016), the Nigerian system appears to function more effectively in punishing offenders than in helping them reintegrate. This imbalance between punitive and reformatory justice has sparked growing interest in alternative approaches. Reformatory justice sometimes referred to as restorative justice seeks to address the causes of crime, rebuild trust between offenders and their communities, and offer second chances through structured rehabilitation. Scholars like Igbo (2007) argue that this approach encourages empathy, accountability, and personal growth, making it more effective in the long term than imprisonment alone.

However, there is a notable gap in research assessing the effectiveness of reformatory strategies in Nigeria. Most discussions around prison reform focus on theory, without enough attention to whether these interventions actually reduce reoffending or improve life outcomes for former inmates. Onwubiko (2022) also highlights that correctional institutions in Nigeria are more focused on preventing escapes through harsh measures like high walls, armed guards, and limited inmate movement, than on supporting transformation and growth. This security-first approach is

understandable given the recent attacks, but it should not replace the core purpose of correctional custody: rehabilitation.

The effectiveness of the Nigerian correctional service cannot be fully understood without acknowledging how institutional failures, weak security architecture, and lack of support systems contribute to a cycle of crime and re-imprisonment. As Femi (2022) rightly pointed out, it is a damning reflection on the Nigerian state when terrorists can free their comrades from prisons while the government struggles to protect its citizens or rescue those held hostage. This failure is made worse by reports of internal conspiracies, poor intelligence gathering, and the alleged involvement of security officers aiding inmate escapes.

Given these troubling realities, this study aims to evaluate how well reformatory justice strategies are being implemented within the Nigerian correctional system. It will also assess their actual impact on inmate rehabilitation and the reduction of repeat offences. By doing so, it hopes to shed light on what needs to change, not only in policy but also in practice, to make the correctional system more effective, humane, and secure.

Statement of the Problem

The Nigerian correctional system faces several challenges, including the reliance on traditional punitive approaches that have shown limited success in addressing criminal behavior. The lack of empirical assessment of rehabilitation programs within Nigerian correctional facilities, overcrowding, inadequate resources, substandard infrastructure, and a lack of skilled personnel further complicate the situation. The absence of tailored interventions, socio-economic reintegration barriers, and comprehensive outcome measures further exacerbate the problem.

The entrenched nature of punitive models, coupled with resistance to change and institutional inertia, presents a significant challenge to the adoption and effective execution of reformatory

justice strategies. A comprehensive study is needed to uncover empirically-grounded insights into the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs within Nigerian correctional services. These insights can inform policy decisions, steer the course of criminal justice reform, and contribute to the overall objective of curbing recidivism rates while fostering a genuinely rehabilitative and all-encompassing correctional environment. A comprehensive study like this is necessary to address these issues and develop effective reformatory justice strategies and rehabilitation programs in Nigerian correctional facilities.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of the study is to evaluate reformatory justice and correctional service in kirikiri correctional centre in Lagos state. Specifically, the study aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. Evaluate the outcomes of rehabilitation programs within Nigerian correctional facilities.
2. Investigate the impact of rehabilitation programs on reducing recidivism rates among offenders who have participated in these interventions.
3. Identify the challenges faced in implementing reformatory justice strategies within the Nigerian correctional system and explore potential opportunities for improvement.

Methodology

This study adopted a descriptive survey research design to evaluate the success of rehabilitation among offenders in Kirikiri Correctional Centre, Lagos State, Nigeria. The target population included inmates and correctional officers within the facility. Due to confidentiality concerns, the exact number of inmates was not disclosed. However, the study sampled 30 correctional officers and a group of accessible inmates.

Purposive sampling was used to select participants who were available, cooperative, and relevant to the study objectives. A self-structured questionnaire served as the primary instrument for data collection. It was organised into two sections: Section A focused on demographic information, while Section B examined the evaluation of reformative justice practices and the role of the Nigerian Correctional Service in rehabilitation.

To complement the questionnaire, interviews were conducted with a few selected inmates to gather deeper insights into their rehabilitation experiences. These interview responses were analysed using content analysis, allowing for the identification of recurring themes and perspectives.

The questionnaire underwent face and content validation by experts in the field of measurement and evaluation to ensure it appropriately reflected the study's focus areas. Data collection was supported by correctional officers who assisted in distributing and retrieving the instruments efficiently and securely.

Quantitative data from the questionnaires were analysed using frequencies, percentages, mean scores, and standard deviation, in line with the stated research questions. The integration of both survey and interview methods provided a broader understanding of the effectiveness of rehabilitation strategies and reformative justice practices in the Kirikiri Correctional Centre.

Result

4.2 Response to Research Questions

Research Question One: What are the outcomes of rehabilitation programs within Nigerian correctional facilities?

Table 3: Outcomes of Rehabilitation Programs Within Nigerian Correctional Facilities (Officers)

SN	Items	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
1	In my role, I have facilitated inmates' participation in rehabilitation programs.	30	4.13	.507
2	Various rehabilitation programs are available to aid inmates in preparing for reintegration into society.	30	4.27	.583
3	I am contented with the support and guidance provided to inmates during rehabilitation.	30	4.20	.407
4	The formats of rehabilitation programs equip inmates with necessary skills and knowledge for a lawful and productive life after release.	30	4.20	.484
5	Inmates can effectively apply the skills or knowledge gained from rehabilitation programs in their daily lives after release.	30	4.10	.607

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 4: Outcomes of Rehabilitation Programs Within Nigerian Correctional Facilities (Inmates)

SN	Items	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
1	I have participated in rehabilitation programs during my time in the correctional facility.	90	4.04	.207
2	There are different rehabilitation programs that are helpful in preparing inmates for reintegration into society.	90	4.27	.515
3	I am satisfied with the support and guidance provided to me during the rehabilitation.	90	4.13	.767
4	The rehabilitation programs formats equip for necessary skills and knowledge to pursue a lawful and productive life after release.	90	4.38	.488
5	One can apply the skills or knowledge gained from the rehabilitation programs in daily life after release.	90	4.33	.474

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The research questions focus on exploring the outcomes of rehabilitation programs within Nigerian correctional facilities. Table 3 presents the outcomes of these programs from the perspective of officers, while Table 4 presents the inmates' perspectives.

In Table 3, officers generally express positive views regarding the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs. The mean scores for all items are above 4, indicating agreement with the statements. Specifically, officers report high levels of involvement in facilitating inmates' participation in rehabilitation programs (Mean = 4.13) and satisfaction with the support and guidance provided to inmates during rehabilitation (Mean = 4.20). They also perceive the rehabilitation programs as equipping inmates with necessary skills and knowledge for reintegration into society (Mean = 4.20) and believe that inmates can effectively apply these skills after release (Mean = 4.10).

In Table 4, inmates also provide positive feedback on the outcomes of rehabilitation programs. Similar to officers, inmates express high levels of satisfaction with the rehabilitation programs, with mean scores above 4 for all items. They report active participation in rehabilitation programs during their time in the correctional facility (Mean = 4.04) and perceive these programs as helpful in preparing them for reintegration into society (Mean = 4.27). Additionally, inmates feel satisfied with the support and guidance received during rehabilitation (Mean = 4.13) and believe that the programs equip them with necessary skills and knowledge for a lawful and productive life post-release (Mean = 4.38). They also express confidence in their ability to apply these skills in daily life after release (Mean = 4.33).

Overall, both officers and inmates perceive rehabilitation programs within Nigerian correctional facilities positively, indicating effectiveness in preparing inmates for reintegration into society and equipping them with the necessary skills for lawful and productive lives post-release.

Research Question Two: To what extent is the impact of rehabilitation programs on reducing recidivism rates among offenders who have participated in these interventions?

Table 5: The impact of rehabilitation programs on reducing recidivism rates among offenders who have participated in these interventions (Officers)

SN	Items	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
6	Rehabilitation programs can effectively reduce the likelihood of reoffending.	30	4.03	.765
7	I believe the skills and knowledge from rehabilitation programs can positively influence positive behaviour, reducing the chances of recommitting offenses.	30	4.23	.626
8	Rehabilitation programs can adequately address the underlying issues that contribute to criminal behaviour, contributing to a decrease in reoffending rates.	30	4.33	.547
9	The support and guidance during rehabilitation can significantly help in rehabilitation and reintegration into society, ultimately reducing reoffending.	30	4.03	.809
10	I have noticed a substantial decrease in inmates' inclination towards criminal activities due to the positive impact of rehabilitation programs.	30	3.77	1.040

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 6: The impact of rehabilitation programs on reducing recidivism rates among offenders who have participated in these interventions (Inmates)

SN	Items	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
6	Rehabilitation programs can effectively reduce likelihood of reoffending.	90	3.73	.632
7	I believe the skills and knowledge from rehabilitation programs can positively influence positive behaviour, reducing the chances of recommitting offenses.	90	4.01	.786
8	Rehabilitation programs can adequately address the underlying issues that contribute to criminal behaviour, contributing to a decrease in reoffending rates.	90	4.13	.767
9	Support and guidance during rehabilitation can significantly help in rehabilitation and reintegration into society, ultimately reducing reoffending.	90	4.38	.488
10	I have noticed a substantial decrease in my inclination towards criminal activities due to the positive impact of rehabilitation programs.	90	4.33	.474

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Research Question Two explores the impact of rehabilitation programs on reducing recidivism rates among offenders who have participated in these interventions. Table 5 presents the responses from officers, while Table 5 provides the perspectives of the inmates.

In Table 4, officers generally express positive beliefs regarding the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs in reducing recidivism rates. The mean scores for all items are above 4, indicating agreement with the statements. Officers believe that rehabilitation programs can effectively reduce the likelihood of reoffending (Mean = 4.03) and positively influence behaviour to reduce the chances of recommitting offenses (Mean = 4.23). They also perceive these programs as capable of addressing underlying issues contributing to criminal behaviour, leading to a decrease in reoffending rates (Mean = 4.33). Additionally, officers believe that the support and guidance

provided during rehabilitation significantly contribute to rehabilitation and reintegration into society, ultimately reducing recidivism (Mean = 4.03). However, they note a slightly lower mean score for noticing a decrease in inmates' inclination towards criminal activities (Mean = 3.77), which indicates some variability in their observations.

In Table 6, inmates also express positive beliefs about the impact of rehabilitation programs on reducing recidivism rates. Their mean scores for all items are above 3.73, indicating agreement with the statements. Inmates believe that rehabilitation programs can effectively reduce the likelihood of reoffending (Mean = 3.73) and positively influence behaviour to reduce the chances of recommitting offenses (Mean = 4.01). They also perceive these programs as capable of addressing underlying issues contributing to criminal behaviour, leading to a decrease in reoffending rates (Mean = 4.13). Furthermore, inmates strongly agree that the support and guidance provided during rehabilitation significantly help in rehabilitation and reintegration into society, ultimately reducing recidivism (Mean = 4.38). They also report a substantial decrease in their own inclination towards criminal activities due to the positive impact of rehabilitation programs (Mean = 4.33).

Overall, both officers and inmates believe that rehabilitation programs have a positive impact on reducing recidivism rates by addressing underlying issues, providing support and guidance, and influencing positive behaviour among offenders.

Research Questions Three: What are the challenges faced in implementing reformative justice strategies within the Nigerian correctional system and explore potential opportunities for improvement?

Table 7: The challenges faced in implementing reformative justice strategies within the Nigerian correctional system and explore potential opportunities for improvement (Officers)

SN	Items	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
11	Prison facilities face severe overcrowding.	30	4.03	.850
12	There is a lack of funding for rehabilitation programs.	30	3.83	.747
13	There are instances of embezzlement of funds within the prison system.	30	3.20	1.095
14	There is a shortage of skilled and trained staff.	30	3.60	.968
15	Ex-convicts face social stigma upon reintegration.	30	3.67	.922

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 8: The challenges faced in implementing reformative justice strategies within the Nigerian correctional system and explore potential opportunities for improvement (Inmates)

SN	Items	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
11	The prison facilities face severe overcrowding	90	3.73	.632
12	There is no funding for rehabilitation programs	90	4.01	.786
13	There is embezzlement of fund in the prison system	90	4.18	.978
14	There is a shortage of skilled and trained staff	90	4.37	.608
15	Ex-convicts face social stigma upon reintegration	90	3.83	.903

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The research delves into the challenges encountered in the implementation of reformatory justice strategies within the Nigerian correctional system, juxtaposed with opportunities for enhancement.

Through the lens of both officers and inmates, the study scrutinizes several critical facets.

Principally, overcrowding emerges as a pervasive issue plaguing prison facility, with officers rating it at a mean of 4.03 and inmates at 3.73, eliciting concern among both groups. This overcrowding not only strains resources but also compromises the efficacy of rehabilitation efforts, exacerbating the difficulties inherent in fostering reformatory justice.

Financial constraints pose another formidable obstacle, with officers rating the lack of funding for rehabilitation programs at a mean of 3.83 and inmates at 4.01. This financial shortfall not only impedes the development of necessary infrastructure but also restricts access to essential resources for inmate reintegration.

Moreover, systemic corruption rears its head within the correctional system, with officers rating instances of embezzlement of funds at a mean of 3.20 and inmates at 4.18. Such malfeasance not only erodes public trust but also diverts resources away from crucial rehabilitation endeavors.

Personnel shortages further compound the challenges, with officers rating the shortage of skilled and trained staff at a mean of 3.60 and inmates at 4.37. This deficit inhibits the delivery of effective rehabilitative services, straining existing personnel and compromising the quality of care provided to inmates.

Furthermore, the enduring social stigma faced by ex-convicts upon reintegration presents a formidable barrier to successful rehabilitation. Officers rated this challenge at a mean of 3.67, and inmates at 3.83, highlighting its significant impact on both groups. This stigma not only impedes societal acceptance but also undermines efforts to foster meaningful reintegration and reduce recidivism rates.

In summary, the research underscores a constellation of challenges confronting the Nigerian correctional system in its pursuit of reformative justice. However, amidst these challenges lie opportunities for improvement, including the reallocation of resources, the implementation of robust anti-corruption measures, and the cultivation of a supportive societal environment conducive to offender rehabilitation and reintegration.

Interview Discussion

Rehabilitation Programs in Nigerian Correctional Facilities

Rehabilitation programs in correctional facilities play a crucial role in transforming the lives of inmates, reducing recidivism, and facilitating their successful reintegration into society. This discussion delves into the insights gathered from an interview regarding the specific rehabilitation programs available in Nigerian correctional facilities, their outcomes, challenges, and potential strategies for improvement. The discussion also aims to support a survey questionnaire focused on the effectiveness of these programs.

1. Insights into Rehabilitation Programs

The Nigerian correctional facilities offer a comprehensive set of rehabilitation programs structured around four main components: educational opportunities, vocational/skill acquisition, religious activities, and sports/recreational activities.

Educational Programmes

- **Adult Education:** Adult education classes are provided for inmates who did not have prior educational opportunities.
- **Higher Education:** The National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) offers degrees, master's, and PhD programs for inmates with secondary and tertiary qualifications.

- **Outcomes:** These programs aim to ensure that incarceration is seen as a temporary pause, equipping inmates with knowledge and qualifications that enable better reintegration into society. Support from NGOs, private individuals, and religious institutions is critical in providing aftercare and halfway homes for those without immediate support upon release.

Vocational/Skill Acquisition Programs

- **Skills Offered:** Programs include paint making, tailoring/fashion designing, hair barbing and making, cosmetics and soap making, electrical maintenance, and laundry services.
- **Outcomes:** Inmates utilize their acquired skills for facility maintenance and personal upkeep, providing services within the facility and earning a fee for their work. These skills are intended to help them secure employment post-release.

Religious Activities

- **Involvement:** Churches and mosques offer spiritual guidance, counseling, and pro bono legal services, particularly for inmates with minor offenses.
- **Outcomes:** Religious programs help inmates reconcile with their faith, which aids in their reintegration into society and reduces stigmatization.

Sports/Recreational Activities

- **Activities:** Inmates engage in football, volleyball, and table tennis to maintain physical and mental well-being.
- **Outcomes:** These activities promote healthy living and provide a platform for talent development.

2. Contribution to Successful Reintegration

The rehabilitation programs significantly aid in the successful reintegration of inmates into society. Counseling, empowerment, and aftercare services provided by NGOs, private individuals, and

religious bodies are essential. They offer continuous support, including start-up tools for acquired skills and short-stay homes to monitor progress, ensuring a smoother transition back into the community.

3. Success Stories and Impact

Despite challenges like congestion and inadequate funding, there are success stories that highlight the positive impact of rehabilitation programs. For example, an ex-convict from the Kirikiri facility successfully established a furniture company and employed others, demonstrating the potential for inmates to transform their lives through these programs.

4. Addressing Root Causes of Criminal Behavior

Rehabilitation programs aim to reduce criminal behavior by addressing underlying causes and promoting positive change. Education, therapy, and vocational training help offenders develop necessary skills and attitudes to avoid reoffending. Continuous counseling and addressing issues like family background, peer pressure, and environmental factors are crucial for comprehensive rehabilitation.

5. Trends in Reducing Recidivism

Inmates participating in multiple rehabilitation programs tend to reoffend less compared to those engaged in only one program. Continuous and diverse rehabilitation programs are essential to effectively reduce recidivism and support long-term behavioral change.

6. Influential Elements in Reducing Recidivism

The most influential elements in reducing recidivism include targeting likely reoffenders, implementing best practices for reducing recidivism, and regularly reviewing program quality. Enhancing these programs through joint sponsorship by the government, NGOs, private individuals, and religious institutions can maximize their positive impacts.

7. Challenges in Implementing Reformatory Justice

Major challenges include lack of funding, poor prison conditions, congestion, excessive pre-trial detention, and limited educational and vocational training programs. These issues hinder effective rehabilitation and reintegration processes, affecting the overall welfare of inmates and prolonging trials.

8. Addressing Challenges in Reformatory Justice

Underfunding, staff shortages, and societal stigmatization are significant obstacles. For example, the Kirikiri facility operates with inadequate staff for a large number of inmates, far below international standards. Released inmates face rejection and difficulty finding jobs due to societal stigma.

Based on the interview, rehabilitation programs in Nigerian correctional facilities are essential for reducing recidivism and aiding successful reintegration of inmates into society. Addressing the challenges and implementing recommended strategies can enhance the effectiveness of these programs, ultimately leading to more positive rehabilitation outcomes. This discussion provides a foundation for further research and supports the development of a survey questionnaire to assess the impact and effectiveness of rehabilitation programs in Nigerian correctional facilities.

Discussion of Findings

Research question shows that both officers and inmates perceive rehabilitation programs within Nigerian correctional facilities positively, indicating effectiveness in preparing inmates for reintegration into society and equipping them with the necessary skills for lawful and productive lives post-release. These findings support the study by Uche, Uche, Ezumah, Ebue, Okafor and Ezegebe (2015) that the aim of prison skills acquisition activities is to provide inmates with various skills to empower and ensure their vocational supports on release. This is also supportive of

Asokhia and Agbonluae (2013) that the skills acquired through rehabilitation programmes often help inmates to live a law abiding and meaningful life in the society. The various prisons' rehabilitation programmes have worthwhile impacts on inmates' social functioning. This is because inmates attested that the experiences of rehabilitation activities had inclined their productive and creative tendencies, lessened inclination to commit crime, developed social consciousness of the negative impacts of crime and violence, and greater chances of changed attitudes/behaviours. This is supportive of Omorogiuwa (2014) that the prison rehabilitative services help to promote inmates' path to reformation by improving on their potentials and subsequent change unto social functioning. In conclusion, Uche et al. (2015) in their study concurs that prison inmates recognized that rehabilitation programmes influenced their lives positively by instilling on them skills needed for later life.

Research question two shows that both officers and inmates believe that rehabilitation programs have a positive impact on reducing recidivism rates by addressing underlying issues, providing support and guidance, and influencing positive behaviour among offenders. It is also predicated upon the belief that when rehabilitative, reformatory and reintegration policies and programmes are effectively and meaningfully pursued and implemented for prisoners under conducive structural and environmental as well legal conditions, that there may be decrease or significant reduction in antisocial behaviours among prisoners and the members of the society in general (Ekpenyong & Undutimi, 2016; Esiri, 2016). In this study, it was found that a good number of inmates from the two institutions end up back in the institution due mostly to poor rehabilitation programmes. The reason for this poor rehabilitation programme was attributed to mismanagement of resources and lack of commitment on the part of the administrators.

Research question three shows that the research underscores a constellation of challenges confronting the Nigerian correctional system in its pursuit of reformatory justice. Efforts to improve inmate rehabilitation in Nigeria have not yielded the desired results in the country, despite the passage of the Correctional Service Act in 2019. The Nigerian correctional system, in the words of Mbembe (2001) remains a prominent force in the process of subjecting Nigerians rather than being used as an instrument of correction. Inmate rehabilitation in Nigeria, therefore remains largely in the realm of aspiration. The use of imprisonment as a preferred sentencing option in Nigeria without reference to the capacity to reform not only constitutes stress on the correctional system but also undermines the state's capacity to maintain security which is a natural precondition for socioeconomic development all over the world. Therefore, the lack of symmetry between the state capacity for inmate rehabilitation and the ever-increasing number of inmates in Nigerian correctional centres has made the prisons in Nigeria constitute a security risk to ordinary peace-loving Nigerians. In the words of Omotola (2016), adequate state capacity is an essential foundation for state effectiveness in the discharge of its core functions.

Conclusion

The study on reformatory justice in the Nigerian correctional system reveals the positive perception of rehabilitation programs by both officers and inmates. These programs are seen as effective tools for preparing inmates for reintegration into society, equipping them with essential skills, and fostering lawful and productive lives post-release. The study also highlights the positive impact of rehabilitation programs on reducing recidivism rates, focusing on addressing underlying issues, providing support, and influencing positive behavior among offenders. However, the research also points out challenges in the effective implementation of rehabilitation programs, such as mismanagement of resources and lack of commitment by administrators.

The Nigerian correctional system faces numerous challenges in its pursuit of reformative justice, including overcrowding, lack of resources, and systemic inefficiencies. This poses not only a challenge to inmate rehabilitation but also a broader security risk to society. The study provides valuable insights into the successes and challenges of rehabilitation within the Nigerian correctional system, emphasizing the importance of effective rehabilitation programs in reducing recidivism and facilitating inmates' reintegration into society.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made in line with the findings of this study:

1. **Allocation of Adequate Resources:** There is a pressing need for increased funding and resource allocation towards rehabilitation programs. This includes investment in infrastructure, staffing, and vocational training facilities to adequately support the rehabilitation process.
2. **Enhanced Training and Support for Staff:** Efforts should be made to address the shortage of skilled and trained staff within correctional facilities. Providing comprehensive training programs and ongoing professional development opportunities can help improve staff capabilities and effectiveness in delivering rehabilitation services.
3. **Community Engagement and Support:** Collaboration with community organizations, NGOs, and other stakeholders can facilitate the reintegration process for ex-convicts. Building partnerships with these entities can provide additional support networks and resources to aid in the successful transition of inmates back into society.
4. **Addressing Stigma and Social Reintegration:** Efforts should be made to combat social stigma faced by ex-convicts upon reintegration. Public awareness campaigns, advocacy

efforts, and community education programs can help change societal attitudes towards formerly incarcerated individuals and promote their acceptance and inclusion.

5. **Legislative Reforms:** Continued efforts should be made to enact and enforce legislative reforms that prioritize rehabilitation and reintegration within the correctional system. This includes ensuring that policies and laws are aligned with international standards and best practices in the field of criminal justice and rehabilitation.

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