



## Suggested Solutions to Recidivism by Prison Officers in Kwara State, Nigeria

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### Abstract

*Recidivism is a growing problem in the world – in Nigeria and Kwara State inclusive. Therefore, this study investigated solutions to recidivism as perceived by prison officers in Kwara State. The contributions of moderating variables of gender, religion and years in service were also investigated. Descriptive research design was adopted for the study. The population comprised all the prison officers estimated at 615 in Kwara State. Multi-stage sampling procedure was adopted to select 250 prison officers from all the five prison centers in Kwara State. A questionnaire that was designed by the researchers served as the instrument for data collection. The validity and reliability of the instrument were duly established. The data were analysed using percentages, t-test and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA). Hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance. Findings revealed that recidivism rate will be drastically reduced if prison rehabilitation programmes are being handled by professionally trained rehabilitation counsellor, if ex-convicts are assisted to utilize the entrepreneurial skills acquired in prison, and if there is a periodic evaluation of prison reformation and rehabilitation programme to ensure that the goals are being achieved. The findings further revealed significant differences in solutions to recidivism as perceived by Prison Officers in Kwara State based on religion and years in service but no significant difference was found based on gender. The findings imply that counsellors need to beam their searchlight into issues of crime, imprisonment and recidivism; counselors in-training need to be trained on strategies for rendering rehabilitation services to prison inmates.*

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## INTRODUCTION

Prison system is saddled with the responsibility, among others, to provide rehabilitation of prison inmates with the hope that they will not continue to live a life of crime after release. Unfortunately, there are some criminals who commit crime habitually. This practice is known as recidivism, which is the recurrence of criminal activity after an individual criminal has served prison term for a prior crime. It can be a measurement of a person's return to crime, or of repeated arrest or conviction (Schubert, 2016).

Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines recidivism as fall or literally to fall back. It is often used to describe the relapse rate of offenders who have initially been incarcerated for prior crime and have been discharged. Recidivism simply means falling back to a previous behaviour, especially criminal behavior. Recidivism is criminal justice term which means a situation in which a person goes back into criminal activity, especially after the person has been punished or received treatment for a previously committed crime. It is assessed by criminal activities that ended in re-arrest, re-conviction or return to prison with or without a new charge during a three-year period after the initial release (Durose, 2014). Otu and Uchenna (2014) stressed that the prison system is primal to inmates' reformation and very instrumental to prevention and control of criminal recidivism. Prison is regarded as an organised, transitional and total enclosure where people who are convicted after trial are physically emasculated for rehabilitation with a view to making them law-abiding and acceptable citizens in the mainstream society upon release. It is also a place where crime suspects awaiting trial are detained until the determination of their case. The prison serves as an institution where inmates undergo reformatory and rehabilitative training to be law-abiding after release, thereby making reintegration easy and possible and, more importantly, to deter would-be offenders and released inmates from relapsing into crime and criminality.

Chukwumerije (2012) stated that the rate at which released inmates repeatedly perpetrate crime and violence and consequently get sent back to prison after release has cast aspersions on the function and relevance of social reintegration or social support programmes in Nigerian prisons. Chukwumerije repined that

Nigeria prison is being used to breed criminals instead of using it for rehabilitation. The population that go in and out of prisons shows that there are some problems in the system and the it seems that Nigerian prison has not been able to live up to expectations of making positive impact on the lives and vocations of inmates.

Counselling aims at helping an individual with problems coping with stress, anxiety, depression practices, loneliness, alienation, addictions, criminality, etc with the belief that each individual has limitless potential and worth and everybody matters irrespective of his/her historical background. Counselling hope to make those who have struggled with a dark past find brighter days ahead. One of the ways in which counselling aims at fulfilling that task is to assist the ex-convicts who have served their various jail terms in building new lives as productive and responsible members of their respective communities and ease their reintegration process so as to avoid any tendency of relapsing into criminality.

Prevention or reduction of recidivism rate in Nigerian Prisons require, first and foremost, the collective work of all prison officers. Prison officers are those that are saddled with the responsibilities of overseeing the day-to-day activities of correctional institutions. They manage and oversee the activities of correctional facility staff to ensure safety and security of the facility, as well as the proper treatment of inmates. The functions of prison officers, according to NPS (2017) vary from one rank to the other.

Doug (2010) stated that a person has the tendency to remain the way he is being treated but will become the desired person if such man is treated the way he could be. According to Doug, sociologists and criminologists have carried out series of studies on recidivism with respective to the therapeutic approaches to reducing it. Released offenders that have gone through various rehabilitation programs in prisons were followed up for years after completion to evaluate the effect of such programme and to see if they ended up going back to jail or prison. Doug alarmed that the conclusion of the findings was that nothing works every time or on every offender and that some things that should have worked actually did more harm than good and then contributed to the increase rates of recidivism. Doug traced the evidence to the fact that recidivism rate ought to have been drastically reduced to barest minimum if those therapeutic interventions have worked.

Doug research indicates that for a correctional system to be effective at reducing recidivism it must adhere to three core concepts which involve collaboration between all law criminal justice partners; organizational development in which all organizations involved must be encouraged to be on the same page and buy into the same plan; and lastly all partners involved must be engaged in evidence-based practices.

Doug's proposition on the six basic components that might be effective in reducing recidivism include:

**Risk/Needs Assessment:** Resources should be mainly used on offenders with high or medium risk of returning to crime. It should not be towards low risk offenders. To determine who is at high risk for reoffending, the offender must be exposed to an objective risk assessment, using a validated risk assessment instrument. Validated simply means that, the instrument, over the time, has been tested and proven to determine who will reoffend, and who will not.

**Individual Motivators:** An individual offender must be assessed on what he or she loves doing. This will be very useful to "self-motivate" the offender.

**Targeting the appropriate Intervention:** Doug stressed that putting high risk offenders and low risk offenders in the same correctional programme will do more harm than good. Doug therefore proposed that effective interventions for offenders that are in custody should be structured in such a way that will take up 40-70% of high-risk offenders' time for the period 3-9 months, depending on their risk level.

**Cognitive restructuring:** Doug claimed that evidence-based programme that focuses on cognitive-behavioural strategies, handled by well-trained correctional officers has been proven successful. Skills should not just be taught to the offender, it should equally be put into practice or role-played. Though the process takes time and repetition, it is effective in cognitive restructuring through repetitive practice of pro-social behaviours.

**Increasing Positive Reinforcement:** Doug claimed that positive reinforcement (which could be in form of verbal recognition of positive behaviour) over sanctions has been found most effective in reducing criminality. Human beings have a tremendous ability to rapidly adapt to even the most negative environments and people tend to increase the frequency of a particular behaviour of motivated.

**Ongoing Support:** Once the offender is discharged and acquitted, community ongoing support becomes necessary. An offender's peer group is the number one leading factor as to whether or not the individual will return to criminal act and then prison or not. Apart from abstinence from drugs and substance abuse, staying away from crime propelling environment and friends is even tougher and those that have gone deep in a gang culture have the greatest risk of relapsing. This justify the reason why most offenders commit crime habitually and it is one of the main factors beyond prison's control. At most, as far as the corrections system goes, an effective parole and probation system is the best chance of having a positive impact on released offenders and thus reduce or eliminate recidivism.

Doug equally suggested an additional need for evaluation, feedback, and adjustment to the program on an ongoing basis.

McKean and Ransford (2004) suggested that treatment of drug and substance abuse, employment services as well as education are elemental for corrective and follow-up programmes in prison in reducing recidivism

Substance abuse, according to McKean and Ransford, is a common problem among the prison inmates, with re-addiction after release a frequent cause of recidivism and a barrier to obtaining stable employment. To avert the case of recidivism, prison inmates, upon admission to the prison, should be screened and assessed for substance abuse. Also, there should therefore be an increase in the availability of effective substance and mental health treatment for prison inmates, especially for inmates with history of drug and substance abuse

Educational programs (both formal education and vocational training) address the needs of released prison inmates to possess the necessary skills that will help in finding and retaining employment. McKean and Ransford stressed further that education is stated to have potency of reducing recidivism by 29% with the completion of high school education found to be the most compelling need. McKean and Ransford claimed that the propensity to relapse into criminality is likely to reduce if components of substance abuse treatment, education and employment services are easily accessible to prison inmates.

Employment services programs address the need of inmates that have been discharged and acquitted in order to help them to be gainfully employed. Employment services include

career development skills, job preparedness which ultimately lead to proper job placement. An inmate who is prepared for job by being exposed to various prison's skill acquisition programmes and consequently well placed in the world of works has limited or no chance of relapsing into criminal act.

Faith-based program is another antidote to recidivism because it provides various religious organisations with opportunities to interact with prison inmates. McKean and Ransford claimed that some faith-based programmes and activities has actually reduced recidivism rate by as much as 50 or even 60 percent.

Other solutions to recidivism include: parole-based, periodic evaluation of prison rehabilitation programmes, loan service for ex-convicts, creating of conducive and friendly environment for ex-convicts, provision of linkages to treatment programs outside of prison for released inmates, coordination of parole with substance abuse and mental health treatment, etc.

Also, Lerer and Stahly-Butt (2013) emphasized that recidivism rate will be reduced with factors like collaboration between state and local governments and non-profit organizations, creation of research-based evaluation tools that guide service provision, transfer of inmates to facilities in their own communities before release, combination of administrative, legislative and executive reforms, the development and implementation of alternative sanctions to revocation, increased flexibility for parole/probation officers in determining appropriate sanctions for parole/probation violations among others.

Warren (2007) study suggested evidence-based rehabilitation programmes as therapy to recidivism. Warren opined that evidence-based rehabilitation programmes will be effective and efficient in reducing recidivism and should therefore focused on moderate and high-risk offenders (those that are more likely to relapse into crime and criminality). Warren however warned that recidivism among low-risk offenders increases when they are put together in programmes with higher-risk offenders, so low risk offenders should be separated from moderate and or high-risk offender in evidence-based rehabilitation programmes. Evidence-based rehabilitation programme, according to Warren must then center on values, beliefs or behavioural patterns of the prison inmates who have higher propensity of committing crime.

#### Research Question

This research question was raised to guide the conduct of the study:

- What are the suggested solutions to recidivism by Prison Officers in Kwara State?

#### Research Hypotheses

H01: There is no significant difference in the suggested solutions to recidivism by male and female Prison Officers in Kwara State.

H02: There is no significant difference in the suggested solutions to recidivism by Prison Officers in Kwara State based on religion.

H03: There is no significant difference in the suggested solutions to recidivism Prison Officers in Kwara State based on years in service.

## RESEARCH METHOD

Descriptive survey was adopted for this study because it encourages the use of questionnaire as a tool to determine the respondents' suggested solutions to recidivism. All the Prison Officers in Kwara State estimated at 615 (NPS, 2017) participated in the study. The sample selection was done with multi-stage sampling technique. Multi-state sampling technique divides large population into stages to make the sampling process more practical (Donald & Theresa, 2014). Thus, purposive, proportional and stratified random sampling procedure were adopted. Based on Research Advisor (2016), 250 respondents were selected for the study. This sample size was determined at 95% confidence interval and 5.0% margin of error.

All the prison officers in the five prison locations (four prisons and the State Headquarters) across the State were purposefully selected for the study at stage 1. At state 2, respondents were proportionally selected in the following order: Prison Headquarters ( $200/615 * 250 = 81$ ), Oke-Kura Prison ( $160/615 * 250 = 65$ ), Mandala Prison ( $150/615 * 250 = 61$ ), Omu-Aran Prison ( $65/615 * 250 = 26$ ) and Lafiagi Prison ( $40/615 * 250 = 17$ ). At stage 3, all the respondents were stratified on their unique characteristics of gender, religious affiliation and years in service.

The instrument that was used for data collection was a questionnaire which was designed by the researchers entitled "Suggested Solutions to Recidivism Questionnaire" (SSRQ). The questionnaire has twenty (20)

items on suggested solutions to recidivism by prison officers in Kwara State. The questionnaire comprised two sections of A and B. Section A elicits information on respondents' demographic data of gender, religion and years in service while Section B contains 20 items on suggested solutions to recidivism.

The questionnaire was in a four point Likert-type rating scale pattern of SA (Strongly Agree); A (Agree); D (Disagree); and SD (Strongly Disagree). The data were analysed using percentages, mean ranking, t-test and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) statistical tools. All the null hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance.

## RESULTS

Table 1 shows the distribution of respondents by gender, religion and years in service. The results indicated that 148 (59.2%) of the respondents were males while 102 (40.8%) were females. Also, 11 (4.4%) of the respondents were adherents of Africa Traditional Religion, 101 (40.4%) were Christians while 138 (55.2%) of the respondents were Muslims. Results further revealed that 72 (28.8%) of the respondents have spent 1-5 years in service, 102 (40.8%) have spent 6-10 years in service, 52 (20.8%) of the respondents have spent 11-15 years in service while 24 (9.6%) of the respondents have spent up to 16 years and above in service.

Research Question: What are the suggested solutions to recidivism by Prison Officers

**Table 1:** Distribution of Respondents by Gender, Religion and Years in Service

Demographic Data	Frequency	Percentage (%)
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	148	59.2
Female	102	40.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Religious Affiliation</b>		
ATR	11	4.4
Christianity	101	40.4
Islam	138	55.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Years in Service</b>		
1-5 years	72	28.8
6-10 years	102	40.8
11-15 years	52	20.8
16 years and above	24	9.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 3:** Mean, SD and t-value on solutions to recidivism based on gender.

Gender	N	Mean	Std. Dev	df	Cal. t-value	Crit. t-value	p-value
Male	148	63.4797	7.8761				
Female	102	62.4314	10.2497	248	0.91	1.96	0.053

**Table 4:** ANOVA table on Suggested Solutions to Recidivism by Prison Officers in Kwara State based on religion

Source of Variance	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Squares	Calc. F-ratio	Crit. F-ratio	p-value
Between Group	506.4	2	253.2	3.24*	3.00	0.041
Within Group	19284.0	247	78.1			
Total	19790.4	249				

\*p<0.05

**Table 2:** Mean and Rank Order on Suggested Solutions to Recidivism

No.	In my perception, recidivism can be solved if:	Mean	Rank
3	reformation programme for prison inmates is handled by professionally trained rehabilitation counsellors	3.50	1 <sup>st</sup>
6	prisoners, upon release, are assisted to utilize entrepreneurial skills acquired in prison	3.38	2 <sup>nd</sup>
17	there is a periodic evaluation of rehabilitation program to ensure the goals are being achieved	3.32	3 <sup>rd</sup>
5	prison correctional officers maintain professional cordiality with prison inmates while discharging their duties	3.24	4 <sup>th</sup>
19	government embraces evidence based correctional treatment	3.20	5 <sup>th</sup>
20	the inmates are motivated to positive change	3.20	5 <sup>th</sup>
10	there is an intensive correctional treatment for offenders with high tendency of recidivating	3.20	5 <sup>th</sup>
18	inmates are screened and assessed for mental illness and substance abuse	3.18	8 <sup>th</sup>
7	government enacts law that protects ex-convicts against abuse or discrimination	3.16	9 <sup>th</sup>
11	there is an increase in the availability of effective substance treatment and mental health treatment for inmates	3.15	10 <sup>th</sup>
4	government makes adequate provisions for ex-convicts to facilitate their re-integration into the society e.g loan facility	3.13	11 <sup>th</sup>
2	prison inmates, upon release, are referred to professionally trained rehabilitation/guidance counsellors for help	3.11	12 <sup>th</sup>
8	ex-convicts are not denied employment opportunities based on their past crime records	3.11	12 <sup>th</sup>
12	educational and vocational programs are more accessible to inmates	3.10	14 <sup>th</sup>
16	all criminal justice partners are involved in correctional treatment	3.09	15 <sup>th</sup>
1	the society unconditionally accepts ex-convicts	3.06	16 <sup>th</sup>
13	there is provision of effective and intensive parole supervision, case management and monitoring after release	3.06	16 <sup>th</sup>
15	all the stakeholders assume the responsibility of helping offenders succeed after imprisonment	3.06	16 <sup>th</sup>
9	prison intervention programs target crime-producing needs	2.98	18 <sup>th</sup>
14	linkages to treatment programs outside of prison for released inmates are provided	2.98	18 <sup>th</sup>
		2.90	20 <sup>th</sup>

**Table 5:** DMRT on the Suggested Solutions to Recidivism based on religion.

Religious Affiliation	N	Group	Mean	D u n c a n ' s Grouping
African Traditional Religion	11	1	65.27	A
Islam	138	3	64.12	B
Christianity	101	2	61.35	C

in Kwara State?

Table 2 shows the mean and rank order analysis of response on suggested solutions to recidivism by prison officers in Kwara State. The results revealed that items 3, 6 and 17 ranked as the top 3. Item 3 (reformation programme for prison inmates is handled by professionally trained rehabilitation counsellors) ranked 1st with a mean score of 3.50, followed by item 6 (prisoners, upon release, are assisted

to utilize entrepreneurial skills acquired in prison) with the mean score of 3.38 while item 17 (there is a periodic evaluation of rehabilitation program to ensure the goals are being achieved) ranked 3rd with the means score of 3.

However, items 15, 9 and 14 ranked as the least 3 with 15 (all the stakeholders assume the responsibility of helping offenders succeed after imprisonment) and 9 (prison intervention programs target crime-producing needs) both



**Table 6:** ANOVA table on Suggested Solutions to Recidivism by Prison Officers in Kwara State based on years in service

Source of Variance	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Squares	Calc. F-ratio	Crit. F-ratio	p-value
Between Group	1573.6	3	524.5	7.08*	2.60	0.00
Within Group	18216.8	246	74.05			
Total	19790.4	249				

\*p<0.05

**Table 7:** DMRT on Solutions to Recidivism based on years in service

Years in service	N	Group	Mean	Duncan's Grouping
1-5 years	72	1	63.63	A
6-10 years	102	2	62.93	B
11-15years	52	3	65.71	C
16 years and above	24	4	56.04	D

ranked 18th with the mean score of 2.98 while item 14 (linkages to treatment programs outside of prison for released inmates are provided) ranked least (20th) with the mean score of 2.90.

Since the mean scores of all the items are greater than the mid-mean score of 2.50, it can thus be inferred that the items were perceived by prison officers in Kwara State as solutions to recidivism.

#### Hypotheses Testing

Hypothesis One: There is no significant difference in the suggested solutions to recidivism by male and female Prison Officers in Kwara State.

Results in table 3 show that calculated t-value of 0.91 is less than the critical t-value of 1.96 with corresponding p-value of 0.053 which is greater than 0.05 level of significance. Since p-value is greater than the alpha level, the null hypothesis is therefore not rejected. This indicates that male and female respondents were of the same perceptions regarding patterns of recidivism.

Hypothesis Two: There is no significant difference in the suggested solutions to recidivism by Prison Officers in Kwara State based on religion

The above table shows that religion has influence on the suggested solutions to recidivism by Prison Officers in Kwara State with (F2, 247 = 3.24, p < 0.05). Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected. This indicates that prison officers of various religion were differ on suggested solutions of recidivism. However, Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT) was carried out as a post-hoc test to determine the magnitude of difference of respondents' perception on causes of recidivism in table 5.

Results in table 5 show the magnitude of difference in the suggested solutions to recidivism based on religion. It is observed that all the groups contributed to the difference noted in the ANOVA table. However, it can be adjudged that group 1 with highest mean score of 65.27 contributed most to the difference in table 4.

Hypothesis Three: There is no significant difference in the suggested solutions to recidivism by Prison Officers in Kwara State based on years in service

The table above showed that years in service influence the respondents' suggested solutions to recidivism with (F3, 246 = 7.08, p < 0.05). Thus, the null hypothesis is rejected. However, Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT) was carried out as a post-hoc test in table 7 to determine the variable which contributed most to the difference noted in the ANOVA table

The results revealed that all the groups contributed to the difference noted in the ANOVA table. However, it can be inferred that group 3 with the highest mean score of 65.71 contributed most to the difference noted in the ANOVA table.

## DISCUSSION

The finding of the study revealed that recidivism rate will be solved or drastically reduced if prison rehabilitation programmes are being handled by professionally trained rehabilitation counsellor, if ex-convicts are assisted to utilize the entrepreneurial skills acquired in prison, and if there is a periodic evaluation of prison reformation and rehabilitation programme to ensure that the goals are

being achieved. The finding of the solutions to recidivism is in line with McKean and Ransford (2004) that suggested the components substance abuse treatment, education and employment services for programs in prison and for aftercare programs in the society in reducing recidivism. McKean and Ransford stressed further that education is stated to have potency of reducing recidivism by 29% with the completion of high school education found to be the most compelling need. McKean and Ransford claimed that the propensity to relapse into criminality is likely to reduce if components of substance abuse treatment, education and employment services are easily accessible to prison inmates. Other solutions to recidivism according to McKean and Ransford include: parole-based programme, periodic evaluation of prison rehabilitation programmes, loan service for ex-convicts, creating of conducive and friendly environment for ex-convicts, provision of linkages to treatment programs outside of prison for released inmates, coordination of parole with substance abuse and mental health treatment, etc. Otu and Ochenna (2014) study reveals that recidivism is a child of multiplicity factors such as situational, personal, familial, structural, psychological and economic, among others. Otu and Ochenna further stressed that Nigerian prison system lacks the facilities for inmates' reformation and rehabilitation and that the few available correctional facilities are outdated and incapable of rehabilitating and empowering inmates upon release. Warren (2007) suggested that evidence-based rehabilitation programmes of prison inmates will be effective in reducing recidivism and should therefore focus on moderate and high-risk offenders, i.e., those that are more likely to relapse into crime and criminality. Warren however warned that recidivism among low-risk offenders increases when they are included in programs with higher-risk offenders, so low risk offenders should be separated from moderate and high-risk offender in evidence-based rehabilitation programmes for prison inmate. Evidence-based rehabilitation programme, according to Warren, must equally be centered on values, beliefs or behaviour of the prison inmates that are with higher propensity of committing crime and criminality. A survey carried out by Pew Centre on the States Reports (2011) suggested that recidivism will be drastically reduced if the prison correctional programmes address criminal risk factors and to ensure evidence-based programmes and practices.

The report also stressed that recidivism will be solved if the correctional institution is safe and secure. Other solutions to recidivism include substance abuse and mental health treatment, job training and placement, effective reentry programmes among others.

There was no significant difference in the suggested solutions to recidivism by Prison Officers in Kwara State on the basis of gender and by implication it means that gender do not influence the prison officers' perception on the solutions to recidivism. The reason for the finding could be because that the prison officers have been with the prison inmates for some times and have the perfect and practical intervention measures of preventing prison recidivism. However, the finding is not in tandem with the earlier finding of Lerman and Page (2012) who stated that though assessment of gender-related trends in prison officers' perception are difficult as a result of the small percentage of female prison officers, male prison officers are less supportive than female prison officers.

There was a significant difference in the suggested solutions to recidivism by Prison Officers in Kwara State based on religion. This indicates that religious affiliation intervene with prison officers' perception on the solutions to recidivism. The reason for the finding could be that various religion see offenders from different perspectives. For example, while prison officers who are practicing Christianity might be open to the concept of mercy in judgment and embrace prison rehabilitation, those who practice Islam and ATR might be open to the concept of tooth for tooth in the name of Sharia law, hence they might not totally be open to the concept of rehabilitation and this might consequently affect the prison officers' suggested solution to recidivism. The finding of the study was in contrast with the finding of Agali (2003) who stressed that since all the prison inmates are being exposed to the same prison condition (all sharing the same goals and pains) both Christian and Muslim prison inmates responded positively to the treatments and were optimistic that, individually, the skills taught would assist them in adjusting and re-integrating back into the society upon release from prison.

There was a significant difference in the suggested solutions to recidivism by Prison Officers in Kwara State based on years in service. This indicates that prison officers of different years in service differ in their perception about



the solutions to recidivism. The reason for the finding could be due to the general belief that experience grows with age. Prison officers who have spent more years in service are likely to be more exposed and experience in handling prison inmate which consequently leads to advanced knowledge in tackling and reducing recidivism. The finding was in line with the finding of Agali (2003) who stated that though prison inmates of various length of years in jail had improved adjustment level and needs, the improvement was not as a result of how long they serve in prison or what their prison term is like. Agali however claimed that prison inmates serving short or long term sentences had improved adjustment level as a result of the treatment received while serving their prison term. In other word, how long a prison stays in prison (without treatment) does not guarantee that he/she will not be reincarnated. The finding, from the prison officers' perception is possibly due to the fact that all prison officers are expected to be therapeutic in nature irrespective of how long they have been in service, though they long they serve the more therapeutic they should be. The finding upholds Agali's finding on the need for effective prison rehabilitation programmes with the aim of reducing the rate of recidivism to the bearable point.

## CONCLUSION

### Counselling Implications

The findings of this study have some implications for Counsellor. It was discovered that recidivism rate will be solved or drastically reduced if prison rehabilitation programmes are being handled by professionally trained rehabilitation counsellor, if ex-convicts are assisted to utilize the entrepreneurial skills acquired in prison, and if there is a periodic evaluation of prison reformation and rehabilitation programme to ensure that the goals are being achieved.

Counsellor should research more into the theory of crime, rationale for imprisonment and recidivism. Counsellors should be actively involved in prison rehabilitation programmes. Counsellors-in-training should be trained on rehabilitation counselling. Counsellors should collaborate with appropriate stakeholders so as to be able to provide follow up services for released inmates and ensure their ease re-integration into the society. Prison rehabilitation counsellors should encourage periodic evalua-

tion of prison rehabilitation programme as to ensure that its aims are being pursued.

### Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, it is recommended that:

- Counselling units should be created and empowered to function in prisons. Professional rehabilitation counsellors should be employed in various counselling units in prison.
- Counselling rehabilitation programmes in prisons should be reviewed to see if it upholds the aim of imprisonment.
- There should be proper and effective follow up services for released offenders to help them to re-integrate into the society with ease

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