



Socioeconomic Implications of Long-Term Incarceration in Nigeria Prisons

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Abstract

Governments all over the world are faced with the task of combating crime, a problem that has affected both modern and historical cultures. Offenders are imprisoned in response to crime for varying lengths of time in an effort, among other things, to rehabilitate them and turn them into law-abiding citizens. Long-term incarceration, though, has unexpected consequences. Analyzing the socioeconomic implications of long-term incarceration in Nigeria is the goal of this paper. The paper makes the case that recidivism and unforeseen socioeconomic consequences for the family, business, social ties, state resources, and way of life result from the long-term incarceration of criminals. It concludes that, in an effort to rehabilitate the offender through long-term incarceration, more adverse effects are caused on the prisoner, their family, the economy, and other members of society. The paper recommends, among other things, that parole be used rather than keeping offenders in prison for an extended amount of time.

Keywords: Crime; Long-term incarceration; Offenders; Prisons

Introduction

Crime is a problem that past and present societies have faced, and governments around the world continue to contend with the task of combating it (Jonathan, et al, 2021). By implication, every society is beset by some criminal activities that result in the victimization of members of the society. Globally, the rate of crime continues to surge (Hussain, 2014). Nigeria is one of the countries that have been experiencing increasing rate of criminal activities. The ranking of 142 countries according to the rate of crime in 2022 by Numbeo (2023) shows that Nigeria ranks 17 out of 142 countries with the highest rate of crime, while Venezuela, Papua New Guinea and Afghanistan ranked first, second and third respectively. Crime is associated with negative consequences. It causes financial and property loss, physical harm and emotional injury to the victims (Wasserman & Ellis 2010). It also constitutes impediment to socio-economic development (Osawe 2015; Tersoo & Terseer 2021).

Societies have reacted differently to crime. Pratyush (2020) documented the following societal reactions to crime. The first reaction is punitive and views criminals as villains that deserve punishment in order to protect society from them. Another reaction views criminals as sick



individuals that should be treated to cure their criminal tendencies. In this case, the target is to make the criminal a law-abiding person. There is also a preventive reaction whose target is to forestall crime by removing the factors that cause crime (Pratyush, 2020). The author noted that these approaches can run concurrently in a society. Upon conviction for criminal offence(s) committed, a sentence is pronounced. In other words, those who have been found guilty of committing crime are sentenced to one form of punishment or the other. A sentence therefore refers to the consequences of crime commission such as death penalty, imprisonment, fine, probation, among others, which someone who has been found guilty of crime is subjected to (Idem & Udofia, 2017).

Imprisonment as a form of punishment for crime has been practiced in Nigeria over the years. According to Alemika (1993), the rate of use of imprisonment as a sentence for criminal offences has been on the increase. Similarly, The Conversations (2022) reported that Nigeria had more than 76000 prisoners. Serving a long-term imprisonment portends a number of implications on the prisoner, the family of the prisoner, the government, and the society. The objective of this paper is to analyse the implications of long-term imprisonment in Nigeria.

The Sentence of Imprisonment in Nigeria

Retributivists and philosophers support imprisonment as a way to punish criminals and deter others. Inflicting pain on lawbreakers through incarceration is aimed at deterring offenders and would-be offenders from committing crime. Nigeria's traditional criminal justice system includes imprisonment (Obioha, 2002). In contrast to "incarceration," which refers to confinement, "prisonization" promotes living in prison. McCorkle and Korn (1954) defined imprisonment as a physical facility that houses people in highly specialized living conditions in a specific location. These people must use the resources they have and adapt to a unique social environment that differs from the rest of society. In all honesty, prisons and other total institutions have fundamental social and cultural traits that are absent from society. Prisons and other institutions share these traits. The prison community's district culture and way of life can change criminals' attitudes, depending on their experience and social network activity. Prison culture and routines help inmates adjust (Fasammi, 2015). Thus, its culture is constantly changing, with many value reorientations and internalizations. Every nation has a criminal justice system, including courts that impose imprisonment (Osondi & Obiozor, 2018). Since World War II, the number of prisoners worldwide has skyrocketed, though the rate of increase varies by country (Coyle et al., 2016). Thus, prisons deter and reform offenders. Even though some scholars disagree, imprisonment is a just punishment for crime. To fulfil the primary purpose of imprisonment, international law emphasizes rehabilitation and reintegration (Pratyush, 2020).

Imprisonment and similar measures reduce crime and recidivism. These goals can only be achieved if inmates use their time in prison to prepare for a law-abiding, financially independent life after release. Prisons and other competent authorities provide education, vocational training, and employment, along with other appropriate and available assistance, to achieve this goal. Corrective, moral, spiritual, social, health, and sports-related activities are provided. The inmates' therapeutic needs determine these programs, activities, and services (Tanimu, 2010). However,



there is less evidence that widespread imprisonment as a punishment has achieved its goal (Coyle et al., 2016). However, the global overuse and overreliance on imprisonment has led to a growing recognition that overcrowding and poor regimes in penal institutions have led to significant human rights violations, with prisoners enduring inhuman and degrading prison conditions without adequate access to basic services or rehabilitation programs tailored to their needs. This has raised awareness of significant human rights violations (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 2015). Many inmates are mistreated, which diminishes their humanity and worth (Coyle et al, 2016).

Three penal codes govern the Nigerian Correctional Service. These forms include the penal code and the accompanying Criminal Procedure Code cap 81 laws of the federation 1990 (CPC); the criminal code and the accompanying Criminal Procedure Act Cap 80 (CPA); and the Sharia Penal Legislation in 12 Northern States of Nigeria, applicable only to Muslims. The country has all these penal laws. Philosophically, the Nigerian prison service punishes adult criminals. Its importance is that it will reduce crime. The correctional service was based on an incarceration policy to govern inmates. Because of this constitutional function, Nigerian Correction operatives can keep convicted offenders in safe custody, awaiting trial inmates in custody, punish offenders as ordered by the courts, reform convicted prisoners, and rehabilitate and reintegrate prisoners who have served their sentences (Osondi & Obiozor, 2018).

Prisons aim to rehabilitate and correct criminals. This is the primary objective of the establishment of correctional centres. Concerns have been raised about the practicability of this plan. In Nigeria, there are several instances in which prisons have taken on the role of a training ground for criminals rather than a place of rehabilitation (Obioha, 1995). Accordingly, the population that enters and exits the system reveals that the same issues exist inside it; as a result, the correctional system has not been able to live up to the standards that were set for it (Osawe 2015). The fact that the Nigerian Correctional Service has not had a good influence on the lives and careers of convicts has led to questions about the system's operations and existence, which have not yet been answered in their entirety. The hopes are that this will change in the future. In Nigeria, sending criminals to prison does not satisfy because they are likely to become harder after serving time (Nwosuji, 2015). All of the prisons' operational components are now in disrepair, which has a detrimental impact on efforts to keep the overall structure of the correctional system intact (Adeyemi, 2015). The final consequence of the whole procedure is paradoxically meant to have the opposite effect due to the structure of the Nigerian correctional system. It is ideal to treat inmates with human dignity so that they may eventually be prepared to make a significant contribution to the growth of a country.

Imprisonment for discipline came from the white man (Adeyemi, 2015). If well managed with a focus on human rights, it is better than the crude punishments of the past, which saw offenders beheaded, stoned, burned alive, exiled, flogged, publicly disgraced, fined, impaled, maimed, or ostracized depending on the offense. Still, it's expensive (Adeyemi, 2015). Thus, one 1985 prison reform proposal was that Nigeria's prisons were too expensive for the public (Nwosuji, 2015). Consequently, this is the case because, in addition to the enormous financial burden imposed on the Federal Government by the money paid for by taxpayers, inmates are forced



to endure circumstances that are inhumane and unjust. They are coerced into splitting up with members of their family, having their means of subsistence taken away, and other such things (Adeyemi, 2015). Accordingly, imprisonment makes human beings more susceptible to experiencing emotional, economical, psychological, and social deprivations. Human being loses some of their humanity when they are imprisoned (Adeyemi, 2015). It is a far more serious matter when, in addition to the many drawbacks of imprisonment, fundamental liberties are also violated. This amounts to an even bigger violation of justice.

Challenges Confronting Nigerian Correctional Service

Since its founding, the Nigerian Correctional Service has faced poor funding, congestion, archaic structures due to lack of maintenance culture, lack of correctional and rehabilitative infrastructure, corruption, defects in prison laws, and fewer prisons in a country with a large population and rising crime rate (Osondi & Obiozor, 2018). The challenges mostly come outside the prisons, although there are some cases within the prison premises. Police and courts leave various criminals at the gate, who must be segregated by the prisons, whether digestible or indigestible (Osondi & Obiozor, 2018). For instance, if authorities catch teenage gang members, the prison will endure drug trafficking, brutal conflict, and intimidation of non-affiliated convicts. If mental patients are arrested for disturbing the peace or bothering neighbours, the prison will face more mental health difficulties such as arranging for psychiatric care and enforcing prison regulations on inmates with shoddy housekeeping, suicide attempts, or unprovoked attacks (McCann, 2014). Since independence, Nigeria has had overcrowded prisons and inefficient, outdated prison rules that do not reflect the goals of incarceration (Etudaiye, 2016). Accordingly, inmates' health and prison structures suffer from financing issues with decades of declining funding and expanding prisoner populations. This has damaged prison food and housing conditions. Some senior prison administrators corruptively embezzle federal funding (Ojo & Okunola, 2014). Accordingly, Nigerian prisoners are malnourished. Their diet includes parboiled beans and garri, boiling cassava and palm oil, insipid, watery soups without meat or fish and soaking garri and sugar. Hence, malnourished prisoners cannot escape, fight, or attack prison officials. The Nigerian Law Reform Commission (2009) found that prisoners eat low-quality, irregular, and small meals. Tanimu (2010) estimates that Nigerian prisoners spend \$10, 80023 on food annually. Most Nigerian prisoners are hungry and may be harmed. This is frightening for 75,000 prisoners. Nigerian prison meals are poor and nutritionally deficient, leaving inmates malnourished, belligerent, and hostile.

Lack of motivation and incentive demotivates low-ranking prison workers who watch while senior officials steal their money (Nigerian Law Reform Commission, 2009). This demoralizes the personnel, who extort money from convicts via visiting family and friends. Federal officials have also ignored Nigeria's prisons, causing a lack of financial assistance that has been a topic of prison reforms for decades which has prevented Nigerian prisons from meeting international standards (Olugasa, 2013). Accordingly, government and prison workers consider convicts a burden which results in inadequate finance, hampering human resource development and prison administration. Even in the female prison wing, overcrowding and dilapidation foster



poor hygiene which endangers prisoners' health, particularly the children of female detainees. According to Alemika (1993), 100 people in a space built for four would reduce oxygen and increase carbon dioxide. Microbes flourish in warm, damp settings, causing illnesses. Without blankets, inmates sleep on broken cement floors. Female convicts lack detergents, soaps, disinfectants and toilet paper, among others. The prison's poor conditions imperil employees and prisoners. Convicts are rising without money or facility upgrades (McCann, 2014). Only Lagos Prisons have been rebuilt; the colonial-era buildings remain unchanged (Nwosuji, 2015). Accordingly, some prison fields where additional development would have been done are used as farmlands for prison personnel, who use inmates as beasts of burden without payment, which increases inmates' dissatisfaction. Even though prison warders give visiting relatives tokens, such work is not paid to help convicts buy food and sanitary products. Increasing agricultural growth and convict work ethic is difficult.

Overcrowding is one of the largest issues confronting prison systems and its consequences may be life-threatening or hinder prisoners from doing their job. Over 118 nations' prisons are overcrowded, with 11 more than twice their capacity (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2015). Overcrowding is a result of criminal justice policies, not growing crime rates. It weakens prisons' capacity to provide healthcare, food, and housing and hinders rehabilitation, education, vocational training and enjoyment (Alemika, 1993). Accordingly, pre-trial detention and incarceration for minor offences are major prison population generators. Overcrowding and associated issues including lack of privacy may cause or aggravate mental health issues and increase aggression, self-harm, and suicide (Etudaiye, 2016). Corruption and weak governance by politicians cause Nigeria's high crime rate triggered by high unemployment rates which frustrate the youth. The prison buildings are not growing to house the many detainees while the courts are slow to provide justice. While insane individuals are housed in the same jail despite being a risk to others, inmates lack appropriate ventilation. Insane convicts committed for safekeeping may pose a menace to the whole prison population, including personnel (Etudaiye, 2016). This is unfair to inmates facing sentencing as well as other inmates who are presumed innocent by the Constitution. The current Nigerian prisons were created under British colonial rule and were designed for a few convicts since the population and crime were lower. However, most prisons are outdated and antiquated. For instance, Shagamu Prison was constructed for 49 but held 117 in January 1983. Similarly, Nigeria's 48 prison centres hold 70,000 more convicts than authorized (Onyekachi, 2016). Accordingly, half of this amount is serving criminal convictions, less than half is awaiting trial, and a minor fraction are debtors held for civil offences. Some detainees have been awaiting trial longer than they would have served their sentences if convicted (Ojo & Okunola, 2014). As indicated before, the Nigerian court favours incarceration above alternative sentences. Some convicts' crimes are too minor to warrant jail time. Road traffic offences, petty thefts and contempt, among others, are not sometimes addressed with non-custodial measures like probation, community service and suspended sentences. These add to the prison's population, overcrowding it. Overcrowded prisons violate international norms because convicts are often locked up without class, crime level, sex, or age separation due to a lack of room and staff. Thus, individuals awaiting trial are intermingled with criminals. Inmates are not adequately classified owing to congestion;



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minors are thrown alongside adults, and pregnant women, nursing mothers, and toddlers are sometimes jumbled together without sufficient care. Ayade (2010) noted that different categories of prisoners were locked up for long hours without recreation, infectious convicts were routinely locked up alongside healthy ones and poor lighting and ventilation were peculiar to many Nigerian prisons. Prisoners increase population. Nigerian prisons' pre-trial prisoners, inadequate housing, and space constraints have harmed some inmates' mental and physical health. Nigerian prisons lack medical care, so inmates' health needs are neglected. HIV/AIDS, dysentery, and cholera spread in Nigeria's filthy prisons. Prisoner mental illness is rising and Nigerian prisoners lack mental treatment (Omorotionwman, 2015). Overcrowding has caused rape, sodomy, other sexual exploitation, and warden confrontations, which lead to jailbreak, riot, and prison escape (Omorotionwman, 2015; Ayade, 2010). In all prisons, inmates are denied privacy and confined in cells without essentials. Many Nigerian prisons abuse pre-trial detainees, most of whom are low-level criminals.

Human rights activists and scholars condemn imprisonment and demand alternatives in Nigeria's criminal justice system because of the 21st century's poor prisoner welfare and inhumane treatment. The lack of fundamental prison infrastructure has rendered the prison system's reformatory function in the nation extremely insufficient (Obioha, 2002). Several writers have made similar assertions concerning terrible prison sanitary facilities. According to them, portable water is scarce and sanitary facilities are outdated or in disrepair. Inmates defecate and bathe with others without amenities (Omorotionwman, 2015; Ayade, 2010). The United Nations' minimum standard regulations for incarceration are ignored owing to a shortage of facilities. Also, Nigerian inmates are sexually abused, which traumatizes and harms them. The Nigerian jail is infamous for male and female prisoner violence and sexual abuse (Nwosuji, 2015). Rape leads to venereal illnesses, self-violence and suicide, depression, drug use, etc. This is one of Nigeria's prison's awful conditions. In Nigerian jails, drug abuse is common. Alcohol and drug-related crime cause this.

The lack of correctional and skill-acquisition infrastructures has turned many jails into places where convicts waste away (Ahire, 1990). Few centres have infrastructures, but they are poor, outdated, and crumbling. Pre-independence Colonial Administrations and Native Authorities established most prisons (Alemika, 1993; Ayade, 2010). The structures constructed by the Federal Government after independence are below the international level, others are in disrepair and little or no attempt has been made to renovate them (Ayade, 2010). Most Nigerian jails lack social facilities (Tanimu, 2010). This has led to scathing descriptions of many jails' infrastructure. Obioha (1995) called Nigerian prisons terrible, hopeless, and demeaning. In Nigerian prisons, the lack of social facilities causes constant social conflict. Most facilities' physical infrastructure is dilapidated. Imprisonment in Nigeria violates human rights and is costly, overused, and ineffective in reforming, rehabilitating, and reintegrating convicts. Tanimu (2010) discovered that lengthier jail terms promote recidivism and reported that most Nigerian prisons lack the components for correction and rehabilitation due to limited food, housing, and clothes for convicts. This is indicative that prison reformatory and rehabilitative principles in Nigeria are unachievable owing to the return of most convicts to a society lacking the skills needed for lawful reintegration.

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Unnecessary pre-trial imprisonment of defendants is another horrible Nigerian practice. In Nigeria, it is usual to see fewer convicted than jailed without trial or awaiting trial. More than 65% of Nigerian prisoners are in pre-trial custody (Ayade, 2010). This is against Tokyo Rules (Rule 6.1) and Principle 36(2) of the “Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons Under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment”, which states that people should be allowed to go about their daily lives and should not be imprisoned until their cases are resolved. It also states that pre-trial detention should only be used as a last resort in criminal cases, taking into account the investigation of the alleged crime and the needs of society. In recent years, the global tendency has been to seek alternatives to jail as a method of social control to minimize needless incarceration. Many nations, notably in the west, are introducing pre-trial, sentencing, and early-release alternatives to incarceration. According to these beliefs, imprisoning vulnerable people, especially those accused of minor offences, is unproductive (UNODC, 2015).

Theoretical Framework

According to Sherman (2002), the rehabilitation theory focuses on the transformation of individuals to help them stop their criminal behavior upon release from custody and return to society so they can play a more positive role in the society (Elrod & Ryder, 2005). The main proponent of this theory, Jean Hampton, believes that the goal of the criminal justice system should be treatment and correction (Ugwuoke 2014). The premise behind rehabilitation is that people are not born criminals and that it is possible to return a criminal to a productive life in which they may make good contributions to their own and society's growth. The perception that the primary objective of the criminal justice system is rehabilitation, in this regard is predicated on the idea that people can be helped to stop committing crimes. In the first part of the 20th century, rehabilitation was a key component of the criminal justice system. Rehabilitation programmes for the inmates lost popularity in the 1970s and 1980s but has recently earned it back. A wide range of programs are included in rehabilitation, including treatments for mental health, drug misuse, and education. Moreover, specialty programs have been created for women, those convicted of sex offenses, and those under parole supervision. Rehabilitation theory posits that criminality is societal. That is, individuals commit crimes as a result of poor economic conditions, drug abuse, and harmful societal factors, among others. Therefore, correctional centres should be used to teach criminals new skills, deal with their addictions, and demonstrate to them the repercussions of their actions by listening to the stories of the victims (Ugwuoke 2014).

From the foregoing, rehabilitation paradigm argues that criminal activity is caused, and not a conscious decision. If crime were the result of free will, there would be nothing that could be corrected or changed about certain people. Since variety of factors are responsible for criminal activity, reoffending should be decreased if correctional treatments can change these causes and the ways in which they have affected offenders. For instance, if associations with delinquent peers lead young people to adopt crime-promoting views, redirecting young people to different peer groups and challenging these beliefs can prevent their relapse into criminal conduct. Offenders can be corrected using the medical approach of treating patients. When someone is physically ill, the illness's root causes are identified and treated. Because each person's medical issues may be



unique, the therapy will also be unique. So, individuals with the same ailment may receive various medications and have varying hospital stays based on their specific circumstances (e.g., age, prior health). In the case of criminals, causes must be identified, and therapies must be tailored to the individual.

Socioeconomic Implications of Long-Term Incarceration

The purpose of incarceration is to reform the offenders and make them law-abiding, useful citizens. Long-term incarceration of offenders, on the other hand, has unintended socioeconomic consequences for the family, economy, social relationships, state resources, and livelihood. It also has recidivist implications. These implications are discussed below.

Family: Long-term incarceration of offenders implies that the prisoner will remain disconnected from their families throughout the period of incarceration. There are a number of implications that this disconnection portends. It jeopardizes the adequate socialization of the children. The role of the family in the socialization process is quite essential (Mmahi, 2022). In the family, the father, mother, and other adult members of the family undertake the task of socializing the younger ones. The unavailability of any of these individuals, especially the parents, implies that there would be lapses in the socialization of the young. For instance, gender roles are learned from both parents. If either parent is incarcerated for an extended period of time, the children will be deprived of adequate socialization. Also, incarcerating the family breadwinner for a long period of time would expose other members of the family to lack and want. In this case, women and children are mostly affected, owing to the patriarchal nature of African societies, where the responsibility of meeting the material needs of the family is assigned to the men on the one hand and the dependency of the children on the other. It is worth noting that in patriarchal African societies, women are assigned domestic chores, making them economically dependent on men whose responsibility it is to provide the material needs of his family. If the man is incarcerated, those depending on him might suffer untold hardship. There are also situations where a family member other than the father or mother is the family breadwinner. Long-term incarceration of such persons, for whatever reasons, could render the entire family economically helpless for a period of time.

The Economy: The economy of a country thrives as a result of the citizens of that country engaging in economic activities. By virtue of the exclusion of incarcerated persons from economic activities, the economically productive population of the country decreases. By implication, long-term incarceration adversely affects the productivity and gross domestic product of the country, especially if many people are spending many years of their lives in custody (Mmahi, 2022). Some or many of those facing long-term incarceration might possess skills, experiences, and talents that are needed for economic growth and development. The implication of long-term incarceration in this regard is that these skills, experiences, and talents remain unutilized throughout the period of incarceration (Etudaiye, 2016). On the one hand, incarceration tends to prevent different sectors of the economy, where these potentials are needed, from utilizing them. On the other hand, it prevents members of the public from being trained by those who are serving a long jail term.



Livelihood: Those who have spent a long time in prison stand the risk of losing their livelihood and consequently living in destitution after release from custody. It is worth noting that these people might have had thriving business ventures or a profitable career prior to incarceration. It is unlikely that the business venture of a sole proprietor who has spent a long time of their lives in custody will still exist or thrive when they are eventually released. Similarly, an employee who is incarcerated for an extended period of time is unlikely to be accepted back into the organization where they previously worked. As a result of these, the affected individuals would be destitute upon their release from incarceration. In these cases, they would suffer the unpleasant living experiences associated with destitution, such as homelessness, hunger and malnutrition, lack of access to healthcare services, and education, among others. It therefore suffices to say that long-term incarceration is a precursor to destitution and its accompanying challenges (Omorotionwman, 2015).

State Resources: According to Udejaja (2019), the Nigerian government spends a huge amount of money on a daily basis to feed prison inmates. Many of the inmates in these centers are awaiting trial and have spent a long time in the center without trial (Orjiakor, et al 2017). Keeping convicted and awaiting trial inmates in custody for a long period of time has huge financial implications. Resources that could have been used to develop other sectors of the economy are used to run correctional facilities, while these sectors are underfunded.

Recidivism: Long-term incarceration exposes inmates to many criminals in prison. As they interact within the prison environment, teaching and learning of criminal skills and techniques take place. Spending a significant amount of time in a correctional facility would thus provide an opportunity for inmates to learn criminal skills and techniques from a variety of more skilled criminals with whom they would come into contact during their incarceration. There is a likelihood that this would result in recidivism. As previously stated, long-term incarceration may result in the loss of one's livelihood and the attendant destitution. If this occurs, the individual might resort to economic or financial crime to meet their material needs, having learned more criminal techniques from other inmates with whom they have spent sufficient time interacting. This would defeat the purpose of incarceration, one of which is to reform the offenders and turn them into useful, law-abiding citizens (Orjiakor, et al 2017).

Social Relationships: According to News in Health (NIH) (2017), studies have found that a variety of social relationships have health benefits. Social relationships also help individuals to get social support, encouragement, and material benefits, among others. However, those who have been incarcerated for a long time might experience a loss of social relationships and connections that were formed prior to incarceration, including a possible break in their marital relationship. It has been found that ex-convicts are stigmatized by members of society (Salihu, 2018). Long-term incarceration could, therefore, be a precursor to loneliness and its associated consequences.

Conclusion

This paper analysed the socioeconomic implications of long-term incarceration in Nigeria. The paper argues that recidivism and unforeseen socioeconomic consequences for the family, business, social ties, state resources, and way of life result from the long-term incarceration of



criminals. It concludes that, in an effort to rehabilitate the offender through long-term incarceration, more adverse effects are caused on the prisoner, their family, the economy, and other members of society

Recommendations

The paper recommends as follows:

1. Parole should be used rather than keeping offenders in prison for an extended amount of time.
2. Rather have one bread winner, family members should be involved economic activities in order not to be stranded due to the unavailability of a bread winner.
3. To discourage recidivism, resources should be made available to ex-prisoners to start a new livelihood upon release from prison

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