

Ekiti State Children Correctional Centre: Implications for Inmates

Afolabi, Comfort Yemisi (Ph.D)

*Centre for Gender and Development Studies
Ekiti State University, PMB 5363, Ado Ekiti, Nigeria*

ABSTRACT: This study was an investigation on Ekiti State Children Correctional Centre and its implications on the lives of the Inmates. The study was carried out during an internship by the author at the Centre. The sample size of 15 inmates, 13 staff of the Centre and 2 police officers who agreed to participate was used for the study. In-depth study and key informant interview (KII) were utilised to collect data. SWOT analysis was also used to access the Centre. The findings of the research revealed that the Centre was effective in its handling of inmates. The inmates at the Centre were brought from Courts, by their family members and good Samaritans who found some of them roaming the streets in the State. The study also revealed that the Centre effectively discharged its main functions of providing shelter, feeding and security for the under-aged inmates until their trial and the found children until they were claimed by their relatives. However, the study discovered that, the Centre had some challenges including inadequate funding, inappropriate infrastructure, its porosity and being wedged between residential buildings. The study concluded that the Centre had positive implications and impact on the inmates because they left the Centre as changed persons few years after their registration and stay at the Centre. It was recommended that the Centre should be provided with more adequate funding, infrastructure, technology and should be relocated to a permanent site to enhance higher impact of the Centre.

KEY WORDS: *Children, Correctional, Centre, positive, implications, inmates, courts*

I. INTRODUCTION

Children Correctional Centre is an arm of social work. Social work is one of the resources that the society provides to help people meet their needs and enhance their social functioning. The provision flows from the knowledge that men and women exist not only as a biological organism but also as an interacting member of the society. Social work is concerned with both the personal life development of the individual and his relation with outer realities in which he is involved (Ekpe and Mamah, 1997). Social work is a process that operates to assist individuals or members of a group of children (in the case of Children Correctional Centre) in increasing their control over their own lives. This control is possible through making satisfying choices, coping satisfactorily with results of their choices and lives that are made available to them, the social support necessary for the selection of meaningful alternatives/life choices (Compton, 1980). The implications of the Children Correctional Centres involve how effectively each Home/Centre is achieving the above functions matter. A very impactful Centre must provide the above listed social work tenets for the under-aged inmates or juvenile offenders placed therein. This study therefore, examined the implications of the Ekiti State Children Correctional Centre on the lives of inmates. The Centre was established in the State in October, 2011.

Ekiti State was created on 1st October, 1996 and carved out of the old Ondo State in a National Broadcast by the then Head of State and Commander – in – Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to mark the 36th Independent Anniversary of Nigeria. The State capital is Ado Ekiti and the State is made up of 16 Local Government Areas namely Ado, Ayekire/Gboyin, Efon, Ekiti West, Ekiti East, Ekiti South West, Emure, Ikere, Ido/Osi, jero, Ise, Irepodun/Ifelodun, Ikole, Ilejemeje, Moba and Oye. The State is known as “Fountain of Knowledge” of Nigeria, because of the very large turnout of educationists and Professors. Ekiti State is one of the 36 States (including the Federal Territory Capital, Abuja) that constitute the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Ekiti State Nigeria, 2008, 2016).

The Ekiti people live in urban centres, well linked with network of roads. The State has more than 127 large and small villages that characterize the State from which the confinement takes its name, Ekiti, which is Okiti – meaning hill. Apart from the fact that the State is the only one with a warm spring in Nigeria, it is the watershed and source of some prominent rivers earlier mentioned. The Ekiti people are hard-working, upright, studious and very articulate. Ekiti men are predominantly farmers and the women are main traders. The State has three Senatorial Districts comprising Ekiti North, Ekiti Central and Ekiti South (Ekiti State, 2008, 2016). The State is a

peaceful one, cherishes all its citizens and wants the best for them. Hence she frowns at any un-ruling behavior from her youths, including the under-aged offenders who must be supported and reformed by the Correctional Centre for children in the State. Such Children Correctional Centre must be able to have high impact and implications in the lives of the young offenders and inmates. This is the focus of this study

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Many children in Nigeria face life of poverty, crime, inadequate educational opportunities, poor physical and mental health. Despite Nigeria's enormous natural endowment, growth and development have been slow due to poor resource management and crisis of governance resulting in decaying infrastructure, significant economy, corruption and high level of poverty (Human Development Initiative Report, 2004). Oloruntimehin (1970) attributed life of want, family instability and exposure to physical, sexual and emotional abuse to the delinquent behavior among children in Nigeria making children to be involved with Juvenile Justice System. According to Olawoyin (2019), the major problem of the society recently, was juvenile delinquency which was a national problem since 1940s. The issue of juvenile delinquent crime had attracted government's attention and this was being tackled alongside other forms of crime and violence that usually disturb the peace of the society. The risk factors for delinquency and criminal behavior are complex and connected which can include lack of attachment to school, chronic school failure, and criminal behavior in the family, drug use and violence.

Adesipo (2018), noted that the first organized institutional juvenile justice system started in America and it dated back to the middle age period when the church used this system to confront crimes and delinquencies. The system was carved out to accommodate all the problems faced by adolescence. The juvenile justice system was also, created for the preservation and rehabilitation of youths faced with lack of sense of direction and the effect of childishness in them. Okagbue (2010), opined that Nigeria as one of the most populous countries in Africa, has 109m people in 1995(now about 140m). Its annual growth rate is presently 3%. The country is over dependent on crude oil production. However, due to decline in oil revenue, mismanagement and corruption, physical and economic structures as well as social services were unable to keep up with population explosion, rapid urbanization and have deteriorated badly.

Humanitarian News Analysis of United Nations, (2002) noted that the major piece of legislation dealing with issues affecting children in Nigeria was the "Children and Young Person's Act II of 1978". The purpose of the Act was to provide for the welfare of the young, the treatment of young offenders and for the establishment of Juvenile Courts in Nigeria (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2002). The Children and Young Persons' Act II of 1978 covers three categories of children that may be involved in the Juvenile Justice System. These are children in conflict with the Law (who were accused of or have committed criminal offences); children in need of care and protection(who had been abandoned or left destitute by their parents or children of criminals, beggars/found children) and children beyond parental control (who were brought to the authorities' attention by their parents and alleged to have engaged in criminal activities or truancy from school/home) (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1978, Okagbue, 2010). The children in these group were alleged to have been engaged in minor criminal activities usually directed at family members and neighbours which had not been reported to the police. The common complaints include truancy and running away from home. If reported to the Police, this set of offenders are tackled by juvenile court in the exercise of its civil jurisdiction (Okagbue, 2010).

A Juvenile Centre/Home is a secure prison or jail for minors under the age 18, often termed juvenile delinquents, awaiting court hearings or placement in long-term care facilities and programmes. Juveniles go through a separate court system, the juvenile court sentences or commits juveniles to certain programmes or facilities (Snyder and Sickmund, 2006). Juveniles are released directly back into the community to undergo community based rehabilitative programmes but some inmates may pose a greater threat to society and to themselves and therefore, be in need of a stay in a supervised Juvenile Detention Centre (James,Johnson and Weitzer,2005). Holding juveniles in secure Homes or Centres ensures appearance in court while also keeping the community safe and risk free of juvenile offenders. According to Juvenile Detention Law of America, (2011), juvenile detention is not intended to be punitive. Juveniles who are held in secure custody usually receive care consistent with doctrine of *Parens Patriae* – the State as Parents. The State/Local Jurisdiction is usually responsible for providing education, recreation, health, assessment, counselling and other intervention services with the intent of maintaining youths' wellbeing during their stay in the Home.

Several services are expected to be provided to the youths at both Detention Centres and confinement facilities. These services vary from facility to facility but in general, the programmes and services provided are geared to the inmates' needs. Juvenile facilities function as rehabilitative institutions for youths. Education is seen by many as the primary rehabilitative services that must be provided to detained youths(Juvenile Detention Law of America, 2011).

The juvenile children are cared for in Nigeria in Children Remind Homes, Correctional Centres and approved Schools/Borstal Institutions. These Homes serve as detention/custody sites for three months at the most for juvenile children awaiting trials or disposal for a guilty verdict (James, Johnson and Weitzer, 2005). The approved schools are more permanently educational facilities for children in contact with juvenile justice where

they are placed for atleast three years while Borstal Institutions are specially designated for the institutionalization of offenders and other categories of children between ages 16-21, for a period of 5 years (Humanitarian News Analysis of the United Nations, 2002). In Nigeria, the Children Correctional Centres/Homes were established for reformation, rehabilitation and registration of juveniles and as such, facilities for vocational and formal educational institutions were put in place in order to realize these goals (Rights of the Child in Nigeria (2005).

The Rights of the Child in Nigeria (2005) noted that the facilities provided for the juvenile offenders in the country have undergone serious deterioration since 1980s due to gross under-funding, lack of proper policy, legal and international frameworks, inadequate staff and lack of necessary training facilities. Children who enter the Nigerian Justice System usually meet with the Police as their first point of contact (Bella, Atilola and Omigbodun, 2010). A study carried out on treatment of juvenile children during arrest and detention by the Police, found out that about two-thirds of the juveniles were reported being verbally abused and physically assaulted and 68.5% were threatened with beating. The situation was slightly better in the Children Correctional Centres/Homes. A high proportion of juvenile inmates reported being subjected to psychological torture by threats of beating (45.9%), denial of food (30%) and denial of lodging (31.7%) (Rights of the Child in Nigeria, 2005). Many inmates in Juvenile Centres in Nigeria do not attend school. Bella, Atilola and Omigbodun (2010) in a study of juvenile Homes in Nigeria discovered that only 8% of the children were currently attending school from the Remind Homes Centres even though majority of the inmates had been living in the Home for over a year.

However, the Vanguard (2019) reported that the Lagos Chief Judge (CJ) freed 80 juveniles who were incarcerated at Badagry prison in Lagos State for sundry offences. The inmates were below 18 years old. The prison facility had 70 staff with capacity for 320 inmates but was currently accommodating 584 inmates, out of which 389 were convicted and 195 awaiting trial. According to This Day (2017), there is urgent need for Governments to fix the Remind Homes in Nigeria, many of which are unfit as accommodation for the young offenders. The Government Remind Home at Sapele, Delta State, Nigeria was at a deplorable state because in 2013, not less than 11 members of a notorious criminal gang escaped from the confines of the Home, most of them were yet to return. Furthermore, twenty five (25) inmates between ages 14-17 who were confined because of robbery, rape, murder, burglary, over-powered their handlers and escaped the Home due to hunger. In Nigeria, inmates are badly treated with little or no access to recreational and sports facilities. They also lack relevant educational and vocational training to equip the inmates to live a sustainable life when they finally return to their communities (This Day, 2017).

Bassey (2018) noted that 200 children were incarcerated annually in the Children Correctional Centre, Akure in Ondo State, Nigeria. The Centre was established in 1991 to cater for children in conflict with the law, children in need of care and protection and children beyond parental control. The problems at the Centre included deplorable structures lack of basic social amenities, inadequate legal and institutional frameworks, lack of adequate staff and other vital facilities for training. This Day (2017) reported in the same vein, that in 2009, the Speaker of House of Representatives was greatly disturbed at the situation of Bortal Remind Home, Abeokuta, Ogun State. The plight of the inmates of ages 8-15 years was so devastating that he opined that the Nigeria leaders should confront the ills afflicting the youths before their attitudes were mauled. Nwogu (2016), observed the situation at the Borstal Training Institute, Ganmo, Kwara State, was not different from the others above. Nwosu noted that the Institute was a tortuous place that gave the impression of a home where the inmates were forced to grapple with dehumanizing challenges and live like rats. The inmates who were between 16-18 years were kept in deplorable conditions in the home. The workshops such as tailoring, carpentry, knitting, welding and other skill acquisition had no functional equipment for effective training. Textbooks, drugs and writing materials were also not sufficient. The home was grossly over populated as it had 149 male inmates drawn from Kwara and other States in Nigeria with about 14 inmates living in a single room. A study of the Port Harcourt, Remind Home in Rivers State showed that the Home was poorly configured to manage juvenile offenders. Most of the members of staff of the Home were not only ill-trained but not sufficient. Omokhunu (2016) observed that a prison facility in Kaduna State for juvenile delinquent, Borstal Training Institute (BTI) was in a deplorable condition and needed Government's attention because there were no required learning materials. The Institute was established in 1960 as a youth reformation arm of the Nigeria Prison Services (NPS) housing male inmates of 16-21 years old who were either beyond parental control or in conflict with the law but mentally stable and admitted to receive training and reformation. In view of these gory picture of Children Correctional Homes, this researcher investigated the Children Correctional Centre in Ekiti State. The research employed SWOT analysis and other analysis for this.

Concept of SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) Analysis

SWOT analysis is one of the strategic management techniques that have gained increased acceptance and it has excelled in the field of strategic planning. Albert Humphrey developed an analytical tool to evaluate the strategic plans to find out why corporate planning failed while working on a research project at Stanford

University. He coined his technique "SOFT" analysis which stood for satisfactory; opportunities; Faults and Threats (Thakur, 2010).

Many authors agreed that SOFT was the predecessor of SWOT while others disagreed with this. However, the term SWOT was first mentioned and can be traced to the Long Range Planning seminar held in Zurich in 1964. At this seminar, Urick and Orr proposed the concept of SWOT analysis which was derived from SOFT by replacing F for faults with W for weakness. With the initial promotion in Britain, the concept soon gained recognition among strategic planners and management consultants all over the world (Thakur, 2010). The new interpretation of SWOT as it is used now differs slightly from that of SOFT. Some writers credited SWOT to Albert Humphrey who led a convention at a Stanford Research Institute (SRI International) in the 1960s and 1970s using data from Fortune 500 Company (Humphrey, 2005 & TAM UK, 2012). SWOT represents Strengths; weaknesses; opportunities and threats (Thakur, 2010).

Strengths and opportunities are helpful while weaknesses and threats are harmful to any management, business or organization. Internal factors are strengths and weaknesses while external factors are opportunities and threats presented by environment external to the organization, management or business (Koch, 2000). The development of a SWOT analysis is simply used to defend previously decided goals and objectives. This misuse leads to limitations on brainstorming possibilities and real identification of barriers. SWOT analysis is very useful if it is developed in collaboration with a variety of contributions made by participants in a program or members of a group or staff of an organization (Chermack, 2007).

III. STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Children in Nigeria and all over the world appeared faced with numerous challenges which hindered their ability to develop into healthy, law abiding adults, live improved good quality life and fulfill their lives' expectations/aspirations. These problems have been associated with juvenile delinquency which necessitated the need for institutional and government care.

Among the secure detention/confinement for juvenile, the overarching names of these facilities is residential programme. A juvenile may be placed in these facilities while in custody. The Juvenile Justice System and delinquency prevention have programmes which could include detention, correction and community based treatment. There were a wide variety of placement options of juveniles/homes where there was no current uniform detention or residential treatment programmes. This resulted in lack of uniformity across countries and different names for secure Confinement Centres for children offenders/juveniles worldwide.

Secure detention is reserved for juveniles considered to be a threat to public safety or court process for youths that are held for violating a court order. Juveniles charged with running away from home, alcohol possession and other offences that are not crimes if committed by adults, may be held by courts if complainants are made by adults in the court. Children offenders placed in Correctional Centres like Ekiti State Children Correctional Centre (EKSCCC), Ado Ekiti are expected to be given adequate care, shelter, medical treatment, good educational or vocational training and skills to enable them change for better after their release and contribute their quota to the development of the nation. The questions now are, how well is the Centre achieving these laudable goals? What are the effects and implications of the Centre on the inmates kept at the Centre? It is against this backdrop that this study investigated the Ekiti State Children Correctional Centre and its implications on the lives of the inmates placed under its care.

Basic assumption of the study

The basic assumptions of the study were as follows:

- i. The implications of the Ekiti State Children Correctional Centre on the lives of the inmates is to change them for better and make them have positive values for the future.
- ii. The function of the Children Correctional Centre was to provide accommodation, security, academic and vocational training, array of rehabilitation programme, medical and dental services for all inmates;
- iii. That the Centre's activities may be hampered if facilities, enabling environment, funding and manpower were not available and adequate.

The purpose of the study

The study investigated the Ekiti State Children Correctional Centre (EKSCCC) and its implications on the lives of its inmates. The study therefore:

- i. Examined the implications of EKSCCC on the lives of the inmates;
- ii. Investigated the level of provisions made by EKSCCC for inmates since inception;
- iii. Analysed the challenges militating against effectiveness of the Centre.

Methodology

The research methodology is the most essential aspect of any research because it tests the ability of the researcher to pick appropriate research instrument for the conduct of his or her research study. The methodology

for this study was descriptive design using qualitative method which would elicit information on the Ekiti State Children Correctional Centre, Ado Ekiti and its implications on the inmates. The SWOT analysis of the Centre was also done to assess the functionality of the Centre.

Population and sample for the study

The population for the study consisted of the staff, inmates of the Ekiti State Children Correctional Centre, Ado Ekiti and Security Agents who related with the Centre. The sample comprised only staff and inmates who were willing and ready to participate in the study. These were 30 informants which comprised the Director of the Centre, 13 staff, 15 inmates and 2 Police Officers.

Research Instrument

The data for the study were collected through three sets of Key Informant Interview Guides (KIIG) for the Inmates, Security Agents-Police and Staff of the Centre. The KIIG had two sections, A and B. Section A comprised the respondents' personal data while Section B comprised items which elicited information on the specific objectives of the study. The KIIGs were scrutinized by experts in Social Work and Gender and Development Studies at the Centre for Gender and Development Studies, Ekiti State University, Ado Ekiti, Nigeria. Their comments were used for the modification of the items on the KIIGs so as to satisfy the face and content validities as appropriate.

Method of Data Collection and Administration of Instrument

Qualitative method of data collection was employed for the study. The major scientific research data used were from primary and secondary sources. The primary data and information were accessed through researcher's in-depth participatory observation, discussion and key informant interview (KII) of staff, security agents and inmates. The observation and discussion were done during the researcher's three months' internship at the Centre. Observation here involved noting down and recording of the activities and events at the Centre. Discussion used in the consisted of conversations with staff and inmates of the Centre and Police Officers. Questions were asked and enquiries made on various issues concerning the inmates and Centre. Further details were given by staff and inmates during such discussions. Interviews which were face to face meetings and conversations were also employed during the three months period of study.

Key Informant Interview (KII) was conducted with the aid of an interview guide and the interview of respondents who cooperated were recorded. The implications of the Centre on the inmates were measured by the ability of the Centre and the staff in getting things done well and the act of producing the expected impact on the inmates. This also included how efficient and effective the Centre did its job in relation to the inmate in order to produce a positive changed behavior by the time they were released by the Centre into their communities.

Using SWOT analysis, the challenges of the Centre were enumerated, possible solutions were offered and recommendations were made. How human and material resources were managed by management in the Centre were also accessed.

Secondary Information

Secondary information for the study were obtained from existing sources which had already been used for similar purposes and useful for the present study. Secondary data were collected from sources such as mass media – newspapers, magazines; journals and publications and existing records at the Centre.

Data Analysis

Frequency counts and percentage scores were used for the study. The various responses were also interpreted.

Ethical Consideration and Consent Procedures

The study was carried out in accordance with the recommendation and the approval of the Office of Research and Development (ORD) of Ekiti State University, Ado Ekiti. Before the commencement of the three phases of key informants' interviews with the inmates, the police agents and the staff of the Centre, they were all informed that the exercise was for academic purpose only. They were also informed that their responses would be kept confidential. The respondents used for the study gave written informed consent. The methodology was approved by the Office of Research and Development (ORD) of the University. Approval was also given for the study by the researcher's office, The Centre for Gender and Development Studies (CGDS) of Ekiti State University, Ado Ekiti, Nigeria.

Results and Findings

Results of the study is presented below.

Table 1: Percentage of Distribution of Informants by their Socio-Economic and Demographic Characteristics

Variables	Male (N=20)	Female (N=10)	Total (N=30)
Age			
Less than 21	13 (43.3%)	2 (6.7%)	15 (50.0%)
21-30	1 (3.3%)	Nil	1 (3.3%)
31-40	3 (10.0%)	2 (6.7%)	5 (16.7%)
41-50	4 (13.3%)	2 (6.7%)	6 (20.0%)

51 and above	1 (3.3%)	2 (6.7%)	3 (10.0%)
Religion			
Christianity	20 (66.6%)	7 (23.3%)	27 (90.0%)
Islam	2 (6.7%)	1 (3.3%)	3 (10.0%)
Traditional	Nil	Nil	Nil
Status			
Inmates	13 (43.3%)	2 (6.7%)	15 (50%)
Staff	6 (20.0%)	7 (23.3%)	13 (43.3%)
Police Officers	2 (6.7%)	Nil	2 (6.7%)

Table 1 showed that a significant number, (50%) of the key informants were below 21 years of age while 33% were between 21-30 years of age, 16.7% were between ages 31-40, 20% were 41-50 years old while 10% were 51 years and above. However, 90% of the key informants were Christians while 10% were Muslims but no Traditionists. Also, 50% of the informants were inmates, 43.3% were staff of the Centre and 6.7% were Police Officers.

Table 2: Distribution of Types of Inmates at the Centre

S/N	Variables	Male	Female	Total
1	Found children	1 (6.7%)	Nil	1 (6.7%)
2	Alleged for stealing	1 (6.7%)	Nil	1 (6.7%)
3	Alleged raping	1 (6.7%)	Nil	1 (6.7%)
4	Beyond parental control	2 (13.3%)	1 (6.7%)	3 (20%)
5	Alleged for burglary	3 (20%)	Nil	3 (20%)
6	Victim of child trafficking	1 (6.7%)	Nil	1 (6.7%)
7	Alleged from court	1 (6.7%)	1 (6.7%)	2 (13.3%)
8	Alleged for illegal possessions of arms	1 (6.7%)	Nil	1 (6.7%)
9	Alleged manslaughter	2 (13.3%)	Nil	2 (13.3%)
	Total	13	2	15

Table 2 indicated that 6.7% of the inmates at the Ekiti State Correctional Centre, Ado Ekiti were fund children, alleged for stealing, alleged rapist, victim of child trafficking and alleged for illegal possession of arms (ie 6.7% x 5). Children beyond parent control and alleged for burglary were 20% each while those alleged from court and alleged manslaughter were 13.3% each.

Table 3: Inmate Informants' Responses on the level of their welfare at the Centre

S/N	Variables	Positive Response	%	Negative Response	%
1	How has the staff of this Centre been taking care of you?	Very well	100	Nil	00
2	Are the members of staff doing what they should do?	Yes	100	Nil	00
3	Were you satisfied with what the staff of the Centre are doing?	Yes	100	Nil	00
4	What can you say about the standard of your food and feeding?	Food was okay	100	Nil	00
5	If your food is not okay, what do you want the staff to do to improve your feeding?	The food was good	87%	Meat was not adequate, so, their food should include more meat	13%
6	What implications has the Centre has on you since you arrived here?	Positive implications and impact	100	Nil	00
7	What are the staff not doing well?		100	Nil	00

From table 3, it is evident that all (100%) of the inmates affirmed that the Centre and its staff were doing what it was supposed to do. The inmates noted that the staff were doing well, the standard of their food and feeding were good and that they did not want any change except that more meat should be provided in their meal.

Table 4: Police Officers' Responses

Out of the four Police Officers who related with the Centre and the inmates that were contacted, only two agreed to participate in the study as key informants. Their responses are analysed in table below.

S/N	Questions	Responses
1	What are your view about the Centre in achieving its set objectives since its establishment?	They agreed that the Centre had achieved its objectives.
2	Why did you think that the Centre has achieved its objectives?	One of the two officers said that the Centre was a good idea to straighten the ways of alleged young offenders and train them on what was good or bad. He added that the Centre had been doing this effectively since its inception. The second officer said that he had seen many inmates who had learnt a lot of good behavior at the Centre.
3	Can you do a SWOT analysis of the Centre?	The two Police Officers indicated that the strength of the Centre was government funding and philanthropists and institutions. They did not see much weaknesses. The opportunities of the Centre included provision of shelter and other provisions for the inmates. However, the threats indicated were inadequate funding and accommodation. They rated the level of the impact of the Centre on inmates as moderate due to the weaknesses and threats of the Centre.
4	What is the implications of the Centre on the lives of the Inmates?	The two security agents noted that the Centre had positive implications on the lives of the inmates which they rated as moderate, not high because the inmates did not enjoy formal education at the Centre. They added that a handful of inmates who passed through the Centre learnt some trades and crafts. They noted that inadequate funding also adversely affected the level of implications/impacts of the Centre on the lives of the inmates.
5	What should be done to improve the level of positive implications and impacts on the lives of the inmates?	The first officer said that Government should visit the Centre regularly to know the problems of the inmates and meet their needs. The visits would make the inmates feel that they were loved by government. There should also be formal education programmes for the inmates to fish out intelligent and talented ones among them in order to encourage them. The second officer opined that government should provide more funding to improve the level of impacts on the inmates.
6	What are your recommendation on improving the quality of service at the Centre?	Government should visit the inmates regularly to give them hope. Government should provide enough infrastructural facilities at the Centre for the staff to take care of the inmates and be more productive, after all, the inmates are offenders, not criminals.

Table 5: The Responses of Staff Informants

The thirteen (6 M and 7 F), members of staff, agreed to participate in the study. Their responses are enumerated below.

S/N	Questions	Responses
1	How well has Ekiti State Children Correctional Centre (EKSCCC) achieved its objective?	All (100%) of the staff agreed that the EKSCCC has achieved the objectives for setting it up. They rated the percentage of compliance with its objectives at 70%.
2	Why did you say this?	Children at the Centre were disciplined. Majority of them have changed for better and were reformed.
3	How well are the staff doing their job?	The staff did their best of caring, protection, discipline for the waifs, homeless and stray inmates.
4	What happens when inmates were about to be released from the Centre?	When the time for any inmate was up for released, he/she either went back to the court for the conclusion of their cases and released or otherwise went to their families in their communities.
5	What can you say about inmates who	About 14 former inmates have been transformed out of those

	had left the Centre?	released especially the males. Most females released were vulnerable and therefore, were rarely totally reformed because majority of them had unwanted pregnancies after their release from the Centre.
6	How does the Centre do after service monitoring/mentoring of the inmates who already left the Centre?	The Centre was able to monitor the former inmates because they get in touch with the Centre after release. Many former inmates were changed and became Pastors and came back to the Centre to minister to the inmates still residing therein.
7	What are the status of former inmates?	Many children brought to the Centre, changed and had turned a new leaf. An example was a boy that the researcher interviewed who had left the Centre and at the time of the interview was a student at a secondary school in the town.
8	What are the perspectives of the parents of former inmates of the Centre	Many parents of former inmates were happy and visited the Centre some years after their children left the Centre to show their appreciation because their wards were reformed by the Centre.
9	How do you rate the facilities at the Centre?	The facilities at the Centre were not adequate at all. The building was a rented apartment and not owned by government. It was very inadequate and not suitable for a Correctional Centre. There was an urgent need for the government to build a permanent accommodation with adequate and comfortable facilities and furniture for use by inmates and staff.
10	Do a SWOT analysis of the Centre	The Centre had some strengths and opportunities. But due to the weaknesses and threats, seventy percent (70 %) of the staff rated the level of impact and implications of the Centre on the lives of the inmates as moderate while twenty percent (20%) rated it as high and ten percent (10%) of the respondents rated it as low level .

Responses of Inmates on the Implication of the Centre on them

The Particulars of the Inmates

During the researcher's observation and investigation at the Ekiti State Children Correctional Centre, there were 15 inmates, 13 boys and 2 girls residing there. For confidentiality/anonymity and to prevent stigmatization against the inmate respondents, their names of the inmate were not used in this report; instead alphabets were used for them. The details were:

Miss 'A' was a 15 year old girl in Primary 3 in a public school in her town in Ekiti State, Nigeria. She was a survivor of defilement from a broken home. The girl's mother divorced and moved out of town while her father also remarried. She was abducted by a male commercial motor cyclist who picked her up to help her home while roaming the street in her town. According to the girl, she left home on that faithful day because her step mother was always too harsh and maltreated her. The man took her home and continuously defied her for 21 days before she escaped to stay with her mother's friend. The father reported the case to the Police. The case of the perpetrator was still in Court and the girl was brought to the Centre by the Police for protection. On enquiry, this inmate wished to go home, turn a new leaf, be an obedient child, go back to school or learn a trade. Master 'B' was 12 year old, a Primary 5 pupil of a private nursery school boy. He was very brilliant and always in the first or second position in class. He was a truant from a broken home and his family lives in a town in the State. He was fond of leaving school and trekking and wondering about the streets. His reason for truancy was that he was always flogged and disciplined by his teachers. He was afraid of corporal punishment meted out on him. He was found and taken to the Centre by Ministry of Women Affairs, Social Development and Gender Empowerment in the State. He promised to turn a new leaf, go back to school and train to become an army officer in future. Master 'C' was 15 year old, Primary 6 public primary school pupil, from a broken home and from a neighbouring State, Ondo State but lived in a town in Ekiti State. His mother was from Ekiti State. He was also from a broken home and his father was not a responsible person because he was said to be very uncaring. He was a younger brother to Master G on this list. He enjoyed playing lottery and football betting. He made ends meet by being a shop keeper and broke into his master's shop in the evening to get money for food because he was always hungry since things were difficult for his mother. He was brought to the Centre by the Police because his case was in court. He tried to escape from custody twice and was recovered through collaborative efforts between the Warden and the law enforcement Agents. He was always in chains to prevent him from any further escape attempt. He appeared very restless at the period of observation. He wanted to return home, change, stop playing lottery, go back to school or learn a trade/skill.

Master 'D' was an 11 year old only son/child of a 70 year old man. He was in primary 5 and living with his father at the time of his arrest. He was a broken home. He lived with his paternal aunt in his home town. He committed homicide by accidentally shooting his cousin with his father's loaded local gun while they (the two boys) were playing with the gun. The father returned from hunting at dawn, mistakenly left the gun still loaded. He and his son were arrested as a result and the minor was taken to the Centre. He was full of remorse and promised never to play with guns again in his life. He fasted and prayed always for the dead cousin and himself for mercy. He wanted to go back to school, study his books when idle and become a pilot. He was released alongside his father who was later released on bail. Master 'E' was 17 years old was a student of a public secondary school who defiled a 3 year old daughter of his neighbor. He was brought to the Centre by the Police and had spent a year and 3 months in confinement at the study period. He promised to turn a new leaf, go back to school and become an Engineer in future. He did not want to marry the girl he raped as his future wife. He was later released on bail. Master 'F' was 15 years old from one of the States in Nigeria in class 3 student of public secondary school. His parents were still married and living together. He committed homicide when he shot his half-brother while playing together with a loaded gun. He was arrested and taken to the Centre and had spent a year 4 months in custody. He was full of remorse and promised to stay away from dangerous weapons forever. He promised to return to school and become a lawyer. He was a cool headed boy and very responsible. Master 'G' was 17 years old who dropped out of school in primary 2 to learn bricklaying skill to become a mason. He was an elder brother to Master 'C' from the same parents. He was from a broken home in a neighbouring Ondo State but lived in Ekiti State with his mother. He was from a broken home and his father was not responsible to his family. He admitted that he had been involved in pick pocketing severally. He was accused of conniving with his brother, Master 'C' to rob a shop. He was the one who raised the robbery alarm which led to their arrest. He was brought to the Centre by the Police. He appeared innocent and he looked gentler than his younger brother. However, if released, he promised to stay out of trouble, be well behaved and become a good mason in future. He was chained since his brother, Master 'C' attempted escape many times. Although, his brother lobbied him, he did not try to escape. Master 'H' was 16 years old. He was a paternal orphan, secondary school student and part-time bus conductor all together. He was arrested with his master, the bus driver for possession of gun, cutlasses and knives hid in their vehicle. He was brought to the Centre by the Police. He claimed to be innocent and had no knowledge of the weapons found in the vehicle. He promised that if he ever left the Centre as a free person, he would stay out of trouble and learn bricklaying. Master 'I' was 14 years old from a State in Nigeria. His parents were still married and living together. He had 9 other siblings and never attended school. He was a found child. He was a victim of child trafficking. He was promised to be sent to school but made to serve a family as a house help by his male trafficker, who collected money from his new master and vanished. After spending 2 years in his new place of servitude without being enrolled in school as earlier promised by the trafficker, he pestered his new boss for his enrollment in school to no avail. He was restricted and never allowed to go out of the compound. He escaped from the house one day thinking of going to the Radio/Television Station to request for announcement on both media in the hope of his parents seeing him and coming for him. When he got to the Station, instead of the announcement, he was taken to the Police Station where he was taken to the Ministry of Women Affairs, Social Development and Gender Empowerment as lost but found child. He was immediately taken to the Centre. The Police and the Ministry tried to trace family in his home State. He wanted to go back home, learn a trade and settle down. Master 'J' was 24 years old young man with a Ghanaian father and a Nigerian mother from a broken home. When the house he was living in got burnt, his parents were not around and his left hand got burnt in the incidence. He never met his parents again, so, he was picked up by his two friends who took him home. He did not know that they were robbers. They implicated him for stealing mobile phones. He was a minor at that time, was arrested and taken to a Children Home in a neighbouring, where he was transferred to Ekiti State Ministry of Women Affairs and was taken to the Centre. The case against him was dismissed. He was presently acquiring skill in barbing/haircut, photography/ video and fine art sponsored by the Ministry of Women Affairs. According to him, the lesson that he learnt was to stay away from strangers, be careful and try to be good, God helping him. Master 'K' was 14 years old who claimed to be from a neighbouring State. He was an orphan. His father died and he did not know his mother. After his father's death, he was raised in the Juvenile Children's Home in another State in Nigeria and attended school until his uncle came to claim him for care. However, the uncle did not care for him. So, he dropped out of school in primary 6. He left his uncle's house to the streets to engage in menial work to fend for himself at such a small age. He later left for fear of Policemen who harassed him always. He went to his home town to trace his family home but could not locate the family house. He then went to the Police station where nobody was ready to help him. He then left for Ekiti, State capital, slept outside for two days before a Good Samaritan took him to the Police station from where he was taken to the Centre. What he wanted most was to be adopted by a good family who would send him to school for him to progress in life. While interviewing him, the researcher discovered that he was restless because he was used to making money. Master 'L' was 15 year old son of a Medical Doctor, who dropped out of class 3 class due to disagreement with his mother. His father was from a neighbouring State while his mother was from Ekiti State. His parents had separated and remarried. He

had a sibling, an elder brother who left with his father while he was left in his mother's care. Due to hunger, he confessed that he picked pocket to make ends meet. In order to receive better care, he left his mother for his father's place. His father rejected him and drove him back to his mother. At his return, the mother was offended and drove him away and refused to ever set eyes on her again despite all his entreaties. To survive, he did odd jobs and sneaked into an old woman's house to sleep every night. He over slept one day and was caught by the woman who raised alarm that he was a burglar who broke her asbestos to gain access to her house. She reported to the Police who arrested him and brought him to the Centre. He wanted his father to accept him and raise him. If he was ever released by the Police, he promised to change, be law abiding and become somebody in future.

Miss 'M' was 13 year old from a broken home. She is in class 3 in a good secondary school. She had 4 other siblings. Her mother separated from her husband. She was brought to the Centre by her 2 elder siblings because she was beyond parental control. She was fond of leaving home and sleeping outside. She admitted to have done this up to 5 times. She had tattoo on her left arm. At the Centre, she tried to commit suicide by chewing raw batteries. She was still in chains to prevent her from escaping or harming herself. She had another wayward girlfriend, an orphan who had taken up prostitution to make ends meet. When she was taken to the Centre, she appeared drugged, although, she denied it. She later calmed down. She also promised to change and become a medical Doctor. She was later released but she came back because of her insistence waywardness. She appeared beyond reform. However, the staff of the Centre promised to continue to work on her until she is reformed. Master 'N' was 16 years old who dropped out of class 5 because his school fee was not paid and he could not sit for examination that term. He was a product of broken home. Both parent remarried. He was accused of conniving with kidnappers to kidnap a student. He said that he was innocent and was framed up by a young man who did not like him because he did not support the man's love advances toward his sister. He promised to face his business if he was set free from Court and the Centre. He also promised to be a better person and change for better. Master 'O' was a Muslim boy of 13 years old whose parents were from another State but live Ekiti State. He was not an offender from the Court but was a wayward, truants and stole his parents' money. He was taken to his aunt's place with the hope that she could discipline him because his parents could not. So, he attended a secondary school at his aunt's until the aunt returned him to his parents. He later ran away from home for 5 days to sleet in the market with strangers. His parents took him to the Centre for two weeks discipline with the hope that he would learn his lessons and change for better. The researcher witnessed his incoming discipline by canning and in the process of this discipline, he regretted and accepted that he had erred and would be well behaved. He was a Muslim but cried out to Jesus to take away stubbornness from him and promised to change and be well behaved.

Status and Activities of the Centre

At creation, Ekiti State Children Correctional Centre was named "Juvenile Remand Home" when established. Since inception, a total of 250 (159 males and 91 females) inmates have passed through the Centre (EKSCCC, 2016; 2019). The Centre was established to provide reformatory services, protection, shelter, feeding, care and discipline where necessary for found children and juvenile offenders. The Centre was under the supervision of the Ekiti State Ministry of Women Affairs, Social Development and Gender Empowerment. These were under-aged children who committed various crimes and were awaiting trial but were too young to be placed in adult detention or prison pending the conclusion of their cases. Other categories of inmates were also referred to the Centre from the Ministry of Women Affairs, Social Development and Gender Empowerment, Ekiti State when there were complaints about 'beyond parental control' or were found to have no known relation or awaiting transfer to their state of origin.

There was no way the Centre could enhance the gender disaggregation of inmates. There were fifteen inmates (two females and thirteen males). The Ekiti State Children Correctional Centre was located at Bamgboye Street, along Ikere, Road, Ado- Ekiti. The objective of the Ekiti State Children Correctional Centre is to provide reformatory services, protection, shelter, feeding, care and discipline where necessary for found children and juvenile offenders.

SWOT ANALYSIS OF THE CENTRE

Strengths: The strengths of the Centre included:

- management staff were Social Workers who know their job;
- staff were qualified, well trained, experienced, and adequate;
- Centre accommodation was spacious, neat and comfortable;
- inmates were well fed and cared for;

Weaknesses: These included:

- ❖ Centre operated from a rented apartment;
- ❖ Centre did not have space for a befitting field for the inmates to recreate properly;
- ❖ inmates did not attend school for fear of escape;
- ❖ Coaching classes were not arranged for the inmates to improve them academically.

Opportunities: The opportunities were that:

- ✓ State Government could increase funding for the Centre to improve its effectiveness;
- ✓ There were opportunities for the inmates reformation at the Centre;
- ✓ There was hope for the inmates as a result of the positive effect of the Centre on them after their release.

Threats: These were:

- Their furniture items at the Centre were old and inadequate;
- Centre was too porous due to its location within residential building. It is sandwiched between two residential buildings;
- Centre was under-funded;
- inmates could easily escape over the fence which had happened before;
- There were no recreational facilities like playing field for games and athletics for inmates at the Centre;
- There were no educational facilities for the inmates at the Centre.

Staff Composition

The staff composition included Director who coordinated the activities of the Centre; Deputy Director that assisted the Director; two Assistant Director who assisted the Deputy Director; Warden that in-charge of the daily running of the Centre. The Warden was a Social Worker and a graduate of Social Work Practice; two Assistant Social Welfare Officers who supervised the inmates and their care; Case Workers in-charge of cases involving the inmates; Clerical Officer is in-charge of correspondence with the Centre; Head Security who ensured that the inmates were secured and he supervised the other Security Officers; three Security Officers made ensure that they guided the inmates and assisted the Head Security Officer in the discharge of other security duties; Cooks who prepared meal for inmates daily and a Messenger that did the Centre's common duties. A total of thirteen (13) staff (7 females and 6 males) were on ground at the Centre while the other senior staff had their offices at the Ministry of Women Affairs, Social Welfare and Gender Empowerment Headquarters where they did supervisory duties. The inmates' welfare was well taken care of.

Discussion of Findings

The study investigated the implications of Ekiti State Children Correctional Centre, Ado Ekiti. The study showed that almost all the inmates at the Centre were from broken homes, unstable and poverty ridden homes. This agrees with Oloruntimehin (1970) who attributed want and family instability, exposure to physical and emotional behavior among children. The inmates are either beyond parental control or children in need of care and protection or children in conflict with the law of the land. This is in line with Okagbue (2010).

The study revealed that the Centre had positive implications/impacts on inmates' lives by providing them with shelter, food, care, protection, reformatory services and discipline for which it was established. The inmates also attested to the fact that they were all willing to become productive and important adults after their release from the Centre. Some of the promised to be Lawyers, Engineers, Doctors, Mansion or learn other trades. This agrees with Daily Times (2015) that noted that inmates were kept at Juvenile Centres to have good shelter discipline and care. The study showed that the facilities at the Centre were inadequate and the accommodation was not appropriate for comfortable for the inmates and staff. This agrees with Nwogu (2016), Omokhunu (2016), This Day (2017) and Bassey (2018), who observed that Juvenile Remand Homes/Centres were in deplorable conditions, inadequate and unfit to accommodate the inmates confined in them. Also, the Borstal Institutes lacked adequate learning materials, facilities and drugs. It was worthy of note that the low standard, lack of necessary facilities, infrastructure and funding reduced the level of implications it might have on the inmates. The study showed that the Centre had positive impact on the lives of the inmates at the Centre at the study period and those who had left as attested to by them and staff. This agrees with Daily Times (2015) which noted that inmates were ministered to at the Juvenile Centres and such inmates later became successful youths and adults. However, in area of vocational training and formal education, the Centre has not achieved much. It had no vocational training facilities for inmates and they did not receive any formal education within or without the Centre. This agrees with the Rights of the Child in Nigeria (2005) that noted that facilities for juvenile offenders have been inadequate for decades due to poor funding and necessary infrastructure.

The SWOT analysis of the Centre showed that the Centre had some strengths, and opportunities which included government funding and provision of shelter for the young offenders who could not be detained in prison which enhanced the performance and achievement of the objectives of the Centre. Conversely, the weaknesses and threats of the Centre that included poor infrastructural facilities could lead to the discomfort of the young inmates and this could result in inmates' attempt to escape from the Correctional Centre. These weaknesses and threats could defeat the laudable purpose of establishing the Children Correctional Centre in Ekiti State. Due to these weaknesses and threats, seventy percent (70 %) of the staff, police and inmates interviewed, rated the level of impact and implications of the Centre on the lives of the inmates as **moderate** while twenty percent (20%) rated it as high and ten percent (10%) of the respondents rated it as low.

The study further revealed that the Centre were adequately utilised. The official documents at the Centre included Inmates Register / Admission Book, which was used to record the interviews and information about the inmates, such as admission/release dates; recipient's name at the Centre; offence committed; sex; age; Recipient's signature and date and other details; Confidential File/Yellow File which contains detailed information about an inmate such as, Reference Number of inmates; Progress reports on inmates and other vital information such as name; Residential address, Age; Name of school; State origin; Religion/Denomination; Status of parents; Date of marriage; Date of admission, Reason for admission; Referral; Police Record Book / Police Case Book which was used to take record of Police Officer's visit and activities in respect of the inmates and the reasons for such visits and other details; Visitors' Book that was identical to the Police Record Book except that the Police Record Book was mainly used for security agents. The Visitors' Book was used by all other sundry visitors and at times the security agents too and Donors.

The study also showed that the inmates' welfare and discipline were well taken care of. The staff were observed to be up and doing, committed to duties and well behaved and disciplined. The inmates were disciplined when they misbehaved and needed to be corrected. In such situation, restriction with chain; corporal punishment-lashes of the cane and counseling were administered. The languages of communication were Yoruba and English Languages depending on the one she preferred. The Centre also tried to reform the young offenders by counseling them on good behavior at morning devotion and through services organized by various Christian religious organizations and Civil Society Organizations.

The study also revealed that the Centre was funded solely by the Ekiti State Government since it was a government establishment. However, philanthropists, institutions, religious bodies, Non-Governmental Organizations and well-meaning citizens also donated cash/items to the Centre.

Conclusion and Recommendation

Majority of the inmates are from broken homes. The major reason for children crimes was bad consequence of broken homes. Hunger and lack of adequate care led the youths to perpetrate crimes. There was the need for parents to be sensitized on their various responsibility to their children. If the trend of parents' irresponsibility persisted, more children would be involved in crime. The Centre did a very good job by giving hope to many hopeless children. Some inmates, who had no home, got shelter protection and care. An orphan, a male has been trained, married and settled down with his family. Another inmate was under-going training. The Centre had on the vulnerable and under-privileged young persons who found themselves in this precarious situations and in the hands of the law. The State Government to keep up the good work. Based on the findings of the study, it is recommended that the Centre should be more funded by the State Government and philanthropists. The Centre should be moved to its permanent site by providing a more adequate and comfortable building or the present site renovated. More staff should be recruited for the Centre. More furniture items required should be provided for the Centre. Efforts should be made by the court to complete the case of inmates, so, that they can go back to school or learn a trade/start a new life.

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