

Infrastructural Related Reforms as an Influencer of Change of Behavior among Inmates: A Study of Correctional Facilities in Kenya

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Abstract: *The study focuses on infrastructural associated reforms on change of behavior of inmates in correctional facilities in Kenya. The following was the objective; to examine how infrastructural associated reforms influences change of behavior of inmates in correctional facilities in Kenya. The study tested one alternate hypothesis on whether the relationship among the study variable was significant. The target population was 10,111 individuals spread as 2,953 prison officers and 7,158 inmates. From this population a sample was drawn using a formula totaling to 385 individuals who were picked for the study. Purposive sampling was used to select officers' in-charge and their deputies. Results revealed that $\beta=0.604$, $t=11.524$, $p=0.000<0.05$. H_1 concluded that infrastructural reforms had a statistically significant influence on change of behavior of inmates in correctional facilities in Kenya. Findings of the study are expected to assist government policy makers regarding formulation and implementation of the prison reforms.*

Keywords: Infrastructural related reforms, change of behavior, inmates, correctional facilities

1. Introduction

In the last decade there has been an acceleration of the magnitude and pace of change across the world and the Kenya Prisons Service (KPS) has not been left behind either. Unfortunately though, the prisons service has struggled with a legacy of oppression and wanton human rights abuses acquired during the colonial days and carried over the post-independence period. It also faced the challenge of the growing population of prisoners which resulted into overcrowding leading to congestion and deplorable conditions for prisoners (UNODC, 2012). The prison staff also lacked basic infrastructure and basic necessities. The reform process was started through a Round Table Conference on Prison Policy in 2001 whose aim was to improve prison conditions in Africa. The outcome was a shift in the direction of policy and focus on structural, systems, Prison is seen as a physical structure situated in a certain specified geographical location that provides distinct communal environment where people live in accordance to specific conditions (McCorklen & Korn, 2004).

Globally, prisons are established reformatory and rehabilitation institutions with a core goal of reforming and re-orientating prisoners, and make them useful members of the public. The neglect of the prison institutions over the years is reflected by the attendant myriad of challenges it grapples with especially on infrastructural decay and logistic constrains. In most cases the vehicles that are supposed to cater for the prisoners going to various courts scattered all over the local government areas of the country as well as for the welfare of prison officers are hardly sufficient or operational (Ogwezzy, 2011). In Nigerian prisons, the Federal Government inaugurated 239 assorted operational vehicles and farm tractors as part of plans to rehabilitate and fast-track access to justice for inmates. While inaugurating the operational vehicles in Abuja, the measures were part of efforts to reform the operations of the Nigerian Prisons

Service (NPS) as it was revealed that the fleet capacity of the prisons stood at just 268 vehicles in various stages of disrepair (Opafunso & Adepoju, 2016). A report on Asian prisons revealed that about 65 percent of inmates have never faced conviction to any form of crime, and some have been waiting for court trial for ten years or more. The report added that most prisoners were from poor backgrounds or were themselves very poor afford paying a lawyer and the bad prison settings made their life behind bars even more unbearable.

Effectiveness of prison reforms can be guaranteed only if the three instrumentalities of the criminal justice system which includes the police (who arrest and present the suspects in court) the court (that hears the suspects out and sentence them) and the prison (where the criminals are held to serve their jail term) must be correctively responsive. A clear indication of co-existence of this system was demonstrated in a momentous ruling by the Indian Supreme Court (2014) put an order to all prisons to free pre-trial offenders detained for over half of maximum jail term they could earn if verdict found them guilty (Penal Reform International, 2015). In the Kenya Prison In-charge stores and transport is responsible to the commissioner general of prisons for all matters appertaining to organization and administration of transport which include; allocation of vehicles, maintenance and repair facilities as well as efficiency of all technical staff and drivers. However there is a challenge to most prisons that lack resources such as vehicles and personnel to facilitate transfer, transportation of inmates to the court when needed and other movements of prisoners. This at times contributes to delayed justice to the inmates (KNCHR, 2010). Acute shortage of inmate's uniform is experienced in many prisons. This shortage also affects the prison staff who have to wait for a long time to be supplied with work uniform and sometimes they result to using their own resources to purchase uniform.

Volume 9 Issue 7, July 2020

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Tools and equipment needed for training and work by instructors and inmates are not adequate and some are worn out or obsolete. It should be noted with great concern that securing lives and protecting properties remains an utmost duty of the state and because crime is functional, citizens unconsciously or consciously rub with the law. The concern is whether the structures are well equipped to assure reform of offenders. As such, prison still remains indispensable in reform, correction and rehabilitation of convicts. As reflected in many countries, in Nigeria it was identified that failure to implement prison reform recommendations and congestion presented major challenges that confront prisons (Obioha, 2011). In the low and middle-income nations, confinement of prisoners is typically done in old and dilapidated structures. Other than exposure to security risks and inadequate facilities, such structures could be extremely hazardous in terms of health and fire risks. The cell occupants share bedding that is sometimes in final stages of wear and tear.

Although in some countries inmates enjoy the luxury of a bed and the privilege to select a cell to be accommodated in, the majority of prisons worldwide do not provide this facility (Bradley, 2001). MacKenzie (2006) put forward that while prisons all over the world differ a lot in nature, function and size, there could be a drift towards putting up larger prison facilities. Between 2000 and 2005 in the USA, there was a 17 percent rise in the number of correctional facilities that could accommodate over 2,500 prisoners. A modern high security prison was commissioned in 2014 and it's under construction in Melrose, central Mauritius which can house a thousand prisoners upon completion. In Zambia, a prison to hold a capacity of 1,500 inmates is being built by a Chinese company and is expected to be fully functional by 2018. Historically Europe has had smaller prisons, named Titan prisons but since late 1990's larger prison facilities that can house 2,000 inmates are under consideration in the UK. This notwithstanding, the number of non-convicted offenders in remand and those convicted in jail suffers equal congestion and are constrained beyond capacity. An examination of African prisons by Sarkin (2009) established that many prisons are in a wanting condition and their practices do not meet the minimum human rights standards.

In most prisons, inmates (especially those serving a short jail term) are allowed to spend time in the open air space at least once a day, nonetheless their participation in organized physical education in some prisons normally very low. Older prisons and those in low income countries normally have lesser facilities and the capacity of older gymnasiums and sports halls can be restrictive although some prisons have outdoor sports pitches. In the U.S, inmates use their leisure time constructively where prisons avail activities such as sports, arts and hobby crafts, movies, wellness, games, individual and group social activities that are lacking in most prisons worldwide (Brown, 2012). The Kenyan law has elaborate provisions on the accommodation, drinking water, food, clothing and bedding of male and female prisoners. Prison facilities and buildings in particular that aid in restriction of inmate movement must have enough space to live in, access to enough air and light. This notwithstanding, the Kenyan jails are faced with a common challenge of overcrowding and improper bedding (IED, 2004). Where

persons are kept for long periods in overcrowded conditions, the danger of physical violence and strong prisoners taking advantage of the weaker ones increase. In extreme conditions, weaker prisoners are forced to sleep on the floor and go through unnatural sex acts in order to access basic provisions like bedding and food (Abuyeka, 2014). In instances where large number of prisoners is kept together for long periods, they sometimes turn on each other as a way of relieving tension. Overcrowded prisons in Kenya also pose dangers of illness.

Several people in the society view the ideal of specialized program such as education, rehabilitation, psychological healthcare programme and prisoner vocational training as lenient (Kibui, 2000). They perceive that offenders should be in prison for punishment and not to benefit or make themselves better. Society expects criminals to be incased in cold, cement and iron cages devoid freedom and light as a way to punish them for their crime. The predicament then is, such form of sentence is of no much help for the majority of the individuals currently confined, neither is it effective to the entire society.

Institutional reforms entails multiple changes adopted with an aim to improve the common prison conditions and the way the prison institutions are managed online with existing international and national human rights standards. Since 2002, the Kenya Prison Services (KPS) has embarked on deliberate attempt to introduce broad reforms and in particular to improve the conditions of detention, respect for human rights, and support for rehabilitation. This included adoption for open door policy that made it possible for the KPS to work more closely with external stakeholders and partners. More attention was given to addressing the needs of offenders with special needs and other vulnerable groups. Reforms presented a resolute move from punitive to a rehabilitative model. A rational way to reduce the number of prison litigation is to reform the prisons and give prisoners less to complain about. Complaints of prisoners generally fall into predictable patterns; seeking basic amenities such as bedding and toiletries, decent food, adequate medical care, personal security, and fair disciplinary policies (Susan, 2012).

2. Literature Review

Many lives of ordinary prison inmates are struggling with a prison reform lawsuit, from the beginning to the aftermath. In such cases, the inmate-plaintiffs often go for years without hearing from their court-appointed attorneys, who are busy negotiating consent decrees for these inmates (Lloyd, 2000). One of the major challenges facing prisons in Kenya has been lack of proper and adequate means of transport. This has resulted in delays and sometimes even death among inmates who sometimes require urgent medical attention. The introduction of the bail information system is in line with the core mandate of the probation services which is to provide courts with information on defendants necessary for the adjudication of criminal cases especially in sentencing (Gehring, 2007).

Departments also deal with supervision and rehabilitation of offenders as prescribed by the courts through specific

judicial orders, re-integration and rehabilitation of ex-offenders within the community. Implementation of this kind of system enables probation officers to prepare standardized pre-bail reports and ensure proper systems for supervision of the accused on bail. The system sees remand custodies kept at the essential minimum and prevent offenders from falling back into crime while still on probation. Under the system, probation officers ensure that offenders appear in court thus leading to reduction in delays Republic of Kenya (1981).

Due to the nature of work performed by prison officers transport is key in the achievement of tasks. Vehicles are needed to transport inmates to courts, hospitals and to other prisons when on transfer. Vehicles are also needed to transport goods from the prison industries and farm produce from the farms to the market. Officers require vehicles for transport. This includes hearses for transporting bodies of deceased officers. Currently the service has a total of 133 vehicles leaving a deficit of 64 to meet the current needs. Wrongful use of vehicles is common in prisons, for instance where ambulances are used to run other errands completely unrelated to medical services due to scarcity of vehicles (KPS, 2013).

It is the responsibility of the service to provide inmates with food, uniforms, beddings and toiletries. Similarly, the service is obligated to provide officers with proper uniforms and equipment. However, this has not been adequately fulfilled leading to challenging situations such as: Poor health due to exposure to harsh conditions and insufficient food supply which at times may be fatal. Limited numbers of inmates being deployed to duties and/or sent to training programs due to inadequate uniforms since only those properly dressed in prison uniform is deployed and/or sent to training.

High incidences of conflicts among inmates over scarce uniforms and bedding, poor hygiene due to limited supply of toiletries and sanitary facilities, exposure to harsh weather conditions leading to poor health affects prisoners and the prison officers' productivity. Officers risk catching diseases due to limited supply of protective gear (gloves, dust coats, masks and boots), improper dressing and inadequate skills in handling the equipment (Institute for Education in Democracy, 2004).

There is need therefore for adequate funding to enable the service procure enough stores and supplies. Although currently not in use, there is need to procure beds for all inmates. As the analysis has indicated, the Kenya Prisons service is facing inadequacies in virtually all its undertakings. The most underlying factor is insufficient budgetary allocation. This is worsened by the existing bureaucracies who delay access to funds leading to underutilization of allocated funds (IED, 2004).

This has to date manifested in unavailability of stores, facilities, equipment and housing and accommodation for both staff and inmates. The ultimate effect has been low staff morale and ineffective inmates' rehabilitation programs due to lack of required facilities. Utilities such as water electricity and telephone have accumulated huge bills for the

service at times leading to disconnections which in turn undermine security, rehabilitation and general operations in most Kenyan prisons (Abuyeka, 2014).

Jails in most countries are marked with overcrowding, lack of privacy, poor sanitation, and mistreatment of prisoners, general mismanagement and insensitive arrogance of prison officials. The despicably high number of under trials and suspects languishing in remand for many years without charges or evidence of their offence, contribute to the challenge of prison administration (Bhalerao, 2000). Prison reforms in the republic of China faced challenges of overcrowding and underfunding, while in countries such as United States and Britain the image of prison reform was tainted with extensive violence, armed struggle and wide political strife.

Usually prison overcrowding is defined technically by situation of occupancy rate and recommended capacity of prisons. Congestion in prisons refers to situations where the placement number of prisoners exceeds the official prison capacity. Lack of adequate space is among the various challenges experienced as a result of overcrowding in prisons which has a negative impact on sanitation, quality and quantity of nutrition, programmes, health services, and activities for prisoners as well as the needed attention for vulnerable prisoners or prisoners with special needs. Lack of adequate space affect mental and physical wellbeing of prisoners, causes tension and violence among prisoners, aggravates existing physical and mental health problems and introduces huge challenges to management of prison facilities (Theresa, 2000). In a very general way, overcrowding has a detrimental effect on public safety because it affects the ability of the prison service to design and deliver meaningful programmes and interventions to prepare offenders from their successful return to the community and ensure their desistance from crime (Gehring, 2007).

The rate of congestion in prisons shows that there are variations in occupancy between different prisons. While some are overstretched by 700 % others operate below capacity. Urban prisons have high occupancy rates as compared to the prisons in the rural areas. Fair distribution of inmates therefore needs to be undertaken (Sahrdc, 2011). A number of countries have however adopted prudent ways of dealing with prison congestion which could be domesticated in Kenya and other developing countries. In Canada, the parole system has widely been adopted with much success. This is provided for in the Canadian law where inmates committed to jail sentences of less than three years are constantly reviewed for consideration to serve their sentences outside prison. Their character and ability to cope with the community is always under watch. Correctional officers recommend the inmates who qualify for parole. The system has worked well and most of the inmates have been released after showing remarkable ability to co-exist in the society (Kiira, 2014).

Sweden on the other hand sends prisoners to custodial sentences subject to the availability of vacancies in other prisons. The courts liaise with prisons authorities to confirm the availability of space to accommodate more offenders. In

the case of Russia, inmates infected by diseases like HIV/AIDS and TB are normally given amnesty to prevent the spread of the diseases within prisons thus reducing the mortality rate. Sentences for pregnant women or those with children under the age of eight years are suspended. Female petty offenders also benefit from such amnesty (Hill, 2008).

In Kenya, periodic reviews by the board of review and the presidential amnesty serve to decongest prisons. Terminally ill prisoners are also considered for release upon recommendation by the medical officer as per the prisons Act Cap. 90. The community service orders (CSO) programme is hailed as one of the best ways to handle the rising number of inmates. This requires the full cooperation of the judiciary and the executive in the management of offenders. The programme enables magistrate as to fully participate in the sentence and follow up of the offenders regarding their performance. The programme has been supported by the reform program on governance, justice, law and order sector (GJLOS).

There is an extraordinary prison decongestion to permit the review by a member of the judiciary of all prison sentences of three years or less (KPS, 2012). The programme involves revision of sentences of prisoners by the high court, although the rate of pushing for implementation is very low coupled with non-commitment from parties concerned. Persons serving a sentence of three years or less are eligible as well as persons serving a less than three years balance of a longer sentence. Priority is given to mothers with children, juveniles in adult prisons, elderly offenders and terminally ill offenders. The Kenya Prisons service has the responsibility of providing accommodation to both staff and inmates. Although the government has constructed some modern houses for prison officers in the recent past, a lot still needs to be done. The rest especially those at the lower cadres live in deplorable conditions. They are housed in overcrowded structures lacking in basic amenities. There is need to provide proper housing to all officers through multiple initiatives including:-construction of new houses, leasing,

buying and offering officers accommodation at market rate house allowances (Institute for Education in Democracy, 2004).

Many institutions also lack proper offices in terms of structures and furniture for staff. There is need to refurbish and in most institutions construct new offices and furnish offices in majority of the facilities and at the County commands. Prison wards and cells need to be improved through refurbishment and construction. There is need to establish new prisons to provide more space to ease congestion in the existing institutions. Specifically, there is need to adopt international standards of prisoner accommodation in cells for their enhanced safety (Abuyeka, 2014). Kenya prisons seeks to update various infrastructures, the prison department should recover illegally alienated land and acquire more so as to put up new facilities (Kibui, 2007). The land status constrains infrastructural development as well as rehabilitation which primarily require agricultural land. Besides housing and accommodation, the service needs to develop other physical facilities including educational facilities such as academies, nursery schools, maternity facilities, canteens, recreational facilities, multipurpose hall with kitchens, offices, furniture, administration block armories, workshops, dispensaries and gymnasiums in all prisons.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

Theory of Change developed by Weiss (2000), Theory of Planned Behavior and the Unified Theory of Punishment by Brooks (2015) are the theories which were suitable for study because they involved change, program and punishment with respect to service delivery in prison institutions focusing on rehabilitation and reformation, change in attitude, character, behaviour and acquisition of new skills in the short term and long-term.

2.3 Conceptual Framework

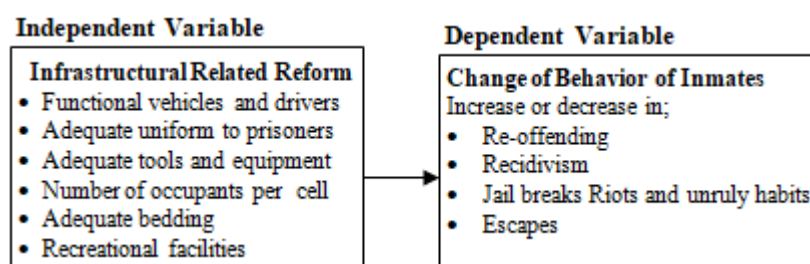


Figure 2.1: Conceptual Framework

3. Research Methodology

There were 9 prison institutions in Nairobi County, Kenya with a total target population of 10,111. Sample was gotten from the population using formula as 385 individuals. They were arranged alphabetically and selected randomly from the list. Three sets of instruments were applied to source requisite data, including a survey questionnaire, an interview schedule and focus group discussion. Descriptive and multiple regressions were run especially to assess the relationship among independent variable and dependent

variable. To test for the hypothesis; H_0 : There is no significant relationship between infrastructural reforms and change of behavior of inmate in correctional facilities in Nairobi County, Kenya. Regression analysis was used to analyze the data.

4. Findings

This chapter presents the study results which have been discussed. Out of the 273 questionnaires administered to inmates, 233 were fully filled giving a response rate of 85%.

Out of 108 prison officers targeted for focus group discussion, 99 were available and fully took part in the discussion, representing a response rate of 92%, while out of 4 officers in-charge and their deputies reached out for interview were all available and participated giving a response rate of 100% and therefore all these response were

regarded as the responsive instrument for subsequent analysis and reasonable enough for statistical generalization.

4.1 Means and standard deviation for infrastructural reform

Table 4.1: Means and standard deviations for infrastructural reforms

Statement	N	Min	Max	Mean	Std.Dev
There are functional vehicles to provide services when needed	233	1	5	3.74	1.286
The drivers are available when required	233	1	5	3.67	1.285
There is adequate supply of uniform to prisoners	233	1	5	2.63	1.400
Tools and equipment available are adequately supplied when required	233	1	5	2.44	1.401
There is adequate space for housing each cell occupant	233	1	5	3.67	1.421
The standard of living in prison has continuously improved	233	1	5	2.44	1.444
Allocation of inmates cells is fair and done on the need basis	233	1	5	2.67	1.426
There are adequate decent recreational facilities for inmates	233	1	5	3.30	1.447
Tools and equipment available are properly maintained and serviced accordingly	233	1	5	2.83	1.308
The prison is connected to adequate clean water	233	1	5	3.60	1.396
There is proper and hygienic access to sanitation	233	1	5	3.49	1.408
Composite mean	233	1	5	3.13	1.389

The research findings in Table 4.1 showed that the mean score for the eleven statements for infrastructure was 3.13 and standard deviation of 1.389. From individual items' mean and standard deviation, it was clear that the respondents either agreed or disagreed with the state of infrastructure reforms in the correctional facilities. Agreed that there are functional vehicles to provide services when needed (M=3.74, SD=1.286), agreed that there are drivers available to perform duties when required (M=3.67, SD=1.285), disagreed on adequate supply of uniform to prisoners (M=2.63, SD=1.400), disagreed on adequate supply of tools and equipment when required (M=2.44, SD=1.401). Were in disagreement that tools and equipment available are properly maintained and serviced accordingly (M=2.83, SD=1.308), agreed that there is adequate space for housing each cell occupant (M=3.67, SD=1.421), and disagreed that the standard of living in prison has continuously improved (M=2.44, SD=1.444) and agreed that there exist adequate decent recreational facilities for inmates (M=3.30, SD=1.447). They moderately agreed that allocation of inmates cells is fair and done on the need basis (M=2.67, SD=1.426), were in agreement that the correctional facilities were connected to adequate clean water (M=3.60, SD=1.396) and also agreed that there is proper and hygienic access to sanitation (M=3.49, SD=1.408).

Table 4.2: Correlation table for infrastructural reforms and change of inmates behavior

Change of Behavior of Inmates	Infrastructural Reform
Pearson correlation	0.604**
Sig (2-tailed)	0.000
N	233
**correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)	

4.2 Inferential analysis of influence of infrastructural reforms on change of inmates behavior in correctional facilities

To test for hypothesis one H₀: There is no significant relationship between infrastructural reforms and change of

behavior of inmate in correctional facilities in Nairobi County, Kenya.

$$Y = a + BX + \epsilon$$

Where;

Y=change of behavior of inmates in correctional facilities

a = constants/Intercept

β =Coefficient

X= infrastructural reforms

ε=Error term

The results were presented in Table 4.3.

Table 4.3: Regression results of influence of infrastructural reforms on change of behavior of inmate in correctional facilities

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	P-Value
	B	Std.Error	Beta		
Constant	1.875	0.196		9.558	0.000
Infrastructural Reforms	0.571	0.050	0.604	11.524	0.000
Predictors: (Constant) infrastructural reforms					
Dependent Variable: Change of Behavior of Inmates					
R=0.604					
R square=0.365					
t=11.524 at level of significance p=0.000<0.05					

The study findings in Table 4.3 showed that r was equal to 0.604, indicating that infrastructural reforms had a moderately strong influence on change of behavior of inmate in correctional facilities. The value of r² was 0.365, indicating that infrastructural reforms explained 36.5% of the variation in change of behavior of inmate in correctional facilities. The β coefficient was 0.604, indicating that infrastructure reforms had statistically significant influence on change of behavior of inmate in correctional facilities (β=0.604, t=11.524, p=0.000<0.05). Considering the p value, it can be noted that the p value for infrastructural reform (p=0.0000) was statistically significant. The β value implied that one unit change in behavior of inmates in correctional facilities was associated with 60.4% changes in infrastructural reforms.

The overall $t=11.524$ with $p=0.000<0.05$ suggested that there was a statistically significant relationship between infrastructural reforms and change of behavior of inmate in correctional facilities in Nairobi county, Kenya. Based on the research findings the alternate hypothesis was accepted which stated that there is a significant relationship between infrastructure reforms and change of behavior of inmate in correctional facilities in Nairobi County, Kenya and concluded that infrastructural reforms had a statistically significant influence on change of behavior of inmates in correctional facilities in Nairobi County, Kenya.

Using the statistical findings, the regression model was substituted as follows

$$Y = 1.875 + 0.604X + \epsilon$$

Where;

Y=change of behavior of inmates in correctional facilities

α = constants/Intercept

β =Coefficient

X_2 = infrastructural reforms

ϵ =Error term

Findings from this study agreed with Abuyeka (2014) that well managed infrastructure in correctional facilities was directly attributed to change of inmates behavior. Findings were also in line with Theresa (2000) who argued that to a large extent improved infrastructure has an influence on behavior change since the status of surrounding contributed largely to mood and behavior of people.

5. Recommendations

The findings from this study provided an indication that the change of behavior of inmates was influenced by infrastructural reform. This implied that the government needed to involve all the stakeholders for effective execution of infrastructural reform. In this digital error reform implementers have to adapt strategies, structure and a culture that is conducive for implementations of new reforms that will ensure proper rehabilitation and reformation of inmates. The facility managers should emphasize the need of capacity building at all levels that will equip trainers and rehabilitators with knowledge and skills on positive behavioral change in order to achieve the intended purpose of correctional facilities. The facility managers could apply the finding of the study on the areas of selection of reform project, negotiation of budgetary allocation and timely dissemination of funds to department by government. In additional involvement of key stakeholders and alignment of the entire system toward behavioral change.

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