

ASHESI UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

**ANALYSIS OF THE REHABILITATION OF INMATES AT THE NSAWAM
MEDIUM SECURITY PRISON**

By

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this dissertation is the result of my own original work and that no part of it has been presented for another degree in this university or elsewhere.

Candidate's Signature:

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I hereby declare that the preparation and presentation of the thesis were supervised in accordance with the guidelines on supervision of thesis laid down by Ashesi University College.

Supervisor's Signature:

Supervisor's Name:

Date:

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISSERTATION

ANALYSIS OF THE REHABILITATION OF INMATES IN THE NSAWAM MEDIUM SECURITY PRISON

Crime is on the ascendency in Ghana and prisons are becoming overcrowded. Vocational training is the main method by which Ghanaian prisons seek to reform offenders and put this trend in check, yet recidivism is on the increase in our prisons after inmates have gone through the various rehabilitation programmes.

This study seeks to evaluate the rehabilitation programmes in the Nsawam Medium Security Prison and whether any meaningful rehabilitation process has been achieved by interviewing 68 trainee inmates; a sample size collated through the systematic sampling approach. Interview questions were geared towards the aims of this study and required information such as intentions towards training, future plans with regards to the training, performance of supervisors, conditions of tools used, problems faced during the rehabilitation programmes as well as suggested solutions to these problems.

The findings of the study confirm the view that with proper direction and supervision, vocational training can serve as a method by which offenders can be reformed. This is supported by the fact that almost all the recidivists interviewed during the study were either unemployed or employed in illegal activities.

Besides almost all of the trainees (92.6%) are satisfied with their training and as much as 70% intend to utilize vocational skills learnt in prison after discharge.

Their rehabilitation process is however beleaguered with problems such as lack of tools, lack of instructors and the lack of workshops which need to be addressed if the programme is supposed to yield desirable results.

Keywords: Prison rehabilitation, (vocational) rehabilitation programme, trainee inmates, Ghanaian Prison (Nsawam Prison), Recidivists.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

“The Ghana Prison Service performs its mandatory functions of protecting the public by ensuring the safe custody and welfare of prisoners and also undertaking their reform and rehabilitation...” (Ghana prison service, 2010)

Attempts have been made worldwide to eliminate crime through retribution and deterrence. Recidivism¹ has become a major problem in our prisons presently as people relapse into crime after the expiration of a sentence for a previous offence. Reckless (1961) used various crime theories to explain the recidivism problem. According to Reckless, “one should expect to find a large proportion of strong mental components to repeat in crime and to relapse time after time”; he further proposed a theory saying, “the inavoidance of bad influences on some inmates posed by the congregation of offenders in one place who become progressively wise and complex and practice when released (p.288).”

A study conducted by Afari Danso at James Camp Prison (1985), revealed that a majority of prisoners upon release were jobless, neglected and had no skill thus they were stigmatized and therefore had the tendency to go back to prison for committing other crimes.

¹ Recidivism is the relapse into crime (Petersilia & Turner, 1990)

According to Sutherland and Cressey (1978), prisoners are neither highly educated nor intelligent and have known a lot of delinquencies. Sutherland and Cressey state, "good companions make good boys, and bad companions make bad boys. Behaviour is not only learned but it is also taught. (p. 86)" It is based on this notion that rehabilitation² has become a part of the Ghana Prison Service's mission. The mission clearly states, "The Ghana Prison Service performs its mandatory functions of protecting the public by ensuring the safe custody and welfare of prisoners and also undertaking reform and rehabilitation (Ghana Prison Service, 2010)". The assumption is that after going through the correctional and rehabilitation process, ex-convicts would be more equipped and thus would be in a better position than before to satisfy their needs and wants and hence reduce crime considerably if not be fully eliminate it.

During this research, modern literature found on rehabilitation programmes in Ghana was very little. Literature found on this topic was mostly from old popular criminologists whose work shared insights on the significance of this study. Hence, this study will reveal some new information on the rehabilitation of prisoners in Ghanaian prisons.

² Rehabilitation is restoring a person to an acceptable person in society (Matthews & Pitts, 1998)

1.2 Problem Definition

The arguments of some penologists³ are directed towards achieving the rehabilitative mission of the Ghana Prison Service; rather than that of retribution. Nsawam Prison amongst other prisons was established to propagate the objectives and programmes of the service which is aimed at reducing recidivism and rehabilitation of inmates. This study seeks to evaluate the rehabilitation programmes in the prison and whether or not its objectives have been achieved.

It has been found that some criminals continue to commit crimes after being convicted in prison several times. This phenomenon has caused concerns and this study will attempt to evaluate the rehabilitation programs in Ghana, considering Nsawam Prison, Ghana's largest and most prominent prison as a reflection of all other prisons in the country. Back in 1932, it was found that more than half of the total number of prisoners had previously been in prison in England and Wales. More than a quarter of the total inmates which was more than 10,000 had served more than four previous sentences (Grunhunt, 1948).

Recidivism is on the rise in Ghana and yet prisons are supposed to have rehabilitation programmes to avoid this. A July 1991 issue of the Awake Newspaper stated that, "Nearly 63% of the inmates released from state prisons were arrested for a more serious crime within three years, the Justice

³ Penology is the management and treatment of inmates in a prison (Petersilia & Turner, 1990)

department said in a study released in 1991 (Simpson, 1991)" and goes on to state that "Prison gates have become more like revolving doors; nearly two-thirds of all convicts are rearrested within three years of their release (Simpson, 1991)."

A visit to the Nsawam Medium Security Prison revealed that there are recidivists, and a block has been assigned to them even though they went through the rehabilitation programme in their earlier convictions. This study tackles the question of what factors will reduce recidivism and the effectiveness of rehabilitation and its impact on prisoners.

The main way by which Ghanaian prisons tend to achieve the rehabilitation of inmates is by the provision of vocational training and skills with the assumption that when they are freed, they would be able to take care of themselves legitimately. An inmate upon release from prison starts life as a new person "cured" of his old ways and contributes productively to the society. The possibility of a relapse to crime after prison rehabilitation will reduce and prison population will be less as a result of the reduction in prison incarceration.

Due to this notion, Ghanaian prisons have introduced vocational training courses such as carpentry, masonry, weaving, shoe making and metal works. The rehabilitation process is not as easy as it may sound and its effectiveness will depend on a number of factors:

The attitude of the inmate towards the training programme is very important. If an inmate refuses to acknowledge the value of the training

programme and adopts a negative attitude towards the programme, the desired result will not be met and hence such a person may return to crime. It is important that inmates are taken through an orientation process that will make them aware of the significance of the rehabilitation programme. This will make them more willing to participate in the programme with a positive attitude and will reduce crime in the country.

The efficiency of the rehabilitation programme will depend on the intensity of the training process. Time spent and the nature of the work done in a day is instrumental in determining this. The efficiency of the training process is very important because it is assumed that, the more the time is spent in training, the higher the intensity and the better the skill acquired by the inmate.

The success of the vocational rehabilitation programme will also depend on the availability of tools, raw materials and workshops for meaningful learning process. These inputs will serve as a form of motivation and will help in the success of rehabilitation.

Another major factor is the need to match an inmates' training to his ability, choice and social circumstances and also to the length of the sentence in order to achieve a meaningful reformation. Haphazardly chosen training fields are likely to be difficult to cope with.

These are some of the problems of rehabilitating an inmate in Ghanaian Prisons, and this study tends to look at the rehabilitation programme as it exists in Ghanaian Prisons.

1.3 Objective of the study

This study intends to mainly evaluate the effectiveness of the rehabilitation programme; inputs such as raw materials, tools, teachers to teach the trainee inmates and procedures used in the rehabilitation process will be considered in this study.

In trying to find this out, this study will also look at other areas which include:

- Assessing the attitude of trainee inmates towards vocational training in Ghanaian Prisons.
- Finding out whether the training is intensive enough to give inmates the necessary skills required when they leave prison.
- Finding out whether types of training are suitable to trainees' situations.

1.4 Underlying Assumptions

For a rehabilitation programme to achieve its desired results and be effective, inmates must have all the needed facilities to learn a vocation. After interacting with some prison officers at the Nsawam prison, it was found out that the main purpose of the rehabilitation programme was to equip inmates with skills that would be useful to them after their release and possibly a means of earning money. According to the prison officers, the inmates are to be provided with the necessary materials needed to make the training significant to them when they are released.

The following assumptions have been made to guide the study to achieve its objectives:

- Inmates work intensely to acquire vocational skills which they hold in high esteem.
- Each trainee has enough inputs needed for effective training.
- All inmates under vocational rehabilitation intend to use their acquired skills to earn a living after release from prison.

1.6 Conceptual Framework

This study is drawn from the perspective of the Strain theory of crime causation.

The American sociologist, Robert K. Merton, borrowing from Emile Durkheim, developed a strain theory. According to Merton, society establishes goals which all people strive to achieve, but at the same time, the social structure makes it difficult or impossible for everyone to achieve these goals. Merton believes the strain leads some people to commit crimes. He then indicated that society places heavy emphasis on material success and achievement but cuts off the opportunity to achieve that success for certain segments within society. The strain resulting from this frustration leads some individuals to deviate in general and others to gravitate towards crime or legally unacceptable ways. To Merton, crime thus results from the strain from deprivation. To reduce or eliminate crime therefore, it is a step in the right

direction to make available legal or legitimate means within the social structure for the achievement of the goals of all members of society.

In providing inmates with vocational rehabilitation, it is expected that they should be able to meet their needs after prison and hence reduce crime in the society. The rehabilitation of inmates however depends on the attitude of the inmates towards the training process and whether they actually intend to use what they are being taught.

It also depends on the extent to which appropriate procedures are used in the process and the availability of required inputs such as tools and training personnel. Ghanaian Prisons have not had it easy in the achievement of their mission as they operate within adverse conditions. All these factors were considered when the study was being conducted.

1.7 Significance of the Study

Examining the objectives and programmes of the Ghana Prisons Service, emphasis is mainly on reformation and rehabilitation of prisoners. In an attempt to achieve their objectives and programmes, the various prisons face problems such as lack of funds from the government, societal attitudes towards inmates and lack of experts to implement the programmes. Despite these problems, the prisons make an effort to equip inmates with various vocational skills.

- This study reveals the problems associated with the vocational rehabilitation programme within the prison.
- The study provides knowledge on the attitudes of prisoners towards what they are learning and their intentions after release from prison.
- This study aids in developing alternative measures to ensure effective implementation of the prison rehabilitation programmes and would also make necessary recommendations to the government and the society.
- Due to lack of data and most data being outdated, this study will fill the gap in the literature and serve as a source of modern data on the rehabilitation of inmates in Ghana.

1.8 Organization of study

This study has been divided into 5 chapters:

Chapter 1: Introduction of the study explaining its objectives, the **conceptual framework** on which the study was built and the **significance** of the study.

Chapter 2: Reviews on the **literature** where ideas were drawn from to help this study. Though it was difficult to find modern literature on the rehabilitation of prisoners, ideas were taken from early criminologists.

Chapter 3: Methods used in collecting data for the study; explaining the sampling technique and data instruments.

Chapter 4: Analysis of the data collected during the study; explaining the demographic profile as well as other variables.

Chapter 5: Suggested **recommendations** to findings in Chapter 4; the **limitations** of the study and the **conclusion** to this study.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

There are crimes in every society and efforts have been made by governments, law enforcing bodies, individuals and independent organizations to eradicate crime but to no avail. Many sociologists and criminologists have advised on ways of reducing crime with empirical evidence. It was difficult to find modern literature on the rehabilitation of inmates; hence significant literature from prominent criminologists and previous studies was used to assist this study.

According to Lombroso (1920), an Italian Psychiatrist Criminologist and other positivists, some people are born to be criminals and the use of imprisonment as a punishment is improper. Rather, they believe criminals should be treated or helped to become productive members of society; a step Ghana has taken in the right direction.

2.1 Social views on the rehabilitation of prisoners

In a society with a social conscience, the prisoner's welfare seems to be a major objective. After incarceration, the prisoner is clothed and fed. The prisoner has the right to medical attention and is liable to compensation if an accident or illness is caused by work in the prisons. This was made possible by the German Statute of 1900 which helped the law of public insurance applicable to industrial accidents in prison workshops. This objective is part of the aims of the Ghana Prisons Service and they do well to clothe and feed

the prisoners as well as attend to their welfare by providing rehabilitation programmes.

Commenting on rehabilitation, Reid (1985) argued that, "the individual situation and not the crime situation should be considered in sentencing criminals (p. 48)." She advised that sentences should be tailored to suit the offender in a way that will enable rehabilitation of the prisoner. She suggested an 'interdeterminate sentence'; so that inmates are released as soon as the rehabilitation officers are satisfied with the level of rehabilitation. During this study, it was revealed that the individual situation was not considered in the mode of vocational selection. Some inmates chose vocations that need longer time than their sentences and hence compromised the effectiveness of the rehabilitation programmes in the prison.

2.2 Reform Methods

In the face of distress and insecurity, material assistance is an essential part of prisoner's welfare and rehabilitation. As Mathilde Wrede, the Finnish Pioneer of Prison welfare stated, "so many people talk to them but what most of them want is someone who listens to them" (1991, p. 14) In trying to reform a prisoner, one has to listen with patience and sympathize with the prisoner's difficulties and take a sincere interest in them. The discussion of personal difficulties or a piece of advice offered can be the turning point for a fresh start; then the prisoner will be able to relieve mental distress, encourage new impulses and develop an attitude towards

reasonable planning for the future. Based on this philosophy, interviews used in this study proved to be best for conducting the study since it involved interaction with the inmates and listening to them. During the study, some inmates raised the concern that they sometimes just wanted to talk to someone and even be able to apologise to the people they have offended.

In reforming and rehabilitating prisoners, labour has been considered as a part of the prison rehabilitation programme; however the assumption is that non-punitive labour will instill in inmates habits of industry, so they work in socially acceptable occupations during the post release period and not go back into crime. During this study, a larger percentage of the trainee inmates intended on using their acquired skills during the post release period. Surprisingly, quite a significant percentage did not intend to use their training and some even perceived the training as a form of punishment.

2.3 Vocational Training

In the published article 'The African Penal System ', Robert Seidman (1969) recognized that the conscious efforts towards rehabilitation in Ghanaian Prisons have been the same since the 1920's. The way to achieve their mission has always been through trade education and providing inmates with a means of livelihood upon discharge. He also stated that the sort of trades chosen have been limited by economic and social factors. During this study, it was found that, the status quo had not changed. Like Robert Seidman observed in his study as far back as 1969, in 2010, Ghana uses the same rehabilitation process and still believes that equipping an

inmate with a means of livelihood is the best form of rehabilitation. It was found out during this study that, recidivism was actually increasing in the Nsawam prison though the same style of rehabilitation had been adopted ever since it was built in the early 1960's.

A study by Pakenham Committee (1961) in Britain shows that prison cannot achieve its goal without modification. It was suggested that offenders should be sentenced to institutions for longer periods to enable them benefit from the programme, and before a sentence, some attempts should be made to assess the offender's suitability for training; his need for capacity benefit from the training or programme established. This is in line with the previous section and agrees that reformation can be done through non-punitive labour. One of the objectives of this study is to find out the intensity of the training programmes aimed at preparing inmates with necessary skills required when they leave prison and if they will be able to compete in their vocational industry.

Statistically, prison programmes established to reform and rehabilitate prisoners has not done much even in most advanced countries such as the United States and Britain. An employment survey conducted in the United States (Yankeegroup,1990) indicated that out of a 100 job opportunities related to prison work experience, 19% responded that prison work was not particularly helpful and 15% said the prison experience had not been useful for learning new skills, but was valuable for maintaining skills acquired before imprisonment. However 41% said they were actually helped in prison

by the acquisition of job knowledge and skill that was new to them. Another 16% of the population stressed the physical condition from heavy work in prisons prepared them for heavy labour jobs they did during post-release. The remaining 9% gave credit to the prison saying they are at ease in the social position in which their release job placed them (yankeegroup, 1990). The question then arises, if developed countries like the United States and Britain cannot have 100% positive response on their vocational rehabilitation programme, is vocational rehabilitation programme the best way of reforming prisoners in Ghana?

According to Sutherland and Cressey (1960), rehabilitation of prisoners developed out of the notion that prisoners should not be a burdened on the society's resources. They indicated that, ordinary non-punitive labour can instill the habit of work or industry in the inmates so they can find a profitable job after their release from prison and stay away from crime. Through prison labour, inmates acquire skills which upon their release from prison will help them meet their immediate needs legitimately. Sutherland and Cressey agree on the reformative effect of prison rehabilitation on the attitude towards work and the psyche of the ex-convict.

Donald Taft (1950) also finds out an important aspect in prison rehabilitation. According to him, it is not appropriate to leave prisoners idle in cells as it eventually leads them back into crime. He noted that prisoners generally lack habits of work and any skill and hence tend to live off the work of others. He indicated that training is ideal to reform an inmate and give

them the awareness of legitimate way of life. Thus, Taft was also in favour of prison rehabilitation through vocational training. It was surprising during the study to find out that some prisoners were idle and just waited for their discharge without any acquired skill or any kind of reformation.

Graig R. Colvins (1985) reported that vocational rehabilitation incorporated in correctional institutions has become a reality. He pointed out that vocational and social rehabilitation can play a vital role in the assertion of rehabilitation; techniques and methods that help the inmates after a predetermined treatment programme to re-enter the society as a productive member.

2.5 Post-release and Recidivism of inmates

Another assumption is that through prison labour, inmates acquire skills which enable them in the post-release period to support themselves and their families by legitimate means. This assumption is based on the notion that economic needs demand a working attitude and not just obeying the laws. Afari Danso (1995) in a post-release study of the inmates asserted that ex-convicts do not wish to disclose their training, because of the fear of losing their jobs if people found out they had been in prison and some do not want to remember their prison career.

Grunhunt Max (1973) stated that: "Mere aid for discharge prisoners is not enough to re-integrate men and women into the social world at large. Instead, thorough aftercare work must be developed in connection with a

parole system on condition of release as a form of post-release treatment (p. 107).” Aid must be given to ex-convicts even after release; prisons must consider a job placement programme that will place inmates in jobs upon their release and then the prison can monitor their lives during post-release period. Prisoners normally worry about future livelihood during lonely hours in their cells and this often cause depression, unruly behaviour and even serious breaches of discipline. When these difficulties are settled, it is believed the inmates will be more receptive to educational efforts and more successful in their work. At the Nsawam Prison, there were no records of discharged prisoners, and hence there was no way the prison could help ex-convicts.

F.K. Amanfri (1985) in his related study conducted on thirty recidivists at Kumasi Central Prison found out that seventy percent (70%) of respondents acquired little or no skill at all and hence went back into crime. The Amanfri study along with the premise of this study, guided this research. Throughout this study, emphasis was based on the effectiveness of the training process which included how the vocations were selected for each inmate and if the inmates were willing to use the skill acquired as a means of livelihood.

Samuel Gyamfi (1991) wrote on the characteristics of recidivism at James Fort Prison in Accra and indicated that most inmates upon incarceration believed they were of no worth and hence were just to be locked away from society. This also links to the objective on the attitude of

inmates towards the training programmes and if there is any value for the programme. There will be no point of rehabilitation if the inmates did not see the importance and will not use it upon release. In this study, inmates were asked if they were willing to use the skill acquired. Government funds are required to rehabilitate inmates and if the desired result is not achieved, it is then a waste of funds and incarceration would have been a better option.

Though most of the literature is outdated, the concept of rehabilitation through vocational programmes has been the same till now. All the literature in this section are in line with this study and will be used as a guide.

CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

Until the 18th century, corporal and capital punishment sentences were given to prisoners worldwide. Among the convicted prisoners, some had death sentences, repression exiles and others had their properties expropriated. During this early period, convicted prisoners went to prison purposely for punishment. In the prisons, there was solitary confinement and criminals were only permitted communication to the staff, selected preachers and people who help with developing morals. A Bible was always placed in each cell and food was served through a very small door. Life was really made uncomfortable for the prisoner making him atone for his offense. The cliché then was “Punish him severely and he will be deterred and reformed. The aim of such treatment meted out to inmates was to bring about reformation of convicts and also to deter potential offenders.

With modernization and writings of great men like Rouseau, Voltaire and Baccaria, countries worldwide realized that imprisonment with the intention of rehabilitation would reform convicts and this was a better option than imprisonment with the intention of punishing the convicts; for even though this would teach prisoners that what they had done was bad, it would not stop them from committing other crimes. This change is very significant in both theory and practice. The theory of Positive Determinism believes that prisoners should be treated rather than punished since the crime committed

was out of social and economic factors. Now it is believed that most nations rehabilitate their prisoners with the aim of helping them acquire legitimate skills.

It is the objective of the Ghana Prison Service to reform inmates to conforming behaviour and make them more useful citizens. The Ghana Prison Service achieves this goal by imparting various technical skills to the inmates. The functions and objectives of the Ghana Prisons Service according states that "The Ghana Prison Service is to ensure the safe custody and welfare of prisoners and whenever practicable to undertake the reformation and rehabilitation of prisoners.(ghanaprisonservice.org,2010)" Studying the objectives of the service reveals that the service is tasked to provide "good" accommodation, proper supervision of inmates, providing them food, health facilities, educate and counsel inmates, teach them various technical skills and see them go out of prison established both socially and technically.

The Service has provided facilities in all the prison establishments to help inmates reform during their period of sentence. The prisons impart technical skills through vocations such as carpentry, tailoring, basket and cane weaving and shoemaking. There is also re-socialization which inmates acquire through convict-officers interaction; this makes them feel a part of the society. There is also the re-orientation aspect which makes them aware that one has to work in order to survive.

3.2 The Study Area

Ghana's most prominent prison is the Nsawam medium security prison and like all other prison establishments in the country has a mission of providing accommodation for inmates, counseling inmates and rehabilitating the inmates through vocational training.

Nsawam is a town in the Eastern Region and approximately 40km from Accra. It is bordered on the east by Aburi, on the west by Adiaso Traditional Area, in the north by Teacher Mante and in the south by Medie.

Nsawam is heterogeneous in nature and most of the residents are natives of the land and a few have migrated from the little communities nearby. A significant number of people in Nsawam are from the suburbs in the Eastern Region. The dominant language spoken in this area is Twi.

A significant number of the people are employed in public institutions that provide health and banking services as well as administration. Most of the elderly in this area practice cash crop cultivation. Private commercial activities such as wholesale distribution and retail of goods are major businesses in Nsawam. The central part of the town is over crowded with shops, kiosks and hawkers.

Ghana's largest medium security prison is located in Nsawam. It was built in the early 1960's by the government. The Nsawam Medium security prison has two main divisions, the female section and the male section. Prisoners found in the prison include Ghanaians and other nationals. Crimes

that bring people to the prison include theft, assault, fraud, embezzlement, contempt of court and manslaughter.

The prison has three main blocks, for the various categories of inmates. The first block is for housing short term prisoners, the second for long term prisoners; while the third block is meant for remand prisoners. Apart from these three blocks, there are other minor blocks. These include the segregation block which houses insane people and people with contagious diseases. There is also a farm block for prisoners who work on the farm and another block for criminal lunatics⁴.

The prison has a chapel, an infirmary, a kitchen and a canteen. It has various workshops where various types of vocational skills are taught to help inmates acquire the necessary skills for future rehabilitation. Vocations available include tailoring, shoe making, carpentry, kente weaving, masonry, cane work and basketry. Workshops are held under the watchful eye of well-trained officers.

Not all the inmates who from the vocational opportunities available at the prison. Long term prisoners are those qualified to learn the skills, inmates with a year term or less are disqualified. Their disqualification stems from the fact that their sentence is considered too short to learn a trade. Prisoners on death row or life imprisonment are not qualified for the vocational training, but some exceptions are made especially when there is the possibility of a Presidential pardon.

⁴ Criminal lunatics refers to mentally ill criminals.

Work at the prison is done solely by the inmates. Each inmate is assigned a particular piece of work. Leaders are picked amongst the inmates and they are usually inmates with long term sentences who have served at least four years of the total sentence. These leaders see to the cleanliness of the prison as well as peace and tranquility in the cells.

The officer in charge at the prison is the Assistant Director of prisons who is in charge of the Eastern Region. On the other hand, the lowest rank is that of Second Class Officer. One of the major problems facing the prison is congestion. Initially, it was built to accommodate 717 inmates but has exceeded its ideal average capacity by 2,233 and currently houses 2,950.

The choice of Nsawam as the area of study was influenced by the fact that it is the largest prison in Ghana, has a large population and its' demographics upon further research and readings, could be a reflection of all the other prisons in Ghana. Nsawam prison houses criminals with diverse crimes, different age ranges, different sentences and provides different types of vocational training and hence a better study area for this research.

3.3 The preliminary field work

Before the actual conduction of the study, a visit was made to the Nsawam Prison with the assistance of a prison officer. The purpose of the visit was to provide an insight into the nature and demands of the study area. Wardens and some prisoners who would help my research were introduced and were briefed on the aims and objectives of the study. The

cells and various departments within the prison such as the kitchen, the clinic and the warden's office were visited. The opportunity was seized to engage prisoners who wanted know more about the objectives of the study to establish some degree of rapport. Some level of acquaintance was made with both the environment and the convicts themselves.

3.4 Sample and Sampling Technique

Initially, 50 respondents were to be used for the study but after a visit to the workshops where there were about 300 trainee inmates working at a time, the sample size was increased to 70 to reflect the different training programmes in the prison and allow for effective analysis; however, only 68 were available at the time of the study. For safety reasons, the female section was off limits because of recent incidences and as a result the study included only males.

A list of 300 trainee inmates was used as the population. Using the systematic sampling approach to avoid bias, these 300 names was divided by the sample size (70) and resulted in a sample interval of four. Each trainee inmate was assigned a code number and after the first trainee inmate was interviewed, using the sampling interval as a guide, the next fourth inmate was interviewed till 68 inmates were interviewed.

Since there are so many inmates undergoing the rehabilitation programmes and it would be difficult to interview all of them and quiet impossible to interview all inmates at a time, it was advisable to use the

systematic sampling approach which gave a systematic order inmates should be interviewed. This method seemed best in this context.

3.5 Data Instrument

According to Mathilde Wrede (1991), prisoners like to be spoken to and heard. She asserts that this makes them feel like they are a part of society and are more willing to listen to advice and words of encouragement. Based on this, interviews were used as a data collection instrument for this study.

Inmates were interviewed; and the interview process was both structured and unstructured; in the structured interviews all inmates were asked the same set of questions. However during interaction and conversations with the inmates, some data was collected as a form of unstructured interview. Regular conversation was maintained and the languages used varied since some inmates found it difficult to express themselves in English; with the aid of some inmates, questions were translated to some inmates in mostly Twi, Ga, and a little Adangbe to avoid ambiguity on the part of respondents. This led to the establishment of rapport and easy communication. Some questions were also asked indirectly to tap more information which respondents were reluctant to give.

The interview was divided into two parts. The first part focused on the respondents' personal data such as age, marital status, offence, terms of imprisonment and occupation before conviction. This part called for precise and straight forward answers.

The second part was made up of open-ended questions which allowed respondents to express themselves as elaborately as possible. This part dwelt on questions which required information such as intentions towards training, future plans with regards to the training, performance of supervisors, conditions of tools used, problems faced in prison, problem envisaged after leaving prison as well as suggestions towards the solutions of problems; paying careful attention to the objectives of the study. In conducting the research privacy was maintained in order not to place any inmate at the mercy of any prison officer or inmate for something said involving the prison.

3.6 Data Collection Method

The actual collection of data was carried out within the months of March and April for two weeks within the confines of the prison. Leaving the inmates to administer a questionnaire independently would have produced data of little or no use at all, since most inmates could neither read nor write. The personal interviewing proved to be the best method in the given context.

3.7 Data collection limitations

The major problem encountered was the low literacy rate of inmates and even some prison officers. A lot of time was spent explaining questions and recording their responses; hence a very demanding challenge. Due to this problem, transcribing was very difficult since some inmates were

interviewed in different dialects, some were interviewed through translators and some gave answers that had no relevance to the study.

Another problem was the misconception of some inmates about the aim of the study. The study had been misconstrued as one that was geared towards the immediate discharge of some prisoners. This led to some of the respondents being very humble and desisting from being critical even when necessary.

The process of ensuring security in the prison to some extent deprived the study; since during the interview process some security officers were around as they indicated that some inmates can be hostile to visitors. Some respondents were restricted or influenced by the presence of the wardens.

It was also a very difficult task getting all 70 respondents at a particular time; as a result of some inmates having to perform some duties outside the prison. Due to this, data collection took a longer time than expected and the prison had to be visited in different occasions to get lucky to interview an inmate whose name was among the sample size.

Finances spent on transportation from Accra to Nsawam, food and incentives to persuade most respondents to cooperate were a major challenge to this study. About 50cedis was spent on petrol from Accra to Nsawam each time. Almost 30cedis was spent persuading inmates to be interviewed and provide information relevant to the study.

Sanitation conditions within the prison are very bad and some inmates had skin diseases and showed signs of malnutrition. The psychological effect of this problem made time spent in the prison a bit of a nightmare.

To check the effectiveness of the rehabilitation, ex-convicts were to be interviewed and get some information on their post-release period and if the rehabilitation helped them on a career path. This was not possible because there were no significant records on ex-convicts. However, some prison officers observed that most inmates upon release from prison after the rehabilitation end up as pastors, evangelists and other religious persons as a result of the influence of religious groups in the prison.

Another disturbing problem was the fact that most prison officers and wardens refused to participate in the study. The study was originally designed to interview prison officers but they refused because apparently some officers had been punished for some information they revealed in a recent study. The study was then redesigned to get the opinions of trainee inmates only.

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA ANALYSIS

4.1 Demographic profile

At the Nsawam prison, 68 inmates were interviewed. Only male inmates were interviewed for security reasons. The demographic characteristics of the inmates are provided in Table 1. The study was designed to interview inmates who participate in the rehabilitation programme. The inmates interviewed ranged from the ages 19 years to 63 years and interestingly some had higher levels of education. Those with higher levels of education were in prison for crimes such as embezzlement, fraud and assault. Most of the inmates interviewed were born in the Greater Accra Region recording 19.1% of the total inmates interviewed, and 25% of the inmates interviewed were convicted in Accra. A large percentage of the inmates interviewed had a sentence between 6 to 10 years in prison; though recidivism was existent in the prison, a majority of the trainee inmates interviewed were in prison for the first time.

Table 1: Demographic of trainee inmates

Characteristic	Demographic Profile		
	Category	Number of respondents	Percentage
Gender	Male	68	100
Age Category	19 – 25	12	17.6
	26-33	19	27.9
	34-42	10	14.7
	43-50	8	11.8
	51-55	13	19.1
	56-63	6	8.8
Educational Level	No school	26	38.2
	Primary School	13	19.1
	Junior Sec School	15	22.1
	Senior Sec School	8	11.8

	Diploma	4	5.9
	University	2	2.9
Region (Birth)	Greater Accra	13	19.1
	Ashanti Region	11	16.2
	Eastern Region	8	11.8
	Western Region	9	13.2
	Volta Region	6	8.8
	Brong Ahafo Region	5	7.4
	Northern Region	4	5.9
	Upper East Region	3	4.4
	Upper West Region	2	2.9
	Central Region	7	10.3
	Region (Conviction)	Greater Accra	17
Ashanti Region		13	19.1
Eastern Region		5	7.4
Western Region		7	10.3
Volta Region		3	4.4
Brong Ahafo Region		4	5.9
Northern Region		5	7.4
Upper East Region		3	4.4
Upper West Region		4	5.9
Central Region		7	10.3
Crimes Committed		Embezzlement	3
	Theft	24	35.3
	Rape	5	7.4
	Fighting	5	7.4
	Drug possession	11	16.2
	Assault	7	10.3
	Smuggling	5	7.4
	Fraud	5	7.4
	Manslaughter	3	4.4
	Duration of Sentence	less than 2yrs	12
2 - 5 yrs		17	25.0
6 - 10 yrs		25	36.8
11 - 15 yrs		5	7.4
16- 20 yrs		7	10.3
20 +		2	2.9
No. of previous convictions		First offender	35
	1	19	27.9
	2	8	11.8
	3	3	4.4
	4	3	4.4

Table 1 shows a summary of the data with the modes highlighted (**bold**).

The objectives of the study were used as a guide when interviewing the inmates. The questions 8 to 17 (Appendix 1) find out the effectiveness of the rehabilitation programme, assess trainee inmates' attitudes towards the vocational training programme, find out whether the training is intensive enough to prepare inmates with the necessary skills and whether types of training are suitable to trainee's situation.

4.2 Occupation before conviction and Training pursued

A significant number of trainee inmates (28%) had been unemployed before their conviction. The pattern noticed was that their vocational training was not chosen in relation to any past experience.

All the occupations of convicts before imprisonment are different from those provided in prison with the exception of masonry and welding. 8.8% of trainee inmates had previously been in masonry but none of them was found in the masonry training programme. They were rather found in tailoring (50%) and chair weaving (50%).

Trainees under metal works showed a better pattern of vocational training selection. 40% of those who had been in welding took to metal works and the remaining 60% took to masonry.

Masonry had the greatest percentage of trainees (17.6%) and this was because the training was mainly done outside the prison and more hands were needed on the projects on which they worked. Only 3 inmates were in

the carpentry training programme because of the problem of getting raw materials for activities at the workshops.

4.3 Recidivism and Occupations before conviction

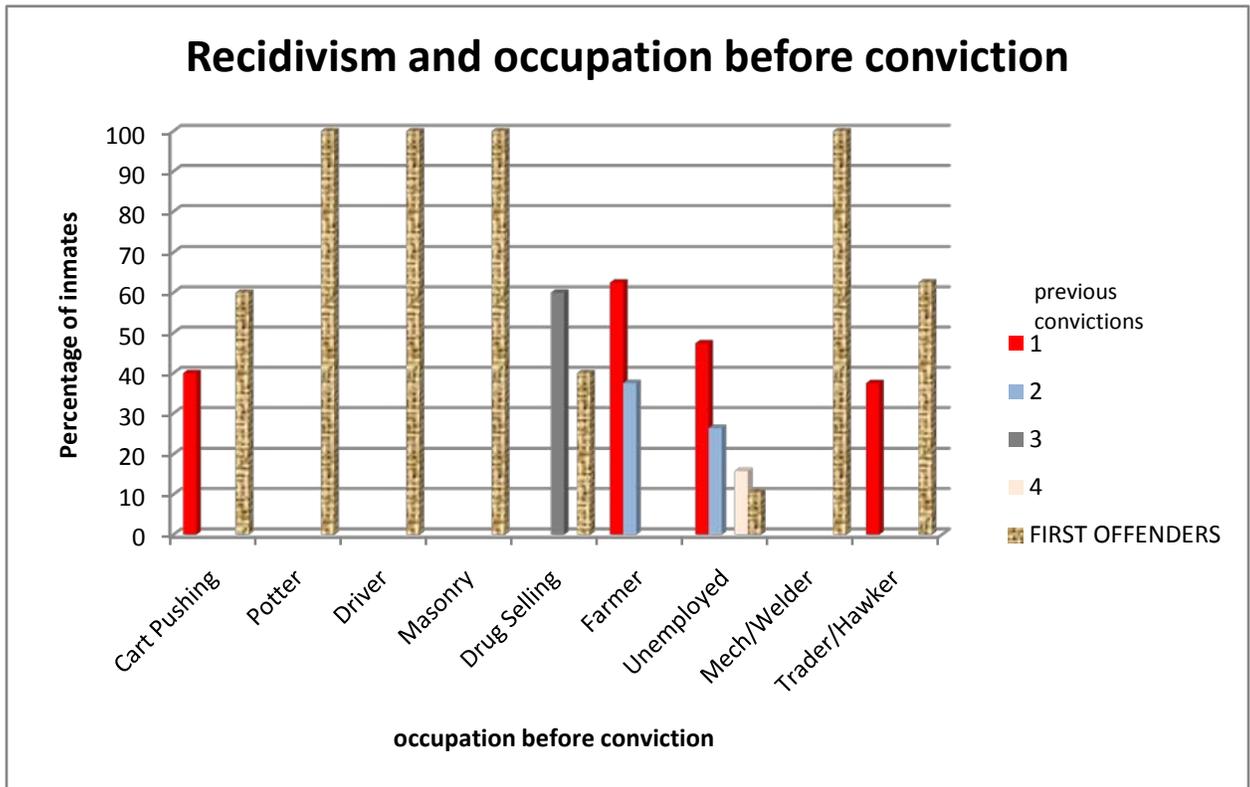
Generally, recidivism is very high among the inmates under the rehabilitation programme at about 48%.

About 28% of the recidivists are those who had been unemployed before imprisonment. This supports the view of some criminologists that the tendency to go back to one's crime is high if the person has no employment or skill.

Those who sold drugs recorded the most incidence of multiple-recidivism after the unemployed. For all who were convicted for selling drugs who were under rehabilitation, 60% had been previously convicted three times. This may be to the fact that they have been addicted to the occupation as they are addicted to the drug involved.

About 52% of trainee inmates had not been previously convicted and consequently recidivism had not been recorded among those who had been porters, drivers, masons and welders.

Figure 1: Recidivists and their occupation before conviction



4.4 Sentence Period and Type of Training

All the inmates under the tailoring programme were convicted for less than 5 years. This might have been influenced by the fact that they can use this time span to learn tailoring as a trade.

Of those who were learning chair weaving, 60% were convicted for between 6 years and 10 years whilst 40% were convicted for between 16 years and 20 years which the sentence could be said to be too long for such a simple and easily learnt trade or vocation.

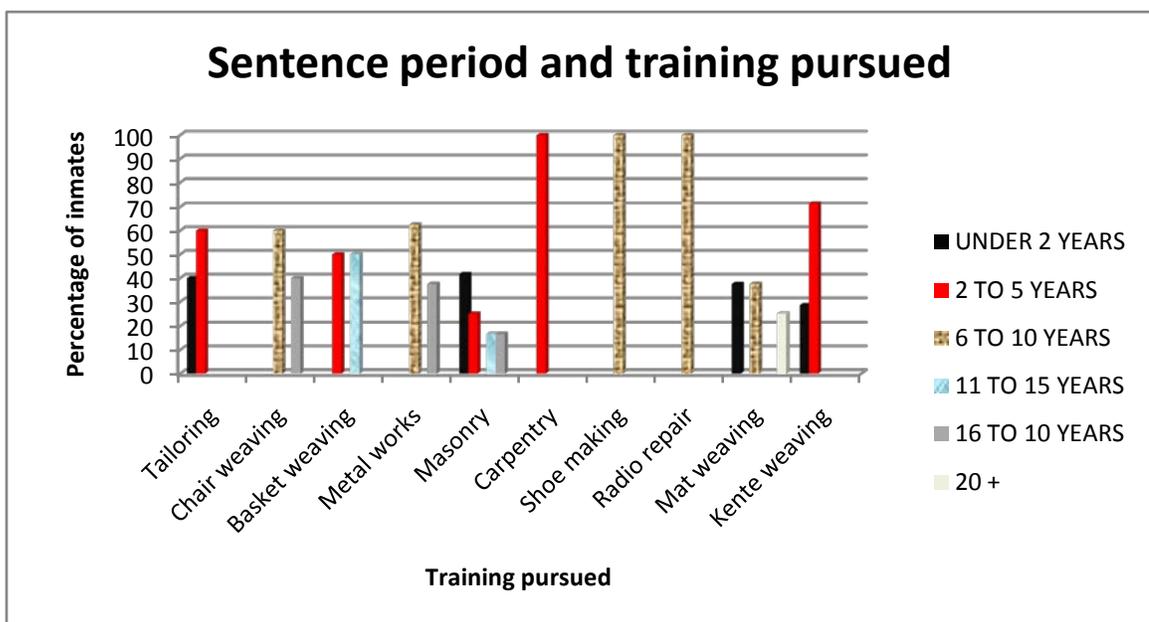
Half of those learning basket weaving (50%) were incarcerated between 2years and 5years and the remaining half were sentenced between 11years and 15years.

About 63% of trainees of metal works were jailed for between 6years and 10years and the about 37% were jailed for between 16years and 20years.

Masonry has 41.7% convicted for under 2years, 25% between 2yeas and 5years, 16.7% between 11 years and 15 years and 16.7% between 16years and 20years.

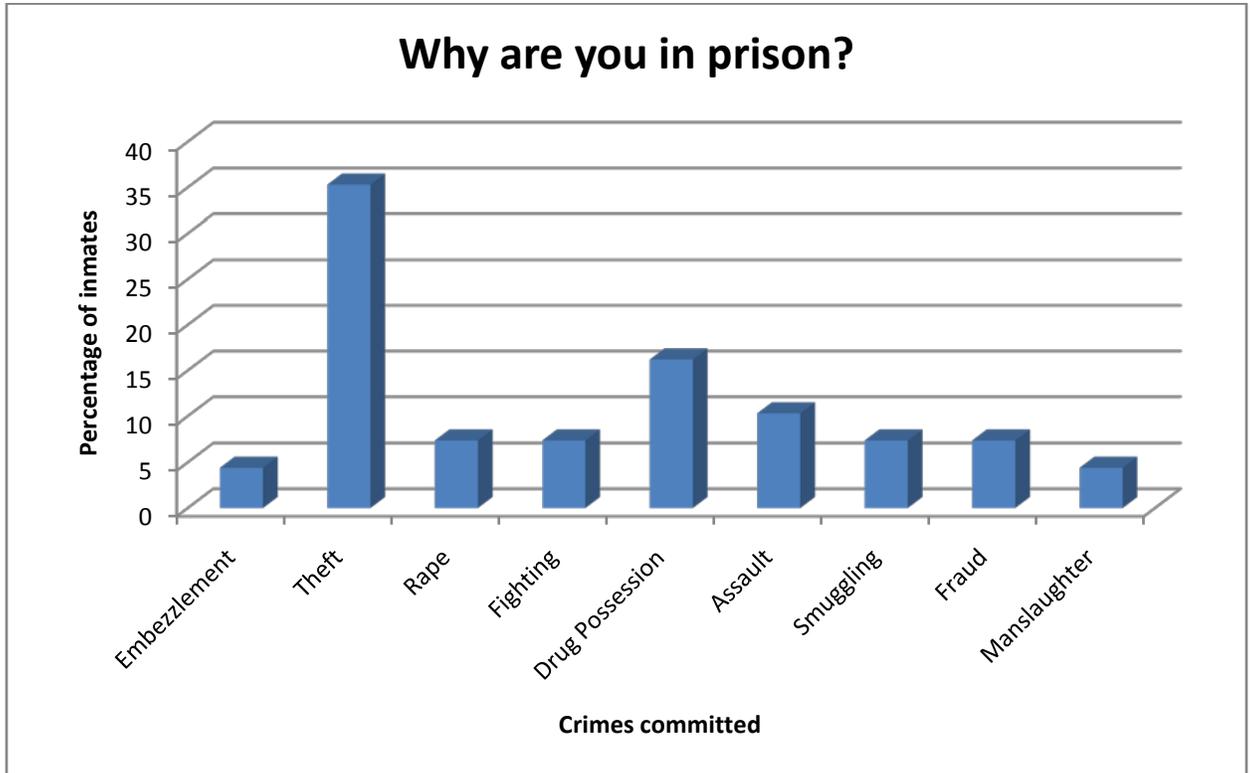
All trainee inmates who had been imprisoned for more than 20 years were into mat weaving, an apparently too simple vocation for this long term of incarceration.

Figure 2: Sentence period of inmates and training pursued in prison



4.4 PRESENT OFFENCES

Figure 3: Crimes for which inmates are in prison



Theft which covers the most widely recorded offence (35.3%) results due to unemployment which is very common among inmates. Their inability to make ends meet legitimately reflects the high incidence of drug possession which accounts for 16.2% of convictions.

The percentage for offenses such as theft, drug possession and assault are high among convicts under rehabilitation as these people who have illegal or no jobs at all hence their urge to acquire a vocation whilst in prison.

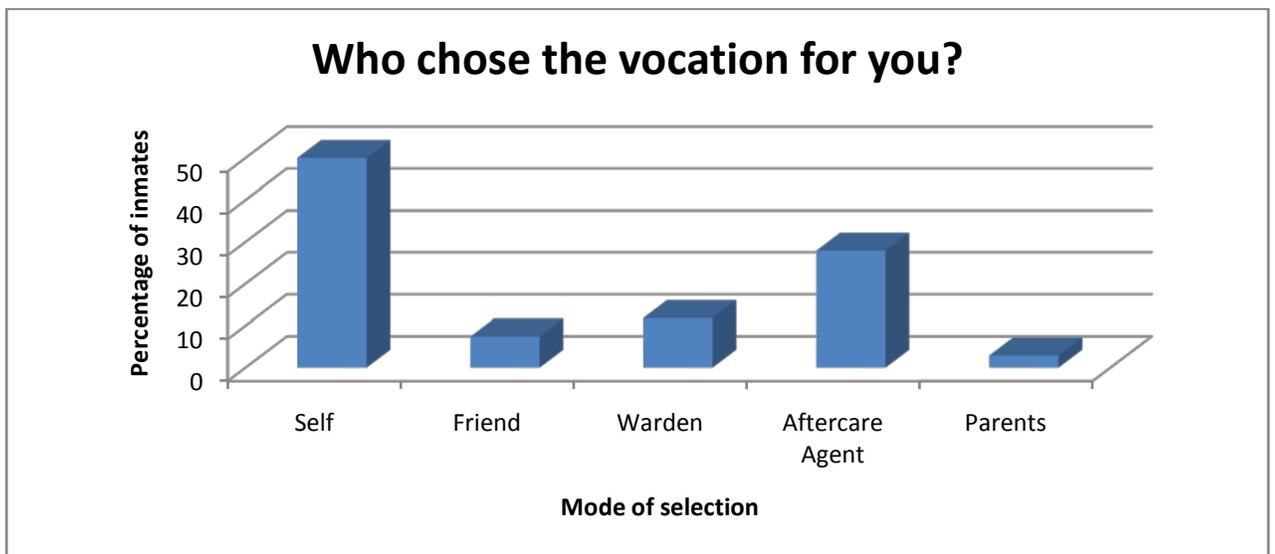
Embezzlement recorded a low percentage among inmates under the rehabilitation due partly to the fact that those convicted for this crime are

likely to be people who were in jobs or positions higher than the vocational jobs being learnt in prison.

Man slaughter recorded a low number of inmates in the training programmes (3) which might be due to the relatively long term imprisonment attached to the crime and can lead to despair.

4.5 How vocations are chosen

Figure 4: How inmates chose their vocation programme



Half of the inmates had their vocations chosen by themselves, pointing to the fact that convicts are free to choose and determine the sort of vocation to undertake.

Another important mode of vocation selection is by the direction of the probation officer or the after-care agent whose duty is to help choose a

vocation among the various vocational fields. Consequently, about 28% of inmates had their vocations determined by the after-care agent.

About 12% of the trainee inmates also had their vocations allocated to them by a warden. Thus wardens play a role in vocational selection.

It is interesting to note that 7.4% of inmates chose their vocations due to the influence from friends. New convicts are aided in vocational selection by old ones.

Two inmates had their vocations chosen for them by their parents from outside the prison. This underlines the fact that, there a few convicts who still have parental care after conviction.

4.6 Inmates and their field of training

Figure 5: Do inmates like the training?



Figure 5 depicts those trainees who are satisfied with their fields of training against those who are not satisfied with their fields of training.

The majority of trainees (92.6%) were satisfied with the type of vocation they were learning whilst 7.4% were not satisfied with the type of training they found themselves in.

The high level of satisfaction among inmates with regard to fields of training is consistent with the level of freedom to choose from a wide range of fields. Thus a high percentage of trainees had no trouble with what they have been learning though there is a tiny group (7.4%) who think their type of training is not the best for them.

4.7 Intention to use training after prison

Figure 6: Do inmates intend to use the training after prison?

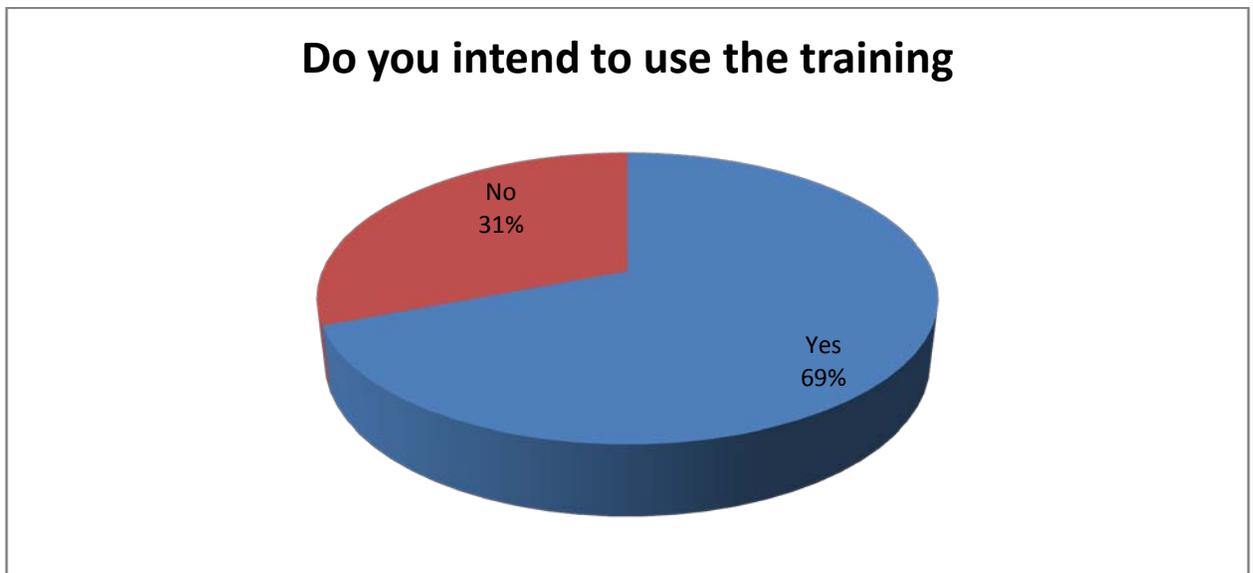


Table 3 above shows the number of trainees in the Nsawam Prison under rehabilitation who intend to use their acquired skills in the post-release term and those who do not intend to do so.

More than half of the trainee inmates (69%) indicated their will to rely on their learnt vocations for a living after discharge. This figure is encouraging but not consistent with the 92.6% of trainees who indicated they were satisfied with their fields of training. (Table 2)

A significant proportion of trainees (about 31%) indicated that immediately after discharge they will have nothing to do with their various vocations.

The inference drawn here is that, a significant number of trainees are in vocations to pass time in prison and will never use the training given them.

4.8 Problems faced in Training

Of all the problems mentioned by the inmates, Lack of tools ranked the highest. Majority of the inmates (38.2%) complained of the inadequacy of tools. This points to the fact that many of the workshops do not have enough tools or tools in good condition.

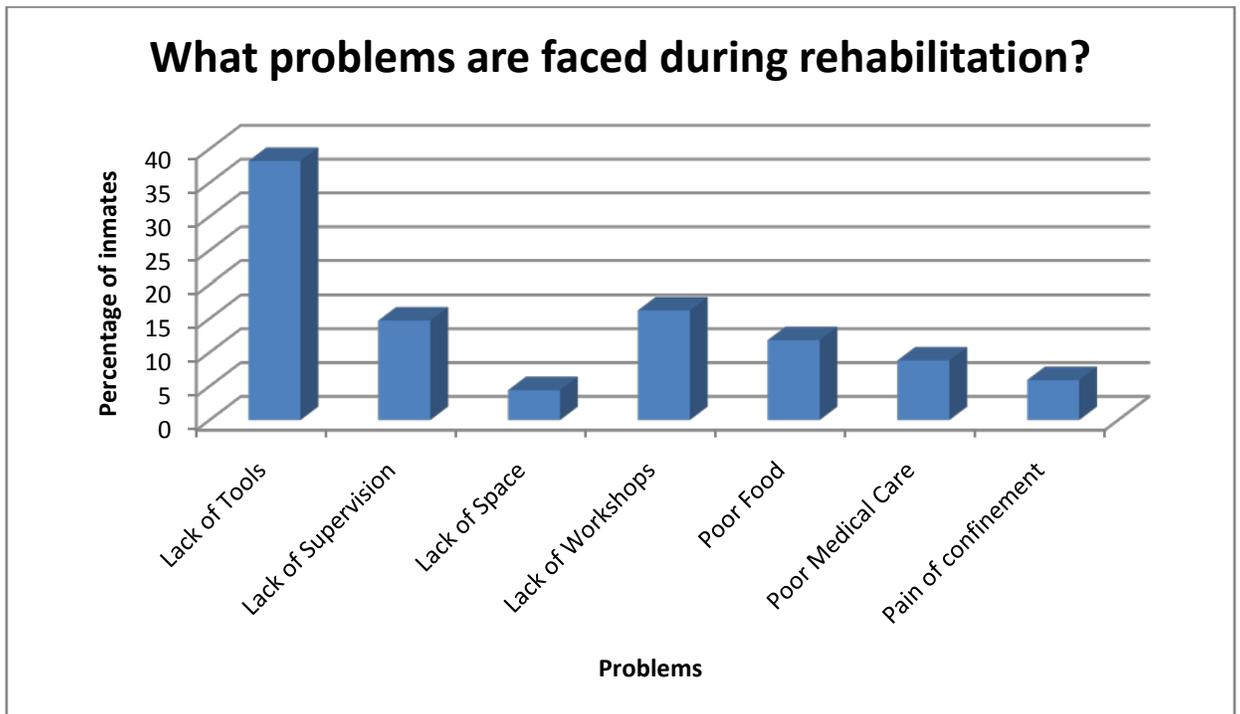
The next highest in the problem ranking is the lack of workshops. 16% of the inmates complained about the workshops. This results from the

dilapidated nature of the sheds used as workshops and the fact that those who learn basket weaving, chair weaving and mat weaving have no sheds for their activities and equipments.

Lack of supervision is a problem which is insignificant to the trainees as about 15% mentioned it. This is the result of some supervisors have to work as instructors to two or more fields since there are very few instructors. There is also the situation where some of the inmates who have completed their training act as instructors in some of the training fields.

Poor food, poor medical care, pain of confinement and the lack of space were mentioned by 11.8%, 8.8%, 5.9% and 4.4% of inmates respectively.

Figure 7: Problems inmates face during rehabilitation



4.9 Possible problems after discharge

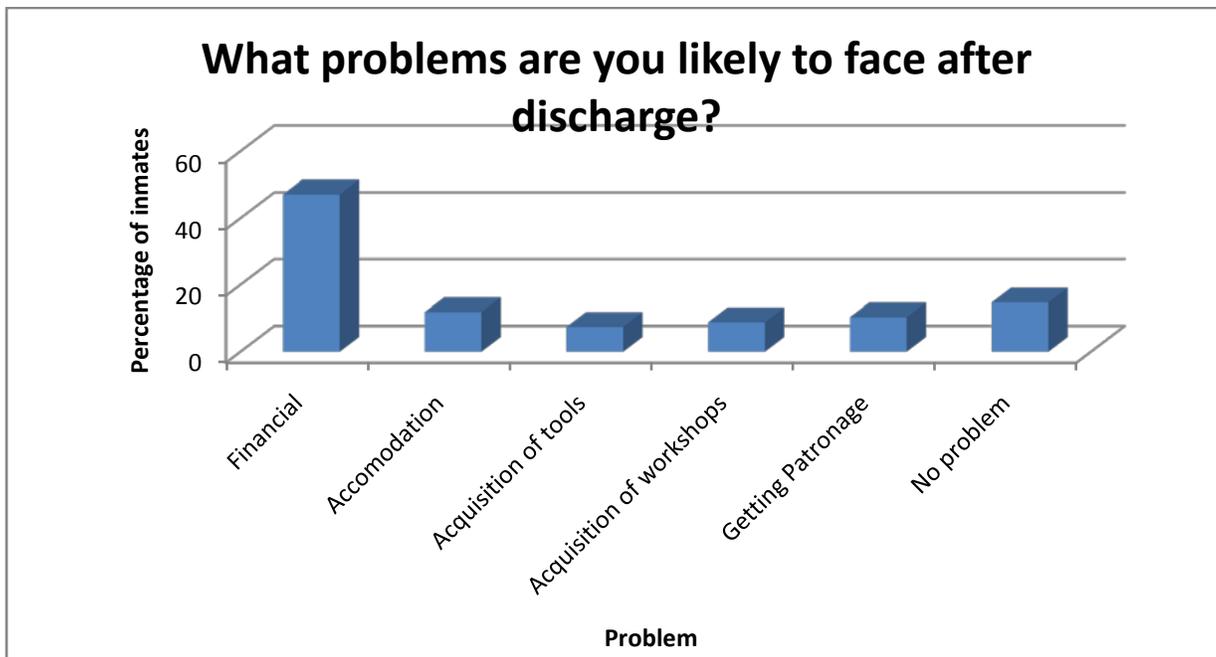
Almost half of the trainees (47%) reckoned financial problems after leaving since most of them have been in illegal jobs or no jobs at all. They anticipate to go back to their communities without hope of getting financial aid.

The problem of accommodation was also significant to the respondents. It is important to note that many of these people incarcerated have broken ties with their family. Consequently, 11.8% of the respondents envisage the problem of lack of accommodation.

To 10.3% of the respondents, the problem of getting patronage for their products was the most difficult. Some trainees think they cannot compete with those who have learnt similar skills outside the orison.

The problems of acquiring tools and workshops were relatively low among the respondents covering about 7.4% and 8.8% respectively. This points to the fact that inmates priority is not to settle on their skills learnt. Quite a significant number of inmates (14.7%) indicated that they will face no problem upon discharge.

Figure 8: Problems inmates are likely to face upon discharge



4.10 Suggested solutions to problems

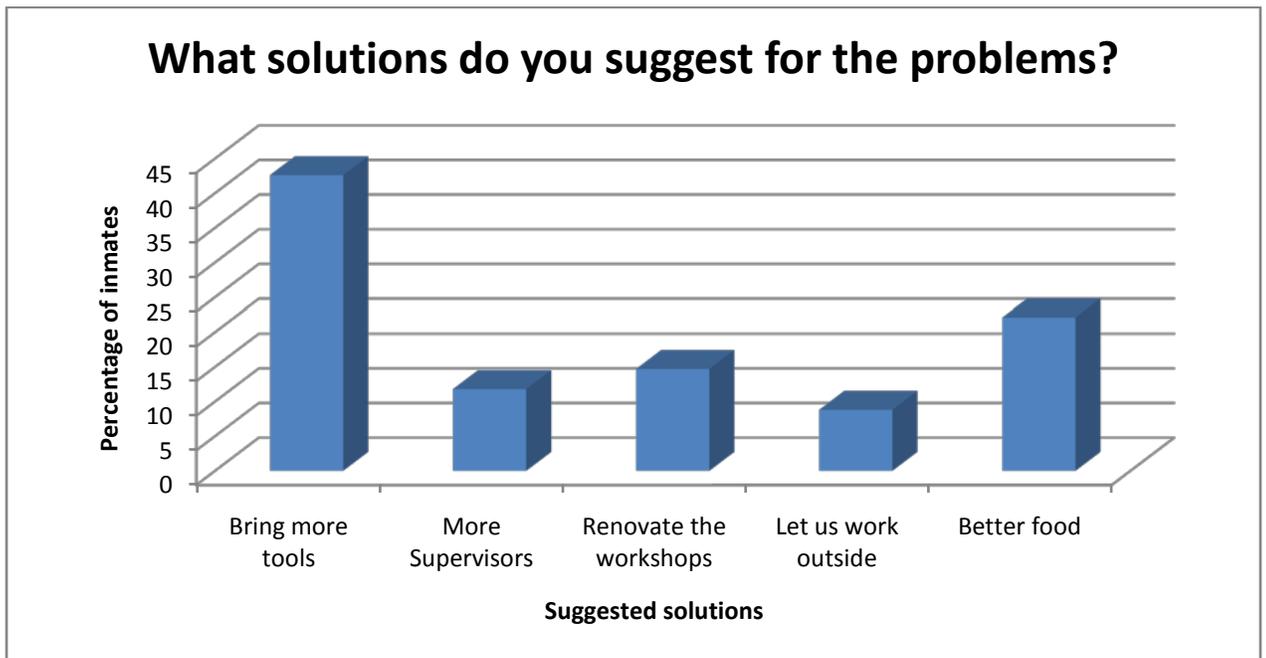
Almost half of the trainees (43%) thought the acquisition of more tools can solve the problems of rehabilitation in prison. This underlines the non-existence of tools needed for work in the workshops.

Interestingly, ranking second on the list of solutions suggested was better food. About 22% of the respondents thought the problems of rehabilitation can be solved if better food is provided. This depicts the seriousness of malnutrition in the prison.

Another 14.7 % of the inmates thought renovating the workshops could solve their problems encountered in rehabilitation. About 12% thought there is the need to get more instructors.

8.8% thought the problems of rehabilitation in prison could be solved if trainees are allowed to work outside prison. This is consistent with the contention earlier that confinement is not conducive to the process of vocational rehabilitation.

Figure 9: Suggested solutions to problems by inmates



4.11 Analysis of Data revealed the following findings:

About a third of trainee inmates (28%) had been unemployed before conviction and the occupations of inmates before conviction are completely different from those they chose as a vocation programme with the exception of masonry and metal works. This can be attributed to the fact that, some of

the trainee inmates with some skill wanted to acquire a new skill. Most trainee inmates who chose masonry and metal works were mostly apprentices in those fields but due to incarceration could not graduate from their desired fields so they took up the masonry and metal works vocational to complete the training as "prison graduates".

About half (48.5%) of inmates are recidivists with the multiple recidivists falling under the category of drug sellers and the unemployed. 60% and 16% of those under drug selling and unemployed respectively, had been previously convicted 3 or more times. In a related study conducted by F.K. Amanfri (1985) on thirty recidivists at Kumasi Central prison, he revealed that 70% acquired not much skill or no skill during their periods in prison and hence went back into crime. This problem can be attributed to the problems that the inmates face during the rehabilitation programmes (Figure 6). An interesting finding was that inmates stated lack of tools as the major problem hindering their rehabilitation programmes and the lack of workshops ranked second as their major problem and poor food ranked fourth as a major problem but during the suggestion to the problems, the provision of tools ranked as number 1 solution but interestingly the provision of better food ranked as the second best solution to their problems. Conditions in the prison are very poor and though some might say they do not have a choice, good food seemed to be on the mind of the trainee inmates. On occasional visits to the prison to conduct the study, prisoners kept requesting for food before they would take the interview.

Another point worth discussing was how the vocational training programme was chosen for inmates (Figure 5) and how the vocational training programme was chosen in relation to their period of incarceration. There is no well established process or mode by which vocational training is selected for inmates. Apart from the fact that 50% of inmates chose their own fields of training, the probation officers, the wardens, friends and parents were instrumental in choosing 27.9%, 11.8%, 7.4% and 2.9% of vocations respectively for inmates. A study by the Pakenham Committee (1961) suggested that offenders should be sentenced to institutions for longer periods to enable them benefit from the rehabilitation programme and before a sentence, some attempts should be made to assess the offenders' suitability for training; his need for capacity benefit from the training or programme established. Most of the inmates chose the training programmes themselves without any supervision and criteria. This study set out to find out the intensity of the training programme and an interesting finding was that inmates who were in prison for more than 6 years chose programme that were to be learnt for at least 2 years and hence the intensity of the programme is very low. Some inmates on the other hand chose training programmes that were to last much longer than their period of incarceration. It became obvious that some of the inmates do not understand the essence of the rehabilitation programme and chose it because they had to. Some inmates perceived the training programme as a punishment and could not wait to finish serving their sentence and return into the society.

Theft is the most common offence among inmates, representing over a third (35%) of offenses among inmates and this can be attributed to the fact that most of the trainee inmates were unemployed and some did not have stable jobs. White-collar offenses were almost non-existent with embezzlement representing only 3 of the offenders. Interestingly, the few inmates who have been incarcerated for these white-collar offenses like embezzlement and fraud have higher education qualification than the other inmates. It was a revelation to see inmates with diplomas and university degrees in the vocational training programme; but these inmates decided to join the vocational programme to while away the time and hope their sentence would end quickly. One of the objectives of this study is to assess the attitude of trainee inmates towards the vocational training. During the study, the impression got from the attitude of the inmates towards the training programme was that of time wasting. Most inmates just wanted to waste time so their sentence goes by quickly. It was however no surprise that a significant percentage of 30.9% when asked if they intended to use the training after prison answered no.

Majority of inmates (92.6%) are satisfied with the type of training they are undergoing. Out of the 68 inmates interviewed, 5 inmates did not like the training programme. When asked then why they are in the training programme, they just did it to waste time and some because they did not want to get into any trouble with the prison wardens. Another interesting point was that, though 7.4% do not like their training, 30.9 % do not intend to use their training after prison. It was quite intriguing that most of the

inmates were satisfied with their training yet they do not intend to use the training after prison. It was observed in this study that because of the lack of an orientation programme for inmates when they go into prison, they miss the whole objective of the rehabilitation programmes.

A significant number of trainee inmates (30.9%) do not intend to use their acquired skills. This was very disturbing during the study because government "invests" a lot of money to train inmates with vocations that will help them make a living after prison, yet most of these inmates do not intend to use it upon release. The question then is, what do they do after "graduating" from the prison vocational rehabilitation programme? According to Afari Danso (1995) in a post-release study of inmates, he revealed most inmates upon release do not wish to disclose their training because of the fear of losing their jobs if their employer found out they were in prison and other do not want to remember their prison career.

Financial problems and the problems of accommodations are those that prisoners envisage most after their discharge as they recorded 47.1% and 11.8% respectively among the inmates. Interacting the inmates, some of them disclosed that their families perceived them as disgrace and did not want anything to do with them; other, for the so many years they have been on prison, they have not had a visitor and hence did not know where to go after prison. Some inmates intended not to use their training after prison because they will not be able to afford accommodation and workshops to work. However, 10 inmates revealed they will not have any problem after

prison because they had family members to rely on and the highly educated ones hoped to get a job in their field of academic study and surprisingly some claimed they had some investments that they would rely on after prison.

CHAPTER FIVE: RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Mode of Selection

It has emerged from the study that there is no effective mode of vocation selection or a process by which the best possible vocational training is selected for an inmate as shown in Figure 5. Inmates upon the advice of fellow inmates, wardens or just by attraction to a particular vocation are at liberty to go into it. The implication is that such a spontaneous selection of vocation is highly likely to lead an inmate finding himself later on in the wrong training. Inmates might later find that they are not in the most suitable vocation as much as their abilities and situations are concerned.

In order to check such a haphazard way for selecting a vocation, the authorities within the Nsawam Prison must set up a career or vocation counseling committee made up of probation officers, wardens, training supervisors and some trained prisoners. This committee will help a convict choose a vocation taking into consideration factors such as past experience in any vocation, the length of incarceration, level of education and the general mental ability of the inmate.

5.2 Recidivism

The study showed that recidivism (48.5%) is very significant among the inmates in the Nsawam Prison; thus the trainee inmates spend time, energy and resources to learn their various vocations only to forget about

them and return to crime upon release. As a result, their training has not been beneficial but just a waste of national resources and efforts.

In order to prevent this half way effort which leads to nothing, there is the need for follow ups by probation officers and other prison social workers such as after-care agents to aid ex-convicts to settle on the vocations learnt or to help them circumvent obstacles that prevent them from using their acquired skills as a career. This can go a long way to reduce the urge to recidivate, if not eliminated completely.

5.3 Lack of resources

From the study, it has been apparent that lack of tools, workshops and instructors are problems militate against rehabilitation in prison to a large extent. The lack of tools, workshops and instructors will result in a tepid attitude towards learning and as a result the inmate might end up not having acquired any meaningful skill to enable him to compete with other tradesmen upon release.

The Nsawam Prison authorities through the Ministry of Interior must see the need to sensitize the general public of their situation so that government, non-government organizations and philanthropic groups or individuals may come to their aid. Proposals may also be submitted some of the mentioned entities for evaluation so that some money could be raised for workshops renovation and tools acquisition.

The Ministry of Interior must employ graduates from technical institutions to be attached to prisons where they will act as instructors in the various vocations.

5.4 Post-release of inmates

It was revealed in the study that the most pressing problems envisaged by inmates after leaving prison are finance and accommodation. Most convicts lose contact with their families. These factors combine put an inmate in a difficult financial position upon release and have nowhere to restart life.

To avert this problem, a system must be established where a percentage of proceeds from the inmate's products or services is kept on his behalf. The convict can therefore be settled on the cumulative amount of money made over the period in incarceration. This will to a considerable degree reduce the problems of accommodation and finance.

There were no records on the whereabouts of released inmates and hence the study could not interview ex-convicts who had been through the vocational rehabilitation programme. Government should invest in tracer and tracking studies where after convicts are released, their progress is monitored and help can be given accordingly.

5.5 Length of sentence and type of training programme

The study also revealed that the type of vocational training chosen is not chosen with the consideration of the length of incarceration or terms of imprisonment. This process will lead to either a situation where a training course might not be completed before discharge or a situation where a vocation is too simple to be learnt by a convict with a long sentence.

To put this problem in check, the probation officers and his team of counselors on vocational training must make it a priority to see to it that a chosen vocation is the most suitable for an inmate's term of imprisonment. Any match different from this must be disallowed to ensure an effective vocational training for inmates.

5.6 Limitations of the study

It was very difficult to find Ghanaian literature on the rehabilitation programmes in Ghanaian prisons. This was due to the lack of a database which contains such information. Therefore literature in this study was based on the ideas and philosophy of foreign criminologists whose literature were written in the mid 20th century along with some related research from other Ghanaians.

The data on which this study is based was collected at the Nsawam male prison. It was difficult sorting out records of inmates participating in the

rehabilitation programme among the total inmate's population since records were not separated.

It was difficult to interact with the inmates because of the rules and regulations which did not allow for a visitor to talk to any prisoner without an escort. Each interview was conducted in the presence of the Reception officer and some inmates were scared to answer questions which had to probably criticize the training programme.

Some inmates refused to come to the reception, thinking that it might be a policeman who might have come with another crime against them. With the help of the reception officer, most of the inmates were rounded up. After some level of rapport was established with the inmates, the criminal records officer explained the objective of the study to the inmates.

It was extremely difficult to interview the first few trainee inmates; especially when they realized this was an educational study for a Bachelor's degree. They demanded for incentives before they would participate in the study. Some demanded for mobile phone units, money, food and clothes. After some of these incentives were given to the inmates, then they provided relevant information to the study.

This study involved a lot of money, considering the amount of money spent on transportation from Accra to Nsawam and back during the period of the study; the amount of money spent on incentives to persuade inmates to provide relevant information for the study.

5.7 Conclusion

On the basis of the data analysis, the following conclusions were made:

The funds and facilities required to carry out the programmes designed were virtually absent. Rehabilitation programmes are not effective with the lack of logistics, expertise and fund to carry out the training programmes. The Ghana Prison Service is not self sufficient; it relies on the Ministry of Finance for its subvention. Without the required facilities, the Nsawam prison makes use of its limited facilities to rehabilitate inmates. Much would be achieved when the government gives serious attention to the rehabilitation sector of the service.

It was deduced that the sentence period of most of the inmates was too short to undergo some of the vocational training programmes. Inmates committed their crimes because of social and environmental factors and this should be considered before an inmate is put into ant training programme. Due to their short committal period, they do not get the required time to indulge in effective training. Rather inmates should be committed to a camp prison for longer period to enable them acquaint themselves fully with the training programmes existing in the prison.

When inmates are committed to prison, the aftercare agents and parole officers are to study and recommend various types of jobs and vocations the inmates are interested in and ask that they are placed in the that vocational training programme. The aftercare agents and prison officers

are to help the inmate find a place of accommodation and employment upon release. Persistent visits should be paid to the ex-convict and should be encouraged so as not to enter back into crime.

The prison lacked a competent counseling team could help reform inmates. Training of the inmates in the prison is centered mostly on the technical training but some counseling and talking to is also needed to help them psychologically.

The inmates supplies needs to be improved. The government subvention given for feeding inmates, providing clothing for domestic use and for health care delivery needs to be increased since it does not suffice the inmates. The pains of imprisonment coupled with their welfare problems do not encourage the inmates to actively participate in the training programmes. If inmates are made aware of why they are in prison and kept healthy at all times, it would help them adjust and participate fully in the training programmes.

The prison proved very effective in the maintenance and safe custody of inmates. The prison made available prison uniforms for inmates who went on outdoor duty, exposing and making society easily identify the inmates when escaping or engaging in anti-social act. The warden was severely punished if through their negligence, an inmate escaped, be it on outside duty or performing yard duties.

From the data collected and its analysis, in totality, the Ghana Prison Service has not achieved its objective of rehabilitating inmates at the

Nsawam Medium Security Prison. In sum, there is the need to review the rehabilitation programme to eliminate its shortcomings so as to get the programme rejuvenated, productive and worth running if it's main aim of reformation is to be achieved.

Analysis of data collected from Nsawam Prison showed that the rehabilitation is beleaguered with a number of problems ranging from the lack of personnel and other material inputs to the absence of appropriate procedures. The inadequacy of required tools, workshops and supervisors has been apparent in the data analysis.

These conditions have led to a situation whereby trainee inmates can hardly be given sufficient and adequate training and skill. The undeveloped tradesman upon discharge, in a state of acute financial difficulty find it impracticable to settle on mediocre skill. It comes then as no surprise that the rate of recidivism is high in the prison.

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Appendix 1- Interview questions

During the study, interviews were used to allow easy communication with inmates and effective collection of data. Some translation was needed to avoid ambiguity on the part of respondents.

Personal Information:

1. Age
2. Place of residence
3. Place of conviction; Region
4. Place of Birth; Region
5. Present offence
6. Term of imprisonment/ sentence
7. Number of previous convictions

Information in relation to Rehabilitation programmes:

8. Occupation before conviction
9. Type of vocational training
- 10.Length involved in the training
- 11.Mode of selection
- 12.Training times a week
- 13.Number of trainees involved in the vocational training
- 14.Are there enough tools?
- 15.Are the tools in good condition?
- 16.How many instructors per vocation?
- 17.Is the training effective?

18. Can you work on your own after prison?
19. Do you think your work can give you enough money?
20. Can you compete with other workers outside the prison?
21. What are the problems facing rehabilitation in prison?
22. What should the authorities do to make training efficient?
23. Do you intend to use your training after discharge?
24. What problems do you think you will face after prison?

Appendix 2 – occupation of inmates before conviction and the training pursued in prison (mode is highlighted in bold)

OCCUPATION BEFORE CONVICTION	TRAINING PURSUED IN PRISON											
		TAILORING	CHAIR WEAVING	BASKET WEAVING	METAL WORKS	MASONRY	CARPENTRY	SHOE MAKING	RADIO REPAIR	MAT WEAVING	KENT WEAVING	TOTAL
CART PUSHING			2	3								5
PORTING						5						5
DRIVING					3	2					2	7
MASONRY	3		3									6
DRUG SELLING	2				3							5
FARMING								2	3	3		8
UNEMPLOYED				3	2	2	3	3		3	5	21
WELDING/M ECHANIC						3						3
TRADING/HAWKING								3	3	2		8
TOTAL	5		5	6	8	12	3	8	6	8	7	68

%

OCCUPATION BEFORE CONVICTION	TRAINING PURSUED IN PRISON											
		TAILORING	CHAIR WEAVING	BASKET WEAVING	METAL WORKS	MASONRY	CARPENTRY	SHOE MAKING	RADIO REPAIR	MAT WEAVING	KENT WEAVING	TOTAL
CART PUSHING			40	50								7.4
PORTING						41.7						7.4
DRIVING					37.5	16.7					28.6	10.3
MASONRY	60		60									8.8
DRUG SELLING	40				37.5							7.4
FARMING								25	50	37.5		11.8
UNEMPLOYED				50	25	16.7	100	37.5		37.5	71.4	27.9
WELDING/M ECHANIC						25						7.4
TRADING/HAWKING								37.5	50	25		11.6
TOTAL	100		100	100	100	100.1	100	100	100	100	100	100
PERCENTAGE TOTAL	7.4		7.4	8.8	11.8	17.6	4.4	11.8	8.8	11.8	10.2	100

**Appendix 3- Number of previous convictions (recidivists)
and their occupation before conviction.**

OCCUPATION BEFORE CONVICTION										
NO. OF PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS	CART PUSHING	POTTER	DRIVER	MASONRY	DRUG SELLING	FARMER	UNEMPLOYED	MECH/WELDER	TRADER/HAWKER	TOTAL
1	2					5	9		3	19
2						3	5			8
3					3					3
4							3			3
FIRST OFFENDERS	3	5	7	6	2		2	5	5	35
TOTAL	5	5	7	6	5	8	19	5	8	68

%

OCCUPATION BEFORE CONVICTION										
NO. OF PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS	CART PUSHING	POTTER	DRIVER	MASONRY	DRUG SELLING	FARMER	UNEMPLOYED	MECH/WELDER	TRADER/HAWKER	TOTAL
1	40					62.5	47.4		37.5	27.9
2						37.5	26.3			11.8
3					60					4.4
4							15.8			4.4
FIRST OFFENDERS	60	100	100	100	40		10.5	100	62.5	51.5
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
PERCENTAGE TOTAL	7.4	7.4	10.3	8.8	7.4	11.8	27.9	7.4	11.8	100

Appendix 4- Sentence period and training pursued (mode is highlighted in **bold**)

	TAILORING	CHAIR WEAVING	BASKET WEAVING	METAL WORKS	MASONRY	CARPENTRY	SHOE MAKING	RADIO REPAIR	MAT WEAVING	KENT E WEAVING	TOTAL
UNDER 2 YEARS	2				5				3	2	12
2 TO 5 YEARS	3		3		3	3				5	17
6 TO 10 YEARS		3		5			8	6	3		25
11 TO 15 YEARS			3		2						5
16 TO 10 YEARS		2		3	2						7
20 +									2		2
TOTAL	5	5	6	8	12	3	8	6	8	7	68

	TAILORING	CHAIR WEAVING	BASKET WEAVING	METAL WORKS	MASONRY	CARPENTRY	SHOE MAKING	RADIO REPAIR	MAT WEAVING	KENT E WEAVING	TOTAL
UNDER 2 YEARS	40				41.7				37.5	28.6	17.6
2 TO 5 YEARS	60		50		25	100				71.4	25
6 TO 10 YEARS		60		62.5			100	100	37.5		36.8
11 TO 15 YEARS			50		16.7						7.4
16 TO 10 YEARS		40		37.5	16.7						10.3
20 +									25		2.9
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
PERCENTAGE TOTAL	7.4	7.4	8.8	11.8	17.6	4.4	11.8	8.8	11.8	10.2	10.0