

**FACTORS AFFECTING THE CORRECTIONAL FUNCTIONS OF PRISONS IN
NIGERIA: A STUDY OF AGUATA AND
ONITSHA PRISONS.**

BY

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Dedication

This thesis is dedicated to Almighty God for His strength and goodwill over me and my family and for His grace that saw me through this phase of my academic pursuits. His praise shall continually be in my mouth. Amen.

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Abstract

Across various climes and epochs, there have always existed established patterns of dealing with people who apparently fail to conform to the acceptable mores of the society hence, the establishment of modern prison system. This study was aimed at evaluating the various internal and external factors which influence the correction of inmate in Aguata and Onitsha prisons. Marxian theory of social conflict was used as the theoretical framework for the study. Three hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 significant levels for the study. The sample size for the study comprised 301 respondents, cutting across Prison inmates and Prison staff. The sampling technique for the study was the Proportionate sampling technique. The structured questionnaire and In-depth Interview (IDI) guide served as the instruments for data collection. The Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) software was used to code and analyze the quantitative data. This entailed the use of descriptive and Chi-square inferential statistics to present the data and test the formulated hypotheses. The findings of the study revealed that the internal factors influencing the correction of inmates include: Staff briefing inmates on any matter that affects them (effective communication), inmates using the goodwill of prison officials to meet some of their pressing needs outside the prison walls, prison environment being kept very clean and hygienic, inmates being fed and clothed properly, and attitude of prison officials towards inmates. The external factors include: cordial relationship between the prisons and their host communities, the activities of faith-based organizations and non-governmental organizations and prompt releases of finance from the government. Also, the findings indicate that corrupt practices among prison officials, insufficient prison cells, lack of functional correctional facilities, power struggle between prison staff, poor communication between prison staff and inmates, inequitable distribution of resources meant for prison inmates and poor working attitude of some of the prison staff were some of the constraints to the correctional functions of the prisons. However the study recommends proactive steps urgent legislation on realistic prisons reforms and policies that would emphasize on eradicating corruption among the prisons officials and increase in the budgetary allocations for the prisons.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Across various climes and epochs, there have always existed established patterns of dealing with social deviants or those who fail to conform to the acceptable mores of the society. Societies have used distinct patterns of punishment to correct and deter people from going against their norms and values which exist for the maintenance of order (Igbo, 2010). In 399BC for instance, Socrates, at the age of 70, was condemned to death for belligerently corrupting the youths of Athens and mocking the city's gods. He was subsequently executed by being forced to drink the Hemlock, a slow acting poison (the Prison Transformation Digest, 2010). Little (1999) reports that in 1757, Robert Francis Damien was sentenced to be publicly slaughtered in Paris for an assassination attempt on King Louis XV. Slaughtering him was adjudged a commensurate punishment for the attempted treason (Scmalleger and Snykla 2010).

Account from England talks about the tenth century Danish king of England, Canute, who preferred impelling culprits upon a stake after having them skinned alive (Carney 1977). Punishment could therefore be seen as an age-old method of correcting anti-social behaviors. Forms of punishment include flogging, instant death, torture, exile extradition, public humiliation, confinement etc (Carney, 1977).

The concept of incarceration or imprisonment only came in much later as humanity moved towards civilization. The emergence of the new concept of imprisonment or incarceration is attributed to two major factors: the philosophical shift from punishment of the body towards the punishment of the soul, and the passage of laws preventing the imprisonment of anyone except criminals (Scmalleger & Snykla, 2010). According to Scmalleger and Snykla (2010), the Dutch were the first Europeans in modern time to segregate serious criminals from vagrants and junior delinquents. The workhouse of Amsterdam which opened in 1654 represented the first criminal prison in Europe (Miller, 1966).

In Nigeria, the origin of imprisonment dates back to remote history. Available records show that various traditional societies in Nigeria had various forms of prison prior to their contact with Europe. Among the Yoruba, Ogboni house served as a sort of prison (Ayandele, 1966). For the Edo state, the Ewedo building served as, not only for keeping those to be sold, but also those offenders who had to be put away for some time (Awe, 1968). In Tiv land, there were indications of an awareness of imprisonment. In this community, offenders were required to concur to a sentence of imprisonment as an admission of guilt (Bohannan, 1957). It is also on record that in 1968, Sir Frederick Lugard recorded the existence of prisons among the Fulani ethnics who used them for both incarcerating offenders and for locking away condemned persons. Among the Igbo, solidly built dark rooms or houses were constructed by communities, villages and powerful individuals in the society for the purpose of confining offenders and captives (Igbo, 2006).

Thus, the concept and reality of imprisonment in Nigeria preceded the arrival of British colonialists. What came at their heel was the specific introduction of the British form of prison system. The first prison in Nigeria-the Broad Street Prison Lagos was established in 1872, by the British colonial administration (Igbo 2006). In 1890, the Calabar prison was built, followed by the Sapele prison in 1898. Subsequently Onitsha, Degema, Ibadan, Jebba and Lokoja prisons were built (Egu, 1998).

However, it must be noted that colonial prisons were not designed for criminal correction. The Prisons were more punitive than corrective. The inmates were used as sources of forced labor.

According to Igbo (2007), the first colonial prisons were designed essentially as the places for punishment of the offenders who, owing to their lack of cooperation with the colonial authorities, were seen as causing obstruction and inhibiting colonial political authority and expansion of illegitimate trade and commerce in the territory. Consequently, the contemporary

Nigerian prison, which is a carryover of the colonial era, has been described by Ahire (1990) as human cages with no facilities for correction, reformation and vocational training.

Modern prisons emphasize reformation and rehabilitation of its inmates, Temibiage (2010) saw prisons as a place of reformation and rehabilitation, but they have become training grounds for inmates to become hardened criminals. “Reformation connotes an educative process by which the anti-social attitudes and values of the convict are changed into social ones and by which convicts acquire social skills for future effective participation in conventional society” (Gibbons, 1977:526).

The cardinal essence of prison is reformation. It is hoped that within the time the convict passes through the prison, he or she would be reformed and accepted back to the society. At this point, the convict is called a prisoner (Agbakoba, 2011). The prison however was set up not to perform just correctional function but other philosophical reasons abound. They perform retributive, incapacitation and also deterrent functions on offenders. The Onitsha and Aguata prisons are both medium security prison with dilapidated structures. It lacked the needed cells to accommodate the huge number of inmates it houses. This is due to the high number of awaiting trial inmates. A lot of challenges have faced these two prisons. This study therefore investigated the challenges facing the prisons in correcting inmates.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

According to the Nigerian Prison Annual Report (2014), a total of 56,785 inmates were admitted into the Nigerian Prison in 2014. Of this number, only 17,775 have been convicted with the rest awaiting trial. This indeed is a problem not just to Nigeria but to the entire humanity (Nigerian Prison Service Annual Report, 2014). Nigeria prisons at the time obviously were more punitive than corrective. But existing literature suggests that the philosophy of Nigeria prison has shifted to reformation of inmates. The prisons claim that keeping in custody

of the awaiting trial inmates is not strictly part of their job. Orakwe (2006) argues that our prisons were designed to take custody of convicted prisoners for the purpose of their reformation and rehabilitation. A number of factors have continued to militate against the correction of inmates in Nigeria prisons.

Corruption has been a big challenge to correction of inmates. The high level of embezzlement seen in the prisons are so alarming .Again, because some prison officials are so corrupt that they can't help not colluding with some inmates to bring in illegal commodities like hard drugs into the prisons, they fail to show the right example to the inmates (Amstrong, 1978).

More so, the way inmates are classified in these two prisons has been a major problem to correction. Both hardened and first offenders are kept in the same cell due to lack of cells. This has made correction so difficult. Gross neglect of the welfare of prisons staff is another obstacle leading to the degradation and loss of self-worth of staff. For instance, some prison staff (especially officers) resides in hovels, which serve as their barracks. When prisons staff are uncomfortable in terms of general welfare, they will hardly carry out the task of effective custody and reformation of inmates (Friday, 1990).

However, the Nigerian situation defies the ideal state. Reality is that, the Nigerian prisons are fraught with a number of challenges that hamper the achievements of the goals of the prisons especially correction of inmates. Prison overcrowding is, without doubt, a major challenge of the Nigerian criminal justice system. A causal effect of the prisons overcrowding has been according to Ogwezzy (2011) attributed to increasing number of inmates awaiting trial. This situation is attributed to the conflict surrounding the criminal justice system as a process of criminal correction.

Most of the staffs of the Nigeria prisons do not even understand their roles as prison staff. Hence, most of them perceive themselves as security men and routine staff in the prisons. What

they get involved in, is the day to day administration of the prisons which includes inspecting the prisons and making food available to inmates at the stipulated time. The crucial role of seeing themselves as agents of corrections is lost sight of. Besides, a number of the prison staffs do not have the requisite training to engage in correctional activities (Ezeobi, 2012). Other factors like poor medical facilities, lack of basic needs (beds, food and sanitation) and violence are challenges of the prisons that have been identified (Ogwezzy, 2011).

According to Usiwoma (2007), a number of factors have continued to militate against the correctional roles of the prisons. One of such is the non-implementation of the several prison reforms in Nigeria. The suggestions made by the Alemika prison reform panel setup in 2003 were not implemented due to bad governance and policy ineffectiveness. This, according to Usiwoma (2007) has militated against the corrective functions of the prisons. This calls to question the seriousness of the state in criminal correction.

This study intends to examine the internal and external factors that influence the correctional functions of the prisons. At the end, recommendations will be made to aid the prison system conquer the hindrances affecting their mandate.

1.3 Research Questions

Given the issues involved in the study as highlighted by the statement of the problem, the following research questions guided this study.

1. What are the internal factors that influence the correction of inmates in Aguata and Onitsha prisons?
2. What are the external factors that influence the correction of inmates in Aguata and Onitsha prisons?

3. How have the internal factors constrained the correction of inmates in Aguata and Onitsha prisons?
4. How do the external factors constrain the correction of inmates in Aguata and Onitsha prisons?
5. What measures should be employed in tackling the challenges of correction of inmates in Aguata and Onitsha prisons?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to identify factors affecting the correctional function of Nigerian prisons. The specific objectives are as follows:

1. To identify the internal factors that enhance the correction of inmates in Aguata and Onitsha prisons, Nigeria.
2. To discover the external factors that enhance the correction of inmates in Aguata and Onitsha prisons, Nigeria.
3. To identify how the internal factors constrain the correction of inmates in Aguata and Onitsha prisons, Nigeria.
4. To investigate how the external factors constrain the correction of inmates in Aguata and Onitsha prisons, Nigeria.
5. To proffer measures that could be employed in tackling the challenges of correction of inmates in Aguata and Onitsha prisons.

1.5 Significance of Study

The study has both theoretical and practical significance. Theoretically, the study will add to the existing body of knowledge on the challenges of the Nigerian prisons as a corrective institution through the outcome of this work. The study will also help review existing correction and treatment theories on inmates and how best to rehabilitate them back to the larger society. It will further spur studies from scholars and budding researchers on the factors affecting

Nigerian prisons as a correctional institution focusing on Aguata and Onitsha prisons in Anambra state.

Practically, the study will help the public (the people of Anambra state) understand the internal and external challenges of the Nigerian prisons as a correctional institution. Several studies have been conducted on this topic, but available literature shows that none has been done on the variables the researcher is studying in Aguata and Onitsha prisons. This will enable them appreciate the challenges of both the prison staff and the inmates in their reformation and rehabilitation process. It will further make the government to give them all the requirements needed to function more effectively. Non-governmental organizations will also benefit from this study. It will enable them see avenues to showcase their humanitarian services by rendering all necessary support to the prison inmates. Policy makers will also benefit from this study. It will provide them with adequate material to formulate policies on how best to tackle the myriads of challenges facing the Nigerian prisons. The international community's/partners will benefit from this study as well. This work will enable them understand the challenges facing the Nigeria prison as a correctional institution. It can also influence their pattern(s) of intervention.

1.6 Definition of Terms

Convict: A convict, otherwise known as a convicted prisoner, is one who has been found guilty of a crime by a court of law and is placed on prison custody to serve a jail term of specified period during which he is remanded and treated.

Correction: Is the act of reformation of offenders Igbo (2006). The 1995 edition of Social Work Dictionary defines correction as “the legal specialty that seeks to change and improve

the behavior of convicted law offenders through incarceration, probation, parole and ideal educational programs and social services". It is the total process of helping persons who have violated the law to get rehabilitated.

Crime: An act of omission or commission that goes against penal code and which penalties are applied in accordance with the law. It is actually any act that contravenes the law.

Criminal: This refers to every individual who is convicted by a court of law for violating the criminal/penal code.

Deterrence: This is a policy or punitive measure prevailing in a society to ensure that would-be offenders are discouraged.

Deviance: This refers to behavior that goes against the accepted standard of conduct or expectation within a society. "it is primarily concerned with violations that are considered offensive by a large number of people" (Robertson, 1987)

External Factors: These are factors that are outside the walls of a prison which have direct effects on the prison/prisoners. e.g. Relationship with host community, Cordial relationship between the supervising ministry and the prison, funding, manner of recruitment, supplies, policy statements, conditions of service for prison staff etc. E.g. building, training workshops, government attitude towards equipping the prison, paying legitimate entitlement etc.

Incarceration: The act of placing in prison custody a person who has been suspected or accused of violating the laws of the state pending his/her arraignment in the court of law or the expiration of his/her jail sentence.

Inmate: An inmate is one of the people living in a prison.

Internal Factors: These are factors that are inside the walls of a prison. Such factors have direct effects on the prison/prisoners. E.g. leadership style of a prison, available correctional facilities, discipline, role allocation, rewards etc.

Plea Bargaining: This simply refers to the act of admitting to an offence immediately and saving the court the stress of going through the rigors of court proceedings thereby reducing the subsequent punishment.

Prison: A prison is any place or building mapped out by the government where persons accused or convicted of violating the laws of the state are kept in custody to ensure a successful administration of justice or application of penal treatment after which it takes the full responsibility of the offenders' reformation and rehabilitation. In other words, a prison houses convicted and un-convicted persons

Recidivism: The act of being arrested and convicted repeatedly for committing crime.

Reformation: The gradual process of re-orientation and re-socialization of an individual who has deviated from the socially and legally approved patterns of behavior because of certain interest but certainly curable defects either in himself or in his environment. Reformation also incorporates all round development of characters and capacities with particular emphasis on the development of responsibilities and self-control.

Rehabilitation: this refers to a system of making the discharged prisoner useful to himself and the society by imparting in him/her skills and knowledge that will reintegrate him/her back to the society upon discharge. Rehabilitation is adequate when the whole process of equipping a prisoner with knowledge, skills, techniques and finance that will enable him earn a living within the society have been achieved or exhausted and also, when the behavioral and moral standard of the prisoner have been raised to a level that will enable him withstand the societal pressures of going back to crime.

Reintegration: The process of accepting back and being re-united into ones social group, family or work group without conditions after ensuring that one's (ex-convict) anti-social behavior has been reduced to the barest minimum.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

In this chapter, the views of other scholars related to the topic under study were examined. Also empirical works that have been done by other scholars as it relates to the topic at hand were reviewed. This was followed by the review of theories that can be used to explain the topic under study. After which the most appropriate theory was selected as the theoretical framework for the study. To conclude the chapter, three hypotheses were formulated which guided the study.

2.1 Conceptual Issues

2.1.1 The Concept of Prison

The concept of prison has been treated from various perspectives which include structural and functional dimensions. Mccorkle and Korn (1954) described a prison as a physical structure in a geographical location where a number of people living under highly specialized condition, adjust to the alternatives presented to them by the unique kind of social environments. Sykes (1958), Goffman (1961) and Okunola (1986) conceived prison as a place where people are highly secluded from the rest of the world with entirely new order and control. This conceptualizations advanced by scholars are limited towards understanding that, prison is a physical environment and could be described geographically or spatially.

Different from the physical conception, there are other schools of thought that are based on function, framework and label. From the functional perspective, a prison is perceived as a place to punish offenders, where criminals that are removed from the society are dumped to protect the society from further criminal activities. It is a place to reform, and teach offenders to be law abiding and productive after their release.

Okunola (1986) and Goffman (1961) defined the concept of prison in various ways. While Goffman (1961) conceptualized total institution as where there is a basic split between large classes of individuals who are restricted contact pattern where social mobility is restricted, Okunola (1986) on the other hand, sees a total institution as a place, (unlike the free environment or the community) that inhabits those who are socially rejected, insane, or mentally retarded.

The labeling point of view on the other hand, stressed prison as a place for vagrants who may pose actual danger to social life in the larger society. This model pre-supposes that every person in the prison is a vagrant and irresponsible person. This was the position of Howard (1986)

who demonstrated his view with what obtained during the ancient Greek times. With the recent developments, the general conception about the prisons is changing in the mind of some people with reference to the economic idea that people in the prisons are dregs of the society (Yongo, 2010). Imprisonment is most appropriately conceived as a formal perspective of inflicting pain on the individual. This has been an aspect of the traditional criminal justice system in various societies in Nigeria (Obioha, 1995; Obioha 2002).

The Nigeria prison service was established to manage criminals in prison yards. This constitutional function empowers the Nigerian prison services to:

- i. Keep convicted offenders (prisoners) in safe custody.
- ii. Keep awaiting trial inmates in custody until law courts ask for their production.
- iii. Punish offenders as instructed by the law courts.
- iv. Reform the convicted prisoners.
- v. Rehabilitate and re-integrate prisoners who have completed their sentences in the prison (extract from prison training manual (cited in Adetula, 2010)).

2.1.2 Philosophy of Punishment

Punishment serves numerous socio-cultural functions. The concept of punishment has been justified on four basic principles or goals. These principles/goals are seen as the basic aims of punishment. Andrew (2008) in reviewing the philosophy of punishment in Nigeria opined that, of all the four goals of punishment which includes retribution, incapacitation, deterrence and rehabilitation, the first three goals are the most focused on in the Nigeria Prison system. An examination of scholars' views on the above philosophies of punishment will suffice to shed proper light on the concept.

Retribution: Ahmed (2009) submits that one of the oldest and most basic justifications for punishment involves the principles of revenge. This equation of punishment, with the gravity

of the offence is embedded in the Judeo Christian tradition in the mosaic laws of the old testament in the Holy Bible that emphasize the idea of an eye for an eye. This idea was the classical principle of how justice should be dispensed in democratic society (Alfreton, 2007).

While this principle of punishment has been modified in the west as time progressed, Nigeria and other African countries are still using it as the principle guiding their various prison systems (Toluerimo, 2007). Retributive punishment manifests in different shades which includes mandatory sentencing policies and sentencing guidelines systems in the United States. Mandatory sentences dictate uniform sanctions for persons who committed a particular types of offence (e.g. enhanced penalties for crimes committed with arms) whereas determinate sentencing guidelines prescribe specific punishments based on the nature of the criminal offense and the extensiveness of the offenders prior criminal record. Consistent with a retributive philosophy, punishment under these sentencing systems focuses primarily on the seriousness and characteristics of the criminal act rather than the offender (Brown, 2004). Although this philosophy of punishment has been relegated to the background a great deal in western societies, it remains the bane of modern day Nigeria prison system. However, several criticisms have been levied against retribution. E.g., the issue of commensurate desert; is the punishment given to the offender actually commensurate to the offense committed?

Another philosophy of punishment is incapacitation. A primary utilitarian purpose for punishment involves various actions designed to decrease the physical capacity of a person to commit criminal or deviant acts. The principle of incapacitation as Ukah (1999) observed, focuses on the elimination of an individual's opportunity for crime and deviance through different types of physical restraints on their actions. The conditions may be so deplorable that they reduce the offenders' subsequent desire to engage in misconduct. This philosophy of punishment is aimed at 'caging' and keeping the offender away from society so he or she may

not be able to have favorable conditions to commit crime. In Western Europe, when incapacitation was still the norm, offenders were banished or transported to distant places so they are unable to commit crimes in the stipulated places (Brown 2007). This approach has been criticized on the grounds that even within the prison walls, there exist some act of criminality.

The third in the list of philosophies of punishment is deterrence. The doctrine of deterrence asks a fundamental question about the relationship between sanctions and human behavior. For example: (Is legal and extralegal sanctions effective in reducing deviance and achieving conformity?). Punishment is said to have a deterrent effect when the fear or actual imposition of punishment leads to conformity. The deterrent value of punishments is directly linked to the characteristics of those punishments. Specially, punishments have the greatest potential to deter misconduct when they are severe, certain and swift in their application. Punishments are also expected to deter would-be offenders. When the type of punishment meted out to offenders is seen by would-be offenders, they advise themselves and desist from going further to commit crimes (Goldman, 1971). This assumption has been critiqued on the basis that despite the punishment being meted on offenders to deter them and would-be offenders, they still indulge in crime because they feel that the highly connected in the society go scot-free when caught. The prison system in Nigerian today is fashioned on the deterrence-like manner. Prisoners or offenders are treated in ways that would make crime seem unattractive for those that are hoping to become criminals later on. (Balogun, 1989).

Reformation is the fourth philosophy of punishment. Reformation underlines the basic purpose/principle of punishment. The ultimate goal of reformation is to restore a convicted offender to a constructive place in society through some combination of treatment, education and training. However, the prisons in Nigeria are fashioned to be more punitive than

corrective/reformation (Obilade, 2010). The salience of reformation is indicated by the contemporary jargon of correctional facilities, and therapeutic community now used to describe jails, prisons and other institutions of incapacitation. From the foregoing, the philosophy of punishment in Nigeria remains punitive despite the current shift to correction which is only theoretical.

2.1.3 Prisons as a Correctional Institution

After the American Revolution, Marek (1998) reveals, the ideas of enlightenment gained momentum. With the ideas of Cessera Beccari and Jeremy Bentham and the declaration of independence, a new penal system was developed. As such, reports argued that Americans had to move away from barbarism and punitive means of punishment and embrace a more rational and humanistic approach to punishment. Igbo (2006) opined that the concept of correction, which embodies two key words (with which the concept of correction will be interchangeably used in the work) reformation and rehabilitation.

Rehabilitation, according to Igbo (2008) gained ascendancy during the course of the 20th century. Up to the present time, the trend all over the world seems to be one of growing emphasis on the reformation-rehabilitation of the criminal offender. Both correctional spokesmen and prison reformers lend their professional voices to the growing call for the idea of rehabilitation and correction rather than punishment as such. Igbo (2006) sees 'treatment' as the essential element under the rehabilitative approach to punishment. Vold (1979) viewed rehabilitation as the process of 'straightening out' the offender deep with his own personality. He maintained that the rehabilitation activities of the modern prison generally have been of two kinds viz: psychological or psychiatric treatment and educational or vocational treatment.

Reformation for Gibbons (1980), centers on education of inmates through which their anti-social attitudes and values are changed into socially acceptable ones. It is a process by which

convicts acquire social skills for effective participation in conventional society. A reformatory punishment involves the infliction of pain on a person in order not to commit crime of a particular sort (Amstrong 1978), quoted in Igbo, 2006). Igbo (2006) argues that reformatory sentences operate through a learning process which makes the criminal aware and appreciative that it is wrong to commit crime. The awareness of the wrongfulness of criminal acts rather than the fear of punishment is the factor that reforms the offender (Igbo, 2006). The court here, Igbo (2006) concludes, awards a sentence with the treatment of the offender in mind rather than his punishment. Further on reformation, Opara (2010) sees reformation as making the offender better by trying to change his deviant behaviors. It means infusing in him the will to refrain from criminal behavior. Article 59 of the United Nations Minimum Standard Rule, for the treatment of offenders, states:

To this end (reformation) the institution should seek to utilize all the remedial, educational, moral, spiritual and other forces and forms of assistance which are appropriate and available and should seek to apply them according to the individual treatment needs of the prisoners (United Nations Minimum Standard Rule).

The expected reformatory and correction facilities or programs in the prisons include: boot camps, private industries in the prisons, tree venture programs (which involves members of the public who own private industries coming to hire prison inmates at their own will), therapy and counseling, educational programs and skill acquisition (Siegel, 1992); though this is not applicable in Nigerian prisons.

Opara (1998) cites seven points as methods to be used to achieve rehabilitation and reformation. These include discipline and disciplinary action, medical treatment, staff attitude, education, industrial training and religious instructions.

Osaze (1996) quoted in Ossai (2005) revealed that at present, the Nigerian prison system consists of 144 prison, of mechanized farms, 5 poultry farms, 2 fish farms, 2 training schools, 1 borstal institution and the prison staff college, kakuri with an average monthly prisoner population of 60,000, its staff strength is about 22,000 (including non-uniformed workers).

This figure represents the available facilities for rehabilitation and reformation of prisoners in Nigeria. However, the facilities may have increased as Obi (2000) outlined, the current existing reformatory and rehabilitative facilities of the Nigerian prisons to include, the inmate Training and Resettlement Project (ITRP), Prisons Adult Remedial Educational Programme, (AREP) this is achieved through collaborating with the National Open University (NOU) as one of the mechanized forms of the NPS. The NPS has industries. Some of which are the various soap making industries, the furniture industry Ilesha, the aluminum industry Potiskum, toilet roll industry and paper drill in Lagos (Orakwe, 2011).

Orakwe (2011) also points out that, the prisons have aftercare mechanisms (ACM) in order to take care of the discharged prisoners to avoid their losing the skills they gained in the prisons due to stigmatization and lack of jobs. The NPS uses the ACM to grant the qualified ex-prisoner the needed tools and post-term supervision to ensure that they are settled in those vocations they learned while in custody. Also, aftercare officers are attached to discharged prisoners to ensure that the tools are put to effective use and to provide a coordinate patronage and supervision until the beneficiary is formally on his or her own. Orakwe (2011) however admits that these facilities are inadequate when compared with the number of inmates in our prisons custody. Again the corrective functions of the prisons may remain illusory.

2.1.4 Challenges of Correction in Nigeria Prisons

The Nigerian prisons have been enormously characterized by some problems which several studies have shown to be the reasons for the inadequacies of the system as a corrective institution. In various respects, life in Nigerian prisons in general is overly regimented to the extent that there is strict control in virtually all activities of the inmates. The challenges of correction, especially as witnessed in Nigerian prisons are huge. They range from the inability of the prisons to reform and rehabilitate offenders appropriately, inadequate funding of prisons (Opara, 2010). Lack of sufficient funding is a major obstacle to the realization of these manifest

objectives of setting up the prisons. The necessary facilities and logistics required for effective reformation and rehabilitation are not adequately provided (Olawale, 2005). According to Olawale (2005), prison workshops are grossly neglected with only obsolete and non-functional machines and equipment. The prison is also incapacitated as a result of non-availability of the basic logistics the workers require in carrying out their professional assignments. Also, Onu (1996) associated poor medication and poor ration as off shoots of poor funding. The consequences of this on correction remain huge.

Overcrowding in Nigeria prison has become the most worrisome issue and the greatest challenges confronting the institution as a corrective one. The continuous rise in the population of the persons awaiting trial in prison is traceable to ineptitude of the police and its allied agencies and office of the director of public prosecution in the various states of the federation (Obidiba, 2008). These bodies are constitutionally responsible for propelling prosecution of criminal cases in Nigeria. Also, abuse of the principle of presumption of innocence of an accused person by the police is a correlate of rise in the figure of awaiting trial persons in prisons across Nigeria Orakwe (2011). Iriekpen and Ezeobi (2012) reveal that the Kirikiri maximum security prison in Lagos is overcrowded by 250 percent as at 2010. At the moment, it contains 2,600 inmates instead of 956 which is its installed capacity. The figure of awaiting trial persons (ATP) in Nigeria prisons is put at 70% of the estimated 54, 156 prisoners population in the 235 prisons across the country (Ayandele, 2011). This figure poses a great challenge to correction of inmates because the facilities in the prisons are not adequate; hence, the inability of the prisons to correct appropriately its inmates. Rehabilitation and correction cannot occur under such a situation.

Facilities for correction are inadequate as Otite (1994) revealed that over 80% of the prisons in Nigeria were built during the colonial era. The population of the country has doubled or even

tripled since then. But this has not been reflected in the number of prisons and facilities across the nation. Ahmed (2010) therefore argues that a situation like this only makes the inmates more hardened criminals as they hardly get better when they leave the prison. Correction is therefore not achieved as a result of the lack of facilities and equipments to do so.

Ewelukwa (1980) argued that corruption is a factor that poses enormous challenge to the goal of correction in the prisons. To him, most staffs of the prisons are not honest enough to do their job diligently. They most times engage in collusions with even the inmates by bringing in some contraband items like hard drugs and alcohol into the cells for them. He further argues that the prison top officers sometimes divert funds meant for the equipment and running of the prisons.

2.1.5 Concept of Punishment

In all civilizations, human societies have had societal codes of conduct whether written or unwritten. These prescribe and regulate behavior in society (Igbo, 2006). Punishment involves the infliction of pain. It is a pain or an unpleasant experience inflicted upon an individual in response to a violation of a rule or law by a person or persons who have lawful authority to do so (Miller, 1996). Two approaches or more appropriately, two school of thought have emerged in explaining the concept and rationale for punishment. While the first group believes that inflicting pain as punishment is fundamentally different from inflicting pain on innocents and therefore is not inherently wrong, the second group believes that punishment is a wrong that can be justified only if it results to a greater good (Miller, 1996).

Those who hold the first view do not feel it necessary to justify punishment beyond the fact that the individual deserves it. This, according to Miller et al (1996) is considered a retributive approach. The second approach justifies punishment through the secondary rationales of deterrence, incapacitation and rehabilitation. This second approach, as Durkheim (1951) puts it, is referred to as the utilitarian approach.

Retributive rationale for punishment is seen as the first approval to punishment. This approach holds that punishment, strictly defined, is not evil. Retribution as a concept means balancing a wrong through punishment. This differs from revenge in the sense that while revenge is personal and not necessarily proportional to the victims' injury, retribution is impersonal and balanced (Newman, 1978). Igbo, (2000) opines that retribution as an approach or an aim of punishment subscribes to the principle that a person guilty of an offence should suffer for it. It holds that a criminal deserves to suffer for his crime. The essential elements in this approach to punishment as outlined by Igbo (2006) are: that the fact that an individual has committed a crime provides enough ground or reason for his punishment. Again, that the pain inflicted on the criminal must be in proportion to the gravity of the offence committed and that punishment is viewed as an end in itself rather than as a means to an end.

The utilitarian approach defines punishment as essentially evil and seeks to justify it by the greater benefits that results under this approach, what is good is that which benefits the majority of the people in the society. This means that punishment deters, incapacitates or facilitates rehabilitation, that many (majority of the society), would benefit (Miller, 1996; Averhahn, 1999). Retribution has been the goal of punishment (or imprisonment in Nigeria) from the time of colonialism up till recently when the goal shifted to reformation and rehabilitation (Igbo, 2006).

Various methods of punishment have existed over the years. While some have become obsolete due to changing times and laws and increased awareness about human rights, some have become much more entrenched globally. Corporal punishment is one of the methods of punishment. This involves drawing, quartering, flaying, whipping, beheading, dismembering and numerous other means of torturing to death (Newman, 1978). Fines and dispossession of property also have been common throughout history and are still very much in vogue in current

times. Cohen (1955), sees execution, as an economic as well as a corporal punishment, because the person's estate was forfeited to the state.

Of all the forms of punishment outlined above, imprisonment is the most holistic in the sense that it deters, incapacitates, reforms, rehabilitates and reforms the offender. According to Howard (1986), 'imprisonment attacks the soul as it acts on the heart, the thoughts, the will and the inclinations of the prisoner'.

In Nigeria, the origin of imprisonment dates back to remote history (Igbo, 2006). Available records show that various traditional societies in Nigeria had various forms of incarcerating offenders prior to their contact with Europe in the nineteenth century. Igbo (2006) reveals that the prisons introduced by the British in Nigeria was purely for punitive measures, to punish those that refused or resisted them from getting the economic gains they came to the country for. From this time henceforth, this objective of imprisonment was carried over from the colonial era to the post-independence period by Nigerians who took over the reins of power from the colonialists. The challenges of this shift have been very intense.

2.2 Review of Empirical Literature

The findings of other scholars in the topic under study will be reviewed under this sub-heading. It would be divided into different sub-sections.

2.2.1. Internal factors that enhance the Correction of Inmates in Nigeria Prisons

Amnesty international (2008) conducted a study on the status of Nigeria prisons. The study cut across ten prisons in Nigeria, they used interview methods of collecting data. Their findings are that effective utilization of available resources in erecting new structures, cells, proper feeding and medication for inmates, helped in enhancing the correction of inmates.

Asokhia et al (1989) used survey method to assess the rehabilitation Services in Nigerian Prisons in Edo State. The study also found out that equity in resource allocation enhanced

correction of inmates in Nigeria prisons. They posited that when resources were not equitably distributed, it will bring about division amongst the prison staff thereby leading to ineffective correction of inmates. Based on these findings, they recommended that deliberate efforts should be made by the Federal Government and supervising ministry for prison to ensure that the resources meant for specific objectives are well disbursed and implemented.

Ayuk et al (1997) used ex-post facto method to study *The Impact of Prison Reforms on the Welfare of the Inmates: A Case Study of Afokang Prison, Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria*. Their findings included: Nigerian prisons will enhance their corrective functions of inmates when prison staffs are properly informed on the activities and workings of the prison. The study further revealed that the prison management should be carrying the staff along in decision making to enable them be dedicated to their work. This confirms Osaze's assertion (1996) that all inmates should be equally treated. There should not be any form of segregation or discrimination in handling prisoners in other not to lead to prison riot within the prison wall. They posited that when inmates are equally treated, it will lead to obedience on the part of the inmate and consequently lead to easy correction of inmates. It was also found that, the job satisfaction of prison staff will lead to effective correction of inmates. All these are the internal factors that could enhance the correction of inmates in Nigeria prisons. In the study carried out by Osaze (1996) in Sapele, he found out that availability of functional correctional facilities will help in the effective correction of inmates. Finally his study showed that cordial relationship between the inmates and correction staff will go a long way in enhancing correction of inmates.

2.2.2 External factors that enhance the correction of prison inmates

A number of external factors enhance the correction of inmates. Orakwe (2011) in his study of the high rate of recidivism in Southern Nigeria discovered that the nature of staffing enhances the correction of inmates. His study revealed that when recruitment is done on merit, without

sentiments, it will enable those who have the interest of the ministry and derive job satisfaction from what they do to be employed. This will enable them discharge their duty wholeheartedly. More so, his study discovered that proper training of the prison staff will enhance the correction of inmates.

In executive studies of the Nigeria prisons carried out by Eke (2012), to address the challenges of correction of prison inmates in Nigeria, involving one prison from each geopolitical zone of the country, It was found that prompt release of finance for the running of the affairs of the prison, enhances the correction of inmates. He posited that when things are properly done as at when due, it leads to the smooth running of the prison activities. His study also discovered that cordial relationship between the prison and their host community enhances correction of inmates. Anekwe (1999) have outlined the six directorates he found in existence in the Nigeria prisons. To him these directorates are set up to ensure a smooth running of the prison. They include the administration, personnel and training directorate, operation and inspection directorate, agriculture and industry, medical and welfare, supplies and finance and the works and logistics directorates. He posited that when these directorates are properly funded and perform at optimal capacity, they go a long way in enhancing the corrective functions of the prisons. Finally in the study carried out by Ije (1979) on the treatment of offenders in Sapele prisons, he discovered that the activities of faith based organizations (FBO) and Non-governmental organizations (NGO) also help in the enhancement of correction of inmates. Finally, the study discovered that the location of a prison has an effect on the correction/treatment of inmates in Nigeria prisons.

2.2.3 Internal Factors That Constrain the Correction of Inmates in Nigeria Prisons.

Akam (1997) tried to study the reason why recidivism is on the increase in Nigeria, using the Calabar Prison as his case study. His study revealed that inmates get back into society hardened after serving their sentences. This defeats manifest reason for imprisonment. This is due to the

fact that they were not properly reformed during their incarceration period. The study according to Akam (1997) found out that there is corruption within the prison officials and this constrains correction of inmates. Insufficient cells also constrain the correction of inmates. The type of skills being imparted on the inmates is not adequate enough to compete with their peers on being discharged. They are mainly taught how to sew dresses, carpentry works and phone repairs without knowing that their colleagues outside who have learnt similar trade has done so with more digital and sophisticated machines. Most times the correctional facilities are not functioning properly. With our fast changing world, the prisons have remained with their old and outdated training equipment used in teaching the inmates. His study also found out that recidivism has persisted due to the release of prisoners by Judges or top government officials on their routine visits to the prisons.

Amaeze (2009), in his study of Sapele prison, tried to discover the causes of inmates' riot within the prison walls. The study showed that the poor communication between prison staff and the inmates constrain the correctional function of the prisons. Also, the inequitable distribution of resources meant for prisoners also makes correction difficult. The overcrowded nature of the prisons is a major problem that constrains correction as discovered in the work of Amaeze (2009). Over population puts a lot of strain on maintenance cost, stretches the work force and various other facilities provided in the prison. The few facilities available become grossly inadequate for inmate population. It was also revealed by Amaeze (2009) in his study, that prison staff easily gets compromised by the inmates or the rich in the society to get them freed. This often causes security threat to the society.

2.2.4 External factors that constrain the Correction of Inmates

The prisons are the last and obviously most important arm of the criminal justice system. Apart from being saddled with the responsibility of keeping convicts in safe custody, it is also the mandate of the prisons to correct (treat and reform) the offenders before they are released back

into the society for re-integration. Prevailing and available facilities for correction has affected the extent and level, to which the prisoners are corrected

Obi (2000) took a survey of the Nigeria prisons and the correctional facilities available to them and its consequent impact on the correction of inmates in Okigwe prison. In summarizing his findings, he states that the reality on ground is that what is expected for correction is not available in the Nigeria prisons. He identified the gross neglect of welfare of prison staff as an obvious obstacle to correction of inmates. The neglect leads to material deprivation and loss of self worth of staff. For instance, some prison staff (especially officers) resides in hovels, which serve as their barracks. When prison staffs are uncomfortable in terms of general welfare, they possibly can't carry out effective custody and reformation of prisoners.

Adedokun (1990) in his study carried out in Lagos Kirikiri prison found that one of the external factors constraining the correction of inmates in Nigeria prisons is policy ineffectiveness. The policies and recommendations presented by several prison reform panels are either not effective or rarely implemented. Adedokun (1990) in his study also posited that, the supervising ministry in charge of the prison has not been able to tackle the myriads of challenges facing the prison system in Nigeria. The practical aim of imprisonment in Nigeria is to punish offenders rather than to correct them. The prisons aren't there to put back what is lacking in the prisoners; instead they see it as a place for the punishment of the offender. In the strength of these realities, he submitted that the inability of discharged prisoners to exhibit a reasonable rate of correction in the society after their terms in the prison is a function of the kind of corrections they were exposed to while in custody. Consequent on this, the prisons in Nigeria are saddled with the problem of turning out poorly reformed inmates. Studies like Obioha (1995), Adetula (2010) have shown that contact with the prison institution in Nigeria makes the less hardened individuals to be more hardened in criminal activities upon their discharge.

The constraining effects of these external factors on the correction of inmates in Nigeria prisons cannot be overemphasized.

Delay in the administration of justice in Nigeria has contributed to the high rate of awaiting trial inmates. This trend is a bad omen to the objective of correction as it has had a bad effect on the convicted prisoners. This manifests when they are eventually discharged (Adetula et al 2010). This is corroborated by Gendrea et al (1991). In their study in Canada, they found a positive correlation between length of stay in the prisons and the offender's rate of recidivism especially for the high risk group. In other words, the longer an offender stays in the prisons, the more the possibility of recidivism and vice versa. Obioha (1995) found that prevailing facilities for correction only tend to make inmates forget their primary occupational roles. The effect of prevailing correctional facilities on correction, according to Obioha (1995) is "The correction of inmates depends on the correctional facilities available to them. The Nigeria prisons will remain a penal institution because the facilities at their disposal cannot achieve correction".

2.2.5. How the Nigeria prisons as a correctional institution can be improved.

Scholars like Ishaka and Akpowa (1986), and Igbeare (1987), Ifionu (1987), Obioha (1995), have found that the Nigeria prison institutions have been ineffective in meeting the objectives for which they were set up. Ngoyi (2000) in his study of Okigwe prison on challenges of reformation, found out that the prisons lack facilities, basic facilities like uniforms, for both staff and inmates, accommodation for staff, lack of vehicles to convey prisoners to court, and hospitals, good source of water is also lacking in the prisons. Health facilities remain scanty. He concludes that these and many more are the conditions that plague the lives of prisoners and prison warders. These make it difficult for our prisons to reform and rehabilitate its inmates. She therefore recommended in her study that well-behaved inmates should be released

mid-way to their prison sentence for their behavior to be observed. This will lead to prison decongestion, and improved correction of inmates.

Obioha (1995) in his study of Enugu inmates on how best they could be best corrected shows how ineffective the correctional facilities of the prisons are. He posited that some inmates should be assigned some duties in their communities as a way of punishing them. Scholars have found in their studies alternative ways of improving the prisons to make them more effective in the application of rehabilitation and reformation of inmates.

Ngoyi (2000) in his study on 'the challenges of reformation', submitted that for the prisons to become effective and efficient in their corrective functions, adequate funding, proper staff training (which he describes as key owing to the fact that it is how these staff are trained that will determine by extension the way they will train the prisoners) and adequate infrastructure will create the requisite avenue for the correction of prisoners. Also, Ngoyi found out that not sending first offenders to the prison except for an offence that entails homicide will also help in the correction of inmates.

Obioha (1995) in his study, outlined 3 measures for the effective correction of prisoners. They include: prison-based courts, being established to ease the problem of transporting the inmates to the courts. Secondly, there should be the establishment of urgent alternative measures to imprisonment. When this is done, the number of people going to prison will be reduced. One of the notable alternative measures is the new restorative justice mechanism which has been tested and proved to be effective in some developed countries. And thirdly, the government through the prison reforms committee, should resist the act establishing the prisons to know whether the issue of awaiting trial population will be settled amicably. The prisons claim that keeping in custody of the awaiting trial is not strictly part of their job. Orakwe (2006) in his

study found out that encouragement of plea bargaining will also help in reducing the number of those sent to the prisons regularly.

Obioha (1995) concluded in his study that facilities should be made available to the inmates of the prison to ensure appropriate correction and also exposing the inmates to humane treatment will make the inmates to be more responsive. For him, some of the various reform programs have worked albeit not to the level they should. This therefore necessitates that facilities are not only put in place but also to be adequately utilized to the benefit of the inmates and the security of the nation at large. This study will address current measures on the corrective functions of Nigeria prisons.

2.3 Review of Related Theories

Every scientific research must have a backing theory. In this work, four theories are reviewed. They are Deterrence theory of punishment, Social learning theory, Rehabilitation theory of punishment and the Marxian theory of social conflict.

Deterrence Theory of punishment: Jeremy Bentham (1968), states that general prevention ought to be the justification for punishment as its real justification. An unpunished deviant act leaves the path of crime and delinquent acts open, not only to the same offender but also to all those who may have the same motive and opportunities for such law violation. For this reason, punishment inflicted on deviants becomes a source of security for all. Such punishment validates the essence of conforming to shared conduct norms. The basic idea of deterrence is to deter both offenders and would be offenders from committing a similar offence. But also in Bentham's theory was the idea that punishment would also provide an opportunity for reform. Scholars have faulted this theory on the ground that it uses the individual offender as a means to an end rather than as an end itself. It has been also argued that its reformatory nature is also

eroded in the sense that the offender will tend to react to the immediate pain of punishment rather than its further deterrence. The pain incurred by the offender, most times, lack intrinsic curative tendency and because the reaction tends to be towards the pain, the offender may return to the society to unleash more mayhem than before (Moris, 1993).

The basic inclination of an average Nigerian citizen towards a prisoner is punishment in order to perhaps teach him a lesson. The contributions of this theory to the understanding of punishment seem to be the basic notion upon which Nigerian criminal justice is based and is therefore relevant to this study.

Social Learning Theory

Social learning theory was propounded by Albert Bandura (1977). The theory according to Bandura states that behavior is learned from the environment through the process of observational learning. The core assumptions of the theory are that humans are active information processors and think about the relationship between their behavior and its consequences Obiajulu (2014). This is the kind of learning that is done through observation. This is illustrated by the way children observe the people around them behaving. Such children tend to do same.

Individuals that are observed are called models. In society, children are surrounded by many influential models, such as parents within the family, characters on children's TV, and friends within their peer, group and teachers at school. These models provide examples of behavior to observe and imitate.

More so, the response to the behavior one imitates will either be punished or reinforced. If a child imitates a model's behavior and the consequences are rewarding, the child is likely to continue performing the behavior. For example, if parents see a little girl consoling her teddy

bears and says to the girl “what a kind girl you are”. This is rewarding for the girl and makes it more likely that she will repeat the behavior. The behavior has been reinforced (i.e. strengthened).

Following the assumptions of this theory, the theory is of immense importance and relevant to this study. For it shows how correction of inmates could be enhanced within the prison wall when the prison staff/ correction officers are well behaved and are seen as good role models to the inmates, they will definitely imitate the good character of the prison staff. This will definitely enhance the correction of inmates.

More so, the second assumption of the theory is that it talks about certain behavior will enhance inmates correction. This is so in the sense that when inmates exhibit certain behavior that is worth commending, they should be adequately rewarded to enable them repeat the behavior which will gradually become part of their life style. Whenever an inmate exhibits any behavior that is not worth commending, he or she should be duly punished. This can also influence the correction of inmate in the prison.

However, social learning theory has its own criticisms; it has been criticized on the grounds that it is not a unified theory. Again, the different aspects of the theory, do not tie together to create a cohesive explanation of behavior. Another limitation is that not all social learning can be directly observed. Because of this, it can be difficult to quantify the effect that social cognition has on development (correction of inmates).

In conclusion therefore, social learning theory clearly captures the way the prison staff should behave towards the inmates. It becomes relevant therefore to the point that it explains the treatment of prison inmates.

Reformation Theory of Punishment

Reformation theory, as propounded by Jean Hampton in 1978, is more usually associated with treatment of offenders. It sees all offenders as ill and need to be cured. From this perspective, Hampton avers that reformation implies that through being punished, the offender recognizes his guilt and wishes to change. Similarly, others may be brought to awareness that crime is wrong through another's punishment and as it were "reform" before they actually commit a crime (as cited in Brooks, 2009, p.7).

This theory, as noted by Brooks (2009), was propounded by Jean Hampton with the prevailing modern view that punishment should be reformative. The ultimate objective of punishment, in this view, is to bring about social tranquility. This theory argues that people are self-determinate beings whose ability to freely choose is frequently obstructed by various conditions such as alcoholism, drug addiction, psychosis, etc. Therefore, the theory emphasizes treatment programs that have the goals of making offenders self-dependent and remorse-stricken. Treatment in this context can be defined as any, and all efforts aimed at the remission of criminal behavior and the social reintegration of the offender. It tries to improve the patient or client, or to alter unacceptable mode of behavior. The fundamental objective of treatment is alteration or improvement. Thus, reformation theory is all about the treatment and subsequent reintegration of the offender. It is motivated by humanitarian's belief in the worth and dignity of human person and the willingness to expand the effort to re-claim the criminal for his own sake and not merely to protect the society, (Match & Jose, 1991). The humanitarians fostered the belief that punishment should be therapeutic rather than punitive in the interest of the offender and the society. They argue that, to punish a man because he deserves it and as much as he deserves, is merely revenge and therefore barbaric and immoral. The theorists maintain that the only legitimate motive for punishment is the desire to mend the criminal and make him/her a self-dependent law-abiding member of his/her social group.

However, critics of this theory argue that the things done to the offender, in the name of treatment is still punishment. Their contention is that this doctrine merciful though it appears, really means that anyone that breaks the law is deprived the right of a human being. This is because, the humanitarian theory removes from punishment the concept of 'desert'; the prize an offender pays for committing a crime, which is the only connecting link between punishment and justice. The theory removes the offenders from the hands of the jurists to whom the public looks up to for justice and places them in the hands of the technical experts whose special sciences do not even employ such categories as rights or justice (Match & Jose, 1991). The end point according to this theory is to make the offender a functional member of the society at the end of his/her stay in the prison.

Marxian Theory of Social Conflict

Karl Marx is the father of the social conflict theory. In 1848, Marx made his most outstanding contribution to the conflict theory. The theory holds that social order is maintained by domination and power, rather than consensus and conformity. According to the Marxian Conflict theory, those with wealth and power try to hold on to it by any means possible, chiefly by suppressing the poor and the powerless. The theory also holds that the state of economy, which is capitalist oriented and the means of controlling power in the society through democracy are attempts to control the masses rather than to a desire for social order. For Marx, punishment is one of the instruments of class struggle. It is used by the bourgeoisie (State) to consolidate its rule. The law, the violation of which is seen as crime is elitist. The theory has however, been criticized as the basic reason for class inequality in the society.

Relating the theory to the work under study, it becomes clear and more understandable that we have prisons scattered all over the country to keep those that go against established economic and political laws of those in power under check. As if keeping the offenders in prisons is not

enough, they are further made to go through dehumanizing conditions. Capitalism dehumanizes the “have nots”. This is with the sole aim of keeping them under check and preventing them from overthrowing the ruling class. This theory makes it clear that prisons in Nigeria are more of punitive than corrective. Genuine prison reform is capital intensive. Selectivity in judicial sentencing is also reflected on how inmates are classified and treated.

2.4 Theoretical Framework

This research adopts two theories as its theoretical framework. The Marxian theory of social Conflict will be adopted as the macro theory; it gives a socio-structural explanation to the topic under study. The second theory that is adopted is the social learning theory by Bandura. As stated earlier, the Marxian theory of social Conflict focuses on the deprivation of the powerless by the powerful, of the opportunity to climb all the way to the top. For this reasons, whoever goes against the established laws and rules of the state and is not powerful enough to defend his/her action shall be punished. Most often this punishment is by imprisonment. In the country, it is mostly during the process of intra-class antagonism that some members of the bourgeoisie are put in prison. E.g (Awolowo, Abiola, Gani Fahwehmi etc). Even in the prison, they get preferentially treated. This preferential treatment given to the rich in the prison affects correction. More so, level of discrimination between the rich and the poor in terms of food, bed space and treatment also affects correction. Thus in bourgeoisie or capitalist states, the prison becomes an instrument of class struggle and conflict suppression. So structurally, the society is fashioned in a way that a part of the people are deprived of their rights and privileges and when they protest, they are termed offenders who will have to go behind bars and suffer for their offences. Marxian Conflict Theory therefore aptly explains the challenges of correction in Nigerian prisons.

The second theory, the social learning theory focuses on the learning process that takes place in the prison environment. The theory holds that the behavior of the prison staff is so important in shaping the behavior of the inmates. This is so because even in the era of globalization, the inmates can only learn social values from the prison staff because the use of handset is highly prohibited within the prison walls. The inmates can also be corrected through various treatment programs initiated by correction officers. More so, different skill acquisition programs that would have been learnt in the prisons are not learnt due to lack of essential organizational variables. The theory also explains that if good conduct is adequately rewarded, it will lead to the repetition of such behavior which gradually leads to positive attitudinal change. To ensure that proper correction is inculcated into the inmates, the behavior of the correction officers should be properly checkmated. Finally inmate's behavior should be either punished or rewarded when it demands so.

2.5 Study Hypotheses

A hypothesis is a tentative statement to guide a researcher in analyzing the relationship between variables of interest in a study. Three hypotheses have been put forward as a guide in this research work.

1. H₁: Prison staffs and inmates will differ in their perception of availability of training facilities as influencing correction of inmates.
2. H₁: There is a significant relationship between location of a prison and respondents' views on funding as a factor constraining the correction of inmates.
3. H₁: There is a significant relationship between prison location and overcrowding as a constraint to inmates' correction.

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

The study employed a cross sectional survey design. For Obodoeze (2005), a cross-sectional survey refers to a method whereby the researcher selects representative samples of individuals within the various specified stages of the study. This research design was adopted because it guaranteed representativeness of the universe.

3.2 Area of Study

The area of the study is Nigeria Prisons in Aguata and Onitsha towns of Anambra State. Anambra is one of the 36 states in Nigeria. The State was created from the Old Anambra State on the 27th August, 1991. The name of the state is derived from “O ma Mbala” river, one of the tributaries to the River Niger. The capital of the state and the seat of government is Awka. Onitsha and Nnewi are the biggest commercial and industrial cities respectively, in the state. The slogan of the state is “Light of the Nation”. The state houses four prisons under the control of Nigeria prisons service. They are: Awka, Aguata, Nnewi and Onitsha prisons.

Aguata prison is medium security prison in Ekwulobia. The prison was built around 1982 with operational housing capacity of about 85 inmates. It currently houses more than 220 inmates. There is still an ongoing rift between two communities over the ownership of the land where the prison is built. It was gathered that the Igwe of Ezinifite at that time donated the land on behalf of their town to the federal government, but the prison is addressed as Ekwulobia prison by some people. This dispute led to the prison being referred to as Aguata prison.

The Onitsha federal prison which is located around the Akpaka area of Onitsha is also a medium security prison, but quite bigger than the Aguata prison. It was built by colonial masters in 1906 with a capacity for about 326 inmates but it now accommodates more than 793 inmates, 89.3 percent of which are awaiting trials. The two prisons are quite old and as have

been canvassed by several governors of the state for the prisons to be relocated to a more suitable places for expansion to make them more conducive for inmates. The two prisons were chosen to compare urban/rural influence in correction.

1.3 Population of the Study

The target population for the study was the staffs and inmates of Aguata and Onitsha prisons. According to the Aguata and Onitsha prisons records, the population is put at 220 and 680 prison inmates, 73 and 229 prison staffs within the two prisons respectively at the time of this study (Federal Prisons service, Awka, Statistics Department, 2015). The sum total of the target population for the study was 1220 prison staffs and inmates excluding lifers (those in life sentence).

3.4 Scope of the Study.

The scope of the study is on the factors affecting Nigeria prisons as a corrective institution, taking Aguata and Onitsha prisons as case studies. The study tries to find out the internal and external factors that enhance and constrain the correction of prison inmates. It also tries to find out how the services of the Nigerian prisons as a correctional institution can be improved.

3.5 Sample Size:

The basis for selecting a sample size is when a study entails a large population. Therefore, a sizeable population that could be used to make inference was used. The sample size of the study is 301. This was calculated using the Taro Yamane's formula for sample size estimation. A 95% confidence level and level of maximum variability ($P = 0.05$) were assumed. Hence, the formula for the sample size estimation is given as:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where:

n = the sample size

N = the population size

e = the level of precision (allowable error) that is 5% or 0.05.

Therefore the sample size is calculated as:

$$n = \frac{1220}{1 + 1220 (0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{1220}{1 + 1220 (0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{1220}{1 + 3.05}$$

$$n = \frac{1220}{4.05}$$

$$n = 301$$

3.6 Sampling Techniques:

The Simple Random Sampling technique was adopted for this study. A sampling frame was obtained from the department of Statistics, Federal Prisons Service Awka. Using the simple random sampling technique, the researcher selected two prisons out of the four prisons in Anambra State. This was done by the researcher first numbering all the elements in the sampling frame which is the list of all the prisons in Anambra using a list of random numbers. With the use of lottery method, these numbers was placed in a bowl and shuffled thoroughly after which two prisons were selected, which are Onitsha and Aguata prisons.

Also, the researcher was able to draw representative samples from the inmates and prison staff through the records obtained from the statistical department of Federal prisons service Awka. More so, due to the security nature of the prison system, with the aid of purposive sampling technique, the researcher was able to get the respondents and administered the questionnaire. The researcher then applied the same steps as indicated above to select respondents from both

the inmates and the prison staffs in the two prisons. The sampling for study respondents appears thus:

Table 1: Sampling distribution according to Quota.

Onitsha Prison	Quota	Aguata Prison	Quota
Prison Inmates	146	Prison Inmates	90
Prison staff	34	Prison staff	31
Total	180	Total	121

The sum total of the sample is therefore 301. This formed the study respondents who were administered with the questionnaire for the study.

The qualitative data was generated through the use of in-depth interview. For the purpose of the study, six in-depth interview sessions were conducted with one retired prison official, the Superintendent of Prisons Aguata, a male and a female prison inmate, a male and a female staff respectively. This is with the aim of getting an insiders' opinion on the phenomena under study.

3.7 Instruments for Data Collection.

Both quantitative and qualitative tools were employed for the study to enable the researcher achieve a maximum result. Instrument for quantitative data was the structured questionnaire while that of the qualitative data was In-depth interview guide. The major instrument however was the questionnaire which is the most popular method of data collection. The questionnaire for the study contained both structured and unstructured items. This is divided into sections. Section A contained the personal characteristics of the respondents while section B was concerned with the thematic issues of the study. In the questionnaire, questions 1-7 are the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents, while questionnaire items 8-14 were used to determine the internal factors that promote correction of prison inmates, Questionnaire items 15-18 were used to determine the external factors promote the correction of prison inmates. Questionnaire items 19-26 were used to determine the internal factors that constrain the correction of prison inmates. Questionnaire items 27-33 were used to determine the external

factors that constrain the correction of prison inmates while questionnaire items 34-38 were used to determine how the challenges of correction in Nigeria prisons could be addressed. However, for the qualitative data, writing materials and tape recorders were used to ensure that every response (both verbal and non-verbal) was captured. A copy of the questionnaire was pre-tested before the proper field work was carried out. Ambiguities were corrected and gray areas cleared. Same was done with the qualitative instrument to ascertain accurate data.

3.8 Administration of the instruments.

The researcher trained four (4) research assistants to assist in the distribution of the questionnaire. Two assistants were employed for Aguata prison while the other two assisted in distributing the questionnaire at Onitsha prison. These same assistants were employed to assist in the administration of the In-depth interview sessions. One of the research assistants was in-charge of operating the tape recorder while the other one was in-charge of writing down the responses of the respondents. The researcher was the one interviewing the respondents himself. The research assistants were two males and two females. The research assistants were trained for four (4) days. The field work lasted for four (4) weeks.

3.9 Methods of Data Analysis.

The quantitative data collected were analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software application. The hypotheses were tested using the chi-square statistic (χ^2). Analysis entailed use of statistical tables showing frequency distribution and percentages of variables investigated, test of hypothesis using χ^2 statistics.

The qualitative data were content analyzed. This entails use of descriptive quotes culled from discussions held with participants. Quantitative and qualitative data on substantive issues investigated were jointly presented. This is to enhance observation of areas of their agreement and divergence.

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

This chapter deals with the presentation of data obtained from the field. It gives details about the personal data of the respondents, analysis of research questions, test of hypotheses and discussion of findings. 301 copies of the questionnaire were administered to the respondents, out of which only 273 copies, representing 91% of the questionnaires were collected back. The

response rate was considered fair and 273 completed questionnaires were used for the analysis of data.

Section A: Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Table 2: Composite table containing the demographic characteristics of the respondents (n=273, Mean Age = 31.1 years)

Description	Variables	Frequency / sub%		Percent%	
Distribution of Respondents by Gender and Prison Status.	Gender	Prison Status		Total	
			Prison Staff (20.5%)	Prison Inmate (79.5%)	
		Males	29 (51.8%)	169 (77.9%)	198 (72.5%)
		Females	27 (48.2%)	48 (22.1%)	75 (27.5%)
		Total	56 (100.0%)	217 (100.0%)	273 (100.0%)
Distribution of Respondents by Prison Location and Prison status	Prison Location	Prison Status		Total	
			Prison Staff (20.5%)	Prison Inmate (79.5%)	
		Aguata	28 (50.0%)	83 (38.2%)	111 (40.7%)
		Onitsha	28 (50.0%)	134 (61.6%)	162 (59.3%)
		Total	56 (100.0%)	217 (100.0%)	273 (100.0%)
Distribution of Respondents by Age and Prison Status	Age Category	Prison Status		Total	
			Prison Staff (20.5%)	Prison Inmates (79.5%)	
		18-27years	5 (8.9%)	84 (38.7%)	89 (32.6%)
		28-37years	31 (55.4%)	116 (53.5%)	147 (53.8%)
		38-47years	15 (26.8%)	10 (4.6%)	25 (9.2%)
		48-57years	5 (8.9%)	5 (2.3%)	10 (3.7%)
		58years and above	0 (0.0%)	2 (0.9%)	2 (0.7%)
Total	56 (100.0%)	217 (100.0%)	273 (100.0%)		
Distribution of Respondents by Marital Status and Prison Status.	Marital Status	Prison Status		Total	
			Prison Staff (20.5%)	Prison Inmates (79.5%)	
		Married	40 (71.4%)	68 (31.3%)	108 (39.6%)
		Single	14 (25%)	130 (59.9%)	144 (52.7%)
		Divorced	1 (1.7%)	12 (5.5%)	13 (4.8%)
		Separated	1 (1.7%)	7 (3.2%)	8 (3.7%)
		Total	56 (100.0%)	217 (100.0%)	273 (100.0%)
Distribution of Respondents by Educational Qualification and Prison Status.	Educational Qualification	Prison Status		Total	
			Prison Staff (20.5%)	Prison Inmates (79.5%)	
		No Formal Education	0 (0.0%)	8 (3.6%)	8 (2.9%)
		FSLC	1 (0.7%)	60 (27.6%)	61 (22.3%)
		GCE/SSCE/WAEC	6 (10.7%)	104 (47.9%)	110 (40.3%)
		OND/NCE	19 (33.9%)	24 (11.1%)	43 (15.8%)
		HND/First Degree	20 (35.7%)	17 (7.8%)	37 (13.6%)
		M.Sc/Ph.D	10 (17.9%)	2 (0.9%)	12 (4.4%)
		Others	0 (0.0%)	2 (0.9%)	2 (0.7%)
		Total	56 (100.0%)	217 (100.0%)	273 (100.0%)

Distribution of Respondents by Religious Affiliation and Prison Status.	Religious Affiliation	Prison Status		Total
		Prison Staff (20.5%)	Prison Inmates (79.5%)	
	Christian	55 (98.2%)	181 (83.4%)	236 (86.4%)
	Muslim	1 (1.8%)	13 (6.0%)	14 (5.1%)
	Traditional Religion	0 (0.0%)	21 (9.7%)	21 (7.7%)
	Others	0 (0.0%)	2 (0.9%)	2 (0.7%)
	Total	56 (100.0%)	217 (100%)	273 (100.0%)

Source: Field Survey, 2015.

Table 2 contains the demographic characteristics of the respondents. Accordingly, two different prisons were used for this study (Aguata and Onitsha Prisons respectively). 20.5% of the respondents were the prison staffs while 79.5% were the prison inmates. The findings show that among the respondents in the inmates' category, a majority of them (72.5%) are males compared to the females (27.5%). In other words, majority of the prisoners in the area of study are males compared to females. However, the findings show relatively higher number of female prisoners in the Onitsha prison compared to Aguata prison. More so, there are a higher number of female prison staffs in the Onitsha prison compared to males, while there are higher numbers of males prison staffs compared females in the Aguata prison.

The findings with respect to age show that majority of the respondents in both the prison inmates and prison staffs are adult-youths (within the age category of 27-37years); almost one-third of the prisoners are in the age group of 18-27. The calculated mean age is 31.1 years, which shows that the respondents are more of adult-youths.

The data also shows that there is relatively higher number of single male and female prison inmates compared to those that are married while there is higher number of married prison staffs than those who are single. There are also, a higher number of divorced and separated showed higher level of divorce and separation in marriage compared to their male counterparts.

A majority of the inmates are Secondary School Certificate holders and First School Leaving Certificate holders respectively, compared to those with other higher qualifications while the

prison staffs have more of First Degree, Diploma and M.Sc/Ph.D (7.3%, 7.0% and 3.7%) respectively.

Section B: Analysis of Research Questions

Research Question 1: What are the Internal Factors Influencing Correction of inmates in Aguata and Onitsha Prisons?

Items 8-14 in the questionnaire were designed to answer research question 1.

Table 3: Respondents' views on the Internal Factors Influencing the Correction of Prisoners.

Internal Factors Influencing the correction of Prisoners	Aguata Prison (n =121)			Onitsha Prison (n =161)		
	Yes	No	Don't Know	Yes	No	Don't Know
Prison Staff, briefing inmates on any matter that affects them enhances correction	99 88.4%	11 9.8%	2 1.8%	101 62.7%	54 33.5%	6 3.7%
Inmates using the goodwill of prison officials to meet some of their pressing needs outside the prison walls enhances correction	81 72.3%	25 22.3%	6 5.4%	101 62.7%	43 26.7%	17 10.6%
Prison environment being kept very clean and hygienic enhances correction of inmates	102 91.1%	3 2.7%	7 6.3%	136 84.5%	17 10.6%	8 5.0%
Inmates being fed and clothed properly enhances inmates' correction	98 87.5%	7 6.3%	7 6.3%	133 82.6%	16 9.9%	12 7.5%
The attitude of prison officials influences the corrective capacity of prisons	83 74.1%	12 10.7%	17 15.2%	140 87.0%	10 6.2%	11 6.8%

Source: Field Survey, 2015.

Table 3 shows that all the items in the table received a positive response from the respondents. In other words, the variables in the table 3 are identified by respondents as factors which influence the correction of prisoners. The data shows that the responses were the same in the two prisons studies. By implication, if the above factors are put in place, there would be a positive step towards the correction of the prisoners. In furtherance to these findings, a respondent in the in-depth interview noted:

How can there be a correction when we are treated like animals? We stay in a very unhygienic environment and are underfed. Many of us are can change within months if there is a positive step towards the

correction; but what we experience here is a difficult situation that makes correction almost impossible (IDI, Male Prison Inmate, Aguata).

Also, attitude of prison officials was identified as a significant factor in enhancing the corrective functions of the prisons.

Yes, as prison officers, part of the training we have received is to know how to relate with inmates. As a prison officer, you are more or less a teacher, you have to prove to them that you are a role model by your attitude, by the way you behave and relate with them; it is more or less like a teacher-student relationship; one doesn't have to be very familiar with them but at the same time, one doesn't have to be very harsh. There should be a level of confidence they should have in one so that the corrective measures one is impacting on them can have some effect. If this is not done systematically, the corrective purpose may not be achieved. So the attitude of staff is very important in the correction and reformation of inmates (IDI, General Superintendent of Prisons, Anambra State)

Another important internal factor taken into consideration is the periodic training of prison staffs on the latest correctional programmes and skills in enhancing the correction of inmates.

Thus, figure 1 shows the findings with respect to this:

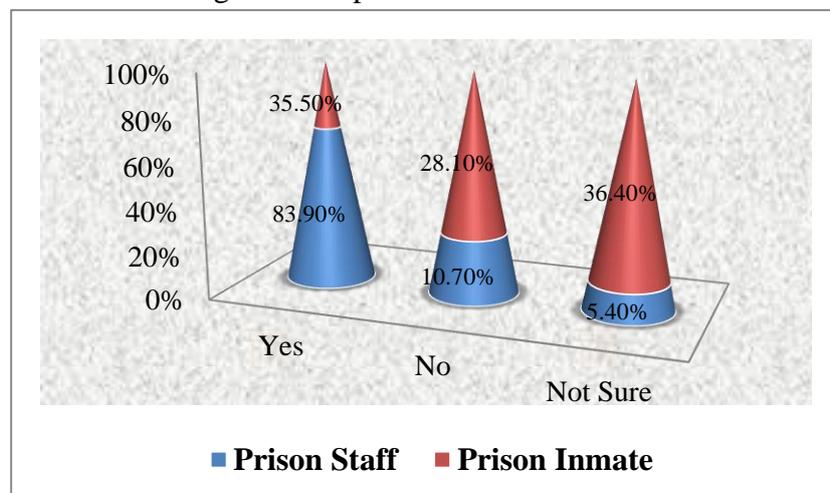


Fig. 1: Respondents' views on how the periodic training of prison staffs on the latest correctional programmes and skills enhance the correction of inmates.

The data in figure 1 shows that a majority of the inmates (36.4%) are "not sure" if the periodic training of prison staff on the latest correctional programmes and skills enhances the corrective capacity of prisons. Only 35.5% of them agreed to that while 28.1% of them disagreed to that. On the other hand, the prison staffs were more likely to agree with this notion more than the prison inmates as 83.9% agreed that the periodic training of prison staffs on the latest correctional programmes and skills enhances the corrective capacity of prisons. 10.7% of them

disagreed to this while only 5.4% of them are not sure of it. This finding is in line with the qualitative findings obtained through the in-depth interview:

...of course, there is the need for periodic training and retraining of the staff, not only in the prison but all other judicial arms. This is important because things are changing. Today we are talking about best global practices; that is practices that are acceptable globally within institutions. Without a periodic training of personnel, achieving these best global practices would not be possible. So, the periodic training of prison staffs is very important to achieve the purpose of prisons as a corrective institution (IDI, Male Prison Staff, Onitsha Prison).

Another respondent make a similar contribution to the above as he said:

One of the major factors is staffs training. The staffs need training and after training them, there is need for retraining because at the moment, internet services enhance global increase in knowledge. So there should be constant training and retraining of prison staffs for them to cope with the current reality. Where the staffs are not well-trained, there would not be the possibility of achieving the corrective purpose of prison institution. There is also need to organize workshops and seminars where they will be exposed to contemporary methods of prison services so as to make the positive impacts in correcting the prisoners (IDI, General Superintendent of Prisons, Anambra State).

In furtherance of the internal factors influencing the corrective capacity of the prison institutions, the respondents were asked to express their views on whether the availability of training facilities influences the possibility of prisoners' correction. Their responses are presented in the figure 2 below:

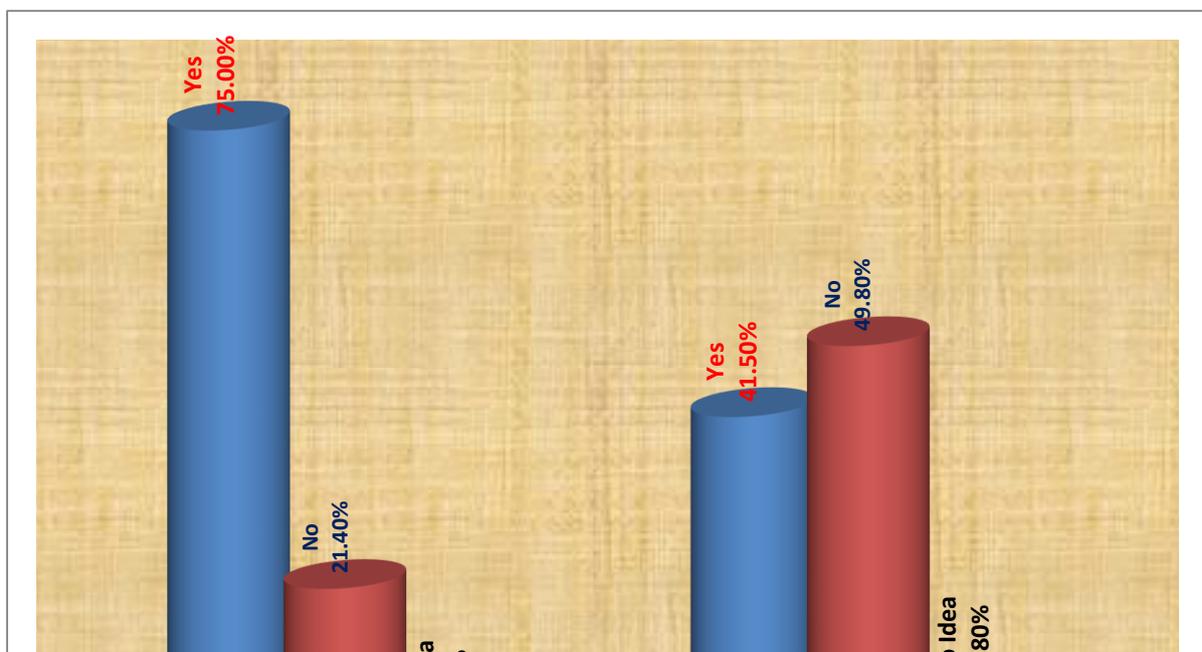


Fig. 2: Respondents' views on whether or not availability of training facilities influence the possibility of inmates' correction.

As shown in figure 2, among the prison staffs, a majority of them (75.0%) were of the view that availability of training facilities influences the possibility of prisoners' correction. This view is contrasts with the views of the prison inmates who affirm majority (49.8%) that the availability of training facilities does not influence the possibility of prisoners' correction. A male respondent also noted during an in-depth interview section:

The problem is not only making the facilities available; we still have some equipments but we are not making efficient use of them because no one teaches us with such equipments. They should employ people to teach us skills like tailoring, shoe making, carpentry and others so that such equipments can be useful to us instead of bringing them and allowing them to spoil without use (IDI, Male Prison inmate, Aguata Prison).

The above findings are in agreement with the view of Orakwe (2011) who noted that the provision of training facilities and proper training of the prison staffs will enhance the correction of inmates. To answer the question which the research question 1 seeks, staff briefing inmates on any matter that affects them (effective communication), inmates using the goodwill of prison officials to meet some of their pressing needs outside the prison walls, prison environment being kept very clean and hygienic, inmates being fed and clothed properly, and attitude of prison officials towards inmates, are the major internal factors found to influence the correction of inmates. The theoretical framework upon which this study is built

Research Question 2: External Factors Which Influence The Correction Of Prison Inmates.

Items 15-19 in the questionnaire were designed to answer research question 2.

Table 4: Respondents' view on the external factors which influence the correction of prison inmates.

Internal Factors Influencing the correction of Prisoners	Prisons	Strongly Agree/Agree	Strongly Disagree/Disagree	Total
Cordial relationship between the prison and their host community helps in correction of inmates	Aguata	107 (95.5%)	5 (4.5%)	112 (100%)
	Onitsha	146 (90.7%)	15 (9.3%)	161 (100%)
The activities of faith based organizations and non-governmental organizations with regards to meeting some of the inmates' problems.	Aguata	109 (97.3%)	3 (2.7%)	112 (100%)
	Onitsha	153 (95.0%)	8 (5.0%)	161 (100%)
Prompt release of finance from the government helps in correction of inmates	Aguata	107 (95.5%)	5 (4.5%)	112 (100%)
	Onitsha	101 (62.7%)	20 (12.4%)	161 (100%)
The location of the prison helps in the correction of inmates	Aguata	71 (62.4%)	41 (36.6%)	112 (100%)
	Onitsha	42 (26.1%)	119 (73.9%)	161 (100%)
Frequency of ministerial supervision of prisons facilities enhances correction of inmates	Aguata	77 (68.7%)	35 (31.3%)	112 (100%)
	Onitsha	98 (60.9%)	63 (39.1%)	161 (100%)

Source: Field Survey, 2015.

Table 4 shows that cordial relationship between the prisons and their host communities, the activities of faith-based organization and non-governmental organizations, prompt release of finance from the government and the frequency of ministerial supervision of prisons are some of the major external factors that help in the correction of inmates. A majority of the respondents in the Onitsha prison (73.9%) disagreed that the location of the prison helps in the correction of inmates. In light of quantitative findings, a respondent in the in-depth interview noted thus:

Yes, of course, there are churches and other organizations that come to visit the inmates. Most times, they come with gifts and interact with some of them. In fact, through their preaching, many of the inmates have been converted. You know, these organizations help to give them a sense of humanity and hope and it helps us a lot in correcting them (IDI, Female Prison Staff, Onitsha Prison).

Another respondent commented on the relationship between the prisons and the host communities during another in-depth interview section:

The relationship between the prisons and the host communities is cordial; we try as much as possible to make it cordial. They are our landlords and we are tenants even though it is a federal government established agency. But we try as much as we can to make our relationship with them very cordial. Most times, you see members of the host community coming to visit the prison inmates with gifts. I try also to reach out to the Eze (King), the President-General of the host community's town union and of course the chairman of the local government so as to maintain a good relationship with them. Anywhere there is a prison, we try as much to foster a cordial relationship with the host community because it is a very important aspect of the corrective functions of the prison (IDI, General Superintendent of Prisons, Anambra State).

With respect to release of funds, the qualitative findings show that:

The major factors contributing to the difficulties we encounter as prison officers in the reformation and correction of prisoners are external. If funds are not released for the upkeep of the prisons, then our hands are tied but whenever there is fund, we do our best to make sure that the prisoners are well taken care of. So, the funds are very crucial for the corrective functions of the prison to be effective (IDI, General Superintendent of Prisons, Anambra State).

The above findings are supported by the views of Ije (1979) and Eke (2012), who submitted that prompt release of finance for the smooth running of the prison affairs and the activities of faith-based organizations within the prisons, enhances the correction of inmates. The theoretical thrust for this study equally supports these findings. In other words, cordial relationship between the prisons and their host communities, the activities of faith-based organization and non-governmental organizations and prompt releases of finance from the government were found to have great influences on the correctional functions of the prisons. These findings are answers to the research question 2, which seeks to examine the external factors that influence the correction of inmates.

Research Question 3: Internal Factors Which Constrain the Correction of Prison Inmates.

Items 20-27 in the questionnaire were designed to answer research question 3.

Table 5: Respondents view on the Internal Factors which constrain the Correction of Prison Inmates.

Internal Factors Influencing the correction of Prisoners	Prisons	Yes	No	Don't Know	Total (n = 273)
Corruption of prison officials constrains the correction of inmates	Aguata	98 (93.3%)	6 (5.7%)	1 (1.0%)	105 (100%)
	Onitsha	137 (91.9%)	8 (5.4%)	4 (2.7%)	149 (100.0%)
	Total	235 (92.5%)	14 (5.5%)	5 (2.0%)	254 (100.0%)
Insufficient prison cells constrains the correction of inmates	Aguata	96 (85.7%)	16 (14.3%)	0 (0.0%)	112 (100.0%)
	Onitsha	149 (93.7%)	6 (3.8%)	4 (2.5%)	159 (100.0%)
	Total	245 (90.4%)	22 (8.1%)	4 (1.5%)	271 (100.0%)
Over-crowded nature of the prison constrains inmates' correction.	Aguata	96 (85.7%)	13 (11.6%)	3 (2.7%)	112 (100.0%)
	Onitsha	141 (87.6%)	8 (5.0%)	12 (7.5%)	161 (100.0%)
	Total	237 (86.8%)	21 (7.7%)	15 (5.5%)	273 (100.0%)

Note: Missing values are excluded in the totals. These include options that were not ticked by the respondents

Internal Factors Influencing the correction of Prisoners	Prisons	Strongly Agree/Agree	Strongly Disagree/Disagree	Total
Lack of functional correctional facilities constrains inmates' correction	Aguata	99 (88.4%)	13 (11.6%)	112 (100%)
	Onitsha	146 (90.7%)	15 (9.3%)	161 (100%)
Power struggle between prison staff constrains inmates correction	Aguata	61 (58.9%)	51 (41.1%)	112 (100%)
	Onitsha	141 (87.6%)	20 (12.4%)	161 (100%)
Poor communication between prison staff and inmates constrains inmates correction	Aguata	73 (65.2%)	39 (34.8%)	112 (100%)
	Onitsha	139 (86.3%)	22 (13.7%)	161 (100%)
Inequitable distribution of resources meant for prison staff constrains inmates correction	Aguata	66 (58.9%)	46 (41.1%)	112 (100%)
	Onitsha	116 (72.0%)	45 (28.0%)	161 (100%)
Poor attitude to work of some staff constrains inmates' correction	Aguata	83 (74.1%)	29 (25.9%)	112 (100%)
	Onitsha	124 (77.0%)	36 (23.0%)	161 (100%)

Source: Field Survey, 2015.

In table 5 above, the respondents were requested to express their views with regards to the internal factors which constrain the corrective capacity of the prisons as a corrective institution by ticking to show their level of agreement or disagreement to the items presented to them. The findings show that all the items as shown in table 6 received a highly positive response from the respondents in the two prisons studied. In other words, corrupt practices among prison officials, insufficient prison cells, lack of functional correctional facilities, power struggle between prison staff, poor communication between prison staff and inmates, inequitable

distribution of resources meant for prison inmates and poor working attitude of some of the prison staff are the major factors which constrain the prisons from effectively performing their corrective functions. Through the In-depth interview, it is found that:

Well, there are many factors that constrain the effort of the prisons in their functions; some factors are internal while others are external. However, one cannot talk of about the internal factors without looking at the external factors which are the independent variables that manifest their effects on the internal factors. For instance, inadequate fund from the government constrains the effort of the prisons to have adequate infrastructures required to make the necessary corrections in the prison. So, one can see the prisons lacking adequate and functional infrastructures, insufficient cells and other inadequacies, thereby making the prison experience, a hell for the prisoners instead of the corrective purpose (*IDI, Male Prison Staff, Onitsha Prison*).

Apart from the above factors, a respondent during an in-depth interview section noted that the prisons lack skilled prison officials who can teach vocational skills such as tailoring, carpentry, shoe making etc. Accordingly:

We no get teachers for here; make them employ people wey go teach us skills; meaning: we don't have teachers here; let them employ people that will teach us different skills (*IDI, Male Prisoner, Aguata Prison*).

The findings made above are supported by Akam (1997), Anekwe (1999) and Amaeze (2009). In other words, corrupt practices among prison officials, insufficient prison cells, lack of functional correctional facilities, power struggle between prison staff, poor communication between prison staff and inmates, inequitable distribution of resources meant for prison inmates and poor working attitude of some of the prison staff are the answers to research question 3, which seeks to identify the internal factors that constrain the correction of inmates. The theoretical thrust of this study, conflict perspective, identified the imbalances in the social institutions as a result of primitive wealth accumulation by few privileged individuals which often retard the proper functioning of the social systems.

Research Question 4: External Factors Which Constrain the Correction of Prison Inmates

Items 28-34 were designed to answer research question 4.

Table 6: Respondents' views on the External Factors Which Constrain the Correction of Prison Inmates

External Factors constraining inmates' correction	Aguata Prison (n = 112)		Onitsha Prison (n = 161)	
	Agree/ Strongly Agree	Strongly Disagree/ Disagree	Agree/ Strongly Agree	Disagree/ Strongly Disagree
Poor funding of the prisons constrains inmates' correction	91 (81.3%)	21 (18.7%)	149 (92.5)	12 (7.5%)
Late release of finance allocated to the prisons for correction constrains inmates' correction.	88 (78.6%)	24 (21.4%)	140 (87.0)	21 (13.0%)
Transfer of prison officials often without justifiable reasons constrains inmates' correction.	28 (25.0%)	84 (75.0%)	59 (36.6)	102 (63.4%)
Attitudes of the relations/friends of the inmates constrains inmates correction	53 (47.3%)	59 (52.7%)	77 (47.8)	84 (52.2%)
Unstable market prices of correctional materials constrains inmates correction	64 (57.1%)	48 (42.9%)	79 (49.1)	82 (50.9%)
Routine visits of judicial staff to the prisons to release inmates constrains inmates correction	64 (57.1%)	48 (42.9%)	68 (42.2)	93 (57.8%)
Political directives on how certain inmates should be handled constrains inmates' correction	80 (71.4%)	32 (28.6%)	78 (48.4)	83 (51.6%)

Source: Field Survey, 2015.

Table 6 contains the data on the external factors which constrain the corrective capacity of prisons as indicated by the respondents. The findings show that there is a mixed response from the respondents on the items given. The items that received higher positive responses include poor funding of the prisons constrains inmates' correction (85%) and late release of funds meant for the prisoners (83.6%). A majority of the respondents strongly disagreed/disagreed with the notion that transfer of prison officials often without justifiable reasons and attitudes of the relations/friends of the inmates constrains inmates' correction. With regards to unstable market prices of correctional materials, Routine visits of judicial staff to the prisons and Political directives on how certain inmates should be handled; there was a no significant difference between the number of respondents that agreed and those that disagreed to the notions; although a slightly higher proportion of respondents in the Aguata prison agreed that political directives on how certain inmates should be handled, than those in the Onitsha prison. These findings therefore imply that the major external factors that

constrain the corrective capacity of prisons as indicated by the respondents include poor funding of the prisons by the government and late release of funds meant for the prisoners. Going by the findings also, transfer of prison officials often without justifiable reasons and attitudes of the relations/friends of the inmates are not part of the major external factors that constrain the corrective ability of the prison institutions. These findings are in concurrence with the qualitative findings:

Yes, one of the major problems of Nigeria prison system is underfunding. There is presently global economic recession and this affects all institutions in the country. The government is crying that there is no money; there is corruption in its own part. So, the underfunding has to do with the provision of the reformatory instruments that are needed to really impact on these people. Like the various workshops where inmates are taught skills acquisition needs to be equipped with machines and other tools necessary in a workshop like that. Our job as prison officer does not end on teaching the inmates skill; we should go further to rehabilitate them and it makes no sense that after rehabilitating a prisoner and teaching him a skill without equipping him with the tools he needs to start up life again after a prison sentence. What I mean is that it is still our duty to provide them these services, follow them up to make sure that they do not go back to criminal activities but we are constrained by lack of fund to carry out these duties effectively (IDI, General Superintendent of Prisons, Anambra State).

With regards to the findings made on the attitude of relations and friends of the inmates, there is no concurrence with the findings made through the qualitative data as a respondent noted thus:

Most of us have been abandoned by our relatives and friends because to them, we have been condemned. Even after discharge from prison, the attitude of people to ex-convicts makes it difficult for them to change. If you show love to someone, even when the person does things that are wrong, because of the love and care you show towards him, he will be willing to change but when you treat him with scorn because of his wrong doings, the person might continue doing the same wrong thing; after all, you have condemned him already (IDI, Male Prison inmate, Aguata Prison).

Another respondent added:

The attitudes of the prisoners' immediate families and friends are not helping issues. They are always skeptic about the reformation made on the prisoners

and this makes nonsense of all the effort the prison officers makes in reforming the prisoners while in prison; because while they are discharged and the society does not accept them, they go back into criminal behaviours. We as prison officers try within our capacity to reach out to prisoners' relatives in order to resolve issues pertaining to their conviction to prison so as to reintegrate them back to their families and society (IDI, General Superintendent of Prisons, Anambra State).

The implication of this qualitative finding is that the negative attitudes of friends/relative towards inmates constrain the effort towards correcting prison inmates. These findings are supported by Obi (2000) and Adetula et al (2010), which were of the view that ineffective policy and gross neglect of welfare of prison staff due to poor funding, is an obvious obstacle to correction of inmates which often leads to material deprivation and loss of self worth of staff. In other words, poor funding of the prisons by the government and late release of funds meant for the prisoners are the answers to research question 4, which seeks to identify the external factors that constrain the correction of inmates. The neglect of the prison institution by the government underscores the assumptions of the conflict theory of state which this study is built on.

Research Question 5: Measures to Tackle the Challenges of Prisons as Corrective Institution.

Items 35-39 in the questionnaire were designed to answer research question 5.

Table 7: Respondents' views on the Measures Applicable in Tackling the Challenges facing the Prisons.

Measures to tackle the Challenges of Prison as a Corrective Institution.	Aguata Prison (n = 112)		Onitsha Prison (n = 161)	
	Agree/ Strongly Agree	Disagree/ Strongly Disagree	Agree/ Strongly Agree	Disagree/ Strongly Disagree
Well behaved inmates should be released mid-way to their prison sentence for their behavior to be observed	86 (76.8%)	26 (23.2%)	135 (83.9%)	26 (16.1%)

Some inmates could be assigned some duties in their communities as a way of punishing them	54 (48.2%)	58 (51.8%)	110 (68.3%)	51 (31.7%)
Discharged inmates should be assisted to practice the skills they acquired during their prison experience	109 (97.3%)	3 (2.7%)	157 (97.5%)	4 (2.5%)
Not sending first offenders to the prison except for an offence that entails homicide	66 (58.9%)	46 (41.1%)	120 (74.5%)	41 (25.5%)
Encouragement of plea bargaining in the judicial process.	90 (80.4%)	22 (19.6%)	144 (89.4%)	17 (10.6%)

Source: Field Survey, 2015.

Table 7 shows that over one quarter of the respondents in the two prisons studied, agreed that well behaved inmates should be released mid-way to their prison sentence, discharged inmates should be assisted to practice the skills they acquired during their prison experience, and encouragement of plea bargaining in the judicial process should be employed as corrective strategies in the prisons. Also, over half of the respondents agreed that some inmates could be assigned some duties in their communities as a way of punishing them and first offenders should not be put to prison except for an offence that entails homicide. These two categories have a relatively higher negative response rate (39.9% and 31.8%). The implication of these findings is that all the items in the table above are the measures that could be put in place to improve the corrective potentials of prisons. However, more emphasis should be placed on the release of well behaved prison inmates a mid-way to their prison sentence, assisting discharged inmates to practice the skills they acquired during their prison sentence and encouragement of plea bargaining in the judicial process. With regards to assisting discharged inmates to practice the skills they acquired during their prison sentence, a respondent in the in-depth interview noted:

Well, the situation in Nigeria is rather unfortunate for most prisoners. You see, there are conditions that push individuals into criminal behaviours; such conditions may be from the society itself such as unemployment, poverty and so on... if a person is convicted of a crime he or she committed for lack of employment, after the prison term, the person is discharged into the society and meet the same situation that pushed him or her into crime, what do you thing would happen? The government should start looking at all these issues in order to address the problems we are having in this country. If a prisoner, is discharged, the individual should be assisted with a little finance to start

up something if not, the person will be tempted commit the same crime again (IDI, Male retired Prison staff, Onitsha South L.G.A).

A respondent during the in-depth interview noted that the government should introduce the Open University for the prison inmates. According to the respondent,

The government should help us establish Open University here so that most of us can also have the opportunity of having University education so that after our prison terms, we can come back to the society with better behaviours and skills. This would also go a long way in helping to shape the mindset of many prisoners. Education is important for everyone in this generation and we should not be left out because we are prisoners (IDI, Male Prison inmate, Aguata Prison).

The respondents were also provided the opportunity to express their subjective views with open-ended question, on how to address the challenges of prisons in carry out its corrective functions. Some of their important responses include: “by training and retraining of prison staffs”, “by funding the prisons very well”, “building churches and workshops in the prison yard”, “increment on prison officers’ salary could help to stop corruption in prison correction”, “prison correction would also be enhanced if the incarcerated ones are sometimes released and assisted with some amount of money to start their own business” “we need open university and lecturers here”. “People with high offences should not be in the same cells with inmate with minor offenses in other not to corrupt them.

4.2: Test of Hypotheses

Hypothesis One:

H₁: Prison staffs and inmates will differ in their perception of availability of training facilities as influencing correction of inmates.

H₀: Prison staffs and inmates will not differ in their perception of availability of training facilities as influencing correction of inmates.

Table 8: Chi-Square Test showing Prison Status of Respondents and their perception of the Availability of correctional Training Facilities as influencing Correction of inmates.

Prison Status	Availability of training facilities influences the possibility of prisoners' correction			Total	X ²
	Yes	No	Don't Know		
Prison Staffs	42 (75.0%)	12 (21.4%)	2 (3.6%)	56 (100.0%)	X ² = 20.04, (N = 273), df = 2, P = .000
Prison Inmates	90 (41.5%)	108 (49.8%)	19 (8.8%)	217 (100.0%)	
Total	132 (48.4%)	120 (44.0%)	21 (7.7%)	273 (100.0%)	

Pearson Chi-Square test: Cal. 20.04, df=2, Asymp.sig= .000.

Source: Field Survey, 2015.

Table 8 shows that there is a strong evidence to accept the alternative hypothesis (H_1), ($X^2 = 20.04$, $d = 2$, $P = .000 < 0.05$ level of significance). Since the table P-value (.000) is less than the assumed level of significance (.05), the researcher therefore accepts the H_1 and concludes that there is a significant difference in view of the prison staffs and inmates on the influence of training facilities on the correction of prisoners. In other words, as observed from the responses in table 8, the prison staffs were more like to accept that availability of training facilities influences the possibility of prisoners' correction more than the prison inmates as a majority of them (49.8%) disagreed with this notion. As observed during an in-depth interview, the reason for this is that the provision of facilities without qualified instructors and trainers makes the facilities useless as the prisons were found to be lacking qualified and skilled trainers. This therefore makes the provision of any correctional facility useless to the inmates.

Hypothesis Two:

H₁: There is a significant relationship between location of a prison and respondents' views on funding as a factor constraining the correction of inmates.

H₀: There is no significant relationship between location of a prison and respondents' views on funding as a factor constraining the correction of inmates.

Table 9: Respondents' views on Prison Locations and funding as factors constraining the correction of inmates.

Prison Location	Poor funding of the prisons constrains inmates' correction	Total
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	Agree	Disagree	No Idea		X ²
Aguata	70 (63.1%)	23 (20.7%)	18 (16.2%)	111 (100.0%)	
Onitsha	88 (54.3%)	59 (36.4%)	18 (9.3%)	162 (100.0%)	
Total	158 (57.9%)	82 (30.0%)	33 (12.1%)	273 (100.0%)	
					X² = 8.912,
					(N = 273),
					df = 2,
					P = .012
Pearson Chi-Square test: Cal. 8.912, df=2, Asymp.sig= .012.					

Source: Field Survey, 2015.

Table 9 shows that there is an evidence to accept the alternative hypothesis (H_1), ($X^2 = 8.912$, $d = 2$, $P\text{-value} = .012 < 0.05$ level of significance). Since the table $P\text{-value}$ (.012) is less than the assumed level of significance (.05), the researcher therefore accepts the H_1 and concludes that there is a significant relationship between respondents' prison location and their views on insufficient funding of prisons as a factor constraining the correction of inmates. This establishes the fact that the provision of fund for prisons is not uniform relative to priorities placed on the different prison locations. As observed in table 9, 63.1% of 100% of respondents in the Aguata prison were likely to "agree" that poor funding of prisons constrain inmates' correction more than respondents in the Onitsha prison (57.9% of 100%).

Hypothesis Three:

H₁: There is a significant relationship between prison location and overcrowding as a constraint to inmates' correction.

H₀: There is no significant relationship between prison location and overcrowding as a constraint to inmates' correction.

Table 10: Respondents' view on the relationship between prison location and Over-crowding as constraint to inmates' correction.

Over-crowded nature of the prisons constrains inmates' correction.	Total	X ²
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Prison Location	Yes	No	Don't Know	
Aguata	96 (85.7%)	13 (11.6%)	3 (2.7%)	112 (100.0%)
Onitsha	141 (87.6%)	8 (5.0%)	12 (7.5%)	161 (100.0%)
Total	237 (86.8%)	21 (7.7%)	15 (5.5%)	273 (100.0%)

Pearson Chi-Square test: Cal. 6.551, df=2, Asymp.sig= .038.

Source: Field Survey, 2015.

Table 10 shows that there is an evidence to accept the alternative hypothesis (H_1), ($X^2 = 6.551$, $d = 2$, $P\text{-value} = .038 < 0.05$ level of significance). Since the table P -value (.038) is less than the assumed level of significance (.05), the researcher therefore accepts the H_1 and concludes that there is a significant relationship between prison location and overcrowding as a constraint to inmates' correction. In other words, as observed in table 10, those in Onitsha prison were more likely to agree that prison overcrowding is a constraint to inmates' correction more than those within the Aguata prison.

4.4. Discussion of Findings

The study was designed to examine the factors affecting the corrective functions of the Prison institution in Nigeria. In accordance with the specific objective of this study, the findings are discussed below.

This study found that effective corrective functions of the prison institutions in Nigeria are subject to both internal and external influences. Hence, the major internal factors which influence the corrective capacity of prisons and inmates include: Staff briefing inmates on any matter that affects them (effective communication), inmates using the goodwill of prison officials to meet some of their pressing needs outside the prison walls, Prison environment being kept very clean and hygienic, inmates being fed and clothed properly, and attitude of prison officials towards inmates. These factors put together, influence the chances of effective correctional functions of the prisons and inmates as well. The study also found that periodic training and retraining of prison staffs would have a positive influence on the correctional

functions of prisons. This is in line with the findings made by Orakwe (2011), that proper training of the prison staffs will enhance the correction of inmates. However, the study found that availability of training facilities would have a positive influence on the correctional functions of the prison only if there is a commensurate employment of skilled trainers/teachers to train the prisoners on vocational skills required for their proper correction and reformation. The Chi-square test conducted with regards to this shows that there is a significant difference in the views of the prison staffs and prison inmates regarding the influence of availability of training facilities on correctional functions of the prisons; $P\text{-value} = .012 < .05$ sig. level. The prison officials were more likely to agree that availability of training facilities has an influence on the correctional functions of prisons more than the prison inmates.

In another dimension, cordial relationship between the prisons and their host communities, the activities of faith-based organization and non-governmental organizations and prompt releases of finance from the government were found to have great influences on the correctional functions of the prisons. In other words, these factors help to improve the capacity of prisons and prison officials in providing their corrective roles in the prison institutions. A greater emphasis was placed on the activities of faith-based organizations and non-governmental organizations as important in the corrective business of the prisons. The influence of these organizations was found to be vital for the prisons in their moral obligations to the prisoners and provision of material needs and social support to the inmates. In agreement with the above findings, Ije (1979) and Eke (2012), submitted that prompt release of finance for the smooth running of the prison affairs and the activities of faith-based organizations within the prisons, enhances the correction of inmates.

Many of the variables used in the study to measure internal factors that constrain the corrective functions of the prisons received positive responses by the respondents. In other words, corrupt practices among prison officials, insufficient prison cells, lack of functional correctional

facilities, power struggle between prison staff, poor communication between prison staff and inmates, inequitable distribution of resources meant for prison inmates and poor working attitude of some of the prison staff were found to be the internal factors which constrain the prisons from effectively performing their corrective functions. These findings are in concord with earlier findings made by Akam (1997), Anekwe (1999) and Amaeze (2009), which also identified some of the above factors as constraints to effective correction of inmates.

However, the study found that poor funding of the prisons by the government and late release of funds meant for the prisoners are the major external factors which constrain the corrective roles of the prison. Though the quantitative findings did not recognize the attitudes of the relations/friends of the inmates as a constrain to corrective roles of prisons and inmates, the qualitative findings with regards to this, is in direct contrast as respondents in the in-depth interview noted that negative attitude of friends and relations towards the incarcerated ones is a major constraint towards the inmates' reformation and correction. Apart from these findings, a majority of the respondents noted that the delays in the criminal justice system with constant strike actions and other logistical problems constrain the corrective roles of prisons and hampers on the efforts towards inmates' correction. The Chi-square test found a significant difference in the views of those within the two prisons used for this study (Onitsha and Aguata) with regards to poor funding. Those within the Aguata Prison were more likely to agree that poor funding is a constraint to the corrective functions of prisons than those within the Onitsha prison; $P\text{-value} = .012 < .05$ sig. level.

The study found that the measures to tackling the challenges of the Nigeria Prison system, as indicated by the respondents include: prompt release of prison funds, release of well-behaved prisoners a mid-way to their prison sentence, assisting discharged prisoners with finance to start up a business. The study also found that establishment of Open University, churches and workshops within the prison yards would be very effective in correcting the prisoners. The

study also found that the training and retraining of prison staffs would help to solve the inefficiencies of the staff in their correctional duties as well as the employment of more qualified trainers. Also, the study found a need to reach out to family members and friends of the prisoners to reshape their perceptions about the imprisoned individuals in order to influence positive integration of discharged prisoners. In addition, the study found that a change or review in the law militating against ex-convicts' employment within government parastatals, would help in solving the numerous challenges of the Nigeria Prison system.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary of Findings

The inefficiencies observed in the Nigerian Prison system in the bid to performing her statutory functions of correcting prisoners, formed the basis of motivation for this study. Hence, the study aimed at examining the various internal and external factors which affects the corrective functions of Nigeria prisons. Two prisons namely Aguata and Onitsha Prisons were used in this study and the researcher made use of data from both quantitative and qualitative sources to gather the data for this study which were used to answer the research questions.

Many internal and external factors were found to influence and constrain the corrective functions of the prison system. The internal/external factors influencing the correction of inmates include: Staff briefing inmates on any matter that affects them (effective communication), inmates using the goodwill of prison officials to meet some of their pressing needs outside the prison walls, Prison environment being kept very clean and hygienic, inmates being fed and clothed properly, and attitude of prison officials towards inmates, cordial relationship between the prisons and their host communities, the activities of faith-based organization and non-governmental organizations and prompt releases of finance from the government.

Corrupt practices among prison officials, insufficient prison cells, lack of functional correctional facilities, power struggle between prison staff, poor communication between prison staff and inmates, inequitable distribution of resources meant for prison inmates and poor working attitude of some of the prison staff were found to be the internal factors which constrain the prisons from effectively performing their corrective functions. Also, poor funding of the prisons by the government, late release of funds meant for the prisoners and delays in the criminal justice system with constant strike actions and other logistical problems constrain the corrective roles of prisons and hampers on the efforts towards inmates' correction.

In addition, the study found that prompt release of prison funds, release of well-behaved prisoners a mid-way to their prison sentence, assisting discharged prisoners with finance to start up a business would help in the correction of inmates. Other findings suggest that establishment of Open University, churches and workshops within the prison yards would be very effective in correcting the prisoners. The respondents were emphatic on the training and retraining of prison staffs as well as the employment of more qualified trainers, as important measures that would help to solve the inefficiencies of the prison staffs in their correctional duties.

5.2 Conclusion

This study has provided theoretical as well as empirical perspectives on the factors influencing the corrective roles of the prisons in Nigeria. Through the findings of this study, it is obvious that the Nigeria prison system is plagued with various challenges affecting its correctional functions. Thus, this study has produced insights into various internal and external factors which influence and constrain the corrective roles of the prisons as a corrective institution with the hope that proactive measures as identified in the findings would help in strengthening the lapses observed in the Nigeria prison system especially in Anambra State. In doing so, it is assumed that this study would help to filling the gap in empirical and theoretical knowledge about factors affecting the corrective functions of prisons in Nigeria.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the researcher makes the following recommendations:

1. There is the need for urgent legislation on realistic prisons reforms and policies that would emphasize on eradicating corruption among the prisons officials and increase in the budgetary allocations for the prisons.
2. As the study found that lack of qualified trainers constrains the corrective functions of prisons, there is therefore the need for compulsory training and retraining of the prison staffs so as to acquaint them with the latest global knowledge in prison management and correctional roles.
3. There is the need to introduce a recognized academic certificate programmes for inmates through the Open University system, so as to help equip them with the basic educational knowledge and skills and reshape their mindsets.

4. There is also the need to review the laws militating against the employment of ex-convicts into public offices as this would help to break the barrier of stigmatization and increase the integration of ex-convicts into the system.

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APPENDIX A

LETTER OF INTRODUCTION

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February, 2015.

Dear Respondent,

I am a post graduate student in the above institution. I am carrying out a study on the challenges of Nigeria prisons as a corrective institution, a study of Aguata and Onitsha prisons. You have been selected to take part in the study. In this regard, please respond to the questions below as honestly as you can.

Your name is not required. The views you will express will not be used against you, your village or community. I look forward to your understanding and cooperation.

Thanks for your anticipated co-operation.

Yours sincerely,

Emerho Godstime E.

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APPENDIX B

QUESTIONNAIRE SCHEDULE

INSTRUCTION: (Please responds to all questions. Indicate the answer that best applies to you by filling the spaces or ticking (√) the appropriate boxes).

SECTION A: SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

1. What is your sex?
 - a. Male
 - b. Female
2. What is your age at your last birthday?.....
3. What is your marital Status?
 - a. Married
 - b. Single
 - c. Divorced
 - d. Separated
 - e. Widowed
4. What is your highest formal educational attainment?
 - a. No formal education
 -

- b. Primary/FSLC
 - c. GCE/SSCE/WAEC
 - d. OND/NCE
 - e. HND/First Degree
 - f. M.Sc/Ph.D
 - g. Others (Please specify).....
5. What is your religious affiliation?
- a. Christianity
 - b. Muslim
 - c. Traditional Religion
 - d. Others (Please specify)
6. Please indicate your status in the prison
- a. Prison Staff
 - b. Prison Inmate
7. Please indicate your area of residence/prison location
- a. Aguata
 - b. Onitsha

SECTION B: THEMATIC ISSUES

INTERNAL FACTORS INFLUENCING CORRECTION OF PRISONERS

	Yes	No	Not Sure
8. Staff briefing inmates on any matter that affects them influences correction of inmates			
9. Inmates using the goodwill of prison officials to meet some of their pressing needs outside the prison walls influences correction of inmates			
10. Prison environment being kept very clean and hygienic enhances correction of inmates			
11. Inmates being fed and clothed properly enhances the correction of inmates			
12. Periodic training of prison staff on correctional programmes and skills enhances the correction of inmates			

13. Periodic training of prison staffs on the latest correctional programmes and skills to enhance the correctional functions of prisons and inmates.
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Not Sure
14. Do you think that the availability of training facilities influences the possibility of prisoners' correction?

a. Yes b. No c. Not Sure

EXTERNAL FACTORS INFLUENCING THE CORRECTION OF PRISONERS

	Agree	Strongly Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
15. Cordial relationship between the prison and their host community helps in the correction of inmates.				
16. The activities of faith-based organizations and non-governmental organizations with regards to meeting some of the inmates' need help in the correction of inmates.				
17. Prompt release of finance helps in the correction of inmates				
18. The location of the prison helps in the correction of inmates.				
19. Frequency of ministerial supervision of prison facilities enhances correction of inmates				

INTERNAL FACTORS THAT CONSTRAIN THE CORRECTION OF INMATES

	Yes	No	Don't Know
20. Corruption of prison officials constrain the correction of inmate			
21. Insufficient prison cells constrain the correction of inmates			
22. Over-crowded nature of the prisons constrain inmates' correction			

	Agree	Strongly Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
23. Lack of functional training/correctional facilities constrains inmates' correction				
24. Power struggle between prison staff constrains inmates correction				
25. Poor communication between prison staff and inmates constrains inmates correction				
26. Inequitable distribution of resources meant for prison inmates constrains inmates correction				
27. Poor attitude to work of some staff constrains inmates' correction				

EXTERNAL FACTORS WHICH CONSTRAIN THE CORRECTION OF INMATES

	Agree	Strongly Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
28. Poor funding of the prisons constrain inmates' correction.				
29. Late release of finance allocated to the prisons for correction constrains inmates' correction.				
30. Transfer of prison officials often without justifiable reasons constrains inmates' correction.				
31. Attitudes of the relations/friends of the inmates constrain inmates' correction.				
32. Unstable market prices of correctional materials constrain inmates' correction.				
33. Routine visits of judicial staff to the prisons to release inmates constrain inmates' correction.				
34. Political directives on how certain inmates should be handled constrain inmates' correction.				

	Agree	Strongly Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
35. Well behaved inmates should be released mid-way to their prison sentence for their behaviour to be observed.				
36. Some inmates could be assigned some duties in their communities as a way of punishing them.				
37. Discharged inmates should be assisted to practice the skills they acquired during their prison experience.				
38. Not sending first offenders to the prison except for an offence that entails homicide.				
39. Encouragement of plea bargaining in the judicial process (those who admit to be guilty immediately saving the court the stress of going through the rigors of court proceedings thereby reducing their punishment).				

APPENDIX C
IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW GUIDE

Introduction

Good day and thanks a lot for making out time to grant my request for this interview. My name is Emerho, Godstime. E. I am a student of Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka, currently at the completion stage my Master of Science (M.Sc) degree in Criminology. I would like to discuss with you as a knowledgeable citizen, about your opinions with regards to the factors affecting the corrective functions of prisons in Nigeria. This interview is part of the academic research process required for the award of the above mentioned degree and is deemed very important. It requires the best and honest responses to any questions that would arise in the interview process.

The interview will take less than an hour. I will be recording your responses with a tape recorder as the interview progresses to avoid missing some of your comments, though my research assistant will also take notes. Because we're on tape, please be audible so that we don't miss your comments. All responses will be kept confidential. This means that your interview responses will only be shared with my research team members and we will ensure that any information we include in our report does not identify you as the respondent. Remember, you don't have to talk about anything you don't wish to and you may end the interview at any time. If you have issues that are not clear to you, you are free to ask questions.

Thanks.

Section A: Demographic Characteristics of Participants

Introductions: (Topic: Moderator, modalities for conducting the IDI)

Socio-demographic data: (sex, age, marital status, educational level, occupation/position/area of specialization).

Questions with Probes

1. In your own view, what do you take a prison to be?
2. How long have you worked in the prison?
3. Does length of stay of prison staff influence the correction of inmates?
4. If yes, please explain.
5. Are there some internal factors that enhance easy correction of prison inmates?
6. If there are, what are they?
7. Does effective utilization of allocated fund enhance inmates' correction?
8. Do you believe that attitude of the prison staff towards the inmates will enhance correction.
9. If yes, please explain how?
10. How is the relationship between the prison staff and inmates?
11. Identify some external factors you consider needful for proper inmates correction?
12. In detail, explain how internal factors, like congestion of prison frustrate effective correction of inmates.
13. What do you think are other internal factors that constrain the correction of inmates in your prison?
14. Are their skill acquisition impacted on the inmates in this prison?
15. How functional are the correctional facilities in the prison?
16. What other correctional programs would you like to be introduced in the prison?
17. Suggest possible ways that prison system should employ in tackling correctional challenges.
18. What are the post prison services rendered by the prison to rehabilitate ex-convicts.
19. What is the reaction of the general society towards ex-convicts?
20. Can we say that the high rate of recidivism in the country is due to inability of the prison to reform the inmates properly?
21. How is the relationship between the prison and their host community?

22. Are there other things you will like to add in respect to the topic under discourse?

Thanks for your co-operation and disposition in the conduct of this interview