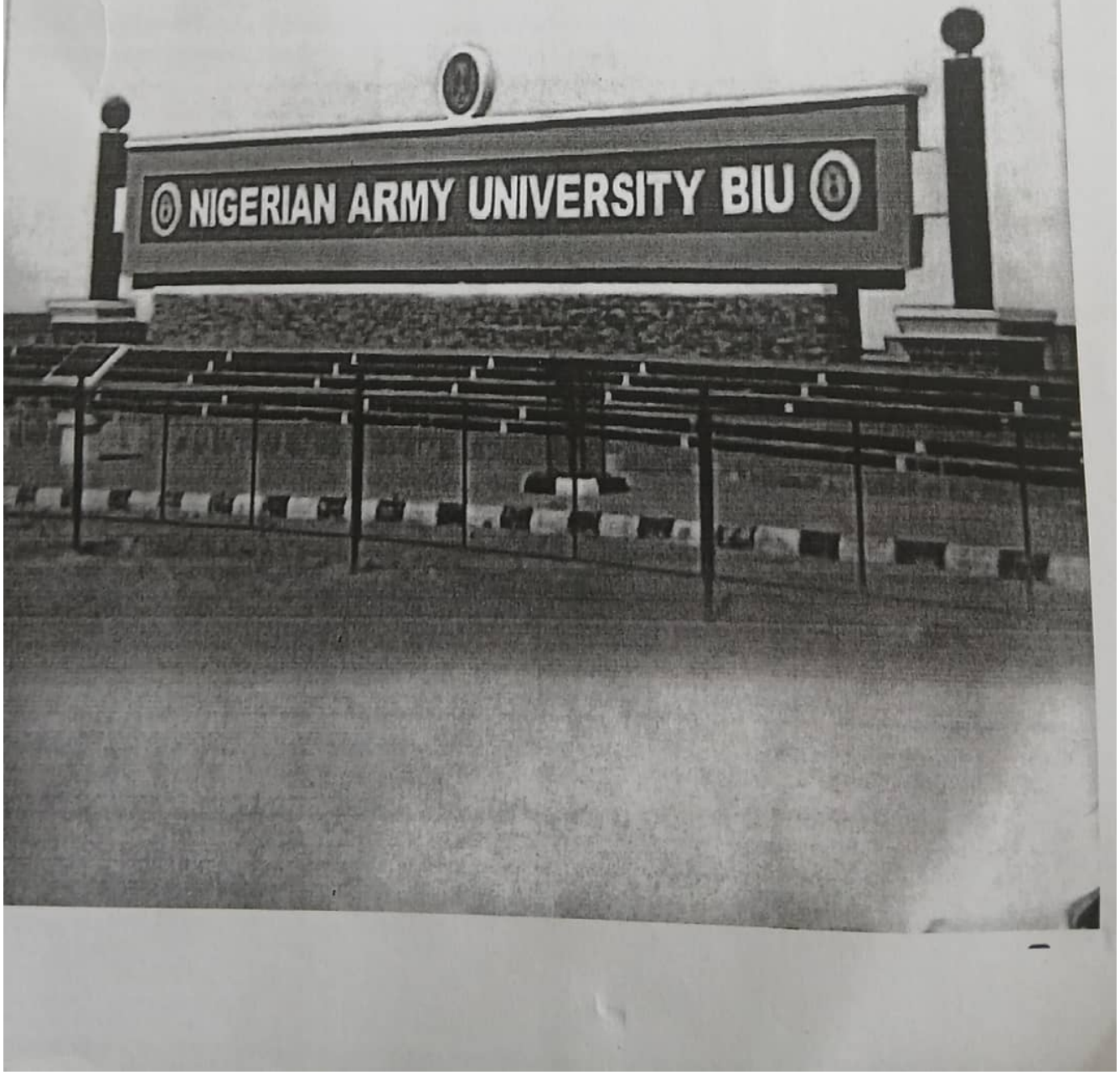
VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1, DECEMBER 2023
ONLINE: 2971-5016
PRINT: 2971-5008

YAMTARA-WALA JOURNAL OF ARTS, MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (YaJAMSS)



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Yamtara-Wala Journal of Arts, Management and Social Sciences (YaJAMSS)
Volume 3, Issue 1. December 2023 ISSN: 2971-5016

RECIDIVISM: A CRIMINOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF NIGERIAN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

ADAMU, Musa Danyawo
Department of Sociology, Federal University of Lafia, Nasarawa State
Danyawoaisha2018@gmail.com

JIMOH, Buhari Edun
Department of Sociology, Federal University of Lafia, Nasarawa State
jimohbuhariedun@gmail.com

ATIKU, Abiodun Abdullateef
Department of Social Work, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria
atiku.aa@unilorin.edu.ng
Corresponding Author- Jimoh Buhari Edun

Abstract
Globally, recidivism has been classified into numerous definitions; these definitions reflect the unacceptable attitudes and characters with heavy negative consequences and implications for the entire society. The study investigate recidivism, a criminological analysis of Nigerian correctional facilities. A subject that has not gotten enough scholarly attention, and the Nigerian government has mostly ignored its social and psychological shortcomings. The study looks at the phenomena of convicted and reconvicted offenders, how often it has intensified, and how to carry out this horrible deed. It becomes much important to highlight its implication for society, security and possible way forward. The study adopted secondary data such as relevant journals, articles, online educational sites and print media. Classical model theory by Stephen Carney is used as a theoretical explanation for the study. The study concluded that societal labelling, stigmatization and isolation of offender have high influences on recidivism rate in Nigeria correctional center. Study also proffered recommendation to government and relevant agencies that there is need to equip with correctional facilities to meet up with international standard, medically, vocationally and educationally.

Keywords: Correctional; center; offender; recidivism; stigmatization

Introduction

Globally, recidivism are been subjected to variety numbers of definition. According to Oruota (2016) described recidivism as act of an individual whose replicate an unacceptable behavior after in which he/she have experienced negative consequences of that behavior. In the same context, Abrifor, Atere and Muoghalu (2012) Nigeria correctional service is experiencing a large increase in number of individual who engage in crime and criminal behavior. Scholars across discipline are in opinion that African are the most affected continental in the area of penal code, due to the clearly lack of consensus as to what should be the plan in dealing with convicted offenders. In his study, Howard (2009) that some believe that the aim should be to make the criminal suffer, either by repay him for the harm he has done or to frighten potential criminal into being good. While some believe that treatment and correction should be the target. .

According to the Nigeria Bureau of Statistic (2016), an average of 31.3% of the convicted and released criminals from the Nigeria correctional center between the year 2007 and 2014 recommitted similar crime and re-convicted again few years after their release. The rate at which released criminals relapse to crime have created a serious alarming in Nigeria correction center. Recidivism is generally seen as a problem that the Nigerian penal system faces, however this problem is not exclusive to Nigeria; rather, it is a worldwide issue that affects nearly every country in the globe. According to Chukwudi (2012), the Nigerian correctional centers have become a training ground or criminals rather than rehabilitation center. The current state of affairs has demonstrated that there are issues with the

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center. The current correctional facility in Nigeria is antiquated, inattentive, unable to articulate the purpose of incarceration, and silent regarding the crucial function of rehabilitation or reintegration. Over time, the correctional centers have concentrated on punishment, neglecting its core responsibilities of "re-integration or rehabilitation" for which it was established (Chukwudi, 2012).

The basic cause of recidivism and the survival period are still sketchy. Many quantitative research on recidivism and its cause in Nigeria and Africa is unclear due to unavailability of information about inmate. Recently, report have it, that inmate level of education is one of the assumed factor responsible for high-rate of recidivism in Nigeria correctional system (Tennibaje, 2013). While other researchers suggested family socio-economic background, societal stigmatization, labelling, isolated, disassociated and gender imbalance as factors responsible for rise in recidivism in Nigeria correctional center (Oluyemi & Norma, 2014). Recidivism have becoming a social problem with rises in number of cases in Nigeria correctional center. This study is relevant to the circumstances stated above.

Review of empirical studies on recidivism

Many initiatives have been made to address recidivism issues on a global scale. According to credible statistics on recidivism in Nigeria, there are several physical issues linked to this environment (Halid, Ogunboyo & Adebayo, 2019; Biezanz & Biezanz, 1978). Researchers from a variety of fields have proposed that the issue of comparing individuals—for example, those who were in a correctional facility but left because of their conformist attitudes—is a concern (Chittoo & Bholoa, 2011). In their research, Ebbe (1981), Howard (2009), and Qadri (2005) demonstrated that people are more inclined to remain anonymous, which raises questions about the accuracy of data or information about recidivism. Nevertheless, previously convicted criminals would conceal their identities from the authorities at the center in

The Structure and System of Nigeria Correctional Center

As earlier indicated in the previous discussions, Nigeria correctional center are complete institution where convicted criminals are incarcerated against his will. In this context, Tenibiaje (2013) opined that common form of punishment for offenders in Nigeria correctional center particularly sense of incarceration as a strategy of torture criminals is not external to many Nigeria societies. According to Qadri (2005) before the coming of the British system of government in Nigeria in the 19th century, some communities had their way of punishing deviant citizen such as The Yoruba, The Hausa and The Igbo communities. For many years, correctional center were established and utilized for a numbers of purposes. They introduced as exchange for corporal punishment as center for religion penitence or institution for segregating the highly serious criminals (Chukwudi, 2012). However, Nigeria correctional center were also firmly established with the goal of reorienting and reintegrating condemned criminals into society as a preventative measure against such incidents in the future. But convicted criminals may exert influence over those who might otherwise be motivated to imitate their behavior (Soyonbo, 2009). According to numerous criminologists, Nigerian prisons have been under persistent criticism for their recklessness and neglect, which has resulted in the failure of their efforts to rehabilitate or reintegrate condemned criminals into society (Skeem & Peterson, 2010). In this regard, Chukwumerije (2012) made the suggestion that rehabilitation and reintegration were once thought to be the primary duties and responsibilities of correctional personnel. In fact, no progress has been made in accomplishing this goal thus far, and the Nigerian jail facility is regarded as a school of crime instead of a place of correction. Many scholars have reported that no re-integration or rehabilitation were put in place in Nigeria correctional system as a result of lack of proper physical facilities, overcrowded population of the offenders and many of unskilled officers. All these aforementioned plight are gradually leading to the draw back in the system. Nigeria correctional center mostly regarded as a postgraduate center for criminals where convicted offenders learned more techniques and methods to commit more crime. The condition of most correctional center are in bad shape with inadequate facilities for re-integration and rehabilitation of convicted criminal. However, this have resulted to immeasurable bad medical service, poor feeding and over population, Correctional

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management cannot be blamed for these issues, but the high recidivism rate was a result of public stigmatization and labeling of offenders. The high death rate among inmates in Nigeria's correctional service may be caused by the inadequate medical facilities in correctional centers (Brown, 2002). In spite of this overwhelming evidence, the Nigerian correctional service continues to deny responsibility for the high rates of recidivism, arguing instead that society as a whole is to responsible for the rapid incidence of recidivism by stigmatizing and classifying offenders as formerly incarcerated criminals. Among the culprits were both him and his relative (Soyonbo, 2009). Sociological research in this case (Cunnean & Luke, 2007) recommended that the offender accept the label and behave appropriately.

Recidivism and Factors Responsible

A survey conducted by Halid, Ogunboyo & Adebayo (2019) showed that aside from the poor environment conditions others factors responsible for the high-rate of recidivism societal stigmatization, isolation, poor socio-economic status, age and educational qualification, sex and single parental care. Scholars have agreed that individual socio-economic background may account for rise in rate of recidivism. Individual socio-economic status sometimes considered to be poverty and economic hardship among others. Both economic hardship and poverty are interrelated (Chukwudi, 2012). In their study, Little & Goggin (1996) observed that the most disturbing societal problem today in Africa including Nigeria is lack of gainful employment among youths. Tenibiaje (2013) and Qadri (2005) have suggested a strong link between unemployment and high rate of recidivism.

Odekunle (1981) asserted that almost eight thousand offenders are in correctional center in Nigeria as a result of difficulties in payment of fine due their poor socio-economic background and incessant economic hardship as a status which seem to affect them raising money either for bail or fines. In many instance, offenders are not only remanded lock in center but mix with experienced criminals to pick up new skills and strategies for committing major crimes once they're freed. According to research, the majority of juvenile offender training schools find that the rate of recidivism is influenced by factors such as educational background and care provided by a single parent (Howard, 2009). According to recent studies, the criminal justice system may be sensitive to the needs of single parents and educational attainment in an effort to influence the offender's future thinking. In particular, individuals who believe that their actions won't result in more criminal activity (Skeem & Peterson, 2010; Brown, 2002). Chukwumerije's (2012) survey revealed a connection between high crime rates, ecological conditions, and single parent care. In addition, he made the case that young people raised in unstable families and in rural areas are less prone to repeat similar criminal behavior when it comes to recidivism than youths raised by single parents and urban socialization. Criminologists generally agree that stigmatization and labeling of ex-offenders by society have a significant role in recidivism.

Influence of the Nigeria correctional environment on inmate

The traditional correctional center was autocracy (Howard, 2009). Its single purpose was to maintain custody beyond the prisoners. This was accomplished by improving rigorously and extremely layer-by-layer along military system lines. From the custodian to the keeper, authority and position were correlated with rank. The custodian becomes the monarch, and each distinct organization forms its own little monarchy (Black & Clasby, 2000). Numerous academics from numerous fields have documented that the personnel of correctional centers in Nigeria exhibited a strong protective attitude towards the design, tightly adhering to the specific requirements and privileges that were customary for their various positions and levels (Andrews, 1989 & Bobbie, 1996). The noncustodial staff was an additional layer added to the organizational structure during the remodeling of some Nigerian correctional facilities during the previous administration. A deputy controller at the penitentiary facility with statutory authority and a position equivalent to that of deputy controller in charge of detention, she oversaw treatment and headed a battery professional and specialized services. Directors of honor camp programs and heads of jail industries were added based on the needs of the local community. Alongside the traditional authority of rank and seniority possessed by correctional professionals, the unique authority associated with worker function and specialty was

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integrated into the organization. According to Ellison, Scifris, Horan, and Fox (2017), these tendencies caused a significant reallocation of power and authority in the formal structure as well as a number of strains and alterations in the informal organization of most institutions. In addition, those development tends to confuse and affect a large number of the environment in which to make decision and to restrict choices that would be made by other administrators in the Nigeria correctional center. The Nigeria correctional environment has changed drastically as the organizations have evolved from their traditional form. In the authoritarian correctional center, all significant decisions were made at or very near the top of the hierarchy. Moreover, those decisions were made according to simple and well- understood criteria (Piguero & Jennings, 2015). According to Ellison et al (2017) such values as good control and safe environment have a concrete quality when compared with such vague prescription as "helping each individual to the extent that he is able to help himself" or individualism treatment according to the needs and problems of each inmate. Once effect of adding more complex and nebulous criteria to the administrator's decision-making matrix has been to force the actual making of decisions downward toward the level of functional operations. The more difficulty that administrators have encountered in harmonizing treatment and custodial values in statements of policy and procedure, the more they have left to their subordinates the responsibility for making significant decisions.

Death Penalty and the Nigeria criminal justice system

Earlier in our discussion, we made brief reference to some of the issues regarding capital punishment or death penalty. The frequency with which the topic occurs demonstrates how intertwined it is with the other aspects of criminal justice. The term capital punishment generally refers to the execution, in the name of the state, of a person convicted of certain crimes. The crimes for which this punishment has been imposed have varied over the centuries, but treason, murder and rape have been carried out have varied even more. In preindustrial society, the death penalty in Nigeria was relatively simple to carry out (Brewster & Sharp, 2002). Offenders were usually forced out into the wilderness (banished), where their demise was relatively certain. As human skills and culture advanced, their chance for survival in the wilderness increased, and the effectiveness of banishment diminished. Such persons often became outlaws and continued to prey on the social group from outside of it. When society began execute, rather than banish, individuals for serious transgressions (usually murder) based on revenge, the impact of the death penalty returned to its original intent (Barrick, Lattimore & Visher, 2018). Nigeria society has always been able to devise countless imaginative and cruel methods for the destruction of a condemned offender. The condemned have been hanged, burned, flayed alive, boiled in oil, throw to wild beasts, crucified, drowned, crushed, sawed in half, impaled, stoned, shot, strangled, torn, electrocuted, buried alive and now injected with lethal drugs. As noted earlier, executions were almost always administered as a public spectacle, in the hope they would serve as a warning and a deterrent to others. In Nigeria, death penalty was an event for public observation until quite recently. It was thought that public executions would deter future crimes of the same type, and all crime in general (Ellison et al, 2017). In the same context, Rguero and Jenning (2015) asserted that in the electronic media age, the idea of public executions has been advocated both for the same and the opposite reasons. It is unusual but not unexpected that both sides in this controversy would use the same arguments for or against viewing executions. Traditionally, in Nigeria to see a death by execution in the family living room posed a number of philosophical and moral issues for the ambivalent Nigeria public with regard to the death penalty.

Theoretical Framework

This study will anchor on labeling theory propounded by Howard Becker in (1960). The ideal of labeling theory began to thrive in the United States around 1960 due to the contributions of a sociologist known as Howard Becker. The following are the principle assumptions of labelling theory.

1. No act is intrinsically criminal.
2. Criminal definitions are enforced in the interest of the powerful.
3. A person does not become a criminal by violating the law.

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Labelling theorist focused on the interaction between individuals or groups and those who label or define them as deviant. Out of these interactional encounters say, between police, court and criminal, the participants will construct meanings: namely, images and understanding of both themselves and the others involved. The relationship between definers and defined is conceived of a processual; that is, individual are involved in a process whereby they subjectively construct a symbolic world. Under certain circumstances these interactions lead to the application of a deviant label. This, in turn, has psychological implications in that those so labelled may come to see themselves in term of the label. It is also has social implications in that such labelling is likely to have an impact on the way in which individuals labelled as deviant are treated by others in the future. This link between labelling and future behavior was partly derived from marton's idea of 'self-fulfilling prophesy'. From the perspective of labelling theory the quality of 'deviance' does not reside in the behavior itself, but is, rather, the outcome of responses to that behavior by various social audience. Behavior that is potentially deviant is said to occur all the time, among all sections of society. To Becker, the central canon of labelling theory is that recidivism is 'caused' by the reactions of a social audience, then, logically, analyses have to concern themselves with the creation of recidivism at that point. This position is well summed up by Becker (1963) that social groups create recidivism by making the rules and actions whose infraction constitutes recidivism, and by applying those rules and actions to particular people and labelling them as outsiders.

Medical Facilities in Nigeria Correctional Center

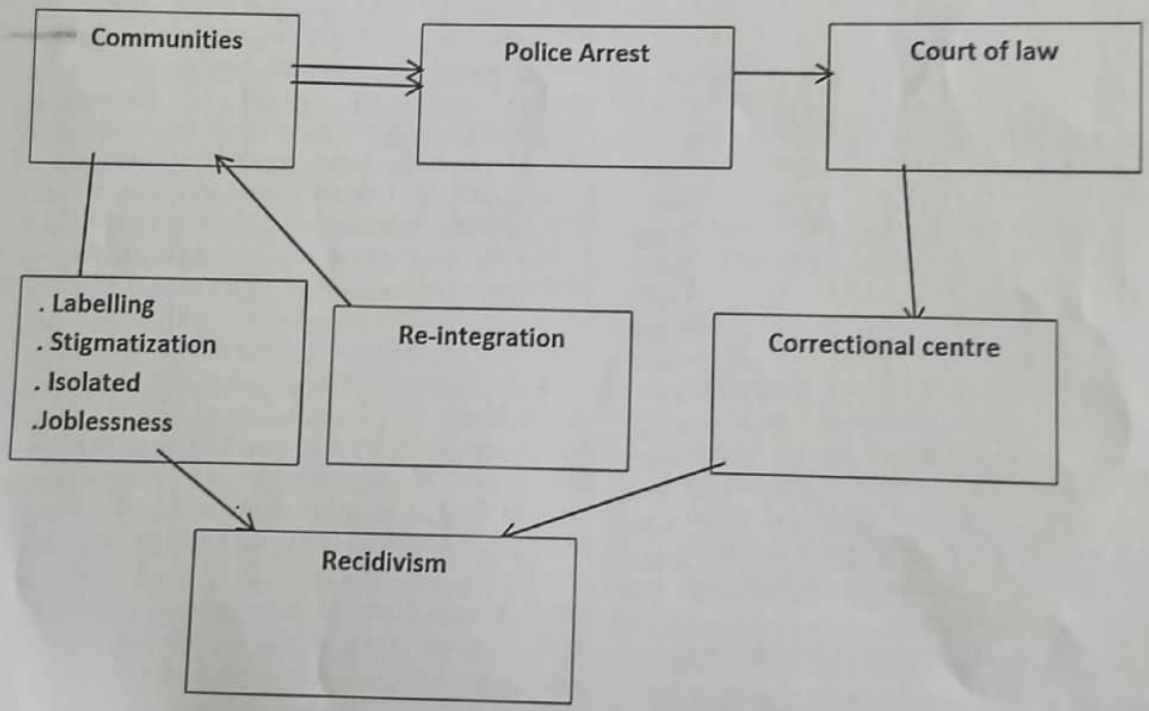
In Africa including Nigeria, medical facilities in correctional center are often a root for offender's complaints and mostly become a real disturbing for the correctional management. In various place throughout Africa, Nigeria included, professional medical personnel are globally in short supply and shortage felt even more acute in Nigeria correctional center. To circulate the total medical care for which the center is responsible, it is commonly important to join the task of full-time medical personnel, contractual consultants and available society materials (American Correctional Association, 1997; Qadri, 2005). However, with all those sacrificed, offenders and the society mostly intend to look down on medically trained person who is willing to become participant in Nigeria correctional center. Indeed, any doctor who willing and wish to participate as correctional doctor relatively small wages and standard of living, it is thought, must have been a poor in their community (Ahmad & Mukhtar, 2020). Proper medical care is important for the total re-integration effort. In various cases, the situation of the health related issues of the offenders is one of the main reason that authorities decided to option for the prisoners placement in Nigeria correctional center. Instead of a road camp unit, poor diet, drug abuse, a history of inadequate medical attention and other debilitating situations are not uncommon among convicted inmate. Once they have been restored to reasonable health condition. It is very stress less to work on the causes behind their plight. Major medical problem facing by inmate in Nigeria correctional center are hepatitis A and B, Hiv infection, mental illness, geriatric offenders, prenatal care for women inmate, measles and drug resistant tuberculosis and overcrowded population condition are mechanism factors for conducive speedy infection of disease among the convicted offenders. Traditionally, it have been reported that tuberculosis infection from offenders to correctional staffs could circulate to the family and friends (Brown, 2002). A survey conducted by Soyonbo (2009) showed that incidence of disease has increased geometrically in Nigeria correctional center. In his study, Theodore (1998) showed that major service for the inmates is discovered in the dental service clinic because most of inmates have very bad teeth, dental service can take months because offender's teeth are mostly suffered from long neglect and need extensive work. The challenges of dental treatment are similar to those of plastic surgery. Scholars have reported that improved dental treatment of offenders will enhance feelings of confidence and well-being and he/she will be relieved of chronic irritation and pain as well.

Corruption and Nigeria Correctional center

Nigeria apex government has appropriate almost 613.5 billion naira to the management of correctional center over last ten years (Premium Times, 2017). It is also evidence in (UNODC, 2021) that not less than 81,226 billion naira has

been disbursed for capital expenditure in correctional center but despite all these huge amount of allocation, the fact still remain that over 60 percent of the Nigeria correctional center population are remained in pretrial/ remanded without knowing their faith. A survey conducted by Halid, Ogunbayo & Adebayo (2019) showed that there about 73,995 inmates in Nigeria correctional center across the country with population of 50,427 awaiting trial, this indicated that delay in justice influence plight of overcrowded in Nigeria correctional center. However, the stages of the plight of congestion in Nigeria correctional center characterized by overpopulation, speedy circulation of disease, lack of proper medication, total absent of nutrient and protaineous foods, despite the huge amount of budgetary allocation. Where are these money? In the same vein, a group of officers from Nigeria correctional service (NCS) has urged Nigeria government to verified the management over misappropriate and diversion of fund (Premium Times, 2017).

Conceptual Framework used in the study



Conclusion

The study concluded that poor funding medical facilities, inadequate vocational and educational training in Nigeria correctional center are not only factors influencing rate of recidivism but societal labeling, stigmatization, disassociated, isolation and offenders joblessness also have high influence on recidivism rate in Nigeria.

Recommendation

Study makes the following recommendation:

1. Nigeria correctional center should be classified into (2) categories. For instance, Training center and production center. The training center should be designed for long term offenders, while the production center is designed for short term offenders who would not have long time for learning varieties skills
2. Societal labelling should be discouraged to make re-orientating and re-integration of offenders easy.
3. The government and other relevant agencies should be equipped with correctional experts in line with international standards.

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