

IMPLEMENTATION OF FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION WELFARE PROGRAMMES IN CORRECTIONAL CENTRES IN ENUGU STATE, NIGERIA

Dr. Ene, Harriet Ndirika

Guidance and Counselling Department, Faculty of Education, Enugu State University of Science and Technology.

Agbani, Enugu State, Nigeria

ene.ndirika@esut.edu.ng, 08064003013

Ajah, Benjamin Obi

Department of Adult and Continuous Education, Faculty of Education, Enugu State University of Science and

Technology. Agbani, Enugu State, Nigeria

ajahbenjamin22@gmail.com, 08067972294

Ayogu, Micheal Emeka

Department of Adult and Continuous Education, Faculty of Education, Enugu State University of Science and

Technology. Agbani, Enugu State, Nigeria

mchlayogu@gmail.com, 07039490385

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Abstract: The study investigated the evaluation of the implementation of family life education welfare programmes in correctional centres in Enugu State Nigeria. One research question and one null hypothesis guided the study. The design for the study was evaluative research design. The area for the study was Enugu, Nsukka and Oji river correctional centres in Enugu State Nigeria. The population of the study was 2958 inmates and staff in the correctional centres. The sample for the study was 290 staff and 266 inmates totalling 556 respondents. Proportionate stratified random sampling technique was used in drawing the sample for the study. The instrument used for data collection was a 12 itemed questionnaire which was face validated by three research experts. The internal consistency reliability coefficient for the instrument was obtained through Cronbach Alpha method. The data collected were analysed using mean ratings and standard deviation, while the t-test statistic was used to test the null hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance. The following findings emerged from the study: the respondents (staff and inmates) were generally of the view that: family life education welfare programmes to a great extent are provided in correctional centres in Enugu State. It was found that the staff and inmates of correctional centres in Enugu State do not differ significantly in their mean rating on the extent of provision of family life education welfare programmes in correctional centres in Enugu State. Based on the findings of the study, the major recommendations of the study were that deliberate efforts should be made at supervising the provision of the family life education welfare programmes in Enugu correctional centres and there is need for staff on the job training and retraining on the provision and implementation of family life education welfare programmes in correctional centres in Enugu State.

Introduction

The correctional centres have the responsibility to protect the society from criminals by keeping them in custody, assuage the feeling of the injured party that justice has been done with the offending party behind

the walls and protect the convicts from further criminal deterioration by taking them away from the circles of criminals. The main aim of establishing the correctional institutions in all parts of the world including Nigeria, according to Andrew (2021) is to provide rehabilitation

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and correctional facilities for those who have violated the rules and regulations of their society. However, the extent to which this maxim is true in practice has been a subject of controversy. Arinze (2012) asserted that the population that goes in and out of the prisons in Nigeria presupposes that there are some problems in the system, hence the prisons system has not been able to live up to its expected roles in Nigeria, despite the various reformatory measures adopted. The Nigeria correctional centres are in a terrible shambles according to (Benjamin & Joshua 2017) while the congestion rate among the inmates especially those awaiting trial is so high that the population capacity of 30,000 inmates is hosting over 58,000 inmates. In the opinion of Ronald (2011) the state of Nigeria prisons was equally exacerbated by the dominant military leadership that Nigeria had experienced since independence. The military in its 29 years of political leadership saw the prisons as a punitive institution and thus did not give it any attention as to develop its infrastructures and conditions. Ogundip (2013) noted that: the military did periodically visit the prisons but only to make sure that those they had detained were not allowed any measure of “comfort”. The population of inmates under them became elastic in that the capacity of each prison did not matter; all detainees had to be held in custody that if the prisons became tortuous, it served the purpose of the military regime very well. Benjamin and Joshua (2017) observed that most of the detainees in the Nigeria correctional centres were held in squalid and congested cells without adequate medical care, food supplies or water and poor social welfare programmes in general. This leads to disease outbreak, environmental degradation and an increased mortality rate among inmates. In Enugu State for instance, the controller of prisons has expressed concern over the high number of inmates in the facility which had tripled its capacity. According to him, a facility for 648 inmates now harbours 2,024 inmates. While Nsukka prisons that was built for 180 inmates currently accommodates 500 inmates. However, according to the News Agency of Nigeria reports 2018, the medium prison in Nsukka, Enugu State has received a new look 92 years after it was built by the British colonial masters. The old cells were built in 1926 by the British colonial masters and were dilapidated and out-dated. Speaking during the inspection, the controller of prisons, Enugu, Mr. Ndubuisi Ogbodo said that the new project was embarked by the Minister of Interior, Abdulraman

Danbazau. He stated that the prison only had seven cells but a new 36 cells with better facilities and adequate security was on-going.

The Nigeria correctional service (NCS) formerly known as Nigeria prison service (NPS) is a government agency of Nigeria which operates prisons. The agency is headquartered in Abuja, and it is under the supervision of the Ministry of Interior, the Civil Defence, Immigration and Correctional Services. According to Punch newspapers 15 August 2019, the name was changed to the Nigeria Correctional Services by President Muhammadu Buhari on the 15th of August 2019 after signing the Nigeria Correctional Service Acts of 2019 into law. The law divides the Correctional Services into two main areas which are: the Custodial Services and Non-Custodial Services. The custodian services involve locking up inmates in the prison and legally depriving them of liberty while the non-custodial services have to do with probation not requiring prison sentence (Andrew, 2021). According to the Ministry of Interior (2009), prison services in Nigeria are expected in law to:

1. Take into custody all those legally interned.
2. Produce the suspect before the courts as and when due.
3. Identify the causes of anti-social contacts of the convicts.
4. Set in motion mechanism for their retraining and reformation preparatory to returning them back to the society as normal law abiding citizens.
5. Generating revenue through the use of prison farms and industries.

No society makes any progress enmeshed in disorder. Consider what the society would be if there are no correctional centres to take care of agents of disorder. According to the Nigeria Prison Service Manual (2013), the realization of one of the major objectives of the prison services which is the reformation and rehabilitation of convicts, are to be done through a complicated set of mechanisms consisting among others: conscientization, group work, casework session, recreational activities, religious services and adult and remedial education programmes, educational development projects, skills acquisition programmes, mid-range industrial production, agriculture service and after-care service programme. The prison's services providers should not only identify the causes of the prisons' inmates anti-social behaviour but also

endeavour to set them on the road to reform through induced self-rediscovery and eventual change for the better.

Correctional centres are therefore central to national security since all agents of social destabilization both potential and real are easily put away. Correctional Centres entails more than taking into custody and discharging as and when due. Arinze (2012) noted that the correctional centres also involves the training and reformation of convicts so that on discharge they do not relapse back to crime and criminality but are expected to become law abiding citizens of the society.

The correctional centre is defined as a place where people are kept when they have been arrested and are being punished for a crime. Andrew (2021) referred to correctional centres as institutions for the confinement of persons who are been remanded (held) in custody by a judicial authority or who have been deprived of their liberty following conviction for a crime. Tinuoye (2019) pointed out that the Nigeria Correctional Service (NCS) formally known as Nigeria Prison Service (NPS) is an institution saddled with the responsibility of keeping persons who have been legally convicted of committing or offending against the law of a state. The basic function of correctional centres according to Tinuoye (2019) include; social isolation and confinement, repentance, punishment and deterrence, protection and reformation. The Nigeria Correctional Service (NCS) (2018) noted that the Nigeria Correctional Service is statutorily expected to take into lawful custody all those duly certified to be so kept by court of competent jurisdiction, produce suspects and other prisoners in courts as and when due, identify the causes of their anti-social disposition, set in motion mechanisms for their training and reform, so as to return them to the society as law abiding citizens at discharge. The prison inmates face a lot of challenging and inhuman treatment when social welfare programmes such as family life education welfare programmes are lacking.

Family is fundamental social group in the society, typically consisting of one or two parents and their children. Family is a word, with different meaning. People have many ways of defining a family and what being a part of a family means to them. Families differ in terms of economic, cultural, social, and many other facets but the people who call it a family are making clear that those people are important in some ways to

the person calling them his family. Family life education refers to preparing individuals for their roles, responsibilities in the family. (Sathe, 2013) Family life education according to Hodelin (2019) is an educational specialty which has to do with ameliorating family-related social problems and well-being. The purpose of family life education according to Thomas & Archans (2014) include; gaining insight into one's self and others; acquiring knowledge about human development and behaviour in the family setting over the life course; understanding marital and family roles; and building strengths in individuals and families. It is assumed that if these and other similar objectives are not met through family life education, then families will be better able to deal with or prevent problems and will be empowered to live their family lives in ways that are both personally satisfying and socially responsible.

An underlying assumption of family life education is that it is relevant to individuals of all ages and status of which the correctional centres are not left out. Provision of family life education for the inmates is an essential practice of equipping and empowering inmates to develop knowledge and skills that enhances well-being and strengthen interpersonal relationships through an educational, preventive and strength-based approach (Fraser, 2018). The framework for family life education, developed under the auspice of the National Council on Family Relations, specifies nine broad content areas deemed essential for family life education to include: family and society; internal dynamics of families, human growth and development; human sexuality; interpersonal relationships; family resource management; parent education and guidance; family law and public policy and ethics. It is worthy to note that the inmates are always faced with relationship issues upon their return to their families. Udoka (2016) observed that inmates, among different challenges faced upon their return to their families and society bear serious pain as a result of labelling. Arinze (2012) noted that upon returning to the society inmates are being isolated by their family members and in most cases not regarded as responsible or vital tool for the family growth and development.

Family life education services in the correctional centres are vital to the removal of conflicts, and challenges facing the inmates upon their return to the society and family. Family life education services according to Thomas (2019) provides knowledge about human production, changes in human psychology of the

young people, development of human sexuality and human sexuality behaviour. Thomas further noted that such teachings are necessary for inmates especially for their proper adaption into their families after serving their jail terms. Fraser (2018) asserted that the importance of family life education service in the correctional centres can never be over emphasized. However, the efficacy of family life education services in the correctional centres may be challenged by the poor provision of social amenities in the correctional centres. This is a source of worry and gap which this current study hopes to fill.

The prison inmates according to Julia (2020) should be allowed adequate rights to proper basic education and amenities, adequate health care, good nutrition and skills acquisition. These strategies if properly implemented will no doubt propel viable correctional services/system in Nigeria and beyond thus the need for evaluation of family life education welfare services in the correctional centres. Systematic execution of welfare programmes in the correctional centres should involve both the staff and inmates. Ahmed (2016) asserted that most challenges to the provision of welfare programmes have it cause from the prison staff. Udoka (2016) noted that majority of prison staff lack intellectual abilities to help the inmates adapt socially, educationally and acquire skills of their interest. On the contrary Odo (2015) stated that most prison inmates as a result of drug abuse and addiction find it hard to adapt to the correctional measures and welfare programmes provided in the correctional centres. There is therefore a growing concern among the Nigerian public that the correctional centres are fast losing its value to the fact that most inmates in the correctional centres are recidivist (repeated offenders). This means that most inmates after discharged are rearrested and convicted. It is therefore a thing of concern to the researchers as to whether family life education welfare programmes are adequately provided in the correction centre. According to Andrew (2021) adequate provision of family life education welfare programmes in the correctional centres will lead to rehabilitation and reformation of behaviour among inmates. It is therefore against this background that the researcher wishes to ascertain the extent of implementation of family life education welfare programmes in Correctional Centres in Enugu State, Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

Recidivism seems to be one of the serious challenges not only facing the correctional centres but also the society at large. Recidivism is simply a tendency of relapsing into a criminal behaviour. Abrifor (2012) admitted that the rate at which released inmates return to the correctional centres few month after release has attracted the attention of researchers who now doubt the ideal function of the prison institution.

For instance, statistics from Nigeria correctional centres shows that over 60% of inmates are recidivists (repeat offenders). And this is an indication that the correctional centre as a reformation or rehabilitation home has failed in correcting antisocial behaviour of inmates (Chukwumerije, 2012).

The 2018 update on prisoner recidivism shows that 68% of released prisoners were rearrested within 3 years, 79% within 6 years and 83% within 9 years Ministry of Interior (2018). This therefore is a serious concern to the researcher as to whether social welfare programmes are implemented properly in the correctional centres because proper and adequate implementation of social welfare programmes in the correctional centres will bring about rehabilitation and reformation among the inmates. Hence the need to evaluate the extent of implementation of social welfare programmes in Enugu correctional centres which this research seeks to do.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this study is to ascertain the implementation of family life education welfare programmes in correctional centres in Enugu state, Nigeria. Specifically, the study sought to;

1. ascertain the extent to which family life education programmes are provided in Enugu Correctional Centres.

Research Questions

The following research questions were formulated to guide the study.

1. To what extent is family life education programme provided in correctional centres in Enugu State Nigeria?

Hypothesis

The following null hypothesis was tested at 0.5 level of significance:

1. There is no significant difference in the mean ratings of staff and inmates in the correctional centres on the extent to which family life education

programmes are provided in correctional centres in Enugu State, Nigeria.

Method

Evaluative research design was adopted for this study. Evaluation research design is a research design that is concerned with generating data or information that forms the basis of passing value judgement on programmes, method and policies in relation to a predetermined set standard. Idoko (2011). Evaluative research design is appropriate for this study because it helps in determining whether social intervention programmes has produced the intended result and also helps to measure the effectiveness of those programmes and identify areas needing improvement. The population for the study is made up of 180 staff and 2,168 inmates in Enugu correctional centre and 110 staff and 500 inmates in Nsukka correctional centre. Making a total of 2,958 respondents for the study. This is based on data obtained directly from Enugu custodial headquarters. The sample size for this study was 556 respondents comprising 290 staff and 266 inmates in Enugu and Nsukka correctional centres. The researchers used proportionate stratified random sampling techniques to draw 10% of the inmates population in Enugu and Nsukka correctional centres. While the total population of 290 staff in Enugu and Nsukka correctional centres was used making a total of 556 sample size. The use of 10% of the population of inmates is in line with Uzoagulu (2012) which states that when the respondent's population are in their thousands, 10% of the entire population can serve as the sample.

The researchers developed a structured questionnaire instrument named "Implementation of Family Life Education Welfare Programmes in Correctional Centres" (IFLEWPCC) The instrument is made up of two sections, A and B. Section A is on the respondents bio-data, while section B is the main body with 12 items arranged in a clusters. The response format for the instrument is a 4 point scale of very great extent, great extent, little extent and very little extent. The questionnaire was validated by three experts, two from Adult and Continuing Education Department and one other expert from Measurement and Evaluation option, Mathematics and Computer Education Department all from Enugu State University of Science and Technology. To enhance good validation, the researchers attached the topic, purpose of the study, research question and hypothesis that were formulated

to guide the study to the draft copies of questionnaire sent for validation. The experts used them to assess the instrument in terms of clarity, relevance and suitability of the questionnaire items and its general purpose. Comments, inputs and suggestions from the validator guided the instrument. Six items were dropped because they were not relevant to the study. The questionnaire therefore has a total of 12 items. To ascertain the internal consistency of the instrument, the researchers conducted a trial test using 10 Staff and 10 inmates in Abakaliki correctional centres Ebonyi State. They were allowed to complete the instrument at their own convenience. The responses to the various items of the questionnaire were used in computing its reliability using Cronbach Alpha reliability estimate. The overall reliability index stood at .78, indicating that the instrument is highly reliable and therefore suitable for the study. The researchers assisted by two research assistants administered the instrument directly to the respondents. The research assistants were briefed by the researchers on the conduct of the exercise, during which the research assistants were acquainted with the purpose of the study and how the instrument should be administered and collected. Appointments were booked with the respondents for collection at a later date (for those who would not be able to complete their copies of the instrument and return immediately). 95% return rate of the questionnaire copies were achieved.

The statistical tools for data analysis in the study was mean, standard deviation and t-test. Mean with standard deviation was used to answer the research question, while t-test analysis at .05 level of significance and at appropriate degree of freedom was used to test the null hypothesis formulated for the study. The decision for the null hypothesis is that if the t-calculated is equal to, or greater than the t-critical at the chosen significance level.05 and appropriate degree of freedom, the null hypothesis of no significant difference was rejected. If on the other hand the calculated t-value is less than the value of t-critical, then the null hypothesis would not be rejected.

Results

Research Question 1: To what extent are family life education programmes provided in Enugu correctional centres?

Table 1: Mean responses and standard deviation of the respondents on the family life education programmes provided in Enugu correctional centres.

N=556							
S/N	Family life education programmes provided in correctional centres includes:	Enugu Staff and Nsukka			Enugu inmate and Nsukka inmates		
		Staff 290		Dec	266		Dec
		\bar{x}	SD		\bar{x}	SD	
1	Assisting inmates in dealing with problems faced by their families	2.54	0.83	GE	2.59	1.113	GE
2	Helping inmates overcome their problems of institutional adjustment	2.59	1.116	GE	3.00	.880	GE
3	Providing inmates with sexuality education	2.99	.868	GE	3.07	.803	GE
4	Access to family planning information	3.05	.807	GE	2.65	1.026	GE
5	Helping inmates learn about family roles and responsibility	2.63	1.029	GE	2.85	1.016	GE
6	Teaching inmates on how to make choices and decision in the family	2.86	1.002	GE	2.70	1.045	GE
7	Providing inmates with knowledge about child rearing	2.68	1.048	GE	2.94	.878	GE
8	Providing inmates with interpersonal relationship training	2.93	.876	GE	2.87	1.005	GE
9	Providing inmates with parental education and guidance	2.87	.992	GE	2.70	1.046	GE
10	Providing inmates with family resources management	2.68	1.048	GE	3.04	.839	GE
11	Helping inmates to curb their abuse of drugs	3.03	.840	GE	2.76	1.047	GE
12	Providing inmates with religious studies	2.74	1.042	GE	2.59	1.082	GE
Grand Mean		2.79	0.958		2.81	0.982	

From table 1, above represents the family life education programmes provided in Enugu correctional centres. The mean responses of staff and inmates are of a close mean range with the grand mean under staff of Enugu correctional centres to be 2.79 and 2.81 for inmates of Enugu correctional centres with standard deviation of 0.958 and 0.982 respectively which indicated that the respondent's responses agreed to the items raised. Thus indicating that all the items are family life education

programmes provided in Enugu correctional centres. Therefore it can be concluded that family life education programmes to a great extent are provided in Enugu correctional centres.

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant difference in the mean rating of staff and inmates in the correctional centres on the extent to which family life education programmes are provided in Enugu correctional centres.

Table 2: t-test on the mean ratings of staff and inmates in the correctional centres on the extent to which family life education programmes are provided in Enugu correctional centres.

STATUS	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t	Df	Sig.	Dec.
STAFF	290	3.15	.850	-2.608	554	.703	NS
INMATES	266	3.35	.750				

Table 2 shows that the t value for the difference in mean rating of staff and inmates in the correctional centres on the extent to which family life education programmes are provided in Enugu correctional centres is (-2.608), significant at (.703) level of significance, which is greater than (0.05) set for the study. The null hypothesis is therefore rejected. This means that there is no significant difference in the mean ratings of staff and inmates in the correctional centres on the extent to which family life education programmes are provided in Enugu correctional centres.

Discussion

The research question elicited the perception of the respondents on the extent to which family life Education programmes are provided in correctional centres in Enugu State. The findings revealed that family life Education programmes to a great extent are provided in correctional centres in Enugu State. This comparison on the mean rating of staff and inmates in correctional centres in Enugu State showed that there is no significant difference in the mean rating of staff and inmates on the extent to which family life Education programmes are provided in correctional centres in Enugu State. These findings are in line with the assertion of Thomas (2019) and Fraser (2018) which observed that the teaching of family life Education in the correctional center helps improve adaptation of the inmates into their families after serving their jail term. Udoka (2016) observed that the inmates face different challenges upon return to their families and society and thus bear serious pain as a result of labelling. The purpose of family life education according to Thomas and Archans (2014) include: gaining insight into one's self and others, acquiring knowledge about human development and behaviour in the family setting over the life course, understanding mental and family roles, and building strength in individuals and families. Fraser (2018) supported that the importance of family life Education programmes in the correctional centers can never be overemphasized. Therefore efforts should be made at increasing and improving the provision of family life education programmes in correctional centers in Enugu State, Nigeria.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study and the discussion that followed, conclusion were drawn as follows; family life education programmes are provided to a great extent in correctional centres in Enugu State, It was also concluded that the staff and inmates in

correctional centres in Enugu State do not differ significantly in their mean rating on the extent of provision of family life education programmes in correctional centres in Enugu State, Nigeria.

Educational Implication of the Findings

The findings of this study hold implication for the staff, inmates and government.

The staff of Enugu correctional centres are by the findings of this study encourage and further informed of the need for efficient and sufficient family life education welfare programmes in the correctional centers as it is indispensable in rehabilitation of inmates and for an improved condition of the Nigerian correctional centres. The availability of family life education welfare does not only facilitate the rehabilitation of the inmates but also improves the working condition of the staff members of the correctional centres in Enugu State.

The findings of this study holds strong implication for the inmates in the correctional centres in Enugu State as the findings of the study will lead to more improved system and provision of family life education welfare programmes in the Enugu correctional centres. The inmates will gain better impacts of the rehabilitation process and achieve better social adjustment upon completing their jail sentence.

The affairs of provision and maintenance of the correctional centres is solemnly the affairs of the government thus the findings of this study holds serious implication on the government as this study will make for effective and efficient provision of social amenities and administration of correctional centres in Enugu State. Provision of family life education welfare programmes in Enugu correctional centres gives the correctional centres a standard look there by leading to the achievement of the goals for establishment of the correctional centres.

Recommendations

Based on the findings and interpretation of the results, the following recommendations are made:

1. Deliberate efforts should be made by the government at supervising the provision of the family life education welfare programmes in Enugu correctional centres.
2. There is need for staff on-the-job training and retraining on the provision and implementation of social welfare programmes in Enugu correctional centres.

3. The rehabilitation process of the inmates should be carefully reviewed in line with innovative and contemporary rehabilitation process obtainable in developed nations.
4. The human rights act should be constantly kept in check in the correctional centres so as to avoid inhuman treatment and violation of right to life and social amenities of the inmates by the government.
5. Guidance Counsellors should be employed to further improve the condition and rehabilitation process and programmes of the inmates.

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