

INFLUENCE OF LIBRARY AND VOCATIONAL RESOURCES ON REFORMATION AND REHABILITATION OF INMATES AT MEDIUM SECURITY CUSTODIAL CENTRE, KUJE

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Abstract

The study assessed Library and Vocational Resources as Factors Influencing Inmates Reformation and Rehabilitation in Medium Security Custodial Centre, Kuje. The study was guided by three objectives and three corresponding research questions. Survey research design method was adopted for the study. The total population of the study was seven hundred and twenty-two (722). The sample size of the study was three hundred and seventy-five (375) respondents. Purposive sampling and Stratified sampling technique were used to determine the sample size for the study. Questionnaire was used as instrument for data collection. Out of the three hundred and seventy-five (375) copies of questionnaire administered, one hundred and twelve (112) copies were filled, returned and used for the analysis. Descriptive statistical tool involving frequency counts and percentages, were used to analyse the data. The findings of the study revealed that books provide hope to inmates for future plan after jail. Reading books has promoted inmates' health and legal issues, Vocational training has fostered personal growth and a sense of accomplishment among inmates, and Vocational programmes has improved inmates' literacy and numeracy skills were among the effects that have the highest percentages above the average benchmark. The study also revealed that inadequate funding, space and accommodation problem for resources, physical restriction, and inadequate collection/resources were among the major issues faced by custodial centre. The study, therefore, recommends that rehabilitation and creation of more library and vocational facilities; adequate funding should be encouraged"; both library and vocational resources should be adequately preserved and managed; and custodial centres should liaise with other professional bodies to promote library and vocational resources.

Keywords: Influence, Custodial Centres, Library Resources, Vocational Resources, Reformation and Rehabilitation.

Introduction

The importance of education as light to all is necessary to enhancing adequate information, skills acquisition and change of behaviour. Inmates' needs for education is imperative to handling their anti-social vices brought into the custodial centres, and library and vocational facilities as part of the education has the capacity to bring a permanent change of behaviour among them. Library and Vocational knowledge provides inmates with the opportunity to obtain information, skills and other material resources. Most library and vocational knowledge assist inmates in obtaining skills, moral information and values that provide adjustment in their lives' moral norms, developing well-behaved individuals in the society after release. The resources of these facilities serves variety of objectives in offering research information, recreational information, health information, legal information, skill acquisition and other information and trade related services that might aid in the reformation and rehabilitation of inmates. According to Ibikunle and Oyewumi (2018), inmates gain access to a wide range of information and skills through library and vocational services, which prepares them for future engagements.

Inmates' usage of library materials has a significant impact on their lives. Emasealu (2017) asserts that, inmate who reads has the potential to empathize with a character in a tale, which might have an impact on self-concept. When an inmate reads a tale book that allows him to role-play in his head, he is given the opportunity to reflect on who he was, who he thinks he is, and who he might become. Reading serves as an emotional fortification and personality restructuring; it is a powerful tool in every walk of life and hence, it acts as a receptive skill for acquiring and internalizing information. Berns (2013) opines that inmates who partake in reading books, especially those with strong narrative can rehabilitate an inmate; the book reconfigures the brain network of the inmates. Ideas gotten from active reading allows inmates to freely express themselves because reading equips people with current information. During the reading process, an inmate is given an option (thought process) where the new information creates a new decision that brings about change in behaviour.

On the other hand, Vocational skills acquisition programmes could be regarded as an aspect of education that gives the recipient an opportunity to acquire practical skills through the use of vocational resources including, welding, auto repair, building maintenance, and graphic arts, as well as some basic knowledge which fits the individual for gainful employment in a recognised occupation as semi-skilled worker, technician or sub-professional. According to Inusa (2021), vocational training in custodial centres is considered essential for the achievement of the purpose of reformation, rehabilitation and reintegration of discharged inmates. Reformation and rehabilitation are the current issues that are central to modern penal-thinking and practices and have been adopted and implemented by Nigerian custodial centres using vocational training.

The term vocational education in general, includes every form of education that aims at the acquisition of qualifications related to a certain profession, art or employment that provides the necessary training and the appropriate skills as well as technical knowledge, so that students are able to exercise a profession, art or activity, independently at their age and training level, even if the training programmes contains also elements of general education (Dixon and Cassey, 2013).

Vocational programmes in custodial centres play a crucial role in the rehabilitation, reformation and reintegration of inmates into the society (Barloch, 2018). These programmes aimed at providing inmates with practical skills and knowledge that can help them secure employment and leave law-abiding lives upon release. Vocational resources are influential in many areas including, Skill Development, Employability, Personal Growth, Education and Training, Reducing Recidivism, Community Integration, Cost Savings and Crisis management.

Reformation can however, be promoted theoretically by influencing moral behaviour through psychological counselling and other forms of education especially in the use of library resources in order to undermine inmates' formal behaviour. Whereas, rehabilitation attempt to provide a practical base method in which inmates are introduced to and involved with tools or equipment that prepares them for future tasks. It is on this note that this study aimed at assessing Library and Vocational Resources as Factors for Influencing Inmates' Reformation and Rehabilitation in Medium Security Custodial Centre Kuje.

Problem Statement

Effective human capital development for any nation depends on the availability of information resources and practical skill development. Library and vocational resources are parts of myriad resources that highnesses human capital development because of their value placed in the society. The need for Inmates to access the use of library and vocational resources to determine change in their behavioural patterns and skill development is pertinent. Though a lot of commitments have been made by the Nigerian Correctional Service towards inmates' reformation and rehabilitation, by implementing a variety of reformation and rehabilitation programmes, but little effort has been put in the promotion of library and vocational resources to help inmates turn a new leaf. Most custodial centres do not have library and vocational facilities, inadequate library and vocational resources, Lack of professional personnel, and nonchalant attitudes of inmates, are among the difficulties faced by the custodial centres. These and many other issues that represent the essence of the study on "Library and Vocational Resources as factors for influencing Inmates' Reformation and Rehabilitation in Medium Security Custodial Centre Kuje.

Study Objectives

6. To ascertain the Influence of library and vocational resources on inmates' reformation and rehabilitation at Medium Security Custodial Centre, Kuje.

7. To identify the problems militating against effective provision and management of library and vocational resources at Medium Security Custodial Centre, Kuje.
8. To suggest strategies for the improvement of library and vocational resources at Medium Security Custodial Centre, Kuje.

Literatures Review

The effects of the use of library resources by inmates according to Ephraim (2015) are emphasized on the leisure satisfaction of the inmates when engaged in reading books. Inmates are more satisfied to engage in leisure activities such as reading books and newspapers. It gives them joy and the opportunity to relax around the library vicinity with fellow inmates. Dark (2018) in his contributions opines that anytime an inmate is engaged and busy in reading books, he/she is less likely to display negative behaviours. Inmates' use of library resources help to improve their level of education thereby disengaging them from negative behaviours. Use of libraries also helps to prepare an inmate for life that is, preparing them for re-entry into society.

Ideas gotten from active reading allows inmates to freely express themselves because reading equips people with current information. During the reading process, an inmate is given an option (thought process) where the new information creates a new decision that brings about change in behaviour. Python (2014) however, asserts that inmates' participation in reading books brings about social behaviour. He notes that reading participation brings development. Reading books brings together inmates of different classes who might otherwise be associated with rival gangs, thereby interacting and sharing ideas together that bring about peace among the inmates.

Inmates' usage of library materials has a significant impact on their lives. Emasealu (2017) asserts that, inmate who reads has the potential to empathize with a character in a tale, which might have an impact on self-concept. When an inmate reads a tale book that allows him to role-play in his head, he is given the opportunity to reflect on who he was, who he thinks he is, and who he might become. Reading serves as an emotional fortification and personality restructuring; it is a powerful tool in every walk of life and hence, it acts as a receptive skill for acquiring and internalizing information. Berns (2013) opines that inmates who partake in reading books, especially those with strong narrative can rehabilitate an inmate; the book reconfigures the brain network of the inmates.

The development of vocational skills is as well very vital and essential to the development of inmates; it enhances economic development for two important reasons. First, vocational skills are needed for enterprise productivity and profitability, as well as for national productivity and wealth creation. The second reason for the development of vocational skills is because it is essential for individual prosperity (Mbatha Kerre, Ferej and Kitainge, 2019). These types of skills enable the inmates to increase their productivity and income while in custody. This is important for those seeking out a living in the informal

sector of the economy. This is in line with Ewelum, Omeriyang and Ugochukwu (2015), who viewed vocational education as the bedrock for national development and poverty alleviation. Vocational Education and Training signals both creation of a different and special way of training in a particular field of learning. In general terms this type of education refers mostly to manual professions opposed to cultivation of the mind.

There is a primal distinction between knowledge and action, theory and practice, as technical education seeks to supply the participants with the practical skills and the necessary craftsmanship in order to cope with the demands of specific professions (Ayuk, Owan and Ekok, 2013). The author further stated that vocational education programmes delivered in custodial centres involve instruction for a specific trade, occupation, or vocation such as welding, auto repair, building maintenance, and graphic arts. The primary goal of vocational education is to help inmates develop marketable job skills upon release to the community.

Vocational programmes in custodial centres play a crucial role in the rehabilitation, reformation and reintegration of inmates into the society (Barloch, 2018). These programmes aim to provide inmates with practical skills and knowledge that can help them secure employment and lead law-abiding lives upon release. Vocational resources are influential in many areas such as, Skill Development, Employability, Personal Growth, Education and Training, Reducing Recidivism, Community Integration, Cost Savings and Crisis management.

Methodology

Descriptive survey research design was used for the research. The method was very reliable in the expression and interpretation of data which helps in addressing the present issue at hand. Descriptive survey research describes a situation in which a group of people share particular characteristics or qualities (Sharma, 2017). The strategy entails the process of collecting and describing data on a certain population in a methodical manner (Salaria, 2012). This method was therefore, appropriate for describing data on the aim of the study.

The population used for the study were inmates, library and vocational staff of the custodial centre, with a total number of 722 respondents. Stratified and Purposive sampling technique was adopted in selecting the sample size of the population for both inmates who had reading and writing skills and library staff/vocational staff. This was appropriate because stratified sampling technique allows one to reflect diversity of subgroups of one's population while purposive sampling technique allows a researcher to handpick a certain group of individuals for their relevance to the issue under study among the total population. The sample size for the study was three hundred and seventy five (375) respondents, out of which two hundred and twenty five (225) were inmates working in vocational centre, one hundred and twenty (120) were inmates with reading and writing skills, eight (8) were library staff and twenty two (22) were vocational staff. The instrument for data collection for the research was designed questionnaire. The instrument administered was collected and analysed using

descriptive statistics including frequency count and percentages with a decision bench mark of fifty (50%).

Findings and Discussion

Table 1: Influence of Library and Vocational Resources for Inmates Reformation and Rehabilitation at Medium Security Custodial Centre Kuje

Statement	Yes (%)	No (%)	Total (%)
Reading religious books make me realize the wrongs I do	95 (98)	2 (2)	97 (100)
Books heals the trauma and worries of being in jail	96 (99)	1 (1)	97 (100)
Books provides hope to inmates for future plan after jail	96 (99)	1(1)	97 (100)
Reading books has taking away fears and ignorance among inmates	94 (97)	3 (3)	97 (100)
Motivational books encourages inmates to rewrite their life experiences	95 (98)	2 (2)	97 (100)
It has curtails abuses, violence, and oppression among inmates	90 (94)	7 (6)	97 (100)
Library resources has redefine my carrier ambition	90 (94)	7 (6)	97 (100)
Life is exciting at reading a book a day	93 (96)	4 (4)	97 (100)
Education in jail has provided some fundamental life skills	95 (98)	2 (2)	97 (100)
After reading a book it makes me quite and calm	92 (96)	5 (4)	97 (100)
I can face difficult situation in a positive way after reading	93 (96)	4 (4)	97 (100)
Library resources has developed my self-confidence	90 (94)	7 (6)	97 (100)
It has prepared my usefulness before going back to the society	89 (93)	8 (7)	97 (100)
Am now equipped with library resources to be read outside after jail term	88 (92)	9 (8)	97 (100)
The resources of the Library has changed my dubious character	89 (93)	8 (7)	97 (100)
I can now set up vital goals to be achieve for future ambition	90 (94)	7 (6)	97 (100)
Reading books has promoted my health and legal issues	70 (76)	27 (24)	97 (100)
Am now properly equipped with a vocational skill	96 (99)	1 (1)	97 (100)
Reading books has promote the idea to develop positive relationship after jail	92 (96)	5 (4)	97 (100)
Engaging in vocational activities has helped inmates in Crisis management	91 (95)	6 (5)	97 (100)

Vocational programmes offer inmates the opportunity to acquire practical skills in various trades	91 (95)	6 (5)	97 (100)
Gaining vocational skills, inmates are better equipped to find employment upon release.	91 (95)	6 (5)	97 (100)
Vocational training has foster personal growth and a sense of accomplishment among inmates.	96 (99)	1 (1)	97 (100)
Vocational programmes has improved inmates' literacy and numeracy skills	96 (99)	1 (1)	97 (100)
Vocational programmes can facilitate the reintegration of inmates into the society	95 (98)	2 (2)	97 (100)

Source: field study 2023

Table 1 showed that twenty five items were listed for only the inmates to respond on the influence of library and vocational resources on their reformation and rehabilitation. All the twenty five items produced high percentages above the benchmark of 50%. These items include, item 1: Reading religious books make me realize the wrongs I do 98%, item 2: Books heals the trauma and worries of being in jail 99%, item 3: Books provides hope to inmates for future plan after jail 99%, item 4: Reading books has taking away fears and ignorance among Inmates 97%, item 5: Motivational books encourages Inmates to rewrite their life experiences 98%, item 6: It has curtails abuses, violence, and oppression among inmates 94%, item 7: Library resources has redefine my carrier ambition 94%, item 8: Life is exciting at reading a book a day 96%, item 9: Education in jail has provided some fundamental life skills 98%,), item 10: After reading a book it makes me quite and calm 96%, item 11: I can face difficult situation in a positive way after reading a book 96%,), item 12: Library resources has developed my self-confidence 94%, item 13:

The table also shows that the resources has prepared my usefulness before going back to the society 95%, item 14: Am now equipped with library resources to be read outside after jail term 92%, item 15: It has created a fun and happy life 93%, item 16: The resources of the Library has changed my dubious character 94%, item 17: I can now set up vital goals to be achieve for future ambition 76%, item 18: Reading books has promoted my health and legal issues 99%, item 19: Reading books has promote the idea to develop positive relationship after jail 96%, item 20: Reading books has promote the idea to develop positive relationship after jail 95%, item 21: Vocational programmes offer inmates the opportunity to acquire practical skills in various trades 95%, item 22: Gaining vocational skills, inmates are better equipped to find employment upon release 95%, item 23: Vocational training has foster personal growth and a sense of accomplishment among inmates 99%, item 24: Vocational programmes has improved inmates' literacy and numeracy skills 99%, and item 25: Vocational programmes can facilitate the reintegration of inmates into the society 98%. All the items above showed very high percentages above average benchmark of 50%. This is an

indication that management of library and vocational resources highly contributes to the reformation and rehabilitation of inmates in custodial centres which should be encouraged.

Table 2: Problems Militating Against Effective Library and Vocational Resources Provision and Management

Statement	Yes (%)	No (%)	Total (%)
Inadequate funding	107 (96)	5 (4)	112 (100)
Space and accommodation problem for more resources	105 (94)	7 (6)	112 (100)
Censorship of library and vocational materials	39 (35)	73 (65)	112 (100)
Physical restriction of both library and vocational centres	103 (92)	9 (8)	112 (100)
Inadequate library and vocational resources	103 (92)	9 (8)	112 (100)
Unfriendly Library and vocational staff	27 (24)	85 (76)	112 (100)
Strict rules and regulations in the use of library and vocational resources	31 (28)	81 (72)	112 (100)
Out-dated library and vocational materials	101(90)	11(10)	112 (100)
Unqualified staff manning the Library and vocational centres	95 (85)	17(15)	112 (100)
Time allowed for library visit and vocational skills acquisition is minimal	95 (85)	17 (15)	112 (100)
Lack of access to the Library and vocational centres	98 (88)	14 (12)	112 (100)

Source: field study 2023

Eleven items were listed in Table 2 for inmates and staff to respond on problems militating against effective availability and management of library and vocational resources in Kuje Custodial Centre. Nine among the items produced high percentages above the average benchmark of 50%. These items include item 1: Inadequate funding 96%, item 2: Space and accommodation problem for resources 94%, item 4: Physical restriction 92%, item 5: Inadequate collection/resources 92%, item 8: Out-dated library and vocational materials 90%, item 9: Unqualified staff manning the Library and vocational centres 85%, item 10: Time allowed for library visit and vocational skills acquisition is minimal 85%, and item 11: Lack of access to the Library and vocational centres 88%. However, three items produced low percentages which were below average benchmark of 50%. The items include item 3: Censorship of library vocational materials 35%, item 6: Unfriendly Library and vocational staff 24%, and item 7: Strict rules and regulations in the use of library and vocational resources 28%. The nine items that produced high percentages above the average benchmark of 50% indicated the paramount issues militating effective availability and management of Library and vocational Resources. Whereas the three items that were below the average

benchmark of 50% were not serious problems affecting inmates from using the library and vocational resources in the custodial centre.

Table 3: Strategies for the Improvement of Library and Vocational Resources at Medium Security Custodial Centre Kuje

Statement	Yes (%)	No (%)	Total (%)
Custodial centres should ensure more access to Library and vocational centres	109(97)	3 (3)	112 (100)
Employing professional staff to Mann the library and vocational centres	108 (96)	4 (4)	112 (100)
Provision of adequate library and vocational resources	108 (96)	4 (4)	112 (100)
Custodial centres should liaise with other professional bodies and Non-Governmental organization to promote library and vocational resources	109 (97)	3 (3)	112 (100)
Custodial centres should have a flexible rules and guidelines for the use of Library and vocational resources	107(96)	5 (4)	112 (100)
Adequate funding should be encouraged	109 (97)	3 (3)	112 (100)
Both library and vocational resources should be adequately preserved and managed	109 (97)	3 (3)	112 (100)
Rehabilitation and creation of more library and vocational centres	110 (98)	2 (2)	112 (100)
Custodial centres should encourage Inmates inputs when intending to purchase new resources	108 (96)	4 (4)	112 (100)

Source: field study 2023

Table 3 showed that nine items were listed for the respondents to respond on the strategies of improving the condition of the library and vocational resources that are made available for effective management at Medium Security Custodial Centre Kuje. All the nine items produced high percentages above the average benchmark of 50%. These items include item 1: Custodial centres should ensure more access to Library and vocational centres 97%, item 2: Employing professional staff to Mann the library and vocational centres 96%, item 3: Provision of adequate library and vocational resources 96%, item 4: Custodial centres should liaise with other professional bodies and Non-Governmental organization to promote library and vocational resources 97%, item 5: Custodial centres should have a flexible rules and guidelines for the use of Library and vocational resources 96%, , item 6: Adequate funding should be encourage 97%, item 7: Both library and vocational resources should be adequately preserved and managed 97%, item 8: Rehabilitation and creation of more library and vocational facilities 98%, and item 9: Custodial centres should encourage Inmates inputs when intending to purchase new resources 96%. All the items indicated above showed very

high percentages above average benchmark of 50%, which implies that the major strategies to be adopted for the Improvement of Library and Vocational Resources at Medium Security Custodial Centre Kuje.

Conclusion

The findings of the study showed that both library and vocational resources were very significant in the reformation and rehabilitation process of inmates globally. Among the suggested items as factors responsible for influencing inmates' behavioural modification from the research, findings showed that inmates benefited immensely from library and vocational resources. However, inadequate funding, Space and accommodation problem for more resources, out-dated library and vocational materials, unqualified staff manning the Library and vocational centres, were among the major challenges face by the custodial centre. The research finally showed that providing more access to use of library and vocational centres, employing professionals to Mann both library and vocational centre, provision of current resources, liaison with governmental and non-governmental bodies to make donations, as well as adequate funding were among other factors that can provide effective provision and use of library resources among inmates.

Recommendations

3. Looking at the tremendous influence in engaging inmates in the use of library and vocational resources for their reformation and rehabilitation, the Nigerian Correctional Service and Government at large should ensure more policies; programmes and incentives provided to encourage inmates' full participation in the use of library and vocational resources in the custodial centres to promote their reformation and rehabilitation.
4. Nigerian Correctional Service should adequately allocate funds to both the library and the vocational units of the custodial centre to promote library and vocational resources development. Adequate funding will also help in tackling other issues emanating from accommodation/space problem, unqualified manpower, out-dated library and vocational materials. Above all, the correctional institutions should ensure all the issues outlined in this study are giving a major priority.
5. There should be collaborations between the Federal Government of Nigeria and the Correctional Service to ensure that relevant laws and policies are formulated that will effectively promote the development and improvement of correctional libraries and vocational industries in the custodial centres. Policy makers should ensure rules and regulations that will guide the management and use of library and vocational resources in the custodial centres are formulated within the institution. Also, there should be policies for employing professional staff to manage the libraries and vocational centres, policies on correctional library collection development and provision of adequate vocational materials, as well as policies on rule of partnership with professional bodies and

nongovernmental organization should be encouraged to promote reformation and rehabilitation across all custodial centres in Nigeria.

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