

Recidivism and Emotional Intelligence of Male Recidivists in Lagos State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT Recidivism cuts across all nations in the world with its negative consequences on individuals, and the social and economic spheres of life. Despite various intervention strategies, the rate of recidivism has been on the increase. This calls for concern and a need to find a solution to the social malaise. The present study was designed to investigate emotional intelligence of male recidivists in some prisons in Lagos State, Nigeria. The study adopted a quantitative research method, using the descriptive survey research design. The sample for the study consisted of one hundred and five male recidivists from Maximum Security Prisons, Medium Security Prisons and Ikoyi Security Prisons, in Lagos. Purposive sampling was adopted for this study. One research question and two Null hypotheses guided the study. Data were obtained from the participants using two major instruments namely; Male Recidivist Personal Data Questionnaire (MRPDQ) Emotional Intelligence Tests (EQ). The EQ test has a reliability co-efficient alpha 0.92. The research question was answered using simple percentage while the first hypothesis was analysed using the t-test and a One-Way Analysis of Variance was used for the second hypothesis. The result showed that most male recidivists have low emotional intelligence. It is also revealed that there is a significant difference in the emotional intelligence of male recidivists on the basis of nature of offence. Based on the findings of this study, it was recommended that emotional intelligence training should be included in the rehabilitation curriculum of Nigeria Prison Service.

INTRODUCTION

Crime as well as recidivism pervades all the societies of the world. Recidivism remains a considerable problem which faces societies and governments throughout the world (Rakis 2005: 7-12; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime 2012: 8). In the recently published review of recidivism among released prisoners in 30 American states, over 67.8% of the 404,638 prisoners released in 2005 were re-arrested within 3 years while 76.6% were arrested within five years (Durose et al. 2014). Recidivism has not only being on the increase in Sub-Saharan Africa, but has become a major social problem affecting the society, governments, multinationals, humanitarian organisations the world over (Osayi 2013: 1). Recidivism is not limited to adult criminals,

but also to the young ones. A major concern in the area of juvenile delinquency is the repeated arrests and incarceration of young offenders. Thompson and Morris (2013) reports that recidivism rate amongst juvenile offenders has remained high and stable with estimates of reoffending ranging from 30-90%. Mendel (2011: 1-3) reported that 81 per cent of male and 45 per cent of female children were re-arrested within 36 months after release from the South Africa Division for youth.

Although there have been controversies on the definition and measurement of recidivism. Recidivism is defined as a return to prison (Florida Department of Corrections 2014). The US Legal (2012: 1) also describe recidivism as “the rate of prisoners who after, being released return to prison or jail because they have committed another crime”. According to Payne (2007) recidivism refers to repetitious criminal activity and is synonymous with terms such as “repeat offending” and “re-offending”. A recidivist according to California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (2014) is an individual convicted of a felony and incarcerated in a CDCR adult prison that was released to parole, discharged from CDCR during a defined period and subsequently returned to prison during a specified follow up period. A recidivist offender is generally seen

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as one who engages in repeated criminal activity. For the purpose of this study, recidivism refers to a repeat of a criminal offence by an offender for which he has been sentenced to imprisonment as punishment.

Efforts have been made by different researchers to offer explanation on factors that could be responsible for the increase in the rate of recidivism. Dooley et al. (2014) submit that prison gang membership increases the probability of both re-arrest and recidivism; according to a report by Florida Department of Corrections (2014) factors that predispose criminals to re-offend include substance abuse, criminal history, educational level, no marriage, nature of offence and age of first arrest among others. In a different paper, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (2014) identified overcrowding, level of community support for offenders; cost avoidance, procedural discretion as predictors of recidivism. Liem et al. (2014) in a paper that examined recidivism among homicide offenders concludes that race, peer influence, age at first offence, criminal history and socio-economic factors as some of the indicators that could lead to general criminal recidivism.

According to Grieger and Hosser (2014), Andrews and Bonta's Big Four and Moderate Four risk factors predict general and violent recidivism among young offenders among German Youth Correctional facility. Andrews and Bonta (2010) developed a risk need factor responsibility model of offender behaviour treatment that includes a classification of the treatment which includes a classification of the central eight risk factors of recidivism that is based on on general personality models and cognitive social learning perspectives as well as on research results (Andrews et al. 2012). According to the model, the so called Big Four risk factors (history of anti-social behaviour, anti-social personality, anti-social are causal risk factors that strongly predict criminal recidivism (Andrews and Bonita 2010). The Moderate Four risk factors (family, marital circumstances, school/work, leisure/recreation, and substance abuse) are conceptualised as having an additional but weaker impact on the predictive validity for recidivism. Drago et al. (2011) submits that harsh prison condition, isolation, being stripped of civil rights and reluctance in absorbing ex-prison inmates into the society; difficulty in getting jobs and

accommodation pre disposes offenders to go back to crime. Other predictors of recidivism include mental health problems (Ostermann and Matejowski 2012); anti-social personality (Howard et al. 2013); psychopathy (Harris and Marnie 2006); impoverished neighbourhood (Hipp et al. 2010) and gender (Benda 2005; McElfresh et al. 2009: 22).

In Nigeria, researchers has alluded to the fact that there is an increase in the rate of recidivism and that male offenders have greater propensity to reoffend (Igbo and Ugwuoke 2003; Soyombo 2009; Ugwuoke 2010; Abrifor et al. 2012: 42; Tennibiaje 2013; Osayi 2013). Factors that could lead to an increase in the rate of recidivism among male ex-prisoners have been identified. Igbo and Ugokwe (2003) listed prison environment conditions and negative attitude of the public towards ex-convicts as two major factors responsible for increase in recidivism. Ugwuoke (2010) submitted that stigmatisation, defective prison system which promotes the dissemination and exchange of criminal influences and ideas are the causes of increase in recidivism in Anambra State, South East, Nigeria. Chenube (2011) identified alcohol and substance abuse as being directly linked to crime and recidivism.

Tennibiaje (2013) reported that educational attainment and peer group influence are predictors of increase in the rate of recidivism among male prisoners in Ekiti State, South west, Nigeria. Other predisposing factors which increase recidivism among male recidivists in Nigeria are gender, marital status, number of siblings, family background, imprisonment terms and type of crime (Abrifor et al. 2012).

Although there have been an increasing number of researches dedicated to correlate of recidivism relatively little has been devoted to the role of emotion and emotional intelligence as a predictor of recidivism. There is also a dearth of studies and literature on recidivism and emotional intelligence of recidivists generally. Emphasis has been on physical factors and not on psychological factors such as emotions and emotional intelligence. This identified gap in research as regards the emotional intelligence of recidivists is what this study intends to provide answers to by investigating the emotional intelligence of male recidivists in some selected prisons in Lagos State.

Emotions are defined as a complex state of feeling that results in physical and psychologi-

cal changes that influences thought and behaviour (Cherry 2014). Emotions are also described as an integral and significant aspect of human nature and motivation for behaviour (Bracket et al. 2004). Similarly, Akinboye (2006) submit that emotion is central to all human endeavours including our thoughts and actions, hence the need to pay attention to it. Highlighting the importance of emotions (Lopes et al. 2005) submit that perceiving and understanding emotions can help people to interpret social cues and select the appropriate response for action. Hence, when an individual does not understand nor perceive emotions correctly it may lead to taking inappropriate action such as involvement in crime and reoffending.

The ability to manage one's emotion is called emotional intelligence. Emotional intelligence is a construct that has generated a lot of research in the field of education, business, psychology and counselling among others. The concept emotional intelligence became popular after a book publication - *Emotional Intelligence: Why it can matter more than IQ* by David Goleman in America in 1995. Salovey and Mayer (1990) observed that emotional intelligence consists of four branches namely:

- (a) Identifying emotions – involves the ability to recognise how you and those around you are feeling.
- (b) Using emotions to facilitate thought – involves the ability to generate an emotion, and then reason with this emotion generated.
- (c) Understanding emotions – involves the ability to understand complex emotions and emotional “chains”, how emotions make transition from one stage to another.
- (d) Managing emotion – involves the ability to manage your emotions and those of others.

Goleman (1995) in his own submission on components of emotional intelligence agreed to some extent with Mayer and Salovey, but stressed that emotional intelligence consists of five components, namely knowing one's emotions (self-awareness), managing one's emotions, motivating self, recognising the emotions in others (empathy), and handling relationships. An emotionally intelligent person could be described as well-adjusted, warm, genuine, persistent and optimistic (Mayer et al. 1990; Salovey and Mayer 1990).

From the characteristics of emotionally intelligent people explained above, it must be emphasised that such people will not engage in criminal activities let alone re-offending. Bracket et al. (2004) opined that emotional intelligence protects males from engaging in potentially harmful behaviour such as drug use and social deviance.

But Erasmus (2007) reported that inappropriate behaviour, which may include recidivism, is a result of people's inability to control their emotions. Aucoin (2005) corroborated this assertion when he stated that offenders have shown a significant deficit in emotional intelligence which predisposes them to keep on committing crime despite being punished for an earlier offense committed. Goleman (2006) submits that the majority of recidivists suffer from a short circuit in the social brain which is essential in expressing empathy; an aspect of emotional intelligence and for regulating emotional impulses. Since all the studies reviewed on recidivism and emotional intelligence are foreign, this study intends to explore the emotional intelligence of male recidivists in some selected prisons in Lagos State, South West, Nigeria. In addition the study aims to develop emotional intelligence training packages that could be used by psychologists and prison officials to improve the emotional intelligence of recidivists. This is expected to reduce the rate of male recidivism

Statement of the Problem

For over ten years, the researchers has been involved in employing formal education as a tool of rehabilitation in some prisons in Lagos State. During this period he has observed the increasing rate at which prison inmates get discharged from prison and within a short time they are re-arrested and remanded in prisons for committing another offence. It becomes more worrisome when prisoners see recidivism as a status symbol. The more times you go in and out of prison, the more popular you are amongst some of the prisoners.

The question therefore is of what relevance is the reformatory and reformatory role of the Nigeria Prison? It should be of interest to investigate the emotional intelligence of male recidivists and explore if their emotional intelligence is responsible for their recidivist tendency and whether male recidivists will differ significantly

on the basis of nature of offence and on number of convictions.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the paper is to find out the emotional intelligence level of male recidivists in selected prisons in Lagos State, Nigeria.

In addition, the paper is designed to establish a notion if the emotional intelligence of male recidivists will differ significantly on the basis of their number of convictions.

Based on the findings of this research work, there is an intention to develop emotional intelligence training packages that could be used by psychologists to improve the emotional intelligence of recidivists. This is expected in the long run to reduce the rate of male recidivism.

Rationale for the Study

Without any doubt the rate of recidivism is on the increase all over the world and Nigeria is not an exception. This study has become needful taking into cognisance the various negative consequences of recidivism. Recidivism is a threat to peace and security; in some instances it results in the loss of lives, the loss of property and physical harm. It also impacts negatively on the socio-economic development and growth of the country. Recidivism is also a drain on the dwindling resources of the nation.

The study of male recidivists is further needful because it has been established that male offenders have greater odds to reoffend because of association with criminal peers, possession of weapons, alcohol abuse and aggressive feelings (Benda 2005). A study of this nature will, therefore, provide methods of understanding recidivists; broaden the explanation of predisposing factors of recidivism; and form a fulcrum that is needed for effective intervention strategies to find a lasting solution to the problem of recidivism. In view of the challenges posed by the increase in the rate of recidivism, one research question was raised and two Null hypotheses were formulated to guide the study.

Research Question

To guide this study one research question was raised

1. What is the level of emotional intelligence of male recidivists?

Research Hypotheses

1. The emotional intelligence of male recidivists will not differ significantly on the basis of the nature of the offence.
2. The emotional intelligence of male recidivists will not differ significantly on the basis of the number of convictions

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Design

The study adopted the quantitative approach using a descriptive survey research design. This design was adopted to provide a quantitative or numeric description of attitudes and opinions of a population by studying a sample of the population with the intention to generalise from a sample to a population (Babbie 1990). In the paper, the emotional intelligence of some selected male recidivists was explored with the intent of generalising the findings to all male recidivists in prisons in Lagos State.

Population

The population for the study consisted of all male recidivists in three male prisons in Lagos State. A male recidivist in this study refers to a prison inmate who has been convicted once and is remanded in prison custody for committing another criminal offence.

Sample and Sampling Technique

The sample is made up of 105 male recidivists drawn from the Maximum Security Prisons, Kirikiri, Medium Security Prisons, Kirikiri and Ikoyi Security Prisons in Lagos State. A multi-stage sampling technique was employed for this paper. From the list of all prison inmates in the three prisons, the prison inmates were categorised into recidivists and non-recidivists. After this stage a random number table was prepared so that any inmate on the recidivist list could participate in the study. Their age range was between 18 and 70 years with a mean age of 36.5 years.

Instrumentation

Two major instruments namely, Male Recidivist Personal Data Questionnaire (MRPDQ) and Akinboye Emotional Intelligence (EQ Test, 2006). The MRPDQ is a self-designed, self-report instrument which was used to obtain biographical data such as age; family background; marital status; nature of offence; number of times of conviction among others from the participants. The biographical data was used for the descriptive statistics.

The Akinboye Emotional Intelligence Test 2006 (EQ test) is a standardised test which was used to measure the emotional intelligence of male recidivists. The Akinboye EQ test is a 40-item, self-report in a 5 point Likert like scale form ranging from “totally unlike me” to “very much like me”. The instrument has a reliability coefficient alpha of 0.92, a convergent construct validity with emotional entrepreneurship test $r = +0.55$. Discriminant construct validity with emotional stress test $r = 0.87$ and factor analysis most by the items load on factor one and accounted for about 24% of the variance. Examples of items on the EQ test include “when I see something that I like or want I cannot get.” “When I mess up. I say self-depreciating things such as, ‘I am such a loser’ or, ‘I cannot do anything right’”. The norm for the Akinboye EQ test is 120 which implies that any participant that scores below 120 is said to have low emotional intelligence while a score above 120 shows that the individual is emotionally intelligent.

Ethical Issue

A letter of approval was obtained from the Controller of Prisons, Lagos State Command, Zone A to conduct the research study at the Maximum Security Prisons, Medium Security Prisons and Ikoyi Security Prisons in Lagos. The letter of approval was presented to the officers in charge of the three participating prisons. The informed consent of the participants was obtained before the commencement of the study. Participants were informed that anyone is free to opt out of the study at any stage of the study however; the benefits of participating in the research work were highlighted.

Data Collection Procedure

The record officers at the three prisons helped in providing the list of prison inmates

from where the list of recidivists was drawn while the welfare officers at the prisons assisted in arranging the recidivists in the hall used for the study. In each of the three prisons, the researcher introduced himself and briefed the participants on what the research work was all about. After the address, the people who were interested remained while the others left the venue. At that point the verbal consent of participants was obtained. The researchers with the help of two welfare officers in each of the three prisons, administered the instruments to the participants while the researchers gave instructions on how to complete the questionnaire. It took about one and half hours to complete filling in the two instruments. The welfare officers helped to retrieve the questionnaires from the participants. The researchers provided the participants with an information session on emotional intelligence and expressed his appreciation to the participants for sparing some time to participate in the research.

Data Analysis

The research question was answered using simple percentages. The first hypothesis was analysed using the student t-test while the second hypothesis was analysed using a One-Way ANOVA and a post-hoc test using Tukey HSD to show the direction of the difference.

RESULTS

Descriptive Data

The descriptive data was obtained using the Male Recidivist Personal Data Questionnaire (MRPDQ). MRPDQ is a self-designed questionnaire employed to elicit responses as regards personal data of participants. The personal data include age, marital status, number of conviction, nature of offence and number of times of convictions and drug use amongst others.

The result of the study revealed that 18(17.14%) of the participants are below 20 years old; 65(61.90%) are between 21-40 years and 22(20.95%) are between 41-70 years old. The data further indicates that majority of the participants 90 (85.71%) are in their productive years (18-65 years). This does not portend a good trend for the country because men in their productive years are recidivists and are locked up in pris-

ons and not able to contribute to the development of the country.

On the issue of marital status of the participants, the finding of the study shows that 60(57.14%) are single; 20(19.04%) are married; 20(19.4%) are either separated or divorced while 5(4.78%) are widowed. This indicates that majority 85(80.96%) are not married. Being not married or divorced/separated may account for repeating a criminal behaviour despite been punished for such offence. Marriage is a way of making people responsible and not get involved in crime, so marital status of participants could be a predisposing factor for committing crime and reoffending.

Furthermore on nature of offence, the result from the data obtained revealed that stealing accounts for 30(28.57%); burglary, 25(23.81%); assault 15(14.28%); wandering 10(9.52%); drug 5(4.76%); murder 3(2.86%); homicide 5(4.76%); murder 3(2.86%); homicide 5(4.76%); fraud 7(6.67%) and sexual assault 5(4.76%). As regards number of times of conviction the result shows 24(22.86%) have been convicted more than three times, 41(39.04%) have been convicted for at least three times while 40% (38.09%) have been convicted twice.

Concerning the use of drugs, the data obtained showed that 30(28.57%) indicated that they do smoke cigarette; 50(47.62%) smoke Indian Hemp; 15(14.28%) consume Arabic gum while 10(9.52%) sniff cocaine or heroin. The implication of this is that the use of drugs could be a contributory factor to recidivism.

As regards number of times of conviction, the result shows that 24(22.86%) have been convicted more than three times, 41(39.04%) have been convicted for at least three times while 40(38.09%) have been convicted twice. This result indicates high rate of recidivism. This calls to question the effectiveness of the rehabilitation programme of the Nigeria Prison Service.

For the quantitative data obtained using the Akinboye emotional intelligence test the result is presented in Table 1.

The research question, which was set to determine the level of emotional intelligence of male recidivists, was answered using simple percentages. The result is indicated in Table 1.

Table 1: Percentage representation of level of emotional intelligence of male recidivists

<i>Level of emotional intelligence</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>%</i>
Low	95	89.5
High	10	10.5
Total	105	100

From the information in Table 1, 95 (89.5%) of the participants have an emotional intelligence score lower than the norm of 120 which implies that these participants have low level of emotional intelligence while 10 (10.5%) have an emotional intelligence score above 120 which means that they have high emotional intelligence. This shows that majority of the participants have low emotional intelligence, it could therefore be deduced that low level of emotional intelligence plays a significant role in reoffending.

Test of Hypotheses

Hypothesis one which states that the emotional intelligence of male recidivists will not differ significantly on the basis of the nature of offence was analysed using the t-test.

Table 2 shows that the mean emotional intelligence score for violent offenders is 80.72 with standard deviation of 11.29. The mean score for non-violent offenders is 76.00 with a standard deviation of 10.93. The result in table further reveals that there is no significant difference in the emotional intelligence of violent and non-violent male recidivists since the *t*-cal. (1.67) is less than *t*-critical (1.96). The hypothesis is accepted. This implies that the emotional intelligence of male recidivists do not statistically differ significantly on the basis of nature of offence. This can be explained that for this result

Table 2: t-test showing difference in emotional intelligence of male recidivists on the basis of nature of offence

<i>Nature of offence</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Df</i>	<i>Cal-t</i>	<i>Crit-t</i>	<i>P<0.05</i>
Violent	75	80.72	11.29	103	1.67	1.96	NS
No-violent	30	76.00	10.93				

there is no relationship between emotional intelligence and nature of offence.

The second hypothesis which states that the emotional intelligence of male recidivists will not differ significantly on the basis of the number of convictions was statistically analysed, using a One-Way ANOVA. To determine the direction of the difference a post-hoc analysis using Tukey HSD was also conducted. The result is presented in Table 3.

The result in Table 3 shows that the F-Cal (3.489) is greater than the F-ratio 1.595. The hypothesis is hereby rejected. The implication of this is that there is a significant difference in the emotional intelligence of male recidivists on the basis of the number of times of conviction. The hypothesis is not accepted. It could be that the lower the emotional intelligence the greater the tendency to reoffend. A post-hoc analysis using Tukey HSD was conducted to ascertain the direction of the difference.

Table 4: Tukey HSD showing the direction of difference in the emotional intelligence of male recidivists on the basis of the number of convictions

Number of times of convictions	N	Subset for alpha = 0.05	
		1	2
More than three	24	74.50	
Three times	41	79.98	79.98
Twice	40		81.85
Sig.		108	765

The results given in Table 4 show that there is no significant difference between the emotional intelligence of male recidivists who have been convicted thrice and those who have been convicted more than three times. There is also no significant difference in the emotional intelligence of those that were convicted twice and those convicted thrice. However, there is a sig-

nificant difference in the emotional intelligence of male recidivists who have been convicted twice and those convicted more than three times.

DISCUSSION

The research question which was set to determine the level of emotional intelligence of male recidivists was answered using simple percentages shows that 95 (90.5%) of the participants have an emotional intelligence score lower than the norm of 120. This implies that these participants have a low level of emotional intelligence while 10(10.5%) have an emotional intelligence score above 120 which means that they have high emotional intelligence. This suggests that the low emotional intelligence of participants could explain the substantial reason why the participants re-offend despite the fact that they had been sentenced to imprisonment earlier. This result confirms the finding of Megreya (2013) who reported that Egyptian offenders have low emotional intelligence. It is also in agreement with the submission of Quatler et al. (2010), whose research concluded that deficits in several emotional functioning including empathy, management of negative emotions are important factors in relapse of offenders. Furthermore, the finding of this paper is in agreement with Bully (2008) who submits that offenders regard crime as a normal way of life. The finding of this study also corroborates that of Aucoin (2005) who reported that offenders' significantly lack emotional intelligence and that this predisposes them to commit crime again despite being sentenced to imprisonment.

Hypothesis one which states that the emotional intelligence of male recidivists will not differ significantly on the basis of the nature of offence was statistically analysed at 0.05 level of significance using the student t-test. The hypothesis was not accepted. This implies that

Table 3: One-way ANOVA showing differences in the emotional intelligence of male recidivists on the basis of the number of times of conviction

			Sum of squares	df	Mean square	F	Sig.
Between groups	(Combined)		829.772	2	414.886	3.489	.034
	Linear term		810.337	1	810.337	6.814	.010
		Unweighted	750.804	1	750.804	6.313	.014
		Weighted	78.968	1	78.968	.664	.417
Within groups		Deviation	118.922				
Total	12130.076	102					
	12959.848	104					

the nature of the emotional intelligence of male recidivists does not differ significantly on the basis of the nature of the offence. This does not necessarily mean that there is no relationship between an offender's emotional intelligence and the nature of offence he commits. The finding of this result could be as a result of participants belonging to the same broad demographics. The result lends credence to the finding of Seward (2012) who reports that there is no significant difference in the emotional intelligence of violent and non – violent offenders. This supports Goleman (2006) who posits that recidivists suffer from a short circuit in the social brain which is essential for expressing empathy and regulating emotional impulses. The implication of this is that the deficit in the social brain predisposes offenders to reoffend.

Hypothesis two which states that the emotional intelligence of male recidivists will not differ significantly on the basis of the number of convictions was statistically analysed at a 0.05 level of significance using a One-Way ANOVA. The hypothesis was rejected. The implication of this is that there is a significant difference in the emotional intelligence of male recidivists on the basis of the number of times of conviction. The hypothesis is, hereby, not accepted. A post-hoc analysis using Tukey HSD was conducted to ascertain the direction of the difference. The result of the post-hoc analysis shows that there is no significant difference between the emotional intelligence of male recidivists that have been convicted thrice and those that have been convicted more than thrice. There is also no significant difference in the emotional intelligence of those that were convicted twice and those convicted thrice. However, there is a significant difference in the emotional intelligence of male recidivists who have been convicted twice and those convicted more than thrice. The implication is that those that have been convicted more than thrice may have a lower emotional intelligence than those that convicted once.

CONCLUSION

The study is designed to explore the emotional intelligence of male recidivists in some prisons in Lagos State. The study employed the quantitative research approach using descriptive survey research design. One research question and two Null hypotheses were formulated to guide the study. Data was obtained using an emotional intelligence test. The data

obtained was analysed statistically using simple percentages, t-test and One-Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) at 0.05 level of significance. The result indicates that the emotional intelligence of participants is low. It also shows that there is a significant difference in the emotional intelligence on the basis of nature of offence as well as number of times of conviction. Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended that emotional intelligence be introduced into the rehabilitation curriculum on the Nigeria Prison Service. Also that Remedial and Reformatory psychologists be employed to facilitate the effective rehabilitation and reintegration of prison inmates. It is the expectation of the researchers that if the recommendations are implemented, there will be a successful reintegration of prison inmates into the society. This in the long run will surely reduce the rate of recidivism in Nigeria and other countries of the world.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made:

That emotional intelligence training should be introduced into the curriculum of the Nigerian Prison Service not only for recidivists but for all prison inmates. Emotional intelligence training has the capacity to promote pro social behaviour, thereby reducing the rate of recidivism. Efforts should be made by the authorities of the Nigerian Prisons employing reformatory psychologists to assess the emotional intelligence of prison inmates in Nigeria to assess the emotional intelligence of all prison inmates, with a view to know their emotional intelligence and specific intervention strategies should be designed to improve the emotional intelligence of prison inmates so that they will not reoffend. The Federal Government should employ counselling psychologists and professionals who are well-versed in emotional intelligence and other positive skills as they have the professional expertise to assist prison inmates in acquiring skills that will help them live a crime free life, hence reducing the rate of recidivism.

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