

# Exploring the Effectiveness of Rehabilitation Programmes on Recidivism Reduction in Selected Correctional Facilities in Ogun State

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## ABSTRACT

Evidential report gathered from national and international reports indicates the needs for reduction in prisons congestion through the adoption and implementation of quality rehabilitation programme. Prison congestion poses as threat toward rehabilitation programme among the inmates leading to increase in the rate at which recidivism gain it momentum in the correctional facilities in Ogun State, Nigeria. Several national and international publications of the past and present concerning prison congestion, rehabilitation programmes and recidivisms were reviewed to shed comprehensive insights to their various submission with the adoption of rehabilitation theory for the study. Mixed methods were adopted for collection of 330 for the quantitative data through the use of structured questionnaire while 15 in-depth interviews were conducted among the return's inmates in the four correctional facilities in Ogun state, Nigeria (Ijebu-Ode, Ilaro, Obah, Ibara) respectively. Non-experimental design is adopted with face to serve the instruments to inmates with the aid of probability (Simple random) and non-probability (purposive) sampling techniques. All ethical conditions were collected before conducting the research while descriptive and content methods of data analyses were adopted. The study finds out that improper integration, adoption and implementation of rehabilitation programme will lead to ever-increasing nature of recidivism experienced in Ogun State, Nigeria, therefore it was recommended enhancement of adult literacy, improve number of trained counselor and develop a post-release support program

## KEYWORDS

Effectiveness; rehabilitation-programme; recidivism; correctional-facility

## INTRODUCTION

The submission of diverse scholars on the concept of recidivism asserts that the recidivism is a complex global issue which significantly negate social and economic development of any countries facing the menace. Research conducted in 2020 by the UNODC submits that the global recidivism rate was estimated to be 67.8% while the ever-increasing nature of return rate indicate adequate researching into quality and effective rehabilitation programmes to reduce recidivism and promote successful reintegration into society (Fazel et al., 2016; UNODC, 2020). To validate the above statement, Långström et al. (2020) conducted research on recidivism rate in different countries (United States, Britain, Mexico, Germany), and found out that the percentage of ex-offenders who commit new crimes after release varies. They further stressed that this variation ranges from 20% to

80%, with an average of 44% of released inmates end up re-offending. In another research conducted on the rate of recidivism by Pew Charitable Trusts, (2018), the organization avers that the United States government spends over \$80 billion every year to lock people up, highlighting the significant social and economic burden that recidivism places on society.

Across Africa, recidivism is a major problem affecting the growth and development of correctional systems. Even though recidivism is a global issue, the situation in Africa is different and requires a more careful look by obtaining accurate data on recidivism rates in Africa due to multifaceted problems and limited resources for tracking criminals after release and management. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), (2020) recognizes this as a problem and calls for African countries to improve data collection methods on recidivism, with the belief that this would give a clearer picture of the situation across the continent. Despite the data limitations, there is no doubt that recidivism has a really negative impact on Africa. For example, Aebi et al., (2021) conducted research in South Africa, and lament that the relationship between recidivism and rehabilitation programme seems to be skewed towards negative impact on human and societal development socially and financially. This was supported by African Development Bank (AfDB, 2019) points out that rehabilitation programme designed to keep the recidivists is very expensive, because it strains the budgets of correctional facilities as they have to keep incarcerated in the facilities for as long as they will be required to serve the prison terms

Research conducted deciphers that there are broader challenges in African countries in terms of how to provide effective rehabilitation programme for reducing the rate at which ex-offenders return back to prison, Evidence gathered from national and international publications indicated that Nigeria has its own unique peculiarity for explaining the causes, rate and rehabilitation programme for recidivists. For NCS (2022) many ex-offenders return to crime in Nigeria due to several reasons ranging from limited resources to track what happens to people after they are released and lack of a unicentral system for collecting information across Nigeria. However, even though it is challenging to get data on the recidivism rate in Nigeria, the negative effects are clear. By considering these factors, African nations need to develop effective rehabilitation programmes to tackle the reoccurring decimal from recidivism and promote successful reintegration for ex-offenders in Nigeria.

Nigeria, like many countries, faces a significant challenge with recidivism which is the phenomenon of released inmates returning to criminal activity. This does not only impact public safety but also represents a missed opportunity for rehabilitation and reintegration. Despite the implementation of various rehabilitation programme, recidivism rates in Nigeria remain alarmingly high, with estimates ranging from 70% to 80%, particularly in Ogun State. This high rate poses a significant threat to public safety and perpetuates a cycle of crime and punishment. National-level research exists, but there are critical lack of in-depth studies specifically evaluating and measuring the effectiveness of rehabilitation programmes offered at various correctional facilities in Ogun State. This lack of understanding hinders the ability to optimize global improvement and alternative criminal justice system, correctional interventions and address the specific needs of offenders in this context.

The persistent issue of recidivism underscores the need for a deeper understanding of the challenges that hinder successful reintegration policies for returned inmates. The issue surrounding inadequate knowledge of correctional officers to identify barriers faced by such ex-offenders, particularly after participating in rehabilitation programme posed as major factors leading to increasing nature of recidivism in Nigeria correctional facilities In

Ogun State, correctional facilities offer rehabilitation programme to offenders but the measuring the effectiveness of the rehabilitation programme for reducing recidivism remains unclear and this lack of clarity creates a critical gap in our understanding of how best to support formerly incarcerated offenders and ultimately contribute to a safer society. Furthermore, past existing research often adopts a limited scope, focusing solely on programme participation and neglecting the complex interplay of offenders and systemic factors that contribute to recidivism. Poverty, lack of education and employment opportunities, and social stigma significantly impact ex-offenders' reintegration and can undermine the effectiveness of even well-designed rehabilitation programs. Therefore, this research aims to address; the absence of a comprehensive evaluation of rehabilitation programmes at correctional facilities in Ogun state and their impact on recidivism reduction, the limited understanding of the specific needs and challenges faced by offenders within the State and how these factors influence program effectiveness and the inadequate consideration of systemic factors contributing to recidivism and their interaction with rehabilitation interventions.

In Nigeria, people who need rehabilitation programmes, whether for addiction, disability, or even after prison, face some unique challenges. It is on this ground that this study has emerged to evaluate the effectiveness of existing rehabilitation programmes designed by the Ogun State Correctional Service to combat, reduce and eradicate the rate of recidivism in the correctional facilities selected for this study.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Within the purview of correctional studies, there are several theories that could be employed but for this study rehabilitation theory is adopted to measure the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs on recidivism reduction in selected correctional facilities in Ogun State. Rehabilitation theorist posits that criminal behavior is the result of various psycho social factors and mal-adaptive behaviors that can be addressed through targeted interventions aimed at reforming the individual. This theory emphasizes the role of structured rehabilitation programmes that provide education, vocational training, and psychological support to equip offenders with the skills and mindset necessary for successful reintegration into society. The primary goal is to transform inmates into law-abiding citizens by addressing the root causes of their criminal behavior, thus reducing the likelihood of recidivism. Together, these theories provide a robust framework for understanding and enhancing the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs in reducing recidivism in correctional facilities.

This research adopts the rehabilitation theory as articulated by Howard Becker and Blanche Geer, particularly focusing on their significant contributions to labeling theory. This perspective shifts the focus from the individual as the source of deviance to the societal processes that define and enforce norms. In essence, Becker's work encourages us to understand deviance and, by extension, rehabilitation within the broader context of societal reactions and the power of labels. Blanche Geer, a collaborator with Becker, extended these ideas by examining how societal labels impact an individual's behavior after being labeled. Rehabilitation, in this context, involves not only helping individuals break free from the cycle of deviance but also actively working to dismantle the societal labels that contribute to this cycle. Together, Becker and Geer laid the foundation for modern rehabilitation theories that emphasize the need to manage societal reactions, reduce stigma, and facilitate the reintegration of individuals into society after they have been labeled as deviant or criminal.

Rehabilitation theory itself is built upon several core principles that guide its approach

to addressing deviant behavior and the societal reactions that often accompany it. At the heart of this theory is the idea that deviance is not an inherent trait of individuals but is instead constructed through the process of social labeling. Therefore, rehabilitation theory emphasizes the importance of understanding deviance in relation to these broader societal reactions and labels. A critical tenet of rehabilitation theory is the belief in the capacity of individuals to change. This belief is essential because it forms the basis for rehabilitation efforts aimed at helping individuals who have been labeled as deviant or criminal to reform and reintegrate into society. The theory advocates for interventions that go beyond simply punishing deviant behaviour.

In the context of Nigeria, rehabilitation theory is particularly relevant when considering the challenge of recidivism within the Nigerian Correctional Service (Ogunmefun, Aborisade & Atere, 2024). Ogunmefun Olawunmi & Aiyuwuse (2023) highlights series of challenges faced by the inmates such as congestion, lack of adequate training and poor feeding process experienced while in custody increase the rates of recidivism, where individuals frequently re-enter the correctional system after being released. The submission of, Ugwuebu & Alder (2020), underscores the need for rehabilitation programmes that are tailored to the diverse needs of inmates within Nigeria's correctional facilities with culturally sensitive, taking into account Nigeria's diverse cultural landscape, and should aim to address the specific challenges that inmates face. Factors such as limited employment opportunities, inadequate education, and societal stigma are significant contributors to recidivism in Nigeria (Ogunmefun & Okuneye, 2020;). By addressing these issues through comprehensive, culturally informed rehabilitation strategies, it is possible to reduce the likelihood of individuals reoffending and help them reintegrate successfully into society. Despite its many strengths, rehabilitation theory is not without its critics. Some argue that the theory's ability to reduce recidivism is often overstated and dependent on a range of unpredictable factors. One of the main criticisms is that the theory assumes that individuals who have been labeled as criminals can easily reintegrate into society with the help of rehabilitation programs. Critics also question whether rehabilitation programs can be equally effective for all individuals, given the diversity of circumstances and backgrounds among offenders. A one-size-fits-all approach to rehabilitation may overlook important individual differences in motivation, readiness to change, and the specific challenges that different individuals face. This limitation suggests that rehabilitation programs need to be more personalized and tailored to the unique needs of each individual. Additionally, there is an ongoing debate about whether rehabilitation programs truly address the root causes of criminal behavior or merely manage its symptoms. Critics argue that without addressing the broader social and economic factors that contribute to deviance, rehabilitation programs may fall short in preventing recidivism. This highlights the need for more holistic approaches that consider the wider context in which deviant behavior occurs, including social, economic, and cultural influences.

In summary, rehabilitation theory offers a comprehensive framework for understanding and addressing deviant behavior by focusing on the role of societal labels and the importance of tailored interventions that support individuals' reintegration into society. While the theory provides valuable insights, it also faces challenges and criticisms that underscore the need for continued refinement and adaptation to address the complex realities of deviance and recidivism, particularly within the context of Nigeria's correctional system.

Several national and international views of past and present scholars are reviewed so shed more comprehensive understanding to the state of rehabilitation and demonstrate what is ought to be and the reality about the programme. Although recidivism is described as at

stage whereby former offender commits a crime again after being punished for a previous offense. Maruna & Lebel (2003) looked at recidivism in 25 developed countries and found that the recidivism rate, which is the percentage of ex-offenders who commit new crimes after release, can vary between 25% and 70%, with variations attributable to factors like measurement methods and follow-up periods. Zhao et al. (2020) found a positive correlation between high recidivism rates and increased violent crime rates in multiple countries. Another factor is socioeconomic disadvantage. Ajilore (2018) research work examines how poverty, unemployment, and limited access to social support upon release can make someone more likely to return to crime in Nigeria. Finally, overcrowding and poor conditions in correctional facilities can also contribute to recidivism. Bosomprah (2023) highlights that for those in remote areas, just getting to the programme can be a challenge due to distance and limited transportation. In addition, some programs tackle addiction which is one of the major reasons people return to crime, by providing detoxification, therapy, support groups, and other strategies to prevent relapse (Atere & Akinwale, 2018).

## RESEARCH METHODS

A mixed methods adopted to inquire into this research work titled "exploring the effectiveness of rehabilitation programmes on recidivism reduction in selected correctional facilities in Ogun State. The study is conducted in four correctional facilities in Ogun State namely Iyewa Correctional Facility, Obah correctional Facility, Ijebu Ode correctional facility and Sagamu correctional facility respectively. Non-experimental research was adopted for the study while two different research instruments were adopted namely, quantitative data (400 structured questionnaire) and qualitative data (40 semistructured questionnaire). All ethical approval was sought from Ogun State Correctional service. After the screening, coding and editing process 330 questionnaires were found useful with 15 in-depth interviews among the inmates in the corrections. Face to face method was adopted for the serving of the instrument while Taro Yemane was used to determine the sample size. The sampling technique adopted is based on both probability (Simple random) and non-probability (purposive). Descriptive and content methods were adopted for the analysis of raw data collected from the inmates in various correctional facilities in Ogun State, Nigeria.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The first face of the descriptive characteristics of the respondents were analyzed adopting research questions and objectives. The analysis of the data collected is summarized that 7.0% of the respondents were between 18 and 22 years, 27.5% were between 23 and 27 years, 32.5% were between 28 and 32 years, 17.5% were between 33 and 37 years, 10.5% were between 38 and 42 years, 4.0% were between 43 and 47 years, and 1.0% were 48 years and above. This distribution indicates that the majority of the respondents (59.5%) were between 23 and 32 years old, suggesting that most of the individuals affected are within their prime working and family-building years. Another data collected and reviewed shows that 85.0% of the respondents were male, while 15.0% were female. This indicates a significant gender disparity among the respondents, with males being the predominant group. This finding corroborates with Ogunmefun, Olawunmi & Aiwuyuse (2023) findings. Result from another table shows that 37.5% of the respondents were married, 51.5% were single, 2.5% were widowed, 3.0% were divorced, and 5.5% were separated. The data suggests that a majority of the respondents (51.5%) were single, followed by married individuals (37.5%). The outcome of the inquiry on



education attainment of the participants shows that 6.5% of the respondents had no formal education, 12.5% had vocational training, 9.0% had primary education, 54.0% had secondary education, and 18.0% had a higher education qualification such as OND/HND/B.A./B.Sc. This indicates that most respondents had at least a secondary education, with over half (54.0%) falling into this category. To further the inquiry another, result gathered shows that 31.4% were employed, 7.2% were unemployed, 50.0% were self-employed, and 11.3% were categorized under "Others." This data reveals that half of the respondents were self-employed, indicating that a significant portion of them were likely involved in entrepreneurial activities before their arrest. Also, about 51.3% were living with someone, while 48.7% were not. This almost equal split suggests varying levels of social support among the respondents before their incarceration. Ethnic group result shows that 74.2% of the respondents were Yoruba, 11.3% were Igbo, 4.6% were Hausa/Fulani, and 9.8% belonged to other ethnic groups. The data shows a dominance of Yoruba respondents, reflecting the ethnic composition of the area under study. Result of the religious affiliation of the respondent indicated that 63.0% of the respondents identified as Christians, 33.5% as Muslims, 2.0% as traditional worshipers, and 1.5% belonged to other religions. Also, 40.5% of the respondents were arrested in Abeokuta, 8.6% in Otta, 25.4% in Ijebu, 5.9% in Ilaro, and 19.5% in other locations. The data suggests that a significant number of arrests occurred in Abeokuta, which might reflect the population density or law enforcement focus in that area. Another result indicated that shows that 10.6% of the respondents were arrested for capital offenses, 62.8% for felonies, 12.2% for misdemeanors, and 14.4% for simple offenses. The data indicates that the majority of respondents were involved in serious crimes (felonies), which might have contributed to their incarceration. To further the inquiry another result shows that 25.0% of the respondents were placed in Ibara, 21.5% in Oba, 27.5% in Ijebu Ode, and 26.0% in Ilaro correctional facilities. This distribution suggests a fairly even spread across the correctional facilities in the area. Finally, another result shows that 42.7% of the respondents had been in the correctional facility for less than one year, 3.0% had been there for one year, 3.0% were returning inmates, and 51.3% had been in the facility for over a year. This indicates that more than half of the respondents had been incarcerated for an extended period, which may impact their rehabilitation and reintegration prospects.

**Table 1.** Linear Regression Result showing the relationship between rehabilitation programme and recidivism reduction in Ogun state Correctional Facilities.

| Coefficients <sup>a</sup>                   |                           |                             |            |                           |       |      |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|---------------------------|-------|------|
| Model                                       |                           | Unstandardized Coefficients |            | Standardized Coefficients | T     | Sig. |
|                                             |                           | B                           | Std. Error | Beta                      |       |      |
| 1                                           | (Constant)                | 24.437                      | 3.124      |                           | 7.822 | .000 |
|                                             | Rehabilitation Programmes | .303                        | .088       | .237                      | 3.429 | .001 |
| a. Dependent Variable: Recidivism Reduction |                           |                             |            |                           |       |      |

Source: Researcher result of analysis of quantitative instrument 2024

There is a significant relationship between existing rehabilitation programmes and recidivism reduction in Ogun state correctional facilities. The results of the regression analysis clearly demonstrate the link between rehabilitation programs and the reduction of recidivism. The analysis starts with the constant, or intercept, which has an unstandardized coefficient of 24.437 and a standard error of 3.124. This figure represents the initial level of recidivism reduction when the effect of rehabilitation programs is excluded. Essentially,

it shows that even without the influence of these programs, some degree of recidivism reduction occurs. The t-value for the constant is 7.822, with a significance level (Sig.) of .000. This very low p-value indicates that the constant is highly significant, suggesting that this baseline reduction is a real effect rather than a result of random variation. Focusing on the main aspect of the analysis, the impact of rehabilitation programs on recidivism reduction is reflected by an unstandardized coefficient (B) of .303 and a standard error of .088. This coefficient is a critical finding, as it shows that each one-unit increase in the effectiveness of rehabilitation programme corresponds to a .303 unit increase in recidivism reduction, assuming other variables remain unchanged. This positive association indicates that more effective rehabilitation programs lead to greater reductions in recidivism among participants. The standardized coefficient (Beta) is .237, highlighting both the strength and direction of this relationship. A positive Beta value of this size suggests a moderate positive correlation between the effectiveness of these programs and the reduction in recidivism rates. The importance of the relationship between rehabilitation programs and recidivism reduction is further highlighted by the t-value of 3.429 and a significance level of .001. This low p-value implies that the observed effect is statistically significant, meaning it is highly unlikely to be due to chance. The statistical significance of this relationship reinforces the importance of rehabilitation programs as a key factor in reducing recidivism. Consequently, this analysis provides strong evidence supporting the positive impact of these programs on decreasing the likelihood of reoffending among participants, a crucial finding for policymakers and practitioners in the correctional system.

**Table 2.** Linear Regression Result showing the relationship between effective rehabilitation programs on recidivism reduction in Ogun Correctional Facilities.

| Coefficients <sup>a</sup> |                              |                             |            |                           |       |      |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|---------------------------|-------|------|
| Model                     |                              | Unstandardized Coefficients |            | Standardized Coefficients | t     | Sig. |
|                           |                              | B                           | Std. Error | Beta                      |       |      |
| 1                         | (Constant)                   | 8.068                       | 2.401      |                           | 3.361 | .001 |
|                           | Rehabilitation Effectiveness | .582                        | .071       | .557                      | 8.190 | .000 |
|                           | Rehabilitation Programmes    | .199                        | .083       | .163                      | 2.397 | .017 |

*Source: Researcher result of analysis of quantitative instrument 2024*

There is a significant relationship between effective rehabilitation programs on recidivism reduction in Ogun correctional facilities. The table presents the results of a linear regression analysis examining the relationship between the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs and recidivism reduction at the correctional facilities in Ogun state. This analysis is based on hypothesis two, which suggests that effective rehabilitation programs play a significant role in reducing the rates of recidivism among former inmates. The constant in the regression model, with a coefficient of 8.068, indicates the baseline level of recidivism when the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs is at zero. The significance level of .001 suggests that this baseline is statistically significant, meaning that even without the influence of rehabilitation programs, there is a certain level of recidivism expected within the facility. However, this baseline is not the primary focus; instead, the effectiveness of rehabilitation programme to the inmates or recidivists. The coefficient for rehabilitation effectiveness is .582, meaning that for each unit increase in the effectiveness of these programs, recidivism is expected to decrease by .582 units. The standardized coefficient (beta) of .557 indicates a strong positive relationship between rehabilitation

effectiveness and recidivism reduction. With a t-value of 8.190 and a significance level of .000, this relationship is highly statistically significant, reinforcing the idea that more effective rehabilitation programs are strongly associated with lower recidivism rates. On the other hand, the coefficient for rehabilitation programs is .199, which suggests that for each unit increase in the number or quality of these programs, recidivism decreases by .199 units. The standardized coefficient (beta) of .163 shows a positive, though weaker, relationship compared to rehabilitation effectiveness. The t-value of 2.397 and a significance level of .017 indicate that this relationship is also statistically significant, but less so than the effectiveness variable.

## **Discussion**

### **Qualitative Discussion**

Interviews were conducted to explore the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs within Ogun State correctional facilities. The responses provide a deep understanding of the inmates' personal experiences with these programs, the challenges they faced, and their suggestions for improvements. Some of the results of the interviews are as follows:

*The rehabilitation programs I went through were repetitive. They started off helpful but with time, they lost their effectiveness. The impact of these programs was essentially temporary. They offered some relief and motivation initially, but didn't really address the deeper issues that lead to recidivism, like societal stigma and the lack of job opportunities available for someone with my background. There weren't any effective follow-up programs either, which made the whole reintegration process really difficult. Initially, there was motivation, but without ongoing support, I just felt it was easier to continue with the old habits. My main recommendation would be to implement more consistent follow-up support and better job placement assistance, to actually help people like me stay on the right path after we're released."*

#### **IDI/ Male/ Christian/ 24 years/ Ogun state/ Ibara/ 2024**

A female inmate also submitted her experiences with these programmes, which was presented as follows:

*"I found the rehabilitation programs, particularly the vocational training, to be quite helpful as they empowered me with valuable skills. However, they fell short when it came to preparing me for societal reintegration, especially considering the gender biases and the lack of support for issues specific to women like myself. The follow-up programs were limited, and I had minimal contact with parole officers, which made it difficult to stay on track. While I became more disciplined as a result of the programs, maintaining this new behavior was challenging without a stable job. I believe that more tailored programs for women, particularly those that focus on psychological support, would be highly beneficial."*

#### **IDI/ Female/ Christian/ 32 years/ Ogun/ Ibara/ 2024.**

Another female inmate expressed her take on her personal experiences with the rehabilitation programmes, the submission are as follows:

*"I found that the rehabilitation programs provided basic skills, which initially helped me build some self-confidence. However, they did not cater to my emotional needs, and as a result, they failed to address the deeper issues I was dealing with. The emotional trauma I carried, coupled with the lack of psychological support, made it difficult for me to fully benefit from the programs. Follow-up support was virtually nonexistent, leaving me to fend for myself after release. Although I noticed some temporary improvements in my behavior, I eventually relapsed because the underlying trauma remained unattended to. I believe that integrating psychological support with skill training would make a significant difference for individuals like me."*



**IDI/ Female/ Muslim/ 30 years/ Ogun/ Ibara/ 2024.**

The outcome of the questions asked from the respondents at Oba correctional facility shows that;

*"I found that the rehabilitation programs were not all that engaging and they felt irrelevant to my life. This lack of relatability led to minimal impact, as I couldn't connect with the content. I faced challenges such as peer pressure and a lack of guidance, and the absence of follow-up programs made it easy to slip back into crime. Consequently, there were no significant behavioral changes due to my lack of interest in the programs. I recommend implementing youth-focused programs that address the specific challenges faced by young offenders."*

**IDI/ Male/ Christian/ 38 years/ Ogun/ Oba/ 2024.**

A 23-year-old recidivist gave his take which was documented as follows;

*"As a young offender, I didn't find the programs that effective. They didn't speak to the realities of my life or the pressures I face in my community, let's just say that's why I am back here. More youth-focused programs could have made a difference in my life realistically."*

**Discussion of Findings**

The findings of this study on the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs in Ogun State correctional facilities provide deep insights into both the potential and limitations of these initiatives. The study reveals that a significant proportion of inmates believe in the transformative power of rehabilitation programs. With 91.5% of inmates acknowledging that these programs can bring about positive changes in their lives, it is evident that there is a strong belief in the potential for rehabilitation to help inmates reintegrate into society. This perception aligns with the broader literature on correctional rehabilitation, which consistently emphasizes the importance of such programs in reducing recidivism. For instance, Andrews and Bonta (2010) highlight that when rehabilitation programmes are tailored to meet the specific needs of individuals, they can lead to significant reductions in reoffending rates. This finding is encouraging, as it suggests that inmates are open to the idea of change and see rehabilitation as a pathway to achieving it. However, despite the optimism surrounding the potential of rehabilitation programs, the study also uncovers a significant level of skepticism among inmates regarding the effectiveness of these programs in their current form. Specifically, 90.5% of inmates expressed doubt that the programmes are effectively designed to address the root causes of criminal behavior. This doubt could stem from several factors, including the content of the programmes, the methods of delivery, or the extent to which these programs are personalized to meet the individual needs of inmates. The disconnect between the perceived potential of rehabilitation and the actual design and implementation of these programs highlights a critical issue in correctional rehabilitation. Olawunmi, Ogunmefun & Aiwuyuse, (2022) support this concern, noting that the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs is heavily dependent on the fidelity of their implementation. When programs are not delivered as intended or when they lack the necessary resources and trained personnel, their impact is significantly diminished. This finding suggests that for rehabilitation programs to be truly effective, there must be a greater focus on quality control, ensuring that programs are not only well-designed but also effectively implemented.

**CONCLUSION**

The study reveals that rehabilitation programmes in Ogun State correctional facilities have a significant impact on reducing recidivism rates, and the programme, when properly

implemented, provide inmates with the necessary skills and support to reintegrate into society successfully. Therefore, study concludes that the effectiveness of these programmes is evident in the lower recidivism rates among participants compared to those who do not participate in any rehabilitation efforts. Furthermore, research highlights the significant challenges in the implementation and sustainability of rehabilitation programs in Ogun State correctional facilities. Issues such as inadequate funding, lack of qualified personnel, and insufficient resources hinder the effectiveness of these programs. Consequently, the study concludes that without addressing these challenges, the potential of rehabilitation programs to reduce recidivism will remain limited. Thirdly, study concludes that socioeconomic factors such as poverty, unemployment, and social stigma play a critical role in the high recidivism rates observed in Ogun State. These factors create barriers to successful reintegration, as former inmates struggle to find employment and acceptance in society. The conclusion is that rehabilitation programs must include components that address these socioeconomic challenges to be truly effective. The research also finds that inmates' perceptions of the rehabilitation programs significantly influence their participation and success rates. Programs that are perceived as beneficial and relevant to the inmates' needs tend to have higher participation and lower recidivism rates, concluding that tailoring rehabilitation programs to meet the specific needs of inmates is crucial for enhancing their effectiveness and reducing recidivism. The study concludes that there is a pressing need for policy reform and enhanced monitoring mechanisms to improve the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs in Ogun State correctional facilities, recommending that policymakers develop comprehensive strategies that include better training for correctional officers, regular monitoring, and evaluation of programs, and increased funding to ensure the sustainability and success of these rehabilitation efforts in reducing recidivism.

The following recommendations are designed to be SMART, ensuring they are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound, with the aim of enhancing the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs and ultimately reducing recidivism rates.

1. To enhance the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs in Ogun State correctional facilities, it is recommended to allocate a 20% increase in the annual budget specifically for these programme
2. In terms of implementing vocational programmes, to enhance the employability of inmates and reduce recidivism, through the introduction of adequate vocational training programs in five new skills, such as carpentry, tailoring, and welding, across all correctional facilities
3. Enhancing educational opportunities for inmates, adult literacy and GED preparation classes should be established in every facility, aiming for a 50% literacy improvement among participating inmates within two years.
4. Effectiveness of rehabilitation programme should be anchored on increasing the number of trained counselors in each correctional facility by 30%. In Nigeria.
5. Develop a post-release support program aimed at reducing recidivism by 15% within the first year of implementation.
6. Addressing the issue of overcrowding in correctional facilities through a comprehensive de-congestion of the Nigerian correctional facilities by 25% within two years.
7. Enhancement of the effectiveness of rehabilitation programme through transparent implementation of mandatory training for all correctional staff on rehabilitation techniques and inmate management.

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