

A COMPARISON OF SOME PERSONAL VARIABLES OF RECIDIVISTS GROUPED INTO TYPES: A AND B BEHAVIOUR PATTERNS AMONG PRISONERS IN KWARA AND KOGI STATES

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Abstract

This study compared recidivists grouped into types A and B behaviour patterns on their levels of recidivism and how age and education affects these levels. The behaviour pattern questionnaire was employed for the study. Four hundred and fifty-six purposively selected recidivists participated in the study; chi-square test was used to test the hypothesis at 0.5 alpha level. The result showed a significant difference in the level of recidivism with regards to recidivists' age levels with the ages between 18 and 27 showing greater frequency than those of primary and tertiary educational qualifications. It was recommended that recidivists should be placed in different cells to avoid exchange of criminal ideas. The implementation modalities of the 6-3-3-4 system of education should be re-addressed towards a more functional vocational training.

Recidivism is the act of returning to a crime after a period of treatment. Coleman (1970) revealed that crime and recidivism rates among past prisoners is over 60% and as high as 90% in some areas. This view also corroborated the findings of Meringer (1968) and Crowther (1969) who claimed that approximately 2/3 of the prison inmates are recidivists and that the prison looks like a conglomeration of it failures. In their own contributions, Meninger (1969) and Hood (1974) reiterated that this high rate of recidivism has given doubt to the redeeming effects of imprisonment like socialization, rehabilitation, atonement, reformation and the development of a sense of purpose and a commitment to the society.

It is the opinion of the writer that lack of gainful employment, acquisition of educational and vocational skills, faulty rehabilitation system and the pattern of the behavioural dispositions of the ex-convicts could be the reasons why ex-convicts keep shuttling the prison.

This paper was an attempt to compare the level of recidivism, that is, frequency of reconviction between recidivists grouped into types A and B behaviour patterns and the level of recidivism with regards to recidivists' educational status and ages.

The Concept of Types A and B

The concept of types A and B can be traced back to nineteenth century cardiologist, Sir, William Osler who averred in 1910 that:

It is not the delicate neurotic person who is prone to angina but the robust, the vigour in mind and body, the keen and ambitious man, the indicator of whose engine is always at the full speed (P.839)

In their own contributions, Matthews and Glass (1981) remarked that:-

“The type A is a characteristic emotion complex which is Exhibited by those individuals who are engaged in a relatively chronic struggle to obtain an unlimited number of poorly defined things from their environment in their shortest possible time and if necessary against the opposing efforts in the same environment (P.84).

The environmental changes are indispensable variables of Type A behaviour pattern. They are characterized by competitive achievement striving, time urgency and impatience, hostility and aggressiveness.

The Type B on the other hand is not completely the direct opposite of Type A because he possesses some of the features of type A and hence Matthews and Glass (1981) gave the following descriptions of Type B:

When Bs are exposed to uncontrollable events, they rest and initially by slowing down their effort to master the situations. Recall however that they do not believe that they are in general incapable of entering environmental control. Instead Bs appear to respond and vertically to the absence of an incentive implicit in an uncontrollable situations. Performances on subsequent task is therefore unaffected by this fault to master a previous task. (P.128).

Some of the characteristics are a general expression of relaxation, calm and quiet attention. They never care to compete excessively or form a race with time. They are often satisfied with status both economic and social and never rushed the pace of events (Roseman, 1978).

Statement of the Problem

The main purposes of the prison services are to provide rehabilitative services to offenders in order to make them well adjusted and responsible citizens. It is curious to note that, still, discharged prisoners found their way back to the prison after a short period of life outside the prison walls. As part of his own condemnation to the system, Yarma (1998), Controller General of the Nigerian Prison Services, said "We do not have a proper rehabilitation system". Recidivism remains a treat to the Nigerian penal system. It is the opinion of the writer that certain behavioural characteristics makes adjustment to life outside the prison walls difficult to the ex-convicts that is making them to relapse into crime. The behavioural dispositions are the Types A and B behavioural patterns recognized in literature. The educational level and age of the recidivists were also considered.

The problem therefore, is to find answers to the following research questions:

- (i) What is the educational level of the recidivists?
- (ii) What is the percentage of the recidivists that can be classified as Type A behavioural pattern inclined?
- (iii) What is the percentage of the recidivists that can be classified as Type B behavioural pattern inclined?
- (iv) Whether there is any significant difference in the level of recidivism between recidivist with behavioural patterns A and B.
- (v) Whether there is any significant difference in the level of recidivism with regards to their age.
- (vi) Whether there is any significant difference in the level of recidivism with regards to recidivists' educational status.

Purpose of the Study

The subjects of the study consisted of recidivists in prisons in Kwara and Kogi States categorized into Behavioural patterns A and B. The main purpose of the study was to compare recidivists grouped into Types A and B behaviour patterns on their personal variables of age and education. Specifically, the purpose of the study is to investigate:

- i. Whether there is any significant difference in the level of recidivism between recidivists with behaviour patterns A and B.
- ii. Whether there is any significant difference in the level of recidivism with respect to recidivist's educational status.

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- iii. Whether there is significant difference in the level of recidivism with respect to recidivist's age levels.

Significance of the Study

Recommendations from this study would be useful for the government in the design of appropriate rehabilitative programmes and parameters for the implementation of effective re-integration of ex-convicts in the society. An eye-opener for rehabilitation counsellors.

Hypothesis

In line with the research questions raised above, the following hypotheses were developed in the study:

- (i) There is no significant difference in the level of recidivism between recidivists with behavioural patterns A and B.
- (ii) There is no significant difference in the level of recidivism with respect to recidivist's educational status.
- (iii) There is no significant difference in the level of recidivism with respect to their age.

Methodology of the Study

It is a survey research. It was carried out in eight (8) prison yards of Kwara and Kogi states of Nigeria. The population consisted of all convicted prison inmates recognized as recidivists in Kwara and Kogi states of Nigeria. Their ages range between 19 – 55 years. The purposive sampling techniques were used. The instrument employed was the adapted version of Types A and B behaviour pattern questionnaire designed by Alao (1989). Scoring of the Types A and B behaviour pattern questionnaire was based on four (4) point scale with the following options:

- (a) Almost always true of me (4)
- (b) Sometime 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 a high figure is reminiscent of being close to Type A behavioural pattern. Therefore, responses A and B represent Type A behavioural pattern while C and D are for Type B behavioural pattern.

The data collected were first presented in tables of distribution majorly for descriptive purposes. The chi-square method was used in testing the hypothesis since the scores of the data fall into count data.

Results: Descriptive Data of the Respondents

Table 1: Level of Recidivism of Behavioural Patterns A and B

Behavioural Pattern	Level of Recidivism	Frequency	Percentage
A	1	144	31.57
	2	132	28.94
	3	46	10.08
	4	0	0
	5	6	1.31
Total		328	71.92
B	1	32	7.01
	2	58	12.71
	3	26	5.70
	4	4	.87
	5	8	1.75
Total		128	28.0

The table 1 above shows level of recidivism by behavioural patterns A and B from this table, a total of 328 (71.92%) of the recidivists are Type A behavioural pattern inclined. 144 (31.57%) of them had level of recidivism of 2.46 (10.08%) had a level of recidivism of 3. The least number (respondents) had a recidivism rate of 5. The table also shows that 128 (28%) of the recidivists fall into Type B behavioural pattern. 32 (7.01%) of them had a level of recidivism of 4, 58 (12.71%) of the Type B had a level of recidivism of 2 while the least (4 respondents) had a level of recidivism of 4.

Table 2: Level of Recidivism by Educational status

Primary/illiterate	Level of Recidivism	Frequency	Percentage	
	1	97	21.3	
	2	48	10.5	
	3	9	2.0	
	4	1	0.2	
	5	1	0.2	
	Total		156	34.20
Medium	1	64	14.0	
	2	135	29.6	
	3	45	9.9	
	4	3	0.7	
	5	11	2.4	
	Total		258	56.60
High Education	1	12	2.6	
	2	11	2.4	
	3	17	3.7	
	4	2	0.4	
	Total		43	9.10

In table 2, level of recidivism is shown according to educational status. A total of 156 (34.2%) are of primary/illiterate educational status. A further breakdown shows that 97 (21.3%) of the recidivists of this group had 1 level of recidivism. 48 (10.4%) has 2 level of recidivism while 4 and 5 levels of recidivism had 1 respondent each. A total of 258 (56.6%) of the recidivists have medium level of education. A further analysis shows that 135 (29.6%) of them had 2 levels of recidivism. 64 (14%) had 1 level of recidivism, 45 (9.9%) had 3 levels of recidivism while only 3 of them had 4 levels of recidivism.

Finally, a total of 42 (9.10%) of the recidivists attained higher education. Of this, 12 (2.6%) had one level of recidivism, 11 (2.40%) had 2 levels of recidivism, 17 (3.70%) had 3 levels of recidivism while 2 (0.40%) had 5 levels of recidivism.

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Table 3: Level of Recidivism by Age

Primary/illiterate	Level of Recidivism	Frequency	Percentage
18 – 27 years	1	136	29.82
	2	121	26.53
	3	45	9.87
	Total	302	66.22
28 – 37 years	1	32	7.01
	2	64	14.03
	3	19	4.16
	4	1	0.21
	5	2	0.43
	Total	118	25.84
38 years & above	1	4	87
	2	8	1.75
	3	9	1.97
	4	3	.66
	5	12	2.63
	Total	36	7.87

The above table shows level of recidivism by various age groupings. A total of 302 (66.22%) of the recidivists fall within the age range of 18-27 years. 136 (29.82%) of them had 1 level of recidivism. 121 (26.53%) had 2 levels of recidivism. While 45 (9.87%) of this group had 3 levels of recidivism. Again, 118 (25.89%) of the recidivists fall within the age range of 28-37 years. In this group, 64 (14.03%) of them had 2 levels of recidivism while only 1 had 4 levels of recidivism. Of the recidivists that are aged 38 and above, 36 (7.8%) of them were recorded in the study. 12 (2.63%) of them had 5 levels of recidivism. 9 (1.97%) had 3 levels of recidivism. 8 (1.75%) had 2 levels of recidivism.

Hypotheses Testing

H₀1

There is no significant difference in the level of recidivism between recidivists with behaviour patterns A and B.

To test this hypothesis, chi-square was used and the result is given below

Table 4:

Chi-square to Determine the Difference in the Level of Recidivism Between Recidivists with Behavioural Patterns A and B. Level of Recidivism

Variable	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Calculated X ²	Table X ²	DF
Behaviour A	144	232	46	0	6	328	26.1	9.48	4
Behaviour B	32	58	26	4	8	128			
Total	176	190	72	4	14	456			

The result in table 4 shows a calculated chi-square value of 26.1. The table value of 9.48 is less than the calculated chi-square value (26.1) df = 4, P0.5 which indicates a significance difference. The null hypothesis is therefore rejected and restated that:-

There is a significant different in the level of recidivism between recidivists with behaviours Patterns A and B.

H₀₂

There is no significant difference in the level of recidivism with respect to recidivists' educational status.

Table 5:
Chi-Square to Determine the Difference in the Level of Recidivism With Respect to Recidivists Educational Status

Variable	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Calculated X ²	Table X ²	DF
Pry/Illiterate	98	48	9	1	1	156	81.58	16.5	8
Medium	64	135	45	3	11	258			
High Edu.	12	11	17	0	2	42			
Total	173	194	71	4	14	456			

The chi-square result in table 5 shows a calculated chi-square value of 81.58. The table value of this 16.5 is less than the calculated chi-square value (81.58) df = 8, P 0.05, which shows a significant difference. The null hypothesis is therefore rejected and the alternative hypothesis accepted, that is: There is significant difference in the level of recidivism With respect of recidivist' educational status.

H₀₁ there is no significant difference in the level of recidivism with respect to recidivist age levels.

To test this hypothesis chi-square was used and the result is given below:

Table 6:
Chi-Square to determine the difference in level of Recidivism with respect to Recidivists' age levels level of recidivism

Variable	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Calculated X ²	Table X ²	DF
18-27 Years	136	121	45	0	0	302	58.17	16.5	8
28-37 Years	32	64	19	1	2	178			
38 & above	4	8	9	3	12	36			
Total	172	93	73	4	14	456			

From table 6, the calculated chi-square value was found to be greater than the table value

In other words, the table value of 16.5 is less than the calculated value of chi-square (58.17), df = 8p 0.05. the null hypothesis is therefore reject and restated that:

There is a significant difference in the level of recidivism with respect to recidivists' age levels.

Discussions of Findings

This first hypothesis in this study states that a significant difference does not exists in the level of recidivism between recidivists with behaviour patterns A and B. However, the findings revealed that a significant difference exists between the two groups. Given the characteristics of Type A behavioural

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pattern as delineated by Roseman and Friedman (1974), it is evident that type A individuals have more recidivists inclinations than Type B as the result has shown in table 1. The socio-political structure during the despotic and visionless regimes of Ibrahim Babangida and Sani Abacha did not provide adequate socialization. Again, as cited by Conklin (1989), the various demands that are placed on people at times prevent them from situations that are permissible by law.

The economic down turn in Nigeria requires an individual to readjust himself and pursue with diligence and patience in various ways to make ends meet. According to Mertrion's (1968) strain theory, when the acceptable means of achieving success are not in existence, individuals may either decide to reject socially acceptable goals and substitute others for them. All these reinforced by the Nigeria society that is violence-laden as a result of rapid urbanization, sense of materialism, competition and status seeking. All these, act as catalyst for Type A and B persons and the insurmountable instinctual drive to satisfy these pressures could lead to continual indulgence in crime.

The second hypothesis states that a significant difference does not exist in the level of recidivism with respect to the recidivists' educational status. Those who have medium level of education have the highest level of recidivism when compared with those who have primary and tertiary education respectively. Education could lead to reformed minds, intellects are broadened, limitations of behaviours are known as framed by the law of the land. A possible explanation for this result could be linked to the frustration experience by people with medium level education. They are neither part of the recognised educated elites nor are they ready to be counted with the illiterates. They prefer white-collar jobs and desire socio-economic status available to others in the society but lack the necessary requirements or are discriminated against by distribution of legitimate means. All these could lead to more acts that are inimical to the society.

The third hypothesis states that a significant difference exists in the level of recidivism with respect to recidivists' age level. Most of the recidivists fall within the age range of 18-27 years. A probable explanation might be that youths are passing through a critical stage of physical development, characterised by recalcitrance, intransigence and rebellious attitude towards established norms; they could easily fall prey to recidivism. Older people by reason of experience of life and an attempt to leave worthy legacies to their children might be constrained in terms of recidivism. Therefore, younger people have more tendencies towards recidivism than older ones. This is in line with Pepinsky (1990) and Conklin (1985) who claim that the ability to maintain a demanding life style decreases with age. As a corroboration of this hypothesis, James and Hernstien (1989) remarked that the youth is a time of unfulfilled passions and leading to crimes and that old age is the settled time.

Implications of Findings for Counselling Education

Significant differences exist in the level of recidivism between recidivists with behaviour pattern A and B. Also a significant difference exists with respect to recidivists' educational status, and age. Trained rehabilitation counsellors are needed in all prison yards to give counselling services and in line with the assertion made by Lewis (1970):

The Counsellor provides information and reactions which stimulates the client to develop behaviour which enable him to deal more effectively with himself and his environment (P.10).

So, a prisoner can be transformed to become a useful and well adjusted individual on discharge from prison. Ellis (1989) points that a human being is born with the strong tendencies to escalate his desires and preferences to dogmatic, absolutistic should, must and ought that can be found in a potential recidivist. The rational emotive therapy can change his cognitive, emotive and behavioural processes. There is no doubt that people who are cognitively rationalised could be less inclined to criminal acts. The present academic programme of counselling in the Nigeria Universities should be reviewed so that

training will reflect all professional groups. There should be counselling sub-unit within the Ministry of Internal Affairs to cater for the recruitment and scheduling of activities for counsellors to work in all the prisons in Nigeria. The counselling association of Nigeria should hold workshop on rehabilitation counselling to sensitise its members on skills required in rehabilitation counselling.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made:

- (a) There is the need for more positive attitude towards ex-convicts
- (b) Again, prison wards should house criminals in different cells in accordance with their respective offenses to avoid exchange of criminal ideas
- (c) The prison system should not be seen as a punishment factory or a warehouse for criminals but a rehabilitative centre
- (d) The 6-3-3-4 system of education should be re-dressed towards a more functional vocational training.

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