Peace Studies and Practice
Journal of the Society of Peace Studies and Practice

2024 Edition, Vol. 13, No. 2
Pp 53 - 66

The Inmates' Trust Fund Portfolio and its Implications for Nigeria's Correctional Service

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Abstract
This paper explores the idea of inmates' trust fund and its implications for the Nigerian Correctional Service. Through a desk-based review of relevant literature, it addresses three major concerns in the rehabilitation and reintegration of inmates: education, mental health and skill development; life inside custodial centers and life after imprisonment. The researcher visited five custodial centers in Jos, interacting with 5 correctional officers and 5 inmates in each in the five custodial centers in Plateau State. Additionally, 15 ex-offenders in Jos were interviewed. This study identified lack funding, overpopulation, poor feeding, lack of access to mental health services, outdated technical equipment etc. as the major challenges confronting rehabilitation and reintegration. This study recommends that an inmate' trust fund and correctional management committee be established to improve the condition of the Nigerian correctional facilities. This would not only improve the condition of the custodial centers but support inmates post-released. By monitoring, evaluating and enhancing of victim/inmate-family reconciliation process. The paper also emphasises the significance of providing support to inmates and individuals who have been released from custody as they confront the difficulties of reintegrating into society. Creating an inmate trust fund can assist in reducing the financial hardships that individuals encounter after being released from a correctional facility. In addition, establishing a correction management committee can guarantee the efficient allocation of resources to promote rehabilitation and reconciliation endeavours. Implementing these recommendations can enhance the successful reintegration of inmates and ex-convicts into the society.
Keywords: Inmates, Trust Funds, Rehabilitation, Reconciliation, and Reintegration.

Introduction

The Nigerian Correctional Service is statutorily expected to take into lawful custody all persons duly certified to be so held by courts of competent jurisdiction, produce suspects and other convicts in court as and when due, Identify the causes of their antisocial behaviour, put in place procedures for their training and reform, so that when they are released, they can return to society as law-abiding citizens, and operate Prison Farms and Industries to do this, generating revenue for the government. But they are bedeviled by overcrowding which has leads to poor feeding, overstressing structures, and an unhygienic environment. Awopetu, (2014) argues that the challenges confronting the Nigerian correctional service are a threat to its statutory function of rehabilitation, reformation and reintegration of inmates.Edeko (2013)

summarized that poor living conditions in the custodial centers could sometimes affect inmates' physical and mental well-being. In some cases, it can constitute threats to the inmates' health conditions. Examples of poor conditions include; overcrowding, poor sanitation, lack of food and medicines, bedding clothing, and sometimes denial of contact with families and friends, which falls short of the United Nations Standards for treating inmates. (Vera, 2021)

The inmates' population has impact in the rehabilitations of inmates. As of 1st April 2024, the Nigerian correctional services released an inmate population of 77,934, published on their official website. The data shows that 68% were waiting trial inmates, 32% were convicted inmates, 98% were male inmates and 2% formed the population of female inmates. (Nigerian Correctional Service, April 2024) This shows that the custodial centers admit at geometric progression and release at arithmetic progression. The statistics showed an upward shift compared to the previous year's statistics. With this horrific figure, rehabilitation, reformation, and reintegration of inmates will become a major challenge for the government due to overcrowding. The situation is worsened by Nigeria's current economic situation which has the propensity to increase crime, if not well-checked. The rate at which prices of goods and services increase without equivalent increases in job opportunities might increase custodial centers admission.

Custodial Centers play a significant role in preventing and controlling criminal recidivism. It is a closed and controlled institution where convicted and sentenced people are physically confined for rehabilitation to make them law-abiding and acceptable human beings in society upon release. (Edeko, 2013). The aim of a prison sentence is a means of punishment for the convicted. Still, it is also a means to reduce recidivism when ex-convicts are eventually released into society. (Qadri, 2005). Abubakar Malami (SAN), the Minister of Justice in Nigeria, argues in an interview that it is obvious that the facilities are overcrowded with inmates and the environment are mostly not conducive which thereby defeats the primary purpose of the CS as primarily for reformation centres.(Vera, 2021). He further stated that the NCS directly touches on the fundamental human rights of the inmates and constitutes a violation of their rights. (Vera, 2021).

Going by the above, one can argue that the Nigerian correctional system lacks resources to procure and establish state-of-the-art correctional programs such as vocational skills and a qualitative formal education system for both male and female inmates. Even the few available facilities for training, such as industrial or agricultural plants, trade, and vocational trade, are moribund or so obsolete that they are incapable of motivating, reforming, mobilizing, and empowering released inmates to live a crime-free life. (Vera, 2021). Looking the impact of the Nigerian Correctional centers, it is obvious need for strategic and sustainable approach to mitigate the on the rehabilitations and reintegration of inmates in Nigeria. Therefore, this paper significant as explores the idea of inmates' trust fund and its implications for the Nigerian Correctional Service.

Methodology

The study uses a qualitative approach for data collections which includes a review of relevant literature, observations, and semi-structured interviews. The researcher visited five custodial centers in Jos, interacting with 5 correctional officers and 5 inmates in each in thefive custodial centers in Plateau State. Additionally, 15 ex-offenders in Jos were interviewed.

The Concept of Inmates and Ex-Inmates in Nigeria

There are several demeaning terms used to describe people with criminal justice records,

including "offenders," "delinquents," "criminals," "prisoners," "convicts," and "inmates." Frequently, these designations persist even after an individual serves their entire sentence in prison and is released back into society. Words like "ex-felons," "ex-prisoners," "ex-convicts," and "ex-offenders" are used to stigmatize and classify those who have dealt with the criminal justice system. Dehumanizing labels do more to alienate and caricature people than to assist them in remaking their lives. A person's past convictions do not define them as someone involved in the legal system. Words about people should be accurate representations of who they are and recognize their potential for development (Elijah, 2020).

The concept of inmates and ex-inmates has been in existence but became pronounced in the Nigerian criminal justice system when the Nigerian Correctional Service Act 2019 was enforced. Before the establishment of the Nigerian Correctional Act 2019 which repelled the Prison Service Act; those behind bars were usually called prisoners, but with the new act, the concept of an inmate is gradually replacing prisoners. Among Nigerians, some still referred to those in our custodial centers as prisoners and ex-prisoners. Elijah, (2020) defined an inmate as a person who lives or resides in a particular place - especially someone who is confined there, like a prisoner. He argues further that the word inmate was originally defined as "one allowed to live in a house rented by another" in the 16th century. This interpretation derives from the words in and mate, which indicate "friend or companion." When the term "inmate" was first used in the 1830s, it meant "one confined to an institution."

Inmates are categorized into two in the prison community. There are convicted inmates those whose cases have been decided by a court of law and sentenced to a jail term. The other is awaiting inmates, those whose cases are under investigation and undergoing trial in a competent court of law. Some awaiting inmates may be released without conviction if the court finds them not guilty as charged or have no case to answer, while some may be convicted. On the other hand ex-inmates are those who have served jail term and have been released from prison, whether they were convicted or not. Elijah (2020) defined ex-inmates as those individuals who have been discharged by a prison and are no more serving a sentence.

History of Correctional Service in Nigeria

African societies had their unique conception of law and justice before the colonial notions of justice and incarceration. The enforcement of the law (largely unwritten customary law) varied from locality to locality but was usually carried out communally. The object of pre-colonial adjudication was therefore imposition of common sanctions such as reconciliation, compensation and restitution. (Qadri, 2005) The correctional service in Nigeria starts when the Native Authority jails in 1968 was dissolved, followed by the unification of Nigeria's jails Service. Prior to this, the Northern Inspector General of Police served as the ex-officio Director of Prisons. Similarly, the Director of Prisons oversaw the prisons in the south. However, due to the unpredictable nature of the country's civil war, the government reorganized the jail system in 1971 and a year later 1972 a Decree No.9 of which defined the Nigerian Prisons Service's mission and orientation. The prison started taking custody of persons who were legally jailed, determining the causes of their behaviour, and retraining them to become productive members of society (Nigerian Correctional Service 2024).

From the following, it appears that, while the Decree prioritises secure custody, it also explicitly states that reform and rehabilitation are the ultimate goals of the Prison Service. In order to attain this goal, jail administration became more streamlined. The service, which

had previously been generally handled under one Director, now had, in addition to the Director, "three principal agencies or divisions performing different roles to enable (the prisons) execute its programs expeditiously and achieve its goal." The divisions are Technical, Inspectorate, and Welfare, with each unit reporting to a Deputy Director of Prisons. (Egu, 2009). In accordance with the provisions of Decree 9 of 1972, specialised units was established to oversee specific sections of the Prisons Service. The Technical Division, for example, was in charge of general administration and logistics, as well as farm and industry supervision. The Inspectorate Division was responsible for staff deployment, training, discipline, promotion, and recruitment. The Welfare division was supposed to be the core of the new jail system. It was to oversee convict care, training, and rehabilitation. It also manages the jails' medical needs and acts as a liaison between the institutions and voluntary and humanitarian organisations that help with prisoner care and rehabilitation. Between 1974 and 1980 a group of officers, mostly pivotal teachers was recruited as social welfare officers to take on adjustment-related programmes and rehabilitation of prisoners. In addition professional Nurses and Doctors were recruited to beef up the medical staff strength as well as expertise. Besides between 1972 and 1974 over three hundred graduates were recruited into the Service as general duty officers to see to the day to day running of the Prisons. It was hoped that their enlightenment will help direct other staff towards the goals of the prisons which are in the main treatment of offenders. (Nigerian Correctional Service 2024).

There have been massive transformations in the Service since 1972. It has undergone some reorganization from its modest three Directorates in 1980 to six Directorates in 1993 and now 8 with the introduction of Staff Training and Development and the Non-Custodial Directorates. There was the 1986 reorganization of the Prisons consequent upon the creation of the Customs, Immigrations and Prisons Board and centralization of the administrations of these paramilitary Services in the Board. There was also the removal of the Services from the Civil Service in 1992.

In order to conform to worldwide best practices, the Service carried to a logical end the passing of the Nigerian Correctional Service Act, 2019, and the eventual assent of the President. The Act's broad provisions are expected to put the Nigerian Correctional Service in a stronger position than ever before to fulfil the goal of imprisonment. The Act, among other things, strives to produce a Correctional Service that is consistent with the rest of the world in terms of corrections. Among these is the inclusion of Non-Custodial Services in the Nigerian Penal System.

The Current Condition of the Nigerian Correctional Facilities

The Nigerian Correctional centers are facing many formidable obstacles that are impeding the service's ability to meet the high standards set by the public for the effective administration of correctional facilities across the nation. These difficulties include but are not limited to, low funding, a subpar welfare program for both staff and prisoners, and deteriorating facilities at different correctional facilities around the nation. The majority of the centers have extremely dehumanizing (Ron, 2018)

I. Lack of Funding

Many prison systems have so few resources that they struggle to meet basic needs such as food, healthcare, clothing, and even shelter in a safe, hygienic environment. (Jeanne, 2020). Justifiably, it is challenging to make the argument in our society that adequate funding to run prisons is as important as the education of our children or support for the needy. But the case is not the same with our correctional

facilities. Ron, (2018) argues that no matter how good the economy is, corrections hardly see an increase in funding. On the other hand, when budget slashes are required, correctional service is often considered a prime source of money savings.

ii. Lack of Financial Management System

A couple of searches has underscores misappropriating of inmates' funds by the correctional officers, according to Gift (2024) "Prison employees, police, and other security force personnel sometimes denied inmates food and medical treatment to punish them or extort money". There are no financial management systems in the correctional centers. Inmates' money are handle by the correction officers manually and records are made over the counter.

iii. Poor Feeding

The prison community is full of tension as inmates most times turn violent on themselves and staff. Inmate violence, especially among the more hardened inmate population, poses an issue for both other inmates and staff. Since the most dangerous inmates are the ones correctional facilities are required to keep for longer periods, it increases the potential for repeated violence within facilities (Ron, 2018). One of the correctional officers in an interaction with the researcher raised safety concerns, that when inmates attacked themselves they had to intervene. This intervention puts staff at risk. However, it is not just inmate-on-inmate violence that causes concern for staff safety; violent inmates also target staff (Ron, 2018).

iv. Overstressing Structures

The Nigerian correctional service has a deficit in its infrastructure across the country. This is evident in the recent collapse of its custodial centers across the country, like the Suleja prison. As a result, we tend to see patchwork fixes applied to keep old facilities operational as opposed to building new facilities. According to Ron, (2018), custodial centers are expensive to build and, when fully operational, they are expensive to maintain. This is in particular true for facilities designed to house the most hardened inmate population. Notable proportion of these facilities, were built in 70s to 80s, cannot meet even the most fundamental standards of living.

v. Overcrowded Facilities

The United States in its '2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Nigeria,' published on its website on Tuesday, noted that many custodial facilities were grappling with a staggering 50 per cent increase in the number of inmates beyond their intended capacity, revealing a systemic issue. (Gift, 2024) In the report, overcrowding was noted as the biggest challenge confronting the correctional service. This is evident in the statistics released by the Nigerian Correctional Service posted on their website between the 1st of April, 2024 and the 31st of April, 2024 showed a significant increase of 10% in prison admission, within 30 days.

vi. Lack of Access to Health Care Services

There are deficiencies in healthcare provision within the Nigeria correctional centers, with shortages of medical supplies worsening the situation. The United States report stressed that necessities like clean water and proper sewage systems were often absent, resulting in hazardous and unsanitary conditions within Nigerian correctional centers. Some of the correctional centers had no facilities to care for pregnant women or nursing inmates. (Gift, 2024).

Challenges of Rehabilitation of Inmates in Nigeria

In this section the paper tries to explore that problems hindering effective rehabilitation of inmates, looking the condition of the Nigerian correctional centers.

i. Poor Mental Well-being

The effect of poor mental health on the rehabilitation of inmates cannot be overemphasis. Prof. Craig Haney, an expert on the psychological effects of imprisonment and prison isolation, explains, "At the very least, prison is painful, and incarcerated persons often suffer long-term consequences from having been subjected to pain, deprivation, and extremely atypical patterns and norms of living and interacting with others." Katie (May, 13, 2021) argues that "incarceration can trigger and worsen symptoms of mental illness — and those effects can last long after someone leaves the prison gates". "But less attention is paid to the ways in which incarceration itself perpetuates this problem by creating and worsening symptoms of mental illness. Research shows that, while it varies from person to person, incarceration is linked to mood disorders including major depressive disorder and bipolar disorder. (Katie, May, 13, 2021)..

ii. Outdated Vocational Equipment

Transformation through vocational training is one of basic ways of preparing inmates for societal reintegration in any nation of the world, but reverse is the case with Nigerian correctional centers. Some centers have no technical workshops and those that have the equipment are obsolete. Having modern equipment and equipping inmates with the right tools and knowledge is not just about ensuring safety and security; it's about fostering an environment that nurtures growth and fosters a sense of hope. (India vision foundation, January 2024). Additionally, equipment is often outdated, which in turn compromises staff safety. These pressing issues have to be addressed in budget allocation discussions.

iii. Lack of Risk and Need Assessment (RNA)

There are no risks and need assessment tools to assist correctional officers in assessing the risks posed by inmates. Little or skills acquired by the correctional officers in risks and needs assessment. Equipping staff with RNA tools would enable staff to make informed decisions about the risks posed by each inmate and the needs underlying his/her criminal behavior that should be addressed in prison programming and management (UNDOC, 2023)

iv. Inmate Willingness to Learn

The biggest problem is that an individual has to want to change and be willing to put in the effort to not recidivate. Because of the harsh condition in the Nigeria custodial centers some inmates are distracted and would no give to training easily. Some may pretend to be learning while they are not. An inmate in interview with researcher said he does not need any skill; all he wanted is to be free from custody. (Personal Communication, April, 2024)

v. Inadequate Trained Technical Staff

The custodial centers lack trained technical staff who could train inmates in modern vocational skills. Providing skills to inmates is a basic needs a neccessitiy for the inmates. The Nigeria case is different as inmates suffer deficit in skills development while in custody. Emelia Oputa, (April, 26, 2017, argued that there are no enough personnel to manage such huge number of inmates, most of whom are awaiting trial,"

Challenges Social Reintegration of Inmates

Here the paper addresses the concerns of ex-inmates post-released. Some of these identified challenges caused by poor reintegration processes.

i. Lack of Post-Mental Health Assessment

There are no systems put in place to address mental health of ex-inmates post-released. Valera, Brotzman, Wilson and Reid (2017) argued that mental health issues cannot be overlooked regarding their damage to inmates and ex-inmates rehabilitation. Reentry for ex-inmates with mental health issues can be a big challenge. This is because most ex-inmates don't access post-released mental health

assessments and treatment before reintegrating back into society. Wolff, (2005), put it forward, that there is a critical need for responding to the mental health needs of inmates before they are released, as well as having support in place to continue monitoring and treating their mental health needs once they have re-entered society. Without adequate mental health support, individuals who have been incarcerated may find it difficult to navigate the obstacles of reintegration, which can heighten the likelihood of reoffending. Correctional facilities need to prioritise mental health services and ensure access to resources for ongoing treatment after release. By prioritising the mental health needs of inmates both before and after their release, we can contribute to breaking the cycle of incarceration and facilitating a successful reentry into society.

ii. Discrimination and Stigmatisation

Joining a new or an old community for an ex-inmate does not come easy as he or she will be discriminated and stigmatised. The fact remains that the ex-offenders are seen as those who cannot be trusted or worked with. They are discriminated against and not given the chance to work. The researcher in an interview with a former incarcerated person, who served a 5-year jail term, narrated his ordeal that he was not to contribute to a community meeting and family meetings and that has left him devastated (Personal communication, May 2024). The consequences are that offenders may find alignment and continue with their criminal behavour. (Muhammad, Gwangndi, Hassan, 2017). Society must acknowledge and tackle these concerns to deter additional criminal behaviour. Offering assistance and chances for rehabilitation and reintegration can aid in disrupting the pattern of prejudice and marginalisation that frequently results in repeated criminal behaviour. By fostering empathy and embracing tolerance, we can establish a more all-encompassing and encouraging atmosphere for folks seeking to reconstruct their life after their incarceration.

iii. Access to Re-entry Programmes

Re-entry is the process by which an inmate is prepared for release and transition back into society. Nancy La Vigne (2023) the director of the National Institute of Justice argued that reentry processes range from risk and needs assessment at intake, program, treatment, and educational attainment during incarceration; to case planning for release; and post-release supervision and reintegration. Nancy argues that reentry is not one-size-fits-all. An inmate's pathway into the criminal justice system is unique as they reenter society. Lack of holistic support service, cognitive behavioural therapy, poor tailored skills development programmes, and inadequate community supervision, can lead to high rates of recidivism. Re-entry programs must address the individual needs of each inmate to increase their chances of successful integration back into society. In an interview with an ex-convict who spent 25 years said that life outside prison without government or family support is like hell. Additionally, he was tempted several times wanting to get back to his criminal way of life for lack of support and discrimination within the community he lived in (Personal communication, May 2024). With support from the government, families and loved once ex-convicts can be meaningful engaged. By providing personalized support, educational opportunities, and mental health resources, we can help break the cycle of incarceration and create a safer and more prosperous community for all.

iv. Family Constraint

Naser et al, (2006), argued that a Family constraint is one of the problems facing ex-inmates. Ex-inmate seeks family support and assistance as he or she transitions to a free life. They think of how to reconnect with friends and families and find a place to live, this support comes with a cost, and some families are constrained financially. The struggle on how to support ex-offenders puts their families on high levels of stress. These factors can lead to

breakdown of family relationships, thereby exposing the vulnerability of ex-inmates. (Ray et al, 2016). Having a robust support system is essential for individuals who have been incarcerated when they are reintegrating into society. Without adequate support, the transition to life outside of prison can be extremely difficult. Family and friends are essential in supporting ex-inmates as they reintegrate into society and maintain a positive trajectory. Without proper support, individuals who have been incarcerated may face a greater likelihood of reoffending and ending up back in prison. Communities must unite and offer resources and assistance to support ex-offenders in their successful reintegration into society.

v. Lack of Employability Skills

Ex-inmates faced the challenge of finding employment and trust. Getting a job is often a big challenge for an ex-inmate. Most job providers don't hire ex-offenders for lack of trust or relevant skills. This makes it even more critical for those inmates leaving the custodial center without employment resources, education, and vocational skills. (Ray et al, 2016). An ex-convict in an interview with the researcher cried out that he has the skills and qualifications to be employed but no recruitment agency is ready to accept him because of his previous status. He said that having a criminal record is the worst thing that should ever wish for anyone (Personal communication, May 2024).

vi. Re-entry and Support Services

Re-entry programmes and support services play a vital role in assisting ex-inmates with their reintegration into society and the pursuit of stable employment. Ex-inmates need job training, and counseling post-release to seemingly reintegrate back to the society. Establishing credibility with potential employers is crucial for a successful re-entry, as employers might have reservations about hiring individuals with a criminal record. Government and civil organizations should bridge the gap by improving after care mechanism. It is crucial to address the employment obstacles that ex-inmates encounter.

The Idea of Inmates' Trust Fund Portfolio

In this section, the paper explores the idea of inmates' trust fund and how it can address the challenges of rehabilitation and reintegration of inmates in Nigeria. Selena (2017) defined an inmate trust fund as “a bank account of an offender while in incarceration". Inmates' trust fund is one way to raise money to meet the needs of inmates. Many developed countries established inmate trust funds to allow loved ones, and employers to contribute to the fund. Each inmate has a trust fund account where money can be deposited. Deposits can be made at any time through money deposit outlets to the inmate's trust account. (Selena, 2017). Autumn (2023) states that the purpose of an inmate trust fund is to allow inmates to easily keep track of their funds while also permitting others to send them money for use while in custody. It is similar to a bank, as authorized parties are typically allowed to withdraw funds from it, while anyone who knows the inmate's identification information can typically make a deposit. Inmates can help support their families or utilize the funds while incarcerated; they can also save the money for use when they are released. Like most inmates' services, there are many regulations associated with the trust fund, and they tend to vary from one facility to another (Autumn, 2023). However, enabling others to send money to inmates can also create possibilities for financial exploitation or coercion within the prison system. In addition, the rules and limitations regarding the usage of funds may hinder the inmate's ability to fully take advantage of the advantages of having a trust fund.

Inmate Trust Fund programme, supported by legislation is in place in many industrialised nations, including the United States, the United

Kingdom, and a few other developing nations. This programme helps with inmates' rehabilitation and reintegration. Prisoners are permitted to raise funds for their maintenance from friends, family, and the general public. These funds can support a range of programmes and services aimed at facilitating inmates' successful reintegration into society after their release. This includes educational programmes, vocational training, mental health services, and other resources. By offering inmates access to financial resources, they are more prepared to tackle the root causes that may have contributed to their criminal behaviour initially. In addition, having a Trust Fund in place can assist in alleviating the financial strain on the prison system, as inmates can partially support themselves during their time in incarceration. In general, the implementation of an inmate's Trust Fund can be a valuable tool in reducing recidivism rates and promoting successful reintegration into society.

i. Operating Inmate Trust Fund

The Inmate Trust Fund is operated and structured like a commercial bank in Nigeria. It's allowed each inmate to have personalized account. Local correctional facilities or a well-established money deposit bank operate and manage it to manage the trust fund. . Selena (2017) states that inmates are allowed to take home their full deposit from the trust fund when they are released. Access to an inmate's trust fund account is typically limited to spouses, attorneys, and immediate family members of the inmate. Those with court orders, proof of guardianship, and common law spouses may access the account, though everyone must show proof of identification. Additionally, it is usually necessary to visit the jail in person, as well as obtain the inmate's signature, to get money from the inmate's trust fund account (Valera et al, 2017). This process is designed to ensure that only authorised individuals have access to the funds and that the inmate's financial affairs are managed responsibly. Individuals incarcerated have the option to utilise the funds in their trust fund account for various purposes such as acquiring personal items, covering the costs of phone calls, or addressing legal expenses. By implementing strict access controls, the system effectively safeguards against fraudulent activities and unauthorised use of funds. In correctional facilities, the management of an inmate's trust fund account is of utmost importance for maintaining order and security.

ii. Importance of Inmate Trust Fund

The inmate trust fund, as authorised by the Taxes' Government code 501.014, ensures the safekeeping of inmate's funds while they are incarcerated. Although inmates do not have physical control over these funds, they are provided with access to them. It is permitted by law to have physical control. Any illegal activity on the account can be monitored by inmates. Individuals in custody have the option of using the trust fund for various purposes, such as acquiring goods from the commissary, making phone calls, and covering legal expenses. By monitoring the account, individuals can ensure that their funds are being utilised responsibly and lawfully. In addition, having access to the trust fund can assist inmates in maintaining a sense of financial autonomy and independence during their time in prison.

Having financial autonomy is essential for inmates to uphold a sense of dignity and control over their lives, even while being confined in a correctional facility. Through the ability to monitor and access their funds, inmates can also ensure that they can meet their basic needs and maintain a level of comfort during their time in prison. This can greatly benefit their mental and emotional well-being, enabling them to better handle the difficulties of being incarcerated. Overall, the trust fund system plays a vital role in ensuring inmates feel secure and empowered, aiding in their rehabilitation and eventual reintegration into society. On the other

hand, giving inmates control over their funds could also result in the potential misuse or exploitation of resources within the correctional facility. In addition, there may be security concerns and the potential for illicit activities among inmates.

Implications of Inmates' Trust Fund for Nigeria's Correctional Service.

Looking at the impact of inmates' trust fund on rehabilitation and reintegration of inmates in developed nations like taxes. It is worthy that the Nigeria government should consider establishing inmates; trust fund as it has the capacity of supporting the smoth running of prison community. Implementing this system would not only help inmates to manage their finances, but could offer the opportunity for the government to general from the public and implement a sustainable reintegration process. It is of utmost importance for the Nigerian Correctional Service to closely monitor and regulate the inmates' trust fund portfolio to ensure its proper management and prevent any potential misuse or security risks. Through efficient management of the inmates' funds, the correctional service can establish a well-organized and safe environment for both inmates and staff, resulting in improved rehabilitation and reintegration outcomes. Let look at the some of the benefit of having an inmate's trust fund portfolio in Nigeria:

i. Generate Revenue

Operating an inmates' bank allows the correctional service to raise money from the public through investment, fund drive programmes, or calls for support for prison rehabilitation and community reintegration programmes in the prison and outside of the custodial centers. Through the implementation of revenue-generating strategies, the correctional service can ensure that their rehabilitation and reintegration programmes are adequately funded, thereby enhancing their effectiveness. This not only benefits the inmates directly, but also the larger community by reducing the likelihood of reoffending and promoting a safer society overall. In addition, the public can experience a sense of pride and ownership in supporting these significant initiatives, which helps to strengthen the relationship between the correctional service and the community.

Inmates' trust can also offer a valuable chance for detainees to acquire financial literacy skills and practise responsible money management. By instructing incarcerated individuals on the principles of budgeting, saving, and investing, they can acquire valuable life skills that will have a positive impact on their future, even beyond their time in prison. This can assist in breaking the cycle of poverty and crime that frequently results in individuals returning to incarceration. In addition, by engaging the community in backing these initiatives, the correctional service can cultivate a sense of responsibility and shared commitment to the rehabilitation and successful reintegration of inmates. This collaborative approach can result in a comprehensive and efficient system of criminal justice that emphasizes rehabilitation and community safety.

ii. Improve Inmate Skills Development

Operating the inmates' trust fund in Nigeria will allow the correctional service to improve the skills of inmates by providing modern vocational skills and improving their curricula to fit into the societal growing needs and help inmates reintegrate back into society fully prepared to put into use their acquired skills from the prison. This can also allow the Nigerian correctional service to showcase skills of inmates through cell-made products. By commercializing and partnering with the best marketers to engage and market products and services from custodial centers across the country.

iii. Enhancing Inmate Financial Literacy

Through the establishment of the Nigerian inmates' bank, the correctional service can offer

inmates financial literacy courses, equipping them with the skills to effectively manage their finances and make prudent choices. This programme aims to equip inmates with valuable life skills that can have a positive impact on their lives both while they are in prison and after their release. Incorporating inmate skills development and financial literacy programmes will significantly enhance the rehabilitation and reintegration process for inmates in Nigeria.

Aside from enhancing skills development and financial literacy, the Nigerian correctional service can also prioritise offering inmates vocational training programmes. These programmes can assist inmates in acquiring valuable trade skills that can enhance their prospects of securing employment after their release. By providing a range of vocational training options, the correctional service can accommodate the varied interests and abilities of the inmate population. This not only equips inmates with practical skills but also fosters a sense of purpose and self-worth, ultimately facilitating their successful reintegration into society.

iv. Provision of Soft Loan and Reintegration Programmes

With established and well - managed inmate trust funds in place, the Nigerian correctional service can provide soft loans to reformed inmates to establish and operate businesses and also design, develop, and implement reentry programmes in Nigeria. The Nigerian Correctional Service can develop community programs in partnership with community-based organizations and support the reintegration of inmates through the use of inmates' trust deposits. These programmes would not only assist in the successful reintegration of former inmates into society, but also decrease the probability of them reverting to criminal activities. By offering financial assistance and resources, the correctional service can help individuals establish successful businesses and become valuable contributors to society. In addition, collaborating with community organisations will guarantee that inmates have a strong support system to assist them in overcoming the obstacles of reentry and effectively reintegrating into their communities.

This collaborative approach will have a positive impact on both the inmates and the community, as it will help decrease recidivism rates and promote a safer environment for all. Through investing in the rehabilitation and reintegration of former inmates, we can disrupt the pattern of incarceration and support individuals in leading meaningful and successful lives. This comprehensive approach to corrections will ultimately result in a fair and equal society for everyone.

v. Investment Portfolio

They can also use the trust deposits to invest in businesses that generate interest that can be used to improve the living conditions of inmates in the custodial centers. In addition, through investing in businesses using trust deposits, the Nigerian Correctional Service can establish a reliable source of income to support a range of rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for inmates. This investment portfolio can contribute to alleviating the strain on government funding for correctional facilities and aid in the broader objective of decreasing recidivism rates in Nigeria. Through the implementation of these initiatives, the Nigerian Correctional Service has the potential to greatly improve the lives of inmates and play a significant role in creating a safer and more rehabilitative justice system in the country. Using trust deposits to invest in vocational training programmes for inmates can be a valuable strategy to help them develop skills and increase their chances of successful reintegration into society upon release. In addition, prioritising mental health and substance abuse treatment services can help tackle the root causes of criminal behaviour,

resulting in a more comprehensive and successful rehabilitation process.

vi. Collaboration with Local Authorities

The Inmates' Trust Fund will facilitate collaboration between the Nigerian Correctional Service and state and local government councils to provide inmates with the essential resources they need to sustain themselves upon release. In addition, they can also encourage worship centres to make contributions to the fund. The funds can be utilised to provide educational scholarships to incarcerated individuals who are eager to pursue higher education. This collaboration will also involve working with community organisations to provide job training and placement opportunities for inmates upon their release. Through collaboration with local authorities, the Inmates' Trust Fund strives to provide the necessary support for inmates to successfully reintegrate into society and lead fulfilling lives. In the end, this collaboration will not only be advantageous for the individuals directly involved but also make a positive impact on the community as a whole.

Conclusion and Recommendation

Rehabilitation and reintegration of inmates is a collective responsibility. Creating an inmates' trust fund is a method to engage all parties. This fund provides an opportunity for individuals to contribute financially or make investments. Individuals who have been incarcerated can access financial assistance from this fund to establish businesses upon their release. Therefore, the federal government needs to establish a trust fund for Nigerian inmates, backed by strong legislation and effective oversight and evaluation mechanisms. The Nigerian correctional service should consider enhancing its rehabilitation and reintegration programmes by including mental health clinics and implementing a reconciliation strategy for victims and inmates' families before an inmate is reintegrated into society.

This trust fund could also support vocational training programmes within correctional facilities, helping inmates gain valuable skills for future employment after their release. Through prioritising rehabilitation and reintegration efforts, the government can contribute to lowering recidivism rates and fostering successful reintegration into society. It is of utmost importance for the Nigerian correctional service to prioritise the comprehensive well-being of inmates and offer them the necessary support to rebuild their lives after being incarcerated. It is, therefore, safe to conclude that rehabilitation and reintegration of inmates require a collaborative effort from all stakeholders.

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