

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS' INTERVENTIONS IN REHABILITATION OF INMATES IN CORRECTIONAL CENTRES IN LAGOS STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The seemingly ineffective government policies and programmes on the welfare needs of inmates in correctional centres in Nigeria calls for collaboration with NGOs. It is against this backdrop that this study examined NGOs intervention programmes in the rehabilitation process of inmates in correctional centres in Lagos State, Nigeria. Ex-post-facto research design was used for this study. The study population was two correctional homes, their officials and inmates as well as two NGOs and their officials. One hundred and four respondents were selected using purposive and simple random sampling techniques. Thus, 80 inmates, 20 correctional centres officials and 4 NGO officials were the respondents used for this study. Data were collected using structured questionnaire with $r= 0.79$ and Key Informant Interview (KII) guide. Qualitative data were analysed with the aid of thematic analysis. The study revealed that NGOs' collaborative interventions positively impacted inmates rehabilitation process in the correctional centres used for this study. Also challenges such as inadequate facilities and funding, low positive synergy between the NGOs and the correctional centres were identified. Based on these recommendations were made.

Key words: Correctional Centres, Inmates, Intervention, NGOs, Rehabilitation

Introduction

Community at any stage of its growth is expected to be free from the problem of crime. The inevitability of crime makes it imperative for government all over the world to maintain civil order and citizens' safety by creating place of punishment (deterrence) for offenders and reformation centres. This place is called the prison or correctional

facility. Prison (henceforth to be interchanged appropriately with corrections or correctional facility/centre) is an institution designed to securely house people who have been convicted of crimes or are on awaiting trial (Igbinovia and Omorogiwa, 2019). These individuals known as prisoners or inmates are kept in continuous custody on

a short or long term basis. Usually, the more serious the offence, the longer the prison term imposed. Awake (2005) admitted that this new environment is expected to provide the prisoners/inmates with particular opportunities of rethinking, stock taking and repentance from old ways (Omorogiuwa, 2014). This new environment is said to be rehabilitation.

Rehabilitation efforts are an attempt through treatment or programming to stop offenders from continuing to offend (Omorogiuwa, 2014). According to Otite and Albert (2014), rehabilitation is a crime prevention strategy rooted in the notion that offenders can change and lead crime-free lives in the community. There is no better way to help correctional facility inmates avoid breaking in and out of prison cycle and functioning suitably in the society on release, than assisting them acquire the skills needed to succeed in life through rehabilitation (Uche, Uche, Ezumah, Ebue, Okafor & Ezegebe, 2015). Therefore, effective rehabilitation programmes in correctional facilities could assist inmates acquire suitable skills, promote development as well as attitudinal and behavioural changes. For any meaningful rehabilitation to take place in a corrective facility, the rehabilitation services must first be based upon adequate provisions, which should be accessible to the inmates (Igbinoia, 2003; Igbo, 2007).

With the question of the prisoners' rehabilitation to meet the needs of the larger communities in having a safer communities with reduced criminalities, the significance of purpose for correctional facility has gained a new direction. The emphasis on correction rather than punishment has steadily increased globally following the 13th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Doha, Qatar, from 12th to 19th April, 2015.

Consequently many nations of the world are now embracing the idea of rehabilitation of inmates by educating and reforming offenders in order to reintegrate them to their communities (Prison History, 2022). Nigeria, according to Pretelsen (1982) cited in Ikoh (2011), is also a signatory to the declaration as does many other countries, Norway for one. These countries, according to Drury and Madison (2022), have adopted rehabilitation as their main form of criminal justice programme. For example, in Norway, inmates are given clean, well-supplied, and private living conditions while being offered education, entertainment, and a sense of community during their sentences. Norway is considered to have the World's most humane treatment of prisoners (Drury.et.al, 2022). Rehabilitation in Norway's prison statistically showed a 20% drop in recidivism after two years and after five years recidivism dropped by 25% (Drury, 2022).

Nigeria also was signatory to two crucial declarations made in Africa that strongly emphasized rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders into communities, namely the 1996 Kampala Declaration on Prison conditions in Africa and the Pan African seminar on Accelerating panel and Prison Reform in Africa, held in Burkina-Faso, in 2002 (Dissel, 2008). The plan of Action refers to a broad range of approaches that can be used in reducing the criminality of released offenders and facilitating their entry into society. It places more emphasis on those skills that would assist re-entry, such as the development of vocational and literacy skills. The plan also recognizes the important role that families and communities play, not only in providing support to the inmates while in correctional centres, but also in accepting them back into their lives (Dissel, 2008). Programme for physical and

social rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners into the community shall be provided.

Being a signatory to both the Doha Agreement and the Pan-African Declarations, Nigerian Correctional Service Policy reforms which emphasize reformation and rehabilitation for eventual reintegration sadly exist only on paper as the reality on ground proves otherwise (Adetula & Fatusin, 2018). Empirical observation (Pretelson cited in Ikoh, 2011) suggests that Nigerian correctional service has not been able to meet the objectives of Doha conference as most of the facilities that were built several years ago are now over crowded. Similarly, Sinclair (2017) claimed that prison workers are poorly informed and poorly paid, while the correctional centres lacks the resource needed to promote the welfare of inmates as the prison authorities/officials adhere to the age-old ideas that deterrence requires strict discipline, regimentation and punishment, all in an atmosphere of impersonality and quasi-military rigidity. Mails are censored, visitation privileges are closely controlled and privacy is virtually non-existent. Obioha (2015) observed that the Nigerian corrections had continued to be a training ground for criminals instead of rehabilitation home. Amnesty International Report (2008) had noted that correctional centres' inmates in Nigeria experience physical and mental damage leading to threats to their health status. Conditions such as overcrowding, poor sanitation, lack of food, water and medicines, and denial of contacts with families and friends fall short of the United Nations' Standards for the treatment of prisoners. The report concluded that "The Nigerian government is simply not complying with its National and International Obligation when it comes to the criminal justice system in Nigeria and

must begin to do so seriously and urgently. The conditions we saw and the stories we heard from inmates are a national scandal". (Amnesty International Report, February 26, 2008).

In the midst of these indicting reports, Nigeria Government report reprinted from the correctional centres claimed to have in place well-articulated administrative, reformatory and rehabilitative programmes; but in reality Nigeria Corrections have remained more or less a punitive centre (Ameh, 2010; Ekpenyong and Undantimi, 2016) with little or no attention as to develop its infrastructural conditions (Ogundipe, 2016). More to this situation, Chukwumerije (2012) noted that the Nigerian Corrections System Act is outdated, unable to define and pursue vigorously the purpose of imprisonment and silent on the crucial service. Consequently, the Nigerian Correctional System is witnessing a high rate of relapse of criminal/anti-social behaviour (recidivism) and recycling of unregenerate convicts. This sequel the fact that upon release, the communities to which the prisoners are released stigmatize and reject them owing to their haggard, solvent and fearful looks; and these are perceived to be dangerous, appearing to threaten the societal peace and harmony (Chukwumerije, 2012).

The primary reason for establishing Correctional Centres in every country, particularly in Nigeria is to provide rehabilitative with reformatory facilities for deviants to laws and norms enshrined in the criminal codes. A prison, which should now be properly referred to as a correctional facility or center, is a secure housing facility for those awaiting trial (Igbinovia & Omorogiuwa, 2019). Such offenders are detained continuously for a brief or extended period and are referred to as inmates. Generally speaking, the more serious the

offence, the lengthier the prison sentence. It was acknowledged by Awake (2005) that the inmates should have a special opportunity to reflect, take stock, and repent of their previous behaviours in this new setting (Omorogiwa, 2014).

Rehabilitation initiatives are programme or services aimed at preventing convicts from committing crimes again (Omorogiwa, & Ego, 2021). Rehabilitation, according to Onigu, Otitie, and Albert (2014), serves as prevention technique to reform offenders and lead crime-free views. Giving incarcerated individuals the tools they need to thrive in life via rehabilitation is the best method to help them avoid reoffending and to ensure that they can contribute to society after their release from correctional centre (Uche, Okafor, Ezegebe, Ezumah, Ebue, Uche, & Uche, 2015). Thus, efficient programmes could help inmates obtain the necessary abilities, as well as alter their attitudes and behaviours. Correctional rehabilitative programmes must be founded on sufficient provisions that the convicts may use for any significant rehabilitation to occur there (Igbinoia, 2003; Igbo, 2007).

Nigeria signed two significant African declarations that placed a strong emphasis on rehabilitation of offenders and community reintegration, namely: the Pan African seminar on Accelerating panel and Prison Reform in Africa, held in Burkina Faso in 2002, and the 1996 Kampala Declaration on Prison Conditions in Africa (Gibson, Daniel, and Roberson, 2009). The term "plan of action" refers to a wide range of strategies that can be employed to lessen the criminality of released inmates and ease their reintegration into society. More focus is placed on abilities that would facilitate re-entry, like literacy and vocational skill development. According to Gibson et al. (2009), there will be a programme for the

physical and social rehabilitation of inmates as well as their reintegration into the community. The plan also acknowledges the critical role of families and communities by accepting and supporting inmates' lives after their time in correctional centres.

NGOs provide services ranging from counselling, welfare, advocacy, and legal representation in court to spiritual reform for correctional centre inmates. It also includes training of inmates, literacy, and skill acquisition. These interventions are essentially intended to bring about efficient rehabilitation of the prisoners leading up to effective reintegration into communities after release from the correctional centres. In this regard, we can, according to Onyekachi (2016), determine the effectiveness of the NGOs rehabilitation programmes on inmates by the ability of the inmates upon release to adapt well or reintegrate smoothly as law-abiding citizens.

The government fails to build correctional institution of international standard, but compelled individuals, NGOs, churches and mosques to come into these correctional environment to partner with government. Onyenakeya (2015) mentioned that the intervention of the NGOs would ensure efficient and effective implementation of policies regarding rehabilitation of inmates, promotion of human rights, alternative dispute resolution and peace building initiatives. NGOs operating in prisons in Lagos States include:

- Justice Development and Peace Commission (JDPC); a Catholic Church Faith based Organization with objectives which includes to promote the quality of life for all people through enhancement of human development: to promote and sustain human rights and dignity and

to build capacity of individuals and groups, so that they are able to help themselves and contribute meaningfully to the society.

- Joy Bringers Foundation (JBF): a civil society organization with objectives to facilitate the reintegration of offenders, reduce the rate of recidivism among ex-offenders in the Nigerian prisons; and to inculcate ethical values and personality re-characterization that help offenders manage life challenges better.
- Prison Fellowship Nigeria (PFN): Faith-based organization with objectives to provide education, life-skills, counseling and faith-based programmes to inmates.
- Foundation for Moral Value Orientation, (FMVO): a private secular organization with over four years in the process of prison rehabilitation. The Foundation Moral Value Orientation has objectives of helping prisoners to develop digital skill while inculcating reorienting values to enhance smooth reintegration into their communities.

Other NGOs are:

- Prison Rehabilitation Mission International (PREMI)
- Prisoners' Rights Advocacy Initiative (PRAI)
- Legal Defence and Assistance Project (LEDAP)
- Zachaeus Owumba Memorial Foundation (ZOMF)
- St. Vincent De Paul Association (SVDP)
- Umu-Ikuku Foundation (UIF)

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Despite the preponderance of the NGOs in the prison rehabilitation space with their numerous services, the Correctional Centres' environment and process seem to have continually become a spectre of miserable and unwholesome reality. This has vitiated and violated international standard call for identifying the cause of an individual prisoner's antisocial behaviour so as to administer treatment with the hope for reintegration, not as a social misfit but reoriented and equipped for productive life.

Statement of the Problem

With the huge financial resources continuously budgeted for the running of the Correctional Centre facilities in Nigeria, the reality on the ground continually falls short of international standard requirements for the effective rehabilitation of inmates. Hence, the intervention of NGOs to assist with the provision of rehabilitation services and smooth reintegration of inmates upon release. Despite the preponderance of the NGOs with their programmes in the Correctional Centre rehabilitation space, the Correctional Centre environment seems to have continually remained a spectre of miserable reality. Correctional centre inmates experience physical and mental damage leading to threats to their health

status which is in contrary to the global and international community criteria on how detainees should be treated. When they are released from correctional centres, inmates anticipate returning to normal lives. But their ability to partake in selected productive activity is harmed by the time they spend inside. Given these apparent sad realities as prevalent in the Nigerian correctional environment, the reformation and rehabilitation of inmates will apparently be difficult to achieve. This leaves one to wonder about the effectiveness and efficiency of the whole plethora of the NGOs' interventional services. This opens up a gap in knowledge that needs to be bridged empirically, a process now undertaken in this present study.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to assess the intervention programmes of the Non-Governmental Organisations in the rehabilitation process of inmates in the Correctional Centres in Lagos State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study seeks to:

- i. analyse the degree of effectiveness of available rehabilitation programmes (educational, vocation, and character modification) for inmates' reformation and reintegration;
- ii. examine if the follow-up activities of the NGOs for the ex-convicts have reduced the rate of recidivism and stigmatization; and
- iii. examine the challenges facing NGOs in the intervention programmes (educational, vocation, and character modification) of the inmates in Lagos State Correctional Centres

Research Questions

The following research Questions were answered:

- i. To what extent are the intervention

programmes effective for the inmates' reformation, and reintegration?

- ii. To what extent have the follow-up programmes of the NGOs reduced the rate of recidivism?
- iii. What are the challenges facing the NGOs in their intervention programmes in the correctional centres in Lagos State, Nigeria?

Methodology

The study adopted Ex-post-facto research design. This is because all the variables under study are existing, thus these variables were reported without manipulations. The study population comprised of NGOs and their officials, namely; prison rehabilitation Mission International and St. Vincent De-Paul Association (SVDPA) based in Lagos, Nigeria. Correctional centres' welfare officers as well as the inmates of the two correctional centres selected. The correctional centres used for this study were, Kirikiri Maximum and Ikoyi Correctional Centres in Lagos, Nigeria.

Purposive and simple random sampling techniques were used to select 104 respondents used for this study. Instruments used for data collection include: structured questionnaire and Key Informant Interview Guide (KII). The instrument were validated and $r=0.79$, was recorded for structured questionnaire through test-re-test process and Cronbach alpha formular.

Data collected were analysed with descriptive and inferential statistics of frequency counts, percentages, mean scores, ground means and standard deviation with Statistical Parkage for Social Science (SPSS) version 21. Qualitative data were subjected to thematic analysis.

Data presentations and Discussions of Findings

Research Question One: To what extent are the NGOs intervention programmes effective for the inmates’ reformation and reintegration?

Inmates and welfare officers responded to

the items set to measure this objective. The result is presented in Table 1. The result of the analysis of the interviews of NGOs officials and representatives, welfare officers and inmates were also presented.

Table 1: NGOs Programmes and their effectiveness in rehabilitation of correctional centres’ inmates

S/ N	Statement items	Inmates			Welfare Officers		
		Mea n	SD	Remark	Mea n	SD	Remark
1	The variety of educational, vocation, and character modification programmes lead to the rehabilitation of inmates after release	3.66	.65	To a very great extent	3.50	.67	To a very great extent
2	The vocational skills (tailoring, carpentry, farming etc) being taught help the inmate to be self-reliant after their release.	3.68	.59	To a very great extent	3.64	.53	To a very great extent
3	The content of the available vocation skills (tailoring, carpentry, farming, etc) helps inmates to have adequate skills for living.	3.58	.61	To a very great extent	3.29	.67	To a great extent
4	The educational, vocation, and character modification programmes help to redirect inmates’ views about life.	3.61	.59	To a very great extent	3.24	.62	To a great extent
5	The educational, vocation, and character modification programmes help to build inmates strength to cope with life after being released.	3.61	.67	To a very great extent	3.29	.55	To a great extent
	Grand Mean	3.63	.62	To a very great extent	3.39	.61	To a great extent

The result on Table 1 above, shows the responses of the inmates and welfare officers on the NGOs Programmes and their capability of effective rehabilitation of correctional centres' inmates in Lagos State, Nigeria. The result shows that both inmates and welfare officers indicated that varieties of NGOs programmes lead to the rehabilitation of inmates after release to a very great extent; both the inmates and welfare officers agreed that the skills being taught, to a great extent, help the inmates to

be self-reliant; the inmates indicated, to a great extent, while the welfare officers also agreed, to an extent that the content of the available skills help inmates to have adequate skills for living; the inmates stressed, to a great extent, while the welfare officers, to an extent that the intervention programmes help to redirect inmates views about life. The findings showed that the inmates, to a very great extent, and welfare officers to a great extent, agreed that NGOs programmes are effective for reformation and reintegration of inmates in Nigeria.

Research Question Two: To what extent has the follow-up programmes of the NGOs reduced the rate of recidivism?

has the follow-up programmes of the NGOs

The result was presented in Table 2 below:

Table 2: Follow Up Activities of the NGOs and reduction of Recidivism

S/N	Statement Items	Mean	SD	Remark
1	Capitals are given to ex-inmates to establish business centres or workshop upon release and these grants are monitored.	2.17	.99	Rarely
2	Ex-inmates are being monitored after release	1.78	1.06	Rarely
3	Ex-inmates are being attached to mentors in the community after release	2.17	.99	Rarely
4	Ex-inmates are being assisted to further education upon release	2.22	.94	Rarely
5	They are being assisted to further their education upon release	2.11	.83	Rarely
6	NGOs are being responsible for the re-training of the ex-inmates in their cherished (choice) businesses.	2.56	1.04	Often
7	NGOs provide means of establishment for the released inmates.	2.67	1.09	Often
Grand Mean		2.24	.99	Rarely

The result on Table 2 shows the responses of the recidivated inmates on the follow up activities of the ex-inmates by the NGOs. The result shows that the ex-inmates (recidivated) agreed that capitals are rarely given to ex-inmates to establish business centres and workshops upon release and

these grants are monitored, prisoners are rarely being monitored after they are released from the correctional centres, ex-inmates are rarely being attached to mentors in the community after they are released, the inmates are rarely being assisted to further their education upon

release, the ex-inmates are rarely being assisted to further their education upon release, NGOs are often responsible for the re-training of the prisoners in cherished (choice) businesses, also NGOs often provide means of establishment for the released ex-inmates. The findings, from the grand mean, showed that the follow up activities of the NGOs in reducing the rate of recidivism among ex-inmates is to a low extent.

Research Question Three: What are the challenges facing the NGOs in their intervention programmes for the inmates of the correctional centres in Lagos State, Nigeria?

Research question 3 was therefore answered qualitatively with KII scheduled and conducted thus:

Thematic Presentations:

Sub-Theme One: Limited Resources

Limited resources are a significant challenge for NGOs designing intervention programmes for inmates. Financial constraints were explicitly mentioned by two NGO officials, highlighting difficulties in attracting sponsorship and obtaining funds for expansion. The issue of partners misunderstanding the non-commercial nature of NGOs and the misconception that programmes are profit-oriented further complicates the challenge. Another NGO official stressed human and financial resource limitations, emphasising the need for sustainable partnerships and alternative means, such as social justice advocacy to address funding issues.

Sub-Theme Two: Approval and Support

Support from correctional centre officers varied, with some officials displaying uncooperative attitudes. Laws restricting NGO access to prisons were mentioned, requiring collaboration with supportive correctional centre controllers. The

importance of securing authorisation and approval for programme implementation was stressed, with specific measures taken to ensure cooperation. Collaboration with South Korean counterparts highlighted efforts to integrate external expertise and support for rehabilitation programmes.

Sub-Theme Three: Trust Issue

Distrust in released inmates is a significant challenge, with concerns about the deceptive behaviour of some ex-inmates. The Welfare Officers acknowledged the presence of "bad eggs" among released inmates, emphasising that while NGO programmes contribute to reforming the majority, achieving 100% trust is unrealistic. An ex-inmate highlighted the trust issue, urging fellow inmates not to betray the NGOs' support and emphasising the need for integrity.

Discussion of Findings:

Intervention programmes have been seen as a veritable tool used by social organisations like NGOs for preventing crimes among offenders. It is believed that through these rehabilitation programmes, offenders can turn a good leaf and live a crime-free life in society to bring about a peaceful and cohesive nation. However, to achieve this laudable goal, NGO intervention programmes and activities should be effective and capable of positively transforming the lives of prison inmates.

The finding of research question one, therefore, revealed that there is the availability of NGOs' intervention programmes for the rehabilitation of inmates in correctional centres in Lagos state. In line with the finding of the study, a study conducted by Asokhia and Osumah (2013) to determine the status of reformation and rehabilitation services in Nigerian prisons in Edo State showed that majority of the respondents affirmed that programmes of reformation and rehabilitation were available

in the prison, although, the provision for services needed for reformation and rehabilitation of prison inmates were inadequate, neglected and not compliant with international best practices. Similarly, Igbinovia (2003) averred that there are a number of prison rehabilitation programmes for inmates which provide specific skills crucial for preparing inmates for a better living on release from prison. The researcher stressed that the main objectives of the prison service, which are the reformation and rehabilitation of inmates can be actualized through programmes such as social case and group work/intervention, recreational activities, educational programmes, and skills acquisition programmes.

In the same vein, Igbinovia and Omorogiuwa (2019) stated that intervention programmes such as skills acquisition, recreational activities and educational services are available in Benin City Prisons. The result of the qualitative interview affirmed the finding of the study. An inmate shared some of the skills learnt from the NGOs though he could not get a sponsor to proceed:

“... , the first time, I did not go through any training; the second time, they gave me two years, so I went for Onesimus and character class. I also did computer studies and tie and dye but no sponsor, so I did not make use of all that, so when I left, I had to go back to when I came from” (INMATE 1)

Results of research two revealed that the follow-up activities of the NGOs have significantly reduced rate of recidivism among inmates. The corresponding research question three revealed that follow-up activities of the NGOs were rarely carried out. This position can be confirmed from one of the rationales for introducing intervention programmes to correctional centres by the

NGOs. Intervention programmes if effectively carried out is expected to reduce recidivism and continuum rather than been rarely delivered. Ugwuoke (2015) in support of the finding of the study stated that NGOs' provision of counselling services and mentoring services for prison inmates immediately they step foot into the correctional centre is a necessary step to begin follow up on the prison inmates. The researcher stated further that these activities will allow for building a proper relationship with the inmates and have their necessary information that can be used to follow up on them after been released from the prison.

As against the finding of the study, Abrifor et al., (2012) found out that the estimated prevalence of recidivism in Nigeria prisons was 52.4%. It has also been reported that 81% of male offenders and 45% of female offenders in Nigeria were re-arrested within 36 months of release from the prison custody (Wilson, 2009). This is just a testament that government and NGOs' programmes labelled as successful in reducing recidivism among inmates has not been able to achieve goal. The researcher further claimed that in reality follow up programmes were rarely carried out. How then will it achieve its goals and objectives? Different reasons have been highlighted as causes of recidivism in Africa. Among the causes are incorrigibility, failure of the sanction, failure of support in re-integration, failure of programmes and follow up, peer pressure and other social provocations, economic stress, mental health, inability to attain employment, lack of education, lack of support among others (Bello, 2017). As highlighted by Bello (2017), failure of programmes and follow up are key factors that hinder the effectiveness of NGOs' programmes in the reduction of recidivism among Nigerian inmates.

On little or follow up to support the inmates,

a welfare officer and inmates said these to confirm the finding of the study;

“...because there is no follow up at times, they tend to forget what they learnt but if as they are making it, there is a market for it outside you see they will keep up and become master of what they learnt and by the time they go out because they know this thing and got the market for it, they can easily continue in that line and grow up. In welfare, you have aftercare, a counsellor, and a psychologist, so it's part of it. I was at Ibadan Agodi. I worked there before I was transferred, so I have not seen it in Lagos yet” (Welfare Officer)

Similarly, a recidivated inmate interviewed spoke of lack of follow-up:

“There was no follow-up at all.”

(Inmate)

Additionally, in consonance with the finding of the study, Chauhan and Yadav (2023) posited that Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) play a vital role in implementing rehabilitation programmes and proper follow-up on prison inmates. The researchers concurred that NGOs collaborate with government agencies, providing specialized services and interventions to address the specific needs of juvenile offenders. These organizations offer counselling, mental health support, skill development, and community-based rehabilitation programmes and follow-ups to promote successful reintegration and recidivism reduction among prison inmates in Nigeria.

The study revealed in research question three, the multi-faceted challenges facing the NGOs and correctional centres in the rehabilitation process of the inmates ranging from but not limited to inadequate resources and funding on the parts of the NGOs, in adequate access to information, over

population of the inmates in the correctional centres, deteriorating centres facilities and in adequate positive synergy between the NGOs and the correctional centres. These findings were buttressed by the earlier studies conducted by Igbinovia (2003), Omorogiuwa and Egoh (2021) who argued that correctional centres in Nigeria are facing numerous challenges such as deteriorating facilities, lack of access to information and over population of the inmates in correctional centres. Similarly, Ekpenyong and Undutimi (2016) in their study on correctional centres rehabilitation programmes in Nigeria revealed that they are facing different challenges such as inadequate funding and neglects by the government of Nigeria.

Conclusion:

The study concludes that sustainability planning is crucial for programmes evaluation and seamless implementation. Community involvement is highlighted as pivotal for successful inmate rehabilitation and reintegration. The role of NGOs and government agencies are emphasised in improving intervention programmes delivery to enhance inmate rehabilitation process.

Recommendations:

In order to enhance the effectiveness of NGOs engaged in inmate rehabilitation, the following recommendations were made:

- i. NGOs should actively pursue grants and seek additional funds to provide essential seed funds and soft loans to inmates, fostering economic independence. The constraints imposed by limited financial resources have been identified as a hindrance to the impactful implementation of life-skill programmes. Addressing this paucity of funds is crucial for ensuring that these rehabilitation initiatives yield more significant and lasting results.

- ii. targeted approach was recommended for recidivated inmates, programmes tailored specifically for their welfare based on their experiences of stigmatisation within the community. Acknowledging the unique challenges faced by this group and customising rehabilitation efforts can contribute to more successful and meaningful interventions.
- iii. there is a call for transparency and accountability in the execution of intervention programmes by NGO officials. The cultivation of trust is emphasised, recognising that the behaviour of both officials and inmates over the years has contributed to a pervasive lack of trust, posing a substantial challenge to the overall effectiveness of the rehabilitation process.
- iv. challenges facing the NGOs and correctional centres as revealed in this study should be wholly addressed particularly synergy between NGOs and correctional centres.

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