A SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION AND CONGESTION OF LAFAIA CORRECTIONAL SERVICE CENTRE, NASARAWA STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract
The study centered on a sociological analysis of Criminal Justice Administration and Congestion of Lafia Correctional Service Centre, Nasarawa State. The objectives of the research include: to find out the role of Criminal Justice Administration in Correctional Service Centre congestion, to find out the possible effects of Correctional Service Centre congestion on inmates and to proffer solutions that could curb the problem of Correctional Service Centre congestion in Lafia Correctional Service Centre in particular and Nigeria in general. The study used the Marx’s theory of crime and justice as theoretical framework. The survey research design was used. A sample size of 70 respondents were sampled and given copies of questionnaire. However, only 67 were retrieved for analysis. The method of data analysis was through the use of frequency tables and simple percentages. Findings revealed that poor Criminal Justice Administration, indiscriminate arrest and poor adjudication of justice are ways criminal justice administration encourage Correctional Service Centre congestion. Findings also revealed a worrisome situation in Lafia Correctional Service Centre, it was revealed that Lafia Correctional Service Centre has a capacity of 300 but the number of inmates present as at the time of the research stood at 775 inmates. Most appalling is that the study unearthed some negative effects of Correctional Service Centre congestion on inmates which include unfair feeding condition and poor sleeping condition. The study recommended that government should expand facilities at the Lafia Correctional Service Centre to accommodate the ever increasing number of inmates; awaiting trial inmates whose cases are not so serious should also be released on parole, mostly those who have stayed too long in Correctional Service Centre custody as awaiting trial; law court Judges should be placed under serious supervision to speed up cases of awaiting trial; and, that Correctional Service Centres’ management should be charged with the responsibility to strictly adhere to United Nations Minimum Standard and Rights of the Offender.

Keywords: Criminal justice system, Correctional Service, Correctional Centre, Congestion, Administration, Lafia.

Introduction
Performance of criminal justice system has a great influence on congestion of Correctional Service Centres (until recently known as the Nigeria Prison Service). Inmates all over Nigeria Correctional Service Centres require good accommodation for proper rehabilitation. The criminal justice system is a legal entity which comprises the police, courts and the Correctional Service.

The current troubles of the entire criminal justice system of the country which are direct results of decades of outdated policies keep the police, Correctional Service and the court
continuously in the state of dislocation. Hence, the Correctional Service Centres have become overwhelmed with the pressures of over population, congestion and destabilization.

Over the years, social commentators, civil society organizations, Non- Governmental Organizations have raised alarm about the congesting Correctional Service Centres population in the country, yet the situation still remains the same. A careful observation will reveal that the criminal justice system comprising of the police, the court and the Correctional Service have a hand in the congestion of Correctional Service Centres. The indiscriminate arrests by the police, delayed justice and poor rehabilitation of inmates by Correctional Service officers which result in recidivism could be ways in which the criminal justice system contributes to Correctional Service Centres’ congestion.

The aim of criminal justice is to sustain the rule of law by preventing crime, detecting the culprit when crimes are committed, convicting the guilty and acquitting the innocent and by punishing appropriately those who are guilty. The Correctional Service is an integral part of the criminal justice system and serves as a custodial as well as a correctional institution. It is imperative that the Correctional Service should be such that would protect the dignity of the human person.

Over the years, the challenges in the Nigerian Criminal Justice System have taken its toll on conditions in the Correctional Service Centres. Issues of incessant arrests, high number of inmates awaiting trial, access to justice have greatly impacted on the role of the institution, hence resulting in the congestion of Correctional Service Centres.


The Nigerian Correctional Service Centres population stood at about 45,000 as opposed to its total capacity of 25,000 (Tarhule, 2008). Worried over the level of congestion in Lafia Correctional Service Centre, Dikko (2015) appealed to prosecutors to avoid delay in justice administration so as to help decongest the Correctional Service Centre. The high level of congestion of Correctional Service Centres could be behind why the Correctional Service have lost sight of their functions of rehabilitation, reformation and reintegration. Arising from the aforesaid, the study centers on a sociological analysis of criminal justice administration and congestion of Lafia Correctional Service Centre, Nasarawa State.

The main objective of this study is to assess criminal justice administration and congestion of Lafia Correctional Service Centre, Nasarawa State. However, the specific objectives are:
1. To examine the role of criminal justice system in congestion of Lafia Correctional Service Centre
2. To examine the possible effects of Correctional Service Centre congestion on inmates of Lafia Correctional Service Centre
3. To proffer solutions that could curb the problem of Correctional Service Centre congestion in Lafia Correctional Service Centre in particular and Nigeria in general

The Concept of Correctional Service Centre and Correctional Service Centre Congestion: A Review

Generally, criminologists and lawyers alike believe incarceration is aimed at some specific reasons, to await punishment, as punishment and rehabilitation or reformation. Incarceration of offenders should therefore reflect any or all of these purposes. Correctional Service Centres were called penitentiaries; the word penitentiary was coined in the late 1700s because certain groups believed that through solitary religious study of the Bible, inmates will become penitent and reform their behaviour. Correctional Service Centre structure existed in ancient civilization, the wide spread use of long term confinement as a form of criminal punishment began in the 15th Century (Jerome, 1991). Correctional Service Centre is a place where inmates are deprived of movement. It is a total institution to be locked up in a physical, psychological and social sense, a situation in which there is no escape and the inmate has no control, is to deny the individual the rudimentary choice of everyday life (Goftman, 1961). Goftman’s perception of a Correctional Service Centre is no doubt correct because a careful observation shows an inmate is someone denied the routine choices of everyday life.

Correctional Service Centre is a physical structure in a geographical location where a number of people, living under highly specialized condition, utilize the resources or adjust to the alternative presented to them by a unique kind of social environment (Rothman, 1975). Incarceration on the other hand, is the process whereby an individual is kept within an institution known as Correctional Service Centre, where hustler movement becomes restricted and as such is cut off from family, relatives and friends for a given duration of time. Perhaps, it is important to note here that one of the justifications of incarceration rests on its legal uses, custody and punishment (Morgan, 1997).

The Correctional Service emerged to serve some fundamental functions in the society. It is the barometer for measuring the success or failure of the criminal justice system. The Correctional Service derives its powers from CAP 366 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 1990 to perform the following functions:

i. Take into custody all those legally interned.
ii. Producing them before the courts as and when due if they are on remand.
ii. Identifying the causes of their anti-social conduct.
iii. Set in motion mechanisms for their retraining and reformation preparatory to returning them back to the society as normal, law abiding citizens.
iv. Generating revenue for the state through the use of Correctional Service farms and industries.
From the above functions of Correctional Service, it is clear that Nigerian Correctional Service Centres are still deficient basically in the area of identification of the causes of inmate’s anti-social conduct and also reformation. Correctional Service also emerged to serve the purpose of protection of the society, the prevention of crime, and the reintegration of inmates into the community. The justification of incarceration rests on retribution, deterrence, reformation and rehabilitation. Prior to British presence in Nigeria however, the Nigerian indigenous society had their own methods of correcting deviant members of the community. Confinement was used to detain persons awaiting other sanctions, such as death or corporal punishment, maiming, execution by beheading, banishment, slavery, coerce the payment of debts (Gofman, 1961).

Correctional Service predated the arrival of the British colonialists, although the former existed in traditional, underdeveloped, pre-modern forms that can best be described as quasi-Correctional Service Centres. Among the Yorubas of South Western Nigeria, the Ogboni (cult) houses were used as detention houses. The Edo speaking people of Midwestern region of the country used Ewedo house as their temporary place of incarceration for offenders and for keeping slaves awaiting transportation (Awe, 1968).

The origin of modern Correctional Service in Nigeria is 1861. That was the year when conceptually, western-type Correctional Service was established in Nigeria. The Federal Correctional Service in 1960 came under the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The result of this development is the emergence of the first indigenous director of Correctional Service who was appointed in 1961 (Adewale, 1982). The two tiers of Correctional Service (federal and local authority Correctional Service Centres) were merged into one unified federal Nigeria Correctional Service under the control of the Ministry of Home Affairs in 1968 which was as a result of the open misuse of political power by local politicians and the unsound misuse of the Correctional Centre facility. Since 1968 till date, there has remained one single Nigerian Correctional Service under the control of the Controller General of Correctional Service. Presently, the Nigeria Correctional Service has a total of 277 Correctional Service Centres (including 78 satellite Correctional Service Centres), 2 Borstal institutions and a Correctional Service Staff College in Kakuri, Kaduna and three Correctional Service Training Schools (NPS, 2004). The total population of Nigeria Correctional Service Centres stood at about 45,000 inmates as against its real total capacity of 25,000 (Tarhule, 2008).

Nigerian Correctional Service Centres, it is generally agreed, are over congested. The country’s Correctional Service Centres house inmates in an unfair condition that are unfit for human beings; this situation encourages Correctional Service Centres congestion in Nigeria. According to a former Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Bayo Ojo, 65% of the 45,000 inmates are people awaiting trial, while 45% have never seen the inside of a court. The Correctional Service is characterized with problems, ranging from over congestion to long delays. Congestion has become a serious problem militating against the Correctional Service and criminal justice administration in Nigeria today. This therefore, leads to problems
like poor feeding, unhygienic conditions and rampant diseases that kill a lot of inmates on a regular basis, social misbehaviours such as indulgence in hard drugs and jail breaks.

Correctional Service Centre congestion is the process whereby the Correctional Service Centre houses inmates more than its original capacity; Correctional Service Centre congestion is relative to accommodation and resources. It therefore means that, when the inmates’ population of a particular Correctional Service Centre exceeds its original capacity it becomes congested and when the resources are supplied at a limited quantity it is equally called congestion of Correctional Service Centre over resources.

In the triangular relationship of the criminal justice system, the third leg carries the Correctional Service (Dambazau, 2007). The Correctional Service is responsible for the custody of the final product in the criminal justice process. The Correctional Service Centre according to Goffman is a “total institution to be locked up in a physical, psychological and social scene, a situation in which there is no escape and the inmate has no control, is to deny the individual the “rudimentary choices of everyday life. Indeed, “where he lives, what time he goes to bed and when he gets up, the food he eats, the people with whom he eats, walks, plays, and sleeps, the clothes he wears - all these are chosen for him. The deprivation of choice… tends to be felt as an attack on the inmates’ manhood (Dambazau, 2007). The constant supervision and regimentation, and the elaborate system of rules and regulations characterizing the Correctional Service Centres, are said to represent moral condemnation and rejection by the society. The process of this rejection and moral condemnation is to begin:

...with an inmate’s arrival in Correctional Service Centre; a new inmate is introduced to Correctional Service Centre life through a series of degeneration ceremonies designed to dramatize the moral condemnation being heaped on him and to create a sense of worthlessness and degeneration... his clothes and other personal possessions are taken away from him, his head shaved; he is stripped naked, forced to shower... and subjected to a humiliating search of every orifice in his body (Dambazau, 2007).

Silverman identified the psychological consequences of all processes the inmate goes through in the Correctional Service Centre. The idea of stripping him naked represents dominance over him and this makes him emotionally and physically vulnerable; shaving his head symbolizes “emasculcation”; replacing his real name with a number gives a powerful blow to his ego, depriving him of his material possessions is to be stripped of “an integral part of self”, and constant surveillance gives the inmate the feelings of inadequacy. The worse, the absence of any opportunity for heterosexual relationships makes the inmate feel “figuratively castrated by his involuntary celibacy”. The lack of heterosexual relationship threatens the inmate’s sense of manhood (Silverman, 1992 in Dambazau, 2007).

The Correctional Service Centre, it is often said, is the darkest region in the apparatus of the justice system. The Correctional Service operates on certain characteristics namely: the deprivation of liberty, discipline, transformation of the individual isolation, segregation, and
work (Dambazau, 2007). Incarceration, according to Foucault (1992) (in Dambazau, 2007) is a penalty par excellence in a society in which liberty is a good which belongs to all in the same and to which each individual is attached. The deprivation of liberty belonging to a person is a fundamental constitutional issue because liberty is the basis of existence itself. The Correctional Service Centre is therefore the avenue for making individuals pay for their crimes against the society. Incarceration, Foucault further observed, is the clearest, simplest, most equitable of penalties, because it makes possible to quantify the penalty exactly according to the variable of time.

The Correctional Service Centre is like the military barracks, and the inmate upon his admission into the Correctional Service Centre is treated like the new recruits in the barracks (Dambazau, 2007). There are several types of Correctional Service Centres and are categorized in accordance with type of inmates, the structural features, and the extent of security arrangement. Generally, Correctional Service Centres are grouped as maximum security Correctional Service Centre, medium security Correctional Service Centre, minimum security Correctional Service Centre and women Correctional Service Centre (Dambazau, 1996). Igbo (2006) reviewed another type of Correctional Service Centre called the satellite Correctional Service Centre.

Maximum security Correctional Service Centres have facilities characterized by fortress-like high perimeter wall, multiple fences with cyclone wire, internal security and operating procedures which are very rigid in curtailing movement and providing maximum control over the inmates. In Maximum Security Correctional Service Centres there is complete supervision, control and surveillance of inmates. An example in Nigeria is the Kirikiri Maximum Security Correctional Service Centre in Lagos (Dambazau, 2007).

Medium Security Correctional Service Centres embody most of the ideals and characteristics of early attempts to reform offenders. Medium Security Correctional Service Centres are surrounded by fences topped with razor barbed wires; armed correctional officers may or not be present, individual rooms could be used and inmates have greater freedom of movement, they are located mostly outside the state capitals, although they can also be found in towns. The Medium Security Correctional Service Centre does not take in all classes of inmates particularly dangerous criminals because of its relatively unsophisticated security (Dambazau, 2007).

Minimum Security Correctional Service Centres are without armed correctional officers, many lack fences or bars, and mostly inmates are housed in individual rooms and having freedom to move about within the institution than in medium. It includes rehabilitation centers, juvenile homes, inmates are considered to be non-violent with low risk of escape.

Women Correctional Service Centres are designed to cater for women convicts. The main reason relates to gender difference and that women commit less serious crime than men therefore requires less stringent supervisions, like the minimum security Correctional Service Centres, women Correctional Service Centre pay more attention on rehabilitation and spent less on security (Dambazau, 2007).
The State of Nigeria Correctional Centres

Our Correctional Service Centres are in the state of chronic congestion. The Nigeria Correctional Service Centres have turned into hell dungeon and punitive centres, Correctional Service Centres are full of physical brutality, treatment to inmates is like to a condemned inmate, untreated accommodation as against the rules of the United Nations standard for Correctional Service Centre inmates.

There are horrible conditions in Nigeria Correctional Service Centres when it comes to the issue of health, many inmates’ health conditions are undermined, and majority suffers skin ailment and malaria because little or no attention is given to them (Tabiu & Ladan, 1998). It is worth noting here that whatever the Correctional Service Centres may stand for, they have always housed large number of the poor, the unemployed and mentally disturbed (Russell and Steward, 2001).

Correctional Service Centres in Nigeria are overcrowded and the Correctional Service Centres population is increasing beyond facilities made available to inmates, accused persons (awaiting trial) are more than convicted criminals. This is a problem in Nigeria Correctional Service Centres. The Correctional Service Centres in the country are like shanty towns or ghettos, they reveal a complete picture of dehumanizing conditions, convicts and even those awaiting trials are camped together in cells meant for one person or fewer persons. These make them more hardened. The criminal has largely been abandoned, well occupied with activities and insufficiently trained and insufficiently educated to new habits of thoughts and conduct. It viewed that; inmates undertake services and depart without positive result and, at most, worse than before (Odekunle, 1979). The situation of Nigerian Correctional Service Centres is one of stagnation where one cannot observe any change. Early Correctional Service Centres were used primarily to sequester criminals and little thought was given to living conditions within their walls (Smah, 2014).

It has repeatedly been impossible to train a man under condition of captivity to re-socialize a man for normal citizenship in the open society in an abandoned and closed community, or train towards responsible living by giving him no responsibility whatsoever (Odekunle, 1983).

Evidence abounds that, the Nigerian Correctional Service Centres hold population twice their capacity (Civil Liberty Organisation (CLO), 1995) particularly, every Correctional Service Centre in Nigeria is a slum where men and women, literally live on top of each other. Available statistics indicate that, the Nigeria Correctional Service Centres have an overcrowding rate between 10% and 58% (Adelola, 1994). The facilities for personal hygiene are terrible because there is hardly a male inmate who has his bath once in two days. Inmates look emaciated, skeletal with bones almost visible from the skin, carved back and often decorated, when opened out for fresh air, they look like ghosts who have been bathed in ashes, scratching heads and dreadful to look at (Adelola, 1994). It is obvious that, one cannot talk of suitable bedding where there are neither beds nor mattresses; all Correctional Service Centres in Nigeria supplement their absent or inadequate stock of beds with mats (CLO, 1995). There are inadequate sizes of
cell windows in Nigeria Correctional Service Centres, usually dim in the day and most inmates, even if they have the chance and inclination, could not read for any considerable duration without damage to their eyes.

**Effects of Correctional Centre Congestion**

The standard of living of inmates is a critical issue, often it is constructed in terms of so many colonies per day, so many hours of recreations, so many cable yards of space per individual and so on. When the justice system fails, it will affect both the inmates and the criminal justice administration in general. There cannot be adequate and smooth running of the system under congested Correctional Service Centres. Overcrowded Correctional Service Centres are not only uncomfortable but also destructive as inmates who come out carry the consequences of their bad experiences to the free world after they are released. In crowded Correctional Service Centres where struggles and competitions prevail, inmates may move to anti-social behaviour as there already exists the problem caused by idleness, boredom and lack of personal control. Correctional Service Centre congestion makes inmates develop various negative characters that make them do more violent crimes when they come out of Correctional Service Centre.

Correctional Service Centre congestion has three different types of negative effects on the inmates. Congestion decreases the resources available for each and every facility. They will be deprived of rehabilitative programmes like academic activities and vocational training. Recreational activities and self-improvement programmes are not possible in an overcrowded environment. The lack of work makes inmates idle. This would lead them to frustration and disruptive behaviour. Correctional Service Centre congestion results in general scarcity of resources, for example, availability of library books, washroom, and shortage of recreational materials. Correctional Service Centre congestion also harbors illness and unhealthy environment. It also makes the inmates struggle for resources. This struggles and competition further criminalize the inmates.

Correctional Centre congestion encourages suffering in terms of clothing, feeding for the inmates’ congestion in Correctional Centre as well as the inability of the Correctional Service officials to provide adequate rehabilitation of inmates. Fumigation of the cell is a luxury; convict sleeps on beds without mattresses, the awaiting trials only rest on old blankets on the bare floor or sleep by leaning against the wall and times on batches (Adelola, 1994). Correctional Service Centre congestion leads to breakdown of Correctional Service Centre facilities. Congestion in the Nigeria Correctional Service Centres has become an aid for the learning of criminal activities by inmates because first offenders are kept with hardened criminals.

**Theoretical Justification: Marx’s Theory of Crime and Justice**

The theoretical framework for the analysis of this study is the Marx’s theory of crime and justice. Marxists essentially see crime and deviant as defined by the ruling class and used as means of social control, if you don’t conform then you will be punished. Institutions such as the police, courts and Correctional Service are there to encourage one to conform. They argued that white collar crime which tends to be committed by the more powerful in the society are ignored,
while crimes committed by the less powerful in the society such as burglary and street crimes are focused on and seen as more serious. Marxists also argued that different social classes are policed differently. Marxist sociologists such as Milton Mankoff, Frank Pearce and Laureen Snider see power as largely being held by those who own and control the means of production. The super structure reflects the relationship between the powerful and the relatively powerless-The ruling and subject classes. As part of the super structure, the state, the agencies of social control, the law reflects and serves ruling class interests. Laws reflect the interests of the bourgeoisie. They are passed by bourgeoisie parliament masked in a fake democratic process. These laws are then enforced by the police. Marxists believe that even in criminal justice administration, certain people and groups are targeted by the police and that incarceration is done only in selected social class.

The distortions of humans caused by the structure of capitalism fall within the bounds of Marx’s famous concept of alienation. People are naturally connected with their productive activity, their products, and their fellow workers, and ultimately with themselves and with their inherent nature as human beings. But all this connection is severed by the structure of capitalism. Man naturally is created to be a conformist but the distortions according to Marx which is due to capitalism have eroded these values. Some now see deviant acts as part of man’s struggles for survival. This often brings him in conflict with agencies of social control which includes the Correctional Service and consequently incarceration. Marx further argues that any historical period dominant and subservient classes can be identified. Inequality in wealth and power is always present. That some groups come to dominate others and to win for themselves disproportionate share of the society’s wealth, power and privileges, this result to some groups using other means to get the share, this act of trying to get is therefore termed by the ruling class as deviant act and those found wanting are arrested, prosecuted and incarcerated.

Marx’s therefore, looks at the Correctional Service as a tool of continuous oppression by the ruling class over the subjected class. The Nigeria criminal justice system of which the Correctional Service stands as the third in the pillar is not an exemption. Nigeria criminal justice system was created as an important instrument of oppression by the British colonial government (Alemika and Chukwuma, 2000). The deplorable state of Correctional Service Centres is maintained as it is used and seen as a dumping ground/place for those who do not obey the laws that protect the bourgeoisie’s interest and that of their economy. The British colonial government in order to promote and protect its economic interest, created the Nigeria criminal justice system (Alemika and Chukwuma, 2000). This philosophy behind the creation of Nigeria criminal justice system is still being maintained by the ruling class in the country as it was inherited from the colonial government. Colonial penal system was designed to promote British economic interest and not for the purpose of security. Historically, the Nigeria criminal justice agencies were created, not as instruments of security and justice, but as weapons of oppression (Alemika and Chukuma 2000). However, the Correctional Service is not only used over the subjected class but also on fellow bourgeoisie’s political opponent and social critics which results in higher number of incarceration and consequently Correctional Service Centres congestion. This is however the
view of Falana (1999). To him, the deplorable state of the Nigerian Correctional Service Centres is maintained by the existing government in power so as to punish their critics and opponents. Hence, emphasis on implementation of the United Nations minimum standard rules which would better improve the conditions of Correctional Service Centres is not taken seriously as the interest of the ruling class would be distorted. The rate of congestion is growing in Nigerian Correctional Service Centres and criminal justice administration is losing focus because instead of justice, injustice against the poor is always promoted and perpetuated. The legal system is also an instrument in the hands of the ruling class; this is being carried out and perpetuated through high litigation cost which makes it impossible for the downtrodden to seek justice thereby resulting or maintaining Correctional Service Centres congestion. The legal system is an arena for struggle among competing groups with divergent visions of social order (Alemika and Chukwuma, 2000). Therefore, the citizens, through the progressive fragment of civil society, must interrogate or question and understand the logic, structure and practices of Nigerian legal system, in order to effectively organize and mobilize the society towards the restructuring and reorientation of the nation’s criminal justice agencies. Only then will the agencies be able to serve, promote and protect the citizens instead of being instruments of oppression by the rulers.

It is based on the above explanation and situation of Correctional Service Centres in Nigeria that the Marx’s theory of crime and justice was adopted for the understanding of Correctional Service Centres congestion and the administration of criminal justice in Nigeria

Methodology

The study adopted the survey research design which allows for representative samples in the collection of data and allows for generation of certain primary information from their original sources. Field survey was carried out on two groups of respondents - The awaiting trial and the convicted inmates in Correctional Service Centre in Lafia, Nassarawa State, Nigeria. A sample size of 70 respondents both convicts and awaiting trial were drawn using simple random (balloting) sampling method and given questionnaires to fill, however, only 67 questionnaires were retrieved for analysis. Data was analyzed through the use of frequencies and percentages.

Results and Discussion

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Frequencies</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>94.03%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5.97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>18-29</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>59.70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30-49</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>40.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50 above</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital status</td>
<td>Married at the moment</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>35.82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Not married at the moment</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>64.18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 1 is an analysis of the demographic characteristics of respondents in the study. With a total of 67 returned and correctly filled out of the 70 sent out, a greater percentage of the respondents are male, specifically 94.03%. In the age category, there were more youth. Those from the age of 18-29 were 59.70%, while those within the age of 30-49 were 40.30%. Data gathered show the dominance of youths. Marital status of respondents recorded as follows, married at the moment is 35.82% while not married at the moment is 64.18%. This shows majority of the respondents were not married. On educational characteristics, 2.98% had no formal education, 13.43% indicated that they had primary education, 50.75% indicated that they had secondary education, and 32.84% had tertiary education. This shows majority of the respondents were with secondary education. Responses on the prior occupation of respondents shows 37.31% are student, 38.81% are applicant, 2.98% are civil servants, 10.45% are farmers, and 10.45% are artisan. Data show that applicants or unemployed youths constitute majority of the respondents. The applicants likely might have been pushed into crime due to the harsh nature of the economy. This further depicts the alarming rate of unemployment in Nigeria.

Table 2: Inmates’ Assessment of the Criminal Justice Administration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unfair</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>34.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Bad</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>56.72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>67</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The researcher asked the inmates their assessment of the Criminal Justice administration in general. The essence was to know the role of the criminal justice administration in Correctional Service Centre congestion. This is because, it is believed that how criminals are treated have an influence on Correctional Service Centre.

Table 2 shows that 5.94% indicated that Criminal Justice administration performance was satisfactory, 2.98% indicated that the performance of Criminal Justice administration was good, 34.33% indicated that the performance of Criminal Justice administration was unfair and 56.72% indicated that the performance of Criminal Justice was very bad. Information in table 2 means there is problem with present day Criminal Justice administration in general which encourages Correctional Service Centre congestion.

Table 3: Inmate Evaluation of their Satisfaction of the Process and Manner of their Arrest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Satisfied</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>40.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not satisfied</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>59.70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Inmates were asked whether they are satisfied with the manner and process of their arrest. Data on table 3 shows that 59.70% were not satisfied with the manner and process of their arrest while 40.30% were satisfied with the manner and process of their arrest. Illegal arrest by police as a Criminal Justice administration agency encourages Correctional Service Centre congestion.

Table 4: Inmates Evaluation of Courts Adjudication of Justice to Awaiting Trial

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Effective</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less effective</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>14.93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None effective</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>73.13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The court of law determines the fate of any criminal case or whether an accused is guilty or not and so their performance cannot be overlooked. On this note, the researcher decided to collect data on the performance of the court when it comes to people awaiting trial. The aim was to see if court performance has effect on Correctional Service Centre congestion.

Table 4 shows that 11.94% indicated that court adjudication of justice is effective, 14.93% indicated that court adjudication of justice is less effective while 73.13% indicated that court adjudication of justice is none effective. Data show that majority of inmates indicated that
court adjudication of justice is poorly effective. This therefore can cause Correctional Service Centre congestion.

**Table 5: Feeding Condition of Inmates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The state of inmates feeding condition</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>37.31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unfair</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>52.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>67</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Field Survey, 2020.*

Table 5 shows that 10.45% of inmates indicated that the condition of their feeding in the Correctional Service Centre is good, 52.24% indicated that the condition of their feeding in Correctional Centre is unfair. While 37.31% indicated that the condition of their feeding in the Correctional Service Centre is fair. Data therefore, indicated that 89.55% of the inmates feel negatively about their condition of feeding in Lafia Correctional Service Centre. This means that the poor state of feeding in Lafia Correctional Service Centre is as a result of the congestion of the Correctional Service Centre or inability of government or administrators to cater and feed inmates appropriately. The implication is that Correctional Service Centre congestion brings about poor feeding condition as indicated by the respondents and thereby affecting the inmates.

**Table 6: Inmates Responses on Sleeping Condition**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>29.85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not satisfactory</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>70.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>67</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Field Survey, 2020.*

Table 6 shows data on condition of sleeping of inmates. Data show that 29.85% indicated that they are satisfied with their sleeping condition while 70.15% indicated they are not satisfied. This means that inmates sleep in an uncomfortable condition and the implication is that the United Nations Minimum Standard Rules and Rights of the offender which states that every inmate should be provided with comfortable accommodation is not adhered to. The congestion problem of the Correctional Service Centre may be responsible for this situation.

**Conclusion**

Evident from this study are the following conclusion. It was observed that there exists poor administration of criminal justice and that incessant arrest, poor adjudication of justice play roles in Correctional Service Centre congestion. The scenario needs to be addressed urgently so as to help in the decongestion of Correctional Service Centres. It was revealed that Lafia
Correctional Service Centre is congested by inmates, most especially the awaiting trial. Accommodation was not measurable with inmate population; these have negative implications as the inmates can convert the Correctional Service Centre to a learning ground for more criminal skills. It could be deduced that the few and poor accommodation and facilities are for both minor offenders (both awaiting and convicted) and hardened criminals. The congestion makes it almost impossible for the achievement of the reformatory function of the Correctional Service. The congestion in Lafia Correctional Service Centre has far-reaching consequences on the inmates feeding condition.

**Recommendations**

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations have been proffered.

i. The problem of Correctional Service Centre congestion needs to be urgently addressed. It is hereby recommended that government should expand facilities at the Lafia Correctional Service Centre to accommodate the ever increasing number of inmates.

ii.Awaiting trial inmates whose cases are not so serious should be released on parole mostly those who have stayed too long in Correctional Service Centre custody as awaiting trial.

iii. The Law Court (Judges) should be placed under serious supervision to speed up cases of awaiting trial.

iv. Government should encourage Legal Aid Council Lawyers through good welfare packages and as well employ more lawyers to add up to the number of Legal Aid Council to handle cases of inmates who cannot afford the services of a lawyer to handle their cases.

v. Vocational programmes should be made adequate in all Correctional Service Centres and Lafia Correctional Service Centre in particular to meet up with the reformatory philosophy behind incarceration.

vi. Government should properly fund Correctional Service to help in expansion of infrastructures.

vii. Correctional Service management should be charged with the responsibility to strictly adhere to the United Nations’ Minimum Standard and Rights of the Offender.

**References**


