

Nigerian Correctional Service and Human Capital Development of inmates in Maximum Security Custodial Center, Port Harcourt, River State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the role of the Nigerian Correctional Service (NCS) in the human capital development of inmates in Rivers State, Nigeria, with particular emphasis on carpentry training as a vocational rehabilitation strategy. The study was anchored on the Human Capital Development Theory, which posits that investment in skills and knowledge enhances individuals' productivity and socio-economic outcomes. A descriptive survey research design was adopted, and data were collected from a sample of 400 respondents drawn from a population of 2,371 inmates and correctional personnel using simple random sampling. A total of 392 valid questionnaires were analyzed using descriptive statistics and Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) regression analysis with the aid of SPSS version 20.0. Findings revealed that carpentry training is positively and statistically significant in relation to the Nigerian Correctional Service's rehabilitative functions ($R = 0.194$, $R^2 = 0.038$, $p < 0.05$), indicating that vocational training contributes to inmate rehabilitation and skill acquisition. However, the relationship was found to be weak, suggesting that carpentry training alone accounts for only a small proportion of the variation in rehabilitation outcomes. The study further identified key challenges hindering effective human capital development, including inadequate funding, shortage of qualified instructors, obsolete equipment, poor infrastructure, and limited post-release support. The study concluded that while carpentry training remains a vital tool for enhancing inmates' employability, self-reliance, and reintegration into society, its effectiveness is constrained by systemic institutional limitations. It therefore recommended increased government funding, provision of modern training facilities, curriculum standardization, and strengthened reintegration programmes to improve outcomes. The study contributes to existing literature by highlighting the need for a more holistic and well-supported approach to correctional rehabilitation in Nigeria.

Keywords: Nigerian Correctional Service, Human Capital Development, carpentry training, Inmates, vocational, Vocational Rehabilitation.

INTRODUCTION

Overtimes, the essence of the establishment of an institution, ministry, department and agencies by the Government is for the purpose of finding solutions to societal needs or rendering of essential services to the people, to this, the need to establish an institution to handle deviant behavior in the society had its existence after the observation of a stateless society where life was brutish, nasty, short as actions of citizens were repugnant to natural justice, equity and good conscience (Eyo, 2023). The Nigerian Correctional Service (NCS), formerly known as the Nigerian Prisons Service was established and operated under the structural-functionalism approach, under which its creation came as a structure specifically to address certain paramount functions. Again, the

Nigerian Correctional Service plays different paramount roles in the criminal justice system, aiming to rehabilitate and reintegrate offenders back into society (Nseobot, et al., 2019).

This introduction place more considerations into the workings of human capital development within Correctional Centers in River State, Nigeria as one of the very major roles of the institution within the Nigerian Correctional Service is effective vocational programmes which is essential for maintaining order, security, and a conducive environment for rehabilitation, implementing healthy security measures to prevent escapes, riots, and illicit activities, categorizing inmates based on security risk, offense type, and rehabilitation needs, providing basic necessities like food, clothing, and healthcare to ensure the well-being of inmates, establishing clear rules and regulations and enforcing them to maintain order, equipping correctional officers with the necessary skills and knowledge to perform their duties effectively has been the main responsibility of the Nigerian correctional service (Popoola, et al., 2023).

From the assertion of Afujue (2004), some functions of the Nigerian Correctional Service are to treat, train and reform those legally charged and convicted so that on their discharge, they could be useful to themselves and the society at large. Afujue further opined that those who have committed crimes should be assisted to live a good life rather than removing them completely from society because of the crime they committed. This view is predicated upon the understanding that those (offenders) who have broken the collective norms and laws of their societies as expressed in criminal laws of their societies are those who have had problems of adaptation and conformity with the general value system of their societies. Therefore, when they commit crimes, they are sent to the correctional institutions for reformation.

In Nigeria, Section 14(1) of the Nigerian Correctional Service Act (2019) provides that correctional service shall provide opportunities for vocational training as well as training in modern farming techniques and animal husbandry for inmates. The total inmates' population across Nigeria as at June, 2025 is 74,434, out of this figure, only about 6,371 inmates are enrolled in the carpentry training category (Agozino, 2001). The statutory function of the Nigerian Correctional Service is to reform the inmates and prepare them for crime free life (Human Rights Commission, 2005). The Nigerian Correctional Service (NCS) performs certain important functions in the criminal justice system, aiming to not only punish offenders but also to rehabilitate them and reintegrate them into society. One effective tool for achieving this goal is through vocational training programmes, particularly carpentry (Anthony, 2018).

Human capital development- carpentry training, according to Eyo, et al., (2024), refers to the process of investing in the skills, knowledge, and abilities of individuals or workers within an organization, these are programmes focus on equipping inmates with skills and knowledge to enhance their employability and self-sufficiency upon release. Human capital development is crucial for the successful rehabilitation and reintegration of inmates as it impart skills, knowledge educational advancement, psychological and counselling (Eyo, et al., 2024). The correctional centers in Nigeria, offers various programmes aimed at enhancing the skills and knowledge of inmates, such as providing basic education and literacy classes to improve inmates' cognitive abilities, offering vocational training in trades like carpentry to equip inmates with marketable skills which constitute the main and paramount concentration of this research study (Obioha, 2011).

Statement of the problem

The Nigerian Correctional Service (NCS), particularly in Rivers State region of Nigeria, is mandated to rehabilitate and reintegrate offenders through effective correctional programmes, such as carpentry training. However, the service faces significant challenges in administering these programmes, thereby limiting the human capital development of inmates.

One of the major challenges is inadequate funding of vocational training initiatives. For instance, carpentry training programmes suffer from insufficient financial support from the federal government, resulting in a lack of essential tools and equipment such as saws, chisels, drilling machines, and safety gear. This deficiency undermines the practical training component required for effective skill acquisition. In addition, there is a shortage of qualified instructors, and existing training curricula are often outdated and not aligned with current labour market demands, thereby reducing the employability of inmates upon release.

These challenges includes inadequate funding, poor infrastructure, shortage of qualified personnel, outdated workshop tools, and limited post-release support significantly hinder the ability of the Nigerian Correctional Service to achieve its rehabilitation objectives. Again, the potential benefits of human capital development, such as reduced recidivism, improved reintegration, and sustainable livelihoods for ex-inmates, are not fully realized. It is against this backdrop that this study seeks to examine the impact of the Nigerian Correctional Service on the human capital development of inmates in Rivers State, Nigeria.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study was to examine the role of Nigerian Correctional Service and Human Capital Development of inmates in Maximum Security Custodial Center, Port Harcourt, River State, Nigeria, while the specific objectives were:

1. To examine the relationship between Nigerian Correctional Service and carpentry training for inmates in Maximum Security Custodial Center, Port Harcourt, River State, Nigeria.

Research Questions

The following research questions were raised to guide this research work;

1. What is the relationship between Nigerian Correctional Service and carpentry training of inmates in Maximum Security Custodial Center, Port Harcourt, River State, Nigeria?

Research Hypotheses

The null hypothesis was formulated to guide the study

1. **Ho:** There is no significant relationship between the Nigerian Custodial Service and carpentry training of inmates in Maximum Security Correctional Center, Port Harcourt, River State, Nigeria.

The Nigerian Correctional Service

According to Agunyai, et al., (2025). Nigerian Correctional Service (NCS), formerly known as Nigerian Prison Service (NPS), is a government agency of Nigeria which operates as a prisons. The agency is headquartered in Abuja, and it is under the supervision of the Ministry of the Interior and the Civil Defence Immigration and Correctional Service. The name was changed from the Nigerian Prisons Service to the Nigerian Correctional Service by President Muhammadu Buhari on 15 August 2019 after signing the Nigerian Correctional Service Act of 2019 into law. The bill was passed by the 8th Assembly of the House of Representatives but the signing was done two months after their tenure had expired. The law divides the Correctional Service into two main areas which are the custodial service and non-custodial service. The Nigeria State, on August 14, 2019 witnessed a transformation leading to a new phrase of prison reform as the president; Mr. Muhammadu Buhari signed the Nigerian Correctional Service Act into law, which repealed the Prisons Act (Alaba, 2021). The Correctional Act addresses new issues by providing for non-custodial measures, signing of the bill into law the Nigeria correctional service as represented in the new Act has two faculties being, the custodial service and the non-custodial Service.

The custodial service, among other roles, offers custody and take control of persons legally interned in safe, secure and humane conditions, conveying remand persons to and from courts in motorized formations; Identifying the existence and causes of anti-social behaviours of inmates; conducting risk and needs assessment aimed at developing appropriate correctional treatment methods for reformation, rehabilitation and reintegration; and implementing reformation and rehabilitation programmes to enhance the reintegration of inmates back into the society, among others (Oluwatobi, & Akinbile, 2019).

The Non-custodial Service is responsible for the administration of non-custodial measures like community service, probation, parole, restorative justice and other measures such as carrying out court orders of competent jurisdiction. Adopting international best practices of prison reforms, the new service, the Nigerian Correctional Service, like any other correctional institution across the globe, is now saddled with the sole responsibility of

accommodating awaiting trial inmates as well as convicted inmates for the purpose of treatment and reform which are the whole mark of rehabilitation theory (Ulo, 2019). The Prisons Act of 1972 was a Nigerian law that established rules for the management of prisons in the country. It also covered other related issues, such as the legal custody of prisoners, their removal, and their discharge (Duwe, 2015). The Act came into effect on April 10, 1972. The Prisons Act of 1972 was a Nigerian legislation that governed the administration of prisons and the treatment of prisoners in Nigeria for many years, it was replaced by the Nigerian Correctional Service Act in 2019. The Act's purpose was to manage prisons and correctional facilities for people who broke the law as the ideal prison system aims to reduce the likelihood of reoffending and deter crime. The Act also established a Comptroller-General who was in charge of the Nigerian Prisons Service, The minister could declare a building or place to be a prison, and specify the area for which it was established, The Act provided for the establishment and classification of prisons (Yakubu, et al., 2023).

Human Capital Development

According to Jones (2025), Human Capital Development is a concept indicating; human-capital and development. Human capital development is a strategic and constant process of investing in and enhancing the knowledge, skills, abilities, and overall potential of individuals within a society or organization, identifying that these attributes are valuable economic assets. This inclusive approach involves various initiatives such as formal education at all levels, specialized training programmes, workshops, professional development opportunities, and fostering an environment that encourages lifelong learning and continuous skill acquisition. Aside from technical competencies, human capital development also embraces the promotion of health and well-being, the cultivation of soft skills like critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, and social-emotional intelligence, and the encouragement of entrepreneurship and innovation. The vital goal is to empower individuals to contribute more effectively to the economy and society, leading to increased productivity, innovation, competitiveness, and sustainable economic growth and social development.

Human capital development is often considered as one of the most critical assets of a nation, as it influences its capacity for innovation, economic growth and social well-being (Attaiet, 2025).

The quantum or manner in which human beings can generate and use knowledge and skill toward creating intellectual capital is broadly referred to as human capital (Adeyemi, and Ogunsola, 2016). Thus, the higher a person's ability to create more relevant intellectual capital, the higher he or she is considered as of higher human capital.

The acquisition of this 'relevant' knowledge is the product of conscious and unconscious interactions between them and other human beings which is often referred to as social capital which facilitates the generation of critical and well entrenched institutionalized knowledge possessed by an organization (organizational capital). Thus, human capital as a concept requires a discussion of other terminologies like the human, intellect, social capital and organizational capital (Adeyemi, and Ogunsola, 2016).

Considerably, intellectual capital refers to the intangible resources associated with people that enable them to effectively utilize tangible resource (money and physical assets) towards creating value for the organization (Choo, & Bontis, 2002). Social capital is the conscious relationship and norms that shape the quality and quantity of a society's social interaction (World Bank 2000).

Nigerian Correctional Service and Human capital development of inmates

Human capital development of prison inmates according to Anthony (2018), refers to programmess and initiatives aimed at enhancing the knowledge, skills, and abilities of incarcerated individuals. It's about equipping them with the tools necessary for successful reintegration into society upon release. This type of training includes: Vocational training, which involves learning trades like carpentry, welding, or culinary arts, preparing them for employment in the outside world. This can include certifications and apprenticeships.

Educational programmes which is a continuous education, including high school equivalency diplomas, college courses, and vocational skills training. This helps develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and life skills. Life skills development which are considered as Courses focusing on topics like budgeting, conflict resolution, anger

management, substance abuse recovery, and healthy relationships (Helen et al., 2023). This fosters personal growth and reduces the risk of recidivism. Mentorship programmes, in this type of human capital training involves pairing inmates with successful individuals who can provide guidance and support, promoting positive role models and motivation. Mental health and wellness programmes which involves addressing the mental health challenges often prevalent in prison populations and providing support for managing stress and trauma, crucial for long-term success. Entrepreneurial training which is the developing of business skills and fostering the ability to start and manage a business, which can provide independence and economic opportunities upon release and finally, access to technology and digital literacy illustrating the means of equipping inmates with essential digital skills for modern job markets (Otodo, 2017).

The Nigerian Correctional Service (NCS), being the governmental body responsible for the custody, reformation, rehabilitation, and reintegration of inmates in Nigeria experience the renaming and restructuring of the agency came into effect with the signing of the Nigerian Correctional Service Act in August 2019 by President Muhammadu Buhari, reflecting a shift in idea from mere imprisonment to correction and rehabilitation. This transformation aims to align Nigeria's correctional system with international best practices that emphasize human rights, behavioral reform, and social reintegration of offenders.

The Nigerian Correctional Service operates under the Federal Ministry of Interior and is headed by the Controller-General of Corrections. It administers both custodial and non-custodial measures as stipulated in the 2019 Act. The custodial component involves the physical confinement of convicted individuals and those awaiting trial, while the non-custodial component includes alternatives such as community service, probation, parole, restorative justice, and other correctional measures that do not require imprisonment (Osagie & Omorovbiy, 2022). These non-custodial measures are particularly significant in addressing issues of overcrowding in Nigerian prisons, which has been a longstanding concern. One of the core mandates of the NCS is the reformation of inmates through structured programmes such as vocational training, formal and informal education, moral and religious instruction, and psychosocial therapy. Inmates are given opportunities to acquire skills in carpentry, tailoring, farming, welding, and other trades, with the aim of preparing them for reintegration into society as productive citizens (Ewelum, et al., 2015).

Educational initiatives, including collaborations with institutions like the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN), allow inmates to pursue academic qualifications even while incarcerated but in the process of bringing about this human capital development exercises certain many challenges impedes the performances of these rehabilitative function some of which includes, overcrowding which remains a critical issue, exacerbated by a high number of inmates awaiting trial, who constitute more than 60% of the prison population in some states. This delays justice and places immense pressure on available infrastructure and personnel. Poor funding, inadequate medical facilities, staff shortages, and poor working conditions for correctional officers also hinder the effectiveness of the service. Furthermore, the lack of effective post-release support and social reintegration programs often results in high recidivism rates among ex-inmates. However, the NCS continues to strive for improvement through policy reforms, infrastructural development, and partnerships with international organizations, civil society, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). These partnerships are crucial in supplementing government efforts and in advocating for a more humane and efficient correctional system. Efforts are also ongoing to digitalize prison records, improve data management, and enhance security infrastructure to prevent jailbreaks, which have occurred intermittently in various facilities (Helen et al., 2023).

Nigerian Correctional Service and carpentry training of Inmates

The Nigerian Correctional Service (NCS), established pursuant to the Nigerian Correctional Service Act 2019, is tasked not only with the safe custody of offenders but also with their rehabilitation and successful reintegration into society. A major component of this rehabilitative mandate is the provision of vocational skills training, among which carpentry training occupies a prominent position. Carpentry programs within Nigerian correctional facilities are designed to equip inmates with practical, employable skills that can support sustainable livelihoods upon release (Nigerian Correctional Service Act, 2019).

Through carpentry training, inmates acquire competencies in the use of basic and advanced woodworking tools, interpretation of design drawings, accurate measurement and cutting of materials, and the construction of

furniture and fittings such as tables, chairs, beds, and doors. Participation in such structured vocational activities fosters discipline, patience, attention to detail, and a sense of responsibility, which contribute positively to inmate behavior and institutional order. In addition to skill acquisition, carpentry training serves a therapeutic function by providing inmates with purposeful engagement, creative expression, and an enhanced sense of self-worth during incarceration (UNODC, 2018).

From an economic perspective, carpentry training plays a crucial role in preparing inmates for post-release employment or self-employment. In the context of Nigeria's high unemployment rate, particularly among youths and economically marginalized groups, carpentry offers a viable means of income generation. Upon release, trained inmates may secure apprenticeships in furniture workshops, establish small-scale carpentry enterprises, or serve as trainers to others, thereby contributing positively to community development and reducing the likelihood of recidivism (Alemika, 2019). The vocational skills provided help in lowering reoffending rates, of which such vocational programmes also enhance public safety and reduce the long-term financial burden on the criminal justice system (Mboho and Ataire, 2018).

To strengthen the delivery of carpentry training, the Nigerian Correctional Service collaborates with government bodies such as the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) and the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE), as well as local and international non-governmental organizations. These partnerships support the provision of tools, raw materials, technical expertise, and, in some cases, skill certification, which improves the employability of inmates after release. Nevertheless, the effectiveness of carpentry programs is constrained by persistent challenges, including inadequate funding, obsolete equipment, overcrowded custodial facilities, shortages of qualified instructors, and the absence of uniform certification standards (Olorunfemi, 2020).

Despite these limitations, carpentry training remains an important rehabilitative strategy consistent with Nigeria's correctional reform agenda. In some facilities, inmate carpenters are engaged in producing furniture for internal use or for supply to government institutions, thereby generating revenue and providing real-world work experience. By promoting skill acquisition and productive engagement, the correctional service contributes to national development through the creation of skilled manpower, social inclusion, and economic empowerment (Mboho and Ataire, 2018).

For carpentry training to achieve greater impact, increased investment, improved training infrastructure, standardized curricula, and nationally recognized certification frameworks are required. Equally critical are post-release reintegration measures, including employment support, mentorship, and public sensitization initiatives to reduce societal stigma against former inmates. In sum, carpentry training under the Nigerian Correctional Service represents a vital mechanism for transforming inmates into productive members of society, enabling them to rebuild their lives, support their families, and contribute meaningfully to national development upon reintegration (Nigerian Correctional Service Act, 2019).

Human Capital Development theory propounded by Gary Becker in 1960

Gary Becker, was an economist, who propounded the theory in the 1960s, the theory in adding a significant contribution by applying economic principles to human capital. He viewed training as a paramount aspect of investments that aids in increasing individual's productivity and lifetime earnings. However, it's important to acknowledge that earlier thinkers like Adam Smith and Irving Fisher also scientifically proven and consented to the acceptability for the concept of human capital (Eyo, et al., 2026). The Human capital development theory is a strategic process centered on generating, enhancing and developing the knowledge, skills, and abilities of individuals or workers of any organization for the purpose of advancing employees and organizational performance. The proponent considers it as an investment in people, aiming to equip them with the tools they need to reach their full potential and contribute meaningfully to society and the economy. In recent days of management, there have been found a rapidly changing world, organizations and nations require a skilled and adaptable workforce for high performance. Boosting productivity and Performance by equipping individuals with relevant skills and knowledge, manpower development helps perform their jobs more effectively and efficiently, leading to increased productivity and improved organizational performance (Eyo, et al., 2024).

The essence and applications for the adoption of this theory is given much emphasis as the carpentry training

provides knowledge, training and skill by the Nigerian correctional service for inmates will help with a skill to reduce recidivism and providing them with better opportunities with socioeconomic development

METHODOLOGY

The study adopted the descriptive research design with a survey method because. The study population for the research was 2,371, two thousand three hundred and seventy one (inmates Record book of Maximum Security Correctional Center, Port Harcourt, River State, Nigeria) being the total number of inmates in Nigerian correctional center in Rivers State. The sample size for this study was 400, determined with the use of Cochran's formula propounded in 1977. The simple random sampling was used as the sampling techniques in this research. This study adopted both primary and secondary source of data collection. For primary sources, data was sourced from questionnaire which was based on the questionnaire, the researcher developed a structured questionnaire. Secondary sources like textbooks, journals, articles, magazines, national dailies, libraries, financial reports and publication were used. Secondary data were gathered through in-depth, published materials from the internet, which many works of other scholars will be viewed and referenced. Data collected were analyzed using descriptive analysis and a Simple Regression Analysis in order to arrive at a scientific acceptance. Data were presented in tabular form for easy calculation and comprehension.

Data Presentation

This chapter provides a detailed analysis of data from the survey, administered through questionnaires to participants in the respective State. The questionnaire consisted of three (3) sections: A, B, and C. Section A contains biographic information of the respondents, while Sections B and C questions bothering on the objectives selected for the study.

Questionnaire Distribution

400 copies of the questionnaire were distributed to the participants in the selected study areas using the weighted sampling technique. Out of the 400 copies of questionnaire distributed, 392 copies were adequately completed and returned. The table below shows the distribution of the completed and returned questionnaires, which is used for the data analysis.

Table 1: Frequency of Background Information on Respondents

Question	Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age Distribution	18-24 years	86	21.9
	25-30 years	135	34.4
	31-40 years	110	28.1
	41- 50 years	45	11.5
	51 and above	16	4.1
Education Qualification	SSCE	28	7.1
	ND/NCE	76	19.4
	BSc./ HND/ others	163	41.6
Marital Status	Single	131	33.4
	Married	176	44.9
	Divorced	42	10.7
	Widowed	21	5.4
	Separated	22	5.6
Length stay in the custody	Less than 1 year	96	24.5
	1-3 years	87	22.2
	4-6 years	102	26.0
	Above 6 years	107	27.3

Source: Field Survey (2026)

Table 1 offers a detailed depiction of the demographic characteristics of the respondents, highlighting key aspects such as gender, age distribution, educational qualifications, and marital status.

In terms of age distribution, a significant majority of respondents fall within the dynamic 25-30 years age group, totaling 135 individuals or 34.4%. Following closely are respondents aged 31-40, which number 110 (28.1%), and those between 18-24 years, totaling 86 (21.9%). The age group of 41-50 years is represented by 45 respondents (11.5%), while the oldest category, consisting of individuals aged 51 years and above, includes 16 participants (4.1%). This distribution suggests that the study primarily encompasses insights from an active and productive demographic, typically in the early to middle stages of their careers.

Turning to educational qualifications, the data highlights a noteworthy level of education among respondents. A substantial 41.6% hold B.Sc./HND degrees, totaling 163 individuals, indicating a well-informed participant base and holders of National Diplomas (ND) or National Certificates in Education (NCE), totaling 76 (19.4%). The least represented group comprises Secondary School Certificate Examination (SSCE) holders, who account for 28 individuals (7.1%). This educational profile suggests that the respondents possess the qualifications necessary to provide thoughtful and informed contributions.

Regarding marital status, the data sheds light on the personal lives of the respondents. A notable majority of 176 individuals (44.9%) are married, reflecting a strong presence of family-oriented perspectives within the study. Following this group are 131 single respondents (33.4%). Additionally, 42 respondents (10.7%) are divorced, while those who are separated and widowed account for 22 (5.6%) and 21 (5.4%), respectively. This demographic information underscores that many respondents likely have familial responsibilities, which may influence their viewpoints and responses.

Looking at the years spent in custody, 96 respondents, which is about 24.5%, had been there for less than a year. Meanwhile, 87 respondents (22.2%) had stayed between 1 and 3 years. A further 102 respondents (26.0%) reported custody durations of 4 to 6 years. Interestingly, the largest group, with 107 respondents or 27.3%, had been in custody for more than 6 years. This shows that a good number of inmates experience long-term stays, especially those staying over 6 years, highlighting the issue of extended incarceration periods within the correctional system.

Lastly, the demographic characteristics presented in the table above suggest a study population that is predominantly young to middle-aged, highly educated, and largely married. This combination of factors provides a robust foundation for understanding the perspectives and experiences shared in the study, ensuring that the analysis remains credible and relevant.

Table 2: Responses from the Respondents

S/N	Questions on carpentry training of inmates	S/A	A	D	S/D	U	TOTAL (%)
1.	Inmates were given training in carpentry while in custody	62 (15.8%)	174 (44.4%)	47 (12.0%)	32 (8.2%)	77 (19.6%)	392 (100%)
2	carpentry-level instructors were available to teach you on carpentry	45 (11.5%)	174 (44.4%)	68 (17.3%)	37 (9.4)	68 (17.3%)	392 (100%)
3	There was availability of carpentry training equipment/ materials	11 (2.8%)	198 (50.5%)	27 (6.9%)	33 (8.4%)	123 (31.4%)	392 (100%)
4	Inmates are trained on how to make tables, chairs for sale in the correctional service welfare department	149 (38%)	101 (26%)	142 (36%)	0	0	392 (100%)

Author Compilation, 2026.

The findings indicate that a majority of inmates (60.2%) agreed or strongly agreed that they received carpentry training while in custody. In contrast, 20.2% disagreed or strongly disagreed, and 19.6% were uncertain. Additionally, 55.9% confirmed the availability of carpentry instructors, while 26.7% disagreed and 17.3% were

uncertain. However, only 53.3% disagreed that carpentry equipment and materials were accessible, with 15.3% strongly disagreeing and a significant 31.4% remaining uncertain, highlighting gaps in resources.

Regarding educational support, 68.3% of inmates agreed or strongly agreed that they received educational assistance, while 7.9% disagreed and 23.7% were uncertain. Additionally, 64.2% confirmed access to free reading and writing materials, compared to 21.1% who disagreed and 14.5% who were uncertain. Finally, 68.6% agreed that they had access to post-primary, secondary, or university education, although 18.7% disagreed and 12.8% were uncertain, suggesting moderate but uneven educational provision.

Test of Hypothesis

H₀: There is no significant relationship between the Nigerian Correctional Service and carpentry training of inmates in Rivers State, Nigeria.

H₁: There is a significant relationship between the Nigerian Correctional Service and carpentry training of inmates in Rivers State, Nigeria.

Data Analysis

In ascertaining the relationship between the Nigerian Correctional Service and carpentry training of inmates in the Rivers State Nigeria, the ordinary least square simple regression technique was used with the help of SSPS version 20.0, and the following results were obtained.

Table 3: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.194 ^a	.038	.035	1.791

a. Predictors: (Constant), CT

ANOVA^a

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	49.164	1	49.164	15.326	.000 ^b
	Residual	1251.111	390	3.208		
	Total	1300.276	391			

a. Dependent Variable: NCS

b. Predictors: (Constant), CT

Coefficients^a

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	4.487	.413		10.853	.000
	CT	.391	.100	.194	3.915	.000

a. Dependent Variable: NCS

The results of the regression analysis shed light on the relationship between CT (Carpentry Training) and NCS (Nigerian Correctional Service). The model summary reveals a correlation coefficient (R) of 0.194, indicating a weak yet positive relationship between CT and NCS. This suggests that as CT increases, NCS tends to increase as well, although the strength of this correlation is relatively low. The coefficient of determination (R²) is reported at 0.038, signifying that only 3.8% of the variation in NCS can be attributed to changes in CT. This low percentage

indicates that CT alone has limited explanatory power regarding variations in NCS, implying that other unaccounted variables likely influence NCS.

The adjusted R^2 value of 0.035 further confirms this observation, demonstrating that even after adjusting for sample size, the model's explanatory capacity remains minimal. Additionally, the standard error of the estimate is 1.791, indicating the average deviation between the observed values and the regression line.

The ANOVA results provide insights into the overall significance of the regression model. The model yields an F-statistic of 15.326 with a p-value of 0.000, which is significantly lower than the conventional threshold of 0.05. This suggests that the regression model is statistically significant, meaning CT, as an independent variable, makes a significant prediction of NCS. In essence, the model provides a better fit to the data than a model without predictors, indicating that the observed relationship is unlikely to have arisen by chance.

The coefficient results further clarify the nature of the relationship. The intercept has a value of 4.487 and is statistically significant ($p = 0.000$), implying that when CT is zero, the expected value of NCS is 4.487. More crucially, the coefficient for CT is 0.391, with a standard error of 0.100, a t-value of 3.915, and a p-value of 0.000. This indicates that CT has a positive and statistically significant effect on NCS. Specifically, an increase of one unit in CT is associated with an increase of 0.391 units in NCS, holding other factors constant. The standardized beta coefficient of 0.194 reaffirms that while the effect size is positive, it is relatively weak compared to stronger models.

Consequently, the null hypothesis (H_0), which posits that CT does not significantly affect NCS, is rejected in favor of the alternative hypothesis (H_1). This leads to the conclusion that CT has a statistically significant effect on NCS.

Table 4: Carpentry training of inmates in Maximum Security Correctional Center, Port Harcourt, River State, Nigeria.

Years	Cell A	Cell B	Cell C	Cell D	Cell E	Total
2019	18	16	9	17	13	73
2020	11	3	5	21	23	63
2021	5	4	11	15	14	49
2022	18	6	6	23	9	62
2023	12	9	8	19	6	54
2024	2	11	7	33	5	58
2025	19	2	5	9	6	41
2026	17	16	11	15	10	69
Total	102	67	62	152	76	469

Source: Inmates Record Book of Maximum Security Custodial Center, Port Harcourt, River State, Nigeria (2026)

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The study showed a positive and statistically significant link between carpentry training and Maximum Security Correctional Center, Port Harcourt, River State, Nigeria, as the results shows that in 2019 about 73 inmates were trained on carpentry while in 2020 about 63 inmates were trained, while in 2021 over 49 inmates were trained, again the finding shows that 2022 about 62 inmates were trained, in 2023 over 54 inmates were trained on carpentry, in 2024 about 58 inmates were trained as 41 inmates were exposed to carpentry training in 2025 and findings shows that in the early of 2026 about 69 inmates have been trained bringing to a total of 469 inmates being trained between 2019 to the middle of 2026. This result supports the human capital development of Garry Becker, specifically stating that it is an investment in humans as it will enhance productivity of inmates while in custody and after leaving custody thereby enhancing recidivism who argued as the vocational skills gives inmates marketable abilities that help them reintegrate into society. Likewise, Akers (2009) pointed out that skill acquisition programmes lower reoffending rates by encouraging prosocial behaviors. However, the weak strength of this relationship ($R^2 = 0.038$) aligns with the views of Igbo (2007) and Otodo, I. (2017), who stated that the

success of vocational programmes in Nigerian correctional facilities is often limited by inadequate facilities, poor funding, and lack of policy implementation.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

This study explored the relationship between the Nigerian Correctional Service and carpentry training of inmates in River state, Nigeria. Specifically, it focused on key rehabilitation programme such as carpentry training. The study employed a quantitative research design, with data collected through structured questionnaires administered to inmates. Data analysis was performed using the Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) regression method with SPSS version 20.0. Seven hypotheses were developed and tested at a 0.05 significance level and the findings revealed that carpentry training ($R = 0.194$, $R^2 = 0.038$), is positive and statistically significant relationships with the Nigerian Correctional Service.

CONCLUSION

This study has demonstrated that the Nigerian Correctional Service plays a significant, though constrained, role in the human capital development of inmates at the Maximum Security Correctional Centre, Port Harcourt, Rivers State. The study concludes that vocational initiatives, particularly carpentry training programmes, contribute meaningfully to equipping inmates with practical and marketable skills. Beyond technical competence, these programmes foster behavioral reform, enhance self-esteem, and reduce the likelihood of recidivism, thereby aligning with contemporary correctional philosophies that prioritize rehabilitation over punitive measures.

Again, the distribution of inmates across different cells from 2019 to 2026, with a total population of 469, reflects fluctuations that may further strain available resources and programme delivery. Despite their positive and statistically significant contributions, the generally weak strength of the relationships suggests that these programmes operate within systemic limitations. This indicates that skill acquisition alone cannot fully address the complex challenges of inmate rehabilitation. Factors such as inadequate funding, poor infrastructure, limited access to modern training facilities, insufficient staffing, and weak post-release support systems may significantly constrain the effectiveness of these programmes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended that the federal Government through the federal ministry of interior should partner with the River state Government and Non-Governmental Organizations in providing adequate tools, equipment, and materials, especially for carpentry and other skill-based programmes, to enhance the effectiveness of training for inmates

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