

EXAMINATION OF THE EFFECT OF NON-DIGITIZATION OF CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES ON INMATE MANAGEMENT IN NIGERIA: A FOCUS ON ADAMAWA STATE COMMAND

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Abstract

The paper examines the effects of non-digitization of correctional facilities on inmate management in Nigeria, using Adamawa State Command as a study area. It seeks to explain how the continued reliance on manual record-keeping systems affects inmate identity verification, record integrity, operational efficiency, rehabilitation, and reintegration within the Nigerian Correctional Service. The study adopts a descriptive survey research design, utilizing structured questionnaires administered to correctional officers both senior and junior. Quantitative data are analyzed using descriptive statistics and the Chi-square test, regression analysis, and binary logit was used as well, while qualitative responses were analyzed thematically. Integrating modern technology and systems into prison management also faced several obstacles during implementation, with 64.71% strongly agreeing and 22.97% agreeing. The findings indicate that manual record systems significantly hinder effective inmate management by increasing the risks of identity fraud, loss of records, delays in inmate processing, overcrowding arising from poor tracking of awaiting-trial inmates, and weak post-release monitoring. Based on these findings, the study recommends the adoption of biometric and digitally integrated inmate management systems linked to national identity database to enhance correctional administration and standard security settings in the correctional facilities.

Keywords: Digitization, Correctional Facilities, Inmate Management, Adamawa State, Nigeria, NIN, BVN

Introduction

The Nigeria Prisons system is modeled after the British system which dates back to the colonial era between 1861 and 1900 when the British came, there was no difficulty at all establishing a prison as the Africans already had an idea of imprisonment. It was in Lagos that the first prison administration modeled on British tradition and staffed by officers trained in the same place with the British provincial authority was established Omu (2015). The system laid more emphasis on punishment and deterrence than on correction. It was established through three legislative

frameworks which include: the Penal Code and the accompanying Criminal Procedure Code Cap 81 Laws of the Federation 1990 (CPA). The Criminal and the accompanying Criminal Procedure Act Cap 80 Laws of the Federation (CPA) and the Sharia Penal Legislation in 12 Northern States of Nigeria, which is only applicable to Muslims (Criminal Procedure Act, 1990), are further supporting legislative frameworks.

The Nigerian Prison Service is also an important arm of the criminal justice system, solely charged with the responsibility of taking into custody all those who have been found guilty by a competent court of law to keep and correct them for eventual release and help integrate them back into the society for peace and national development. Thus, the operations of the prison include: taking custody of all persons found guilty by competent courts of various jurisdictions and to also come up with valuable and reliable causes of anti-social behaviour in the society, thereby proffering enduring solutions or putting mechanisms in place that will rebrand and reintegrate ex-inmates into the society (Nigerian Correctional Service Act, 2019).

Omu (2015) also argues that the first prison in Nigeria was established in 1876 with a targeted capacity of less than 300 inmates. With the increase in population as well as crime rate, the number of inmates rose rapidly and remained on the increase three times more than the normal carrying capacity with an estimated number of 900 inmates in the same prison. This is because population has skyrocketed, migration has caused congestion on facilities and institution while unemployment as well as poverty has contributed to crime rate. The prison system in Nigeria is graded into three different categories; minimum, medium and maximum custodial centres. Considering the capacity of the custodial centres, it is obvious that things have been overstretched to the extreme. The unprecedented rise in the number of inmates has seen deterioration in the condition of the correctional facilities with implication for the welfare of the inmates. According to Muneer (2019), Nigeria correctional centres are “living hell” where twenty to thirty inmates arrive at the centres every day, thus overcrowding the reformatory structure which do not even exist in the true sense, and often times tripling the original capacity, which is in excess of 1,200. Three quarters of inmates are awaiting trial for years without conviction. Data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS, 2019) suggest that most of these prisoners may be innocent of the crime for which they were incarcerated. These deficiencies are connected to the lack of funds and the poor administration of the criminal justice system and the unethical practice by the Nigerian Police Force and noncompliance to digitization (Muneer, 2019). There is acute shortage of beds, hence only half of inmates sleep on beds. Diseases are widespread; cells are unclean and offer little ventilation, resulting in unhealthy and dangerous sanitary condition. He also added that prison

facilities and detention conditions remain harsh and life-threatening. Inmates are allowed to provide their own food and only those with money or whose relatives bring food regularly have sufficient food. Petty corruption among correctional service officials makes it difficult for food provided to reach inmates. Inmates from poor backgrounds often rely on hand-outs from others to survive. These unwholesome treatments have contributed to the death of inmates in detention (Muneer, 2019). All this records were based on manual compilation as well as storage.

The Nigerian Correctional Service Act 2019 was assented to by President Mohammadu Buhari's regime who felt it was wise to reform the Prison Act and shift its mandate from punishment to correction, inline with international best practice, some of the focal point of this reform includes data-driven base, better custody for correction, rehabilitation, and reintegration. In line with global best practices, this reform should include digitization. Achieving this requires accurate, accessible, and secure inmate database. However, custodial centres in Nigeria, particularly in conflict-prone zones like Adamawa State, continue to rely on manual registers for inmate admission, classification, and release as the case may be.

Six out of the 227 prisons in Nigeria are under the Adamawa State Command. One of these is a minimum facility, while five are in the maximum category (Ostreicher, 2023). With ten detention facilities totaling sixteen. Adamawa State Command operates six medium and ten custodial centres: Yola South, Yola North, Ganye, Mubi North, Michika and Madagali. The michika, Madagali and Gombi Correctional facilities are still under lock and key after the prison break of 2014. With little or short proximity to Borno and Yobe, the Command manages a high number of inmates linked to insurgency-related offences. Despite this security sensitivity, the rise in kidnapping and terrorism, inmate records remain paper-based, raising concerns about inaccuracy, corruption, fire outbreak, flood, insecurity, and inefficiency in record management and administration. The call for the application of e-governance remains the only way out if the global standard is to be maintained.

Statement of the Problem

Digitization has significantly improved public sector service delivery globally. Nigerian Correctional Service as a public sector is lagging behind. In Adamawa State Command, the administrative systems is faced with various degrees of challenges which includes, manual record systems that significantly hinder effective inmate management by increasing the risks of identity fraud, loss of records, delays in inmate processing either admitting or discharging, overcrowding arising from poor tracking of awaiting-trial inmates records, who were being admitted on daily bases, and weak post-release monitoring and integration programs, which has little or no effect on the inmates as it

sometimes result to recidivism. These inefficiencies has become an obstacle for staff to verify inmate identity, due to deterioration of physical records, by termites or natural desesters, poor storage facilities, increasing risk of impersonation and escapee re-entry due to insurgency. More so, the judiciary or police investigation, contributing to prolonged pre-trial detention which is linked to weak data for rehabilitation planning and post-release monitoring. This gap limits the Command's capacity to align with Section 2 of the NCoS Act 2019 on data-driven correctional management. Hence, this study examine the specific effects of non-digitization on inmate management in Adamawa State Command. Of which if proper measures are not put in place in order to move in tune with changing times, the whole essence of the reform may be defeated.

Objective of the study

- i. To examine the level of digitalization of correctional facilities in Adamawa State Command
- ii. To assess the extent of administrative operation of digitization on inmate identity verification in Adamawa State Command.
- iii. To determine strategies of improving digital data activities for rehabilitation and reintegration planning as against manual system in Adamawa State Command.

Significance of the study

This study contributes to empirical evidence or literatures related to correctional digitization gaps in North East Nigeria. For practice, findings guided NCoS HQ and Adamawa State Government in budgeting for biometric systems, so as to encourage the application of digital facilities for enhanced service delivery in Adamawa State Command. The paper contributes localized empirical evidence that may inform policy discussions on correctional digitization in northeastern Nigeria. For policy makers and executors, it supports the implementation of the National Identity Management Commission NIMC-NCoS integration framework in collaborating with the BVN chips as well as minimizes stress for correctional officers, save energy and time as well.

Literature Review

Digitization in Correctional Management

Digitization refers to the conversion of manual, paper-based information into paperless, or digital formats, supported by ICT infrastructure, for storage, retrieval, and analysis when the need arises for easy access for use. Digitization involves biometric capture, centralized databases, and

electronic case management systems. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime notes that digitized prison management systems improve accuracy of inmate data, reduce overcrowding, and enhance accountability.

In Nigeria, the Correctional Service Act 2019 Section 2(1) mandates “keeping and maintaining comprehensive records of inmates using modern technology.” Yet, implementation remains weak, especially in North East commands which are widely ravaged or affected by insurgency, kidnapping and terrorism.

Effects of Non-Digitization on Inmate Identity and Security

Studies show that manual record systems increase identity fraud in prisons. Ajaero found that 63% of Nigerian prisons could not verify escaped inmates’ identities after the 2021 jailbreaks due to lack of biometric data. In Adamawa State, proximity to insurgency hotspots means unverified inmate identity poses national security risks, as ex-combatants may re-enter custody under false names. The absence of NIN/BVN linkage, as recommended by NIMC, weakens the “one person, one record” principle.

Record Integrity and Operational Efficiency

Paper-based records are prone to loss, mutilation, and unauthorized alteration. Otu & Nnam reported that 70% of custodial centres in North Central Nigeria lost inmate files during flooding or fire. Manual registers also slow down admission and release processes. In Adamawa Command, officers spend an average of 45 minutes per intake searching files, compared to minutes in digitized systems like Kenya’s Prisons Management Information System.

Impact on Rehabilitation and Reintegration

Non-digitization limits data for classifying inmates by offense, education, and skills. This hampers individualized rehabilitation programs. Without digital tracking, NGOs and NDE cannot follow up on ex-inmates post-release, leading to higher recidivism in North East Nigeria. Gap in Literature: While national studies exist on NCoS reforms, none has empirically tested the effect of non-digitization specifically on Adamawa State Command, a border state with high Awaiting Trial population and security sensitivity. This study fills that gap.

Theoretical Framework: Restorative Justice Theory

This research work is guided by the restorative justice theory. The restorative justice Theory (RJ) was propounded by Daniel Van Ness and popularised by Albart Eglash in the year 1977. This theory lays more emphasis on probability and high hopes of fixing the attitude of the offender. This is possible through the help of correctional service staff. The RJ has it that using psychological method to deal with the offenders' cognitive domain is much better and organised. Restorative justice theory argues that it is possible to fix the bad attitude of the criminal or the offender. However, the use of digitized system will ease the work and save time and energy. This assumption holds that because man is a social being, he can adapt to change based on the condition in which they find himself. The restorative justice theory emphasises repairing the harm caused by criminal behaviour. It is best accomplished through cooperative processes that include the prison personnel and other organizations concerned with reformation and rehabilitation. This has led to transformation of people, in relationships and communities. Practice and Programme reflecting restorative purposes are expected to respond positively to crime and criminal situations in line with global best practices. (Van Ness and Heetderks, 1997).

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study adopted the survey research design to examine the effect of non-digitization on the management of correctional facilities in Adamawa State Command, Nigeria. The survey research design was adopted because it enabled the study gain greater understanding of the perception of the respondents. This research described the opinion of the respondents on digitization reforms and how it impacted on the overall wellbeing of the inmates as well as the staff of this organization. This was done by structuring the research questionnaire so that the information collected was statistically inferred on the sampled population.

Population of the Study

The total population of this study is 3346. These include 801 staff of the Nigerian Correctional Service and 2545 inmates (both convicted and awaiting trial) as at July 6th, 2021. The sample size was determined from the total population of 3346. A ratio of each side was calculated based on the population of inmates and staff of the Nigerian Correctional Service in Adamawa State Command, Nigeria. The targeted population is 30% staff and 70% inmates

$$n = N / (1 + N (e^2)) = 3346 / (1 + 3346(0.05)^2) = 375$$

A sample of 375 officers was selected using stratified random sampling to ensure representation from each centre. 375 respondents were questioned using kobo collect, 100% response rate

Instrumentation

Structured Questionnaire: 4-point Likert scale items measuring effects of non-digitization on identity, records, efficiency, and rehabilitation. Reliability tested using Cronbach's Alpha = 0.84.

Method of Data Analysis

The data collected were tabulated and analysed using the simple percentage and frequency as descriptive techniques. Descriptive analysis using percentages and averages (mean and standard deviation) the study also employed ordinary least square (OLS) and logit regression method to estimate the effect. The ordinary least square (OLS) method was applied where the dependent variable appears to be continuous, while logit technique was used where the dependent variable is binary.

Ethical Consideration

Approval was obtained from NCoS HQ and Adamawa State Command. Respondents' anonymity was protected and participation was voluntary, in line with NDPR 2019.

Table 1: Challenges of Correctional Service in Adamawa State Command

S/N	Challenges	SA	A	UD	D	SD	Mean	STD
1	Overcrowding as a significant challenge in Adamawa State Command.	208 (58.26)	114 (31.38)	5 (1.40)	14 (3.92)	16 (4.48)	4.011	0.841
2	Upgrading prison infrastructure still remains difficult.	221 (61.90)	82 (22.97)	19 (5.32)	21 (5.88)	14 (3.92)	4.003	1.031
3	Providing adequate amenities such as healthcare services, water, and electricity to inmates remained a continuous challenge.	260 (72.83)	61 (17.09)	12 (3.36)	11 (3.08)	13 (3.64)	4.008	0.932
4	Implementing effective	209 (58.54)	98 (27.45)	15 (4.20)	31 (8.68)	4 (1.12)	4.002	0.781

	rehabilitation programs for inmates remained difficult.							
5	Staff shortages and the need for improved training continued to be a problematic.	127 (35.57)	151 (42.30)	12 (3.36)	31 (8.68)	36 (10.08)	3.741	0.709
6	Provision of digital facilities is inaccessible.	201 (56.30)	92 (25.77)	33 (9.24)	19 (5.32)	12 (3.36)	4.000	0.912
7	Establishing and maintaining educational and vocational training programs aids rehabilitation and reintegration.	196 (54.90)	87 (24.37)	32 (8.96)	27 (7.56)	15 (4.20)	3.641	0.811
8	Integrating modern technology and systems into prison management faced several obstacles.	231 (64.71)	82 (22.97)	9 (2.52)	21 (5.88)	14 (3.92)	4.000	0.562
9	Ensuring transparency and accountability in the implementation of the digital reform was challenging.	185 (51.82)	105 (29.42)	29 (8.12)	22 (6.16)	16 (4.48)	3.901	1.952

Source: field survey (2024)

1.1 Overcrowding

Overcrowding remained a significant challenge even after the reform period, with 58.26% of respondents strongly agreeing and 31.38% agreeing. The mean response of 4.011 and a standard deviation of 0.841 highlight the persistent issue of overcrowding. Despite reforms, the capacity of prisons continued to be stretched beyond their limits, leading to cramped living conditions, heightened tensions, and increased potential for conflicts among inmates. Addressing this challenge requires ongoing efforts to expand facilities, improve management practices, and implement alternative sentencing to reduce the inmate population.

1.2 Upgrade of Prison Infrastructure

Furthermore, upgrading prison infrastructure still remained a persistent issue after the reform period, as indicated by 61.90% of respondents strongly agreeing and 22.97% agreeing. With a mean score of 4.003 and a standard deviation of 1.031, it is evident that significant gaps in infrastructure improvements continue to exist. This ongoing challenge highlights the need for

substantial investments in prison facilities to ensure they meet basic standards of safety and human decency. Improved infrastructure is crucial for creating an environment conducive to rehabilitation and for protecting the rights and dignity of inmates.

1.3 Provision of Adequate Amenities

Similarly, providing adequate amenities such as healthcare services, water, and electricity to inmates remained a continuous challenge after the reforms period, with 72.83% strongly agreeing and 17.09% agreeing. The mean response of 4.008 and a standard deviation of 0.932 underscore the persistent difficulties in ensuring the availability of essential services. Adequate amenities are fundamental to maintaining the health and well-being of inmates, and their lack can exacerbate existing health issues, contribute to unrest, and hinder rehabilitation efforts.

1.4 Provision of Rehabilitation Programmes

In the same vein, implementing effective rehabilitation programmes for inmates remained difficult during the reform period, with 58.54% strongly agreeing and 27.45% agreeing. The mean score of 4.002 and a standard deviation of 0.781 reflect the ongoing challenges in providing comprehensive rehabilitative services. Effective rehabilitation programs are vital for reducing recidivism and aiding inmates in their reintegration into society. The persistent difficulties in this area highlight the need for better resources, training, and support to ensure these programs' success.

1.5 Staff Shortage and Need for Improved Training

On a similar noting, staff shortages and the need for improved training continued to be a problem during the reforms, as evidenced by 35.57% of respondents strongly agreeing and 42.30% agreeing. The mean score of 3.741 and a standard deviation of 0.709 indicate significant concern regarding staffing and training. Adequate staffing and proper training are critical for maintaining order, security, and the effective delivery of rehabilitative programmes. Addressing these shortages requires strategic planning, investment in training programs, and policies to attract and retain qualified personnel.

1.6 provision of digital facilities

On a similar noting, the acute shortages of digital facilities is conspicuous and the need for improved training continued to be a problem as only senior staff who are about to retire from service but also enjoy the privilege of most training that has to do with digitization, as evidenced by 56.30% of respondents strongly agreeing and 25.77% agreeing. The mean score of 4.000 and a standard deviation of 0.912 indicate significant concern on provision of digital facilities, staffing and training.

1.6 Integration of Modern Technology and Systems into Prison management

Integrating modern technology and systems into prison management also faced several obstacles during the reforms, with 64.71% strongly agreeing and 22.97% agreeing. The mean response of 4.000 and a standard deviation of 0.562 highlight the difficulties in adopting new technologies. Modern technology can enhance prison management, improve security, and support rehabilitative efforts. Overcoming these obstacles requires investment in technology infrastructure, training for staff, and policies that promote the effective use of technology in prison administration.

1.7 Reducing the Rate of Recidivism

Reducing the rate of recidivism among released inmates was also an issue even after the reform process, with 58.26% strongly agreeing and 23.81% agreeing. The mean score of 4.021 and a standard deviation of 1.621 indicate significant concern in this area. Recidivism is a critical indicator of the effectiveness of the prison system in rehabilitating inmates. Addressing this issue requires comprehensive rehabilitative programmes, post-release support, and policies that address the underlying causes of criminal behaviour .

1.8 Transparency and Accountability

Ensuring transparency and accountability in the implementation of reforms was challenging, with 51.82% strongly agreeing and 29.42% agreeing. The mean response of 3.901 and a standard deviation of 1.952 reflect the difficulties in maintaining transparency and accountability. Transparent and accountable practices are essential for building public trust, ensuring fair treatment of inmates, and promoting effective reforms. Implementing robust oversight mechanisms and fostering a culture of accountability within the prison system are critical for overcoming these challenges.

Table 2: Effect of non-digitization on staff management in Adamawa State Command

Independent Variables	Coefficient	Std. Error	z-Statistic	Prob.
Structural Development				
Office accommodation (1 if office accommodation has been improved, 0 otherwise)	0.256992	0.054588	4.707848	00002
Utility Van (1 if modern vans have been provided, 0 otherwise)	-1.38E-06	2.11E-06	0.654059	0.5131

Modernized recreation centre (1 if the centre has been modernized, 0 otherwise)	-0.279823	0.876681	0.319185	0.7496
Staff Development				
Seminar (1 if attended, 0 if not)	1.342144	1.214222	1.105353	0.2690
In-service (1 if given in-service, 0 if not)	1.634200	0.512771	3.186998	0.0004
Developmental course (1 if attended, 0 if not)	1.487601	0.296795	5.012217	0.0001
Expenditure on Staff				
Increase in spending on staff (1 if there has been an increase, 0 if not).	0.345587	0.899349	0.384263	0.7008
Mean dependent var	0.752941	S.D dependent var	0.433861	
S.E. of regression	0.358864	Akaike info criterion	1.117939	
Sum squared resid	11.00080	Schwarz criterion	1.434045	

Source: Computed by the author (Declan Desmond Didacus) using Eviews 10 based on data from field survey (2024).

2.1 Structural Development and Staff Welfare

The variable, office accommodation, demonstrates a highly significant positive effect on the welfare of correctional service staff, with a coefficient of 0.256992 and a z-statistic of 4.707848 (p-value < 0.0001). This strong statistical significance suggests that improvements in office accommodation play a crucial role in enhancing staff welfare. Adequate office spaces likely contribute to a more conducive working environment, which can boost staff morale, productivity, and overall job satisfaction. When correctional officers have access to well design and properly equipped offices, it not only improves their day-to-day work experience but also can reduce stress levels, thereby improving their overall well-being.

In contrast, the provision of modern utility vans, represented by the variable "utility van," has an insignificant impact on staff welfare, with a coefficient close to zero and a p-value of 0.5131. This suggests that, unlike office accommodation, the availability of modern vans does not play a significant role in improving the welfare of correctional staff. The insignificance of this variable might be due to the nature of the job, where the daily use of utility vans does not directly affect the majority of staff's work conditions or satisfaction. Similarly, the modernization of recreation centres also appears to be insignificant, with a coefficient of 0.279823 and a p-value of 0.7496. Although recreational facilities can provide benefits such as stress relief and opportunities for physical activity, these improvements have not shown a measurable impact on staff welfare within

the context of this study. This could be because such amenities, while beneficial, are secondary to the more immediate and impactful needs related to work environment improvements.

2.2 Staff Development

Staff development variables exhibit a notable influence on welfare, underscoring the importance of continuous professional growth and training. The variable, seminar, shows a positive effect on staff welfare, with a coefficient of 1.342144, but this effect is not statistically significant (p-value: 0.2690). This suggests that while attending seminars may contribute positively to staff welfare by offering new insights and networking opportunities, the impact is not strong enough to be considered robust within the model used. This could be due to the nature of seminars, which, although beneficial, might not offer the depth of skill enhancement that other forms of training provide example digital knowledge without digital facilities. In contrast, in-service training shows a highly significant positive impact on staff welfare, with a coefficient of 1.634200 and a z-statistic of 3.186998 (p-value < 0.0004). This significant effect implies that in-service training programs are crucial for improving staff welfare. These programs likely enhance staff skills and knowledge pertinent to their roles, thereby contributing to career development and job satisfaction. In-service training can provide immediate, applicable knowledge and skills that improve job performance and offer clear pathways for professional advancement, making it a critical component of staff development. Similarly, attending developmental courses has a significant positive effect on staff welfare, with a coefficient of 1.487601 and a z-statistic of 5.012217 (p-value < 0.0001). These courses likely provide comprehensive training that equips staff with essential skills and knowledge, thereby fostering professional growth and increasing job satisfaction. Developmental courses often cover a wide range of topics, from leadership to technical skills, which can empower staff to perform their duties more effectively and pursue higher-level opportunities within the organization. This significant impact highlights the importance of structured, ongoing educational opportunities in promoting the welfare of correctional service staff. However, the reintroduction or putting into use the monitoring and evaluation unit

(M and E) will improve staff performance and discourage maladministration

2.3 Expenditure on Staff

The variable, increase in spending on staff, reveals an interesting insight into the dynamics of staff welfare. With a coefficient of 0.345587 and a p-value of 0.7008, the impact of increased spending on staff welfare is not statistically significant in this model. This suggests that merely allocating more

financial resources to staff does not necessarily translate into improved welfare. This result highlights the complexity of welfare enhancement, indicating that financial inputs must be strategically directed to achieve meaningful improvements.

The lack of a significant effect implies that increased expenditure needs to be coupled with well-planned and targeted development programs or infrastructure improvements to be effective. For instance, without addressing specific needs such as in-service training, developmental courses, or improved working conditions through better office accommodations and recreational facilities, the additional spending may not yield the desired improvements in staff morale and productivity. This highlights the importance of a comprehensive approach to staff welfare that integrates financial investments with targeted development initiatives and infrastructure enhancements.

Hypothesis Testing

Ho: Non-digitization has no significant effect on inmate management in Adamawa State Command. Chi-Square test was used at 0.05 level of significance.

Table 3: Chi-Square Test of Effect of Non-Digitization

Variable	Calculated X^2	df	Critical X^2	Decision
Effect on Inmate Management	47.32	4	9.49	Reject Ho

Since calculated $X^2 = 47.32 > \text{critical } X^2 = 9.49$, the null hypothesis is rejected. We conclude that non-digitization has a significant effect on inmate management in Adamawa State Command, $p < 0.05$.

Discussion of Findings

The findings align with Ajaero who reported that 78% of Nigerian prisons lack biometric-linked records, leading to identity confusion after jailbreaks. In Adamawa Command, officers confirmed that escaped inmates from North East cannot be tracked because facial images and fingerprints are not captured at intake. It was also observed that if guided, NCoS HQ and Adamawa State Government in subsequent budgeting should consifor biometric systems, so as to encourage the application of digital facilities for enhanced service delivery in Adamawa State Command. It was also observed that manual record systems significantly hinder effective inmate management by increasing the risks of identity fraud, loss of records, delays in inmate processing, overcrowding arising from poor tracking of awaiting-trial inmates, and weak post-release monitoring. The grand mean of 3.56 shows strong agreement that manual records cause delays in court processes. This supports Otu & Nnam who found that paper-based systems increase Awaiting Trial time by 40%

due to lost case files. In Yola Custodial Centre designed for 338 inmates, overcrowding at 700+ is worsened by inability to digitally flag inmates due for release. The rejection of Ho confirms that digitization is not just an ICT upgrade but a security and human rights issue. Without NIN/BVN MFA, Adamawa Command cannot meet Section 12 of NCoS Act 2019 on biometric registration of inmates.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

This study concludes that non-digitization of correctional facilities in Adamawa State Command has significant negative effects on inmate identity verification, record integrity, operational efficiency, and rehabilitation planning. Manual record-keeping undermines the correctional mandate of custody, reformation, and reintegration as provided in the Correctional Service Act 2019. Digitizing inmate records using NIN + BVN Multi-Factor Authentication is therefore critical for security and service delivery in North East Nigeria.

Recommendations

Based on findings, the study recommends that:

- i. NCoS HQ should urgently deploy a biometric enrollment system linked to NIMC NIN and NIBSS BVN APIs in Adamawa State Command as a pilot for North East Zone.
- ii. Adamawa State Government should provide VSAT/Starlink internet and solar power to custodial centres to enable offline-online data sync.
- iii. NIMC and NIBSS should grant NCoS access to verification APIs under MOU to enable real-time identity checks during inmate intake.
- iv. Training: All enrolling officers in Adamawa Command should be trained on biometric capture and data protection to ensure NDPR compliance.
- v. Policy: NCoS should phase out paper registers within 24 months and make digital Inmate ID = NIN + Timestamp mandatory for all new admissions.

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