AJEMATES
African Journal of Educational Management, Teaching and Entrepreneurship Studies
VOL.12 (1), May-August, 2024 https://ajemates.org

THE EXTENT OF AVAILABILITY AND UTILIZATION OF VOCATIONAL SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR REHABILITATION OF INMATES IN ANAMBRA STATE CORRECTION FACILITIES

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ABSTRACT

This study was carried out to ascertain the availability and utilization of Vocational Skills Training programmes for rehabilitation of inmates in Anambra State prison facilities. Two research questions guided the study while one null hypothesis was tested at 0.05 level of significance. Design of the study was a descriptive survey. The population of the study was 1560 prison inmates of the four prisons facilities in Anambra State. The sample size used for the study was 84 inmates chosen through simple random sampling technique. Instrument for data collection was a self-structured check list and questionnaire which was validated by experts. Data collected from pilot test were analysed using Cronbach Alpha Method. The over-all mean reliability value of 0.82 was obtained. Data collected were analysed using frequency counts, percentages and chi-square. The findings of the study revealed among others that a greater number and percentage of the vocational skills/trades are not available and not utilized for rehabilitation of inmates in Anambra State prison facilities. More so, there is significant difference in the mean response of male and female inmates on the availability of the vocational skills for rehabilitation of inmates in Anambra State prison facilities. It was found that vocational skills/trades were determinant for the rehabilitation of inmates in Anambra State prisons. Based on the findings, it was recommended among others that modern and well-equipped workshops should be provided and prison authorities should introduce more vocational skills/trades that are not available for the rehabilitation of prison inmates.

Keywords: Prison, Rehabilitation, Vocational Skills Training Programmes, Availability, Utilization.

Introduction

Crimes in Nigeria today are increasing everyday with tendencies that threaten the lives and properties of people. This is because the young people with modern techniques indulge in it for economic, political, cultural, social and religious survival. In order for people to be deterred from crimes and other dangerous criminal activities, the government introduced the prison where law defaulters and those who commits crimes are kept. Those that are kept in prisons are regarded as inmates who could be male or female. A prison is a place where defaulters are kept in isolation for correction, reformation, rehabilitation and to instill discipline through vocational skills training programmes to leave a better life upon discharge. In other words, the purpose of

imprisonment is to train convicted inmates to be better citizens on discharge through appropriate conditions.

According to Sara (2018), prisons are institutions where individuals with deviant behaviours are sent to be rehabilitated through education, moral and vocational skills training. For McCorkle & Korn (as cited in Obioha, 2015), prison is a physical structure in a rural or urban place where a number of people live under highly defined specific conditions, utilize the resources and adjust to the alternatives presented to them by a unique kind of social environment that is different from the larger society in so many ways. Prison also has the responsibilities to train inmates in trades that will make them useful to themselves and the general society at large (Nigerian Prisons Lecture Manual, 2011). To rehabilitate the inmates of Anambra State Prisons, vocational skills training programmes was incorporated in reformatory training scheme to help the inmates acquire the necessary skills in a chosen trade after discharge.

Rehabilitation in this study implies reformation of inmates' behaviour and personality through adequately planned educational programmes to enable them become better and responsible members of the society upon release. According to Cullen & Jonson (2018), rehabilitation is a planned correctional intervention which targets for change of behaviours or to restore inmates to their former reputation with the goal of reducing recidivism. This definition implies that criminals have tendencies to commit crimes. Hence, rehabilitation is aimed at identifying the negative behavioural factors in order to curb them so that inmates will be truly reformed after discharge from prison. This study suggested that such rehabilitative education programmes should start at the foundation level through vocational skills training programmes.

According to Okoye & Okwelle (2014), vocational skills training programmes provides the needed employable skills and attitudes necessary for effective performance in the workplace. The vocational skills training programme in Nigerian Prison Service is primarily concerned with bequeathing productive and marketable skills to ensure an improvement in service delivery among inmates upon graduation. These programmes were aimed at empowering the inmates with the needed skills/trades for self-sustenance and actualization. Obviously, through the acquisition of basic skills/trades in various vocational areas such as, carpentry, shoemaking, electrical installation, computer repairs, woodwork, block laying, Radio and TV servicing, mechanized farming system, tailoring, agriculture, barbing, air conditioning and refrigeration, welding, metalwork, mat-making, dyeing, tailoring just to mention a few, inmates will on discharge leave a self-reliant and responsible life. This study further stated that training of inmates on the need to be technologically-literate would eventually lead to self-reliance and sustainability and that vocational skills training programmes have a direct impact on the skill development of a country.

Vocational skills training programmes in Anambra State prisons need training facilities for its purpose accomplishment. The training facilities are structures such as classrooms, workshops, laboratories, dormitories, furniture, equipment and instructional materials belonging to an institution (Nigerian

Prisons Service). The Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2014 stipulates that institution environment especially the physical environment should be made conducive to facilitate the learning process. The policy recommends that classroom should be well constructed and spacious and all types of physical facilities such as instructional materials, library, laboratory/workshops, playing ground, toilets and staff rooms should be provided for effective teaching and learning process. Good modern physical facilities in training institutions could add significantly to the promotion of training performance by the trainee. The size of classrooms, play-grounds and availability of material resources relative to the number of trainees in the training center could also affect learning. The availability of training facilities in different vocational skills training programmes help to attract and provide desired learning outcome for the inmates. Deteriorating conditions or non-available training facilities are capable of discouraging inmates from participating in vocational skills training programmes while in the prison.

Availability in this study refers to services/resources that can be obtained in the discharge of certain functions. Onyejiemezie in Ugwuanyi (2016) noted that availability is a state of making provision for a satisfactory standard requirement in terms of teaching resource to enhance effective instructional activity in a particular subject. In other words, availability can be defined as human and material resources ready for use in vocational skills training programmes. In recognition of the importance of availability of training resources in teaching, Ugwuanyi (2016) noted that no meaningful learning or transfer of what has been learned will take place if such learning occurs in a situation devoid of relevant training resources and activities as well as concrete experiences. The importance of availability of resources cannot be over-emphasized in vocational skills training programmes in Nigerian prisons. According to Ugwuanyi (2016), adequate availability of equipment and facilities and their utilization have been positively correlated to good performance in examinations.

Utilization in this study refers to making use of available services at the individual's disposal (Hornby in Ugwuanyi, 2016). These resources include resources, equipment and experienced personnel. Olagunju & Abiona (2018) opined that the process of managing and organizing resources is resource utilization. They added that in any vocational training school, the available resources should be utilized by both male and female trainees alike in such a way that it enables them to acquire desirable learning outcome. Utilization of resources in teaching brings about fruitful learning since it stimulates learner's senses and motivates them. Utilization refers to making use of something in a purposeful and effective way. According to Lynch (2020), utilization of training resources for instructional delivery helps the learner to learn better. However, the utilization of these training resources are the major influencing factors in vocational skills training programmes.

Elaborating further, Owoeye (2010) and Ajayi (2012) submitted that there is a positive relationship between training facilities and institution effectiveness. The availability and utilization of these facilities contribute to inmate's achievement in a particular trade while unattractive buildings, crowded classrooms, non-

availability of playground and flower beds and surroundings that have no aesthetic beauty can contribute to poor performance. Adams (2011) submitted that a quiet, cool, clean and beautiful physical environment makes the trainer and trainee happy and enhances their performance and productivity. More so, Ijaduola (2014) cautioned that with poor physical working condition, there are usually mental fatigue, truancy, frustration, discomfort, and poor health; all this consequently reduces the inmates' skill performances. From the foregoing, it is obvious that the extent of availability and utilization of vocational skills training programmes for rehabilitation of inmates in Anambra State prisons is a function of the adequate training facilities and skills acquired at the end of the programme. Against this backdrop, the researcher sought to investigate the extent of availability and utilization of vocational skills training programmes for rehabilitation of inmates in Anambra State prison facilities.

Statement of the Problem

The prisons services are social measure to curb the anti-social behaviors of offenders. It also serves to keep in safe custody persons legally sentenced to jail and identify the cause of inherent anti-social behavior and rehabilitate them to become law-abiding citizens. Many studies of prisons in Nigeria have been concerned with the sociological state of the inmates' wellbeing, but little attention has been given to the factors that lead to the failure. The prisons facilities have not been effective as every year criminals who become more hardened and deadlier (such as Bandits and Boko-haram members) are released as against changed individuals expected by the society. The Nigerian prisons have in modern times become training ground for a new category of criminals and patterns of crime unknown to the society. Gangs exist and develop quickly inside the prisons. In addition, the prisons inmates' get smarter by sharing experience with more learned colleagues. In line with this, prisons inmates left unoccupied with constructive and positive activities through vocational skills training programmes are likely to perfect their criminal activities by learning new tricks from other inmates inside the prison walls. This engineered the researcher to investigate the extent of availability and utilization of vocational skills training programmes for rehabilitation of inmates in Anambra State prisons facilities.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study:

1. What are the available vocational skills for rehabilitation of inmates in Anambra State prison facilities?
2. To what extent are the vocational skills utilized for rehabilitation of inmates in Anambra State prison facilities?

Hypothesis

The following null hypothesis was tested at 0.05 level of significance:

Ho1: There is no significant difference in the mean ratings of male and female inmates on availability of vocational skills for rehabilitation of inmates in Anambra State prison facilities.

Research Method

The design for this study was descriptive survey. Descriptive survey is one in which a group of people or items are

studied by collecting and analyzing data from only a few people or items considered to be representative of the entire group using questionnaire or interview (Nworgu, 2015). The study was conducted in the four prisons within Anambra state (Aguata, Awka, Nnewi and Onitsha prisons). The population of the study was 1560 prison inmates (205 convicted males; 4 convicted females; 1,320 awaiting trial males; 31 awaiting trial female) in Anambra State prisons facilities. The sample size used for the study was 84 inmates chosen through simple random sampling technique from the four prisons within Anambra state. A self-structured checklist tagged Checklist on Availability of Vocational Skills (CAVS) and a self-structured questionnaire tagged Questionnaire on Utilization of Vocational Skills (QUVS) were developed by the researcher with the insight gained from literature review. The instruments were face-validated using the opinions of three experts: two from technology and vocational department, one from measurement and evaluation unit of Education Foundations both in Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka. To ascertain the internal consistency of the instrument, pilot test of 20 selected inmates from Enugu State prison facility was used, which was outside the study area but have similar features to the area of study. Data collected were analysed using Cronbach Alpha Method. The data obtained from the pilot test were subjected to statistical analysis using SPSS to determine the reliability of each of the two clusters of the instrument. The over-all mean reliability value of 0.82 was obtained. Copies of the final version of the instruments were personally administered to the respondents with the help of four research assistants who were briefed on the method adopted for administration and collection of the instruments. The data collected were analyzed using frequency counts, percentages (%) for the research questions. 50% benchmark was used to judge available/utilized or not available/not utilized of the items. Any item with response of 50% and above was regarded as Available (AV)/Utilized (U), while any item which response figure was less or below 50% was regarded as Not Available (NA)/Not Utilized (NU). The chi-square (X^2) was the statistical tools used for testing the null hypotheses formulated for the study. The Chi-square was used to test the null hypotheses at .05 level of significance. A null hypothesis was rejected where the p-value was equal to or less than the .05 level of significance, as it meant that there was significance difference. Conversely, where the p-value was greater than the .05 level of significance, as it meant that there was no significance and the hypothesis was not rejected.

Presentation of Results

Research Question 1: What are the available vocational skills for rehabilitation of inmates in Anambra State prison facilities?

Data collected in respect of research question 1 were analyzed and presented in Table 1.

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Table 1: Frequencies and Percentages on the available vocational skills for rehabilitation of inmates in Anambra State prison facilities

		Available (AV)		Not Available (NA)		Remarks
S/N	**Vocational Skills/Trades**	**Freq**	**%**	**Freq**	**%**	
1	Computer Repairs	56	66.67	28	33.33	A
2	Furniture Making	50	59.52	34	40.48	A
3	Tailoring	32	38.10	52	61.90	NA
4	Electrical Installation	54	64.29	30	35.71	A
5	GSM Repairs	63	75.00	21	25.00	A
6	Hair Dressing	25	29.76	59	70.24	NA
7	Barbing	70	83.33	14	16.67	A
8	Interior Decoration	55	65.48	29	34.52	A
9	Welding	39	46.43	45	53.57	NA
10	Computer Programming	27	32.14	57	67.86	NA
11	Catering	29	34.52	55	65.48	NA
12	Generator Maintenance	21	25.00	63	75.00	NA
13	Satellite Dish Installation	25	29.76	59	70.24	NA
14	Shoe Making	40	47.62	44	52.38	A
15	Laundry	48	57.14	36	42.86	A
16	Bead Stringing/Hat Making	32	38.10	52	61.90	NA
17	Knitting	62	73.81	22	26.19	A
18	Interlocking Tiles	21	25.00	63	75.00	NA
19	Paint Making	20	23.81	64	76.19	NA
20	Cosmetology	10	11.90	74	88.10	NA
21	Battery Charging	29	34.52	55	65.48	NA
22	Refrigerator and Air-Conditioning Repairs	09	10.71	75	89.29	NA
23	Plumbing	27	32.14	57	67.86	NA
24	Car Washing	50	59.52	34	40.48	A
25	Confectionery	20	23.81	64	76.19	NA

Data in Table 1 show the frequencies and percentages of available vocational skills for rehabilitation of inmates in Anambra State prison facilities. The analysis indicates that out of the 25 vocational skills listed, 10 were available for vocational skills while 15 vocational skills were not available. The analysis also indicated that 40% of vocational skills/trades were available for rehabilitation of inmates while only 60% were not available for rehabilitation of inmates in Anambra State prison facilities.

Research Question 2: To what extent are the vocational skills utilized for rehabilitation of inmates in Anambra State prison facilities?

Data collected in respect of research question 2 were analyzed and presented in Table 2.

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Table 2: Frequencies and Percentages of vocational skills utilization for rehabilitation of inmates in Anambra State prison facilities

S/N	Item	$\bar{X}$	SD	Remarks
26	Computer Repairs	3.69	0.47	High Extent
27	Furniture Making	2.51	0.97	High Extent
28	Tailoring	1.80	0.75	Low Extent
29	Electrical Installation	3.31	0.69	High Extent
30	GSM Repairs	3.19	0.69	High Extent
31	Hair Dressing	1.27	0.45	Low Extent
32	Barbing	2.77	0.82	High Extent
33	Interior Decoration	3.58	0.30	High Extent
34	Welding	1.58	0.50	Low Extent
35	Computer Programming	2.04	0.96	Low Extent
36	Catering	1.27	0.45	Low Extent
37	Generator Maintenance	2.00	0.73	Low Extent
38	Satellite Dish Installation	1.35	0.58	Low Extent
39	Shoe Making	3.58	0.87	High Extent
40	Laundry	3.92	0.27	High Extent
41	Bead Stringing/Hat Making	2.01	0.94	Low Extent
42	Knitting	2.50	0.16	High Extent
43	Interlocking Tiles	1.42	0.50	Low Extent
44	Paint Making	1.57	0.65	Low Extent
45	Cosmetology	2.35	0.24	Low Extent
46	Battery Charging	2.09	0.49	Low Extent
47	Refrigerator and Air-Conditioning Repairs	2.44	1.19	Low Extent
48	Plumbing	2.04	0.98	Low Extent
49	Car Washing	3.59	0.33	High Extent
50	Confectionery	1.35	0.58	Low Extent
	Clustered Mean	**2.37**	**0.62**	**Low Extent**

Data in Table 2 show the mean and standard deviation on utilization of vocational skills for rehabilitation of inmates in Anambra State prison facilities. The analysis indicates that out of the 25 vocational skills listed, 10 items were rated high extent with the mean score of 2.50 to 3.92 while 15 items were rated low extent with mean score of 1.27 to 2.44. The clustered means score of 2.37 showed low extent of utilization of vocational skills for rehabilitation of inmates in Anambra State prison facilities. The standard deviations for all the items were in the same range indicating that the respondents were homogenous in their opinions.

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant difference in the mean ratings of male and female inmates on availability of vocational skills for rehabilitation of inmates in Anambra State prison facilities.

Data collected in respect of hypothesis 1 were analyzed and presented in Table 3.

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Table 3: Chi-square analysis of males and females' inmates on availability of vocational skills for rehabilitation of inmates in Anambra State prison facilities

		Males (n = 34)				Females (n = 50)						
S/N	Vocational Skills/Trades	Freq (A)	%	Freq (NA)	%	Freq (A)	%	Freq (NA)	%	X^2	p-value	Remark
51	Computer Repairs	13	38.24	21	61.76	09	18.00	41	82.00	23.19	.00	Sig
52	Furniture Making	20	58.82	14	41.18	30	60.00	20	40.00	.76	.38	Sig
53	Tailoring	14	41.18	20	58.82	21	42.00	29	58.00	.00	.96	Not Sig
54	Electrical Installation	17	50.00	17	50.00	15	30.00	35	70.00	7.86	.01	Sig
55	GSM Repairs	28	82.35	06	17.65	17	34.00	33	66.00	.00	.98	Not Sig
56	Hair Dressing	06	17.65	28	82.35	33	66.00	17	34.00	3.96	.05	Sig
57	Barbing	23	67.65	11	32.35	20	40.00	30	60.00	14.56	.00	Sig
58	Interior Decoration	21	61.76	13	38.24	32	64.00	18	36.00	1.94	.16	Sig
59	Welding	07	28.59	27	71.41	09	18.00	41	82.00	15.66	.00	Sig
60	Computer Programming	07	20.59	27	79.41	10	20.00	40	80.00	3.73	.05	Sig
61	Catering	05	14.71	29	85.29	32	64.00	18	36.00	9.32	.00	Sig
62	Generator Maintenance	09	26.47	25	73.53	08	16.00	42	84.00	.01	.94	Not Sig
63	Satellite Dish Installation	06	17.65	28	82.35	06	12.00	44	88.00	3.96	.05	Sig
64	Shoe Making	09	26.47	25	73.53	12	24.00	38	76.00	11.29	.00	Sig
65	Laundry	14	41.18	20	58.82	18	36.00	32	64.00	8.15	.00	Sig
66	Bead Stringing/Hat Making	04	11.76	30	88.24	16	32.00	34	68.00	15.51	.00	Sig
67	Knitting	15	44.12	19	55.88	28	56.00	22	44.00	28.45	.00	Sig
68	Interlocking Tiles	03	8.82	31	91.18	08	16.00	42	84.00	6.73	.04	Sig
69	Paint Making	04	11.76	30	88.24	10	20.00	40	80.00	3.81	.05	Sig
70	Cosmetology	02	5.88	32	94.12	16	32.00	34	68.00	1.05	.31	Not Sig
71	Battery Charging	05	14.71	29	85.29	12	24.00	38	76.00	9.32	.00	Sig
72	Refrigerator and Air-Conditioning Repairs	03	8.82	31	91.18	05	10.00	45	90.00	4.95	.03	Sig
73	Plumbing	02	5.88	32	94.12	03	6.00	47	94.00	18.53	.00	Sig
74	Car Washing	10	29.41	24	70.59	14	28.00	36	72.00	40.52	.00	Sig
75	Confectionery	12	35.29	22	64.71	35	70.00	15	30.00	5.60	.02	Sig

The analysis in table 3 shows that 21 out of 25 vocational skills/trades listed had p-value equal to or less than the stipulated .05 level of significance. This indicated that there was significant difference in the responses of males and females' inmates on availability of vocational skills for rehabilitation of inmates in Anambra State prison facilities. The null hypothesis was rejected as it meant that there was significant difference.

Discussion of Findings

The findings revealed that majority of the vocational skills/trades for rehabilitation of inmates in Anambra State prison facilities were not available while only few were available. The findings agreed with Ugwoegbu (2012) who submitted that vocational skills/trades for rehabilitation of inmates were not available in Nigerian prisons. The findings also

agreed with Asokhia & Agbonluae (2013) that there were few available vocational skills/trades for rehabilitation of inmates in Nigeria prison facilities. Similarly, the study of Feldman (2011) revealed that few vocational skills/trades were available and the most influential vocational skill/trade is cosmetology. Based on the findings, the researcher suggests that vocational skills/trades that are not available should be made available for rehabilitation of inmates in Anambra State prison facilities.

The findings also discovered that vocational skills/trades were not utilized for rehabilitation of inmates in Anambra State prison facilities. This indicated that vocational skills/trades were not fully utilized by inmates due to lack of knowledge in the use of vocational skills/trades in achieving a positive attitude towards better living. This is in line with Lassa (2000) who submitted that, majority of the vocational skills/trades available for rehabilitation of inmates were not utilized in prison facilities. Elaborating further, Asokhia & Osumah (2013) revealed that the most preferred vocational skill/trade used in Edo prison facilities for rehabilitation of prison inmates was cosmetology. However, based on the findings, the researcher suggested that prison inmates should be encouraged to use vocational skills/trades as an opportunity for better post-prison career experience.

Conclusion

The following conclusion was drawn based on the findings of this study. This is designed to sensitize non-skilled prison inmates about self-reliance, attitude toward crime and the implication of vocational skills/trades after living prisoner facility. It is also to encourage them to maintain a positive and crime-free attitude. The objective of this study is to rehabilitate the prison inmates through vocational skills training programmes which could help non-skilled prison inmates to stay balance with skill acquisition in the face of life's challenges.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made:

1. Provision of more governmental support and recruitment of more vocationally trained personnel for effective rehabilitation of inmates in the prison.
2. Prison authorities should introduce more vocational skills/trades that are not available for the rehabilitation of prison inmates through Vocational Skills Training programmes in the prison facilities.
3. Modern and well-equipped workshops should be provided for the rehabilitation of prison inmates in the prison of the study area.

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