GLOBALIZATION TRENDS IN PRISON EDUCATION CURRICULUM FOR NATIONAL GROWTH AND PRODUCTIVITY

Eguagie Idemudia and Samson I. Uduehi

Abstract

The paper examines the concept of prisons, the functions of prisons to every society, the prevailing situations and the reasons for the overcrowded nature in the Nigerian prisons were also examined, also the prison community and its deprivations, the problem of the supervisor (Staff) were also discussed. Furthermore, the need for reformation, the role of education as a panacea was carefully discussed. The study revealed that the management of prisons in Nigeria is below the standard of United Nation recommendation and the standard set in section 3 of the prison regulation establishing prison in Nigeria. The Authors suggested how to ensure a proper reformation and rehabilitation in Nigeria prisons in other to meet the global standard, in other to attain national growth and productivity in the country.

Introduction

Prisons exist globally in all societies. The management of inmates (offenders) and supervisors called the (staff) that regulates the inmates in prisons custody varies from one society to another. In some societies, mostly the developed countries, the needs and rights of inmates are closer to the United Nations specification. However, the situation is quite contrary to what is obtained in Nigeria prison.

The emergency of the colonial masters marked the official beginning of the various status of prisons hitherto. According to Evawoma-Enuku, (2001) these are the prisons ordinance of 1916, laws of Nigeria (1948 and 1958) and the prison decree No. 9 of 1972. A government white paper in 1971 outlined the functions of the prison service to include: custody, diagnosis, correction, training and rehabilitation of incarcerated offenders. Also the Nigeria prison service staff duties manual listed an additional function, generation for the government through prison farm and industries. Similarly, the colonial ordinance of 1916 and laws of Nigeria 1946 and 1958 indentified the functions of the prison to include the safe custody of a prisoner. A close study of colonial and post colonial laws seems to emphasize the custodial functions of the prison while silent on correctional functions of the modern prison.

According to Okunola etal, imprisonment as a form of punishment was not new to many societies in pre-colonial Nigeria. For example the traditional legal system in the north established the Gidan Yari (which is often behind the palace of the Emir); the Yorubas has the Ogboni room and the Edos had the Ewedo house. In fact, Fredric Lugard description of Kano City’s Gidan Yari in 1903 as follows:

*The interior is divided into departments, each 17ft and the walls were pierced with holes at base through which legs of those sentenced to death thrust up to their thigh, and they were left to be trodden till they die. It is unventilated except for one hole on the wall through which they creep in. the total space is 261 cubic feet and at the time Kano was taken over, there were 135 inmates. As quoted in Meek ) cited in Okunola etal (2002).*

Various researches have revealed that the total prison inmates population is alarming. In the words of (Evawoma-Enuku 2001) the total prison inmates’ population has been on the increase in recent years reaching well over 70,000 in 1997. Available literature argued that because of their confinement, they eventually are denied non-formal and formal education, health feeding and even bed space. However, (Evawoma-Enuku, 2001) argued that limited resources allocated for education programme has been responsible for the little systematic education provision for prison inmates in Nigeria since the inception of prison service.

In view of the overcrowded nature of the Nigeria prisons that have reported by many studies http://www.africa.upenn.edu/afrfocuso22608.htm and www.afrole.com/articles13361. It is expedient...
to examinant to examine the prison with an emphasis on correctional education; this paper focuses on the need to humanize the Nigeria prison system through education provision. This is believed will help the ex-offenders to develop social skills and a better understanding of their lives and the society.

### Prison Capacity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prison</th>
<th>ATP's</th>
<th>Convicts</th>
<th>Total Inmates</th>
<th>Prison Capacity</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kano</td>
<td>592</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>817</td>
<td>670</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goron Dutse</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>475</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirikiri Medium</td>
<td>1768</td>
<td>521</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>704</td>
<td>1585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirikiri Maximum</td>
<td>1139</td>
<td>736</td>
<td>1875</td>
<td>1056</td>
<td>819</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ikoyi</td>
<td>1517</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>1661</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Harcourt</td>
<td>965</td>
<td>379</td>
<td>1344</td>
<td>804</td>
<td>540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaje</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Vanguard, Friday June 26, 1998. Pg. 27 Awaiting trial Persons

The thrust of this paper is that in view of the marginal nature of the educational programs and the inhuman conditions in Nigeria prisons, there is an urgent need for a “reformulation” i.e humanizing approach to penal administration via education and other socio-cultural approaches. Such an approach is encouraged by United Nation Declaration of the right to education, work health services and culture and five resolution adopted at the United Nations in 1990.

The rest of our discussion will be structures as follows; section (1) the concept of prison: a sociological sketch; section (2) the role of prison in the criminal justice system in Nigeria; section (3) the need of prison reformation in Nigeria section (4) reasons for the overcrowded nature of Nigeria prison; section (5) the prison community and its deprivation; section (6) education; as a panacea to reformation and rehabilitation in prison; section (7) recommendation and conclusions.

**The Concept of Prison: a Sociological Sketch**

Sociologically, the prison is a place of confinement. It is a place where offenders are kept; according to McCorkle and Korn (1970-409). Cited in Okunola, A. etal.

A prison is a physical structure in a geographical location where a number of people living under highly specialized conditions, utilize the resources and adjust to the alternatives presented to them by a unique kind of social environment (see also Rottman & Kimberly, 1975).

In the words of Late Awolowo, O. (1985), there is nothing cheering about prison life. The buildings are dull; the cells are semi-dark and the vast majority of inmates are rough in mind and body. They constitute a kind of state with functionaries within prisons.

According to Goffman (1961), it is a castle-like structure isolated from the community and is expected to protect the law abiding from the “undesirables”. Thus, the prison is organized to protect the larger community against what are though to be intentional dangers to it. From this root the welfare of the prisons thus suggested is not the immediate issues.

Odekenle (1974) reported that a prison is an isolated community often with high walls, locked orders and barbed wire. It is expected to return its ‘clients’, who were once the undesirables of society, back as ‘fists’ into the mainstream macro society. Adekola (1994:125) commenting on sociology of the prison opined that the physical appearances of the prison, of tall walls, supplanting with barbed wires, an iron gate antiquated buildings separate their prisons from its community. These isolated structures are meant to accomplish the confinement aspect while confinement itself is supposed to detach the personal from his previous infections group. This ‘new world’, it is expected, will provide the inmate with particular opportunities of rethinking stocktaking and register of his ways. It is this reformative function of the prison that has been called to question given what would appear to be the punitive ideology of the prison system.
The prison as a community has some features which center on the breakdown of barriers ordinarily separating three major spheres of life that are often taken for granted. These are in the areas of sleep, play and work. According to Goffman (1961); McCorkle and Korn (1970); Morgan (1977), these features include:

a. All aspect of inmates life are conducted in the same place and under the same single authority;

b. Member’s daily activity are highly scheduled and imposed from above through a system of explicit formal rulings and body of officials;

c. Phrases of day’s activities are highly scheduled and imposed from above through a system of explicit formal rulings and body of officials;

d. The contents of the various enforced activities form part of a single overall national plan designed to fulfill the official’s aims of the institutions.

Furthermore, in the prison community there is a split. The first group comprises of a large class of individuals who live and who restricted contact with the world outside the walls; this group constitutes the inmates (offenders). The second group, a small class, that supervises the inmates are called the staff and are socially integrated into the outside world.

Reasons for Prisons Overcrowdedness

Available studies revealed that Nigeria prisons are overcrowded. See com/webpages/opinion2009/jan/21/opinion21-01-001htm, www.afreol.com/articles13361, also http://www.africa.upenn.edu/afrfocus/afrfocus022608.html has all agreed that Nigeria prisons are filled with people whose human rights are systematically violated for the following reasons listed below:

i. 65 percent of Nigeria’s inmates have never been convicted of any crime, with some awaiting trial for up to ten years;

ii. Most persons (inmates) are unable to afford a private lawyers;

iii. With only 91 legal aid lawyers working in the country, they cannot be able to cover the inmates in the prisons.

iv. Some could end up spending the rest of their lives behind bars due to their case file having been lost by police

v. Some were arrested in place of family members by the police by those they could not locate; others suffer from mental illness and were brought to prison by families unable or unwilling to take care of them.

The Role of Prisons in the Criminal Justice System in Nigeria

The modern prison that was imported into Nigeria by the colonial masters started in Nigeria in 1872 when the first prison was established at Broad Street, Lagos Nigeria today has some 132 ‘modern’ prisons spread across the 36 states and the federal capital territory of Abuja.

The society confines offenders in the prison for a number of reasons. Some of these reasons that bother on punishment are see (Obioha, E) perhaps it is important to note here that one of the justifications for imprisonment rests on its legal uses custody coercion and punishment (see Morgan, 1977) cited in Okunola etal.

The Prison Community and its Deprivation

Available studies, CLO (1995) and Adeola (1994) both agreed that inmates deprivation in prisons are endless, for the purpose of this paper, the deprivation in prison and its community will be briefly highlighted:

a. The standard of living of prisoners can be hopelessly inadequate undernourished.

b. The overcrowding has an adverse effect on the health of the inmates. Most treatment were limited to administration of drugs such as panadol, and there are occasions when prisoners have had to procure the drugs through outside sources like spending from their earning scheme or asking relations to provide the money for such procurement.

c. The facilities for personal hygiene are in as terrible a state as those of environmental hygiene. There is a hardly a male prisoner who has his bath once in two days.
The Need for Prison Reformation in Nigeria

Several studies and various websites, in this write-up, it is reported that Nigerian prison are overcrowded, also the Amnesty International Delegates, State Attorneys General, Judges, Magistrates, Lawyers and human right, Non-government Organization (NGO), Educationist, Social Scientist have also joined in the “cry” to reform the Nigeria prisons. In the word of former president Olusegun Obasanjo, a former inmate, described the situation of inmates awaiting trial as inhuman.

The authors are of the views if the purpose of establishing prisons is to meet the five resolutions adopted at the United Nations in 1990 which also will satisfies the standard set in section 3 of the prisons regulations. There is therefore an urgent “cry” by all stakeholders for a reformation in Nigeria prisons. All the stakeholders mentioned above including the Federal Government, National House of Assembly should come together to address the issues of congestion, access to justice for those on pre-trial detention (inmates awaiting trial) to improve prison conditions, inadequate and poor faculties, denial of food, mattress, recidivism, access to adequate lawyer from Director of Public Prosecution. A situation where lawyers are inadequate to the inmates should all be address etc and their attendant consequences will make the prison function of reformation and rehabilitation difficult to achieve. On the other hand also, the attitude of members of the public to the released prisoner and the wide spread poverty that characterizes Nigeria society have also made the rate of return of reconvict to prison to be very high, thus making even more unrealizable the ideas of reformation and rehabilitation of the Nigeria prison a reality.

The Role of Education in Prisons Reformation in Criminal Justice System in Nigeria

The role of Education is indispensable to prison reformation in Nigeria. According to Evawoma-Enuku perspective, as a result of the inadequacy of the prison system throughout the world that was discussed at ICAE conference in Paris in 1982 (ICAE 1986). Following the discussion, an education and criminal justice programme was initiated. It was expected to have contact with both international bodies’ interested in criminal justice such as the crime prevention and crime justice branch and other organs of the United Nations (ICAE, 1986).

Through its contact with the UN advisory committee, the international council for Adult Education (ICAE) intends to press for amendment of the UN standard and minimum rules for the treatment of prisons. If the amendment can get through there would be universal basis for fundamental criminal justice policy with regard to an educational approach to the administration of prisoners.

Objectives of the Educational and Criminal Justice Programme

At this point in the discussion, one might ask: what are the objectives of the intended ICAE programme? According to the ICAE (1986), they include:

i. To introduce, develop and gain acceptance as an educational approach in the field of criminal justice especially in the area of panel administration and crime prevention.
ii. To persuade national educational authorities to take up their natural role in these areas
iii. To persuade national government to adopt panel policies which include the following:
   a) Every person shall be regarded as having an intrinsic dignity and value in himself regardless of his condition and entirely apart from any institutional or social objectives he may serve.
b) Panel institutions shall have as one of their essential purpose at least equal in importance to any other purpose to facilitate and encourage the development of the individual human person.

iv. To project the ideal that prisons should be administered by ministries of education rather than ministries of justice.

v. To persuade university faculties of education to undertake research programme in the areas of crime prevention and panel administration and to develop training programme for people preparing for careers in these fields.

To persuade national government to ask the United Nations to adopt an ICAE draft resolution to amend the UN standard Minimum Rules for the treatment of prisoner (IBE; 1986).

The ICAE new educational initiative is timely because it has been recognized for some years that other approaches to crime prevention and prisoner rehabilitation have largely failed and because there is good reason to believe that an education will be more successful (UNESCO; 1986). Why has the modern prison always failed and everywhere in its basis aim of reformation and social rehabilitation? The reasons for this failure are that government and other stakeholders have had insensitive attitude, also the non implementation of intended ICAE programme. In other words emphasis to an educational approach to administration of prisoners should complement what is already on ground.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Nigeria prison established by the colonial ordinance, although it performs the role of the custodial purpose, it has not been able to achieve corrective and reformative purposes as a result of Nigeria government insensitivity towards the prisons system. Successive government has attempted to reform and rehabilitate the prison but much success has not been achieved. However, if the suggestions put forward by the authors are strictly adhered to by policy makers; it is believe it will help to minimize the other population of Nigeria prisons. Also the end product is that it will enhance or lead to the attainment of national growth and productivity in the country. This is so because many of the inmates will become useful to themselves and the society at large during and after their prison jail terms.

Recommendation

The authors are of the view that if the Nigeria prisoners are to achieve reformation successfully and realize national growth and productivity, there is need for a change of attitude by the Judiciary and the Directorate of Public Prosecution which are the police and lawyers. The prolonged process of investigation by the police and the continuous adjournment of case by judges which is a function of the police and the lawyers should be seriously addressed. Also the international Council for Adult Education (CAE) and other international bodies, organs of the United Nations should come together to implement the objectives of the Education and criminal justice programme listed above. Also the Federal Government and the National House of Assembly and other stakeholders should be sensitive to the prison system in Nigeria.

References


Goffman, Ervin, Asylum (1961): New York; Double Day-Anchor
http://www.africa.upenn.edu/afrfocus/afrfocus-22608.html
http://tinyurl.com/2fzwr9
http://www.africafocus.org/country/nigeria.php

International Council for Adult Education (ICAE) (1986): Education and criminal justice programme; ICAE Newsletter, No. 1 September, P.!


Rothman, b. David & John R. Kimberly (1975): The Social context of jails in sociology of social research, 59 (1) Los Angelis; University of South California press.
