



AN ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTS OF PRISON CONGESTION IN DEKINA PRISON

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Abstract

In recent times, prisons in Nigeria have witnessed unprecedented increase in the admission of prison inmates. This alarming rate turns out to housing prison inmates beyond the capacity at which most prisons were built for. It then hinders the goals of reformations, rehabilitation and reintegration. As a result, this study assesses the effect of prison congestion on inmates in Dekina prison. Using the quantitative method via survey research design and random sampling techniques 253 study participants of both inmates and warders were selected. Data obtained were analyzed and presented on frequency tables and charts. Based on this assessment, it was discovered that Dekina prisons were housing more than capacity in which it were originally built for, while majority of the inmates are awaiting trials. This clustering and crowding of prisoners together in a choky cell that in originally may be meant for about 10 inmates and housing 30 – 40 inmates may arouse prison violence, aggressive behaviour and reduce the quality and sense of psychological wellbeing of the inmates and makes them vulnerable to diseases. It is therefore recommended that programs and policies that will increase the wellbeing of the prison inmates should be embraced as this will improve the lives of the inmates and the aim of reformation, rehabilitation and reintegration of prison inmates back to the larger society can be achieved.

Keywords:

Prison, Congestion, Health and Social Implication

Introduction

The prison system is an integral part of the criminal justice system and serves as a custodial as well as a correctional institution. It also serves as a fundamental instrument for the protection, scrutiny and maintenance of the rule of law and social order. Over the years, the challenges in the Nigerian Criminal Justice System have taken its toll on conditions in the prisons. Issues of congestion, infrastructural decay, lack of recreational facilities, access to justice, etc, have greatly impacted on the role of the institution. Most of the Prisons in Nigeria are in a deteriorated situation as inmates are presently experiencing the problem of congestion and shortage of facilities like sleeping mattresses, poor lighting system and inadequate ventilation (Okoza, Imhonde & Aluede, 2010) in Awopetu, (2014). Most of the buildings are leaking and the sewage disposal units are bad resulting into a terrible stench. In overcrowded prisons, inmates get on one another's nerves and friction among them are quick to develop leading to serious behavioural problems such as violence and aggression (Lawrence & Andrew, 2004). It was believed that imprisonment could work as a lesson for the offender and potential offenders who had not yet committed crime. Here, the emphasis was put upon the offender's remorse. However, the proportional propensity of diseases

associated with inmates due to overcrowding is on the increase which has made imprisonment unable to reach the goals for which it had been projected, Mohamed, Saad, Abd-Elreheem, Abd-ElGhany, Mohamed, Elnaeem & Seedhom, (2013).

Congestion in prisons is said to be the state of affairs in which the number of inmates exceeds the capacity of a prison to the extent that it cannot safely provide for the adequate physical and psychological needs of incarcerated persons (Craig, 2006). As reported by Craig (2006), prison overcrowding is 'an art' which is not only consider in terms of the ratio of inmates to the capacity but the extent to which prison system houses inmates than it has adequate infrastructure to quarter. Equally, United Nations Standard Minimum rule regarded prison overcrowding as serious problem and elusive phenomenon that researchers and scholars have been trying to deal with for decades (United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non –Custodial Measures, 1990). This issue of overcrowding is a critical problem which has led to the infraction of inmates' rights as stated in the minimum standard rule (section 9-22) such as provisions for accommodation, classification of inmate, floor space, medical care, bed and beddings, ventilation, personal hygiene, sanitation, contact to family members and access to legal representation.

Congestion seems to even represent a characteristic troubling the modern prison since its invention in the 19th century. For instance, Allen (2008) reported in his study that most prisons in African countries (Benin, Burundi, Code d'Ivoire, Kenya, Mali, Rwanda, Sudan, Uganda, and Nigeria) their occupancy rate exceed by 200%, meaning that there are at least two prisoners accommodated in space intended for one. Considering the act of imprisonment as the most effective form of sanctions of offenders, nevertheless, in the last few decades, inmate's population in Nigeria have grown substantially, to the extent of leading to overcrowding (The Reformer, 2009). The overcrowding tends to alter the psychological, physiological and behavioural well-being of the inmates (Crystal, 2004).

The massive influx of inmates that begun in recent times as a result of delay in judiciary process has produced a rate of growth in the nation's inmates population that scholars and legal commentators have repeatedly described and characterized as unprecedented. As observed by Aduba (2005), in his critical analysis of prison overcrowding in Nigeria, it was reported that there was a great significant increase in the prison population. Currently, Nigeria prisons are housing 49,000 in two hundred and thirty four prisons out of which 20% are convicts while the rest are awaiting trial inmates (Amnesty International Report, 2012). This imaginable condition of overcrowding is relatively easy to recognize when one sees it- situations where there is no enough room for prisoners to sleep; no facilities to provide enough food, health care or any form of constructive activities; insufficient staff to ensure that prisoners are safe; lack of accommodation to hold separately types of prisoners who should be kept apart -- juveniles from adult; awaiting trails from convicted , or lack of capacity to admit any more numbers so that emergency measures have to be taken in the form of amnesty, emergency accommodation or the holding of prisoners in police custody. In Europe, the International Centre for Prison Studies (ICPS) has recommended a higher space figure and other international organizations have set other standards of area or cubic capacity but there is no systematic data available to assess whether these objective standards are being met or to enable comparisons to be made. There is even less data about how prisoners perceive overcrowding. According to a UN reporter "If cells are severely overcrowded, not much privacy is left for individual detainees

within the cells.” But little is known about how prisoners experience overcrowding. Perhaps surprisingly research has not uncovered systematic links between prison congestion and its effects in Dekina Prison of Kogi State; there seems a strong prima facie case that certain types of prisoners need more space (e.g. women, especially those with children, juveniles and those with mental health problems

Statement of Problem

Despite Nigeria’s progress on democratic, economic and political reforms, Nigeria’s prisons are yet to make appreciable impact on the welfare of the inmates. A recurring debate within contemporary academic circles, criminologists, social workers and prison experts, is to ensure an appropriate template for proper prison administration that will reflect its objectives. Even though crime and other vices need to be deterred, it should be to the extent that its application is reasonable to the inmates during and after imprisonment; it is therefore needful to be logical and rational in punishing. This position is further stressed by Baccaria (1776) cited in yetunde 2014 that crime that produced pleasure must be counteracted by pain such as imprisonment but reasonably Nigeria prisons are “living hell” twenty to thirty inmates arrive at the prison every day, thus overcrowding the reformatory structure which do not even exist in the true sense often times tripling the original carrying capacity (Ikoyi Prison in Lagos State, capacity 800) but now in excess of 1,200. This scene is reflected in all prisons structures in the country (The Nation, 2010). There are shortages of bed spaces only half of the inmates sleep on bed. Disease is widespread cells are unclean and offer little ventilation resulting in unhealthy and dangerous sanitary condition (Yelodu, 1991).

Prison and detention conditions remain harsh and life threatening. Prison inmates are allowed outside their cells for recreation or exercise irregularly and many inmates provide their own food. Only those with money or whose relatives brought food regularly had sufficient food. Petty corruption among prisons officials makes it difficult for money provided for food to reach the prisoners and poor inmates often relied on “hand-out” from others to survive. Those unwholesome treatment have contributed to the death in detention of numerous prisoners, (Annual Prison Report, 1984). The report by Human Right Practice Commission for prisoner’s dignity 1999, estimated that at least one inmate dies per day in the Kiri-Kiri prison in Lagos alone. Dead inmates are promptly buried in graves on the compound usually without their families being notified. It is sad that claims like these are not investigated and the system is allowed to rot, leaving prison as charade of government propaganda. There is more to imprisonment than opening and closing of prison gates. Modern penal management techniques emphasized reform of the inmates or the convicts. The current attitude in penal circles is to see improvement from the perspective of reform and rehabilitation rather than from the perspective of punishment. It is assumed that those who have committed crimes need help, and should be assisted to lead a good life. This view is predicated upon the understanding that those who have fallen foul of the collective norms and laws of the society expressed in criminal laws should be reformed; that is why the term correction is applied to reflect this thinking, argues (Ostreicher, 2003). It is base the foregoing that this paper was poised at examining the effects of prison congestion in Nigeria using Dekina prison as a case in point.

Research Method

This research work adopted survey research method and made use of primary data and oral interview as the main source of data collection through the instrument of structured and unstructured questionnaire. The study randomly selects 253 respondents using simple random sampling techniques. Data obtained were analyzed with both descriptive and inferential statistical method.. The questionnaire sought information on questions that were relevant to consequences of prison congestion on inmates in Dekina prison. The Data obtained were analyzed with both Qualitative and Quantitative method via SPSS.

Result and Discussion of Findings

Table 1: Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Variable	Category	Inmates N= 150 (%)	Warders N=103 (%)
Sex	Male	130 (87.0%)	83 (80.5%)
	Female	20 (13.0%)	17 (19.5%)
Age (in years)	18-22 years	3 (2.1%)	-
	23-27 years	72 (48.1%)	45 (41.7%)
	28-32 years	16 (10.9%)	40 (37.0%)
	33 years above	57 (38.2%)	23 (21.7%)
Marital status	Single	16 (10.9%)	13 (13.0)
	Married	134 (89.1 %)	87 (87.0%)
Length of Service	1-5 years	-	8 (7.4%)
	6-10 years	-	49 (47.2%)
	11-15 years	-	15 (14.8%)
	16 and above	-	11.4 (11.1%)
Job status	Junior	-	71 (69.1%)
	Senior	-	32 (29.9%)
Educational Qualification	Primary	33 (22.0%)	-
	Secondary	81 (54.0%)	43 (41.7)
	Tertiary	36 (24.0%)	60 (58.3)
Ethnicity	Igbo	18 (12.0%)	10 (9.7%)
	Yoruba	31 (20.3%)	19 (18.4%)
	Hausa	19 (12.7%)	21(20.4)
	Igala	57 (38.0%)	28 (27.2)
	Others	25 (16.6%)	25 (24.3)

Source: Field Survey, (2018)

Gender of Respondents: 87 percent of the inmate's respondents were male, 13% of the inmates respondents were female. This shows that the number of Male inmates respondents that participated in this research work were more than the number of the female respondents. Majority of the warder respondents were male with 80.5% while female warders respondents were 19.5 percent. The number of male warder's respondents is more than the number of female respondents. This may be due to the fact that there are many male warders than female warders in Dekina prison.

Age of Respondents: 2.1 percent of the inmates respondents were within age 18- 22 years, 48.1% were within the age range of 23-27 years, 10.9 percent were within the age range of

28-32 years and 38.2% were within the age of 33 years above. For the warders, 41.7% were within the age range of 23-27 years, 37.0% were within the age range of 28-32 years, 21.7% were within the age 33 years above.

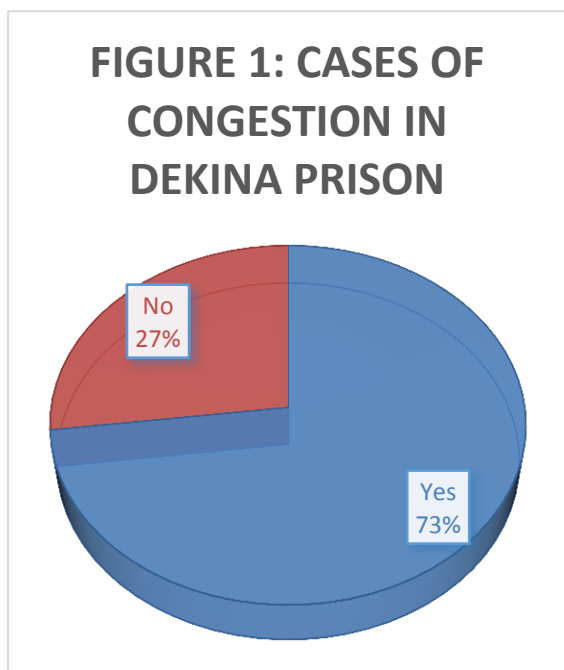
Marital Status: 10.9% of the inmate’s respondents were single, while 89.1.9 % were married. 87.0% of the warders were married, while 13.0 were single. This shows that majority of the inmates and warders were married.

Length of Service: 7.4% of the respondents had worked for 0-5 years, 47.2% had worked for 6-10 years, 14.8% had worked for 11-15 years and 11.1% had worked from 16 years and above.

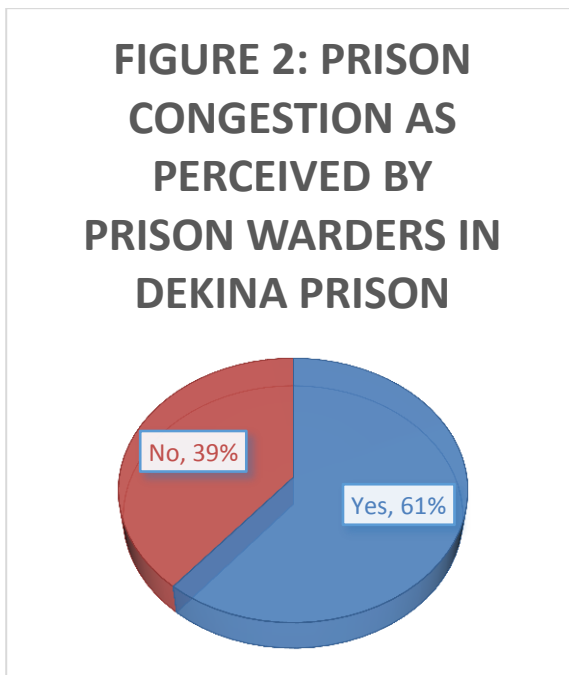
Job Status of Warders: Table 4.1 shows that 69.1% of the warders were in the junior cadre while 29.0% were in the senior cadre.

Education: 22.0% of the respondents were had tertiary education, 54.0% had secondary education and 24.0% of the respondents had tertiary education. As for the warders, none of the respondents had primary educational qualification, 41.7% had secondary educational qualification and 58.3 percent had tertiary education,

Ethnicity: majority of the inmates (38.0%) were Igala. Also 27.2% of the warders were Igala. This may be due to the fact that the prison is located in the area where Igala is the dominant ethnic group.



View of inmates on Prison Congestion
Source: field survey 2019



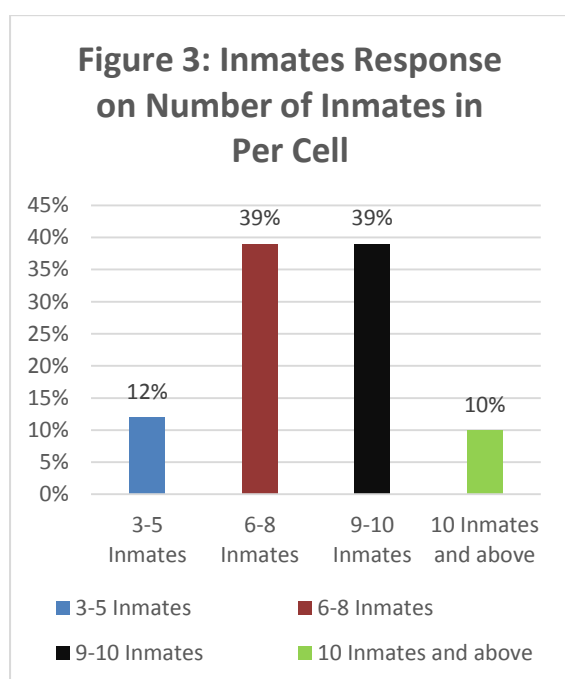
Source: field survey 2019

Figure 1 indicated that there was cases of congestion in Dekina prison as 73% of the inmates affirmed that prison congestion exist in the prison. One of the interviewed respondents submitted that:

The prison is jam-packed with many of us in a particular prison. We have to sleep on ourselves. We are more than 10 in a

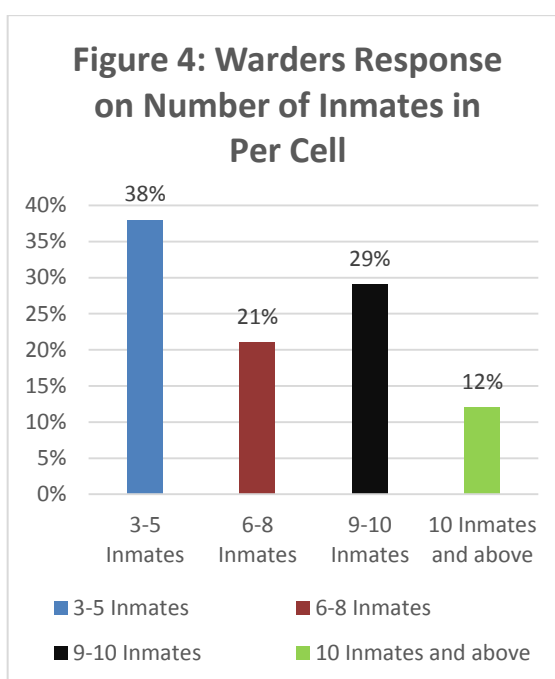
particular prison which makes it very difficult for us to breathe well. (Interviewed Respondents, 2019).

The view of the prison waders is quite similar to that of the inmates. 61% of the warders affirmed that there are cases of prison congestion in Dekina prison. According to the World Prison Population Lists (WPPL), Nigeria inclusive, some prisons located in central/urban areas or close to the courts have high population rate while the general imprisonment rate of the country may be comparatively low, thus masking the actual situation on the ground. Pre-trial detention facilities often have the highest levels of overcrowding. In some countries where different prison systems exist, such as Federal and State prisons, there are very different occupancy rates and overcrowding in the two systems (WPPL, 2011). The relationship between the view of the inmates and warders shows that there are cases of prison congestion in Dekina prison.



View on Number of respondents per cell

Source: field survey 2018



Source: field survey 2018

Majority of the respondents (39%) attested that they were up to 6-10 in a particular cell. One of the respondents stated that:

We are much staying in a particular cell. Normally the number of inmates per cell should be four, but due to the population, we are often up to 6- 10 inmates per cell. (Interviewed Respondents, 2018)

The view of the prison warders is quite different from that of the inmates as majority of the prison warders (38%) affirmed that the number of inmates per cell is between 3-5 inmates. But a large number still claimed that there are 6-8 inmates per cell (21%) and 29% claimed that there are 9-10 inmates per cell. However one of the interviewed respondents submitted that:

The number of inmates per cell varies from time to time. In some cases majority of the inmates are reminded or given short term prison sentence. This makes the number of prisoner per cell varies.

Although when we have high number of inmates, the prisons are often congested.

The Nigerian Prisons Service Annual Report (NPSAR, 2014), revealed that the total population of prison inmates in Nigeria is 56, 055 for an installed capacity of 49, 505 inmates in the 239 total prisons nationwide. Of the total prison inmates population, 17, 404 representing 31% were convicted prisoners; a total of 38, 651 inmates representing 69% were unconvinced/awaiting trial. The implication of this staggering statistics is that about 38, 651 inmates are awaiting trial because they cannot afford the services of a lawyer, corruption in the system, and other bureaucratic processes (Okwendi & Nwankwoala, 2014).

This shows that overcrowding of prison is not limited to Dekina prison but it is a general phenomenon in Nigeria prisons and it is gradually becoming a global problem as advanced countries in the world are also witnessing the issue of over crowing as the number of inmates are increasing from time to time.

Table 2: Inmates view on the causes of prison congestion in Dekina Prison

Causes	Category N=150				
	Strongly Disagreed (%)	Disagreed (%)	Undecided (%)	Agreed (%)	Strongly agreed (%)
High remand/awaiting trial population	11 (7.5%)	22 (14.5%)	11 (7.1%)	47 (31.8%)	43 (29.0%)
Congestion and lack of speedy trial	19 (12.7%)	5 (3.6%)	16 (10.9%)	28.5 (19.0%)	81 (53.8%)
Overuse of imprisonment by the courts	16 (10.9%)	33 (21.8%)	22 (14.5%)	20 (13.5%)	59 (39.2%)
Abuse of arrest powers and bail conditions by the police	19 (12.7%)	14 (9.1%)	33 (21.8%)	21 (16.4%)	60 (40.0%)
Inadequate legal aid facilities	0 (0%)	33 (21.8%)	38 (25.2%)	30 (20.0%)	14 (46.0%)
Logistics problem relating to transportation of defendants to court	39 (25.7%)	5 (3.6%)	42 (28.1%)	26 (17.1%)	38 (25.5%)
Inadequacy in prison structures	17 (11.2%)	30 (20.0%)	33 (21.8%)	24 (16.1%)	46 (30.9%)
Inadequate utilization of non-custodial disposition measure	33 (22.1%)	8 (5.5%)	11 (7.3%)	19 (12.7%)	79 (52.5%)
Corruption	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	11 (7.4%)	64 (42.6%)	67 (44.4%)

Source: Field Survey, 2018

The causes of prison congestion identified in Dekina prison by the inmates were high remand/awaiting trial population (31.8%), congestion and lack of speedy trial (53.8%), overuse of imprisonment by the courts (31.2%), abuse of arrest powers and bail conditions by the police (40.0%), inadequate legal aid facilities (46.0%), logistics problem relating to

transportation of defendants to court (25.5%), inadequacy in prison structures (30.9%), inadequate utilization of non-custodial disposition measure (52.5%) and corruption (44.4%).

Table 3: Warders view on the causes of prison congestion in Dekina Prison

Causes	Category N=103				
	Strongly Disagreed (%)	Disagreed (%)	Undecided (%)	Agreed (%)	Strongly agreed (%)
High remand/awaiting trial population	28 (27.5%)	0 (0%)	18 (17.1%)	22 (21.8%)	35 (33.5%)
Congestion and lack of speedy trial	13 (12.7%)	4 (3.6%)	11 (10.9%)	20 (19.0%)	55 (53.8%)
Overuse of imprisonment by the courts	11 (10.9%)	22 (21.8%)	15 (14.5%)	15 (13.5%)	40 (39.2%)
Abuse of arrest powers and bail conditions by the police	13 (12.7%)	10 (9.1%)	22 (21.8%)	17 (16.4%)	41 (40.0%)
Inadequate legal aid facilities	25 (23.9%)	22 (21.8%)	25 (25.2%)	21(20.0%)	10 (9.1%)
Logistics problem relating to transportation of defendants to court	27 (25.7%)	5 (3.6%)	28 (28.1%)	17 (17.1%)	26 (25.5%)
Inadequacy in prison structures	12 (11.2%)	21 (20.0%)	22 (21.8%)	17 (16.1%)	31 (30.9%)
Inadequate utilization of non-custodial disposition measure	23 (22.1%)	6 (5.5%)	8 (7.3%)	13 (12.7%)	53 (52.5%)
Corruption	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	8 (7.4%)	7 (5.6%)	88 (81.5%)

Source: Field Survey, 2018

The warders in Dekina prison identified high remand/awaiting trial population (33.5%), congestion and lack of speedy trial (53.8%), overuse of imprisonment by the courts (39.2%), abuse of arrest powers and bail conditions by the police (40.0%), , inadequacy in prison structures (30.9%), inadequate utilization of non-custodial disposition measure (52.5%) and corruption (81.5%) were identified as the causes of prison congestion in Dekina prison. However, the warders did not identified inadequate legal aid facilities (23.9%) and logistics problem relating to transportation of defendants to court (25.7%).

There is quite a slight disparity between the warders and the inmate on the causes of prison congestion in Dekina prison. Agomoh et al (2001) listed the following: high remand / awaiting trial population; congestion and lack of speedy trial; overuse of imprisonment by the courts; Abuse of arrest powers and bail conditions by the police; Inadequate legal aid facilities; Logistics problem relating to transportation of defendants to court; Inadequacy in

prison structures; Inadequate utilization of non-custodial disposition measure; and Corruption.

Table 4: Inmates view on the effects of prison congestion in Dekina Prison

Effects	Category N=150				
	Strongly Disagreed (%)	Disagreed (%)	Undecided (%)	Agreed (%)	Strongly agreed (%)
High Monetary Expenses	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	11 (7.4%)	64 (42.6%)	67 (44.4%)
Increased staff workload and overcrowding	95 (63.0%)	15 (10.2%)	17 (11.1%)	8 (5.6%)	15 (10.2%)
Poor sanity and living condition in the prison	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	11 (7.4%)	8 (5.6%)	122 (81.5%)
Increase in lack of discipline, disturbances and aggression in prison	11 (7.4%)	8 (5.6%)	8 (5.6%)	17 (15.7%)	24 (65.7%)
Result to psychological stress	35 (23.1%)	8 (5.6%)	21 (13.9%)	25 (16.7%)	39 (40.7%)
Violation of individuals right and liberty	0 (0%)	5 (3.6%)	42 (28.1%)	26 (17.1%)	38 (51.3%)

Source: Field Survey, 2019

The inmates identified high monetary expenses (42.6%), poor sanitary and living condition in the prison (81.5%), increase in lack of discipline, disturbances and aggression in the prison (65.7%), result to psychological stress (40.7%) and violation of individual's right and liberty (51.3%). The inmates did not perceive increased staff workload and overcrowding (63%) as an effect of prison congestion in Dekina prison.

Table 5: Warders view on the effects of prison congestion in Dekina Prison

Effects	Category N=103				
	Strongly Disagreed (%)	Disagreed (%)	Undecided (%)	Agreed (%)	Strongly agreed (%)
High Monetary Expenses	28 (27.5%)	16 (14.5%)	17 (17.1%)	22 (21.8%)	21(19.0%)
Increased staff workload and overcrowding	13 (12.7%)	5 (3.6%)	11 (10.9%)	21 (19.0%)	34 (53.8%)
Poor sanity and living condition in the prison	11 (10.9%)	22 (21.8%)	15 (14.5%)	14 (13.5%)	40 (39.2%)
Increase in lack of discipline, disturbances and aggression in prison	13 (12.7%)	10 (9.1%)	22 (21.8%)	17 (16.4%)	42 (40.0%)
Result to psychological stress	25 (23.9%)	22 (21.8%)	26 (25.2%)	21 (20.0%)	10 (9.1%)
Violation of individuals right and liberty	0 (0%)	5 (3.6%)	29 (28.1%)	17 (42.8%)	26 (25.5%)

Source: Field Survey, 2018

The effects of prison congestion identified by the warders were increased staff workload and overcrowding (53.8%) poor sanitary and living condition in the prison (39.2%), increase in lack of discipline, disturbances and aggression in prison (40.0%) and violation of individuals right and liberty (42.8%). The waders did not identify high monetary expenses (27.5%) and result to psychological stress (23.9%). This finding is consistence with Jude (2003) who argued that due to overpopulation of the prison, the Prison Service Commission is faced with loads of challenges which include; poor infrastructure in most prisons, inadequate data due to inadequate record keeping and file management preventing the development of sound policies based on accurate information. Prison conditions are poor, especially for pre-trial prisoners. Hygiene and sanitation in most prisons are impacting on the health of prisoners. Medical services are inadequate, the spread of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis (TB) pose a serious challenge, though steps are being taken to address these challenges. Vocational training and educational facilities are inadequate. There is a shortage of welfare and aftercare staff, instructors and trainers, and rehabilitation and aftercare services are limited

Table 6: Inmates view on the possible solution to prison congestion in Dekina Prison

Solution	Category N=150				
	Strongly Disagreed (%)	Disagreed (%)	Undecided (%)	Agreed (%)	Strongly agreed (%)
Good Investigating and preventive policing imitative including surveillance	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	8 (7.4%)	46 (42.6%)	48 (44.4%)
Improved criteria and practice of police bail procedure	11 (10.2%)	11 (10.2%)	12 (11.1%)	6 (5.6%)	68 (63.0%)
Independent lay visit and other monitoring mechanisms	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	8 (7.4%)	6 (5.6%)	88 (81.5%)
Improved court bail criteria and practice	8 (7.4%)	6 (5.6%)	6 (5.6%)	17 (15.7%)	71 (65.7%)
Efficiency of court/law officers (including speedy recording of court proceedings)	25 (23.1%)	6 (5.6%)	15 (13.9%)	18 (16.7%)	44 (40.7%)
Improved legal aid criteria and Practice	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	8 (7.4%)	46 (42.6%)	48 (44.4%)

Source: Field Survey, 2019

The possible solution as suggested by the inmates were; good Investigating and preventive policing imitative including surveillance (44.4%), improved criteria and practice of police bail procedure (63%), independent lay visit and other monitoring mechanisms (81.5%), improved court bail criteria and practice (65.7%), efficiency of court/law officers

(including speedy recording of court proceedings (40.7%), Improved legal aid criteria and practice (44.4%).

Table 7: Warders view on the possible solution to prison congestion in Dekina Prison

Solution	Category N=103				
	Strongly Disagreed (%)	Disagreed (%)	Undecided (%)	Agreed (%)	Strongly agreed (%)
Good Investigating and preventive policing imitative including surveillance	23 (21.8%)	2 (1.8%)	6 (5.5%)	10 (9.1%)	63 (61.8%)
Improved criteria and practice of police bail procedure	48 (47.5%)	14 (12.7%)	14 (12.7%)	16 (15.3%)	12 (11.7%)
Independent lay visit and other monitoring mechanisms	16 (15.3%)	12 (11.7%)	10 (9.1%)	26 (25.5%)	39 (38.4%)
Improved court bail criteria and practice	17 (16.3%)	6 (5.5%)	20 (19.0%)	27 (26.2%)	34 (33.0%)
Efficiency of court/law officers (including speedy recording of court proceedings)	50 (49.3%)	13 (12.7%)	4 (3.6%)	21 (19.7%)	15 (14.5%)
Improved legal aid criteria and Practice	25 (23.1%)	6 (5.6%)	15 (13.9%)	17 (16.7%)	42 (40.7%)

Source: Field Survey, 2019

The warders suggested that the possible solutions to prison congestion were; good Investigating and preventive policing imitative including surveillance (44.4%), improved criteria and practice of police bail procedure (63%), independent lay visit and other monitoring mechanisms (81.5%), improved court bail criteria and practice (65.7%), efficiency of court/law officers (including speedy recording of court proceedings (40.7%), Improved legal aid criteria and practice (44.4%).

Discussion of Findings

The causes of prison congestion identified in Dekina prison by the inmates were high remand/awaiting trial population, congestion and lack of speedy trial, overuse of imprisonment by the courts, abuse of arrest powers and bail conditions by the police, inadequate legal aid facilities, logistics problem relating to transportation of defendants to court, inadequacy in prison structures, inadequate utilization of non-custodial disposition measure and corruption.

The warders in Dekina prison identified high remand/awaiting trial population, congestion and lack of speedy trial, overuse of imprisonment by the courts, abuse of arrest powers and bail conditions by the police, inadequacy in prison structures, inadequate utilization of non-custodial disposition measure and corruption were identified as the causes of prison congestion in Dekina prison. However, the warders did not identified inadequate legal aid facilities and logistics problem relating to transportation of defendants

to court. The inmates identified high monetary expenses, poor sanitary and living condition in the prison, increase in lack of discipline, disturbances and aggression in the prison, result to psychological stress and violation of individual's right and liberty. The inmates did not perceive increased staff workload and overcrowding as an effect of prison congestion in Dekina prison.

The effects of prison congestion identified by the warders were increased staff workload and overcrowding, poor sanitary and living condition in the prison, increase in lack of discipline, disturbances and aggression in prison and violation of individual's right and liberty. The waders did not identify high monetary expenses and result to psychological stress.. There is a shortage of welfare and aftercare staff, instructors and trainers, and rehabilitation and aftercare services are limited.

The possible solution as suggested by the inmates were; good Investigating and preventive policing imitative including surveillance, improved criteria and practice of police bail procedure, independent lay visit and other monitoring mechanisms, improved court bail criteria and practice, efficiency of court/law officers (including speedy recording of court proceedings, Improved legal aid criteria and practice.

The warders suggested that the possible solutions to prison congestion were; good Investigating and preventive policing imitative including surveillance, improved criteria and practice of police bail procedure, independent lay visit and other monitoring mechanisms, improved court bail criteria and practice, efficiency of court/law officers (including speedy recording of court proceedings, Improved legal aid criteria and practice.

Concluding Remarks and Recommendation

The study analysed prison congestion in Dekina prison. A descriptive research method and design was adopted for the study in the process of analysis, the research discovered that Dekina prison is congested which constitute on impediment to effective prison administration. The prison is cramped with about seventy percent (70%) above her capacity. More so, the system of funding the prison was also observed to constitute on impediment to effective prison administration. This is predicated on the fact that the resources made available annually for the administration of prison is not sufficient due to continuous increase in number prison inmates without sufficient facilities to accommodate them. The study further provides part of the problem of prison administration in Nigeria as the existence of certain flaws in the prison act of 1972 which lay no emphasis on rehabilitation and training of inmate. This situation have resulted to increase in number of recidivist in Nigeria prison hence, the prison of the moment has no functional rehabilitation centre.

The researcher concluded as follows: that Dekina prison is congested as a result of infrastructural decay occasional by poor funding of the Nigeria prison and this has impacted negatively on the prison inmates, coupled with the assured flaws that exist in the prison act. This has resulted to increasing number of recidivist in Nigeria prison. From the result of the finding, the study recommends that programs and policies that will increase the wellbeing of the prison inmates should be embraced as this will improve the lives of the inmates and the aim of reformation, rehabilitation and reintegration of prison inmates back to the larger society can be achieved. The federal government should amend and pass into law prison act. Government should make a policy for the rehabilitation of prisoners instead of concentrating on punishments. The act should emphasis more on rehabilitation of inmates

and not punishment. Such rehabilitation should include both the convicted and awaiting trial men (ATM), and reduce the over dependence of prison on government. There should be more others sources of fund to the prison administration not only depending on government, NGOs etc should come up with a well-articulated

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