

MARITAL AND OCCUPATIONAL STATUS AS INFLUENCING FACTORS OF RECIDIVISM AMONG PRISONERS GROUPED INTO TYPES A AND B BEHAVIOUR PATTERNS IN KWARA AND KOGI STATES

Dr. Aminu Sanni

Abstract

This paper was focused on the marital and occupational status as influencing factors of recidivism among prisoners grouped into Types A and B behaviour patterns in Kwara and Kogi States and equally discussed the counselling implications. The populations consisted of all recidivists grouped into Types A and B behaviour patterns in Kwara and Kogi State prison. The purposive sampling technique was used to select a total of four hundred and fifty-six (456) recidivists employed for the study. Two hypotheses were generated and tested with Chi-square statistics at .05 alpha level. Alao's (1989) adapted version of Type A and B questionnaire was the instrument employed. It was found that marital and occupational status were found to be influential factors of recidivism. Recommendations, among others, include the encouragement of entrepreneurship education while negative thoughts by ex-convicts can be removed through cognitive restructuring as counselling implication.

A very reliable template to measure the product of prison rehabilitative programme is through recidivism rate. This phenomenon is a wave cutting across several countries in the World, where prison services are in place. In Florida, New York and Virginia for instance, recidivism rate is reported to be fifty-five percent (55%) (US Department of Justice, 2006). Although, it is theorised that the probability that a person goes into crime depends on his/her initial inclination to get involved in criminal acts and the situational exigencies. Birkbeck Lafree; 1993; Hirschi Gottfredson; 1986, Clarke 1980 and Wikstrom, 2006, 2009) in Nigeria, one of the glaring causes of this is unemployment occasioned by rapid rural-urban migration, rapid population growth, inappropriate school curricula, rapid expansion of the educational system, decline in the manufacturing sector, corruption (Anthony, 2013). Another area of focus is the lack of transitory programme from the prison wall to the World for the purpose of re-socialization and economic self dependency. A decline of 61.6% job opportunities was reported in the National Bureau of Statistics of 2015 which further portends danger for unemployment in Nigeria and another precursor for relapsing into crime (recidivism). Unemployment and the tendency to relapse into crime are two sides of the same coin (Reilly + Witt; 1992 Britl, 1997; Elliot and Ellingworth, 1998; Kapuscinski, 1998; Witt, 1998; Hin, 2007; Bnonamid + Montilio; 2008, Baron, 2008).

The prison is a conglomeration of various kinds of personalities who have found themselves under the jurisdictional authority of the prisons as a consequence of their uncharitable and criminal acts. This study decided to use the recidivists, for that is the only avenue to find out the effect of treatment programmes for prisoners and using Types A and B behaviours patterns as a way of classifying their personalities. It was equally discovered that in the course of this study that some of the recidivists are single, married, occupationally employed, unskilled and skilled e.t.c. Of what influence are these variables to recidivism? This study is an attempt to see the influence of marriage and occupational status to recidivism.

Statement of Problem

Apart from the nauseating and dehumanising nature of the Nigerian Prisons System, the system is still a factory for harvesting ex-convicts who take interest in shuttling between the prison and the outside world. Factors like stigmatization, bad treatment procedure, lack of employment after release, e.t.c could be possible reasons for relapsing into crime, this writer is of the opinion that prisoners intrinsic

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characteristics could be a predisposing factor for relapsing into crime after a period of release. The author, in his earlier works had earlier quoted Roseman (1974) as describing the Type A Behaviour pattern as characterized by a severe sense of time-urgency, a high quest for achievement, aggression and impatience while the Type B are not the direct opposite of Type A person because a Type B person shows all or some of the behavioural manifestations but not in a striking manner that is common to Type A. Perhaps, it could be the behavioural dispositions of the recidivists that make adjustment to life outside the prison walls difficult to the point that they want to go back again.

This study was an attempt to find out the influence of marital and occupational status on recidivism among prisoners grouped into Types A and B behaviour patterns in Kwara and Kogi States.

This study therefore, intends to find answers to the following questions:

1. What is the marital status of the recidivists?
2. What is the percentage of the recidivists that are Type A or B?
3. What is the occupational status of the recidivists?
4. What is the percentage of the recidivists that are employed, skilled or unskilled?

Purpose of the Study

The study aims at finding out the influence of marital and occupational status on the tendency to relapse into crime (recidivism) and specifically to find out;

1. Married recidivists who are Type A or B
2. Marital status of the recidivists.
3. Occupational status of the recidivists
4. Percentage of the recidivists those are employed, skilled or unskilled.

Scope of the Study

The study covers all recidivists grouped into Type A and B behaviour patterns with a level of recidivism from one to five. Emphases were on their marital and occupational status.

Need for the study

1. The study is a trial-blazer to professionals in social and the criminal Justice system like the psychologists, counsellors, the police, prison staff who have a stake in the moulding and rehabilitation of deviants
2. It can influence the policy makers to take cues in allocating resources among differential social needs
3. It is a great insight for marriage and vocational guidance counsellors

Hypothesis

The following hypotheses were employed for the study:

- HO1:** There is no significant difference between recidivists with behaviour pattern A and B with respect to their occupational status
- HO2:** There is no significant difference between recidivists with behaviour pattern A and B with respect to their marital status

Methodology of the Study

It is a survey research carried out in eight prison yards of Kwara and Kogi states of Nigeria. The population consisted of all convicted prison inmates recognised as recidivists in Kwara and Kogi state of Nigeria with their ages ranging between 19-55 years.

The purposive sampling techniques were employed. The instrument used was the adapted version of Types A and B behaviour pattern questionnaire designed by Alao (1989). The scoring was based on four (4) pint scale with the following options:

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- a. Almost always true of me (4)
- b. Sometimes true of me (3)
- c. Rarely true of me (2)
- d. Almost never true of me (1)

The items in the questionnaire are positive in nature and so high figure is reminiscent of being close to Type A behaviour patterns while lower scores represents Type B recidivists. Therefore responses A and B represent Type A behaviour pattern while C and D for Type B behaviour pattern. The data collected were first presented in tables of distribution majorly for descriptive purpose. The Chi-square method was used in testing the hypotheses since the score of the data fall into count data. Results: Descriptive data of the respondents

Table 1: Marital status by Behaviour Patterns A and B

Marital status	Behaviour pattern	Frequency	Percentage
Single	B	72	15.78
	A	280	61.4
Married	B	56	12.10
	A	48	10.70
	TOTAL	456	100%

Table 1 above show that 72 (15.78) of the recidivists are Type B behaviour pattern inclined and single while 280 (6.14%) of them are Type A behaviour inclined and equally single. When considered further, 56 (12.80) of the recidivists are Type B behaviour pattern inclined and married while 48(10.70%) of the recidivists are Type A behaviour pattern inclined and also married.

Table 2: Occupational Status by Behavioural Patterns A and B

Occupation	Type	Frequency	Percentage
Unemployed	B	31	6.8
	A	170	37.2
Unskilled	B	80	17.5
	A	130	28.4
Skilled	B	16	3.5
	A	29	6.4

In table 2 above, 31 (6.80%) of the recidivists are Type B behavioural pattern inclined and unemployed while a total of 170 (37.2%) of the recidivists are type A behaviour pattern inclined and also unemployed. Furthermore, 80(17.5%) of the recidivists fall within Type B behaviour pattern and unskilled.

The table also shows that 130 (28.4%) of the recidivist are Type A pattern and equally unskilled. The skilled recidivists have 16 (3.5%) of them on Type B behaviour pattern inclined while 29 (6.4%) of them are Type A behaviour pattern recidivists

Hypotheses Testing

HO¹ : There is no significant difference between recidivists with behaviour pattern A and B with respect to their occupational status. The result of the Chi-square to test this hypothesis is given below:

Table 3: Chi-Square to Test the Difference between the Recidivists with Behaviour Patterns A and B With Regards To Their Occupational Status

Variable						
Occupation	A	B	Total	Calculated X^2	Table X^2	off
Unemployed	31	170	170	30.13	5.9	2
Unskilled	80	130	210			
Skilled	16	29	45			
Total	127	329	456			

The above result shows a calculated chi-square value of (30.13) of = 2 is greater than the critical X^2 value of (5.9991) of = 2 at .05 alpha level which indicates a significant difference. The null hypothesis is therefore rejected and restated that:

There is a significant difference between recidivists with behaviour patterns A and B with respect to their occupational status

HO2: There is no significant difference between recidivists with behaviour patterns A and B with respect to their marital status

The result as tested with chi-square is given below.

Table II: Chi-square to determine the difference between recidivists with behaviour patterns A and B with respect to their marital status

Marital status	A	B	Total	Calculated X^2	Table X^2	If
Single	280	72	352	42.02	3.8	1
Married	49	55	104			
Total	329	127	456			

The Chi-square result on table IV shows that there is a significant difference in marital status of recidivists with behaviour patterns A and B since. The calculated X^2 value of 42.02 is greater than the critical value of 3.841 at .05 alpha levels, the null hypotheses is therefore rejected and stated that:

There is a significant difference between recidivists with behaviour pattern A and B as regards to their marital status

Discussion of Findings

In relation to hypotheses one significant difference exist between recidivists with behaviour pattern A and B with respect to their occupational status. This study revealed that most of the recidivists who fall into the category of unemployed and unskilled in their occupational status, are more of Type A behaviour pattern than Type B inclined recidivists. People who are unemployed and unskilled do not have job identity and no stereotyped routine that can reform them. This can lead to frustration and stresses that can trigger Type A behaviour patterns. This lack of stable and reliable income reinforces their aggressive tendencies and their quests for socio-economic improvement, so they pursue illegitimate means of survival in criminal acts and lead them back to the prison walls again.

A significant difference was found between recidivists with behaviour pattern A and B with regards to their marital status. The study revealed that most of the recidivists who participated in this study are single and Type A behaviour pattern inclined. This finding is not constituent with that of Rosenman and Friedman (1974) who opined that Type A individuals measure the value of their personality by the number of their achievement. In Nigerian society, marriage apart from being a status symbols, is an achievement. The probable explanation for this might be that discharged convicts who have not been saddled with marriage could easily relapse into crime. Another possible explanation for the preponderance of single recidivists among the recidivists grouped into Type A behaviour pattern than Type B is the over ambitious tendencies inherent in the recidivists with behaviour pattern A to make it and marriage could be a hindrance.

Implications of Finding for Counselling

A recidivist through negative thoughts, aggravate his thought through negative communication with the mind. This is a dysfunctionality which can be cured through cognitive restructuring in counselling. Counselling is for all people and for all ages. It can provide a prophylactic measure against acts that are inimical to an individual's life and the society as a whole. It also has implication for behaviour counselling through various modalities like modelling, shaping, reinforcement that can bring a total change of undesirable acts. It also has implication for marriage counsellor on mapping out outlines on this aspect of counselling even vocational counsellor on how to encourage clients to invest in courses that would make them to be job creators and not just seekers. When people are employed and skilfully engaged, they stay away from criminality. Efforts should also be made to broaden the syllabus of counselling education.

In conclusion, this study is able to establish that marriage and occupational status have tremendous influence on the tendency to relapse into crime.

Recommendations

In line with the result of this study, the following recommendations are proffered:

1. Ex-convicts are stigmatised as a result they are seen as unfit for employment. They again result to criminal acts that take them back to the prison for survival. Stigmatization of ex-convicts should be stopped.
2. Entrepreneurship education should be encouraged so that people would be job creators and not just seekers. When people have something doing or gainfully employed, the tendency to relapse unto crime would be reduced.
3. Marriage, apart from being a developmental task, is a divine institution from God. Marital status is another form of identity with attached responsibilities which are enough to deter anybody from going into crime. Therefore, marriage should be encouraged for those who are qualified for it.
4. Since counselling is for all ages and professionals, the programme of counselling education should be broadened to cater for all professionals.

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