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EFFECTIVENESS OF INCARCERATION FOR REHABILITATING DELINQUENTS BEHAVIOR IN BORSTAL INSTITUTION IN ILORIN, KWARA STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

This study examined the effectiveness of incarceration for rehabilitating of delinquents' behavior in Borstal Institution in Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria. The study found out the causes of delinquents' behaviour leading to incarceration into Borstal Institution. It also determined the differences in the causes of delinquent acts from intact and broken homes in Borstal Institution in Ilorin and well as compared the effectiveness of rehabilitation of delinquents' behaviour from broken and intact homes in Borstal Institution. The study adopted descriptive survey research design. The population for this study comprised all students (inmates) in the Borstal training institutions in Kwara State. The sample size for the study consisted of one hundred (100) participants (inmates) selected with the use of simple random sample technique. A validated questionnaire was used to collect data for the study. Mean, standard deviation (SD) and t-test were used to analyse the data collected in the study. The results showed parents negligence of their responsibilities to their wards as a result of poverty, peer influence at both homes and schools, and death of parents, divorce and single parent as the main causes of delinquents' behaviours. Also, no significant difference was found in the causes of delinquents behaviour from intact and broken homes, $t(98) = -1.260, p > .05$, as well as in the effectiveness of rehabilitating of delinquents behaviour from intact and broken homes, $t(98) = -0.141, p > .05$. It was there for concluded that, to be more proactive and effective, staff of the Borstal institutions should be encouraged/ motivated by attending conferences and seminars on the rehabilitation and reform system. It was recommended that Borstal institutions in Nigeria need to be renovated and equipped with computers and current text books that would enhance learning activities for the inmates. Parent should be enlighten on the need to stay together as husband and wife to raise a good family.

Keyword: Effectiveness, Incarceration, Rehabilitating, Delinquent Behaviours, Borstal Institutions.

Introduction

Juvenile delinquency refers to unacceptable behavior of the children or adolescents. Delinquent is a person who is typically between the ages of 11 and 18 they commit an acts that otherwise charged as an offences that can be tried in juvenile court. Delinquents sometimes have associated with mental disorder as post-traumatic stress disorder (Abdulaziz, 2019). Delinquency refers to the violation of law by a juvenile. It includes those acts which do not conform to societal norms and which are committed mostly by the adolescents. The term delinquent acts also include anything that youngsters do that goes against the norms of the society, regardless of whether the action is legal or illegal (Daramola, 2012).

West (2019) states the two opposing stereotypes, the first portrays delinquents as perfectly normal through his self-report studies which shows that nearly everyone at least an occasional law breaker. It is a natural human choice to disregard the law on occasion when the chance for quick personal gain with slight risk of detection presents itself. While the second stereotype pictures of delinquents are different from the rest of their age group, a special category of persons lacking in restraint, primitive in their sense of right and wrong, unable or unwilling to conform to reasonable rules. They are seen as maladjusted individuals, who by virtue of their damaged personalities (one Perhaps to hereditary flows, perhaps to deprived upbringing) foul

to learn civilized standard of behaviour and are liable to persistent trouble with the law. The first stereotype may be caused by opportunity, temptation and social tradition of ones peer group in his view.

Delinquent acts have been seen to range from the violation of disciplinary measures of parents to truancy, stealing, assault, robbery and other socially undesirable acts to mob disobedience and violence, student unrest, student protests, vandalism, running away from home, drug addiction and a host of other related offence (Akinboye, 2018). Gibsons (2013) differs in his view about the concept of delinquency; according to him Juvenile delinquency is not relatively homogeneous forms of behaviour, made up of a few similar acts which are prohibited in the criminal law as argued by some proponents earlier on. In his submission, the body of criminal statutes to which adults are subject in modern societies prohibits a wide range of dissimilar actions which includes sexual acts and many others. Therefore, if Delinquency is regarded as Juvenile crime, attention must be paid to a heterogeneous mixture of youthful transgressions. From the legalistic point of view, the United States statutes declare, in effect, that all misbehaviours' of juveniles, purview of the courts. No wonder then that, large numbers of youths engage in acts that technically qualify them as delinquents since the laws are so broad. Gibsons therefore concludes that, delinquency is not confined to a minority of juvenile population; but in some degree, it is characteristics of must youngsters.

In Nigeria however, Dada (2018) opined that criminal responsibility begins at the age of ten. The contention therefore is that a child of this age is held to be capable of deliberate criminal intent, and therefore liable to legal punishment. This then is the reason why delinquents are sent to Remand homes or Borstal institution. Nigeria as a nation experienced a lot of crisis in March 12, 2019 in Ilorin when students of mount Camel College, Ilorin engaged in brutal clash with drivers and the police. The situation which paralyzed the socio-economic activities of the community for certain period of time as the crisis occurred between the students and the garage, people (the Drivers)/ the students were sent out of the school when they started to disturb the transport business of the garage suddenly within couple of minutes it escalated into societal upheaval of which both the school and the garage authority could not handle. As a result of these many people including the students were seriously injured. (Biodun 2020). Yaba High College student's protested against the autonomy of school. This was led to the standardization of student radicalism or activism or power has arrived. No wonder then that Nwana (2017) argues that the pupils of today commit more offence than their contemporaries. To him, the schools today is clearly less disciplined community than the schools in the past.

Borstal Institutions in Nigeria

Borstal institution institutions are reformatory centers established for the purpose of re-orientating, rehabilitating, reforming and recapturing the characters of young persons who stand on a moral precipice by reason of their criminal proclivity to make them be useful again to themselves and the society at large. The facility under the umbrella of Nigeria Prisons Service (NPS) (Nigerian Correctional Service), Borstal home is under the supervision and control of the Ministry of the Interior through the Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC), the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) and the Prisons Board. Similar to the Nigeria Police Force, every prison in Nigeria is a federal prisons and Borstal institutions (Nigerian Prisons Service. 2015). The NPS derives its operational powers from CAP 366 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 1990 thus; to take into lawful custody all those certified to be kept by courts of competent jurisdiction; produce suspects in courts as at when due, identify the causes of their anti-social disposition; set in a motion and mechanisms for their treatment, rehabilitation and training for eventual reintegration into the society as a normal law abiding citizens on discharge and administer prisons farms and Industries for this purpose and in the process to generate revenue for the government.

In 1983, there were total of 23 prisons, two borstal institutions in Nigeria. Winslow (2009) pointed out that the total inmates in the three Borstal Institutions in Nigeria, namely: Borstal Training Institution Kaduna, Borstal Training Institution Ilorin in Kwara state and Borstal Training Institution Abeokuta in

Ogun state, while as of October 2019 were 811 delinquents (inmates) remanded for rehabilitation. The Borstal Institution in Kaduna alone was accommodating over 600 delinquents instead of the capacity of 200 inmates (Francis, 2019) and, as noted by Atilola (2020), there is a real prospect of a significant increase in the number of children and young people processed through the juvenile/youth justice system in Nigeria.

Theories of Delinquency

Learning theory

Learning theories are conceptual framework in which knowledge is acquired, processed, and retain knowledge during learning. Cognitive, emotional, and environmental influences, as well as prior experience all play a part in how understanding is acquired or changed and also how knowledge and skills is retained. Behaviourist look at learning as an aspect of conditioning and will advocate a system of rewards and targets in education. Educators who embrace cognitive theory believe that the definition of learning is as a result of change in behavior to narrow the study and of learner rather than their environment and in particular complexity of human memory. Those who advocate constructivism believe that learner's ability to learn depends to a large extent on what the learner already knows and understands, the acquisition of knowledge should be an individual process of construction. Transformative learning theory focuses upon the often-necessary change that is required in a learner's preconception. Geographical learning theory focuses on the way that context and environments shapes the learning process. Outside the realm of educational psychology, techniques to directly observe the function of the brain during the learning process, such as event-related potential and functional magnetic resonance imaging are used in education neuroscience. As of 2012, such studies are beginning to support theory of multiple intelligence where learning is seen as the interaction between dozens of different functional areas in the brain each with their own individual strength and weakness in any particular human learner.

Statement of the Problem

In the views of Conklin (2007), Seinhart (2010) and Bishop (2000), juvenile delinquency is often referred to acts or offences of people who violate the law but are not legally adults and thereby cannot be tried in conventional court. Most of the crimes committed by this category of people are not clearly different from crimes committed by their adults (Conklin 2007). For example, as the adult kill, steal, rape, destroy properties, so the youths also kill, steal, rape, destroy properties and express a grossly disobedience of the state laws.

Unlike in the past when youths were described as relatively peaceful and the societies also were described as crime free, today, youths are increasingly getting engaged in even complex crime (Retting 1999, Agbonna 2018, Carter 1996). This increase is becoming a source of worry to the society as the crimes manifest in school environment where students are expected to learn the good virtue that can aid their countries development. For example, Adeleke (2005) writes that secondary school students are gradually taking after students of higher institutions in the pattern of crime they get involved in. What Adeleke means is that some crimes like riot, arson, and rape that were common in higher institutions are now common among secondary school students. In confirmation of this for example, Olugbile (2017) reported that six (6) secondary school students in Lagos State were caught rapping an 18 years SS III female student within the school premises. Agbonna (2018) in another study revealed that many of the secondary school students in Ilorin Metropolis are lured to negative sexual acts in schools because of peer pressure.

However, while there are abundant of researches showing increase in students' crime and researches emphasizing the causes and consequences of many of these delinquent acts, there are no enough research that actually investigate whether such delinquency acts are prevalent particularly in secondary schools within Ilorin metropolis. Also there are no known research that finds out whether there are control mechanisms put in place to check the increase in the referred delinquent acts.

A single parent faces doubled responsibilities requiring time, attention and money of the parents. Hence, less attention is paid to the development of the child. The teachers commonly describe children from single parent as more hostile, aggressive, anxious, fearful, hyperactive and distractive than children from intact family (Nwachukwu, 2010). Thus, this study is set out to find out whether the influence of broken homes on delinquent learning outcome in borstal institution in Ilorin. From all indications there are no researchers that actually deal with borstal home, part of which the gap is created and the researcher intends to fill.

Purpose of the study

The purpose of this study is to investigate the effectiveness of incarceration for rehabilitating of delinquents behaviour in borstal institution in Ilorin, Kwara state, Nigeria. This study specifically to:

- i. found out the causes of delinquents behaviour leading to incarceration into Borstal Institution in Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria.
- ii. determined the differences in the causes of delinquent acts from intact and broken homes in Borstal Institution in Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria.
- iii. compared the effectiveness of rehabilitation of delinquents behaviour from broken and intact homes in Borstal Institution in Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria.

Research Questions

- i. What are the causes of delinquents' behaviour leading to incarceration into Borstal Institution in Ilorin Kwara State, Nigeria?

Research hypotheses

H₀₁: There is no significant difference in the causes of delinquents from broken and intact and broken home in Borstal Institution in Ilorin, Kwara State.

H₀₂: There is no significance difference in the effectiveness of rehabilitating of delinquents of broken home and intact home in Borstal Institution in Ilorin, Kwara State. Nigeria.

Methods

This study adopted the descriptive survey research design. The population for this study comprised all students (inmates) in the Borstal training institutions in Kwara State. The sample size for the study consisted of one hundred respondents (100) that are current students in Borstal training institution. Simple random sample technique was adopted in selecting participants (inmates) for this study. A researcher designed questionnaire was used to collect data for the study. Items on the questionnaire took on a five-point Likert scale response format ranging from Strongly Agree (SA), agree (A), neither agree or disagree (NA/D), strongly disagree (SD), and disagree (D). The items on the questionnaire were subjected to face and content validity by expert in the Department of Social Science Education, Faculty of Education, University of Ilorin. The corrections and suggestions were used to prepare the final draft of this instrument. In order to ascertain the reliability of the instrument, test- retest method

was used. The instrument was administered to inmates who did not participate in the real study, after two (2) weeks interval. The data generated were corrected using person product movement correlation statistics and yielded a reliability coefficient of 0.71. The researcher administered the questionnaire on the students (inmates) with the assistance to teachers in the institution. Mean, standard deviation (SD) and t-test were used to analyze the data collected in the study. The stated null hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of confidence.

Research Question One: What are the causes of delinquents in Borstal institution in Kwara State?



Table 1: Causes of Delinquents behaviour leading to incarceration into Borstal Institution in Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria

S/N	Causes	Mean	SD	Rank
1	My father married many wives and living separately because of fight	2.16	1.12	8th
2	Constant misunderstanding among my parent	2.52	1.18	4th
3	My home situation affects the way I behave in the society.	2.44	1.07	6th
4	My parent often taking alcohol	2.41	1.06	7th
5	My Parents neglect their responsibilities as a result of poverty.	3.17	1.04	1st
6	Death of my parent, divorce or single parent affect me to misbehave	2.56	1.09	3rd
7	Emotional disturbance of the condition of parents affect me to misbehave in the society.	2.47	1.08	5th
8	Peer influence at both home and the school affect me to misbehave.	2.74	1.16	2nd

Table 1 shows the causes of delinquents' behaviour in Borstal institution in Kwara State, Nigeria. As showed in the result, My Parents neglect their responsibilities as a result of poverty ranked 1st with mean of 3.17 and SD of 1.04. This is followed by Peer influence at both home and the school affect me to misbehave ranked 2nd with the mean of 2.74 and the SD of 1.16. The third was the death of my parents, divorce or single parent affects me to misbehave ranked 3rd with respective mean of 2.56 and the SD of 1.09. The constant misunderstanding among my parents was rated 4th with the mean of 2.52 and the SD of 1.18 while Emotional disturbance about the condition of parents at home was rated 5th with the mean of 2.47 and the SD of 1.08 respectively.

Research Hypotheses

H₀₁: There is no significant difference in the causes of delinquents' behaviour from intact and broken homes in Borstal institution in Ilorin, Kwara State.

Table 2: t-test of Significant Difference in the in the causes of delinquents behaviour from broken and intact homes in Borstal institution Ilorin, Kwara State.

Home	N	Mean	SD	SEM	t	df	p	Decision
Intact	57	19.95	4.88	.65	-1.260	98	.211	H ₀₁ Accepted
Broken	43	21.16	4.64	.71				

Table 2 shows the result of an independent samples t-test conducted to determine the difference in the causes of delinquents from broken and intact homes in Borstal institution in Ilorin, Kwara State. The result shows that there was no significant difference in the causes of delinquents behaviour from intact (M=19.95, SD=4.88) and broken (M= 21.16, SD= 4.64; t (98) = - 1.260, p =.211) homes. Since the p-value is greater than .05, the null hypothesis is therefore upheld. It can therefore be concluded that there was no significant difference in the causes of delinquents from intact and broken homes in Borstal institution in Ilorin, Kwara State.

H₀₂: There is no significant difference in the effectiveness of rehabilitating of delinquents behaviour from broken and intact homes incarcerated into Borstal institution in Ilorin, Kwara State.

Table 3: t-test of Significant Difference in the in the effectiveness of rehabilitating of delinquents from broken and intact homes incarcerated into Borstal institution in Ilorin, Kwara State

Home	N	Mean	SD	SEM	t	df	p	Decision
Intact	57	14.53	2.56	.34	-.141	98	.888	H ₀₂ Accepted
Broken	43	14.60	2.96	.45				

Table 3 shows the result of an independent sample t-test conducted to determine the difference in the effectiveness of rehabilitating of delinquents behaviour from broken and intact homes incarcerated into

Borstal institution in Ilorin, Kwara State. It shows that there was no significant difference in the effectiveness of rehabilitating of delinquents behaviour from intact ($M=14.53$, $SD=2.56$) and broken ($M=14.60$, $SD=2.96$; $t(98) = -0.141$, $p=.888$) homes. Since the p-value is greater than .05, the null hypothesis is therefore upheld (accepted). It can therefore be concluded that there was no significant difference in the effectiveness of rehabilitation of delinquents from broken and intact homes incarcerated into Borstal institution in Ilorin, Kwara State.

Discussion of the Findings

The first findings obtained from this study reveal the cause of delinquents' behavior leading to incarceration in to the borstal institution is the parents' negligence of their responsibilities as a result of poverty within and outside the family setting. This is in line with (Akinboye, 2018), who opined that delinquents (inmates) are suffering as a result of parents negligence and of course the children are always worried about their parents emotional problems such as financial breakdown, unemployment, and low income. Peer influence at both homes and in the schools, according to the findings which shows the above statement that in the society children cannot alone unless with their friends. This is in line with (Gibson, 2013) he said that peer influence affects students to become delinquent because of bad behavior he/she inherited from friends in the school and in the society at large.

This study also indicated that death of one parent, divorce and single parent are also one of the causes why children incarcerated for rehabilitation in to the borstal institution. This is related to the study of (Conklin 2007) he stated that children with no parent as a result of death, divorce or single parent are mostly involved in delinquent behavior in the society. Parent misunderstanding, re-occurring fight between parent, parent mental and physical health, all these problems tend to affect a child to become delinquent because when the child is in school and thinks about all this problem he gets distracted and then tends to have direct influence on negative peer pressure that may in turn affect a juvenile's involvement in delinquent activity (West, 2019). Finding from this study showed that there was no significant difference in the cause of delinquents from intact and broken homes in Borstal institution in Ilorin, Kwara State. A family has a greater effect on individual's trait acquisition and development. An intact family can be said to be a functioning union between a mother and a father while broken home is one that is not structurally intact, as a result of divorce, separation, death of one of parent and illegitimacy as agreed by (Bishop, 2000) who said that hence, a child from intact family structure tends to be delinquents due to misunderstanding between parent, re-occurring fight, socio-economic status of either parent will allow a child to act delinquently, while children from broken homes, that are the effects of a broken family also involves in delinquent behavior as a result of the numerous factors, which including separation, divorce or death of parent. The study showed that there was no significant difference in the effectiveness of rehabilitating of delinquents behavior from broken and intact homes incarcerated into Borstal institution in Ilorin, Kwara State. Rehabilitation is seen as the reformation of character and the behavior in line with the conformity of the norms and values of the society. Rehabilitation of delinquents' behavior according to Akinboye (2018), stated that good habits, character, and behavior qualifies delinquents to be reformed or rehabilitated in the Borstal institution, so as to be good citizen, law abiding and patriotism.

Conclusion

Based on the findings observed from the study, it was therefore concluded that the major causes of delinquent behavior leading to incarceration into the Borstal institutions in Nigeria are the major problems facing the society in which if it can be addressed by both members of the society and the parents, then whatever efforts, rehabilitation put in place by the borstal institution would be effective so that when the delinquent go back to the society after he/she have been discharged, he/she can mingle and interact freely with the parents and members of the society at large.



Recommendations

In respect to the findings obtained from this study, the following recommendations were proffered:

Government should review salary from the current amount to reasonable and substantial level to better the lives of the average citizen in the country. Employment opportunities should be created for the unemployed parents. Parents should be encouraged to improve their educational standard by engaging in continuous education, sandwich programme and distance learning program. Parents should be enlightened on the need to stay together as husband and wife to raise a good family. They should persevere and tolerate each other in marriage. Parents should ensure that they provide their children/wards with the educational materials to promote their teaching and learning in schools. To be more proactive and effective the staff of the Borstal institution should be encouraged and motivate them by allow to attend conferences and workshop time to time. Borstal institutions across board need to be renovated and equip them with computers, relevant text books that would enhance teaching and learning for both teacher and the inmates in the Borstal institutions. Finally, before releasing inmates to their prospective parents, the juvenile court need to invite the parents for serious talk and advice on the need to take care of their wards against the peers and they should be responsible for the needs of their wards so as to support the effective reforms and rehabilitation acquired in the Borstal institution.

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