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Smartify: Journal of Smart Education and Pedagogy
Vol. 2 | No. 1 | 2025 pp. 1–9 | **ISSN: 3066-3482**

Digitalization of Correctional Education (Prison): Implication for Administrative Decision in Nigeria

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Submitted: 15-Feb, 2025
Accepted: 20-Feb, 2025
Published: 05-Mar, 2025

Vol. 1, **No.** 1, 2025.
10.62762/SJSEP.2024.000000

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Abstract

This paper discussed the benefits of digitalization of correctional education in Nigeria. The paper is a review paper. The secondary data were gathered from print materials and online publications. The paper concluded that digitalization of correctional education in Nigeria is very important because of its' potential; to provide quality education for inmates. The paper noted that digitalization of correctional education in Nigeria will enhance; more accessibility to education in correctional centres by inmates, flexible in learning, personalized learning and personalized learning and customized education, global education, career advancement opportunities and provision of lost cost education. Based on these findings, the paper recommended that the ministry of interior in Nigeria should embark in full digitalization of all correctional centres in Nigeria. Private and religious institutions should support correctional education by providing technological facilities in the various correctional centres. Federal ministry of education should establish a special department for correctional education. This department should work with department of education in the federal ministry of interior to mobilize resources for the full digitalization of correctional centres in Nigeria.

Key words: Correctional education, Digitalization of prison education, Technology

Introduction

Education have been defined as Education involves the organisation of men or women, ideas and information; materials and the environment in special ways with the objective of achieving certain goals, such as the inculcation of certain values, skills and attitudes in the selected individuals. It is a very complex process which involves teaching and learning, learners and

teachers, curricular materials and strategies all of which take place in specialised environments called schools[1]. Education is a process that transfer knowledge, skills, and character traits that comes or manifests in various forms to empower the individual to be social and economic useful to himself or herself and the society. Education is an organized and planned process that leads to acquisition of knowledge from an institute of learning for personal and national development[2].

Education is a process, a vehicle and a means. It is, for instance, a process of acquiring knowledge of some basic facts of life; it is a vehicle or means by which a generation transmits to its succeeding generation, its cherished cultural and associated values considered for positive development. Furthermore, education can also be conceptualised as connoting and meaning some positive commodity, the quantum, stock or level of such knowledge and experience that is acquired. The knowledge and experience including the skills acquired makes him a capital, that is, human capital[3]. Education as an activity is as old as man across cultures. It is therefore a concept that people have severally defined according to their own perceptions. Education involves the transmission of knowledge, values, and skills from one generation to another, ensuring the continuity and advancement of civilizations. Education goes beyond formal schooling, extending to informal and non-formal learning experiences. Education is the acquisition of information that include cultivation of critical thinking, creativity, problem-solving abilities, and ethical decision-making. Education empower individuals to become lifelong learners, adaptable to the challenges of a rapidly evolving world[4].

Education takes different forms such as special education, climate education, energy education and prison education. Yinka, the Nigerian correctional service has education programmes for inmates at primary, secondary and tertiary levels. “We have teachers and officials who teach inmates. There are schools with classrooms inside the custodial centres. The schools are provided for those interested depending on how many years of imprisonment. The service provides the enabling environment, including encouraging inmates to invest their time in developing themselves through education. Prison education program allows inmates to learn "pro-social norms" by providing an enclave removed from the "criminal subculture" predominant. Interacting with educators can familiarize inmates with the norms and beliefs that law-abiding citizens observe. At the same time, it also reduces the feeling of alienation that inmates tend to experience while in prison. The resulting improvement in social skills can make it easier for inmates to find and hold a job upon release, which in turn reduces their likelihood of re-offending or returning to crime[5].

Literature Review

Correctional education is defined according to Ogunode, Ukozor, Ayoko & Ojochenemi, as an

education that takes place in the prison with the purpose of providing quality education for inmates to ensure that they are useful after their prison term. Correctional education encompass all teaching and learning programme taking place in the prison to provide skills and knowledge to inmate so that they can be useful to the community after their release for the prison. Correctional education is an organized education designed for inmates with the aims of providing them an employable skills that can make them contribute to the society after the completion of their jail. Correctional education is a prison education that is provided to all inmates for the purpose of providing access to human right and equalization of educational opportunities[6]. Correctional education is systematic educational programs designed for inmates with the broad objectives of providing them with sustainable skills and knowledge that will enable them some of them finish their education and provide them the opportunities of securing employment after leaving the correctional. Wood noted that prison education programs help lower recidivism rates and increase employment opportunities post-release.

Prison education, also known as Inmate Education and Correctional Education, is an expansive term encompassing any educational activities occurring inside a prison. These educational activities include both vocational training and academic education. The goal of such activities is to prepare the prisoner for success outside of prison and to enhance the rehabilitative aspects of prison. Educational programs offered inside prisons are typically provided and managed by the prison systems in which they reside. Funding for the programs is provided through official correctional department budgets, private organizations (e.g., colleges, nonprofits, etc.), and the prisoners or their families if the prisoner is pursuing education through a correspondence program. Educational opportunities can be divided into two general categories: academic education and vocational training[7]. From the above, correctional education in this paper is a planned educational system designed for inmate empowerment. Correctional education is an organized educational activity that takes place in the correctional centres with the aims of providing skills and improve knowledge of the inmates. Correctional education programme include; basic literacy programmes, secondary school equivalency programmes, vocational education, and tertiary education[3].

Education of the inmates in the prison yard is a necessity for two reasons. Firstly, every eligible citizen of Nigeria has right to education, Incarceration in the prison cannot erode such right in as much as the citizenship of such inmates is not questionable. Secondly, Learning is only possible through Education. If prison is to serve actually correctional function of the life of the inmates, education in the prison is important and should gain the attention of the government. Knowledge is acquired or imparted through education. The inmates need to be trained toward correcting some of the fundamental blunder or notion imbibed in life that put them into problem[8].

The objectives of educational programmes to Inmates according to Ajufo, et al, (Undated) include; to improve inmates' academic and vocational skills; to assist inmates in becoming responsible and productive citizens in the society; to change inmates' attitudes regarding work and responsibility; to prepare inmates for the competitive job market they will face upon release; to promote inmates' self-confidence which will stand them in good stead when they leave prison and to prepare inmates for a successful life after release from prison. For Ogbaka et al., there are three main objectives of prison education at the primary level, which cut across different views of the purpose of the criminal justice system. These include keeping inmates meaningfully busy, causing a change in their attitude and behavior, and opening up employment opportunities through vocational skills, further education, and training. Ajufo, et al (Undated) concluded that Education has a key role in rehabilitating prisoners into the society and helping them to secure employment. With 80 percent of prisoners functionally illiterate, the best crime prevention programme of all is education. Educational programme is a necessary viable and positive component of the rehabilitation programme for inmates since it does not involve additional security risks[9].

The goals of correctional education according to Ogunode, et al includes; to provide quality education for inmates; to provide skills and improve the knowledge of inmates; to provide continuous education opportunities for inmates; to inspire its inmates with a desire for self-improvement and achievement of excellence; to foster national unity with an emphasis on the common ties that unite us in our diversity; to provide all primary school leavers with the opportunity for education of a secondary education level, irrespective of sex, social status, religion or ethnic background; to provide all secondary school leavers with the opportunity for higher education, to offer a sound and diversified curriculum to cater for the differences in talents, opportunities and future roles in the society; and to provide manpower training in the applied science, technology and commerce at sub-professional grades for inmates[10].

Materials and Methods

This paper explores and explores problems militating against effective teaching and learning of educational administration and planning in the tertiary institutions in Nigeria.. Data from different secondary sources were employed for the paper. The paper used content analysis to analyze all the literature collected. Only those relevant to the topic were systematically selected. The exploratory method was adopted in the analysis. To ensure the reliability and validity of the study, multiple secondary sources were used to minimize the risk of error. The secondary data were collected directly from textbooks, journals, articles, newspapers and other local and international publications on sexual harassment in tertiary institutions[9].

Results and Discussion

Digitalization of correctional education is movement of teaching and learning in the prison from conversional model to digital model to increase accessibility and quality of education in the prison. Digitalization of prison education is the replacement of analog processes and tools with digital ones to carry out teaching and learning. Digitalization correctional education is the process of transforming teaching and learning models and adopting technological models to improve teaching and learning in the correctional centre and provide more education opportunities for inmates.

Digitalization of correctional education involve the shift from traditional teaching model that involves in-lectures, reading assignments, in-class discussions, and a capstone exam or paper into online, virtual, blended and smart learning with digital libraries**.** Digital libraries can allow instant access to reading materials on almost any subject. Digitalization of correctional education occurs when the whole educational system are convert to digitization form creating ways for practical application of resources and various techniques like online courses, online exams, digital textbooks, quizzes, and e-notes are improving the quality of education in the correctional centre..

Benefits of digitalization of prison education

There are many benefits of digitalization of correctional education in Nigeria. Some of the benefits includes; increment in correctional education accessibility, flexible in learning, personalized learning and personalized learning and customized education, global education, career advancement opportunities and provision of lost cost education.

Accessibility

Digitalization of prison education in Nigeria will help to increase access to education for those in the correctional centres. Solutions hub and Pionerschool.com noted that since online courses are can be taken to those in correctional centres with an internet connection, this can greatly helped to reduce the correctional education gap. It has also contributed to solving problems related to the number of students in one classes in correctional centres, which is beneficial for both students and educational institutions. Digitalization of prison education will provide online classrooms which can make learning available to those who suffer from disabilities or mental delays and in the correctional centre. For example, deaf students can simply turn on closed captions (CC) to read the conversation and participate in the online class, and students who have difficulty reading can also choose to listen to audiobooks instead.

Flexibility in learning

One of the main benefits of digitizing prison education is that it will make online learning possible in the correctional centres. Online learning according to Ogunode, et al is the ability of students to attend classes from anywhere. This means that students in correctional centres no longer waste their time commuting to attend classes. It also means that students that are confined in a place can manage their time better and still attend classes[11].

Personalized learning and Customized Education

Digitalization of correctional centres in Nigeria will support personalized learning and customized education. Customized education according to Olatunde-Aiyedun, Eyiolorunse-Aiyedun & Ogunode, and Femi is one of the main advantages of online learning, where inmates can choose courses that fit their educational needs and the fields they want to work in the future. In other words, inmates can choose customized educational paths that fit their current levels and future needs, including academic, technical, business, administrative, humanistic, health sciences, and other courses. Digitalization aids flexibility in teaching and learning. Inmates can improve their skills and experiences and increase their opportunities to find better job opportunities after completion of jail time. Inmates who want to change their career paths or invest in personal or professional development can also choose customized courses that meet their needs in the correctional centres. Pionerschool.com and Ogunode, Ayoko, and Orifah noted that educational institutions can develop customized educational courses to train their teachers and enhance their skills, thus enhancing productivity, efficiency, and effectiveness in the service delivery. Digitalization of correctional education will provide varieties of learning platform for inmates that will motivate them to learn more. By shifting teaching modes to these platforms, facilitators can help inmates feel more comfortable while learning in their various centres. Integrating technology in lessons has a direct positive relationship with engagement and self-directed learning. Technology-based teaching solutions can also make learning more fun with interactive sites, apps, and games[12].

Global education

Digitalization of correctional centres in Nigeria will aids delivery of online educational courses that allows inmates to connect with teachers and peers from all over the world. Before widespread availability of e-learning, inmate cannot access education so easy because of the demands of physical or traditional model of teaching and learning factors. Now, with digitalization of correctional centres education, inmates can further their education and obtained certified degree from the correction centres. Online learning also allows inmates to communicate with people from different backgrounds and cultures, providing a different perspective and additional experience in communication[13].

Career advancement opportunities

Digitalization of correctional education in Nigeria can enhances and contributes to obtaining better jobs after completing jail time because inmates that takes advantage of online education can learn new skills and develop current ones, thus qualifying them to work in modern and advanced fields after the completion of their jail times. Digitalization of correctional centres support online learning which can also enhance inmates resume and make their remes more open and diverse for employment after completion of their jail time. Inmates that add their e-learning courses to your resume, can easily get a soft job because of the skills

and knowledge acquired in the correctional centre and it can help them access more opportunities[14].

Low costs education

Conversional education can be expensive in the implementation model, but online learning which can be made possible through digitalization of correction education can provide inmates with several ways to reduce education expenses[15]. Not having to go to campus can save transportation costs and living expenses. Ainslee observed that most online programs offered by educational institutions are eligible for financial support, and large learning management platforms like Udemy often issue coupons up to 90%. These discounts are not available in many universities and educational institutions, providing additional cost savings for students[16].

Conclusion

This paper systematically examine the benefits of digitalization of correctional education in Nigeria and the paper concluded that that digitalization of correctional education in will enhance more access to education in the correctional centres. The paper noted that digitalization of correctional education in Nigeria will enhance; more accessibility to education in correctional centres by inmates, flexible in learning, personalized learning and personalized learning and customized education, global education, career advancement opportunities and provision of lost cost education[17].

Based on this findings, the paper recommend that the ministry of interior in Nigeria should embark in full digitalization of all correctional centres in Nigeria. Private and religious institutions should support correctional education by providing technological facilities in the various correctional centres[18]. Federal ministry of education should establish a special department for correctional education. This department should work with department of education in the federal ministry of interior to mobilize resources for the full digitalization of correctional centres in Nigeria[19].

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