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RESEARCH ARTICLE

STATUS OF TRAINING FACILITIES IN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION TRAINING PROGRAMMES IN NIGERIAN PRISONS IN RIVERS STATE

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ABSTRACT

The study examined the status of training facilities in vocational education training programmes in three Nigerian prisons in Rivers State. A descriptive survey design was adopted to guide the study. A sample of 214 vocational instructors and 730 inmates was randomly sampled for the study. Inmates were purposively sampled while simple random sampling technique was used to select the instructors. Three research questions and three hypotheses were answered and tested in the study. The instrument used for data collection was a structured questionnaire titled "Status of Training Facilities in Vocational Education Programmes Questionnaire" (STFVEPQ). The reliability of the instrument was established through test-retest method for measure of stability. A reliability coefficient of 0.88 was established using Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) coefficient reliability method. Data were analysed with Mean and Standard Deviation. It was found that vocational training facilities in terms of tools/equipment, space and environment were determinant for the rehabilitation of inmates in Nigerian prisons in Rivers State. Based on the findings, it was recommended among others that vocational training facilities should be in its adequate conditions in terms of space, environment and tools/equipment for inmates' and instructors usability.

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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. Siegal (cited in Agbakwuru, 2012) described crime as a violation of societal values of behaviour as interpreted and expressed by the criminal law which reflects public opinion, traditional values and the view point of people currently holding social and political power. 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 education training programme to lead a better life upon discharge. In other words, the purpose of imprisonment is to train convicted prisoners to be better citizens on discharge through appropriate conditions. According to Sara (2013), prisons are institutions where individuals with deviant behaviours are sent to be reformed through education, moral and vocational training. For McCorkle and Korn (as cited in Obioha, 2011), 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 is the medium in which crime rate is controlled. The objectives of reformatory training institutions (prisons) are to train the inmates to lead good and useful life upon release from the prison. This is done to fully develop the inmates in terms of character, capacities and sense of personal responsibilities. These objectives are in conformity with the objectives of United Nations on Institutional treatment of young offenders. The prison also has the responsibilities to train inmates in trades that will make them useful to themselves and the general society at large (Prisons Lecture Manual, 2011). The objectives provided that young person's should be provided with protection, education and vocational skills so that, as offenders, they can be socially constructive and productive in the society when they quit the prison walls. To rehabilitate and equip the inmates of Nigerian Prisons in Rivers State, and also to achieve the objectives of reformatory training institutions, vocational training was incorporated in reformatory training scheme to help the inmates to acquire the necessary skills in a chosen trade after graduation or discharge. According to Okoye and Okwelle (2014), vocational education training provides the needed employable skills and attitudes necessary for effective performance in the workplace. According to Ogundipe (2008), the Nigerian Prison Service has developed pragmatic educational programmes for reforming the prison inmates. These programmes include: Vocational Skills Development

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Programme (VSDP) which aims at empowering the prisoners with the needed skills for self-sustenance and actualization. Others are Adult Remedial Education Programme (AREP) designed to help prisoners who before they came to the prison, were pursuing one academic programme or the other. The objective of education and vocational training in the prison is to enable inmates not only to read and write with a view to updating their literacy level and passing examinations, but also an important step towards eventual rehabilitation of the inmates. Obviously, through the acquisition of basic skills in various vocational areas such as, carpentry, shoemaking, electrical installation, woodworking, block laying, Radio and TV servicing, mechanized farming system, tailoring, agriculture, barbing, air conditioning and refrigeration, welding, metalwork, mat-making, dyeing, fashion and designing, pot making, weaving just a few, inmates will on discharge lead a self-employed; self-reliant and responsible life. If vocational training should solve the economic, sociological and technological needs of the individual prisoners, the Nigerian prison service in Rivers State should now assess the programme based on necessary features and characteristic needed for its functionality. This is because vocational training programme provides the rudiments for behavioural changes and assessment ensures that the instruments for these changes are in the right direction. Vocational training programmes in Nigerian prison in Rivers State needs training facilities for its purpose accomplishment. According to Bulama (2001), training facilities are structures (classrooms, workshops, laboratories, dormitories, etc), furniture, equipment, instructional materials and physical properties belonging to an institution (Nigerian Prisons Service) while Ogbodo (cited in Onweh, 2003) depicted that training facilities are those things which enable vocational training instructor in the prison to achieve a level of instructional effectiveness that far exceeds what is possible when they are not provided.

The National Policy on Education (FRN, 2013) 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 trainee in the training center could also affect learning. According to Cross, Baker and Stiles (2006), many interactions characterize institutional training and unless adequate spaces are provided for such interactions, training could be hampered. These types of facilities would help in providing the desired vocational training for the students (inmates), attracting them towards the different programmes available in the prison. Deteriorating conditions are capable of discouraging trainees (inmates) from participating in vocational training programmes while in the prison. To this end, Owoeye (2000) and Ajayi (2002) submitted that there is a positive relationship between training facilities and institution effectiveness. Physical training facilities are major influencing factors in vocational training institutions and centres. The availability, relevance and adequacy of these facilities contribute to trainees' (inmates')

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. Ahunanya and Ubabudu (2006) also reiterated the provision of adequate physical facilities for effective teaching and learning to take place. Adams (2004) submitted that a quiet, cool, clean and beautiful physical environment makes the trainer and trainee happy and enhances their performance and productivity. Furthermore, Ijaduola (2009) 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 rehabilitation of inmates in Nigerian prisons in Rivers State is a function of the adequacy of training facilities in vocational training programmes in the prison.

Statement of the Problem

The noble goal of the prisons services is to reform those who pass through the prison gates and also to protect the society from the convicted felons. It also serves to keep in safe custody persons legally sentenced to jail and identify the cause of inherent anti social behavior and treat and reform them to become law-abiding citizens. The prison also has the responsibilities to train inmates in trades that will make them useful to themselves and the society at large (Prisons Lecture Manual 2003). These objectives are fully achieved by Nigerian prison authorities, hence making the inmates to be recidivists upon discharge. Many studies of prison 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, in achieving the stated objectives of reformation, rehabilitation and reintegration. Such factors are inmates' rehabilitation training facilities in vocational education which are almost in obsolete state and poor management in handling the available one. Inmates' rehabilitation facilities such as adequacy of vocational skill acquisition training facilities, inmates' accommodations, education facilities, recreational facilities etc are inadequate or in state of disrepair. Many prisons in Nigeria basic amenities services such as electricity, health centres, water, etc which plagues the living standard in the prison. This study therefore seeks to assess the adequacy of training facilities in vocational education training programmes in Nigerian prisons in Rivers State.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to assess the adequacy of training facilities in vocational education and training programmes in Nigerian prisons in Rivers State. Specifically, this study tends to:

- Find out the various occupational trades available in the vocational education and training programmes in Nigerian prisons in Rivers State.
- Determine the adequacy of training facilities in terms of tools/equipment for vocational education training programmes in Nigerian prisons in Rivers State.
- Determine the adequacy of training facilities in terms of space for vocational education training programmes in Nigerian prisons in Rivers State.

- Ascertain the adequacy of training facilities in terms of environment for vocational education training programmes in Nigerian prisons in Rivers State.

Research Questions

For the purpose of this study, the following research questions were posed and answered to guide the study:

- What are the various occupational trades available in the vocational education and training programmes in Nigerian prisons in Rivers State?
- How adequate are the training facilities in terms of tools/equipment for vocational education training programmes in Nigerian prisons in Rivers State?
- How adequate are the training facilities in terms of space for vocational education training programmes in Nigerian prisons in Rivers State?
- How adequate are the training facilities in terms of environment for vocational education training programmes in Nigerian prisons in Rivers State?

Hypotheses

Three null hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 significant level to guide this study:

- There is no significant difference in the mean response of instructors and inmates on the adequacy of vocational training facilities in terms of tools/equipment in Nigerian prisons in Rivers State.
- There is no significant difference in the mean response of instructors and inmates on the adequacy of vocational training facilities in terms of space in Nigerian prisons in Rivers State.
- There is no significant difference in the mean response of instructors and inmates on the adequacy of vocational training facilities in terms of environment in Nigerian prisons in Rivers State.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The design of the study was a descriptive survey research. The study was carried out in Nigerian prisons in Rivers State. The population of the study consisted of all the convicted inmates and prison officials in three Nigerian prisons in Rivers State namely; Port Harcourt, Ahoada and Degema prisons. As at the time of this study, Nigerian prisons in Rivers State had 1824 convicted inmates and 533 prison officials (Source; Department of Statistic, Nigerian Prisons Service, Rivers State Command, 2016). A total of 944 respondents (730 convicted inmates and 214 officers) were randomly sampled and used for the study. The distribution and breakdown of the sample are as follows: Port Harcourt Prison (567 inmates and 133 instructors), Ahoada Prison (96 inmates and 54 instructors) and Degema Prison (67 inmates and 27 instructors). The instrument for the data collection was a self-constructed questionnaire titled "Status of Training Facilities in Vocational Education Programmes Questionnaire" (STFVEPQ). The instrument (STFVEPQ) was divided into different sections based on the objectives of the study. In order to establish the validity of the instrument, copies of the instrument were given to two experts in the Department of Vocational and Technology Education in Rivers State University, Port

Harcourt for face validation. The reliability of the instrument (STFVEPQ) was established through test-retest method for measure of stability. Copies of the instruments were administered to the 11 instructors and 17 inmates twice within two weeks interval and both scores obtained correlated using Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) method. A reliability coefficient of 0.88 was established for instrument which were considered reliable and adequate since Helmstadter (as cited in Maduabum, 2007) stressed that tests that have reliability estimates close to 0.80 were reliable. The administration of the instrument was done with the assistance of four prison officers who were trained by the researchers as research assistants. Completed copies of the instrument (STFVEPQ) were collected for analysis. In order to determine the adequacy level of each of the items in relation to the research questions, an item was considered adequate if mean calculated is greater than or equal to a criterion mean value of 3.00. On the other hand, an item was considered not adequate if mean calculated is less than the criterion mean value of 3.00. Standard deviation values were used to determine the level of homogeneity among the respondents. The hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance using the t-test statistics. If the calculated value of t (t_{cal}) is less than the critical value of t (t_{crit}), the hypothesis was accepted but if the calculated value of t (t_{cal}) is greater than or equal to the critical value of t (t_{crit}), the hypothesis is rejected. The data were analysed with Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 20.0 and Microsoft excel software. Data were analysed with descriptive statistics of Mean with Standard Deviation through the use of Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS)

RESULTS

The results of the data analysed in this study are presented in Tables 1 – 7

Research Question 1: What are the various occupational trades available in the vocational education and training programmes in Nigerian prisons in Rivers State?

Table 1 showed the various occupational trades available in the different Nigerian prisons in Rivers State. The occupational trades were grouped into three categories production, special and special technical trades.

Research Question 2: How adequate are the training facilities in terms of tools/equipment for vocational education training programmes in Nigerian prisons in Rivers State?

Table 2 showed that instructors and inmates were in agreement over their responses on all the items to be adequate (AD) or not adequate (NAD) except on items 42 and 44 where there was disagreement in responses. The standard deviation of the items ranged from 0.73 to 1.17 for training instructors and 0.51 to 1.20 for inmates. This implies that the respondents were close in their responses.

Research Question 3: How adequate are the training facilities in terms of space for vocational education training programmes in Nigerian prisons in Rivers State?

Table 3 showed that instructors and inmates were in agreement over their responses on all the items to be adequate (AD) or not adequate (NAD) except on items 18 where there was

disparity in their opinion. The standard deviation of the items ranged from 0.80 to 1.13 for training instructors and 0.74 to 1.70 for inmates. This implies that the respondents were close in their responses.

H₀₁: There is no significant difference in the mean response of instructors and inmates on the adequacy of vocational training facilities in terms of tools/equipment in Nigerian prisons in Rivers State.

Table 1. Mean Response of the Instructors on Various Occupational Trades Available in Nigerian Prisons in Rivers State

S/NO.	TRADES AVAILABLE	PRISONS LOCATIONS		
		Port Harcourt	Degema	Ahoada
A	Production Trades			
1	Soap Making	1	1	0
2	Toilet Roll Making	0	0	0
3	Gold Smitten	0	0	0
4	Furniture Making	1	1	1
5	Tailoring	1	1	0
6	Shoe Making	1	1	1
7	Bricks/Cement Moulding	1	1	1
8	Bead Making	0	0	0
9	Food/Catering Services	0	0	0
10	Fashion Designing	0	0	0
11	Net Making	1	1	1
12	Textile Services	0	0	0
B	Special Trades			
13	Information Communication Technology (ICT)	0	0	0
14	Laundry/Dry Cleaning Services	1	1	1
15	Hair Styling/Cosmetology (Barbing, Dressing)	1	1	1
16	Photography	0	0	0
17	Driving	0	0	0
18	Music	0	0	0
19	Instrumentation	0	0	0
20	Arts/Printing and Graphics	0	0	0
C	Special Technical Trades			
21	Electrical Installation	1	1	1
22	Bricklaying and Masonry	1	1	1
23	Tilling	0	0	0
24	Carpentry and Joinery	1	1	1
25	Welding and Fabrication	0	0	0
26	GSM Repairs	0	0	0
27	Electronic Repairs	0	0	0
28	Painting	1	1	1
29	Plumbing	1	1	1
30	Iron/Aluminium Bending	0	0	0

Source: *Researchers' Field Survey; 2017* 1—Available Trades, 0—Tradess Not Available

Table 2. Mean Response of Instructors and Inmates on the Adequacy of Training Facilities in Terms of Tools/Equipment in Nigerian Prisons in Rivers State

S/N	Item Statement	Instructors		Decision	Inmates		Decision
		X ₁	SD ₁		X ₂	SD ₂	
31	The tools for net making are enough.	2.78	1.07	NAD	2.95	1.09	NAD
32	Soap making training tools are adequate.	2.38	1.09	NAD	2.28	1.01	NAD
33	Adequate training tools (cutter, pliers) are provided for training.	4.61	0.79	AD	3.87	0.86	AD
34	Sometimes trainees are paired during practical session.	3.84	0.82	AD	4.58	0.95	AD
35	Instructors borrowed some equipment from road-side craftsmen for training.	4.52	1.05	AD	3.35	1.14	AD
36	Inmates are asked to pay for training tools.	2.38	1.09	NAD	2.21	1.20	NAD
37	There are adequate tools for individual students.	2.65	1.04	NAD	2.33	1.51	NAD
38	Sewing machine is adequate.	2.38	1.12	NAD	1.43	0.84	NAD
39	Brushes and chemicals for painting trade are adequate.	1.84	0.82	NAD	2.48	0.95	NAD
40	There are enough tools for painting.	2.16	1.10	NAD	2.12	1.01	NAD
41	There are enough tools for carpentry.	4.43	0.57	AD	4.52	0.51	AD
42	Tailoring equipment are adequate.	3.21	1.17	AD	1.58	1.03	NAD
43	Plumbing tools are enough for practice.	2.01	0.80	NAD	2.35	0.79	NAD
44	Electrical installation tools are enough.	2.51	0.73	NAD	3.78	0.72	AD
45	Furniture making has enough tools.	3.84	0.90	AD	3.09	0.95	AD
	Average	3.04	0.94	AD	2.86	0.97	NAD

Source: *Researchers' Field Result; 2017* NAD-Not Adequate AD-Adequate

Table 4 showed that instructors and inmates were in agreement over their responses on all the items to be adequate (AD) or not adequate (NAD). However, all the items were responded to be not adequate (NAD) except on item 23 that were return to be adequate. The standard deviation of the items ranged from 0.61 to 1.13 for training instructors and 0.64 to 1.13 for inmates. This implies that the respondents were close in their responses.

Table 5 revealed that since *tcal* (2.44) is greater than *tcrit* (1.960), the null hypothesis is rejected. This implies that there is a significant difference in mean response of training instructors and inmates on the adequacy of training facilities in terms of tools/equipment.

H₀₂: There is no significant difference in the mean response of instructors and inmates on the adequacy of vocational training facilities in terms of space in Nigerian prisons in Rivers State.

Table 3. Mean Response of Instructors and Inmates on the Adequacy of Training Facilities in Terms of Space in Nigerian Prisons in Rivers State

S/N	Item Statement	Instructors		Decision	Inmates		Decision
		X ₁	SD ₁		X ₂	SD ₂	
46	The carpentry workshop spaces for training are adequate.	3.08	0.83	AD	3.21	0.74	AD
47	Workshop size is sufficient to carry trainees.	2.05	0.67	NAD	2.46	1.03	NAD
48	Store room is large to take equipment.	4.32	1.10	AD	2.85	1.09	NAD
49	There is adequate office space for instructors	3.78	0.80	AD	4.56	0.78	AD
50	The painting workshop space is adequate.	2.10	0.92	NAD	2.08	1.70	NAD
51	The instructional classrooms are spacious.	1.84	1.13	NAD	2.22	1.04	NAD
52	Inmates' hostels spaces are furnished.	2.01	0.80	NAD	1.05	0.78	NAD
	Average	2.74	0.89	NAD	2.63	1.02	NAD

Source: *Researchers' Field Result; 2017* NAD-Not Adequate AD-Adequate

Table 4. Mean Response of Instructors and Inmates on the Adequacy of Training Facilities in Terms of Environment in Nigerian Prisons in Rivers State

S/N	Item Statement	Instructors		Decision	Inmates		Decision
		X ₁	SD ₁		X ₂	SD ₂	
53	There are adequate sanitary materials	3.85	0.61	AD	3.55	0.79	AD
54	Health centre is well furnished	2.50	1.13	NAD	2.30	0.99	NAD
55	There is steady water supply.	2.11	1.05	NAD	1.07	0.64	NAD
56	Steady power supply in the environment.	1.87	0.64	NAD	2.15	1.13	NAD
57	The water plumbing system is hygienic.	2.92	1.11	NAD	1.70	1.03	NAD
58	Inmates' hostels environments are tidy.	2.14	1.06	NAD	1.63	1.08	NAD
	Average	2.57	0.93	NAD	2.07	0.95	NAD

Source: *Researchers' Field Result; 2017* NAD-Not Adequate AD-Adequate

Table 5. t-Test Analysis on the Adequacy of Training Facilities in Terms of Tools/Equipment in Nigerian prisons in Rivers State

Groups	Mean	SD	N	df	t _{cal}	t _{crit}	Decision
Instructors	3.04	0.94	214	942	2.44	1.96	Rejected
Inmates	2.86	0.97	730				

Source: *Researchers' Field survey, 2017*. If t_{cal}<t_{crit}, H₀ is accepted else reject

Table 6. t-Test Analysis on the Adequacy of Training Facilities in Terms of Space in Nigerian prisons in Rivers State

Groups	Mean	SD	N	df	t _{cal}	t _{crit}	Decision
Instructors	2.74	0.89	214	942	1.53	1.96	Accepted
Inmates	2.63	1.02	730				

Source: *Researchers' Field survey, 2017*. If t_{cal}<t_{crit}, H₀ is accepted else reject

Table 7. t-Test Analysis on the Adequacy of Training Facilities in Terms of Environment in Nigerian prisons in Rivers State

Groups	Mean	SD	N	df	t _{cal}	t _{crit}	Decision
Instructors	2.57	0.93	214	942	6.86	1.96	Rejected
Inmates	2.07	0.95	730				

Source: *Researchers' Field survey, 2017*. If t_{cal}<t_{crit}, H₀ is accepted else reject

Table 6 revealed that since t_{cal} (1.53) is less than t_{crit} (1.960), the null hypothesis is accepted. This implies that there is no significant difference in mean response of training instructors and inmates on the adequacy of training facilities in terms of space.

H₀₃: There is no significant difference in the mean response of instructors and inmates on the adequacy of vocational training facilities in terms of environment in Nigerian prisons in Rivers State.

Table 7 revealed that since t_{cal} (6.86) is greater than t_{crit} (1.960), the null hypothesis is rejected. This implies that there is a significant difference in mean response of training instructors and inmates on the adequacy of training facilities in terms of environment.

DISCUSSION

The result in section A of Table 1 revealed that production trades such as soap making, shoe making, bricks/cement

molding, furniture, tailoring and net making are available in Nigerian prisons in Rivers State. This finding is in corroboration with the submission of Feldman (2011) opined that one of the most influential vocational activities that go on in the prison is soap making and its practice among inmates helps in reduction of apprehension in their social and psychological life. Also, Asokhia and Osumah (2013) found that the most preferred rehabilitation service for prison inmates is soap making in Nigerian prisons in Edo State, In section B of Table 1, certain trades identified as special trades available in Nigerian prisons in Rivers State include laundry/dry cleaning services and hair styling/cosmetology (barbing, dressing). This finding is in line with Ugwoegbu (1993) who submitted that provisions should be made for vocational training in shoe making, carpentry and joinery and hair barbing in Nigeria prisons. The result of section C in Table 1 on special technical trades revealed that bricklaying and masonry, electrical installation, carpentry and joinery were found to be available in Nigerian prisons in Rivers State. This finding satisfied the yearnings of Ugwoegbu (1993) who

stressed that provisions should be made for vocational training in shoe making, carpentry and joinery, tailoring, metal work, painting, electrical installations, mechanical work and hair barbing. The findings further revealed that special technical trades such as welding and fabrication, tilling, GSM repairs, electronic repairs, plumbing, iron bending and painting were not available in Nigerian prisons in Rivers State respondents. This finding is at variance with Ugwoegbu (1993) who opined that provisions should be made for vocational training in prisons in areas like metal work (welding and fabrication) and aluminum bending. The finding of the study in Table 2 shows that tools and equipment for net-making, soap making, electrical installations, painting, plumbing among others were not adequate. This implies that vocational education training programmes in Nigerian prisons in Rivers State is hampered, hence inmates cannot be rehabilitated fully upon discharge. These findings are in agreement with Lassa (2000) who opined that for training institutions (prisons) to rehabilitate its inmates, there should be a provision for the following physical facilities; lecture-rooms, laboratories, workshops, studios, hostel accommodation for inmates and instructors (prison officers), even if they are rented. The finding of the study in Table 3 shows that workshop training spaces were not spacious enough to accommodate trainees; inmates' hostels spaces were not furnished, instructional classrooms were not spacious for learning etc. This is in corroboration with the every technical and vocational training institution must have adequate number of National Board for Technical Education (NBTE, 2002) as prescribed workshop spaces for at least 15 to 20 students (inmates) per workshop. This implies that every workshop should have a minimum of 15 and maximum of 20 workstations spaces for efficient training process. Adequate training facilities are therefore essential in any meaningful training of vocational trade. The finding of the study in Table 4 shows that training environment was not tidy enough for effective vocational training activities. These were revealed in the dilapidated state of health care services, hostels for inmates, water supply services rendered in the prisons. These findings are in comparison with Lassa (2000) who stressed that infrastructural facilities that are essential to life, such as water, light, health and sanitation situation as well as access routes should be provided in every training institution like the prison. For vocational training programmes to be effective in Nigerian prisons in Rivers State, these facilities should be adequate as this will enhance inmates' rehabilitation upon discharge.

Conclusion

Conclusively, vocational education training for inmates' rehabilitation can only be achieved if training facilities in terms of space, environment and tools/equipment are effective. This will make training in vocational trades in Nigerian prisons in Rivers State to be more effective as well as aid the rehabilitation of the inmates when they are out of the prison walls. The acquired vocational skill by inmates in Nigerian prisons in Rivers State had a positive effect on the rehabilitation of any inmate who genuinely participated in the vocational training during their period of imprisonment. However, the nature of training facilities determines the type of inmates rehabilitated in Nigerian Prisons in Rivers State.

Recommendations

Base on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made:

- Occupational trades in area of production trades (Toilet roll making, catering/food services, fashion designing), special trades (Information Communication Technology, photography) and special technical trades (tilling, welding/fabrication, GSM repairs) should be made available in Nigerian Prisons in Rivers State for inmates' rehabilitation.
- Adequacy of vocational training facilities in Nigerian prisons in Rivers State in terms of tools/equipment will facilitate the acquisition of skills by inmates and hence promote proper reintegration and rehabilitation of the inmates when they are out of the prison walls.
- Adequacy of vocational training facilities in the prisons in terms of space enhances mastery of chosen trades by the inmates as they are exposing to independent and individualise kind of work training.
- There should be adequacy of vocational training facilities in terms of environment in Nigerian prisons in Rivers State. This will promote and prolong life of the inmates, instructors and the tools/equipment. This is because a healthy and hygienic environment will make training process more interesting and interactive between instructors and trainees (inmates).

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