

Perception on Programs at Rehabilitation Centres by Parents of Clients and Staff in Lagos State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Rehabilitation processes of juvenile offenders pose serious challenge in Nigeria today. Studies are more concentrated on the available techniques adopted in various rehabilitation centres without evaluating the nature and types of programs that are in force. This study underscored the perception of both parents and staff of the correctional centres on rehabilitation programs available for clients/ wards in Lagos State, Nigeria. The study is anchored on differential association theory propounded by Sutherland in 1950. Survey research design was adopted. The sample size for the study was 178 respondents drawn from: the juvenile offenders (71), staff of correctional service centres (29), the staff of family social welfare service units (56), court and police officers (12) and parents of wards/ juvenile offenders (10). Finding of the study indicates that one-on-one counselling (64%), vocational training (50%), interpersonal skills and behavioural program (90%) are the best intervention programs used in the rehabilitation process. Based on this, the study therefore recommends that the programs used in the rehabilitation centres should be reviewed periodically by government in order to accommodate changes for more positive results.

Keyword: Rehabilitation, Correctional Homes, Juvenile, Programs, Therapy, Lagos State

Background to the Study and Statement of the Problem

There is overwhelming evidence all over the world that crime is being committed more frequently and more often by adolescents. A 2009 global survey of juvenile crime in cities, conducted by United Nations Habitat, reported that in Europe, juvenile crime had increased by 2.6% compared to the previous year's increase of 1.7%; South East Asia, Latin America and North America were reported to have juvenile crime growth rates of 0.7%, 3.9% and 1.8% respectively (UNIHABITAT, 2009). Juvenile delinquency has also been on the increase. As delinquency increases, the number of delinquents that go to correctional facilities for rehabilitation and possible correction also increases.

The relatively high rate of juvenile crime in Latin America has been attributed to the drug economy in places like Mexico and Colombia (Raul, 2010). In Africa, according to UNHABITAT 2009, juvenile criminality has also continued to increase largely as a result of chronic unemployment among youths. Between 2007 and 2009, juvenile crime increased from 3.2% to 5.7%. Such increases have also been linked to the rate at which cities proliferate, or the levels of urbanization and the social changes and complexities that accompany these processes, including urban poverty (United Nations, 2008).

Urbanization-related increases in crime rates are often more common in Africa where average annual growth rates have been estimated at 7.2% between 1980 and 1990 and 9.3% between 1990 and 2000 (Olayinka 2012: 12). In a study of cross sectional comparison between the current and pre-contact psychosocial problems among the different categories of adolescents in institutional care in Nigeria, Olayinka (2012: 12) further explained that, the combination of adverse social indicators and a predominantly youthful population put Nigeria, and indeed many countries of sub-Sahara Africa, at the risk of explosion in the number of youths coming in contact with the juvenile justice system.

Over the years Lagos state government has shown interest in child welfare in order to increase the responsibility of reforming and rehabilitating juvenile offenders given the establishment of 6 correctional homes, 10 juvenile courts, enactment of State Child Right Act and 6 special

schools for special children. The state government establishes and manages different types of homes meant to provide different categories of correctional activities in respect of juvenile delinquency within the state, and also liaises with the federal institutions in the case of juvenile offenders that require rehabilitation at the centres/homes. These homes range from Children Centres which are set up for children between the ages of 5 and 10years, to the Correctional Centres which are set up for juveniles between the ages of 11 and 17years. The Correctional Centres are in two categories: one for boys from ages 12 to 15years, and allows the wards to obtain formal training outside the premises; and the other for the senior boys from ages 16 to 21years, which also allows for formal training outside the premises. These two categories also apply to girls. The state also has two special Correctional Centres for both boys and Girls from ages 10 to 18 years with a close rehabilitation process. This makes the centres serve as transit centres for juvenile offenders.

The number of young offenders in Lagos state is increasing to the point of outstretching the capacities and facilities of the existing correctional centres. Press reports that the sight of children involved in various illicit activities are also on the increase. These developments may be indicative of high increase in the rate of delinquency and or recidivism. The state government at different intervention periods set up different task forces to apprehend children trading and carrying out outlawed activities for children on the street and also the hoodlums, in order to have the street free of violence. It was discovered that some juveniles, after being released from some of the homes, were caught with some groups of armed adults (Lagos State Department of Research and Statistics, LSDRS 2011). This may also suggest that the efforts of the Lagos State government have not reduced considerably the issue of juvenile delinquency in the state. This study is therefore designed to explore these observed occurrences in recidivism, the trend of recidivism, its associated causes and possible remedies in two special Correctional Centres in Lagos State.

In a study of street children in Lagos State of Nigeria, Oloko (2004:) found out that there are many children that are considered to be delinquent, and are remanded under the Juvenile Delinquency Social Welfare System (JDSWS). Furthermore, that many of these youths are thought to have experienced or have been exposed to violence in their own homes, criminal behaviour by their parents, and inappropriate discipline in the hands of their caretakers and sometimes, society at large. Consequently, children may end up mirroring these behaviours either from the parents, caretakers or neighbours.

The statistical record in the Department of Research and Development, Lagos State Office of Youth and Sports (2012) stated that the holding capacity of these correctional institutions, especially the special Correctional Centres, is constantly at optimal. The report also indicated that the need for rehabilitation services is also on the increase despite the fact that the seat of the federal government has been relocated from Lagos to Abuja. This study therefore underscored the nature and dynamics of recidivism among girls and boys in Lagos state special correctional centres.

Lagos state government established correctional centres in various locations with well-trained staff to carry out the activities at the homes. Delinquent children are also on the increase despite the establishment of 6 Correctional Homes (Lagos State Office of Youth and Development, Department of Research & Statistics 2011). This situation presents a social work

problem, namely, the relationship between the number of special correctional centres as institutions for the management and correction of child delinquency on one hand, and the increase in the cases of delinquent children who go through these centres but fall back into being recidivists on the other hand. From all indication, scholars' attention on recidivism is more focused on the adult criminals than the juveniles (boys and girls). This informs the need for this study. The study therefore investigated the perception of both parents of clients and staff of rehabilitation centres on the programmes used at in Lagos state, Nigeria.

Literature Review

The Rehabilitation Programs used at the Correctional Centres

According to WHO yearly Report News, Rehabilitation helps a child, adult or older person to be as independent as possible in everyday activities and enables participation in education, work, recreation and meaningful life roles such as taking care of family. (WHO report 2023). According to Siegel, Welsh and Senna (2006:) rehabilitation has certain implications for offenders and correctional programmes. They further stated that it implies that incarcerated individuals have problems which are direct causes of their criminal behaviour. Correctional programme personnel can diagnose these problems accurately, and have appropriate treatments available for the individual. These treatments will be properly applied and the problems "corrected" (or at least mitigated). They also expressed further that the individuals' criminal behaviour will begin to diminish as a result of mitigating the problems rather than just designing a general rehabilitation program for all. These sequences of implications form a logical construct and is what is normally meant when rehabilitation or correction is considered to be the goal of the criminal sanction. It has also been referred to as the "medical model" of corrections. They pointed out that this logical construct is quite appropriate for medical treatments, in which the causal links are physical and physiological and can be traced with appropriate instrumentation. But such a construct is a heavy burden to place on correctional treatments. Little is known about behavioral change or the causes of criminal behavior to make this sequence of implications apply to corrections. Yet this model still may be appropriate for some offender types and some programmes designed for them. An evaluation based on the goal of rehabilitation would gauge the extent to which this model of the correctional process actually applies.

Siegel, Welsh and Senna (2006) concluded that an evaluation based on the goal of rehabilitation should be primarily a process evaluation; that is, it should be primarily concerned with validating the logical construct. These may include whether the offenders have problems; whether they were a direct cause of their criminal behaviour; and whether they were properly diagnosed. For example, an offender may be diagnosed as having psychological problems that led to his criminal behaviour. Determining the nature of the offender's problems would require extensive psychological testing, both before and after treatment. In addition, an assessment of the diagnostic and treatment capabilities of the correctional agency would need to be undertaken, to determine whether the treatment programme can actually be implemented in the agency. This assessment would concentrate on the process of rehabilitation and not just on the bottom line of reduction in criminality.

The Programs Available at the Correctional Centres

Educational programs in rehabilitation institutions are important part of social development and also have therapeutic as well as instructional value. They are essential part of most

treatment programs and practitioners must be knowledgeable and skillful in management and delivery of these programs. Ideally, institutions should allow their wards to attend a school in the community or offer programs that lead to a high school diploma. Treatment programs that seem to be most effective for rehabilitating juvenile offenders are those that use a combination of techniques, build on their strengths, and give them confidence of relating with peers, family and community (Siegel et al., 2006:). The study examined the effectiveness of the chosen correctional homes in Lagos State and lay emphasis on the various techniques used.

In the case of juvenile correctional centres, treatments and facilities vary with the capacity of the institution and the number of wards available in the facility, which include counseling, vocational/educational training, recreational programs, and religious counseling. Counselors help juveniles understand and solve their current adjustment problems, with the help of structured psycho and reality therapy. The psychotherapist helps the juvenile solve conflicts to make a more positive adjustment to society, while the reality therapist emphasizes on current behavior of the juvenile which requires that such accept responsibility for all of his or her actions. Behavior modification is used for shaping desired behaviours through a system of rewards and punishments. The latter is very effective in controlled settings where a counselor can manipulate the situation. Once the youth is back in the real world it might be difficult to use (Siegel *et al.*, 2006:). Hence, several juvenile rehabilitation programs should request the child's parents to participate in the different activities. The participation of parents is a very important, because inculcation of moral values should come mainly from the home. Also it makes it easier for the offenders to go back into the community as responsible and honest individuals.

At the correctional centres, different vocational skills are put up so as to ensure that the wards were empowered apart from the therapeutic counseling meant to re organize their psychological orientations. The skills put in place include tailoring, shoemaking, art and craft, cane making, photography, barbing, catering and hair-dressing. All of these trainings have their different instructors who earn their salaries from the Ministry and some are doing it on voluntary base. The Government provided instruction equipments and demonstration materials for the centres and each of the trade has its own classroom which the wards are registered in their area of interest. (Ottun, 2023).

Martin et al. (2012) stated that measurement problems in evaluating the goal of rehabilitation appear quite large, especially because of the nature of the agency administering the program. They also argue that many would claim that an agency whose focus is primarily penal cannot serve any rehabilitative function. While such an extreme position may be overstated, it is a plausible working hypothesis that can be tested and treatments designed for willing participants on the outside are not entirely applicable to a captive audience of prisoners. Not all problems are psychological in nature; lack of education and job-related skills also affect the propensity of an individual to resort to crime. Process evaluations that focus on these more tangible aspects of rehabilitation would have fewer measurement problems. The correctional homes in Lagos state are not penal institutions; they are purely rehabilitation centres. Complexity in measuring their efficiency should be by no means an issue, therefore there will be a straight forward examination and review of a high possibility.

Different Types of Rehabilitation Services at Rehabilitation Centres*Probation Service*

Historically, in a judgment given by Donald Elong in 1934 of the court of domestic relations and juvenile courts, Portland, Oregon United States of America, in an article titled "A yardstick for measuring juvenile courts" stated that: "A juvenile court cannot be successful if it has a good judge and a poor probation officer, nor a poor judge and a good staff." The role of the juvenile court and that of the probation officers are complementary to each other. The duties of the probation officers are usually described in the juvenile or family court. This is clearly stated in Child's Right Law (section 145). The probation officers are referred to as officers of the court at the same time as the representatives of their agencies. Their roles indicate that they served the homes and courts. They would first be formerly gazette before they can be recognized by the court in order to discharge their duties.

The duties of the probation officers include investigation of cases, presentation of cases in family courts and supervision of cases placed on them. They also called investigation board meetings and give a comprehensive progressive report of the wards, visit correctional homes and the parents' homes of the wards or young offenders. The major function of probation is to help the offender re-adjust himself/herself in the society and be restored back to a normal life. The conditions of individuals, their homes; and their associated and neighborhood environments must be modified. The probation officer plays a great role in assisting the mal-adjusted juveniles by modifying the environmental conditions such as changing the attitude and behaviour of parents. These modifications may involve finding foster parents, adjusting school conditions to provide for the need of the juvenile and helping him or her to obtain employment. In most cases the probation officers cannot do it alone, but must seek the co-operation of agencies and their workers in order to meet the needs of the child. The juvenile is equally involved throughout the course of the treatment process. At the special correctional centres, each of the wards are attached to probation officers very close to the environment where the crime was committed, or probably who can link up with the environment where the ward lives before he/she was remanded.

Deterrence

Klerlz (2014) reviewed the work of Zimring and Hawkins in 1973, and identified two different types of deterrence. These are general deterrence and special deterrence. General deterrence according to them is the reduction in criminal activity by the general public attributable to a planned intervention. The intervention may be based on criminal justice system actions for example, more police or increased penalties. Raskolnikov (2020), explained that special (or individual) deterrence is the reduction in criminal activity by specific offenders, as a direct consequence of their fear of incarceration or some other sanction. It implies that these offenders have been convinced that the risk of additional penalties is not worth the potential rewards from continued criminal behaviour.

Measurement of the extent of special deterrence is relatively straightforward. In this respect Raskolnikov, (2020) posits that one needs only trace the future criminal careers of the specific offenders, which is facilitated by the existence of criminal history records or "rap sheets." One can study how a given sanction affects the recidivism rates of different types of offenders, or one can hold offender characteristics constant and vary the sanction. Thus, recidivism is useful as a measure of the extent of special deterrence. However, since this same measure is

also used for measuring rehabilitation, one cannot be certain which of these goals is being achieved: it may not be possible to disentangle the effects of the carrot (rehabilitation) from those of the stick (special deterrence). This assertion buttresses the possibility of potential success of this study as it illuminates the possibility of correctional homes working down on recidivism.

General Deterrence

General deterrence is based on the premise that the threat of a criminal penalty will convince potential offenders not to engage in criminal behavior. It is based on a sequence of assumptions concerning risk taking, how the threat of punishment is communicated, and the rationality of offender decision making, assumptions that are open to question (Cook, 1980; Raskolnikov, 2020). In recent years general deterrence has been studied extensively with respect to a number of criminal justice policies; two of the more prominent ones being capital punishment and gun control.

The juvenile offenders on the other hand are committed into borstal homes where they get tough elements of adult programmes with education and social skills training. At the borstal home, rigorous military style training and discipline is adopted to reshape the attitudes and behavior of unruly youth. At the end of the training, some studies revealed that the youths have a positive attitude to their environment, with initial level of depression and higher level of anxiety which decline over time. However, the bottom line is whether or not they reduce recidivism (Siegel *et al.*, 2006: P. 484). Many of the recidivists after this stage are usually committed to the adult prison.

Theoretical Framework

This study utilizes the differential association theory propounded by Sutherland. Differential association theory was Sutherland's major sociological contribution to criminology. Much of Sutherland's theory relied on the work of Chicago School theorists, such as Shaw and McKay (Schoeman, 2002). The first explicit statement of the theory of differential association appeared in 1939. The theory states that criminal behaviour is learned in interaction with other deviant persons through associations. Through this association, they learn not only techniques of certain crimes, but also specific rationale, motives and so on. These associations vary in frequency, duration, and other variables.

Sutherland (1947) stated further that factors influencing the prevalence rate of recidivism and criminal activities by relapsed criminals are as a result of complex phenomena. Differential association theory explains why any individual forwards toward deviant behaviour. His assertion is most useful when explaining peer influences among deviant youths or special mechanism of becoming criminal.

Sutherland's theory departs from the pathological perspective and biological perspective of crime by attributing the causes of crime to the social context of individuals. He rejected biological determinism and the extreme individualism of psychiatry, as well as economic explanations of crime. His search for an alternative understanding of crime actually led to the development of differential association theory. Gaylord (1988) explained that in contrast to both classical and biological theories, differential association theory poses no obvious threats to the humane treatment of those identified as criminals.

The study of correctional homes in Lagos state is typically concerned with this assertion by Sutherland that a person becomes delinquent because of an "excess" of definitions favourable to violation of law over definitions unfavorable to violation of law. So, at the rehabilitation centres the wards put up attitudes favourable to confinement, since they are made to understand that they are in a place where law and order is the rule of the day, thereby pointing to the methods and techniques of rehabilitation used in correctional homes. This also points to the fact that a homely and friendly environment might allow the wards to be free to express themselves and also free from tension that is unfavourable to real rehabilitation.

Sutherland argued that the concept of differential association and differential social organization could be applied to the individual level and to aggregation (or group) level respectively. While differential association theory explains why any individual gravitates toward criminal behaviour, differential social organization explains why crime rates of different social entities differ from each other.

The differential association theory asserts that criminal behaviour is learned primarily within interpersonal groups, and that youths will become delinquent if definitions they have learned favourable to violating the law exceed definitions favourable to obeying the law within the group. Sutherland views learning as an active process, and in this respect, claims that "an individual does not become a delinquent simply by living passively in a high crime environment (Seigel and Senna, 2006). It can therefore be viewed as an active process whereby individuals within society act as teachers and guides in acquiring criminal skills. To Sutherland, this process cannot appear spontaneously but takes place within a group by means of verbal as well as non-verbal communication (Seigel and Senna, 2006).

This study assumes that learning of criminal behavior can be viewed as being part of a socialization process. The process does not only include verbal teaching of criminal values or knowledge, but also the non-verbal learning of criminal culture and behaviour patterns (Schoeman 2002). Schoeman (2002) is of the opinion that rehabilitation gangs can be mentioned as examples of these kinds of criminal culture and behaviour. Differential association theory was criticised on the basis that it is not everyone who had come into contact with criminals becomes a criminal as postulated by Sutherland.

Methodology

Survey design was adopted in this study. Questionnaire was used for data collection which was complimented with in-depth interview. The study took place in Lagos state, Nigeria. The State is located within the south-western part of Nigeria. The state was created in May 27, 1967 by virtue of Decree No 14 of 1967 which restructured the Nigerian federation into 12 States. Lagos state is made up of people from three Yoruba sub-ethnic groups namely: Awori in Lagos (Eko), Ikeja and part of Badagry division; Ogu in Bagagry; Ijebu in Ikorodu and Epe divisions respectively. English is the official language while Yoruba is the local language spoken by the people. Vast majority of the population conduct commercial and inter-personal activities in the local Yoruba language.

Juvenile delinquency as a social problem became noticeable in Lagos after the Second World War II. In order to address this problem, the Lagos government decided to put in place

relevant agencies to address issues related to crime and delinquency. Specifically, those related to juvenile delinquency were approached through the establishment of rehabilitation and community homes among which special correctional centres for boys and girls were among.

The population of this study consists of four categories of respondents. The first is all the wards in the special Correctional Homes for boys and that of girls. Second the head of units that are attached to the family social welfare offices in different local government areas of the state with the juvenile officers attached to the offices too. The third category is made up of Juvenile Welfare officers in Alakara Police Station. The Magistrates and Lay Assessors in the two courts within the jurisdiction of the study and some parents of the wards are also the population for the study. Lastly, the instructors in the two centres who are in charge of vocational trainings. See table 1 for the population categories.

Table 1

Target Population of all the Respondents at the Correctional Centres

S/N	Category	Total Population
1	Wards in Special Correctional Centers/Homes for boys	44
2	Staff working with Special Correctional Home for boys	14
3	Ward in Special Correctional Centers/Homes for girls	27
4	Staff working with Special Correctional Home for girls	15
5	The HOD's of family social welfare centres	28
6	The juvenile welfare officers at each local government	28
7	Staff of Alakara/AdenijiAdele Police Juvenile centre	6
8	Staff of Ikeja and Yabafamily Courts	6
9	Some parents of wards	10
Total		178

In this study, every respondent within the total population is considered to be important and constitute the sample size. Therefore, the study utilized the total population which is 178. The study was a census study. Snow ball was also used to reach the critical stakeholders like the parents of recidivist in order to get adequate in-depth information needed for the study. Data collected were analyzed both quantitatively and qualitatively. The respondents in this study had the freedom to participate or not to participate in the research exercise. Their consents were sought. The general ethical principle for field work was maintained throughout the period of study.

Results

Data obtained from the field are presented and analysed thematically. Four categories of respondents were involved in the study. Category A is made up of staff of correctional centers, category B are the boys and girls (recidivists) in the correctional centers while category C is made up of the parents of the recidivists who are in the correctional centers and category D is the focus group discussion among the staff of the correctional centres, the police and the family courts. Questionnaire were administered to respondents in category A while respondents in categories B and C were interviewed. For those administered with the questionnaire, a total of 56 questionnaire were administered and all of them were clearly filled and returned. Therefore the analysis rests the 56 number of questionnaire that were

returned and certified. This section is divided into two (2): A and B. Section A deals with the demographic data of respondents while section B deals with substantive issues.

Section A: Demographic characteristics of the respondents (staff category)

Respondents' demographic data are hereunder presented. Information generated from the staff category was on their sex, age, occupation, religion, marital status and highest educational level. Table 2 contains details of their demographic data.

Table 2

Demographic Data of Staff Respondents

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
1. Sex		
Male	35	63%
Female	21	37%
Total	56	100%
2. Age range in years		
Below 18yrs	0	0%
18-25yrs	9	16%
26-33yrs	5	9%
34-41yrs	42	75%
Total	56	100%
3. Occupation		
Social Workers	42	75%
Care Givers	14	25%
Others	0	0%
Total	56	100%
4. Religion		
Christianity	16	29%
Islam	40	71%
Others	0	0%
Total	56	100%
5. Marital Status		
Single	8	14%
Married	48	86%
Separated		0%
Divorced	0	0%
Total	56	100%
6. Highest educational level		
Primary	8	14%
Secondary	4	7%
Tertiary	44	79%
None		
Total	56	100%

Data in table 2 shows that 35 respondents (63%) were males while 21 (37%) were females. This implies that we have male staff more than the female staff. Concerning age, those who were below the age of 18 years were zero while those between the age of 18 years and 25 years were 9 ((16%) of the total sample population. Those who were between the age of 26 and 33 years were 5 (9%) only while the highest in population are those who were between the age of 34 years and 41 years. This set of respondents were 42(75%) in number. It implies that majority of the respondents were adults and are head of units which are more experienced while some of the juvenile welfare officers worked under their tutelages.

Also, information gathered on respondents' occupation shows that the number of care givers was very low (14) that is (25%) and the Social Workers were 42(75%). The regulatory policy from the Ministry of youth and social development in charge of child protection in the state, states that the ratio of children to care giver should be five children to a care giver. That is for effective rehabilitation and reformation of the wards. This implies that there is need to recruit more care givers.

Concerning religious affiliation, 16(29%) were Christians, while 40(71%) were Muslims. 8(14%) of the respondent are single while 48(86%), were married. For educational attainment, 44(79%) had tertiary education, while 4(7%) had secondary education and 8(14%) had primary education.

Section B: Rehabilitation programs used at the correctional centers

Information was sought on whether there was any rehabilitation program used at the centers or not. Table three (3) contains information gathered on this.

Table 3

Whether there was any Rehabilitation Program used at the Centre or Not

There are rehabilitation programs used at the centers	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	48	86%
No	4	7%
Not sure		0%
Not always	4	7%
Total	56	100%

Information in table three (3) reveals that 48 (86%) respondents were of the view that there were rehabilitation programs at the centers. This forms the general opinion of majority of the respondents. It was only 4 (7%) of the respondents that were on the contrary while same 4 (7%) said that they do not always have rehabilitation programs. From all indication, it is certain that rehabilitation programs exist in all the centers. On whether the rehabilitation programs in the rehabilitation centers follow a particular procedure or not, responses gotten are contained in table four (4).

Table 4

Rehabilitation Programs used at the Special Correctional Institution follow a Particular Process

The rehabilitation used at the special correctional institution follow a particular process	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	42	75%
No	10	18%
Not sure	2	4%
Not always	2	4%
Total	56	100%

There is evidence in table 4 above that the programs practiced at the special correctional centres followed a particular process as 42(75%) out of the respondents agreed to that and 10 (18%) did not concur to the fact that the programs followed a particular process but 2(4%) are not sure nor aware. Also, in table five there are evidences that there are different types of rehabilitation programs which are used at the centres.

Table 5

Rehabilitation program(s) used in your Special Correctional Centers

The rehabilitation program(s) used in your special correctional centre/s	Frequency	Percentage
Group therapy	6	11%
Multi treatment therapy	10	18%
Moral recognition therapy	4	7%
One on one counseling	36	64%
Total	56	100%

The different types of programs which are of evidence at the correctional centres as stated by the respondents include group therapy 6(11%), which is the treatment of multiple patients at once by one or more social welfare officers and other relevant professionals to treat variety of issues like anxiety, stress, attention deficit and hyperactive disorder. This takes 11% of the respondents while multi treatment therapy takes 18% of the respondents. The multi treatment/multi modal therapy is the type of therapy used in controlling behaviour and psychosocial problems in the wards. Then the moral recognition therapy (MRT) which is an effective systematic, cognitive-behavioural approach used to treat issues of trauma and abuse of the wards takes 7% of the respondents and one on one counselling is a major identified program which involved a trained counsellor and psychologist who identify the wards based on the peculiarity of the issue and give effective advice that suites the situation, this takes 64% of the respondents.

Table 6

Rehabilitation Programs are Purely Educative

The rehabilitation programs are purely educative	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	44	79%
No	4	7%
Not always	8	14%
Not sure		0%
Total	56	100%

In table 6, there was evidence that the rehabilitation programs were purely educative. This is the position of 44 (79%) of the respondents. On the contrary, 4 (7%) did not agreed at all while 8(14%) stated that they are not always educative.

Table 7

Educative Programs Runned at the Special Correctional Centers

The types of educative programs is run at the special correctional centers	Frequency	Percentage
Vocational	28	50%
Academic	15	26.8%
Psycho-education	12	21.4%
Not specific	1	1.8%
Total	56	100%

Vocational programs are the major type of educational programs ran at the centre. This is seen in table 7 where 28(50%) of the respondents identified vocational program as one of the educative programs introduced to inmates at the centres. Vocational program is a training that involved acquiring skills that could be very reliable to the wards and it can be used by the wards to sustain them after being released to the society. The centres have different types of vocational programs which include tailoring, art work, barbing and hairdressing, cane waiving, furniture making, bag and shoe making and bead setting. And this is followed by academic activities which involves the hiring of teachers to teach them in a formal school setting and they are allowed to write external exams when need be. The academic programs have 15(26%) respondents view. This is because there were professionals attached to the centres from the ministry of education, psycho-educational program is the type of program that provides educational and communicative materials that are supportive to their environment, while 1(1.8%) of the respondents was not specific.

Discussion of Results

Results in this study are discussed in line with substantive issues raised. In every correctional center, rehabilitation programs are highly valuable. This is as a result of their vital roles in repositioning the inmates meant for correction. In view of this, results generated from the field indicate that there are rehabilitation programs at the Lagos correctional centers studied. This is an indication of the seriousness of government and authorities in the correction and rehabilitation exercise. The programs that are available at the correctional centres have been

judged to follow defined processes that are capable of yielding good results. This is the position of majority of the respondents (75%). This corroborates with the views of a respondent (the Deputy female warden in charge of the female centre aged 51years) *who was interviewed. Her words;*

The rehabilitation programs practised at the centres followed particular routines. The routines are strictly followed so that the wards could have same rehabilitation experience. (IDI/female / Deputy female warden in charge of the female centre aged 51years).

Attesting to this, Ottun, (2023) affirms that government provided instructional equipments and demonstration materials for the centres while each of the trade has its own classroom which the wards are registered in their areas of special interest.

Counselling is the major rehabilitation program that is effectively utilised at the correctional centres. Counselling is essential in repositioning the minds of inmates towards avoiding committing crimes again. Other programs like group therapy, multiple treatment therapy, moral recognition therapy and vocational programs also exist but counselling is the top most and it has been proved to be more effective in inmate correction and rehabilitation. Most of the inmates acquire a lot of skills like shoe making, carpentry and so forth before they are being discharged from the centres. This is aimed at equipping them to be more useful to themselves than engage in criminal activities that will throw them back to the correctional centre or prison as the case maybe. WHO (2023) corroborated with this position when it affirms that rehabilitation helps a child, adult or older person to be as independent as possible in everyday activities and enables participation in education, work, recreation and meaningful life roles such as taking care of family.

Evidence abounds that the rehabilitation programs at the centres are purely educative. This is the position of majority of the respondents (79%). Stating the obvious, one of the warden (the Head of the male Center aged 52 years) interviewed had this to say;

they are provided with the opportunity of running a formal school calendar which is with the help of the state ministry of education who supported them with well qualified staffs deployed to assist the wards. (IDI/ Male/ Head of the male correctional centre aged 52 years)

In another interaction, one of the respondents admitted that;

“the ministry of health also deployed staff to review their health condition and refer promptly if need be”. It was gathered also that there are various accredited religious institutions who worship with the centres on a special days like Sundays and Fridays (IDI/female/ Aged 45 years)

One of the respondents interviewed who is Social welfare officer at the centre confirmed that;

There are different types of vocational skills provided for the wards at the centres. Some are general vocation for all of the wards while some of the vocations are chosen by the wards based on their area of interest. Also there are instructors who helped in the training (IDI/ female/ Aged 46years/ a Social welfare officer at the centre).

This statement implies that the centre has vocational programs for the wards which are functional to their rehabilitation process. The need for the participation of the parents of the wards in the rehabilitation process was stressed by the respondents. This is in line with the idea raised by Siegel *et al.* (2006) when they argued on the need for parents' participation in the program. In their words, "several juvenile rehabilitation programs should request the child's parents to participate in the different activities. The participation of parents is very important, because inculcation of moral values should come mainly from home. Also it makes it easier for the offenders to go back into the community as responsible and honest individuals. Still on this, Henggeler (2012) argues that multi system therapists (MST) want the juvenile offender and key family members to attend sessions, since they would be able to define the problems, set goals, and implement interventions to meet those goals. Family involvement is the important link in this therapeutic process since MST therapists work closely with parents in order to enhance their parental skills. This is in line with the statements of some parents during sessions of IDI. One of the parents said;

"my child is beyond parental control, so I am involved in her training and I follow up to see if she is coping" (IDI/ Female/ Parent/ Aged 45 years).

In another approach, one of the parents put it this way;

"we knew that the correctional centres have different rehabilitation programs but the parents are not carried along in the goal settings. We have a day we can visit and some of the days we visit, especially on Saturday, we meet them playing" (IDI/ Male/ Parent/ Aged 40 years).

In an FGD conducted, report indicates what can be done to reduce the issue of juvenile recidivism. They all affirmed that;

there should be an alternative to rehabilitation and this could also be mixed with the real rehabilitation and sometimes some of the parents of the deviants should be fully involved in the process, so that they can attached value to the rehabilitation process.

Conclusion

The purpose for this research had been fulfilled as results revealed the nexus between rehabilitation and recidivism among girls and boys in Lagos state correctional centres. It has been established in the course of this study that there were rehabilitation programs at the centers. One-on-one counseling is the most effective rehabilitation program used at the centre and also vocational program is the most educative program used at the centres too. This will significantly have positive effects on the lives of the wards as they get the required skills for their survival and possible integration in the society. Interpersonal skills and behavioural programs are the intervention skills employed at the centres. This makes the whole process friendly to the clients.

Recommendations

From the results presented, the study recommends that the programs used in the rehabilitation of the clients at the centres should be reviewed periodically. This is important in order to accommodate changes for more positive results. Government should collaborate

more with the philanthropies who are ready to change the life of the wards to a better one, and some private institutions, so as to be graded with the alternative to correctional centres programs. Also, Government should provide modern facilities at the centres with more of learning materials so that the wards could make use of their experiences when they are released back to their parents.

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