
ENHANCING ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF CUSTODIAL INMATES THROUGH VOCATIONAL SKILLS ACQUISITION PROGRAMMES IN KATSINA STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

This study focussed on enhancing the economic well-being of custodial inmates through Vocational Skills Acquisition (VSA) programmes in Katsina State, Nigeria. Two research questions and one null hypothesis guided the study. A descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. The population of the study was 762 inmates in the 11 correctional custodial centres in Katsina State at the time of the study out of which a sample of 351 respondents comprising all the 266 male convicted inmates and 85 female convicted inmates of the Katsina central correctional centres were deliberately selected for the study. The instrument used for data collection was a self-structured questionnaire tagged "Questionnaire on Enhancing Economic Well-being of Custodial Inmates through Vocational Skills Acquisition Programmes (QEEWOCITVSAP)". The instrument was subjected to face validation by three experts. The reliability index of the research instrument was 0.80. The data collected for the study were analysed using descriptive statistics of mean and standard deviation, while the null hypothesis was tested using the t-test at the probability of 0.05 level of significance. The findings of the study revealed among others that there were inmate trainees in the Katsina central custodial centre and most of them have benefited from the VSA programme by acquiring skills that enhanced their economic well-being during and after incarceration. Based on these findings, the study recommended among others that, the Nigerian government should introduce and extend more VSA programmes for inmates in the custodial centres of the state. Also, governmental and non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders should be encouraged to provide the much-needed support for effective integration of discharged inmates into society and enhancing their economic well-being in the state and country at large.

Keywords: Custodial centre, Inmates, Vocational Skill Acquisition Programme.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.35386/ser.v20i1&2.445>

Introduction

Nigeria Correctional Service (NCS) was formally known as Nigeria Prison Service (NPS). Nigeria Prison Service according to Chukwumerije (2014) was renamed as Nigeria Correctional Service (NCS) following the third reading and passage of "A Bill for an Act to repeal the Prisons Act Cap. P29 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and enact the Nigerian Prison and Correctional Service to make comprehensive provision for the administration of prisons in Nigeria and related purpose by the Senate". According to the Bill, the change of name of the sector is "to underscore the human aspect of the reform focus of prisons administration and to conform to

provisions in the international instrument". The Nigerian Correctional Service (NCS) according to Hassan and Oloyede (2013) is exclusively a Federal Government concern and phenomenon which means that no state, for now, has the constitutional responsibility to operate or maintain inmates' correctional service custodial centres.

The statutory objectives of the Nigerian Correctional Service according to the Federal Republic of Nigeria (2019) include ensuring the safe custody of awaiting trial and convicted inmates as well as their reformation and rehabilitation. These objectives are discharged through carefully designed and well-articulated administrative, reformatory and rehabilitative programmes aimed at inculcating discipline, respect for law and order, and the dignity of honest labour. In the word of Obiozor and Obidiegwu (2013), the offender, in this wise, is prepared to become not only law-abiding but also useful to both himself and the society at the expiration of his sentence. Igbo (2007) noted that the United Nations (UN) declaration of human rights in 1948 stated that everyone has a right to education and Rule 71 (3) of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners states "sufficient work of a useful nature shall be provided to keep prisoners actively employed for a normal working day". Despite the declaration of human rights by the UN and Nigeria's endorsement, Talba (2015) reported that the country remains among the nations of the world that are rated with high rates of crimes, poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, and recidivism among ex-inmates.

The concept of inmates' custodial centres is perceived differently by different authorities. Asokhia and Agbonluae (2013) view inmates' custodial centre as an institution that has been set aside by law for the safe custody of people, legally confined for anti-social behaviour, to train them to become useful citizens of the free society after incarceration. In the context of this study, it is an institution designed to securely house and rehabilitate people who have been convicted of a crime or are on awaiting trial. These individuals known as inmates are kept in continuous custody on a short or long-term basis in correctional custodial centres or hospitals.

Adjustment of discharged inmates in most Nigerian custodial centres according to the Federal Republic of Nigeria (2019) has become a huge problem because society has come to view such discharged inmates as social misfits who are not amenable to corrections. In some cases, discharged inmates according to Abba and Mbagwu (2016) are unemployed and sometimes stigmatized and treated as social pariahs. This unemployment among inmates and rejection against them by society sometimes forces them back to crime. But, it is believed that this could be checked in inmates' custodial centres through Vocational Skills Acquisition (VSA) programmes that are geared towards self-reliance on release.

In Katsina State, FGN (2019) reported that there are 11 custodial centres at the time of the study such as Katsina central custodial centre (convicts); Daura medium-security custodial centre (convicts); Daura old custodial centre (convicts); Funtua medium-security custodial centre (convicts); Dtsinmasatellite custodial centre (awaiting trials); Jibia satellite custodial centre (awaiting trials); Malumfashi satellite custodial centre (awaiting trials); Mani satellite custodial centre (awaiting trials); Musawa satellite custodial centre (awaiting trials); Kankia satellite custodial centre (awaiting trials) and Ingawa custodial farm centre.

The term “skill” as described by Ngwu (2016) is a well-established habit of doing things well. It involves the acquisition of performance capability through the repetitive performance of an operation using skills gained through training or experience. Skills are classified into technical and human skills.

To reduce the rate of crimes, unemployment among inmates and recidivism among ex-convicts in the country, FGN (2019) reported that vocational skill acquisition programmes for the rehabilitation of inmates have been advocated, designed and provided for a wide range of job-related skills in Katsinacentral custodial centre. The available VST programmes include agro-based skills, carpentry and joinery work, dressmaking, hairdressing, knitting, laundry and dry cleaning services, metalwork, soap and pomade making skills acquisition programme. These programmes are both relevant and essential for the employment of the inmates and for them to become self-reliant during and after their jail term and keep away from re-entry into custody in the near future. Hence, for this paper, vocational skills acquisition involves the acquisition of skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary for effective employment of the inmates in specific occupations.

Despite the existence of these VSA programmes for inmates in the State, Masari (2015) noted that the rate of crimes, poverty and unemployment is still increasing in the state. It seems like, the providers of rehabilitation services are either ill-equipped or do not have the training to give wholesome services that can affect inmates’ lives positively. To the best knowledge of the researcher, no empirical studies have specifically ever been conducted by enhancing the economic well-being of custodial inmates through vocational skills acquisition programmes in Katsina State, Nigeria. It is against this background that this study set to carry out a study on enhancing the economic well-being of custodial inmates through vocational skills acquisition programmes in the study area.

Statement of the Problem

It is evident from the background that the statutory objectives of the Nigeria Correctional Service (NCS) are discharged through carefully designed and well-articulated administrative, reformatory and rehabilitative programmes aimed at inculcating discipline, respect for law and order, and the dignity of honest labour. To actualize these objectives of the NCS, vocational skills acquisition programmes (VSA) for the rehabilitation of inmates were established in some Nigeria correctional service custodial centres Katsina Central Custodial Centre inclusive. Regrettably, despite the availability of the VSA programmes in the study area, the report shows that the rates of crimes, poverty, illiteracy, unemployment and recidivism among ex-inmates are still on the increase in the study area. Because the country is currently struggling to actualise its human empowerment goal for economic growth, actualising this target goal requires the participation of every citizen custodial inmate inclusive. Sadly, there is an apparent lack of research reports which has examined enhancing the economic well-being of custodial inmates through VSA programmes in the study area. Hence, the need for this study which examined enhancing the economic well-being of custodial inmates through VSA programmes in Katsina State, Nigeria. Any attempt to carry out a study of this nature must require the gathering of information using various methods to systematically identify the impact of VSA programmes towards enhancing the economic well-being of custodial inmates in Katsina State.

Thus, this study will provide information on enhancing the economic well-being of custodial inmates through VSA programmes in Katsina State, Nigeria.

Literature Review

This section has two main subheadings namely: theoretical and empirical literature. The theoretical literature presents the summary of all related theories to the study while empirical literature provides an insight into existing empirical studies.

Theoretical Framework

The two most relevant theories (i.e. the theory of skill acquisition and the theory of rehabilitation) were reviewed to guide the study.

Theory of Skill Acquisition

This theory according to Abubakar and Abba (2018) was propounded by Hubert and Dreyfus in 1980. According to Hubert and Dreyfus, skills acquisition is a gradual process that involves being embodied in different ways and developing skills that would make it possible for employees to deal with the world of work. Hubert and Dreyfus justify their point of view on the topic of the learning process and skill development. The main idea behind this skill development theory is the distinction made between "knowing that" (that is, the ability to recall the understanding of the selected course of action) and "knowing how" which is the understanding that occurs upon seeing similarities with previous experiences. In vocational education, the knowing-how and knowing-that are considered one concept which is acquired through a formal system of skill acquisition. This theory of skill acquisition is relevant to the present study because it is believed that inadequacy of the skills of the inmates may influence their social behaviour and force them to return to crime and acquisition of the skills may help them engage in productive activities upon release or after their jail term.

Theory of Rehabilitation

This theory according to Abba and Mbagwu (2016) was propounded by Jean Hampton in 1970 as a reaction to the earlier schools of penology who mostly see rehabilitation through isolation and punishment as ideal. Reformers during the Jacksonian era hoped that keeping felons in solitude will enable them to reflect on their sins thus aiding their cleansing and transformation. Jean Hampton, being the major adherent of this theory however sees punishment from a different dimension. The scholar argued that the focal point of the penal system should be treatment and correction. This theory further explains that offender should be treated as an individual whose special needs and problems must be known to enable prison authority to deal effectively with him. The theorist believed in the importance of rehabilitation which should be prioritised as it is the only assured way of ensuring that offenders do not return to crime particularly since they have acquired skills that will help them engage in productive activities upon release. This theory of rehabilitation is relevant to the present study since it believed in prioritising the importance of rehabilitation rather than inflicting punishment on the inmate. Therefore, this paper hinged on the theory of skills acquisition for this study. This is because the theory

believed that inadequacy of the skills of inmates may influence their social behaviour and force them to return to crime while in other ways, acquisition of the skills may help them engage in productive activities upon release or after their jail term.

Review of Related Empirical Studies

A review of related empirical studies to the study was made for this study. The reviewed studies among others include those of Abba and Mbagwu (2016); Asokhia and Agbonluae (2013); Abubakar and Abba (2018); Omoni&Ijeh (2009); Agbakwuru and Godfrey (2016).

Abba and Mbagwu (2016) carried out a study titled “Vocational Skills Training Needs of Prison inmates for Economic Growth in Katsina State, Nigeria”. The descriptive survey design was adopted for the study. One research question and one null hypothesis guided the study. The population of the study was 1,420 prison inmates of the three convicts' prisons in the State at the time of the study. The sample size of the study was 351 convicted prison inmates comprising 266 males and 85 females. The instrument used for data collection was a self-structured questionnaire tagged "Questionnaire on Vocational Skills Training Needs of Prison Inmates (QVSTNPI). The instrument was subjected to face validation by three experts. The reliability coefficient for the instrument was 0.80. The data collected was presented using descriptive statistics of mean and standard deviation, while the null hypothesis was tested using the t-test at the probability of 0.05 level of significance. The finding of the study revealed among others that there were prison inmates trainees in the Katsina Central Convicts' prison of the study area. The study recommended among others that qualified vocational instructors in various trades should be recruited into Nigeria Prisons Service (NPS) for the training of inmates in the study area and the country at large.

The study is related to this present study as they are both concerned with educational programmes for the rehabilitation of inmates. However, both studies differ as Abba and Mbagwu (2016) carried out a study on vocational skills training needs of prison inmates for economic growth in Katsina State while the present study assessed enhancing the economic well-being of custodial inmates through VSA programmes in Katsina State, Nigeria.

Another study titled “assessment of rehabilitation services in Nigerian Prisons in Edo State” was conducted by Asokhia and Agbonluae (2013). The study adopted a descriptive survey research design. The population of the study consisted of 731 prison inmates in the six prisons of the State. Using the stratified random sampling technique, a total of 147 respondents were selected as a sample for the study. The instrument used for data collection was a checklist titled "adopted rehabilitation services in Nigerian Prisons in Edo State (ARSNPESC)". The research data were analysed using simple percentages. Some of the major findings of the study revealed among others that adult prisoners participated in adult and remedial education programmes and educational development projects in the six prisons of the study area. The study is related to this present study as both of the studies are concerned with the rehabilitation of inmates. However, both studies differ as Asokhia and Osumah study was on the assessment of rehabilitation services in Nigerian Prisons in Edo State

while the present study assessed enhancing the economic well-being of custodial inmates through VSA programmes in Katsina State, Nigeria.

Abubakar and Abba (2018) carried out a study titled "Participation of Prison inmates in Vocational Skills Acquisition Programmes for Self- Reliance and Sustainable Economic Growth in Sokoto State, Nigeria. The study focused on assessing the extent of participation of prison inmates in vocational skills acquisition programmes in Sokoto State, Nigeria. A survey research design was adopted for the study. The population of the study was 1226 respondents at the time of the study. The sample size of the study was 351 comprising all the 85 prison officials and 266 convicted prisoners of the Sokoto central prison deliberately selected for the study. The instrument used for data collection was a self-structured questionnaire tagged "Questionnaire on the participation of prison inmates in vocational skills acquisition programmes (QPPIVSAP). The data collected was analysed using descriptive statistics of mean and standard deviation, while the null hypothesis was tested using the t-test at the probability of 0.05 level of significance. The findings of the study revealed among others that VSA programmes for prison inmates were only found available in the Sokoto central prison and inmate trainees were participating in the programme. Also, the programmes have enhanced the economic well-being of the inmate to a high extent. Based on these findings, the study recommended among others that the Nigerian Prisons Service (NPS) should extend their VSA programmes to other convict and satellite's prisons for inmates' self-reliance and sustainable economic growth of the state and the country at large.

The study is related to this present study as they are both concerned with the rehabilitation of inmates. However, both studies differ as the study of Abubakar and Abba (2018) was on the participation of prison inmates in vocational skills acquisition programmes for self-reliance and sustainable economic growth in Sokoto State, Nigeria while the present study assessed enhancing the economic well-being of custodial inmates through VSA programmes in Katsina State, Nigeria.

Finally, Omoni (2009) carried out a study titled "An Assessment of the Qualitative Education for Prisoners in Delta State, Nigeria". The descriptive survey design was adopted for the study. The population of the study consisted of all the 310 prison staff in the five prisons in Delta State: Agbor, Kwale, Ogwashi-Uku, Sapele and Warri, and 166 academic staff of the College of Education, Agbor making a total of 476 respondents. The researchers used the stratified random sampling technique to determine the sample size of 300 respondents for the study. The instrument for data collection for the study was a self-structured questionnaire, whereas the data was analysed using simple percentages and chi-square (x^2). The findings of the study revealed among others that the two groups agreed that prisoners need vocational and formal education for their rehabilitation. The study is related to this present study because both studies focused on educational programmes for the rehabilitation of prison inmates. However, both studies differ as the study of Omoni (2009) assessed the qualitative education for prisoners while the present study assessed enhancing the economic well-being of custodial inmates through VSA programmes in Katsina State, Nigeria.

Agbakwuru and Godfrey (2016) carried out a study on Incarceration and the Well-being of Prison Inmates in Nigeria. The main purpose of the study was to investigate

the influence of incarceration on the well-being of prison inmates in Nigerian prisons in Port Harcourt Prison, Rivers State, Nigeria. The population of inmates in this prison at the time of the study was 2,997 while the sample size for the study was 250 inmates. The study adopted the ex-post facto research design. The results of the study show that the nature of incarceration does not influence the physical and vocational well-being of prison inmates. However, it influences their psychological, social and educational well-being.

The study of Agbakwuru and Godfrey is related to the present study as they are both concerned with the rehabilitation of inmates and their well-being in prison and after incarceration. However, both studies differ as Agbakwuru and Godfrey study was on the influence of incarceration on the well-being of prison inmates in Nigerian prisons in Port Harcourt Prison in Rivers State, Nigeria, while the present study assessed enhancing the economic well-being of custodial inmates through VSA programmes in Katsina State, Nigeria. From the literature reviewed, it is clear that most of the existing studies did pay more attention to social benefits as against economic benefits which is the focus of this study. Also, most of the locally available studies focused on states other than Katsina State. The essence of this study is to fill the identified gaps in the literature.

Purpose of the Study

The general purpose of the study was to assess enhancing the economic well-being of custodial inmates through VSA programmes in Katsina State, Nigeria..Specifically, the study sought to:

Examine the extent to which vocational skills acquisition programmes have enhanced the economic well-being of inmates in Katsina State, Nigeria.

Ascertain the challenges facing vocational skills acquisition programmes for enhancing the economic well-being of inmates in Katsina State, Nigeria.

Research questions

Two research questions guided the study:

To what extent have vocational skills acquisition programmes enhanced the economic well-being of inmates in Katsina State, Nigeria?

What are the challenges facing vocational skills acquisition programmes for enhancing the economic well-being of inmates in Katsina State, Nigeria?

Research hypothesis

H₀₁: There is no significant difference between the mean ratings of the male and female inmates on the extent to which vocational skills acquisition programmes for inmates enhanced their economic well-being in Katsina State, Nigeria.

Research Methodology

The research design for this study was a descriptive survey design. Descriptive survey research design according to Nworgu, (2015), aims at studying a group of people or items by collecting and analysing data from a sample of the same group or items considered to be representative of the entire population. This design is suitable for the study as the researcher was interested in the assessment of the contribution of VSA programmes in enhancing the economic well-being of custodial inmates in Katsina State, Nigeria.

The population of the study was 762 inmates of the 11 correctional custodial centres in Katsina State at the time of the study out of which a sample of 351 comprising all the 266 male long term convicted inmates and 85 long term female convicted inmates of the Katsina central correctional custodial centre were deliberately selected for the study. The rationale behind choosing Katsina central custodial centre and its convicted inmates were for the fact that out of the available custodial centres in the State, VSA programmes for the rehabilitation of inmates were only available in the Katsina central custodial centre. However, even in the selected custodial centre, the VSA programmes were majorly designed for convicted inmates. Therefore, the researcher used the whole convicted inmates in the selected centre for the study.

The research instrument used for data collection was a structured questionnaire designed by the researchers titled, "Questionnaire on enhancing Economic well-being of Custodial Inmates through Vocational Skills Acquisition Programmes (QEEWOCITVSAP)". It had a total of 16 items, 8 items grouped in each cluster based on the two research questions formulated for the study. The instrument was face validated by three experts from the Faculty of Education, Federal University, Dutsinma, Katsina State. To ascertain the reliability of the instrument, using two research assistants 35 copies of the questionnaire were administered to convicted inmates of the Sokoto central correctional centre which did not form part of the study area but is similar and has common VSA programmes for inmates. The internal consistency reliability of the instrument was established for the study using Cronbach Alfa with a reliability coefficient of 0.80. The essence was to determine whether the research questionnaire is consistent in measuring what it is expected to measure in terms of its clarity and comprehensiveness. For data collection for the study, a quantitative method of field survey was used in this study by the researcher. This was done with the aid of two research assistants from each of the male and female custody of the Katsina central custodial centre respectively, making a total of four research assistants for the study. The entire instruments were administered and collected the same day and a hundred per cent (100%) rate of return was recorded. The data was analysed using descriptive statistics of the mean. The real limit of the mean value was used to answer the research questions for the study. This was classified based on the following level of extent and agreement: any item whose real limit is within 3.50 - 4.00 was regarded as Very High Extent (VHE), 2.50 – 3.49 as High Extent (HE), 1.50 – 2.49 as Low Extent (LE) and 0.05 – 1.49 as Very Low Extent (VLE). For research question 2, any item whose real limit mean value is 3.50- 4.00 was regarded as Strongly Agree (SA), 2.50 – 3.49 as Agree (A), 1.50 – 2.49 as Disagree (D) and 0.05 – 1.49 as strongly disagree (SD). The inferential statistics of the t-test was used to test the null hypothesis at a 0.05 level of significance. In testing the null hypotheses, the probability associated with the t-value was used for making a decision. When the associated probability value is greater than 0.05 level of significance, the researcher

accepts the null hypothesis. Whereas the associated probability value is less than 0.05 level of significance, the researcher rejects the null hypothesis.

Research Results

Research Question One:

To what extent have vocational skills acquisition programmes enhanced the economic well-being of the inmates in Katsina State, Nigeria?

Table 1: Mean and Standard deviations of the respondents on the extent to which vocational skills acquisition programmes enhanced the economic well-being of the inmates in Katsina State, Nigeria

N = 351

S/No	Item	\bar{x}	S D	Dec.
1	The availability of vocational skills acquisition programmes in your custodial centre has influenced inmates to acquire skills for self-sustenance in and outside the custodial centre.	3.01	0.80	HE
2	The presence of vocational skills acquisition programmes in your custodial centre has empowered inmates to engage in different occupations in and outside the custodial centre.	2.81	0.84	HE
3	Using vocational skills acquired, inmates in your custodial centre can now carry out specific jobs in various trades.	2.76	0.88	HE
4	Using vocational skills acquired, inmates in your custodial centre can now operate simple machine tools in various trades.	2.86	0.92	HE
5	Using vocational skills acquired in your custodial centre, inmates engaged in small scale business in and outside the custodial centre.	2.86	0.83	HE
6	Using vocational skills acquired in your custodial centre, inmates can now train others to acquire different vocational skills.	2.69	0.81	HE
7	Using vocational skills acquired in your custodial centre, inmates can now generate revenue for the custodial centre.	2.81	0.77	HE
8	Using vocational skills acquired in your custodial centre, inmates can now work as self-employed persons in and outside the custodial centre.	2.77	0.81	HE
Grand Mean and Standard Deviation		2.82	0.35	HE

Key: N = Number of respondents, \bar{x} = mean, SD = Standard Deviation, Dec. = Decision, and HE = High Extent.

The result of the study as presented in Table 1 showed the mean and standard deviations of the respondents on the extent to which vocational skills acquisition programmes have enhanced the economic well-being of the inmates in Katsina State, Nigeria. Results from items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 showed that the respondents agreed to a high extent that their participation in the available VSA programmes has influenced them to acquire skills for self-sustenance in and outside the custodial centre. This is because the mean values of the items are within 2.50-3.49 for decision making and the cluster mean of 2.82 with a standard deviation of 0.35 is obtained in the above result.

Hypothesis One (H0₁)

There is no significant difference between the mean ratings of the male and female inmates on the extent to which vocational skills acquisition programmes enhanced their economic well-being in Katsina State, Nigeria.

Table 2: t-test analysis of the significant difference between the mean ratings of the male and female inmates on the extent to which vocational skills acquisition programmes enhanced their economic well-being in Katsina State, Nigeria.

S/N	Item Statement	Gender	Male = 266,		Female = 85		t-cal	Df	Sig	Dec
			\bar{x}	SD						
1	The availability of vocational skills acquisition programmes in your custodial centre has influenced inmates to acquire skills for self-sustenance in and outside the custodial centre.	Male	3.04	0.77			0.01	349	0.31	NS
		Female	2.94	0.88						
2	The presence of vocational skills acquisition programmes in your custodial centre has empowered inmates to engage in different occupations within and outside the custodial centre.	Male	2.80	0.81			-0.41	349	0.68	NS
		Female	2.85	0.93						
3	Using vocational skills acquired, inmates in your custodial centre can now carry out specific jobs in various trades.	Male	2.74	0.88			-0.72	349	0.47	NS
		Female	2.82	0.89						
4	Using vocational skills acquired, inmates in your custodial centre can now operate simple machine tools in various trades.	Male	2.82	0.91			-1.44	349	0.15	NS
		Female	2.99	0.93						
5	Using vocational skills acquired in your custodial centre, inmates engaged in small scale business within and outside the custodial centre.	Male	2.80	0.83			-2.96	349	0.00	S
		Female	3.09	0.80						
6	Using vocational skills acquired in your custodial centre, inmates can now train others to acquire different vocational skills.	Male	2.66	0.81			-1.28	349	0.20	NS
		Female	2.79	0.83						
7	Using vocational skills acquired in your custodial centre, inmates can now generate revenue for the custodial centre.	Male	2.77	0.77			-1.61	349	0.11	NS
		Female	2.93	0.78						
8	Using vocational skills acquired in your custodial centre, inmates can now work as self-employed persons within and outside the custodial centre.	Male	2.75	0.79			-0.86	349	0.39	NS
		Female	2.84	0.88						
Grand Mean and Standard Deviation		Male	2.80	0.35			-2.50	349	0.01	NS
		Female	2.91	0.34						

Key: N = Number of respondents, \bar{x} = mean, SD = Standard Deviation, Dec. = Decision,
NS= No Significant differences and S= Significant differences.

Results in Table 2 for items 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8 indicates that there was no significant difference between the mean ratings of the male and female inmates on the extent to which vocational skills acquisition programmes have enhanced their economic well-being in Katsina State, Nigeria because their probability values were greater than 0.05 level of significance. Item 5 on the other hand indicates that there was a significant difference between the mean ratings of the male and female inmates on the extent to

which VSA programmes have enhanced their economic well-being in the study area. This is because their probability values were greater than the 0.05 level of significance. The overall cluster t-value of -2.50 with a degree of freedom of 349 and a probability value of 0.01 was also obtained. This means that the null hypothesis that stated no significant difference between the mean ratings of the male and female inmates on the extent to which the VSA programmes have enhanced the economic well-being of the inmates in Katsina State, Nigeria is accepted. The inference drawn therefore is that there was no significant difference between the mean ratings of the male and female inmates on the extent to which VSA programmes have enhanced their economic well-being in the study area.

Research Question Two:

What are the challenges facing vocational skills acquisition programmes for enhancing the economic well-being of inmates in Katsina State, Nigeria?

Table 3: Mean and Standard Deviations of the respondents on the challenges facing vocational skills acquisition programmes for enhancing the economic well-being of inmates in Katsina State, Nigeria

N = 351

S/No	Item	\bar{x}	S D	Dec.
1	Inadequate support from governmental agencies in the implementation of vocational skills acquisition programmes for enhancing the economic well-being of inmates.	2.36	0.99	A
2	Inadequate non-governmental agencies' support in the implementation of the vocational skills acquisition programmes for enhancing the economic well-being of inmates.	3.21	0.70	A
3	Lack of inmates' will to participate in the vocational skills acquisition programmes for their economic well-being.	3.27	0.66	A
4	The inadequate market for disposing of the inmates' trade produces within and outside the custodial centre.	2.36	0.84	A
5	Inefficient management in the implementation of vocational skills acquisition programmes for enhancing the economic well-being of inmates.	3.00	0.71	A
6	Inadequate modern vocational training workshops for enhancing the economic well-being of inmates.	3.15	0.71	A
7	Inadequate modern vocational skills training equipment for enhancing the economic well-being of inmates in the correctional farm centre.	3.30	0.66	A
8	Inadequate vocationally trained personnel to disseminate relevant vocational skills for enhancing the economic well-being of inmates in the correctional farm centre.	3.32	0.67	A
Grand Mean and Standard Deviation		3.07	0.34	A

Key: N = Number of respondents; A=Agreed; \bar{x} = mean; SD = Standard Deviation and Dec. = Decision.

The result of the study as presented in Table 3, showed that items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 had mean ratings of 2.36, 3.21, 3.27, 2.36, 3.00, 3.15, 3.32 and 3.32 with standard deviations of 0.99, 0.70, 0.66, 0.84, 0.71, 0.71, 0.66 and 0.67 respectively. This indicates that respondents agree that challenges are affecting the VSA programmes for enhancing their economic well-being in Katsina State, Nigeria. This is because the mean values of the items are within the real limit of 2.50-3.49 for decision making. The cluster mean of 3.07 with a standard deviation of 0.34 showed

that all the items in Table 3 are the challenges affecting the VSA programmes for enhancing the economic well-being of inmates in the study area.

Discussion of the Results

Finding from the research question one of this study revealed that the respondents unanimously accept to a high extent that VSA programmes have enhanced their economic well-being to a high extent in the study area. This result disagrees with Agbakwuru and Godfrey (2016) who stated that the nature of incarceration does not influence the physical and vocational well-being of inmates. In another way, this result is in agreement with Hassan and Oloyede (2013) who noted that if prison inmates receive vocational training while in the prison, they will become vocationally rehabilitated for self-reliance.

The first hypothesis (H0₁) centred on finding out if there was no significant difference between the mean ratings of the male and female inmates on the extent to which the VSA programmes enhanced the economic well-being of inmates in Katsina State, Nigeria. The result showed that the respondents accept unanimously that there was a significant difference in the mean responses of the male and female inmates on the extent to which VSA programmes enhanced their economic well-being in Katsina State.

This is in agreement with Abubakar and Abba (2018) who noted that there was a significant difference in the mean responses of the male and female prison inmates on the extent to which VSA programmes enhanced the economic well-being of inmates and sustainable economic growth.

From the result of the research question two for this study, the respondents unanimously agreed that challenges are facing VSA programmes for enhancing the economic well-being of inmates in Katsina State, Nigeria.

This is in line with Asokhia (2013) who noted that there are inadequate modern workshops and equipment for the rehabilitation of inmates in most Nigerian prisons. It is also in agreement with Agbakwuru and Godfrey (2013) who revealed that most of the Nigerian prisons had very limited facilities for the rehabilitation of inmates. The rationale behind these challenges may be as a result of a lack of political will from the government to support the activities of prisons particularly in the area of rehabilitation of inmates in the country.

Conclusion

Nigerian custodial inmates should be conscious of the fact that whatever they produced using the acquired vocational skills, are contributing to the economic growth of the nation. The challenges ahead are enormous and daunting, with a strong zeal, commitment and the right value orientation. Custodial inmates can break through and excel with the aid of vocational skills acquisition programmes.

Therefore, for rehabilitation of inmates through VSA programme for enhancing their economic well-being in the study area, vocational training programmes aimed at human empowerment inmates inclusive is imperative in the state and country at large.

The inmates need to be motivated and encouraged to acquire vocational skills as a survival tool and for enhancing their economic well-being.

Recommendations

Consequent to the findings of the study, the researchers made the following recommendations.

There is a need on the part of Nigeria Correctional Service (NCS) authorities to introduce more vocational skill acquisition programmes that are not in existence in the custodial centres of the state for inmates such as electrical and electronic repair, shoemaking, painting and graphic arts, block laying and masonry work among others for the rehabilitation of inmates to enhance more of their well-being.

To generate more manpower support for the rehabilitation of inmates through vocational skills acquisition programmes in the study area, more vocationally trained personnel should be recruited in the Nigeria Correctional Service.

The law and provisions that govern the treatment of offenders should also be reviewed.

Especially the one that takes care of educational training programmes for rehabilitation of inmates, which only approve vocational education for convicted inmates. Hence, the awaiting trial inmates should be engaged to participate in vocational training programmes to reduce idleness among them during and after incarceration.

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