

**Inmates' Perception of the Role of Correctional Officers on Inmates
Rehabilitation in Nigeria Correctional Service, Edo State, Nigeria**
By

Osagie Lucky Omoruyi, Ph.D.

**Department of Sociology and Anthropology,
Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Benin, Nigeria**
osagie.omoruyi@uniben.edu +2348064442219

&

Godson Godwin Omigie

**Department of Social Work, Faculty of Social Sciences,
University of Benin, Nigeria**
godson.omigie@uniben.edu +234805020519

Abstract

Rehabilitation and welfare of inmates is an emerging topical issue and a subject of concern in recent times correctional facilities across the world. The study examined inmates' perception of the role of correctional officers on inmates' rehabilitation in Nigeria correctional service, Edo state, Nigeria. From the study population, a sample of 695 inmates were drawn to elicit quantitative data using the semi-structured questionnaire and 14 participants were also selected for qualitative data using in-depth interview. Due to the limited number of convicts in the custodial centres, the total number of the population was taken as the sample size, hence, there was no sampling technique for the quantitative data. Purposive sampling techniques was adopted for the qualitative data. The data collected were analysed using SPSS and manual content analysis respectively. The major findings of the study were that Nigeria Correctional Service has e embraced the global philosophy of rehabilitation of inmates. Study also discovered that corrections or welfare officers in the various custodial centres in Edo State have always participated in the treatment or rehabilitation of convicts using correctives services and programmes. The study recommends among others the recruitment and training of correctional and welfare officers in the various custodial centres in Nigeria.

Keywords: Inmates Perception, Rehabilitation, Correctional Officer, Role, Custodial Centres**Introduction**

Prison, custodial centres or correctional facilities as it known in some countries is one of the main and significant institutions saddles with the responsibilities of the administration of criminal justice. Criminals who are sentenced to imprisonment are sent to this institution for rehabilitation and reformation. In modern penology, the core responsibility of the correctional system is to rehabilitate inmates, thereby assisting them to understand what why they exhibit anti-social behaviors and facilitating them to become productive and law abiding citizens after releasing and prevent them from recidivism. To accomplish this task, the correctional system, effective rehabilitation process during inmates' incarceration period and protection of inmates rights should be institutionalized (Muthukuda, 2010).

Since the inception of custodial centres in Nigeria, so much has been said about the rehabilitation and the neglect that characterized rehabilitation process which has led the high rate of ex-convicts returning to crime (Obioha, 2011). Reformation, rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders are key goals for the establishment of modern custodial centres; which is predicated upon the understanding that those who have deviated from the collective norms and laws of the society as expressed in criminal laws should be reformed or assisted to live a better life (Igbinovia and Omorogiuwa, 2019, Ayuk, Owan and Ekok, 2013). Consequently, the dilapidation state of the inmates custodial centres, demonstrates a condition that cannot guarantee the reformatory process of the inmates. This can be attributed to the neglect of the welfare of the inmates and failure to implement the reforms recommendations of the custodial centres (Opafunso and Adepoju, 2016).

The rehabilitation of inmates' in custodial centres in Nigeria has been a concern in recent times. According to Musaya (2013), asked a fundamental question, are inmates supposed to be punished? Is it possible to engage inmates in rehabilitation programmes to make them law abiding and self-reliant once released? However, Rice (2006) argued in an attempt to clarifies these questions, that the major focus of the rehabilitation programmes for inmates is to increase their education and vocational skills, so as to have competitive value upon release and minimize their

chances of recidivism. Consequently, the state of the Nigeria correctional service clearly depicts circumstances that negate the true reformatory process of the inmates (Onyekachi, 2016). Chappell (2004) asserted that lack of rehabilitation programmes makes inmates to be more susceptible to crime and recidivism is bound to occur

Statement of the Problem

Much emphasis on rehabilitation of inmates, reducing recidivism and availability and accessibility of treatment programmes and services within the custodial centres has attracted much debates in the discourse of corrections and criminal justice system. In developed countries, much attempt has been made to build a system of sustainable corrections and treatment of inmates that can help them function effectively within the context of socioeconomic realities if eventually discharged (Oluyemi and Norma, 2014). Despite the fact that inmates' reformation is hinged on effective correctional system, yet, rehabilitation Nigeria correctional system is still largely constrained by the inadequacy and inaccessibility of rehabilitation programmes. The burden of rehabilitating inmates is a major problem in many correctional facilities, especially developing countries such as Nigeria.

Consequently, since the establishment of Nigeria Correctional Service, several rehabilitation programmes have been formulated. These rehabilitation programmes are to equip the inmates with skills to ensure that they are self-dependent and not a burden or a nuisance to their families or other members of the community and can make positive contributions to the development of the areas they live in. Despite these efforts, Chikwelu et al. (2019) argued that life after incarceration indicates that, cases of recidivists who cannot generate any livelihoods upon release are quite common within communities in Nigeria. More so, huge resources invested to engage inmates on various rehabilitation programmes ranging from formal primary, secondary, counselling, skills training and vocational courses, aimed at sustaining them and their dependents has yielded little or no result in terms of rehabilitation and preventing inmates from returning to crime (Onyekachi, 2016).

However, a more tangible feature of the correctional system that has positive effects on inmates is the role of correctional officers. Correctional officers have routine contact with the inmates, and the nature of their interactions can promote inmate's desistance from crime upon release (Farkas, 2001). Despite this promising proposition, the attitudinal dispositions of some correctional officers, custodial and institutional staff towards the inmates are still punitive and lack supportive and protective care (Cullen, Smith, Lowenkamp and Latessa, 2009). There are indications that the attitude and role of correctional officers has adverse effects on inmates' rehabilitation and wellbeing (Udutchay, 2010). Correctional officers' role and their approach to inmates are influenced by the central goals of correction, making them to hold on to the unofficial subcultural code that toughness and punishment is still the best way to correct inmate (Johnson, 2002).

The ancient claims that if inmates are not harmed or punished by corrections officers will not desist from crime are logically defective and no longer rational in modern philosophy of corrections. And while it was well documented in the literature the effectiveness or assessment of rehabilitation programmes and services offer in custodial centres in Nigeria. However, much attention has not been given to the roles of corrections officers in the rehabilitation of inmates and how it affects the elimination of recidivism among inmates, thereby creating a wide research gap. This was the research gap this study filled.

Objective of the study

The general objective was a thorough study of the roles of correctional officers on inmates' rehabilitation in Nigeria Correctional Service, Edo State, Nigeria.

Literature Review

Concept of Inmates' Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation has long been a contentious topic in the fields of criminology, corrections and penology. 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" simply means the process of helping a person to re-adapt to society or to restore someone to a former position or rank. Ugwuoke and Ameh (2014) asserted that rehabilitation has been considered a primary goal of the correctional system throughout the twentieth

century. Similarly, Igbo (2007) further argued that rehabilitation of inmates should begin from the very day they are admitted into the custodial centre to the day they are discharged. This is to ensure that they utilize the skills they acquired in the course of rehabilitation to live a law abiding life in the society.

Rehabilitation means to restore an ex-inmate to useful life through therapy and education or to restore to good condition, operation or capacity. An ex-inmate without adequate rehabilitation opportunity through skills training and capacity building usually returns to the society as a hardened criminal. Okoro (2000), rehabilitation efforts are attempts through treatment or programming to stop offenders from continuing to offend. In the word of Dambazau (2007), rehabilitation is a critical way to overcome the collateral consequences of being a convict which limit the convicted individual to social, economic, and political opportunities after release. Abba and Sanda (2015) asserted that rehabilitation focuses on medical, psychological treatments and social skills training, all designed to correct the problems that led the individual to crime.

Furthermore, Curtis (2005) opined that rehabilitation aims in 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 compensation of offender for the social advantages that have continued to undertake a life of crime. Rehabilitation of offenders are key goals for the establishment of modern correctional system; which is predicated upon the understanding that those who have violated the criminal laws of the society should be reformed or assisted to live a better life (Ayuk, Owan and Ekok, 2013). 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 structural and environmental as well legal conditions, there will be decrease or significant reduction in the rate of recidivism among inmates (Ekpenyong and Undutimi, 2016; Esiri, 2016).

Rehabilitation is the processes involved in treating the offenders so as to integrate them back to the society. This is why the term treatment is often used interchangeably with rehabilitation (Encyclopedia of Crime and Justice, 2017). Rehabilitation and reformation as the processes of restoring the useful life through

therapy and education or the process of helping an individual convict adapt to the society (Campbell, 2005). Modern sentencing principles, laid down inter alia in international recommendations such as the revised United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of inmates (UN General Assembly, 2015). Rehabilitation is understood in this study as including those strategies, measures and programmes applied during incarceration in preparation for release.

Role of Correctional Officers on Inmates' Rehabilitation

It is a well-known fact that the Criminal Justice System in general and the Correctional System in particular is under great historical and philosophical development (Matetoa, 2012). Therefore, there is a continuous debate amongst academics, politicians and correctional experts on the role of the correctional officers in the Criminal Justice System. The role of the correctional officers has intensely changed over the past few decades. The correctional officer is in today's corrections, expected to balance security and still be responsible for changing the behaviour of offenders constructively (Josi and Sechrest, 1998). In order to have a comprehensive understanding of the distinctive role of the correctional officer, it is very important to appreciate the changes that have transpired in penal philosophy over the years (Matetoa, 2012).

The field of corrections is based on dealing with inmates; therefore, the work cannot be accomplished by bars and fences, cells, or the use of electronic monitoring (Seiter, 2012). Subsequently, the need for correctional reforms from punitive approaches to behaviour change has become apparent in the field of corrections. Correctional centres are expected to deter recurrence of criminal behaviour by transforming inmates through correctional counselling. This approach has subsequently started to change the correctional officers' role from solely custodial to rehabilitative, in which officers are expected to manage treatment programmes. The correctional officers had been for a long time been referred to as guards or warders to reflect the security and punitive approaches used in custodial centres. This paradigm shift raises a challenge in the execution of the dual role of inmate rehabilitation and incarceration (Gatotoh, Omulema and Nassiuma, 2011).

Farkas, (1995) asserts that before the emergence of criminal corrections, the role of a guard or warder was clearly defined; sustaining security and internal order. Undeniably, the term guard/warder suggests a custodial identity and function, the change to correctional officer reflects the introduction of the rehabilitative philosophy to the field of corrections. The changes in correctional centres have begun to have positive impact on the roles of correctional officers from a purely custodial role to a human service role, in which officers are expected to manage rehabilitation and treatment programmes. Lariviere, (2001) argues that correctional officers are ideally placed to rehabilitate and influence the inmates positively. This can mainly be done during their frequent interaction and counselling with the inmates. It is important, therefore, to gain insight into their roles and attitudes, particularly as these attitudes relate to inmates and the correctional system.

Correctional officers play important role in creating and maintaining a safe and secure, humane custodial environment, as well as playing a significant role in the lives of many inmates (Griffin, 2001; Lambert and Hogan, 2009). Similarly, UNODC, (2015) opined that correctional officers play an essential role in the management of correctional system. They are entrusted with the responsibility for ensuring the safety, rehabilitation and well-being of inmates, other correctional staff, and visitors. They work directly with inmates and have routine contact with them. They also serve as an important source of intelligence gathering for correctional administrators and keep them abreast of issues or concerns involving the daily operations of the custodial centres. Kubiak, (2009) corroborated that correctional officers also work within intensive residential treatment programmes that are staffed by both correctional officers and treatment professionals. Munakukaama, (2005) further argued that rehabilitation, reformation and reintegration programmes for inmates cannot work well without the active involvement of correctional officers.

Rehabilitation is a key element in corrections, a task of correctional officers in order to produce inmates that are able to function in society upon release. Correctional officers ensure inmates receive proper opportunities for enrichment, engaging in work opportunities or extra programmes. The correctional officer has an indispensable role in the correctional system; creating a protective environment

for inmates, redirecting them to proper counseling, and establishing an effective rehabilitation (Ferdik, Smith, and Applegate 2014). Correctional officers are usually trained to use rehabilitative attitudes towards inmates that encourage individuals to become the best they can and leave the correctional centre in a better state than when they entered. Evidence shows that officers who emphasize rehabilitation and interact kindly with inmates are more revered than those who do not (Gordon and Stichman 2016).

Research Methods

The research design for this study was the mixed method because it took care of both the quantitative and qualitative study. For the quantitative aspect, this study adopted the cross-sectional design also known as one-shot or status studies which was based on the number of contacts. Thus, a reason for its adoption in this study was that it ensures that important and relevant facts were collected from the sampled population whose analysis aided the generalization of inferences on the larger population. The quantitative technique was utilized with the administration of questionnaires in collection of data for the study. On the other hand, Phenomenology research design was used for the qualitative aspect of this study. This research design was used to identify phenomena and focus on subjective experiences and understanding the structure of those lived experiences and described, in depth, the common characteristics of the phenomena that have occurred. The primary qualitative data collection method was through in-depth interviews with the administration of interview guide.

The target population of this study comprised all male and female convicted inmates in Nigeria Correctional Service, Edo State who were incarcerated. Nigeria Correctional Service, Edo State who were incarcerated. This study was limited to the convicted inmates who were awarded various mandatory sentences, excluding the lifers and condemned. The population of the study was all convicted and incarcerated inmates in the seven correctional centres of Edo State Command of the Nigeria Correctional Centres. According to the Operations Department, Nigeria Correctional Centre, Edo State Command, there were 695 convicted inmates in the seven correctional centres in Edo States as at August, 2023. Due to the limited number of the study population, this study adopted the figure of the study population as the sample size. Hence, the sample size for this study was 695

for the quantitative data and 14 purposively selected key informants for the interview sessions were initially contacted for the qualitative data.

A semi-structured questionnaire was used to collect quantitative data needed for the study while Unstructured in-depth interview guide was utilized to collect qualitative data from the purposively selected respondents. Quantitative data collected through the semi-structured questionnaire was analysed with the aid of the Statistical Package of the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 22. The analysis of the different categories of the quantitative data was done with frequencies, percentages, tables, charts, and cross tabulations. Qualitative data that was gotten from the various in-depth interview sessions that were initially recorded was replayed and subsequently transcribed. The transcribed responses were subjected to manual content analysis which involved the identification of recurring themes and interpreted to support inferences.

Analysis of Socio-demographic Data

This section analyzed the demographic characteristics of the respondents which covered details about age, sex, marital status, religion, occupation and educational attainment of respondents, inmates' number of years spent in the correctional service etc. Collecting data on the socio-demographic background from the respondents was considered necessary as it would indicate that respondents were effectively represented in the study

Table 1 Background characteristics of the respondents

Variable	Response	Frequency	Percentage
Age	18-27 years	170	24.5
	28-37 years	228	32.8
	38-47 years	155	22.3
	Above 48 years	142	20.4
	Total	695	100
Sex	Male	674	97.0
	Female	21	3.0
	Total	695	100
Marital status	Married	187	26.9

	Never married	301	43.3
	Divorced/separated	169	24.3
	Widowed	38	5.5
	Total	695	100
Educational qualification	No formal education	104	15.0
	Primary	251	36.1
	Secondary	213	30.6
	Tertiary	127	18.3
	Total	695	100
Religious affiliation	Christian	260	37.4
	Islam	195	28.1
	ATR	197	28.3
	Others	43	6.2
	Total	695	100
Length of stay	Less than one year	101	14.5
	One year to two years	296	42.6
	Two years to 5 years	221	31.8
	5 years and above	77	11.1
	Total	695	100

Source: Researcher's survey, 2023

The age distribution of the respondents as shown in Table 1 above indicates that majority of the convicts were between 28-37 years, representing 32.8%. While 18-27 years were 24.5%; 38-47 years were 22.3% and 48 years and above were 20.4%. From the analysis of age distribution, it therefore means that convicts between ages 28-37 were more in Edo State Custodial Centres. For the gender of the convicts, the result reveals that the male convicts were more in the custodial centres, which consist of 674 convicts, representing 97% and the female 3%, representing 21 female convicts. This connotes that the males are prone to committing crime and more likely to be incarcerated than the female.

With regards to the marital status of the respondents, Table 1 above shown that 26.9% of the study population which was 187 respondents were married. However, 301 respondents representing 43.3% were never married while 169 respondents representing 24.3% of the study population were divorced or separated. The result further reveals that 38 respondents representing 5.5% of the sampled population were widowed. The interpretation of the marital status of the respondents reveals that there were more convicts who were unmarried in the custodial centres. In terms of educational attainment, a cumulative majority of the convicts who took part in the study had primary school education. Specifically, 15.0% of the respondents affirmed that they had no formal education. Furthermore, 30.6% of the respondents were secondary school certificate holder and 18.3% of the convicts had various educational degrees ranging from first degrees, such as B.Sc., B.Ed. B.A to second degrees and third degrees such as Masters and Ph.D. in various disciplines. The interpretation of the educational background of the respondents reveals that the convicts without formal education were more in crime and custodial centres.

For the religious affiliation of the respondents, the result in Table 1 above indicated that majority of the respondents were adherents or devotees of the Christian religion as they constitute 37.4% of the samples population for this study. Respondents who were practicing Islam constituted 28.1%, while respondents who claimed to be practicing African Traditional Religion were 28.3% and respondents who practice other forms of religion were 6.2%. With regards to the length of incarceration of convicts (Table 1 above), a significant proportion of the respondents (42.6%) which represents 296 respondents of the study's population have stayed in the custodial centres between one year and two years. The result further shows that 14.5% of the convicts were serving less than one year sentencing in the various custodial centres. Meanwhile, 31.8% of the study population had two years to 5 years sentence and 11.1% of the convicts were serving 5 years and above sentence.

Analysis of Research Objective

The objective of this study was to analyzed adequately e the roles of correctional officers on inmates' rehabilitation in Nigeria Correctional Service, Edo State, Nigeria.

Table 2 Roles of correctional officers on convicts' rehabilitation

Question	Response	Frequency	Percentage
Do correctional officers participate in convicts rehabilitation	Yes	414	59.6
	No	281	40.4
	Total	695	100
Do correctional officers still punish convicts instead of rehabilitation	Yes	320	46.0
	No	375	54.0
	Total	695	100
Do you have rehabilitation programme instructors or tutors	Yes	401	57.7
	No	294	42.3
	Total	695	100
Do you have psychiatrists, medical doctors, etc. among correctional officer	Yes	392	56.4
	No	303	43.6
	Total	695	100
How would you assess the role of correctional officers in this custodial centre	Excellent	186	26.8
	Very good	222	31.9
	Average	165	23.7
	Poor	122	17.6
	Total	695	100

Source: Researcher's survey, 2023

Another fundamental aspect of this study as investigated was the role of the correctional officers in the welfare unit of the Nigeria Correctional Service. It pertinent to know that correctional officers who also double of the welfare officer of the custodial centre have effective role to role to play towards the actualization of effective reformation, rehabilitation and reintegration of convicts back to the society for lawful living. Correctional system has undergone historical and philosophical changes in it roles. Today, and as it is practice globally, correctional officers combine behavioural modification for convicts and still perform the institutional and statutory function of security of the custodial centre and convicts. The management of convicts in correctional facilities has overtime transformed from penal philosophy to treatment or corrections.

Table 2 above shows 59.6% representing a majority of the respondents claimed that correctional officers also participation in the rehabilitation of convicted inmates while 40.4% of the respondents admitted that correctional officer do not exhibit any functions of corrections. On the issue of whether correctional officers still punish convicts instead of rehabilitation, majority of the respondents constituting 46.0% affirmed that correctional officers do not punish convicted inmates but rather help to rehabilitate convicts while on the other hand, 40.4% of the respondents submitted that convicts still receive punishment correctional officers in the custodial centre. Therefore, when asked if the custodial centres have rehabilitation programme instructors, tutors and expert in corrections among officers, a majority of the respondents (57.7%) answered in the affirmative (Table 2 above).

Conversely, 42.3% of the respondents replied that there were not programme instructors, tutors and corrections experts among correctional officers. Similarly, on the aspect of treatment of cognitive, psychological and health challenges of convicts, majority of the respondents representing 56.4% stated that medical doctors, nurses, social workers and counselors were available among correctional officers. Meanwhile, 43.6% of the respondents affirmed that medical doctors, nurses, social workers and counselors were not available among correctional officers. In assessing the roles of correctional officers in the custodial centre, 26.8% and 31.9% of the respondents claimed that correctional officers' roles were excellent and very good respectively. While 23.7% of the respondents stated that the roles if correctional officers were on the average and 17.6% of the respondents constituting the least response were of the opinion that the roles of the correctional officers were poor.

In a bid to balance up the quantitative data that indicates a majority of the convicts rated the roles of the correctional officers high. Specifically, the interviewees who were key informant in the various custodial centres were asked to comment on the assessment of the correctional officers' responsibilities in convicts' rehabilitation. Their responses were:

In assessing the duties and responsibilities of the welfare officer and other officers in charge of rehabilitation, I will say the officers and men of the Nigeria correctional service are exceptional in their

functions. They are effective and efficiency with the little resources they have. For me I rate them effective because they are brotherly, and they punish us **(Male convict IDI/29 years/Oko custodial centre)**.

Although, there are some officers that are not friendly but the majority of them are good. The officers responsible in taking care of the convicts are doing the work well. They participate in rehabilitating the inmates. No officers punish any inmates in this place. I rate them fairly okay **(Male Convict IDI/38 years/Benin custodial centre)**.

The correctional officers in this custodial centre always participate in the rehabilitation of inmates. They don't in any punish inmates. The role in this custodial centre is excellent **(Male Convict IDI/54 years/Ubiaja custodial centre)**.

The officers and the inmates here are like brothers and sisters. They are humane and good. No punishments of inmates take place here. Among the officers, there are nurses, social worker, medical doctors. We also have programme instructors among of them. Overall, I rate them good **(Female convict IDI/26 years/Auchi female custodial centre)**.

If I want to assess or rate the responsibilities of the correctional officers in this custodial centre, I will say the officers are not doing badly. They have been trying their best for us. Here, majority of the officers have human feeling **(Male convict IDI/33 years/Ogba farm centre)**.

Filtering through the responses, it could be inferred from the interviewees that the responsibilities of the correctional officers in the various custodial centres has been indispensable. They further affirmed that the officers participate in the

rehabilitation and reformation of convicts and that no rehabilitation of any convict without the participation or input of the correctional officers.

Discussing of Findings

It is pertinent to state that the research made some findings in relation to the inmates' perception of rehabilitation programmes and recidivism in custodial centres, Edo State. There was a preponderance of male convicts and insignificant number of female convicts in the seven custodial centres in Edo State. This means that male convicts in the custodial centres were more in crime and were likely to be incarcerated than the female convicts; this finding was supported by Bennett, Farrington and Huesmann (2005) who in their study in explaining gender differences in crime and violence asserted that there are high rates of offending in males than the females, especially in violent crime.

Based on the confirmation of the majority (59.6%) of the respondents, the study discovered that corrections or welfare officers in the various custodial centres in Edo State have always participated in the treatment or rehabilitation of convicts using correctives services and programmes, this finding was supported by Schaefer (2018). The study also revealed that Nigeria Correctional Service has embraced the global philosophy of rehabilitation of inmates. The study discovered that correctional officers have drastically reduced the application of punishment on convicts; instead, they apply series of treatments on inmates. Another notable finding of this study was that programme instructors and facilitators were available in the custodial centres. In other words, 56.4% of the respondents admitted that, apart from taking convicts into protective custody, convicts were also offered corrections services by correctional officers, social workers, nurses, psychologists, medical doctors who were often regarded as specialized staff. Highlights of the assessment of the role of correctional officers as extracted from the interviewees' responses was that the specialized and line officers have been exceptional in the discharge of their responsibilities to convicts in terms of rehabilitation.

Conclusion

The study focused on the role correctional officers on the rehabilitation of convicted inmates in Edo state custodial centres. The study's findings suggest that

a cumulative percentage of the respondents in the various custodial centres were mainly youth who were in the early period of existence, growth, or development; leading to them making choices in life that will affect their future (Wing, 2012). Furthermore, it has been observed that the role of correctional officer in the rehabilitation of inmates could not be undermined. Correctional officers have continued to play vital in the protection and reformation of inmates. Good attitudinal disposition and care shown by correctional officers to inmates has been found to contribute to their reformation. It has also been shown that officers with educational background were more likely to display positive attitude towards rehabilitation and treatment programmes. There has been significant positive relationship between correctional officers and inmates aim at achieving the goals of rehabilitation. More so, information from correctional officers could contribute to diagnostic assessments and monitoring of inmates' progress on any rehabilitation programmes.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations arise:

1. All stakeholders should boost their efforts to enhance the condition of custodial centres across the country. Improving the condition of custodial centres in Nigeria should not be left solely on government. International partners, NGO and private sectors should contribute their resources to sustain, improve and fund custodial centres in Nigeria.
2. For rehabilitation of inmates to be successful, there is the need inmates' welfare to be prioritized. Inmates are humans and not different from others in the society; their wellbeing in terms health, feeding, clothing, should be taken care of by relevant authorities even after discharge.
3. On regular interval, convicted inmates should adequately assess by correctional experts and officers to determine the impact of rehabilitation and what also need to be done. The regular assessment is important because it help correctional centres to know inmates that are following up in rehabilitation programmes. This can also be done after convicts are discharged.
4. There is a need to institutionalize contemporary rehabilitation programmes and facilities with international best practices, capable of reforming and rehabilitating convicted inmates with modern vocational and educational

- skills. And these contemporary rehabilitation programmes and facilities should be manned with skilled and well trained correctional officers.
5. Custodial centres should recruit more specialized programme instructors and facilitators to complement the efforts of those available in the custodial centres because the work of rehabilitation of convicts increases as the population of inmates increases.
 6. Correctional officer should engage in training and retraining to be equip with the best methods, procedures and skills in rehabilitation of inmates.

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