COMMUNITY PERCEPTION ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ZARIA CORRECTIONAL CENTER, KADUNA STATE

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Abstract

This study investigated community perception of the effectiveness of Zaria Correctional Centre, Kaduna State adopting a descriptive survey research design and anchored on 'resistance theory'. The population of the study comprised all adults in Zaria Local Government Area, a sample of 400 adult community members was selected using a purposive sampling technique. The study used a validated structured questionnaire to collect primary data, while frequency/percentage analysis, Chi-Square goodness of fit test, and independent samples t-test were used for data analysis. Findings from the study revealed that community members have a negative perception of the effectiveness of Zaria Correctional Centre, Kaduna State. The study also found no significant difference in the perception of the effectiveness of Zaria Correctional Centre between male and female community members. Consequently, the study recommended that the government of Nigeria should endeavour to improve funds allocation to the Correctional Centre for the effective discharge of its core function of rehabilitation, reformation, and re-integration of convicts, as this helps in changing the negative perception community members have about the facility; and policymakers in the country should make policies aimed at transforming Correctional Centres in the country into robust centres for the rehabilitation, transformation, and re-integration of convicts through adequate funding and furnishing with modern facilities for convicts to always access, among other suggestions.

Keywords: Community, Convicts, Correctional Centre, Effectiveness, Perception

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Introduction

The main objective of Correctional Centres in Nigeria is to change the attitudes and behaviours of offenders who pass through these facilities and to safeguard society from them (Akinyemi, 2019). According to Olojede and Mohammed (2020), one of the precise objectives of rehabilitation services in Nigerian Correctional Centres is to uphold the delivery of social welfare services and the development of skills acquisition and instructive learning programmes for convicts. The Correctional Centre is also responsible for the protection of convicted persons who are legally incarcerated, providing healthcare services for them, and rehabilitating them for them to be transformed and re-integrated back into the society where they lived before. It also tends to ascertain the causes of integral anti-social behaviours and the threat to convicts, and to transform them into law-abiding citizens (Akinyemi, 2019). However, Oroloye (2018) stated that these objectives have not fully been met, as instead of remodelling convicts, the centres seem to be toughening them and exposing them to horrifying and demeaning situations and drawbacks that most times surpass the offences they committed. These have made convicts physically and emotionally dented, with feelings of not being wanted, disliked, and rejected in the community (Akinyemi. 2019).

According to Ajayi, Faremi, and Adenuga (2019), facilities in Correctional Centres are supposed to be supportive of the rehabilitation of convicts. The blueprint should be of the correct dimension that adheres to the risks of security and the needs of the convicts. However, according to Abubakar and Abba (2018), the facilities meant for the rehabilitation of convicts in most Correctional Centres in Nigeria are mostly outdated, while the available modern ones are not well managed. These facilities consist of accommodation for convicts, vocational training facilities, educational facilities, recreational facilities, etc. are inadequate or in bad condition (Abubakar & Abba, 2018).

Many studies have been previously carried out regarding Correctional Centres in Nigeria such as Obidiegwu, Ogbunugwor, and Madu (2020), Nwune, Ajah, Egbegi, and Chukwuemeka (2019), Olojede

and Mohammed (2020), Ajayi, Faremi, and Adenuga (2019), and Akinyemi (2019). The majority of these studies focused on the rehabilitative and reformative capacities of the centres and factors that cause failures in the centres to meet their core objectives, with only a little attention on public perception of the effectiveness of the Correctional Centres in the rehabilitation, transformation, and re-integration of convicts in Nigeria. Based on the foregoing, this study is carried out to investigate the perception of community members on the effectiveness of Zaria Correctional Centre, Kaduna State.

Objectives of the Study:

The core objective of this study is to investigate community perception about the effectiveness of Zaria Correctional Centre, Kaduna State in the rehabilitation, reformation, and re-integration of convicts. However, the specific objectives are to:

1. Determine the perception of community members on the effectiveness of Zaria Correctional Centre, Kaduna State.
2. Establish if there is a significant difference between male and female community members regarding the perception of the effectiveness of Zaria Correctional Centre, Kaduna State.

Research Questions:

Based on the specific objectives above, this study seeks to provide valid answers to the following research questions:

1. What is the perception of community members about the effectiveness of Zaria Correctional Centre, Kaduna State?
2. Is there a significant difference between male and female community members regarding the perception of the effectiveness of Zaria Correctional Centre, Kaduna State?

Research Hypotheses

The hypotheses formulated to guide this study are:

H_{01}: Community members do not have negative perceptions about the effectiveness of Zaria Correctional Centre, Kaduna State.

H_{02}: There is no significant difference in the perception of the effectiveness of Zaria Correctional Centre between male and female community members.

Significance of the Study:

This study and its outcomes shall be beneficial to the government, policymakers, and other stakeholders in Nigeria as it will help them to understand the societal perception of the rehabilitation, reformation, and re-integration of convicts' undertakings performed by the Correctional Centres in Nigeria which will help them make better policies that will help improve the welfare of convicts and their reformation process.

The study will also be of great importance to convicts as it will help them to understand better the process and activities carried out by the Correctional Centres in Nigeria in rehabilitating and reforming convicts, as well as re-integrating them back into the larger society again.

The study shall be beneficial to students and researchers who may wish to conduct research works on similar or related topics in other custodial facilities in Kaduna State and other states in Nigeria.

The study will also add to the existing literature and empirical studies on community perception of the effectiveness of correctional facilities in Nigeria. It shall also serve as reference and literature materials for those who intend to carry out further research work on this current study.

Scope of the Study:

This study seeks to investigate the community's perception of the effectiveness of Zaria Correctional Centre, Kaduna State in rehabilitating, reforming, and re-integrating convicts restricted to Zaria correctional facility and hence, members of the Zaria community.

Literature Review

Concept of Correctional Centre:

Correctional Centres are institutions for the incarceration, rehabilitation and reformation of individuals who have committed crimes or have exhibited behaviours that are unacceptable by the laws of the country (Ojuawo & Arowolo, 2019). According to Okunola (1986), a Correctional Centre is an abode where individuals who commit crimes are separated from other persons in society with exclusively new instructions and rules. In the views of Olojede and Mohammed (2020), a Correctional Centre is a place where offenders or individuals are in anticipation of trial. The Correctional Centre is established and excluded per se by the law of the country and designed to guarantee the taming and protection of persons who are suspects, incarcerated, or sentenced for committing crimes against the state. These conceptualizations put forward by researchers are constricted towards knowing that, a Correctional Centre is a physical setting, and may perhaps be explained in geographical terms (Emerho, 2016).

According to Nwune, Ajah, Egbegi, and Chukwuemeka (2019), in Nigeria, the correctional service was created to manage offenders under incarceration in correctional facilities. This statutory function authorizes the Nigeria Correctional Service to carry out the following functions:

i. Keep convicted offenders (prisoners) in safe custody.
ii. Keep awaiting trial inmates in custody until law courts ask for their production.
iii. Punish offenders as instructed by the law courts.
iv. Reform the convicted prisoners.
v. Rehabilitate and re-integrate prisoners who have completed their sentences in prison.

Theoretical Framework:

This study is anchored on 'resistance theory' as the theoretical framework. The 'resistance theory' is a criminological phenomenon that explains how reprobates discontinue their deviant attitudes and behaviours (Nugent & Schinkel, 2016). It is specifically relevant in terms

of conceptualizing rehabilitation and the career of a reprobate. It also has practical use for workers on probation working with offenders who have been sentenced. The theory attempts to clarify the process by which reprobates come to live their lives free from crime (Nugent & Schinkel, 2016).

Desistance refers to the cessation of criminal or other deviant behaviours. It is imperative to mention here that this theory does not have global recognition, but offers a much wealthier and more convincing account of a change process that takes place over a while. Be as it may, inmates incinerated in Correctional Centres are of different classifications, some committed the crimes, while others are incarcerated by virtue (Nugent & Schinkel, 2016). In whatever case, all convicts are required to be orientated on the offences they committed that made them be incarcerated, life in the Correctional Centre, and how to live life after gaining freedom from conviction. The resistance theory is therefore, appropriate in this study as it helps in providing a basis for understanding the need for incarcerated persons in correctional facilities to live a productive and befitting life after their release from confinement.

Empirical Review:

Akinyemi (2019) investigated the perception of inmates on social work intervention in Osun State correctional facilities, Nigeria adopting a descriptive research design. The study used a sample of 88 inmates randomly selected from 880 inmates and 8 warders from the yard of Ilesa Correctional Centre. The collected data using a questionnaire and focus group discussion. The data were analyzed using frequency/percentage analysis. The findings of the study revealed that inmates in the Correctional Centre perceived that they could still live a good and socially acceptable life.

Nwune et al (2019) investigated the perception of rehabilitation, reformation and reintegration programmes across Anambra State Correctional Service Command by adopting a cross-sectional survey design. A proportionate stratified sampling technique was used in selecting 396 inmates and prison officials as respondents in the study,

while quantitative and qualitative data were collected using a questionnaire and in-depth interview guide respectively. The quantitative data were analysed using frequency/percentage analysis, while the qualitative data were analysed using content analysis. Findings from the study revealed that inmates and officials of the Anambra State Correctional Service have a mixed perception about the rehabilitation, reformation and reintegration programmes for inmates.

Obidiegwu, Ogbunugwor, and Madu (2020) examined the perceptions of inmates on the implementation of basic literacy education programmes in the correctional facilities in Imo State adopting a descriptive research design. The study used a sample of 700 inmates selected from a total of 2,823 inmates in facilities using a proportionate stratified sampling technique. The study used a questionnaire to collect primary data which was subsequently analysed using descriptive statistics and t-tests. Findings from the study revealed that inmates in the custody of Imo State had the perception that the basic literacy education programmes conducted by the correctional facilities were satisfying to them. Findings also revealed that there is no significant difference in the perceptions of male and female inmates on satisfaction with the implementation of basic literacy programmes in the correctional facilities in Imo State.

Olojede and Mohammed (2020) investigated the effectiveness of the Nigeria correctional service in the rehabilitation of convicts into new life through recreational education in Minna, Niger State adopting an exploratory survey research design. The study used a sample of 62 inmates from a total of 635 inmates using purposive and convenient sampling techniques. Data for the study were collected using interviews and focus group discussions, while data analysis was done using content analysis. Findings from the study revealed that much has not been provided to the inmates in terms of recreational education activities, therefore, rehabilitation of the inmates into new life after serving their sentences was not supported. Findings also showed that much of the equipment in the Correctional Centres was outdated.

Ajayi et al. (2019) assessed the facilities in Correctional Centres in South-West Nigeria to ascertain their actual conditions by adopting a survey research design. The study used a total sample size of 1,130 (1,094 correctional service maintenance staff and 36 correctional service non-maintenance staff) selected using quota sampling technique and census. Data for the study were collected using two sets of self-administered questionnaires, while data analysis was carried out using frequency/percentage analysis and the Mann-Whitney U test. Findings from the study showed that the maintenance staff perceived the condition of the facilities in the Correctional Centres to be good, while the non-maintenance staff perceived the condition as average. Findings also showed that there was no significant difference in the perception of maintenance staff and non-maintenance staff of Correctional Centres regarding the physical condition of Correctional Centres facilities in South-West, Nigeria.

Okareh, Okiche, Aluko, and Omotade (2018) assessed the living and sanitary conditions and hygiene practices of inmates in a maximum-security prison in Southwest Nigeria adopting a descriptive cross-sectional research design. The population of the study comprised all the inmates in Agodi prison, Oyo State, while a sample of 422 inmates was selected using a multistage sampling technique. Data for the study were collected using a questionnaire, while data analysis was carried out using descriptive statistics, a Chi-Square test, and logistic regression analysis. Findings from the study revealed that the sanitary and hygiene conditions of Agodi prison were poor. Findings also revealed that the inmates had positive attitudes and perceptions towards the poor sanitary and hygiene conditions of the prison.

Onyemocho, Alexis, Omale, Ofikwu, and Yusuf (2017) empirically assessed prison inmate's perception of living conditions in Makurdi Medium Security Prisons, North Central Nigeria adopting a cross-sectional descriptive research design. The population of the study consists of 837 inmates, while a sample of 132 inmates was selected using a simple random sampling technique. The study collected data using a questionnaire, while data analysis was carried out using frequency/percentage analysis. Findings from the study revealed that

the inmates perceived that the standard of living in Makurdi Medium Security Prisons was below the minimum international standard.
Uche, Uche, Ezumah, Ebue, Okafor, and Ezegbe (2015) examined prison inmates' perception of the effectiveness of rehabilitation programmes in the Nigerian prison service concerning Enugu prison adopting a cross-sectional survey research design. The study used a sample of 145 inmates who were selected using a purposive sampling technique, while a questionnaire was used in the collection of primary data. Data analysis was carried out using frequency/percentage analysis. Findings from the study revealed that inmates in the prison were of the perception that the rehabilitation programmes had positive impacts on them.

Methodology

Research Design, Population, Sample, and Sampling Technique:

This study adopted a descriptive research design. The study was conducted in the Zaria Local Government Area of Kaduna State where the Zaria Correctional Centre is located. The population of the study comprised the estimated total number of inhabitants in Zaria LGA of Kaduna State which is 601,300 (NPC, 2022). The study used a total sample size of 440 adult residents of the LGA (that is, the ideal sample size of 400 plus a 10% attrition rate). This sample size was determined using the Yamane sample size formula (Yamane, 1967) based on a population size of 601,300 with an error margin of 5%. Sample members were selected using purposive and convenient sampling techniques since there was no available comprehensive sampling frame for the target population. Only persons who were at least 18 years of age, had knowledge of the functions and activities of the Correctional Centre, and resided in Zaria LGA of Kaduna State were included in the study.

Instrumentation:

This study used a validated and reliable questionnaire to collect primary quantitative data. The questionnaire is self-administered and contains structured close-ended questions with multiple answer options, and comprises two sections - A and B. Section A contains

questions that attempt to know the socio-demographic characteristics of respondents, while section B contains questions that attempt to know respondent's perceptions about the effectiveness of the Zaria Correctional Centre.

Method of Data Analysis:
The quantitative data collected in the study through the questionnaire were analysed using frequency/percentage analysis, Chi-Square goodness of fit test, and independent samples t-test with the aid of Statistical Package for the Social Sciences version 25 (SPSS 25.0).

Results and Discussion
The selected 440 respondents in this study were each administered the study's questionnaire to provide their responses and return them to the researcher. However, only 357 valid questionnaires were retrieved/returned. This implies that the study achieved a response rate of 81.1 per cent, which is satisfactory for the researcher to continue with the study. Consequently, the basis for data analysis in the study is 357 and not 440.

Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents:
Table 1: Gender of Respondents

	Frequency	Per cent
Male	189	52.9
Female	168	47.1
Total	357	100.0

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2023

Table 1 shows the gender distribution of respondents in this study, which revealed that 189(52.9%) of them were males, while 168(47.1%) were females. This distribution implies that the majority of the respondents in the study were males. This is also an indication that there are more adult males than females in Zaria LGA of Kaduna State.

Table 2: Age Category of Respondents

	Frequency	Per cent
18-27 years	47	13.2
28-37 years	61	17.1
38-47 years	72	20.2
48-57 years	80	23.4
58-67 years	67	18.8
68 years and above	30	8.4
Total	357	100.0

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2023

Table 2 shows the age distribution of respondents in the study, which revealed that most of them 80(23.4%) were in the age category of '48-57 years', while the least were in the age category of '68 years and above' 30 (8.4%). This distribution implies that the majority of the respondents in this study were in the age category of '48-57 years. This is also an indication that most adults in Zaria LGA of Kaduna State are in the age category of '48-57 years.

Table 3: Marital Status of Respondents

	Frequency	Per cent
Single	89	24.9
Married	172	48.2
Separated	30	8.4
Divorced	25	7.0
Widowed	41	11.5
Total	357	100.0

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2023

Table 3 shows the marital status distribution of the respondents in the study, which revealed that most of them 172(48.2%) were 'married', while the least 25(7.0%) were 'divorced'. This distribution implies that the majority of the respondents in this study were 'married'. This is also

an indication that most adults in Zaria LGA of Kaduna State are married.

Table 3: Highest Educational Attainment of Respondents

	Frequency	Per cent
Postgraduate Qualification	35	9.8
First Degree/HND	107	30.0
NCE/ND	93	26.1
Secondary School Certificate	64	17.9
Primary School Certificate	30	8.4
No Formal Education	28	7.8
Total	357	100.0

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2023

Table 4 shows the distribution of the highest educational attainment of respondents in the study, which revealed that most of the respondents 107(30.0%) had 'First Degree/HND', while the least 28(7.8%) had 'no formal education'. This distribution implies that the majority of the respondents in this study had 'First Degree/HND'. This is also an indication that most persons in Zaria LGA of Kaduna State have 'First Degree/HND' as the highest educational attainment.

Table 5: Occupation of Respondents

	Frequency	Per cent
Civil Servant	65	18.2
Private Sector Employee	42	11.8
Farming	108	30.3
Trading	62	17.4
Artisan	58	16.5
Others	22	6.2
Total	357	100.0

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2023

Table 5 shows the occupational distribution of respondents in the study, which revealed that most of them 108(30.3%) were farmers, while the least 22(6.2%) were of other occupations not listed. This distribution implies that the majority of the respondents in this study were farmers. This is also an indication that most persons in Zaria LGA of Kaduna State are farmers.

Table 6: Religion of Respondents

	Frequency	Per cent
Christianity	60	16.8
Islam	279	78.2
Others	18	5.0
Total	357	100.0

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2023

Table 6 shows the religious belief distribution of respondents in the study, which revealed that 60(16.8%) were of the Christian religion, 279(78.2%) were of the Islamic religion, and 18(5.0%) were of other religions not listed. This distribution implies that the majority of the respondents in this study were adherents of the Islamic religion. This is also an indication that most people in Zaria LGA of Kaduna State are Muslims.

Respondents' Views on the Effectiveness of Zaria Correctional Centre:

Table 7: Convicts are adequately rehabilitated and reformed in Zaria Correctional Centre

	Frequency	Per cent
Yes	129	36.1
No	189	53.0
Can't say	39	10.9
Total	357	100.0

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2023

Table 7 shows the distribution of responses on whether convicts were adequately rehabilitated and reformed in Zaria Correctional Centre. The Table shows that 129(36.1%) indicated 'yes'; 189(53.0%) indicated 'no', while 39(10.9%) 'could not really say'. This distribution of responses implies that the majority of the respondents were of the view that convicts were not adequately rehabilitated and reformed in Zaria Correctional Centre.

Table 8: Convicts are made to acquire vocational and educational skills and training while serving jail sentences in Zaria Correctional Centre

	Frequency	Per cent
Yes	191	53.5
No	140	39.2
Can't say	26	7.3
Total	357	100.0

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2023

Table 8 shows the distribution of responses on whether convicts were made to acquire vocational and educational skills and training while serving jail sentences in the Zaria Correctional Centre. The Table shows that 191(53.5%) indicated 'yes'; 140(39.2%) indicated 'no', while 26(7.3%) 'could not really say'. This distribution of responses implies that the majority of the respondents were of the view that convicts were made to acquire vocational and educational skills and training while serving jail sentences in the Zaria Correctional Centre.

Table 9: Zaria Correctional Centre properly prepares convicts for re-integration into the larger society

	Frequency	Per cent
Yes	147	41.2
No	182	51.0
Can't say	28	7.8
Total	357	100.0

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2023

Table 9 shows the distribution of responses on whether Zaria Correctional Centre properly prepared convicts for re-integration into the larger society. The Table shows that 147(41.2%) indicated 'yes'; 182(51.0%) indicated 'no', while 28(7.8%) 'could not really say'. This distribution of responses implies that the majority of the respondents were of the view that Zaria Correctional Centre does not properly prepare convicts for reintegration into the larger society.

Table 10: Zaria Correctional Centre Zaria takes care of the welfare and safety of convicts in its custody

	Frequency	Per cent
Yes	152	42.6
No	175	49.0
Can't say	30	8.4
Total	357	100.0

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2023

Table 10 shows the distribution of responses on whether Zaria Correctional Centre takes care of the general welfare and safety of convicts in its custody. The Table shows that 152(42.6%) indicated 'yes'; 175(49.0%) indicated 'no', while 30(8.4%) 'could not really say'. This distribution of responses implies that the majority of the respondents were of the view that Zaria Correctional Centre does not take care of the general welfare and safety of convicts in its custody.

Table 11: What is your perception of the effectiveness of Zaria Correctional Centre in the rehabilitation, reformation, and re-integration of convicts?

	Frequency	Per cent
Positive	139	38.9
Negative	186	52.1
Neutral	32	9.0
Total	357	100.0

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2023

Table 11 shows the distribution of responses on the perception of respondents on the effectiveness of Zaria Correctional Centre in the rehabilitation, reformation, and re-integration of convicts. The Table shows that 139(38.9%) indicated 'positive'; 186(52.1%) indicated 'negative', while 32(9.0%) were neutral. This distribution of responses implies that the majority of the respondents had a negative perception of the effectiveness of Zaria Correctional Centre in the rehabilitation, reformation, and reintegration of convicts.

Tests of Hypotheses

The Chi-Square goodness of fit test and independent samples t-test are used in testing the two hypotheses formulated in this study. The level of significance for the tests is 5% ($\alpha = 0.05$).

Research Hypothesis #1

H_{01}: Community members do not have negative perceptions about the effectiveness of Zaria Correctional Centre, Kaduna State.

The first research hypothesis (H_{01}) is tested using the Chi-Square goodness of fit test and the result is shown in Table 12:

Table 12: Chi-Square Test Statistics

	What is your perception of the effectiveness of Zaria Correctional Centre in the rehabilitation, reformation, and re-integration of convicts?
Chi-Square	104.689
Df	2
Asymp. Sig.	.000

Source: Researcher's SPSS Chi-Square Goodness of Fit Test Output, 2023

Table 12 shows the result of the Chi-square goodness of fit test conducted to determine if community members have a positive perception of the effectiveness of Zaria Correctional Centre, Kaduna State. The result of the test returned a Chi-Square statistic value of 1689 with 2 degrees of freedom and an associated P value of 0.000. Since the

P value is less than the level of significance value (0.000 < 0.05), we reject H_{01} of no negative perception at a 5% level of significance and conclude that community members have a negative perception of the effectiveness of Zaria Correctional Centre, Kaduna State.

Research Hypothesis #2

H_{02}: There is no significant difference in the perception of the effectiveness of Zaria Correctional Centre between male and female community members.

The second research hypothesis (H_{02}) is tested using the independent samples t-test and the results are shown in Tables 13 and 14:

Table 13: Descriptive Statistics

	Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Perception about the effectiveness of Zaria Correctional Centre	Male	189	1.74	0.672	0.049
	Female	168	1.66	0.567	0.044

Source: Researcher's SPSS Independent Samples t-Test Output, 2023

Table 13 shows the result of the descriptive statistics carried out on responses regarding the perception of the effectiveness of Zaria Correctional Centre based on gender. The Table shows that males were 189 (N_1 = 189), mean response for males was 1.74 with a standard deviation of 0.672, while females were 168 (N_2 = 168), mean response for females was 1.66 with a standard deviation of 0.567. Whether the difference between the mean response of males and the mean response of females is statistically significant is what the independent t-test attempts to establish.

Table 14: Independent Samples t-Test Statistics

Perception of the Effectiveness of Zaria Correctional Centre	Mean Diff.	df	t-stat	P-value
Equal variances assumed	0.075	355	1.129	0.260

Source: Researcher's SPSS Independent Samples t-Test Output, 2023

Table 14 shows the output of the independent samples t-test used in testing for the significant difference in the perception of the effectiveness of Zaria Correctional Centre based on gender in this study. The Table shows that the test returned a t-statistic value of 1.129 (Equal variances assumed) with 355 degrees of freedom and an associated P value of 0.260. Since the P-value is greater than the level of significance value (0.260 > 0.05), we reject H_{02} of no significance difference at a 5% level of significance and conclude that there is no significant difference in the perception of male and female community members regarding the effectiveness of Zaria Correctional Centre (t = 1.129, df = 355, P = 0.260).

Discussion of Findings

This study was carried out with the core objective of investigating community perception of the effectiveness of Zaria Correctional Centre, Kaduna State adopting a descriptive survey research design. The study utilized an ideal sample size of 400 and primary data was collected with a questionnaire. The data were analysed using frequency/percentage analysis, Chi-Square goodness of fit test, and independent samples t-test. The results of the data analysis revealed that the majority of the respondents in the study were males (53.3%), 48-57 years (22.1%), married (51.1%), held First Degree/HND (30.6%), farmers (30.9%), and Muslims by religious belief (78.5%).

The major findings of the study revealed that community members have a negative perception of the effectiveness of Zaria Correctional Centre, Kaduna State. This finding supports that of Onyemocho et al. (2017) whose study found that inmates in Makurdi Medium Security Prisons perceived that the standard of living in the prison was below the minimum international standard. The finding, however, is in disagreement with that of Akinyemi (2019) whose study found that inmates in the Ilesha Correctional Centre perceived that they could still live a good and socially acceptable life. The finding is also inconsistent with that of Nwune et al (2019) whose study found that officials of the Anambra Correctional Service had a mixed perception of the rehabilitation, reformation and reintegration programmes for inmates. The finding is also at variance with that of Obidiegwu et al. (2020) whose study found that inmates in the custody of Imo State were of the perception that basic literacy education programmes conducted by the correctional facilities were satisfying to them. The finding is also in disagreement with that of Okareh et al. (2018) whose study found that inmates in Agodi Prison had positive attitudes and perceptions towards the poor sanitary and hygiene conditions of the prison. The finding is also in disharmony with that of Uche et al. (2015) whose study found that inmates in Enugu prison were of the perception that rehabilitation programmes in the prison had positive impacts on them.

Findings also revealed that there is no significant difference in the perception of the effectiveness of Zaria Correctional Centre between male and female community members. This finding is analogous to that of Obidiegwu et al. (2020) whose study revealed that there is no significant difference in the perceptions of male and female inmates on satisfaction with the implementation of basic literacy programmes in the correctional facilities in Imo State. The finding is also in support of that of Ajayi et al. (2019) whose study found that there was no significant difference in the perception of maintenance staff and non-maintenance staff of Correctional Centres regarding the perception of the physical condition of Correctional Centres facilities in South-West, Nigeria.

Summary and Conclusion

This study endeavoured to investigate community perception of the effectiveness of Zaria Correctional Centre in the rehabilitation, reformation, and re-integration of convicts by adopting a descriptive survey research design. The study used a purposive sample of 400 persons selected from Zaria LGA of Kaduna State. Primary data were collected using a questionnaire, while data analysis was done using frequency/percentage analysis, Chi-Square goodness of fit test, and independent samples t-test. Findings from the study revealed that community members do not have a positive perception of the effectiveness of Zaria Correctional Centre, Kaduna State. Findings also revealed that there is no significant difference in the perception of the effectiveness of Zaria Correctional Centre between male and female community members. The study, therefore, concludes that community members have a negative perception of the effectiveness of Zaria Correctional Centre in the rehabilitation, reformation, and re-integration of convicts.

Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusion above, the study offers the following recommendations:

- The government of Nigeria should endeavour to improve funds allocation to the Correctional Centre for the effective discharge of its core function of rehabilitation, reformation, and re-integration of convicts, as this helps in changing the negative perception community members have about the facility.
- Policymakers in the country should make policies aimed at transforming Correctional Centres in the country into robust centres for the rehabilitation, transformation, and re-integration of convicts through adequate funding and furnishing them with modern facilities for convicts to always access.
- Officials and workers of the Zaria Correctional Centre should also endeavour to make prudent and good use of the meagre resources given to them by the government and the inadequate and obsolete infrastructures available at the facility to improve

its undertaking of rehabilitation, reformation, and re-integration of convicts.

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