RECIDIVISM AS A SOCIAL PHENOMENON: A STUDY OF THE TAMALE CENTRAL PRISON AND THE COMMUNITIES IN TAMALE

BY

AHMED MOHAMMED (B.A. HONS)

KNUST

Thesis submitted to the Department of Sociology and Social Work, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of

MASTER OF ART IN SOCIOLOGY

Faculty of Social Sciences

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis is as a result of my own research work towards the award of Master of Arts in Sociology and that, to the best of my knowledge, it contains no previously published material by another person nor material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree of the university, except where due acknowledgement has been made in the text.

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Ahmed Mohammed
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Mr. Kwadwo Ofori-Dua ..... Signature

20/01/12 ..... Date

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Head of Department,
Sociology and Social Work

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20/01/12 ..... Date

ABSTRACT

The study assessed the causal variables of recidivism from October 2009 to May 2010. The Tamale Central Prison houses some of the dangerous criminals capable of breaking jail on several occasions resulting in the emergence of recidivism with its accompanying problems. The study achieved the following objectives: it examined the role of the prison as rehabilitation center, ascertained the level of social integration of ex-convicts, found out whether improper rehabilitation of ex-convicts, stigmatization against ex-convicts, society's inability to reintegrate ex-convicts and unemployment faced by ex-convicts really contributes to recidivism and recommended strategies aimed at solving the problems. Sample, which comprised 20 recidivists, 30 prison officials and 400 respondents from the public, was drawn for data collection. The study was a social survey with data collection tools such as questionnaires and interviews. The key findings were that, both the prison and members of society contributes to recidivism. Finally recommendations were made based on the findings in the fifth chapter which if adopted by policy makers and planners could help reduce the magnitude of the problem if not its total eradication. It was generally recommended that recidivists should be given long prison sentence terms and members of society refraining from stigmatization against ex-convicts.

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I am also indebted to the officials of Ghana Prisons Service, both, in Accra and in Tamale, especially the Director of Prisons, by whose permission I entered the Tamale Central Prison for the study. Mr. Simon Abofra and Mr. Quarshie whose advice during the study cannot be overemphasized. My profound gratitude also goes to my dear father and mother Alhaji Ahmed Alhassan and Mama Salma for their immeasurable sacrifices towards my education and finally to my entire friends I say a big thank you.

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To Dakpema, the chief of Tamale and his divisional chiefs and opinion leaders in the Tamale metropolis, I say big thanks for the assistance extended to me. To the research assistance my sincere gratitude to you for the immense role you have played in the research.

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my beloved Parents, my siblings, the family members, Ummul Kussum and other reliable friends for the support and encouragement they gave me during this research.

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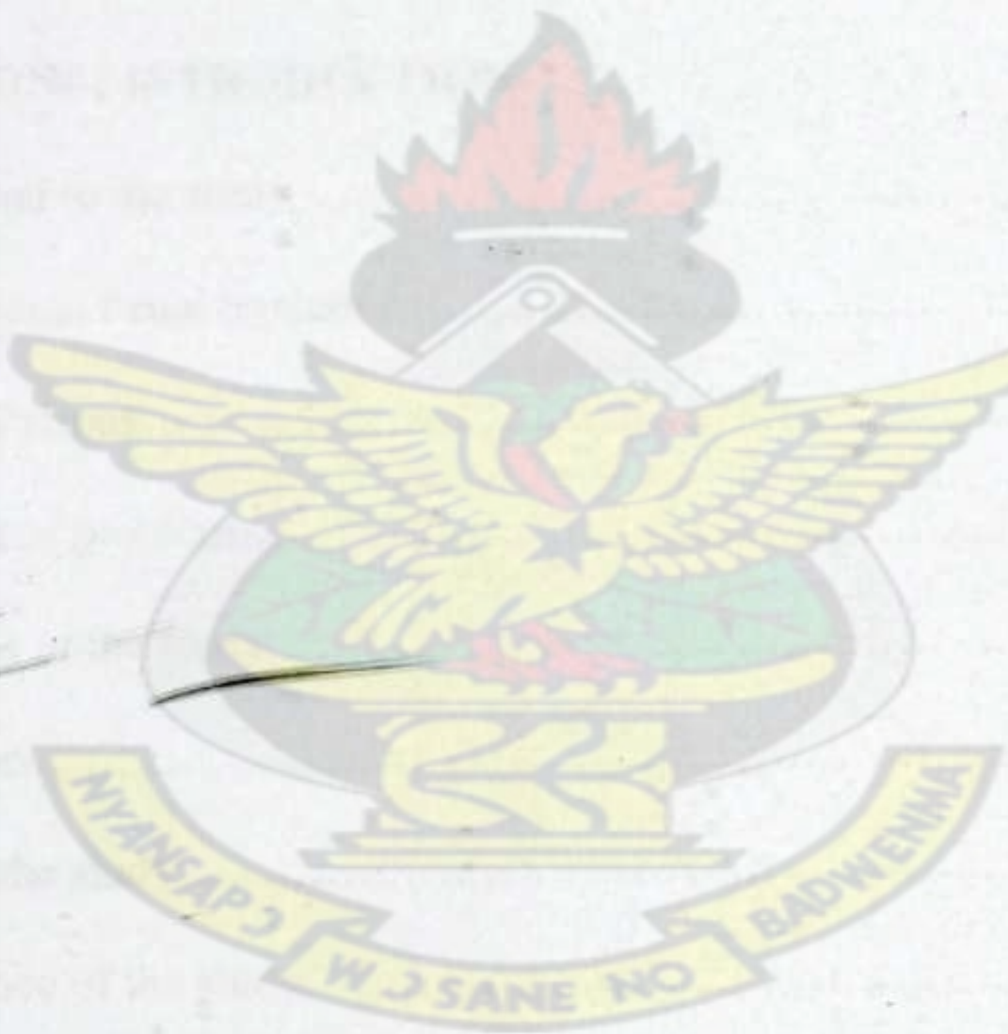

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

Recidivism as a social phenomenon brings into sharp focus the very core of our being as individuals, as family members, as community members, as citizens of countries and as members of human race. It also evokes different emotions and reactions from people. Of course, when we talk about recidivism, we remember the criminal justice system; we think of crime and poverty due to unemployment of recidivists, we also think of governmental policies on rehabilitation of offenders and of prison overpopulation (Agomo, 2009). This suggestion serves to remind us, yet again, that recidivism which is as a result of crime and deviance is a social construct. Escalating imprisonment rates have resulted in increasing numbers of released prisoners and fewer available resources for facilitating their reintegration into mainstream society (Petersilia, 2001, cited in Criminology research findings. 2004). This contributes to variety of social and economic problems for both society and the released prisoners, and it culminates into rates of recidivism such that 67% of prisoners released in 1994 committed a new crime within three years of release (Langman and Levin, 2002 cited in Criminology Research Findings. 2004).

Large-scale imprisonment is fairly a recent phenomenon and prisons only became a structured form of punishment in the 18th century. Heslin suggested that, if the criminal justice system seeks to rehabilitate people, its recidivism rate shows how inadequate it is. Prisons not only fail to rehabilitate, they seem to have become criminal schools. The more often that someone has been put in prison, the greater that person's chance of going

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back to prison, (Heslin, 2000, p.173). The term recidivism is most frequently used in conjunction with criminal behaviour.

Brym (2003) indicated that, some people still take a benign view of prisons, even seeing them as opportunities for rehabilitation. Brym explained further that, people believe that prisoners, while serving in time, can be taught how to be productive citizens upon release, but this seems to be failing since the issue of recidivism is becoming a major problem in our communities. Appadurai identified a number of certain "cultures" that are at least potentially autonomous, transcends national boundaries and exist globally, (cited in Ritzer, 2000 pp. 435). Recidivism can be likened to this since it also transcends national boundaries and exists globally.

1.2 THE GHANAIAN PENAL SYSTEM

The development of the penal system in the country can be traced from the colonial era. About four (4) stages have been identified.

According to Plange (1987), the first stage of the penal system in Ghana was during the period of the colonial administration when out of the need of the colonial governors to stamp their authority in the southern sector of the country, the penal law was developed to deter the trouble makers and warlike tribes of the interior. During the governorship of George MacLean for example, about one hundred and twenty-nine (129) prisoners were incarcerated in Cape Coast prison which happens to be the first prison in Ghana. The prisoners were exploited to build roads for the country but were also allowed to earn

money through handicrafts of blacksmiths and furniture of carpenters sold to the public. The role of the penal system during this period was custodial.

The second stage of the development of the penal system as indicated by Plange occurred in the second half of the nineteenth (19th) century where prisons by an act of Government were referred to as "institutions of refined torture". This was because as the penal system spread to the entire southern part of the country, methods were adopted to avoid overcrowding because of lack of space and personnel to manage prison inmates. This overcrowding was to be avoided by shorter and sharp punishments such as adopting of whipping and short sentencing such as unremitting, exhausting, physical work and minimum diet, design to make prison life unbearable. From the above illustrations, it can be seen that, at this stage, the role of prisons was deterrent as well as punitive in intent (Plange, 1987).

Plange also identified the third stage of the development of the penal system in the colonial era when prisoners in Ghana were industrialised. According to Plange, it was felt at this stage that prisoners were the necessary adjunct to the Government. The prison constituted a reserve pool of inexpensive labour for Government. Plange also argued that growth in revenue from this sector to Government rose from four hundred and thirteen (413) pounds in 1904 to two thousand six hundred and ninety-three (2693) pounds in 1908 (Plange 1987). Hereafter a philosophy of reform arose as a further justification for the prison industry. In 1907, the Government employed mechanical instructors to train inmates and the prison industry began to serve a twofold purpose of; service to the public and teaching prisoners a trade which would be useful to them on discharge (Ibid).

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In 1927, Governor Guggisberg observed that, the cardinal objective of the Gold Coast prisons was to be reformatory rather than punitive. In 1951, the McCarthy commission, which was constituted to look into the conditions of prisons in the Gold Coast, reported to parliament and strongly recommended the construction of a new central prison. It was completed during Dr, Kwame Nkrumah's regime in 1961 and this really eased overcrowding considerably (Plange 1987).

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The fourth stage in the development of the penal system in the country as Plange indicated occurred after the colonial administration. The role of prisons continues to be custodial and reformative or rehabilitative. The prisons continued to be housed in the old fortresses and the castles which were not particularly designed as prisons. The prisons at Winneba, Cape Coast, Anomabu, James Fort and Ussher Fort fall into this category. Those located in Kumasi, Sekondi, Nsawam, Koforidua and those up north were not housed in forts and castles.

National Redemption Council (NRC) decree 46 and Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC) law 42, sections 29-30 outlined the role of the Ghana's Prisons Services as follows; safe custody and welfare of prisoners as well as reformation and rehabilitation of prisoners whenever possible. The above functions of the prisons have four (4) main aims and objectives.

(1) **INCAPACITATION AND SECURITY**- this function of the prisons in Ghana aims at rendering prisoners incapable of causing harm to society and thus ridding society of the activities of habitual criminals.

(2) **RETRIBUTION**- imprisonment is meant to serve as punishment for offenders. This function is based on the principle of personal responsibility.

(3) **DETERRENCE**- this function follows from retribution. For it is expected that, if an offender is adequately punished for his or her wrongs, he or she will refrain from the same offences and other future ones. Again when other people witnessed the sufferings of offenders, they might be frightened away from breaking the law.

(4) **TREATMENT/REFORMATION AND REHABILITATION**- this is the most important function as far as modern trends of imprisonment is concerned and it happens to be the most difficult in view of the scarce resources of the service. Also the principle of retribution (punishment) has been found to be incompatible with reformation. For this reason, many of our prisons today are not adequately equipped to perform this function effectively.

1.3 TYPES OF PRISONS IN GHANA

According to Plange, prisons in Ghana are classified into central, local and female prisons. All the central prisons in Ghana apart from those at Ankaful, Nsawam and Navrongo are located in the regional capitals. Security in these types of prisons is maximum or near maximum. Plange also points to the fact that; the layout of these prisons is such that they can take more prisoners than the local ones. Central prisons take all categories of prisoners such as convicts of first offenders, recidivists, remand and detainees. In terms of trade training, they are mandated to train inmates with better facilities for skills training such as carpentry, tailoring, weaving and so on. More often

than not, central prisons in Ghana are headed by an Assistant Director of prisons. The central prisons in Ghana and their locations are listed in the table below.

TABLE 1.2a

PRISON	TOWN	REGION
Ussher Fort	Accra	Greater Accra
James Fort	Accra	Greater Accra
Kumasi central	Kumasi	Ashanti
Sunyani central	Sunyani	Brong Ahafo
Sekondi central	Takoradi	Western
Ankaful central	Ankaful	Central
Nsawam medium prison	Nsawam	Eastern
Ho central	Ho	Volta
Tamale central	Tamale	Northern
Navrongo	Navrongo	Upper East

Source: Adopted from Plange's model, 1987

Local prisons more often than not take first and second offenders with short sentences. Security here is not as tight as the central prisons. Below are the local prisons and their locations.

TABLE 2.2b

PRISONS	TOWN	REGION
James Fort	Accra	Greater Accra
Koforidua	Koforidua	Eastern
Akuse local	Akuse	Eastern
Winneba local	Winneba	Central
Anomabo local	Takoradi	Western
Cape Coast local	Cape Coast	Central
Ekuasi	Ekuasi	Western
Tarkwa	Tarkwa	Western
Kumasi local	Kumasi	Ashanti
Obuasi	Obuasi	Ashanti
Kpando	Kpando	Volta
Keta Krachi	Keta Krachi	Volta
Yendi	Yendi	Northern
Salaga	Salaga	Northern
Gambaga	Gambaga	Northern
Bawku	Bawku	Upper East
Wa	Wa	Upper West

Source: Adopted from Plange's model, 1987.

Female prisons as the name indicates are prison establishments for females. Their characteristics are attached to the central prisons. There are five (5) types of them in Ghana. They include James Fort, Kumasi, Sekondi, Ho and Tamale female prisons.

1.4 STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Repeated crimes coupled with frequent disruption of peace in the Tamale metropolis have become increasingly disturbing (Northern Regional Security Council Annual Report, 2008). In considering recidivism as a social problem, we must look at how the criminal justice system-the police, the courts, and the prisons are performing (Heslin, 2000). The Northern Region is viewed as one of the disadvantaged regions in the country in terms of development. Various forms of criminal activities leading to repeated imprisonment of the youth in the area may partly be blamed for poverty and underdevelopment in the area (Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy, 2006).

As reported on BBC Radio 4 on 2nd September, 2005, the recidivism rate in the United States of America was 60% compared with 50% in the United Kingdom. This report attributed the lower recidivism rate in the United Kingdom to a focus on rehabilitation and education of prisoners compared with the United States' focus on punishment, deterrence and keeping potentially dangerous individuals away from society (recidivism-Wikipedia, 2009).. "Over the last thirty (30) years, the American prison population has grown drastically, and upon release, many convicts return to crime as a away of life after serving their sentences" (Schmalleger, 1995, p. 424).

According to Mutingh (2004), recidivism is said to be soaring at an alarming rate of 85% in South Africa. The recidivism rate in Finland between 1993-2006 was estimated at 50%-60% (recidivism-Wikipedia, 2008). Fisher (2005) disclosed that the recidivism rate in Kashmir, Kazakhstan and Kosovo were as high as 67% in 2008. According to Fisher, even in the newly established prison in 2004 at the Guantanamo Bay, a Cuban island, recidivism was reported as high as 60%; this is what is contributing to the continuous suicide bombings in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan et cetera. In Russia the rate of recidivism is 67% (www.albinionmonitor.com/09029/copyright, Jan, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.). Wilson (2009) indicates that studies in Nigeria found out that 81 per cent of males and 45 per cent of females were rearrested within 36 months of their discharge from prison custody.

According to the 2008 Annual Report of the Ghana Prisons Service (GPS), the cumulative prison population for 2008 was 5,170,840 as against the 2007 figure of 4,867,366. The report cited a high incidence of re-offending among ex-convicts as a contributory factor to the increasing prisoner population. Of the 9,377 convicted prisoners admitted in 2008, a total of 1,806 representing almost 20 percent had been previously convicted. The report further indicated that 8,315 representing 88.7 percent of convicts admitted during the year were aged between 18 and 45.

The problem that therefore engages the attention of the researcher is that the Tamale Central Prison houses some of the dangerous prisoners who have several records of jail breaking. The notorious ex-convict, Johnson Kombian escaped twice from the Tamale Prison, twice from Togo and once from the Gambaga medium security Prisons under

mysterious circumstances. Until his recent escape he and other hardened convicts were serving five-year jail term for a previous escapes while they were awaiting trial for robbery and attempted murder. Johnson Kombian and his compatriots have terrorized many citizens in the Northern Regions of the country, threatened to kill ten (10) police officers, and even killed two (2) policemen recently in Nakpanduri in the Northern Region (Daily Guide, 2010). The activities of Johnson Kombian and other ex-convicts are fast becoming a source of threat to many people in the area. People have expressed their unhappiness about the issue of stabbing of people, snatching of mobile phones in the night, assault, burglary and possession of unlicensed arms by most young men and using them at their least provocation, the above activities are associated with ex-convicts (REGSEC Annual Report, 2008). The report further indicated that despite the efforts of the law enforcement agencies much have not been achieved in curbing recidivism. Hence the issue of recidivism and how the attitudes and behaviour of members of society contribute to aggravating the plight of recidivists underpins this research.

In view of the problems associated with recidivism, certain questions have been asked in connection with the problems stated above. The questions which this study answered are as follows;

- What is the role of the prison towards the rehabilitation of ex-convicts?
- What is the level of social integration of ex-convicts after their release from prison?
- Do factors such as improper rehabilitation, stigmatization against ex-convicts, society's inability to reintegrate ex-convicts and unemployment faced by ex-convicts contribute to recidivism?
- Do ex-convicts have access to job opportunities?

1.5 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Generally, the research was intended to find out the main causes and effects of recidivism in both the Tamale Central Prisons and outside the prison (Communities in Tamale).

The specific objectives of the study include the following:

- To examine the role of the prison as a rehabilitation center.
- To ascertain the level of social integration of ex-convicts after their release from prison.
- To find out whether improper rehabilitation of ex-convicts, stigmatization against ex-convicts, society's inability to reintegrate ex-convicts and unemployment faced by ex-convicts really contribute to recidivism.
- To find out the job opportunities available for ex-convicts in the communities in Tamale.
- To come out with recommendations to reduce the incidence of recidivism.

1.6 HYPOTHESIS

Hypothesis is explained as the tentative guess, which the researcher proposes before getting into the field to collect data. With the confidence level of .95 (95%) and alpha level (the possibility of being wrong) of 0.5 (5%), the researcher is confident that, the hypotheses stated below may within the population parameters which is currently unknown.

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H_0: There is no significant relationship between recidivism and improper rehabilitation of ex-convicts, society's in ability to reintegrate ex-convicts, stigmatization from society as well as unemployment faced by ex-convicts.

H_1: There is a significant relationship between recidivism and improper rehabilitation of ex-convicts, society's in ability to reintegrate ex-convicts, stigmatization against ex-convicts as well as unemployment faced by ex-convicts. The alternative hypothesis is a statement that is accepted if the sample data provide enough evidence that the null hypothesis is false (Douglas et al 2000: pp. 268).

1.7 THE SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The research basically focused on the causal variables (improper rehabilitation of ex-convicts, society's in ability to reintegrate ex-convicts, stigmatization from society as well as unemployment faced by ex-convicts) that account for the incidence of recidivism. The strategies that can be used in stemming the tide of the issue being investigated were considered. In addition, the research tried establishing some of the reasons that accounted for marginal gains achieved in the reduction of the recidivism rate in the Tamale Township in particular and the nation at large. Geographically, the study, which was conducted in the Tamale Central Prison and the communities in Tamale, focused mainly on members of the general public, the staff of the prison barracks in Tamale and recidivists themselves.

1.8 SIGNIFICANCE

The research would be useful for policy makers in attempting to investigate and find solutions to the underlying causes of recidivism in the study area in particular and in Ghana at large. It also attempted assessing the efforts in the light of national crime control and prevention. Furthermore, the research would be of great significance towards attempts to offer suggestions on policy alternatives, programmes and strategies for making such criminal tendencies that lead to creating harmful effects on the lives of members of the society unbearable in the Tamale metropolis a thing of the past.

The research will also contribute to knowledge and the reserve pool of literature as the research report will serve as an important source of literature for further studies on recidivism and other forms of unacceptable behaviour in Ghana with particular emphasis on the causes of recidivism in the Tamale Central Prison in the Northern of Ghana.

1.9 JUSTIFICATION

The Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy Report (2006) indicates that seven (7) out every ten (10) people in the Northern part of the country are poor and therefore find it difficult to make ends meet. The poverty situation coupled with the insecurity problems due to the chieftaincy crisis as well as the activities of criminals are making life unbearable for residents in the area (Northern Region Security Council's Annual Report 2008); therefore a study of this nature is justified since it will contribute to solving the problems of recidivism.

The concept, recidivism which is a core determinant of criminality in most areas has contributed in diverse ways in depriving the Northern Region of numerous socio-economic opportunities for the people in the area. It is an explicit fact that, many professionals and other artisans over the years have either left or refuse postings to the region because of the insecure nature of the area following rampant disruption of peace at any little provocation. Leaders of warring factions have made it their habit of always looking for those with several criminal records to be recruited as stand-by combatants each time there is an outbreak of chieftaincy conflict between the only two (2) gates that have the right to the Dagbon paramouncy (Ibid). Based on the above assertion, this study is therefore justified.

1.10 PROBLEMS/LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

This study was conducted with the following challenges or difficulties beloe. The major ones are as follows: There was the difficulty obtaining accurate and sufficient information from the prison as an institution due to bureaucratic processes. The researcher was made to obtain clearance from the Prison Headquarters in Accra before permission was granted for data collection. Also the busy schedules of both prison officials and the difficulty of meeting and convincing recidivists to provide their views on the issue under investigation was also a great challenge.

The researcher identified certain group members in the communities who participated in the data collection process due to their relationships with recidivists. These members stay outside where their group meetings are held and leave for their various residences as soon as their meetings are over. This undoubtedly posed a great challenge for the researcher

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since there was a difficulty in locating some of them at the right time for the required information or responses needed to the study. The researcher however managed to turn the challenges stated above into strengths that contributed greatly in enhancing the quality of this research by implementing the strategies below.

Advanced notices were given to the Tamale Prison administration so that they could have adequate time to prepare. Also interviews were scheduled in advance with the key respondents at their own convenient time so that the period stipulated for the study is not affected. Since information or statistics on recidivism is sensitive, prison officials were reluctant to release such information. However, the essence of the research (for academic purpose) was sufficiently explained to the prison authorities. Confidentiality was assured and the assurance given to the effect that information obtained would be treated as such. Also, respondents (members of the public, inmates and prison officials) were identified in advance and this provided them with enough time to answer the questions appropriately. With these prudent measures put in place, the researcher was able to obtain adequate information and high rate of responses that enable the researcher to conduct a reliable and verifiable research.

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1.11 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN THE RESEARCH

This aspect of the study fulfils the technical requirements of every research that deals with scientific investigation of social phenomena. The principal areas of ethical dilemmas that the researcher considered were the privacy rights, the impact of psychological harm, deception and confidentiality.

Deception

It can be argued with a justification that, the need for deception in research is legitimate since revealing the purpose of the research would either biased the results or prevent scientific investigation. Most sociologists and other social researchers would agree to the fact that, the use of deception in social research is harmless and the understanding of social dynamics from researches using deception does not amount to causing any undesirable sentiments. This may be so, but considering the social setting in which this research was conducted, the researcher in his own discretion did everything possible and ensured that, respondents were not deceived, and anything they needed to be abreast with the rationale of the research was disclosed and clearly explained out for all respondents.

Confidentiality

The process of accumulating information about individuals or groups raises the issue of confidentiality. The researcher guaranteed respondents the confidentiality of the information obtained. As required by the researcher, names, addresses and other vital particulars of the research respondents were not associated with particular answers without the explicit permission of the respondents.

In addition, the researcher did everything possible to ensure that data collected was handled in a manner that made it impossible to connect any answer or behaviour with a specific individual. Despite the several safeguards indicated above, the mere possession of confidential information about people introduces certain risks. There are certain situations that may compel researchers to reveal some classified information about their studies, the researcher in his capability ensured that information obtained from the field

on the category of specified respondents such as the prisoners, the prison officials and respondents whose families are recidivists were treated with the utmost confidentially that it deserved.

1.12 ORGANISATION OF THE RESEARCH

The research was organized in six (6) chapters. Chapter one (1) constitutes background to the study, the problem statement, objectives of the study, a brief background to the study. Chapter two was literature review. Chapter three deals with the background of Tamale as the study area. Chapter four spells out the research method of the study. This comprises the research design, determination of the sample and the sampling technique used in selecting the sample and how the data was collected. Chapter five analyses the data as well as discusses the findings of the study. Chapter six consists of the summary conclusions and recommendations of the study.

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CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Literature review is classified into three (3) main forms namely integrative review, theoretical review and methodological review. Integrative literature is a type of literature review in which the researcher provides summaries of parts of previous researches, (Copper, 1984). In theoretical review, the researcher focuses on the extent to which theoretical framework has been utilised in social research. According to Copper (1984), the researcher in methodological review does not only provide summaries of the previous studies but an actual critique of the weaknesses and strengths of the methodology. As Merriam (2001, p. 53) suggests, "the scope of the research is determined by how well defined the research problem is, as well as the researcher's prior familiarity with the topic", (cited in Bruce 2007, p. 350). For this particular research, the integrative and the theoretical literature reviews were used.

2.1 INTEGRATIVE LITERATURE REVIEW

Prisons generally represent a place where inmates are confined and compel to adjust to the highly specialize conditions characterized by various deprivation of good things in life. Persons in detention whether on remand or convicted are subjected to a strict regime of rules and regulations, and this has contributed positively towards the detention of criminals

This chapter begins with the role of the prison as a rehabilitation center, society's inability to re-integrate ex-convicts, social stigma and employment of ex-convicts.

THE ROLE OF THE PRISON AS A REHABILITATION CENTER

Although the Department of Correctional Services does not maintain recidivism statistics, Muntingh estimated that between 85% and 94% of prisoners will re-offend in South Africa. Conditions in South African prisons are often traumatic, and will therefore severely undermine any attempts at a positive outcome from imprisonment. Muntingh (2004) explains, "When people are living in conditions that are inhumane and are often treated as something other than human, it is unlikely that they will treat other people humanely. Without reintegration services upon their release, it is not surprising that prisoners completing their first sentence will find themselves hardened by their experience and either unable or unwilling to pursue non-criminal endeavors" (www.iss.co.za/pubs/monogrphs/no.64.html).

Goudine (2006) noted that available statistics on recidivism in South Africa are severely limited, but estimates indicate that it is unacceptably high. A study uses data from the case files of two psychologists working in the Department of Correctional Services at Pollsmoor Prison, Cape Town, to describe the incidence, possible reasons for, and treatment of recidivism. In addition, qualitative data in the form of transcripts of focus group interviews and semi-structured interviews are used to analyze the experiences and perceptions of inmates who have returned to prison on more than one occasion. The analysis suggests that prison behaviour is not an indicator of successful rehabilitation (www.sabinet.co.za/abstract/sapsyc/sapsyc_v36_n2_a12.html). Muntingh also points out to the fact that, rehabilitation interventions are often provided too late and does not make any impact on reforming ex-convicts. Drug abuse in the view of Mutingh is a bad

indicator for rehabilitation; and many rehabilitation programs still focus on process rather than results.

Roots (2004) suggested that the increasing computerization and accessibility of criminal records is having a negative impact on recidivism rates as technology advances. Prior to the computer revolution, persons with criminal records were often able to relocate and start their lives over with clean slates in new communities. Former criminals rose to become some of America's greatest leaders in law, industry, and politics. This possibility seems to be narrowing as criminal records become electronically stored and accessible. An accuser's history of convictions are called antecedents, known colloquially as 'previous' in the UK and 'prior' in the United States and Australia (Wikipedia, 2007). Certain organization are currently working towards lowering recidivism rates through the re-integration of ex-detainees into society by helping them obtain work, teaching them various societal skills, and by providing all-round support. One such organization that is currently based in New York City is Exodus Transitional Community.

Goedoeny (2004) conducted research in Sweden in the areas of juvenile delinquency, recidivism, offenses involving bodily harm, and traffic offenses and his findings are summarized in the area of juvenile delinquency and recidivism. The study also dealt with the frequency of recidivism as a result of environmental factors and social requirements expected of the individual. The social requirement refers to some of the socially approved means such as having a decent job and social status which members of society may use as the basis for classifying individuals as either being superior or inferior. He indicated further that, in the area of recidivism, research findings indicate that the delinquency of

juveniles was of considerable importance, as the larger number of habitual offenders who committed the first offense was juveniles. Studies conducted have dealt with the intensity of recidivism and the influencing factors in micro surroundings, with special regard to social requirements toward the individual and the treatment measures applied, as well as considering the effect of punishment on the personality as a member of society (www.ncjrs.gov.app/publications/abstract.aspx?id=43909).

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As cited in Bezuidenhout and Jubert (2003:154), the diversion program aimed at reducing the rate of crime in our communities rely on children using their spare time to commit to learning a new way of life so as to enable them play a meaningful role in society. Children who participated in the program had to give up their leisure time which is usually after school hours. Diversion program encourages children to understand the impact of their behaviour on themselves and others, and also highlights their strengths towards playing a positive role in society. It promotes their development, increases their capacity to behave responsibly and offers them the opportunity to make the wrong right.

Bezuidenhouit and Jubert were of the view that, the concept of diversion is beneficial, however many people have concerns regarding the practical, operational effectiveness of the current program and the strategies that are used in its implementation. They are also of the opinion that, large percentage of the youth that have passed through the current program commits repeat offences. As the report further explains, many concerned community members including the researchers themselves wants to form a comparison between youth who have undergone the diversion program and those that have re-

offended in order to understand what aspects of the program need to be addressed to prevent juveniles from re-offending.

Sloane (2002) as indicated in his recommendations after a study revealed that, the low recidivism rate of Alternative to Violence Project (AVP) participants should make this program attractive to departments of Corrections. In addition to the above as Sloane further suggests, the AVP has a positive effect on prison discipline that has contributed to the low recidivism rate. It should also be noted that, not all inmates will return to the community. AVP as Sloane explained is offered to inmates serving life sentences and that, the success of AVP is made possible following its ability to addressing important psychological needs of inmates. This is accomplished as Sloane argues by teaching attitude skills such as self awareness, empathy and community building. Most if not all, inmates have not experienced meaningful or healthy connection with others, either in their pre-prison life and certainly not while in prison. When they experienced this sense of connection with the community they are changed.

According to feedback from the community as Sloane disclosed, they view themselves, others and the world as differently and that transforms their lives. According to Sloane, the change participants usually experiences is not a temporary change. It is to a significant degree, a permanent change. Not only their behaviour in prison improves, their behaviuor once released also improves.

Sloane in the final remarks stated, it seems likely that the impact could even be greater if AVP were combined with a full service re-entry program after inmates are released, one

that would help them avoid problems that would lead to rule violations that results in return to prison. Another possibility might be to combine AVP with other existing inmates programs as well as programs that provide transition services.

Janine (2008) investigated how deficient and frivolous the prison system really is and concluded that, it is not surprising that recidivism is up to nearly 70%. Not only the programs in prison that prepare inmates for the "transformation process" are inadequate but that society is also a key ingredient for recidivism. According to Janine, stigmatization not only locks the doors but steel bolts them for anybody with a criminal background. It does not take a genius to figure out without a job, and the pressures probation puts on you, it is no wonder 7 out of 10 ex-convicts return back to prison. Ex-convicts as Janine indicates are unable to obtain employment. Ex-convicts are expected to start life all over. Based on this, Janine created and designed a reality based prison board game that parallels what one faces as they make their journey through the criminal justice system.

The game is called PAROLE-BOARD "The Ultimate Game of Injustice". It is riddled with humor, based on actual events, regulations, laws and sanctions. It is an educational game that shows one how hard it is to get out of the system once one finds him or herself in. The game was initially created with the aim of using its proceeds to set up re-entry programs that actually works but due to stigmatization this game would have help in rebuilding the life of many prisoners. Most of the proceeds will go in to helping others coming out of prison.

Parker (2006) after a study came out with the following recommendations: a coalition of councils, probation boards and penal reformers have to be formed to lobby the government to let local authorities play a greater part in tackling UK's recidivism. The report reveals that 67 per cent of people released from prison re-offend within just two years of their release from prison, costing the UK £11bn annually. It also claims that the national rate is rising, not falling. Chair of the coalition, Hazel Harding commented: "The criminal justice system needs to encourage and fund local solutions, making justice visible, involving communities experiencing the effects of ex-convicts and restoring public confidence" (www.avpusa.org/ftp/recidivismreport.pdf).

"At the moment many offenders simply drop off the radar after their release, often only reappearing the next time they commit a crime. A local approach would make sure offenders are closely monitored and given the right support and guidance." However, the report also reveals that, despite chronic overcrowding in the UK's prison system, 50,000 people each year receives prison sentences of six months or less.

The coalition observes that prison sentences have a negative effect on re-offending because they disrupt the job prospects, housing, drug treatment programs and family environments that lessen the likelihood of a return to crime. A third of prisoners as Parker maintains lose their homes while in prison. Parker also maintained that two-thirds lose their jobs. In addition, more than a fifth face increased financial problems upon release and more than two-fifths lose contact with their families. The coalition according to Parker claims that local government involvement is key to managing the successful transition of prisoners to normal civilian life. He argues that the Government's target of reducing the re-offending rate by 10 per cent by the end of 2010 can only be achieved

with the involvement of institutions at the local level. In particular, these include local councils, which have a range of expertise in managing critical factors such as housing, education, employment, drug and alcohol treatment and family support. The coalition as Parker's research concludes is also urging the UK courts to make greater use of community sentences, which are proven to promote a lower re-offending rate.

Wilson (2009) brought the following discoveries to light. Recidivism is a common phenomenon in Nigeria today. Most of the survey results in developing countries such as Nigeria and especially in Akwa Ibom State have shown high rate of inmates' releases and recidivism. This has constituted an impediment to social and economic development of the country. Wilson again points out that, recently, the Akwa Ibom State Council on Prerogative of Mercy under the able leadership of Mrs. Mokutima Ekpo, organized series of seminars for prison inmates and officials aimed at preventing crime and prison repetition by ex-convicts. The seminars were organized for community leaders who were advised to educate their subjects on proper conducts towards ex-convicts. These seminars among other things, highlighted the need to stop discrimination, stigmatization and to show love to ex-convicts. The council has also aired some radio jingles pleading with people to stop behaviours that may lead to the stigmatization of ex-convicts in Akwa Ibom state (www.pioneering.com/article/php?=curbing_recidivism_in_our_society).

However, despite what has been done, recidivism is still on the increase. According to studies, it was found out that 81 per cent of males and 45 per cent of females were arrested within 36 months of discharge from prison custody. The studies also found out that recidivists in our communities are found in males more than in the female

population. "The relationship between increased risk level and increased recidivism is consistent, without exception for all of the offender groups examined – adults, youth offenders, males, females, mentally disordered and non-disordered, violent and non-violent," the study states.

Wilson further indicated that the attitude of families and the society towards ex-prisoners has been that of non acceptability. It is high time this attitude is changed so that ex-prisoners can properly be integrated into societies in which they lived before their incarceration so that they will be able to live responsible lives in their communities.

The essence of what has been illustrated above is that, the overall prevailing conditions in the prison as well as the behaviour, attitude and interactions of the members of the society tend to promote recidivism. This assertion presents a dichotomy between the prison subculture and the so called normative social system. In the prison, recidivists are totally accepted back and considered as prominent members of the prison. This easily assists them to establish relationship with those who were already in the prison before their return to prison, and by so doing they are assisted to "adjust to the alternatives presented to them under a unique kind of a social environment" (McCorkle and Kohn 1959).

The 2008 Annual Report of the Ghana Prisons Service further cited a high incidence of re-offending among ex-convicts (recidivists) as a contributory factor to the increasing prisoner population. According to the report, a total of 131 people were convicted for murder and 11 imprisoned for manslaughter. Rape convicts numbered 79 with defilement

recorded 445 convicts. Some 462 people were sentenced for possession of narcotic drugs, with 25 jailed for possessing firearms. A total of 174 people were jailed for driving offences. Those convicted for assault/indecent assault numbered 287, causing damage/causing harm, 406; and threatening 142.

Fraud cases totaled 339 while conspiracy recorded 412 convicts. There was also a significant decrease in unlawful entry from 624 in 2007 to 330 in 2008. Sixteen prisoners who escaped from custody were re-arrested and sentenced, while 45 people who could not settle their debts were also jailed and 42 persons convicted for dishonestly receiving. According to the report, only one person was convicted in the Upper West Region for contempt of court, while nobody was convicted for child stealing. Other offences were 1,600. Given the youthful age (18-45) of the majority of prisoners, the report called for "a greater level of commitment to the effective reintegration of ex-convicts into society" and indicated that projects such as farming and expansion of prison facilities aimed at rehabilitating ex-convicts had been "hampered by lack of funding. The Director –General of Prisons observed "dwindling budgetary allocation, increasing prison population, lack of decent and adequate staff accommodation and the apathy of society to the welfare of prisoners, and its resentment towards ex-convicts" as the key challenges confronting the prisons service. (Friday August 14, 2009, Edition of the Daily Graphic)

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2.2 THEORETICAL LITERATURE REVIEW *(schools of thought)*

Theory as defined by Schultz (1968) is an explicit formulation of determinate relations between a set of variables in terms of which a fairly extensive class of empirically ascertainable regularities can be explained.

The theoretical underpinnings that inform this study trace its roots from the following theories illustrated below:

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Symbolic integrationists'' theories drawing on the phenomenology of Edmund Husserl, sub cultural theory and conflict theory focused on the relationship between the people living in the various communities with powerful elite on the one hand, and the less powerful groups on the other, that is the down trodden in society. The powerful groups had the ability to 'label' even the minor delinquent youngsters as criminals. These youngsters would often take on board the label, indulge in crime more readily and become actors in the 'self-fulfilling prophecy' of the powerful groups. Various rehabilitation programmes exist to change the offenders for better life, but if these programmes failed prisoners are released unprepared to suit the standards of the normative social order. They are then pushed back to their old ways, and this may lead to their subsequent imprisonment (Turner, 1987).

Enrico Ferri, a student of Lombroso, believed that not only biological factors, but also social factors play a role in the emergence of crime, and therefore held the view that criminals should not be held responsible when factors causing their criminality were beyond their control. Social factors such as improper rehabilitation, society's inability to reintegrate ex-convicts, stigmatization and unemployment appear to be external to ex-

convicts and do not emanate from the individual committing the crime (Incardi and Rothman, 1990).

Chicago school sociologists postulated that urban societies with high levels of poverty often experience breakdown in the social structure and institutions such as family and schools. Brym et al (2003) explains that, this result in social disorganization, which reduces the ability of the institutions responsible for the maintenance of law and order to control social behaviuor and this creates an environment ripe for deviant behaviuor. Individuals in their bid to break the vicious circle of poverty will use any means irrespective of its consequences leading to their imprisonment, and if they are improperly rehabilitated after their release, social reintegration will fail leading to stigmatization and eventually ex-convicts will be without jobs, and the circular causation of recidivism continues.

Cited in Brym et al (2003), the Strain Theory, (also known as Mertonian Anomie), advanced by American sociologist Robert K. Merton, suggests that mainstream society is made up of dreams of opportunity, freedom and prosperity (culturally approved goals); Merton's anomie meant a dichotomy between what society expected of its citizens, that is, the culturally approved goals, and the legitimate means of achieving those goals (socially approved means). Therefore, if the social structure of opportunities is unequal and prevents the majority from realizing the dream, some of them will turn to illegitimate means (crime) in order to realize the dreams. And if the perpetrators are not fortunate they are apprehended and imprisoned, and if rehabilitation fails recidivism will become the order of the day.

Following on from the Chicago School and Strain Theory, and also drawing on Edwin H. Sutherland's idea of differential association, sub cultural theorists focused on small sub cultural groups fragmenting away from the mainstream to form their own values and meanings about life. This is due to the social rejection (stigmatization) of habitual criminals resulting in them joining and learning more tricks from those criminal groups. Criminal acts may result when youths conform to norms of the deviant subculture, and the tradition imprisonment upon imprisonment goes on (Brym et al, 2003, p. 164-65).

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Cited in Regoli and Hewitt (2006), Travis Hirschi in 1969, identified four main characteristics: *attachment to others, belief in moral validity of rules, commitment to achievement and, involvement in unconventional activities* that can contribute to crime due to its presence or absence in society. The more a person is used to those characteristics, the less are the chances that he or she becomes deviant or a criminal. On the other hand, if those factors are not present in a person, it is more likely that he or she might become criminal and imprisonment will become a frequent companion of such individual.

Rational Choice theory is based on the classical school philosophies of Cesare Beccaria, which were popularized by Jeremy Bentham. They argued that punishment, if certain, swift, and proportionate to the crime, was a deterrent for crime, with risks outweighing possible benefits to the offender. Beccaria (1764) advocated a rational penology. Beccaria conceived of punishment as the necessary application of the law for a crime (Clinard and Meier, 2004).

Sutherland (1939) came out with a theory called Differential Association which held the view that, people learn to favour one adaptation over the other because of their life experiences or socialization. Sutherland explain further that, people are exposed to deviant and non- deviants values and behaviours as they grow up. If one is exposed to more deviant acts than non-deviant acts, there is the possibility for such a person to become a deviant or a criminal. The affected person will end up internalizing the values of a particular deviant lifestyle and consider it normal and therefore make it as an aspect of his or her lifestyle.

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According to Abotchie (1988:396) "the fact remains that because the human appetites are insatiable, when they are not subjected to restraints, no levels of income would prove adequate". The fact that these unlimited desires are insatiable "they constantly and infinitely surpass the means at their command" Durkheim (1958:508). The problem under investigation is a product of this, following people's desire to constantly indulge in corrupt practices. The explanation as to why people indulge in criminality is suggested by Durkheim; the "**appetites**" in his view when not controlled by public opinion become disoriented, and no longer recognize the limits proper to them. This perspective is much related to the individual as an economic being who would not accept any situation of scarce resources. When such situation do occur, any means whether foul or fair is adopted to amass substantial wealth, and if the appropriate means is not used, the individual will end up in a prison, and since the prison as a center of rehabilitation is being questioned, prison contamination may result into releasing a more hardened ex-convict into the society out there, and eventually the ex- convicts becomes susceptible to committing additional crime, hence the subsequent imprisonment of such an ex-convict.

Proponents of environmentalists' view of criminality theory argue that, crime in a person develops as a result of his living conditions. Mannheim (1965) cited in Plange (1987) maintained that, both sociologists and psychologists hold the view that, unsatisfactory home conditions bring about delinquency, especially the structure of the family and the atmosphere within the family. A complete family made up of father, mother and children is essential to the development of a balanced and socially adjusted personality in order to ensure that children are trained to become useful members of the society in which they may find themselves in.

Cited in Plange (1987), Weinberg (1967) in comparing delinquents and non-delinquents children in Ghana observed that, only 8 % of delinquents lived with their parents, while 38.5% of non-delinquents were living with both parents. A cohesive home as he maintained is possible because as a primary socializing agent, the family is supposed to teach the child courtesy, this is to be performed by both parents. If there is a break in the home through death, separation, divorce or desertion, the function cannot be properly performed, the child may be left to the mercy of other people to play a role in the upbringing of the child, and if there is a defect, there is the possibility of the child becoming delinquent and thereby becoming a recidivist.

West (1976) also cited in Plange (1987) argues that, the child of stable marriage can withstand the shock of a parent's death, especially if arrangements for continuity of care are made. In a number of studies of juvenile delinquency, Bowlby (1950) observed that most delinquents had a separation from their mothers at an early age. Many had been raised in the orphanages and as a result had been deprived of maternal love. The children raised in this type of environment seemed unable to give or receive love and are therefore

compelled to adopt careers of destructive and anti-social acts. He argues further that, there is a genetically psychological need for a close and intimate mother-child relation.

West further maintained that, the baby is always made to be comfortable, petted and dressed up. As families become large and the baby grows to become a child, the child is soon displaced from this favoured position by a younger sibling, who monopolizes all attentions of his/her mother. The child is now detached to the company of his/her elder siblings and becomes very dependent on them for acceptance and love. This sudden and almost brutal separation from the motherly care and love is likely to have some negative effects on the child's sense of values. Immediate gratification is therefore sought because the good things of life may be snatched away at any time and without any warning. If this immediate gratification is not present within the immediate environment, it will be sought out there in the larger society, and in the process, the child is exposed to various tricks by a group in which he/she may find him or herself.

Similarly, children who fall into this category are found adopting various kinds of tricks they have learnt from their peers to engage in such criminal acts such as pick-pocketing, snatching of mobile phones and break and enter in the Tamale metropolis resulting in their arrest. Some of these arrests end up in courts where offenders are convicted to serve various prison terms. The offenders upon release relapse into those unacceptable behaviour due to improper rehabilitation leading to their subsequent imprisonment, hence recidivism.

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2.3 SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF EX-CONVICTS

One way of ensuring the total reintegration of ex-convicts into conventional society is by creating awareness in inmates while in prison the type of lifestyle to live so as to facilitate their integration into the society. Ghana Prison News (2008) examines the strategies put in place by the Nsawam prison to inculcate into inmates especially the recidivists the skills that can enable them fit well in their societies after their release from prison. As the magazine further explains, it has become obvious all over the world that no meaningful reformation and rehabilitation of inmates can effectively take place without the provision of education.

The magazine outlines the detailed programmes initiated by the prison service which indicates that, Ghana's prisons are filled with people who cannot read and write. Others do not understand arithmetic; cannot handle information, express ideas and opinions or make meaningful decisions. These the magazine identified are people who do not have basic literacy skills and so find themselves in hopeless cycle where their life fabric as it were, is worsened by imprisonment. This obviously has its own negative influence and consequence on the prisoners themselves as well as the society. The magazine which also takes a look at the major disadvantage of illiteracy on inmates maintained the view that, illiteracy promotes poverty while poverty is a catalyst for criminal behaviour. The problem of illiteracy thus tends to create worse problems for society as a whole.

The 2008 edition of the Ghana Prison Service newsletter also explained that, the Ghana Prison Service over the years has provided some degree of vocational and educational

training for inmates who were either semi-literates or stark illiterates. The service has been doing this as the magazine reveals in collaboration with some organizations such as churches and NGOs, to provide training for inmates in keeping with its reform programmes.

In the final remarks of the magazine, it stated that, despite these reform programmes, the prison population has increased drastically over the years and available statistics indicate that the frequency of crime committed was highest in sexual offences, robbery, murder, assault and burglary. Many of these offences were committed by persons who were either semi-literates or stark illiterates. This state of affairs led to the need to redesign the prison reform programmes which eventually led to the decision to focus attention on educational programmes by which most of the inmates would get access to quality education.

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2.4 THE JOBS OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR EX-CONVICTS IN THE COMMUNITIES

Mungoshi (2011) explains that, the city of Johannesburg's Gateway Projects s helping ex-convicts for proper re-integration into society through skills and internship programs. Mungoshi further states that, the project has been so successful, and has been extended to cover other provinces in the South Africa. At the Joburg Market as Mungoshi notes, the program in based on an intensive training upon release from prison. According to Mungoshi. 55 juvenile prisoners who were given the opportunity to undergo job training at the city's departments in 2009 through the Gateway Projects were offered jobs to work. The over nine (9) training covered basic fundamentals of personal finance, organizational behaviour and wok readiness. All the beneficiaries of City of

Johannesburg's Gateway Projects as Mungoshi discloses gave credit to the Gateway Project for giving them the awareness to change their life and attitude and show things about life that they never knew.

According to beneficiaries of the project, "The Gateway Project gave us support where we could take any of our problems and get an honest assessment". They cannot believe how different their lives are. " If it was not for the Gateway Project, we are not sure what would have happened to us..... We are what we are because the Gateway Project".

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2.4.1 JOB SKILLS FOR EX-CONVICTS

The Gateway Project provides young people who have been in conflict with the law and technical skills for seeking and holding job. According to Johannisburg city's Deputy Director of the youth development directorate, Jolidee Matongo, the Gateway Project offers these ex-convicts new skills and experiences that will enable them to be re-integrated into communities and to function in a diverse set of workplaces.

A project of this nature has not been implemented by the City before; it is a pilot case for similar projects in the future. "The project has been a great success in the changing the behaviour of the participants. Matongo notes that, most of the participants harboured anger before the training, but late changed. "Their behaviour changed drastically for the better".

According to research done by Khulisa, an organization that aims to tackles crime holistically through diverting youngsters from the criminal justice system. About R 52, 000 is spent each year on looking after a prisoner and R 28, 000 is spent each year for

rehabilitating offenders. "The economic benefits for the country as a whole was what drove us to implement the programme" Matongo says. Its success has prompted the City`s department to train 35 offenders in 2011 and in 2012.

Odoemena (2005) narrates that, it is a common knowledge that the Nigerian prison is in a crisis taking into account a statistical overview of the situation today. He added that, while the prison capacity is about 43, 815 we are currently having an inmate population of about 38, 721 persons, out of which about 25, 029 of them are awaiting trial (ATPs). Over the years, the Nigerian prisons have made several attempts at working out a legislation that would complete the circle of criminal justice administration which as of now has only taken care of arrest, prosecution and conviction. According to Odoeman, the prisons have inadvertently left out reformation, rehabilitation and re-integration persons interned to fit into the society on discharge. This papers focuses on the crisis and plights of ex-convicts; its challenges to penal reform, prison management, justice sector and socio-economic development (Odoeman, 2005).

Lanre (2005) stressed the need for increased awareness on human rights instruments on the treatment and preparation of inmates for re-integration, to establish a common understanding of the plight of ex-prisoners and their special needs, and finally to analyze the above issues with the view of formulating plan of action and intervention. Essentially, apart from lifers and those on death row, every other inmate will one day become ex-prisoners as Lanre notes, and that, while in prison, they are supposedly being prepared to come back to society reformed and duly equipped to contribute to the development of the society. This mandate is the ultimate justification for imprisonment; and also to protect

society from crime. Going by the United Nation's Standard minimum treatment, the period of imprisonment should be used as far as possible to ensure that, upon returning to society, the inmate would be both willing and able o live a law abiding and self supporting life.

From the beginning of the prisoners' sentence, consideration shall be given to their future after release care and they shall be encouraged and assisted to maintain or establish relations with persons or agencies outside the institution as may promote the best interest of their family and as well as social rehabilitation (Barak, 2006).

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2.5 THE HELL IN PRISON

Barak also hold the view that, in fact, the above role of the prison is far from being realized. This failure is evident in the many crises of the ex-prisoners. Such cases as Barak identifies include homelessness on release, unemployment, social discrimination et cetera.

According to Barak, these are best appreciated when considered those issues surrounding imprisonment, the condition of detention and its impact on the one hand and the general attitude of the society towards them upon release on the other hand. In relation to the former, attention will be paid on those that create incentives inimical to proper reformation and rehabilitation; how well the prison system has prepared the inmate for the challenges in the outside world, how well they have succeeded in enhancing his re-integration in the society, and general after release care.

In this regard, Barak maintained that, focus should be on those issues that bedevil the detention system; these are issues that in the end negatively affect the victim. Overcrowded cells, long period of awaiting justice (justice delayed), poor skill acquisition programs, poor facilities, and loss of contact characterize such systems in Barak's view with relations, torture and other practices that undermine human development and staff actualization. It is in these issues that we find the first hell where the ex-prisoner is coming from.

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According to Barak, though the prisoner has committed crime and has been punished accordingly, his liberty has been taken away, but human essence still remains. Prison wall separate the prisoner from freedom. But the prison wall must not come between the prisoner and human dignity. Barak added that, taking some of the above listed crises of the prison system into consideration, one understand that, they collectively contribute in determining the ability of the ex-prisoner to cope, or even meet the basic necessities of life. By implication what we have on ground s a situation whereby the inmate is not only separated from his freedom, but his human dignity and everything needed to aid the inmate's rehabilitation and social integration.

Analytically, Lanre disclosed that, some of these factors are interwoven. Long period of remand leads to congestion, and congestion in the end creates a situation where limited infrastructures and facilities meant for a given number of inmates are over stretched to accommodate the great demand. In the end, Lanre concluded that, what we have is a prison system that suffers from lack of humanity, where the penal philosophies of rehabilitation and reformation do not feature prominently. Lanre indicated also that, the

prison that have the statutory function of reforming inmates and preparing them for a crime free life on completion of imprisonment ends up as a system lacking 'both deterrent and reformative values'.

According to a renowned criminologist, Adeyemi, the prison system has become very costly to the economy, psychologically and emotionally destructive, socially damaging, culturally abhorrent and penologically disastrous. With respect to Nigerian prison, as Adeyemi notes, it is evident that, congestion has remained as high as hundred and fifty percent (150%), often resulting in disease and death amongst prisoners. This issue in Adeyemi's view has been a great challenge to the prison system in the country. Speaking at a summit on the reform of criminal justice administration in the country, the controller general of prisons in Nigeria noted that, contrary to prisons catering for convicts, thy now use 90% for the allocation to cater for people on remand.

According to him, the prison capacity is about 43, 815. He disclosed that, Ikoyi prisons have capacity for only 800 persons, but that, out of the over 2,200 inmates, only 60% were actually convicts. He said 'the story is the same for Port Harcourt prison which had a total of 2, 013 inmates, whereas it has capacity of just 804 inmates'. Still on overcrowding in prison, the chairperson of senate committee in internal affairs, in a separate but similar report from their recent prison tour round the country noted that, by the time of their visit, prison that was meant for 805 inmates was housing almost 3000 inmates. According to him, "you can imagine a prison cell which was supposed to harbor 10-15 people or 20 maximum, harbouring 80, 90, and even hundred. From these

scenarios, one can measure the impact of this condition on the mentality, and welfare of the prisoners.

In addition, overcrowding in prison often leads to indiscriminate combination of prisoners, a situation whereby in a bid to accommodate everybody, juvenile inmates would have to be put together with adults, minor offenders with deviants and hardened criminals (Adeyemi, 2008). In spite of the fact that states in the federation have various children and young person's legislations, the flow of children and young person into adult prisons is yet to stop. He held the opinion that this regrettably leads to recidivism, indoctrination of minor offenders: the ex-prisoners come out more hardened, worse that they were before being taken to prison (Adeyemi, 2008).

Famuyiwa (2011) held an opinion that, a combination of some of this and other problems compound the health conditions of inmates in Nigeria's prisons; making the jail houses horror chambers where only the luckiest survive to tell the gory story. According to Famuyiwa, it is a situation where inmates regularly die from preventable ailments such as scabies, malaria, and dysentery. Other issues related to the treatment of prisons include: torture, mental, psychological, and inadequate training/educational facilities. These collectively make the life of ex-prisoner incomplete on release (The Guardian, 2004, pp. 13).

Famuyiwa said, "I saw a warder repeatedly slapping him (detainee) in the face and spurring verbal assaults at him". A food vendor contracted to serve the prisoners said that, that brutal attacks on detainees occur frequently. He added that, torture is still a

routine practice in detention centers. Its memories as Famuyiwa further noted have long lasting damaging effect on the ex-prisoner.

A survey by Prison Rehabilitation and Welfare Action (PRAWA) in 2001 revealed that, where the negative effects of torture can classified into affective, cognitive, motivational and neurovegetative, it is discovered that, practices such as torture, can hinder the effective re-integration of the ex-prisoner in the society. The survey further revealed that, its negative effects are characterized by depression, pessimism, anxiety, paralysis of the will, diminished drive, diminished concentration, suicidal thoughts et cetera. These observably have further led to traumatic effects, complications and other complexes that inimical to social re-integration.

Similarly, the more pathetic issue is the case whereby inmates are denied prompt medical attention. Worthy of note at this point is what has been described as a groundbreaking development in prisoner right in the country (Guardian, 2004, pp. 136). In all, the inmate is released; he becomes an ex-prisoner, a result of which makes him a subject to social stigmatization.

Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) of Ghana in 2002 and 2003 found that, recreational facilities and other in-door games such as ludo, draughts and oware were usually limited, and in some cases virtually absent. The report further disclosed that, some convicts as well as prison officials possessed requisite technical and vocational skills and could facilitate the training of prisoners who had no skills. Most prisoners as the report maintained lacked the basic tools and equipment

needed to meet the training needs of prison inmates. This notwithstanding, the officers in charge made do with the available limited tools and tried to make the best out of a difficult situation. Similar findings were discovered after the data collection process of this research.

CHRAJ (2003), Ghana- Composite Inspection Report 2002 also discovered that, there was general decline in the quality of living conditions of prisoners and this may be attributed to the deterioration of prison structures rather than to an increasing prisoner population due to persistent increase in recidivism. In this report, it was made obvious that, most if not all prisons in Ghana did not have toilet facilities. Inmates in these types of prisons therefore eased themselves in buckets, which were not emptied until the next day. In places where bathrooms were non-existed, inmates bathed in their cell rooms which also served as sleeping places.

Again in this report, it became clear that, the poor conditions of prisoners may be due to poor bedding, sanitation and ventilation. It also came to light after studying this report that, the majority of prisoners did not have an infirmary or a nurse on duty. Most infirmaries lacked supplies of basic drugs. The Tamale central prison is no exception as far as the above-mentioned problems are concerned.

Some prisons according to the CHRAJ, Ghana- Composite Inspection Report 2002 did not receive the government grants for feeding as at the time of the inspections of the prisons. According to some of the prison officials, some of the prisoners were either fed by their relatives or by some prison officials on humanitarian grounds. In cases where

prisoners have no relatives in the town of detention, they relied on the kind generosity of prison officers and other prisoners (CHRAJ, 2003).

2.6 SOCIAL STIGMA AND THE LURE OF RE-OFFENDING

Given the gory nature of life in prison, it may appear paradoxical if one says that the inmate is lucky in some aspect than the ex-prisoner. At least, the exprisoner is assured of staying under a roof, and daily bread. The cases below (from one of the beneficiaries of PRAWA's rehabilitation Care and Support Program) will be helpful for a better appreciation of the dilemma of the ex-prisoners. With the provision of essential survival needs of life. The 'label' ex-prisoners make them 'unemployable '. The strong forces of extreme hunger, poverty and unemployment make them to innovate possible solutions that may eventually take them back to jail. Some of them even consider going back to jail where they will be at least insulated from societal stigma.

In a report by a United National Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) fact finding mission in Nigeria on Post-release opportunities in September, 2005, it was discovered that: there is little or no provision in Nigeria for the effective reintegration of prisoners into society. With few resources available to improve even the conditions of imprisonment, prison officials concede that there are limited opportunities for the welfare of prisoners upon their release. The prospects for employment of released convicts, who are in any event prevented from taking a job in the public sector if they have a criminal record, are daunting. While there is no data on the number of prisoners who return to crime or who appear in prison again, prison officials agree that there are some "regular customers". A survey of the factors that make one become a 'regular customer' reveals

that the major justification provided by the victims is lack of adequate after care. For them, the recourse to criminality is not necessarily an indication of incorrigibility or deviancy, but a response to the failure of the prison system and the government to provide adequate rehabilitation and aftercare services.

The ex-prisoner as UNODC reports is practically thrown back into the society unreformed and unequipped for reintegration. The distressing aspect of it is that when he or she demonstrates strong will to transcend the limitations occasioned by his status, he is faced with rejection, the ex-prisoner who may have made a personal resolution to avoid his initial crime partner is often only able to find promising company and acceptance in those he is trying to avoid, and so the cycle continues.

Human Rights Groups also observed that, in what may look like a ray of hope in Nigeria and other countries, ex-prisoners facing, stigmatization, discrimination and rejection may soon heave a sigh of relief: 'the national assembly is contemplating the provision of an act that will allow an ex-convict to go to court and make a change of name so that he/she is not discriminated against'. However, this proposal is yet to receive serious attention.

2.7 CONCLUSION

Researchers hardly ever conduct a study in an intellectual vacuum. Researches are conducted within the context of an existing knowledge base (Brown, 1996). As a result of this, the researcher generally undertook a literature review to familiarize him/herself with an identified Knowledge base.

This current study in addition to finding answers to whether the prison is an effective place for the rehabilitation of prisoners also sought to further investigate the relationship between a set of independent variables and recidivism. Such independent variables include society's inability to reintegrate ex-convicts, stigmatization from society and unemployment faced by ex-convicts. Based on this, it is obvious that the essence of this study varies in many ways from studies reviewed in this study. Most of the literature reviewed simply reports the empirical verification of the relationship rather than providing a hypothesized relationship. According to Johnson et al (2001), in addition to seeking theories that supports the plausibility and increase the significance of a hypothesis, a researcher should be alert for competing or alternative hypothesis. In order to fulfill this requirement, the researcher came out with the alternative hypothesis that, there is a significant relationship between recidivism and the independent variables already indicated above in case the null hypothesis is rejected.

The literature reveals numerous methods of identifying sources of secondary data that others have used in dealing with different explanations concerning available statistics on recidivism. For instance, the methods adopted by Goudine in 2006 where data from the case files of two psychologists working in the Department of Correctional Services at Polls moor and Cape Town Prisons, were used to describe the incidence and treatment of recidivism. In addition, qualitative data in the form of transcripts of focus group interviews and semi-structured interviews were also used to analyze the experiences and perceptions of inmates who have returned to prison on more than one occasion. In this research the researcher also relied on research reports of Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice for secondary data for secondary data.

Other significance of the literature review is to learn how other researchers have defined and measured key concepts, to develop alternative research designs and to discover how a research project is related to the work of others. For instance this study is related to the work of Goedoeny in 2004 who conducted research in Sweden in the areas of juvenile delinquency and recidivism. The study also dealt with the frequency of recidivism as a result of environmental factors. Since the researcher also sought to identify the attitudes of members of society that contributed to the promotion of recidivism, it can be argued that, Goedoeny's study provided guidelines for the conduct of this study. The conclusion of Muntingh after conducting a study in 2004 in South Africa disclosed that prisoners living in conditions that are inhumane and are often treated as something other than human are unlikely to treat other people humanely. Without reintegration services upon their release no meaningful rehabilitation will take place. This has provided a basis for the conduct of this study since the role of the prison as a rehabilitation center was investigated.

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CHAPTER THREE

BACKGROUND OF TAMALE AS THE STUDY AREA

3.0 INTRODUCTION

Tamale has a population of over three hundred and seventy-five thousand, four hundred and fifty-two (375,452) (WATSAN mapping, 2006), a total land area of 992km, and is made up of several suburbs. This section outlines the role of the following social institutions. These include the political, religious, educational, economic and health institutions.

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3.1 THE ORIGINS OF THE PEOPLE IN THE STUDY AREA

The people are believed to have migrated from the western Sudanese empire and Tunga which situated along the east of Lake Chad on the road to Wadai as far back as the 17th century (Conference of Dagomba Chiefs, 1930). According to oral traditions, they went through Nigeria, Benin and through the southern sector of Ghana into their current place of occupation. Dagbon oral historians narrated that, the people living in the area comprises Dagombas, Asantes, Fantes, Ewes, Kusaasis, Hausa people, Gonjas, Mamprusis and a whole lot of other minority groups. The dominant ethnic group is the Dagombas since they formed about 80% of the entire population (Files of the traditional council).

3.2 THE HEALTH AND SANITATION OF THE AREA

Tamale has a teaching hospital to cater for the practical training of medical students of the University for Development Studies and also for providing medical services to the

people of the area. In addition, there is also a central hospital which is situated within the ministries area, and a Poly-clinic located in Zogbeli, all in the metropolis. There are other important clinics in Tamale which also provides reliable health delivery services. The prominent ones include the Education Ridge Clinic at Bagabaga, the Bilpela clinic, the military clinic at Kamina Barracks. Most of these clinics are National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) accredited clinics. In terms of sanitation of the Tamale metropolis, the metropolitan assembly in collaboration with Zoomlion (Ghana) Limited and other private individuals have procured vehicles to convey both solid and liquid waste from public toilets and private residences in order to keep the toilets in good shape for the people to conveniently and comfortably attend to nature's call. The efforts of sanitary inspectors in maintaining a good hygienic environment cannot be under estimated as they move from house -to-house to ensure that what is expected to be done by residents are properly done (Tamale Metropolitan Health Directorate, 2008).

3.3 ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES OF THE STUDY AREA

According to a survey conducted by the Tamale Metropolitan Assembly in 2005, the people in the Tamale metropolis are involved in varied forms of economic activities for their livelihood. These economic activities range from farming, petty trading involving buying and selling of food stuffs, all forms of vendor services including the sale of mobile phone credits/units to the engagement in the sale and purchase of different forms of citrus in one of the two central markets in the metropolis, thus the new market also known as the Aboabo market. The other market, referred to as the old market, houses many stalls and stores where different kinds of goods such as clothing of different kinds, cosmetics, cereals, legumes and others are sold. The report further explains that,

businesses in the metropolis seem to be flourishing following the remarkable increase in the number of banks in Tamale. These banks include Societal Generale-Social Security (SG-SSB) Bank, Standard Chartered Bank, Ghana Commercial Bank and many more. The commercial activities in Tamale have also experienced an influx of foreign immigrants such as those from Nigeria and others from Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. The cumulative effect of all these varied economic activities have resulted in the improvement of revenue mobilization drive of the Tamale Metropolitan Assembly which has eventually led to the increment of the Assembly's share of the common fund from previous amount of GH¢ 400,000 (¢4 billion old cedi) to over GH¢ 100,000 (¢ 10 billion old cedi) for the execution of numerous infrastructural development in the area (Estimates for the administration of the Tamale Metro. Assembly Common fund, 2008).

3.4 TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY OF THE STUDY AREA

According to the traditional oral narrators (1930), the community is made up of three (3) traditional authorities, namely the ***Dakpema*** (responsible for controlling and managing the commercial nerve center of the metropolis), the ***Gukpe-Naa*** (the administrative authority of the metropolis who coordinates the activities of other chiefs under his jurisdiction) and the ***Bug 'Lana*** (as the custodian of the gods and the chief priest, he is responsible for performing rituals and other sacrifices within the traditional set up when the need arises, especially during the period of drought and famine to invoke the spiritual powers of the gods). There are other divisional chiefs such as Sagnari-naa, Lamashe-naa, Nyohin-dana, Guma-naa, Bilpel-naa, Chogg'-naa, Banvim-lana, Pagazaa-naa, Kanvil-lana and others assist in varied ways in the administration of the area. All of these chiefs

owe allegiance to the chief administrator, the Gukpe'-naa (Narrators of Dagbon oral historians, 2000).

3.5 EDUCATION OF THE AREA

The development of education in the area started as far back as the 1950s when a local primary school was established. Education in the area has received a tremendous boost. Currently, the campus of medicine of University for Development Studies is found in the area. The area can also boast of a Polytechnic, two Teacher Training Colleges for training teachers to feed the numerous Primary and the Junior High Schools in the metropolis. The area also has a Nurses Training College, Community Health Training School and School of Hygiene. All these institutions are involved in the training of different professionals in providing quality health delivery services and other social services for the people. There are about twelve (12) Senior High Schools and two hundred and seventy-four (247) basic schools providing good quality education for the students (Metropolitan Education Office, Tamale, 2008).

3.6 RELIGION OF THE PEOPLE IN THE AREA

Religion as suggested by Durkheim (1958) is the unified system of beliefs and practices relative to sacred things-things set aside and forbidden, beliefs and practices which unite into one single moral community called a church and to all those who adhere to them. Religion being a social phenomenon is of different types. As a result, more than one religion exists in the area, but most of the people are either Moslems or Christians. The popularity of these two religions is quite manifested as beautiful Mosques and Churches are built in almost every part of the town. The Moslem population in the area is estimated at about 80% of the entire population in the area, with Christianity pegged at 15% and

5% for the believers in the African Traditional Religion. The indigenous people still worship the smaller gods which were handed down to them by their fore fathers (Supreme council of Islamic research, 2001).

3.7 MAINTENANCE OF LAW AND ORDER

There are strong and reliable institutions in the area that are responsible for the maintenance of law and order. These institutions include the Court, the Prison, the Police service, the Military, Immigration, Fire service et cetera. The court interprets the laws of the land. The Tamale High Court has played a significant role in this direction (Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) inspection of Cells and Prisons in Ghana, 2002).

The court is supported by a tribunal which has also been very active in the interpretation of the laws. CHRAJ's report also disclosed that, the Tamale Central Prison as in the case of many prisons is a place where offenders are confined. Persons in detention whether on remand or convicted are subjected to a strict regime of rules and regulations, and this has contributed positively towards the detention of criminals. The police is a peace preserving body whose main responsibility is to protect life and properties. In pursuance of maintenance law and order, the police in the area have been assisted to construct three (3) additional police stations bringing the number of police stations in Tamale to four (4). The newest of the four is the one constructed by the West Africa Examination Council to detain examination candidates found to be involved in examination malpractices. The police stations are sited in such way that, each of the three constituencies of Tamale has

at least one police station to deal with the numerous cases of violence and acts of lawlessness in the city (CHRAJ's Composite report, 2003).

There are two (2) military bases in Tamale known as Kamina and Bawa Barracks located closely to Kanvilli and at the Tamale Airport respectively. The soldiers ensure that peace in the area is maintained. In collaboration with the police they embark on preventive patrols to keep criminals and other social misfits under control so as to provide the needed protection to the civil society. In spite of all these, various kinds of criminality are on the increase. The communities in our major cities seem to have been left behind in the crime prevention process. Even though, there is evidence of security personnel in our communities, their performance is woefully inadequate in controlling various criminal activities that have resulted in the imprisonment of many youthful and energetic residents of the area, and once imprisoned they are released hardened enough to continue with their criminality leading to their subsequent imprisonment, hence the emergence of recidivism and its harmful effects (Ibid).

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CHAPTER FOUR

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

4.0 INTRODUCTION

Research methodology is an important component of any study and provides the framework upon which the research process is suspended (Brown, 1996). For this particular study, the following were used: the type of research design, the population, sampling and its technique, instrumentation, coding/analytical tools as well as data collection and analysis.

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4.1 RESEARCH DESIGN.

Johnson et al (2001) describe research design as "a Plan that guides the investigator in the process of collecting, analyzing, and interpreting observations". Survey research design was adopted for this study. Survey research design relies on the questioning of a selective group (sample) of a population and analyzing the data in order to answer hypothesis or describe a set of characteristics (Saunders et. al., 1997). Survey research studies both large and small populations to discover the relative incidence, distribution and interrelation of variables (Brown, 1996). The prison environment was first dealt with. Prison officials were interviewed within three days. With the assistance of some selected prison officials, twenty recidivists were identified. The first five recidivists identified were later used as informants to identify and included fifteen more recidivists in the sample.

The social survey as Creswell (2003) explains is a design, which provides a quantitative or numeric description of trends, attitudes or opinions of a population by studying a sample of that population.

The following necessitated the selection of the social survey design; it is capable to cover relatively a large population. Since a sample size of four hundred and fifty (450) respondents was used, the researcher thought it wise to use the social survey. The flexible nature of the social survey design also made it appropriate for this study. This design enabled the researcher to ask many questions. In addition, the social survey was selected because of its standardized questioning. All the respondents in spite of their respective backgrounds were asked questions similar to their situations.

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However, the limitations, which were encountered as a result of using the social survey design, were as follows:

Setting standardized questionnaires for respondents with different backgrounds was a limitation. The researcher was faced with the challenge of not being able to alter the questionnaire to met new discoveries during the data collection process.

Irrespective of all these limitations, it was necessary to choose the social survey design because it enabled the researcher to measure attitude in the large population. It is also probably the best design available for the social scientist interested in collecting original data for describing a population too large such as the population of this study.

4.2 POPULATION/ SAMPLING FRAME

Sampling frame is the description of units comprising the population from which a sample is selected. If the sample is to be representative of the population, it is essential that the sampling frame include all members of the population.

For this research, all the members of the identified groups in the study area were included in the sampling frame in order to be able to determine a representative sample of Tamale. From the center, 10 groups of equal membership of 50 each group yielded 500 cases. In the periphery, 16 groups of equal membership of 35 yielded 560 members. In the prison environment, a total number of 140 respondents including the prison officials and the recidivists were obtained. In effect, there was a target population of 1200 respondents. In the prison environment, the registers of both the prison officials and recidivists were used to obtain the sample size.

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4.3 SAMPLING PROCEDURE

Sampling procedure is a plan that indicates how cases (respondents) are to be selected. In this research, both stratified (probability) and snowball (non-probability) techniques were used. Stratified random sample, which is the selection of the sample by dividing the population into groups called strata, was used for the members of society outside the prison. For the key informants such as recidivists and prison officials, snowball was used to collect the data. This technique is appropriate where the exact knowledge about the target group is limited. Stratified sampling increases sampling precision by including essential segments of the population. The rationale for the inclusion of the key respondents is as a result of their regular contacts with the subjects being investigated. The criteria for the selection were based on men and women's groups, youth associations, the prison officials and inmates as well as other workers from the institutions in the study area. The inclusion of the identified groups in this study is due to the fact that, some group members confirmed that they have recidivists as family members. They also assisted the researcher in identifying and interviewing some ex-convicts.

4.4 SAMPLE DETERMINATION

The rationale for the determination of the sample size is to make generalization or to draw inferences based on samples about the parameters of population from which the samples are taken (Yin, 1993). The size of a sample should neither be excessively large, nor too small. It should be optimal. This however according to Karma, (1997) should be at the discretion of the researcher. While deciding on the size of the sample, the researcher must determine the desired precision and also an acceptable confidence level for the estimates (Saunders et al., 1997).

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Tamale which has a population of about 375,451 (WATSAN mapping, 2006) and a total land area of 922km, is made up of several suburbs. These suburbs were classified into five zones namely Tamale Central, North, South, West and East for the purpose of coming out with the sample size. Tamale central is made of areas such as Aboabo, Sabonjida, the commercial district, Buglan Fong, Hausan zongo, Zogbeli and so on; there are 10 groups in this zone. In the North, there are areas like Choggu, Gumbihini, Kamina, Kanvilli, Education Ridge, Jisonaayili, and Gumani with five groups. The southern zone comprises Nyohini, Sagnarigu, Lamashegu, Bayan waya, Bilpela, Banvim, Kakpagyili, Kukuo and the groups found in this zone are also five. Areas such as the industrial area, Dohini, Dungu, Zujung, etc are located in the Western zone and finally the Eastern zone is made up of Changni, Dabokpaa, Atta Essibi, Dohinaayili, the teaching hospital area also with five groups. These five zones are further categorized into the center and the periphery so as to come out with an appropriate sampling design or technique. The categorization was done using characteristics such as age group, occupation, purpose of the group etc so as to get a homogenous sample. All the areas identified are considered as

places where cases of repeated crimes are frequently reported. Group members have interacted with recidivists in these communities (REGSEC, 2008).

The five suburbs were further classified into two main areas namely the center and the periphery (North, South, East and West) for this purpose. Each of the groups was represented proportionately. In the center, 10 groups were identified, and in each of the 4 peripheries 4 groups were chosen. Twenty (20) members from each of the 10 groups were selected from the center, and fifty (50) respondents were selected from the prison environment which included prison inmates (recidivists) and prison officials. In each group of the peripheries, fifteen (15) members from each of the sixteen (16) groups were targeted, but in the end the researcher got two hundred (200) members. In all, four hundred and fifty (450) respondents were therefore selected from both the prison and members of the larger society from a target population of 1200.

The following criteria were taken into consideration for the determination for the sample:

Defining the population. The target population in this case was 1200 respondents.

Defining the sampling frame, making sure that, there is no duplication or omissions. The sampling frame contained the list of all members of the identified groups in the study area.

Deciding on the sampling design- stratified and snowball designs were used.

Determination of the sample size- the sample size was 450 respondents.

4.5 DATA COLLECTION TECHNIQUES

This basically involves the use of different tools in the collection of the data. There are different kinds of data collection techniques which include questionnaires, interviews, focus group discussion (FGD), participant observation etc. The researcher in this particular study adopted data collection tools such as the questionnaire and structured interviews in order to come out with the required data. Some few discussions were also carried out at social gatherings with people who have interest in the phenomenon under investigation.

The three different kinds of questionnaires prepared for the data collection were: (i) for members of society out there, (ii) for prison inmates specifically recidivists and (iii) for the prison officials. Alternative answers were provided for questions in the questionnaire so that appropriate answers would be given to questions related to the independent variables to make analysis appropriate and, smooth hypothesis testing; hence some of these questions were close ended. Section 'C' which comprised suggestions to the problem contained questions which were open ended in order to obtain divergent views and opinions from respondents both in the prison and members of society. Self administered questionnaires were used for literate respondents such as the key respondents of the study. In the case of the interviews, structured interviews were formulated based on the questionnaires for the illiterate respondents.

The use of questionnaires guarantees independent responses without fear, in other words, there is no intimidation. The researcher gave out the questionnaires to respondents

who could read and write so that their responses to the questions may be done in any place and time at their own convenience. The researcher did not spend much time with these categories of respondents. Respondents responded to the questionnaire at their own convenient time, especially for self administered questionnaires.

Through the use of questionnaires, a wide range of people were interviewed since it covered, especially when questionnaires are close ended. Within three days, the researcher and his assistants were able to distribute about one hundred questionnaires for self administration. As a result of this, it seemed to be appropriate for social surveys. In spite of the above justifications, questionnaires are not without problems. Some of these include: Questionnaires are time consuming. They are likely to have undelivered questionnaires or questions being in transit. Another disadvantage is that questions that are returned could be fewer than expected. Several respondents in the Tamale Central District, especially the southern sector did not complete some of the questionnaires. They are also not good for non-educated respondents because there is the likelihood of having many "don't know" answers or many questions unanswered. The researcher experienced all these situations.

Interviews give first hand information. This was really possible since the researcher got first hand information from respondents both in the prison and outside the prison. It also strengthens interaction between the interviewer and the interviewees on the field of data collection. The researcher met the respondents and this created an atmosphere where interaction was possible. In using interviews, there are fewer or no 'don't know' answers. This was possible since the researcher and his assistants were able to explain questions

which some of the respondents did not understand. The use of interviews is effective for both non-educated and educated respondents in the sense that the interviewer poses the questions and answers are provided in the presence of the interviewer. In this research, this was possible since the researcher came face-to-face with different respondents such as prison officials and the recidivists themselves. Through the use of interviews, quick results are achieved. The researcher had instant responses from about fifteen respondents the first day the research team visited the prison. The remaining respondents were interviewed the next few days.

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The disadvantages of interviews are time consuming, vital information could be withheld especially sensitive issues, it is expensive in terms of transport and other expenditures. The researcher sought the assistance of the research Assistants. The researcher provided transport for the research team for almost three days for the purpose of interviewing the respondents of the prison environment.

4.6 SOURCES OF DATA COLLECTION

This aspect deals with two (2) main sources namely the primary and the secondary sources.

Primary sources

This is concerned with the researcher coming into contact with the respondents in the field through the use of specified data collection tools/techniques such as questionnaires and interviews, to obtain first hand information from all kinds of respondents. The researcher and his team of assistants visited the various groups. Two research assistants were assigned to each of the periphery namely North, East, West and South. In the

center, the researcher with three other research assistants met the members of the identified groups and interviewed them. Other respondents administered the questionnaires themselves. This took place after the visits to prison.

Secondary sources

Various documented materials were also consulted for information related to the subject matter of the study. This really assisted in the broader understanding of the research problem. The researcher read text-books, journals, articles, previous research reports, periodicals and also used the internet for more data. These were the main secondary sources that were used in the course of the study. The researcher also consulted the 2002 and 2003 Reports on the nationwide inspection of Prisons and Police Cells by the Commission on Human Rights and Administration Justice and obtained vital information. As already indicated, this aspect formed the core of the literature review for this research.

4.7 DATA PROCESSING

Editing- this involved reading through the text to get rid of materials which have been rendered valueless, add ideas that are left out and to also offer grammatical corrections. This was done to eliminate errors in the administered questionnaires and interviews to ensure accuracy and uniformity in interpretations. It was detected that about fifteen questionnaires from five groups in the communities were not answered. These questionnaires were quickly sent back for completion. Even though the same respondents were not identified; other group members were allowed to complete those questionnaires and interview guides.

Coding- deals with the transforming of raw data from the field into a form suitable for machine (computer) analysis. Coding was the next stage whereby responses to questions or issues were classified into meaningful categories in order to bring out essential patterns as a basis for analysis. The pre-coded structured questionnaire responses were edge-coded for easy entry into the computer. The open-ended questionnaire responses were put into similar categories in order to reduce the information to a more limited attributes composing a variable. Codes were assigned to them. For example "a" for 1, "b" for 2, "c" for 3 and so on.

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Data Entry-the coded responses were transferred from the questionnaires and interview guides into the computer using the SPSS data matrix. Questionnaire by questionnaire the researcher assisted by his assistants spent two weeks in doing this exercise. This stage which was the final stage of the data processing was done to eliminate errors as a result of incorrect coding.

Presentation of the data- deals with using simple statistical tools such as the conversion of data into percentages, averages and arranging into frequency distribution tables. Pie and Bar Charts were also adopted in the three main sections of the data analysis and discussions stage.

4.8 DATA ANALYSIS

Karma (1999) refers to data analysis as the computation of certain measures along with searching for some patterns of relation that exits among data-groups. The Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS) was used to analyze the quantitative data into frequency tables, bar charts, and pie charts. The information was also interpreted giving meaning to the analyzed data. This aspect of the research gave meaning to the mass of data in the form of explaining and analyzing answers to questionnaires, interview guide, views, comments etc from respondents in the field. Data can either be analyzed quantitatively, qualitatively or the combination of the two. The quantitative approach was the main focus of this study. Quantitative research is "a formal, objective and a systematic process in which numerical data are utilized to obtain understanding of the social world"(Burns cited by Cormack 1991 p 140). Other aspects are descriptive and inferential statistics. The main objective of this aspect of the study was the application of inferential statistics. The data collected on the various respondents were transformed into tables and figures using quantitative tools.

Quantitative approach is said to be systematic. In fact, having a system or following a process is a defining principle of research. It is thought that in collecting, analyzing and interpreting quantitative data, the researcher can remain detached and objective. Considering the study being undertaken into investigating recidivism as a social phenomenon. As a quantitative study aimed at measuring the frequency at which people are being imprisoned, the researcher was objective on the various rates of recidivism of different communities studied. Quantitative research is inclined to be deductive. In other words it tests theory. Using the hypothesis indicated earlier in the introductory-chapter, the study tested the hypothesis that "there is no significant relationship between

recidivism and improper rehabilitation, society's inability to reintegrate ex-convicts, stigmatization from the society as well as unemployment faced by ex-convicts". Quantitative designs of research tend to produce results that can be generalized.

A pilot survey of 50 questionnaires was conducted before the final data collection in Tamale. This was done to test how the respondents will understand the questions and what to be done to handle the challenges that are likely to be encountered during the main data collection state.

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CHAPTER FIVE

ANALYSIS, DISCUSSIONS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

5.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter is made up of four (4) main sections namely sections A, B, C and D. Section 'A' deals with the analysis of data obtained from the different groups identified in the various communities where the activities of ex-convicts are quite pronounced. Section 'B' deals with the analysis of responses from the recidivists. Chapter 'C' analyses the views, opinions and comments from the prison officials and finally section 'D' focuses on the procedures involved in hypothesis testing.

SECTION A-ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA OF RESPONDENTS OUTSIDE THE PRISON

This section examines members of public's opinion on prison as a rehabilitation center, training programs of inmates, treatment of recidivist by the public, social integration of ex-convicts and recidivists' accessibility of jobs.

TABLE 5.1a –AGE DISRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS

Ages of respondents	Frequency	Percent
10-20 years	56	14.0
21-30 years	200	50.0
31-40 years	84	21.0
41-50 years	60	15.0
Total	400	100.0

Source: Field survey, Dec. 2009

Table one of this study contains data on the ages of respondents in the larger society. Of the 400 respondents contacted, fifty-six (56) of them representing fourteen (14%) fell within the age bracket of 10–20 years. The modal age group of the respondent was 21–

30 years since it had a frequency of two hundred (200) representing fifty percent (50%) of the entire sample. Twenty- one percent (21%) with a frequency of eighty-forty (82) respondents belonged to the category of respondents with the age group of 31–40 years. Those whose ages fell within 41–50 years were sixty (60) representing 15% of the respondents. None of the respondents had an age group more than fifty (50) years. The above data shows that the youth are more interested in participating in efforts to deal with the attitudes of members of society and its impacts on recidivism.

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TABLE 5.2a–PRISON AS A REHABILITATION CENTER

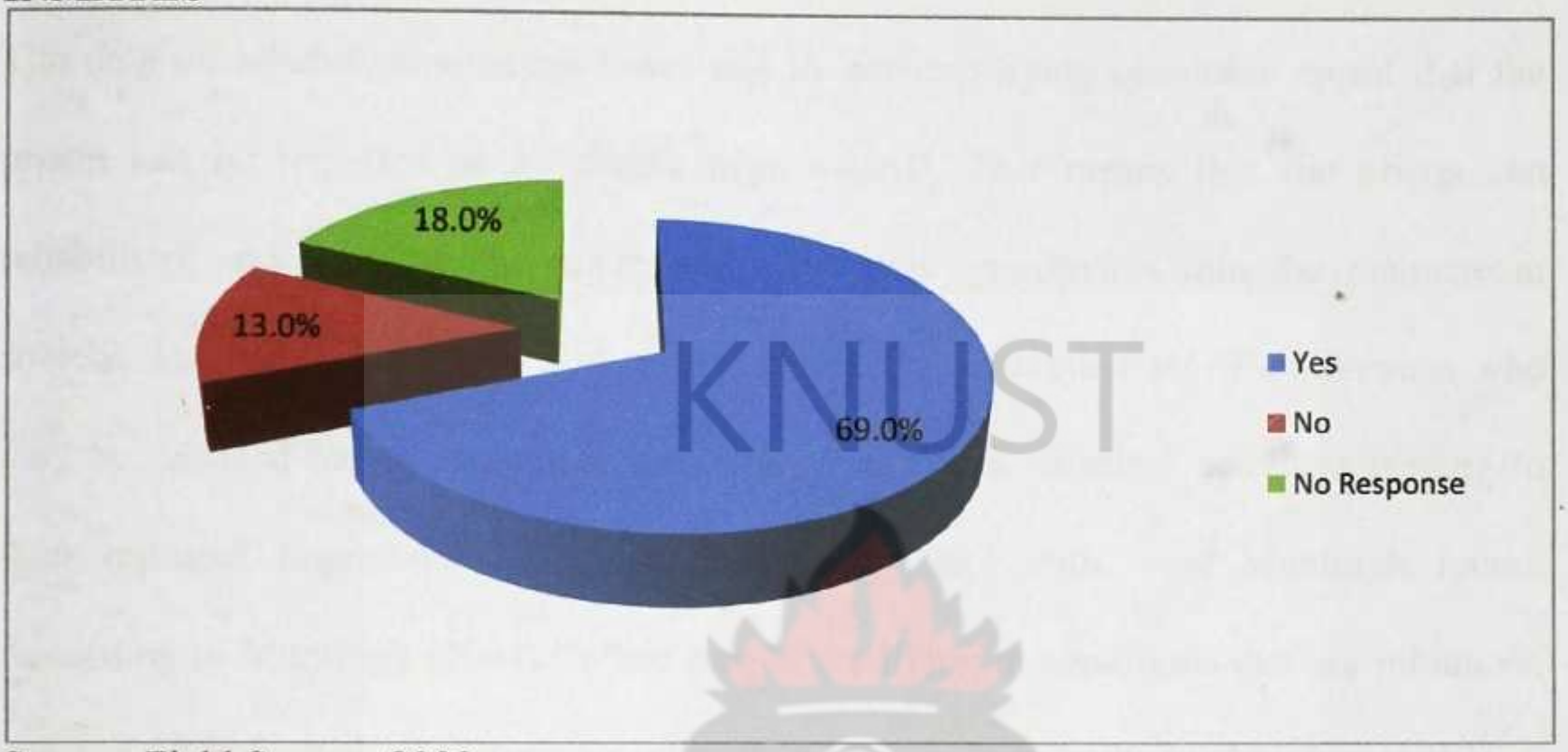
Responses	Frequency	Percent
Yes	244	61.0
No	156	39.0
Total	400	100.0

Source: Field survey, Dec. 2009

Responses from respondents in the above table revealed that, two hundred and forty-four (244) of them which represented sixty-one percent (61%) still believed that the role of the prison as a rehabilitation center is still feasible, while the remaining one hundred and fifty-six (156) respondents representing thirty-nine percent (39%) did not think or believe the prison still plays the rehabilitative/reformative role. Those who answered negatively to the question also identified different reasons to buttress their claim. Twenty percent (20%) were of the view that since ex-convicts after their release from prison continues to repeat their criminal activities; this means the prison has failed in its bid to rehabilitate inmates. The same percentage point of twenty (20) also said the increase in other forms of crimes showed that the prison is unable to fully rehabilitate ex-convicts. Eight (8) of

those who answered 'NO', believed ex-convicts do not treat other people humanely, and this behaviuor shows signs of improper rehabilitation.

FIGURE 5.3a- PROGRAMS AIMS AT OFFERING SKILLS TO THE PRISON INMATES



Source: Field Survey, 2009.

As part of the rehabilitation process, skills are inculcated into inmates to make them productive after their release from prison. This particular finding relate to the programs of the prisons. Respondents were asked to give their opinions on whether skills acquired in prison are used to improve the livelihood of ex-convicts. In their response to this question, sixty-nine percent (69%) answered in the affirmative but the remaining one thirteen percent (13%) did not agree with those who answered in the affirmative. As it can be seen in the above data, eighteen percent of the respondents did not respond to this particular question. Some of them who answered negatively further indicated that they do not acquire skills since most of them relapse to their undesirable behavior leading to their subsequent imprisonment. Respondents were also asked whether recidivists are found in their communities. Two hundred and forty-eight (248) of them representing sixty-two percent (62%) answered positively, whiles one hundred and fifty-two (152)

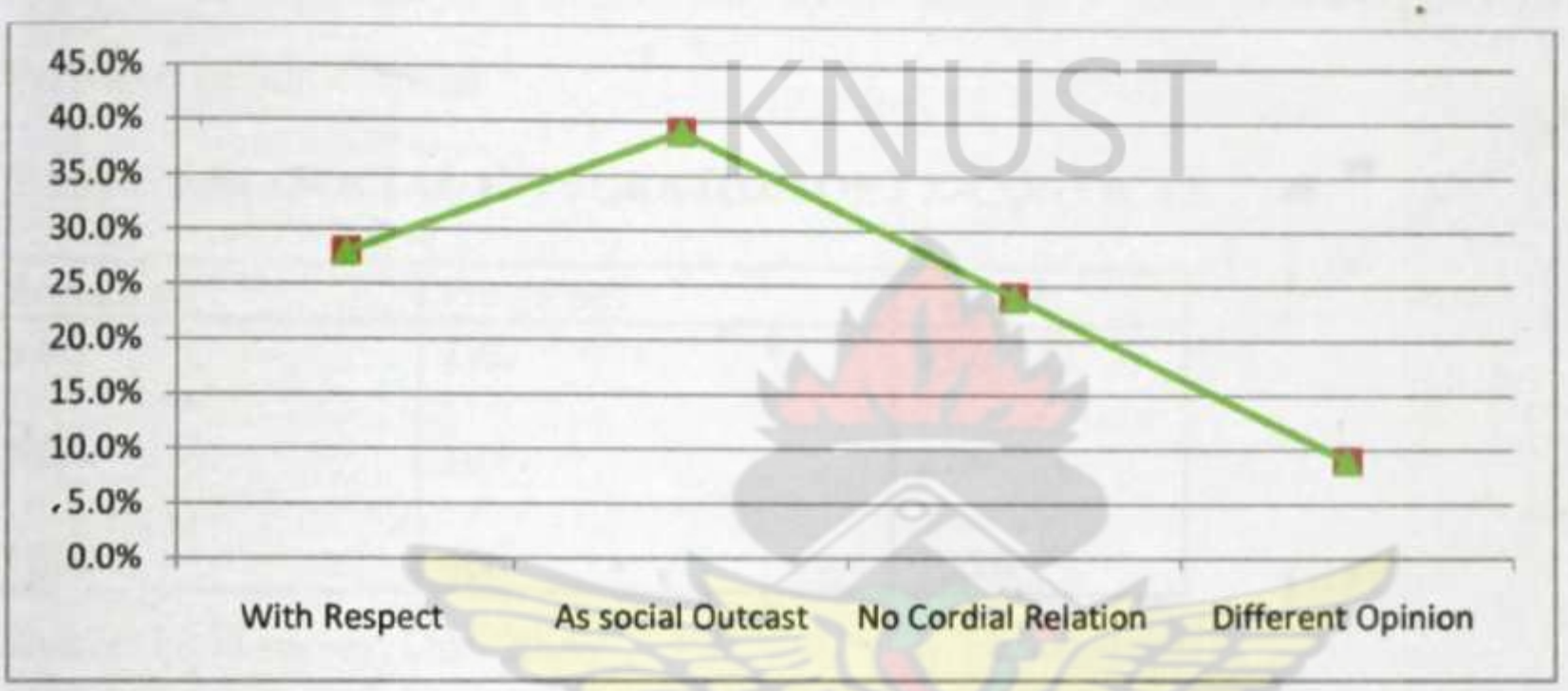
respondents with thirty eight percent (38%) said 'NO' to the question. They said they only heard of them but do not have them in their communities.

The data on rehabilitation of prisoners and its accompanying questions reveal that the prison can be regarded as a "double edge sword". This means that the prison can rehabilitate and facilitate the reintegration of some ex-convicts into the mainstream society. This same prison can also impact negatively on another set of ex-convicts who may be released hardened enough to continue with their criminal activities leading to their repeated imprisonment. This is in consonance with what Muntingh found. According to Muntingh (2004) "When people are living in conditions that are inhumane and are often treated as something other than human, it is unlikely that they will treat other people humanely. Without reintegration services upon their release, it is not surprising that prisoners completing their first sentence will find themselves hardened by their experience and either unable or unwilling to pursue non-criminal endeavors". The prison can only perform its rehabilitative role by improving upon the conditions in prison on order to make the prison environment friendlier for inmates. Also the needed training skills should be made available to ensure a complete rehabilitation of convicts.

Stigmatization featured frequently in most of the literature reviewed, as a result of this, the researcher decided to investigate the issue to determine its authenticity as a factor of recidivism. The researcher found out that, twenty-eight (28) respondents representing seven percent (7%) attributed the stigmatization against ex-convicts to the perception that ex-convicts have been improperly rehabilitated which often leads to their apprehension after repeatedly committing additional crimes. About two hundred and twenty-eight

(228) respondents, which represented fifty-seven (57%), held the view that they cannot trust a habitual criminal resulting in behaving the way they do that lead to the stigmatization of ex-convicts. Sixty-four (64) of the respondents which represented sixteen percent (16%) openly said that, once a prisoner always a criminal.

FIGURE 5.4a- TREATMENT OF HABITUAL RECIDIVISTS IN SOCIETY



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Source: Field Survey, 2009.

The study also sought opinions from respondents concerning the treatment of habitual criminals (recidivists), and twenty-eight percent (28%) said they should be treated with respect, thirty-nine (39%) held the opinion that, they should be treated as social outcast, whiles twenty-four (24%) saw them as people they should not have cordial relations with. Others represented by nine percent (9%) gave different opinions. Respondents on their responses to their family members marrying ex-convicts, thirty-three percent (33%) said they would consent to it, but seventy-seven percent (77%) of the respondents did not hide their dislike for the above question since they strongly objected to this idea.

When asked whether there were any of their family members being recidivists, twenty-two percent (22%) of the respondents said some of their family members are recidivists

and about seventy-eight (78%) did not have any of their family members being recidivists. Those who claimed some of their relatives are recidivists further gave the following responses, two (2) people said they visit them twice every week, twelve (12) claimed they visit them once every month. According to them since they keep going in and out of prison, they would not waste their time visiting such people. The implication of the responses is that, members of society perceived recidivists as bad people. They see them as common enemies.

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TABLE 5.5a - SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF EX-CONVICTS

Responses	Frequency	Percent
YES	292	73.0
NO	108	27.0
Total	400	100.0

Source: Field survey, Dec. 2009

Respondents in their reaction to the question as to whether ex-convicts should be allowed back into the houses they lived before their incarceration, two hundred and ninety-two (292) of them representing seventy-three percent (73%) supported the idea of accepting back ex-convicts into their former houses before their imprisonment. One hundred and eight (108) respondents which represented twenty-seven percent (27%) on the other hand said they should not be allowed back into their former houses. The reasons attributed to this were not different from what were outlined earlier. These reasons include habitual criminals cannot be trusted, once a prisoner always a criminal, some ex-convicts have become so hardened and so on. When members of society fail to re-integrate ex-convicts they consider themselves as 'odd' among the people.

The need for re-integration of ex-convicts is an obligation for every member of the communities in Tamale in particular and Ghana as a whole. This is similar to what Roots indicated. According to Roots (2004), certain organizations are currently working towards lowering recidivism rates through the re-integration of ex-detainees into society by helping them obtain work, teaching them various societal skills, and by providing all-round support. One such organization that is currently based in New York City is Exodus Transitional Community. This programme when effectively implemented at the local level can play an active role in reducing crime.

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On the issue of inviting ex-convicts to attend social gatherings, sixty-six percent (66%) answered in the affirmative, but thirty-four percent (34%) of the respondents rejected the idea of inviting ex-convicts to attend social gatherings. The reasons offered by those who answered negatively were as follows: lack of trust for ex-convicts, ex-convicts considers crime as a habit, the hardened nature of some ex-convicts has made them a source of threat to members of society, and that they do not behave humanely towards people on their release from prison. In view of this, the local and traditional authorities to enable members of the society to eschew acts that contribute to the stigmatization of ex-convicts should use adequate educational campaigns.

TABLE 5.6a - ACCESSIBILITY TO JOB OPPORTUNITIES BY EX-CONVICTS

Responses	Frequency	Percent
YES	172	43.0
NO	228	57.0
Total	400	100.0

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Source: Field survey, Dec. 2009

Respondents in providing answers to the question whether they would employ ex-convicts to work in their businesses, the responses in the table above revealed that, one hundred and seventy-two (172) respondents representing forty-three percent (43%) agreed that, they would employ ex-convicts but majority of them disapproved of this, since two hundred and twenty-eight (228) of them representing fifty-seven percent (57%) explicitly said no, and the reasons they gave were that, they may abscond with the proceeds of the business as well as trying to exhibit their undesirable behaviour in a disguised way, and that this may contribute to the collapse of those businesses. Respondents were further asked whether ex-convicts should be allowed to work in the public sector or in other people's businesses. About forty-two percent (42%) answered positively; nineteen percent (19%) of the respondents said they should not be allowed to work in other peoples' businesses or in the public sector. Respondents when asked to offer suggestions to curb the incidence of recidivism, the following responses were obtained; sixteen percent (16%) mentioned frequent counseling of prison inmates, especially; ex-convicts as one of the suggestions.

In addition, twenty percent (20%) suggested that, society should accept back ex-convicts whole-heartedly (social integration). Furthermore eleven percent (11%) said educational programmes should be organized to sensitize members of society to desist from acts that further push ex-convicts away from them. Alternative sentencing was also mentioned with all seriousness. Nine percent (9%) suggested alternative sentencing as another factor that can contribute to curbing the incident. Even though this category of respondents were not the majority but the emphatic nature with which this suggestion was presented made it so imperative. Another suggestion which came from the respondents was skill training. Seventeen percent (17%) of the respondents proposed skill training, which they say can play an active role in curbing the incidence of recidivism. Finally twenty-five percent (25%) opted for job creation by both the government and vibrant private entrepreneurs. Ghana Prison Service by way of contributing to making ex-convicts employable examines the strategies put in place by the Nsawam prison to inculcate into inmates especially the recidivists the skills that can enable them fit well in their societies after their releases from prison. It has become obvious all over the world that no meaningful reformation and rehabilitation of inmates can effectively take place without the provision of education.

The findings imply that, prison inmates in the Ghanaian prisons cannot read and write. Others do not understand arithmetic; inability to express ideas and opinions or make meaningful decisions. They do not have basic literacy skills and so find themselves in hopeless cycle where their life fabric is worsened by imprisonment. This obviously has its own negative influence and consequence on the prisoners themselves as well as the society. The problem of illiteracy thus tends to create worse problems for society as a whole.

SECTION B-ANALYSIS OF DATA OF PRISON INMATES (RECIDIVISTS)

This section discusses the implication of the recidivists' imprisonment on their families, occupation, education, the causes of their imprisonment and the attitude of the public towards them before their imprisonment.

TABLE 5.1b -AGE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS

Age of recidivists	Frequency	Percent
10-20	3	15.0
21-30	11	55.0
31-40	6	30.0
Total	20	100.0

Source: Field survey, Dec. 2009

The ages of the prison inmates (recidivists) varied from 10 to 40 years. As it can be seen from table three (3) above, three (3) of the recidivists were between the ages of 10 to 20 years. Eleven (11) of them representing fifty-five percent (55%) fell within the ages of 21to 30 years. The remaining six (6) of the sampled recidivists representing thirty percent (30%) had their ages between 31 to 40 years. In this sample of offenders, most of them were above twenty (20%) years. This data seem to be in line with Chaiken (2000) report which states that, the least delinquent boys were the youngest with a median age of 14.65 and the most delinquent boys were the oldest with a median age of twenty (20) plus.

It is quite obvious that, majority of the recidivists were in their youthful ages, and one can infer that, youthful exuberance is a contributory factor to the high rate of recidivism in the Tamale Central Prison. It is significant to note that, majority of the recidivists (the

study group) fall within the age of 21-30 years. It is difficult to assign a specific reason to this. It may be due to youth (exuberance), lack of responsibility in early life, anxiety and desire for adventure, which is characteristic of young adulthood stage in life and other numerous reasons. In addition, majority of the respondents in the larger society fall in the same age group as in the case of the recidivists. This shows that crimes everywhere are associated with the youth. This is similar to Palen's findings. According to Palen (1987), crime is an activity for the young. Palen further explained that, 45% for all crimes except murder are committed by people under eighteen, and three-quarters are committed by those under twenty-five. The data on age distribution points out to the fact that the youth are not prepared to change their habits.

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TABLE 5.2b -NUMBER OF CHILDREN OF THE RECIDIVISTS

Number of children	Frequency	Percent
2	15	75.0
3	2	10.0
4	2	10.0
Other	1	5.0
Total	20	100.0

Source: Field survey, Dec. 2009

Responses in the above table which is a first- hand information from the recidivists themselves revealed that, fifteen (15) of them representing seventy- five percent (75%) had two (2) children. Recidivists with three (3) children were two (2). Another different set of two (2) recidivists said they had four (4) children. One person indicated that he was not ready to reveal to the research team whether he had children or not. Those who

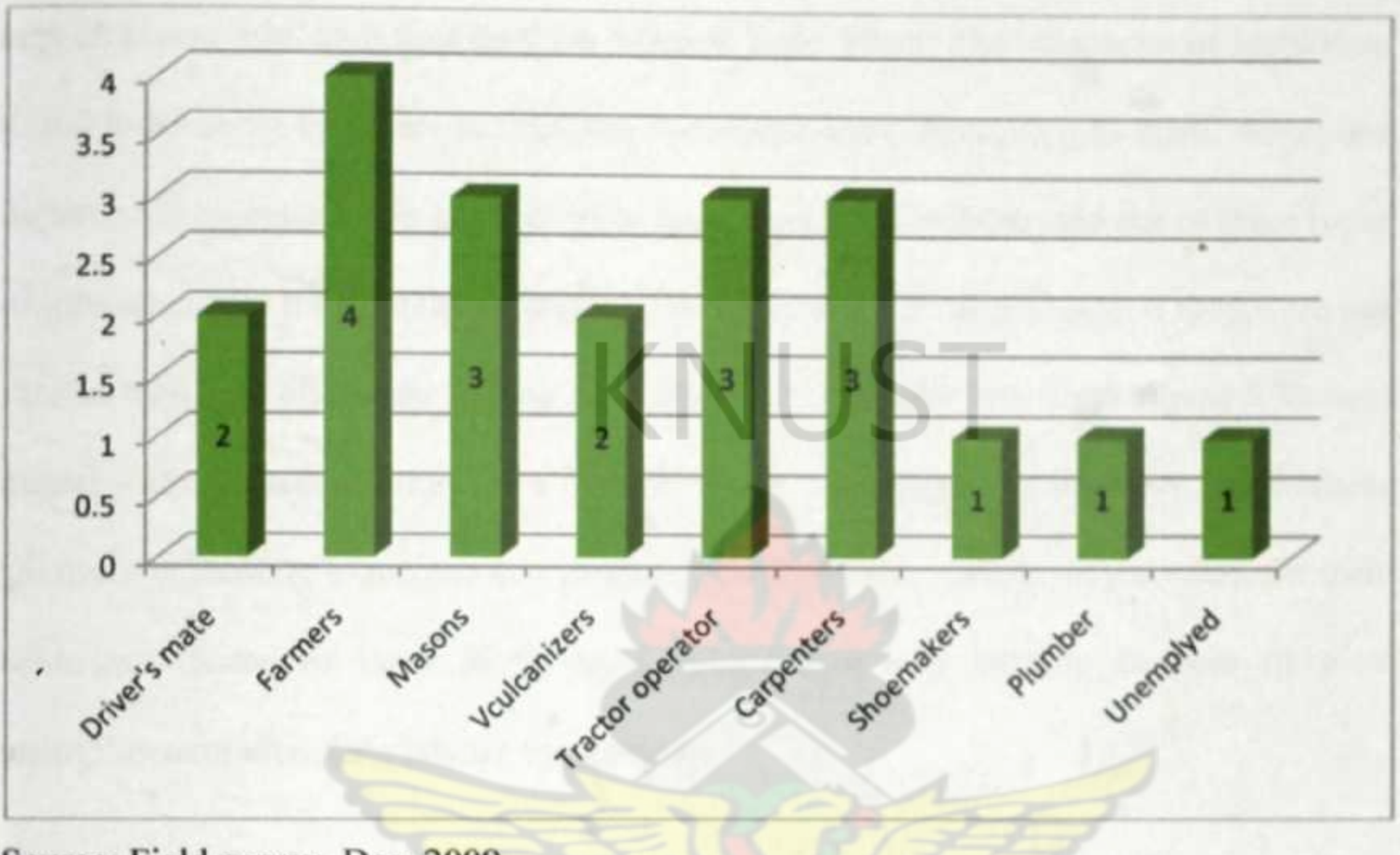
claimed they were married could not say for sure whether their marriages would continue after their release from prison.

The question that people are likely to ask is who will be responsible in taking care of these innocent children during the period of imprisonment of their fathers, if their mothers are not gainfully employed. One would want to know why despite the numerous families, social and other commitments the recidivists continually commit crimes and are repeatedly imprisoned.

One may say here that, it is the attempt to satisfy these commitments that force them into jail. In other words, it might be the pressure of providing basic needs for family and self, the desire to maintain social status and so on that pushes them into crime continually.

Most research evidences seem to point to fact that those with large number of children in their families contribute in producing deviant behaviour.

TABLE 5.3b– OCCUPATION OF RECIDIVISTS BEFORE IMPRISONMENT



Source: Field survey, Dec. 2009

The recidivists were engaged in one job or the other prior to their current imprisonment and the above distribution presents the following information. The distribution showed that the recidivists were engaged in different kinds of jobs before their imprisonment as two (2) of them said they were driver's mates. Those who engaged in farming were four (4) in number out of 20 the recidivists sampled for data collection. Three (3) claimed they were masons before their incarceration. Two (2) recidivists were vulcanizers before the unfortunate situation that led to their imprisonment again. Those who were tractor operators numbered three (3). Another set of three (3) recidivists were carpenters. There was only one (1) shoemaker and two (2) plumbers as shown in the above figure. Other categories identified were the unemployed and others. One recidivist claimed he was unemployed.

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On whether these were the only jobs they have been doing all along, all of them said they kept changing jobs each time they are released from prison. The categories of recidivists found to be doing this were the farmers and shoemakers. According to them, these jobs do not need apprenticeship and that there is free entry and exit into and out of these types of jobs whenever they are out of prison. Those in the other categories said they were not sure of their fate after their release from prison. It is clearly seen from figure 5.3b that, majority of repeaters of crime were farmers. There is no suggestion however, that farmers are more vulnerable to relapse into prison. Certain rational reasons may account for their behaviour. Some of them might have been forced into farming because of their unemployment after their release from prison.

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Others too may be mere helpers on family farms and thus do not earn income. There could also be those who may be described as "hired farmers" whose services are needed in times of bumper harvest alone. Though employment of recidivist fall into the category of definable trade, most of the respondents were found to be engaged in unskilled labour (farming, laborers, et cetera). Responses seem to reveal that, other recidivists who were engaged in other form of occupations are not prone to recidivism as they form a minority of the sample. Researcher is not however trying to make any direct relationship between recidivism and occupation.

However, with these research findings, it is plausible to make an argument that, a very high percentage of recidivists were by no means limited to the category of the low-income group in our society. The inadequacies of their working class situation may have

accounted for their criminal behaviour. Robert Merton's anomie theory may be useful in explaining this incidence. Merton notes that deviance is caused by the fact that large numbers of population at the lower level of the social structure accept the dominant values and cultural goals of their society but are unable to realize them by legitimate means, and so they "innovate". Thus for example, if monetary wealth is stressed as the goal towards which each must strive, then it will be sought by illegitimate means such as robbery or fraud.

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TABLE 5.4b– EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND OF RECIDIVISTS

Level of Education	Frequency	Percent
No formal education	7	35.0
Primary	7	35.0
JHS	3	15.0
SHS	3	15.0
Total	20	100.0

Source: Field survey, Dec. 2009

In terms of educational background of the recidivists, the table above showed that, seven (7) recidivists representing thirty-five percent (35%) did not have formal education. Another seven (7) recidivists had primary education. Three (3) recidivists with a percentage point of fifteen (15) were junior high school (JHS) graduates, whiles the same figure, three (3) were senior high school (SHS) graduates. The data available in the above table further disclosed that, the highest educational attainment of the recidivists was senior high school (SHS). This might be a contributory factor to the inability of the

recidivists to obtain lucrative jobs that may keep them away from criminality. The researcher's perspective to this issue is that, it can be likened to a situation where this proportion of a country's citizenry might be willing to do legitimate jobs but because the jobs are not available, they decided to engage themselves in criminal acts so as to earn a living and to survive in the world out there.

Attempt is not being made to draw or establish a direct relationship between educational background and recidivism. However a number of possible reasons may be assigned to this situation. It may be that, due to their low level of education they did not acquire any gainful employment and therefore resorted to delinquency. It may also be due to inadequate intellectual development of some recidivists, thus they did not comprehend the legal implications of their crime. Another possible reason might be lack of any proper and meaningful education that had prevented some of them from developing their self-worth. A post interview with some of respondents confirmed this.

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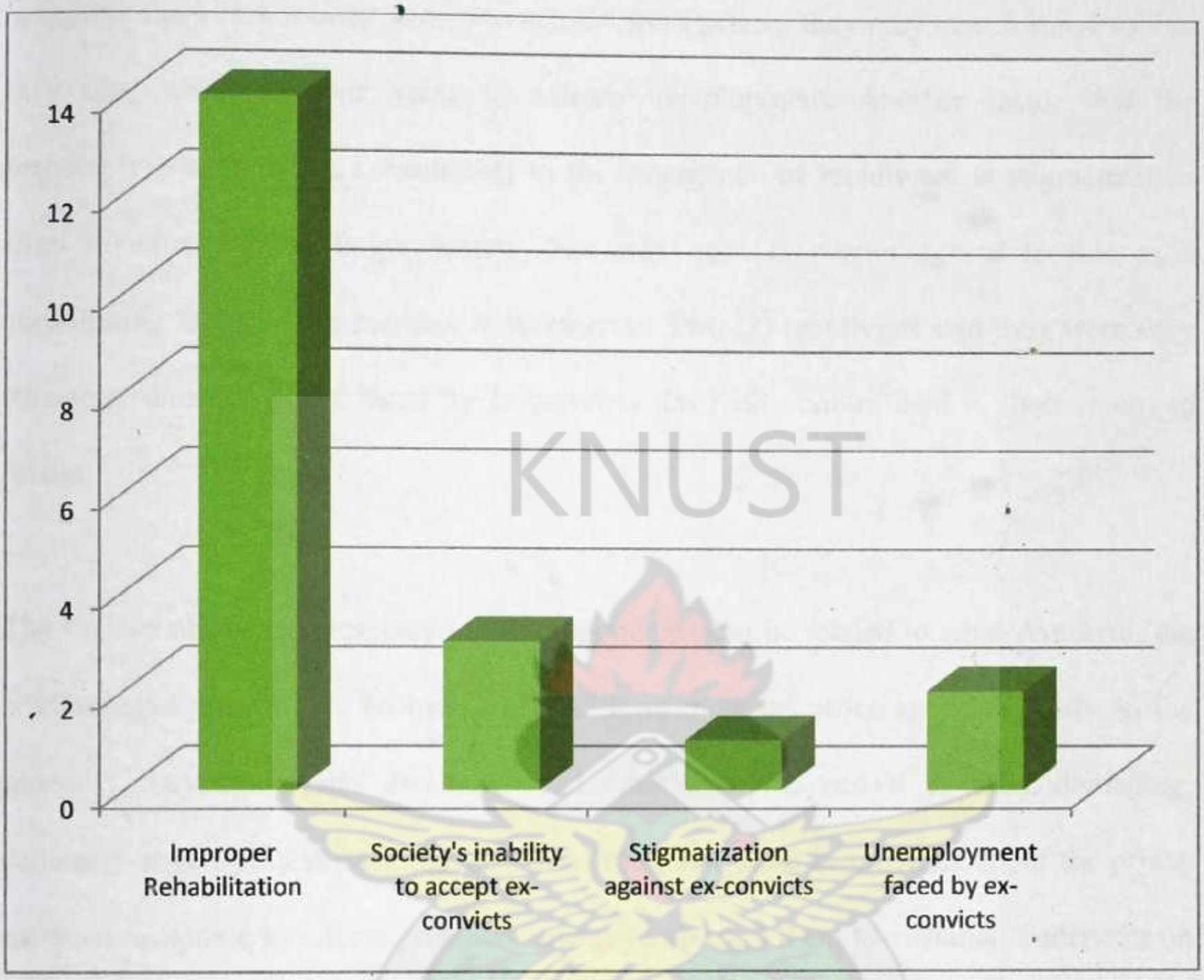
FIGURE 5.5b– CAUSES OF RETURN TO PRISON



Source: Field survey, Dec. 2009

The responses contained in the above distribution are considered as the independent variables which the researcher considered to have contributed to the incidence of recidivism. They are considered as the core or the subject matter of the research and efforts are being made to determine if there is any relationship between the variables and the concept, recidivism. The recidivists on their part also gave their opinions concerning this issue. The table above therefore indicates that, of the twenty (20) recidivists, fourteen (14) agreed that improper rehabilitation was responsible for the regular and constant return of ex-convicts to prison, whiles three (3) recidivists identified society's inability to

accept ex-convicts back and make them become normal citizens of their communities, by accepting them into society after their release from prison, they may be reformed so that they can contribute their quota to national development. Another factor that the researcher considered as contributing to the emergence of recidivism is stigmatization from members of the larger society, but only one (1) person agreed to this as a contributing factor to the increase in recidivism. Two (2) recidivists said they were very sure that, unemployment faced by ex-convicts has really contributed to their return to prison.

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The various responses presented by the respondents can be related to what Ayedemi, the criminologist argues out. To him, the prisons in most countries are very costly to the economy, psychologically disastrous and emotional destructive, socially damaging, culturally abhorrent and penologically disastrous. All these negativities about the prison render it incapable to reform prisoners, thereby exposing them to criminal tendencies on their release resulting in their re-imprisonment.

TABLE 5.6b - ATTITUDE OF PEOPLE TOWARDS RECIDIVISTS

Responses from recidivists	Frequency	Percent
Social rejection	6	30.0
Love and affection	1	5.0
Ridicule from members of society	12	60.0
Other, specify	1	5.0
Total	20	100.0

KNUST

Source: Field survey, Dec. 2009

Wilson (2009) in explaining the factors that contributes to recidivism identified the attitudes of members of society towards ex-convicts as one of the factors. As a result of this, the researcher sought opinions from the recidivists concerning the attitudes of people towards them, the last time they were in their midst. The above table therefore disclosed that, six (6) recidivists representing thirty percent (30%) mentioned social rejection from their own family members, neighbours and other members of society. One (1) recidivist said he was treated with love and affection by members of society including family members. Majority of the recidivists numbering twelve (12) with a percentage point of sixty (60), claimed they received various forms of ridicule from the people within their neighbourhood, and even from close family members. One recidivist on the other hand decided to keep his opinion and views to himself since he refused to talk to the research team.

On the issue of relationship among the recidivists themselves, there were split opinions from them. Half of the sampled recidivists representing fifty (50%) said there was a

cordial relationship among them. The other half came out strongly against the notion of their colleagues and therefore indicated that, there was no cordial relationship and that they were all living separately and functioning independently of each other. Those who answered in favour of existence of cordiality further explained that, the cordiality has created a convenient and a reliable social environment that made them feel at home. When asked to provide their opinions and views on prison life, three (3) recidivists representing fifteen percent (15%) said prison life was good. Whiles sixteen (16) recidivists who were represented by eighty percent (80%) were of the view that, prison life was very bad and not comfortable for human habitation. One (1) person again said he had no opinion to offer on this issue.

The recidivists when asked about the advice they may give to people to prevent them from coming into prison, seventeen (17) of them representing eighty-five (85%) advised that, people especially the youth should always try to avoid the temptation of committing crimes all the time. Two (2) of the recidivists gave an advice that, members of the society should accept back ex-convicts and treat them the way they wish others to treat them. Only one (1) recidivist did not give any advice.

A summary of prison life as narrated by several respondents (recidivists) are as follows; Work is monotonous and sometimes meaningless. Social life of inmates is curbed in all sorts of ways, limited social intercourse with fellow prisoners or prison staff, lack of freedom of movement, frequent lock-ups, especially whenever staff shortages made supervision of inmates a difficult one, being forced to accept abuses all the time and so on. The recidivists in their responses to the varied questions asked, remarked differently

as follows, a kind of latent antagonism seemed to exist between prisoners and prison guards. Their responses also suggested that, a firm disciplinary system made self control entirely unnecessary and difficult for inmates. The cumulative effect of such prison life in the view of the researcher is that, the inmates in the long run, would be quite incapable of coping with life outside the prison, and some of their actions may seem bizarre to others but to them they are inevitable-an aspect of the effect of imprisonment.

In the light of such prison life, prisoners begin to develop a warm interest in each other's affairs because they find themselves in the same life situation. It is probably here that a delinquent subculture arises. Conversations among them usually centers on their aspirations and the means for realizing them. New and better tricks in the game are learnt in associations, just the way conventional behaviour is learnt. Such is the prison lifestyle; these were the lamentations of four (4) recidivists.

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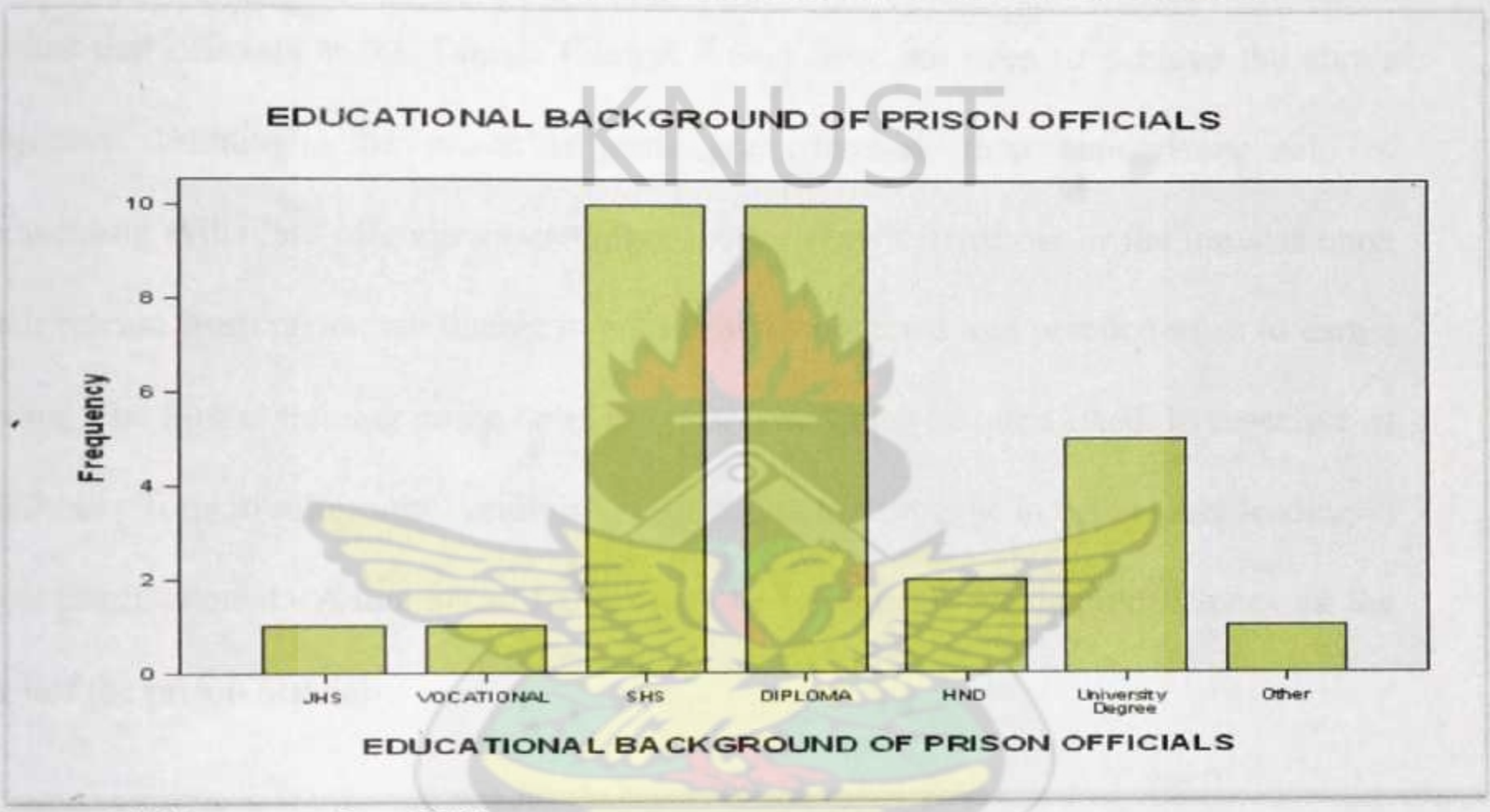
SECTION C- ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA FOR PRISON OFFICIALS

This section outlines the responsibilities of the prison officials towards the rehabilitation of the recidivists. It also assesses the role of educational qualification of the officials in the rehabilitation process as well as the impact of duration of their service.

FIGURE 5.1c– EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND OF PRISON OFFICIALS



Source: Field survey, Dec. 2009

Education from a sociological perspective is regarded as a key capable of unlocking the door of opportunity in society, and prison officials can testify to the fact that, it is as a result of their educational qualification that got them the prison job. In the above distribution, it was discovered that, those whose educational qualification was junior high school (JHS) and vocational education were one each. The senior high school (SHS) and Diploma graduates were ten (10) prison officials. Two (2) officials were Higher National Diploma (HND) holders. Those with university degree numbered five (5). One official indicated that he had middle school leaving certificate. The educational background of the prison officials contributed effectively towards smooth data collection. All the thirty

sampled prison officials answered the questions in the interview guide, and in the view of the researcher, this can be attributed to the educational level of the prison officials.

The skills of the prison officials are used in engaging and motivating offenders towards achieving their sentence plan objectives of rehabilitation/reformation, but as the data shows, improper rehabilitation or reformation was found to be one of the findings, which means that officials at the Tamale Central Prison have not been to achieve the above objective. Although, the prison officials are educated, their supervisory role of inculcating skills into offenders were either ineffectively carried out or the inmates upon their release from prison are unable to put the skills obtained into practice so as to earn a living. The formal training going on in the prison may also be questioned. Irrespective of all these efforts to reform the recidivists, they continue to engage in behaviours leading to their imprisonment. A number of factors may be responsible for this inefficiency on the part of the prison officials.

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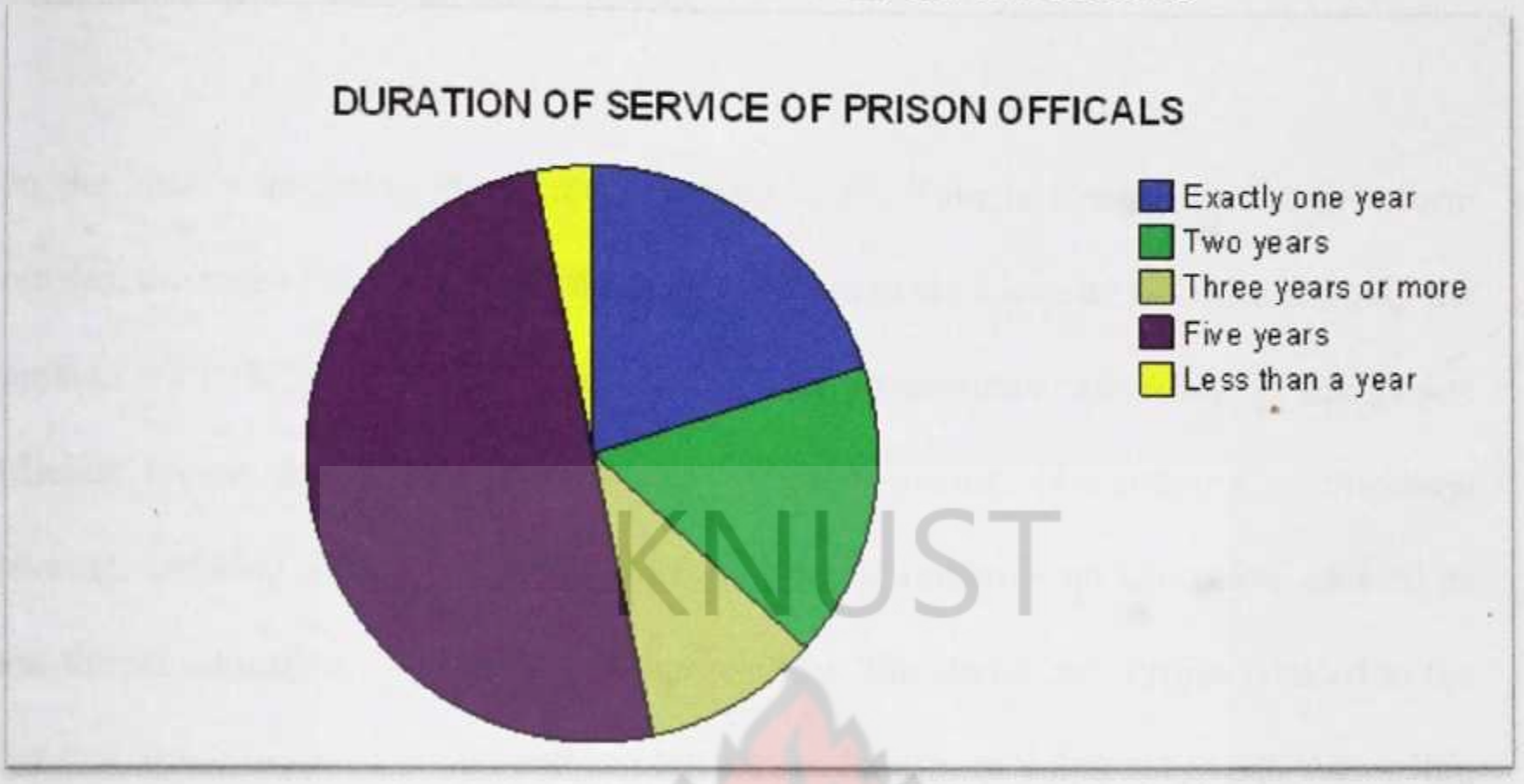
FIGURE 5.2c DURATION OF SERVICE OF PRISON OFFICIALS



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Source: Field survey, Dec. 2009

The prison officials from the data gathered had served different years, and as the distribution shows, those who have served exactly one year were 6 in number representing twenty percent 20%. The officials who have served exactly two years were 5 as the chart indicates. Another group of officials numbering 3 (10%) claimed they have served more than three years. Majority of the prison officials numbering 15 and represented by fifty percent (50%) have served more than five years. One official has served less than a year, and did not have more information about recidivism at his new post. All the prison officials maintained that efforts at the Tamale central prison have not been very successful towards the reduction of the incident. The officials in their response to a question about their relationship with the inmates (recidivists), all the 30 prison officials interviewed said their relationship with the recidivists had been very cordial and interactive. This seemed not to be a reflection of the realities on the ground (prison

environment) since about half of the sampled recidivists said they did not have any cordial relationship with the prison officials.

On the issue concerning the facilities present at the Tamale Central Prison to reform inmates, the entire 30 prison officials agreed that, there are adequate facilities to equip the inmates with skills. The facilities and training programmes according to the prison officials are as follows: carpentry and joinery, weaving, block-laying or masonry, catering, tailoring, shoe making, Presidential Special Initiative on education, as well as non-formal education. The officer in-charge of the Tamale Central Prison attested to the fact that, those in the carpentry and joinery section have been doing very well. According to him, those categories of prison inmates have also provided some furniture which is currently being used by the inmates.

The officer in-charge of the prison further indicated that, other sectors including tailoring, shoe making and electrical are also doing well. The officials were able to identify some individuals who have been able to put the skills into practice after their release from prison.

The officer again maintained that some of them have opened their own shops with several apprentices working and receiving training from these ex-convicts. Ex-convicts according to the prison officials who have refused to put the skills acquired into practice are those who have become recidivists. The prison officials on their views on what can be done to curb recidivism, sixteen (16) officials representing 53.3% maintained that society should accept and support ex-convicts. Twelve (12) of the officials representing forty percent

(40%) said community homes should be established to accommodate those ex-convicts who cannot afford their own accommodation. One prison official suggested that, there should be legal reforms to enable ex-convicts gain employment into other peoples' businesses or work in the public sector. These efforts when seriously taken into consideration may contribute to the reduction of the recidivism as a social problem.

Through the training programmes of the prison, the prison officials and the recidivists are able to have constant contacts with each other in the prison environment. As a result of this, there is intimate association between people psychologically. This is in consonance with Andersen's notion. This brings about certain fusion of individuals into a common whole (Andersen et al, 2001, pp. 126). The type and nature of relationship shown above is as a result of the interaction which occurred between the prison officials and the recidivists.

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SECTION D

5.0d TESTING OF HYPOTHESIS

The null hypothesis, the statement to be tested can either be accepted or rejected after testing the hypothesis. The sample data contained in the table below are the responses from a question: Do you think the following factors shown in the table below contribute to recidivism? The table below therefore represents the sample data (statistic) for the statistical computations.

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TABLE 5.1d. SAMPLE DATA AFTER THE FIELD SURVEY

livism social omenon	Independent variables				Total
	Improper rehabilitation of ex-convicts	**Society's inability to reintegrate ex-convicts**	**Stigmatization against ex-convicts**	**Unemployment faced by ex-convicts**	
ed	56	24	72	60	**212**
greed	64	76	28	20	**188**
	120	**100**	**100**	**80**	**400**

Source: Field survey, Oct. 2009

PROCEDURE FOR TESTING HYPOTHESIS

Douglas et al (2000) identified the following hypothesis testing procedure in social research.

- **Stating the hypothesis (both null and alternative hypotheses)**

H_o: there is no significant relationship between recidivism and improper rehabilitation of ex-convicts, society's inability to re-integrate ex-convicts, stigmatization from society and unemployment faced by ex-convicts.

H_1 there is a significant relationship between recidivism and improper rehabilitation of ex-convicts, society's inability to re-integrate ex-convicts, stigmatization from society and unemployment faced by ex-convicts

- **Determination of the sampling distribution**:

Since the variables are nominal levels of measurement, the required sampling distribution adopted was chi-square. The variables are improper rehabilitation, stigmatization against ex-convicts, society's inability to re-integrate ex-convicts and employment faced by ex-convicts. Nominal levels of measurement only names and describe variables (Douglas L., 2000).

- **Determination of the critical value**: the critical value was determined using the degree of freedom= (Rows-1) (Columns-1) = (2 – 1) (4 – 1) = (1) (3) = 3. Given the alpha level (α=0.05), readings from the chi-square table indicated 7.815 as the critical value (chi-square critical).

- **Computation of the test statistic using the formula**

$X^2 = \Sigma \left[\frac{(fo-fe)^2}{fe}\right]$, where *fo* represents the data obtained from the field, and fe is represented as $fe = \frac{\text{(Row total) (column total)}}{\text{Grand total}}$

Fe (expected frequency) **is therefore calculated as follows:**

CELL A $= \frac{212 \times 120}{400} = \frac{25440}{400} = 63.6/64$

CELL B $= \frac{212 \times 100}{400} = \frac{21200}{400} = 53$

CELL C $= \frac{212 \times 100}{400} = \frac{21200}{400} = 53$

CELL D $= \frac{212 \times 100}{400} = \frac{16960}{400} = 42.4/42$

CELL E=$\frac{188\times120}{400}=\frac{22560}{400}$ = 56.4/56

CELL F =$\frac{100\times188}{400}=\frac{18800}{400}$= 47

CELL G $\frac{188\times100}{400}=\frac{18800}{400}$ =47

CELL H =$\frac{188\times80}{400}=\frac{15040}{400}$ = 37.6/38

TABLE 5.2d COMPUTATION OF THE TEST STATISTIC

CELLS	Fo	fe	(fo- fe)	(fo- fe)²	$\frac{(fo-fe)^2}{fe}$
A	56	64	-8	64	1.0
B	24	53	-29	841	15.87
C	72	53	19	361	6.81
D	60	42	18	324	7.71
E′	64	56	8	64	1.14
F	76	47	29	841	17.89
G	28	47	-19	361	7.68
H	20	38	-18	324	8.53

Source: Researcher's construct, Dec. 2009

$X^2 = \sum \frac{[(fo-fe)]^2}{fe} = 66.6\ (67)$

- **Decision making**: - computed chi-square which is approximately 67 when compared to the critical chi-square (7.815), it is quite obvious that the computed chi-square is greater than the critical chi square; therefore the researcher failed to accept the null hypothesis that there is no significant relationship between the causal variables of the sample data and that of the population parameters. It should therefore be emphasized that, if the null hypothesis is rejected based on the sample data (statistic), we cannot say that the null hypothesis is false. Douglas et al (2000) explained that, failing to reject the null hypothesis does not prove that the null hypothesis is true; it means that we have failed to disprove the null

hypothesis. On the other hand, if a researcher fails to accept the null hypothesis, it does not mean that the null hypothesis is false; it means the researcher has only been able to disprove the null hypothesis. The explanation further showed that to prove without any doubt that the null hypothesis is true; the population parameter would have to be known. To actually determine it researchers have to count every single item of the population, and this is not feasible. The alternative is to take a sample from the population. (Douglas et al, 2000, p. 268)

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In conclusion: - since the computed chi – square is greater than the critical chi – square, the null hypothesis was rejected (failed to be accepted) in favour of the alternative hypothesis which was earlier on stated as "there is a significant relationship between recidivism and improper rehabilitation of ex-convicts, society's inability to re-integrate ex-convicts, stigmatization against ex-convicts as well as unemployment faced by ex-convicts".

Based on this, the researcher can theorize that improper rehabilitation of ex-convicts, society's inability to re-integrate ex-convicts, stigmatization against ex-convicts and unemployment faced by ex-convicts really contributes to recidivism. This theory seems to be in Lanre's (2005) notion that, the prison system at our disposal, suffers from lack of humanity, where the penal philosophies of rehabilitation and reformation do not feature permanently, thereby making the prison incapable of reforming inmates and preparing them for a crime free life on completion of imprisonment, this ends up making them unacceptable in society.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

The findings were based on the various evidences obtained from the data collected for analysis and interpretation. The findings represent the revelations, which were unknown before the collection of both primary and secondary data.

Members of the civil society still believed the prison is very relevant in the rehabilitation process of prison inmates since responses from the respondents indicate more than half of the 400 respondents obtained from the various communities agreeing that the prison is still important and can play an active role in the rehabilitation process.

The presence of recidivists in our communities is not in any doubt. The data showed that, 22% of the respondents said some of their family members are recidivists and about 78% did not have any of their family members being recidivists. Some of the family members indicated different periods of visiting them in prison. Regarding the issue indicated above, the members of the various communities attested to the fact that, they have been with recidivist for quite some time now. Some of the community members view recidivists as normal citizens who have become victims of their current circumstances due to the failure of the various social institutions responsible for socializing of society to become useful citizens. It is worth noting that the family as a primary socializing agent has failed, with other institutions such as the criminal justice system, and marriage institutions also failing.

Improper rehabilitation and stigmatization from society were identified as contributing greatly to the promotion of recidivism than the other independent variables. This was

confirmed by the data obtained from respondents in the various communities visited. Other variables include society's inability to reintegrate ex-convicts into the mainstream society and unemployment faced by ex-convicts after their release from prison. The Offender Management Model, which enhances the role of prison officers by adding a new dimension to their traditional residential and security role, was insufficiently carried out. This negatively affected the smooth re-integration of offenders to society leading to community members still stigmatizing against ex-convicts. When this situation arises, the ex-convicts may be compelled to associate themselves to those accept them. And as the Chicago School, strain and Sutherland's differential association theories indicates, small sub cultural groups usually referred to as s deviants fragments from society in order to form their own values and meanings about life. This is due to social rejection (stigmatization) of habitual criminals. This relates to Brym et al opinion. Brym et al (2003) is of the view that, criminal acts may result when youth conform to norms of the deviant sub culture. Hence, the tradition of imprisonment upon imprisonment goes on.

On the accessibility to job opportunity for ex-convicts, it was discovered that, most of the community members were not prepared to work with recidivists since just a few of the respondents agreed they would employ ex-convicts to work in their businesses. Majority of the respondents said they would never employ recidivists to work in their businesses. They held the view that, it would be a dangerous thing to do since the behaviour of recidivists may contribute to the collapse of the business. Complaints of community members include lack of trust for ex-convicts. This implication of this reaction from the owners of businesses is that, they were being over protective of their private property. All

these could be seen to have reflected the intention of the larger social group where ex-convicts are declared unwanted in almost all jobs.

The researcher also found that, ex-convicts should be allowed back into the houses they lived before their incarceration, since two hundred and ninety-two (292) of them representing seventy-three percent (73%) supported the idea of accepting back ex-convicts into their former houses after their release from prison. One hundred and eight (108) respondents which represented twenty-seven percent (27%) on the other hand did not agree to the idea of accepting ex-convicts back.

On the highest educational attainment of the recidivists, the researcher found that, only three (3) out of the 20 recidivists were able to achieve senior high school (SHS). Out of the remaining seventeen (17), seven (7) had no formal education, and another seven (7) obtained primary school education. From all indications, this level of educational attainment cannot support an individual to obtain any lucrative job than the meager jobs they have been doing for all these years. People in this category would definitely want to satisfy their needs, and by so doing may end up adopting the unacceptable methods thereby creating problems for themselves.

The results obtained after the hypothesis testing showed a significant relation between recidivism and improper rehabilitation of ex-convicts, society's inability to re-integrate ex-convicts, stigmatization from ex-convicts and unemployment faced by ex-convicts. The null hypothesis which usually shows no relation was rejected in favour of the alternative hypothesis.

The researcher also realized from the respondents especially the prison officials that, there should be legal reforms to enable ex-convicts gain employment into the public sector and also convincing private entrepreneurs to allow ex-convicts to work in their businesses. This according to the prison officials can contribute effectively to reducing the incidence of recidivism.

The officer in-charge of the Tamale Central Prison disclosed to the researcher that the fairly long sentences imposed on these prisoners (recidivists) may be due to their repeated criminal habits or the kind of offences they had committed both in the past and present. Long sentences as the officer further explained may also be aimed at rendering prisoners incapable of causing harm to society and thus ridding society of their activities for some time. This objective is based on the principle of incapacitation and security. Another possible reason according to the officer in-charge for long sentence imprisonment may be a punitive one. It is believed that, if one is adequately punished for his/her wrongs, he or she will restrain from repeating such offences and other future bad behaviour.

One of the negative implications of stigmatization from members of the society was the unpreparedness of parents to allow their family members and other relations to marry ex-convicts. A woman clearly vowed that she will never allow any of her family members to have any marital relations with ex-convicts.

Some of the respondents who were well versed in criminal issues gave several suggestions which the researcher saw to be prudent. One suggestion that was considered to be useful for our purpose was the introduction of the restorative justice as an alternative to the judicial justice system. According to some of the respondents who proposed this alternative, the focus of the restorative justice is on repairing or restoring relations disrupted by crime. Regoli and Hewitt (2006) indicate, the entire process should be informal, non-adversarial, less punitive, less stigmatizing, and less costly than the current juvenile justice system. Recent implementation of restorative justice system includes a variety of approaches. For example victim-offender mediation process which involved the participation of victims and offenders who have agreed to meet with a third-party mediator so as to enable the mediator facilitate a reparative agreement (Regoli and Hewitt, 2006, pp.437).

Mungoshi (2011) identified a project in the City of Johannesburg, South Africa, entitled "Gateway Project" aimed at helping ex-convicts for proper re-integration into society through skills and internship programmes. The successful nature of which has necessitated its extension to cater for ex-prisoners elsewhere in South Africa. It was also found that, 55 former juvenile prisoners who were given the opportunity to undergo the over (9) nine months training gained skills on personal finance, organizational behaviour and work readiness in the job training of the Gateway Project in 2009 were offered jobs to work.

According to Odoemena (2005), the prisons in Nigeria have inadvertently, left out reformation, rehabilitation and reintegration of persons interned to fit into the society on

discharge. He also made mention of the crises and plights of the ex-prisoner; its challenges to penal reform, prison management, justice sector and socio-economic development.

Another revelation from the study disclose that, long period of remand leads to congestion, congestion on the long run creates a situation whereby limited infrastructures and facilities mean for a given number inmates are overstretched to accommodate the great demand. The result is that, the prison system thus suffers from lack of humanity that affects rehabilitation and reformation negatively thereby affecting their reintegration.

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Adeyemi (2008), a renowned criminologist, described the prison as being costly to the economy in terms of the following, psychologically and emotionally destructive, socially damaging, culturally abhorrent and penologically disastrous.

In addition, a significant finding which came to light was the issue of indiscriminate combination of prisoners, a situation whereby in the bid to accommodate everybody, other inmates were put together with the hardened ones. As the study shows, minor offenders when housed together with the hardened criminals may be exposed to the skills and tricks used by the hardened criminals. Consequently, this process leads to indoctrination of minor offenders resulting in releasing more hardened, worse than worse than ever being taken into prison, hence the issue of recidivism being experienced continuously.

CHAPTER SIX

6.0 SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter is intended to provide some highlights on the main subject matter of this study. It also provides a conclusion to the study as well as recommendations to deal with the findings of this study.

6.1 SUMMARY

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The project, which was organized in six (6) chapters, was meant to investigate the causal variables of recidivism from both the prison and among members of society. The first chapter dealt with the introduction which gave general overview of the identified problem. This chapter also looked at the background to the study where the historical perspective of the development of prisons was considered.

This was followed by the statement of problem where the various rates of the phenomenon recidivism was shown from the global perspective to the local level, thus stating the problem outside Africa by taking a look at the issue in Europe, the middle East, Asia, America and so on and narrowing it into Africa, the western part of Africa, Ghana, Northern Region and eventually Tamale, the study area. The harmful effects of the identified problem was also considered as well as research questions and objectives.

The second chapter, which was literature review, dealt with the views, opinions, suggestions and the commentaries of scholars and authorities who have written extensively on the issue under investigation. Two main types of literature review namely the integrative and the theoretical literature reviews were considered. This aspect dealt with the secondary sources of data needed to provide some support and assistance toward data presentation and analysis. This also assisted the researcher in coming out with a

(18) If NO, should they be allowed to work in the public sector or in other peoples' businesses YES [ ], NO [ ]. Give reasons to support your answer.....

.....

SECTION C

SUGGESTIONS TOWARDS SOLVING THE PROBLEM

(19) What do you think can be done generally to curb the incidence of recidivism?

(1).....

(2).....

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theory giving rise to recommendations. The third chapter comprises the background of the study area which was divided into the origins of the people in the study area, the health and sanitation of the area, economic activities of the people, the traditional authority of the study area, education of the area, religion of the people in the area as well as the maintenance of law and order were clearly stated as a guide to readers of this work.

The fourth chapter dealt with the methodology of the study. The methodology adopted for this study comprised the following components: the research design which was the social survey, the Sampling frame comprised the list of all the members of the identified groups in the study area. In all, about 26 different groups were identified with a total targeted population of about 1200 respondents.

The sampling technique/ procedure, which is a plan that indicates how cases (respondents) are to be selected for data collection, was also applied. In this research, both stratified (probability) and snowball (non-probability) techniques were used. Stratified random sample was used for the members of society outside the prison. For the key informants such as recidivists and prison officials, the snowball sampling technique was used. This technique was considered appropriate because knowledge about the target group in the prison was limited.

In the determination of the sample, Tamale was divided into 2 main categories namely the center and the periphery (North, South, East and West). Each of the groups was represented proportionately. In the center, 10 identified groups including the prison inmates as well as officers yielded about 50 respondents and 400 respondents from the center and the periphery comprising the North, South, East and West, resulting in obtaining a total sample of four hundred and fifty (450) respondents.

The instruments of data collection for the study were of two different kinds, which included questionnaires and structured interviews. The sources of data for the study were mainly two namely the primary and the secondary sources. The Primary source involved the researcher coming into contact with the respondents in the field through the use of specified tools/techniques such as questionnaires and interviews in order to obtain original and first hand information.

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The secondary source was mainly the various documented materials, which were related to the study. Text books, journals, articles and previous research reports, periodicals, the internet etc were the main secondary sources that were used in the course of the study. The data processing was grouped under three headings such as editing which involved reading through the text to get rid of materials, which have been rendered valueless, add ideas that are left out and to also offer grammatical corrections. Coding which dealt with the transforming of raw data from the field into a form suitable for machine (computer) analysis, using SPSS was also dealt with. Presentation of the data using simple statistical tools such as the conversion of data into percentages and averages and arranging into frequency distribution tables were the final stage of the data processing.

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The fifth chapter being very crucial was where analysis, discussions and interpretation of data from respondents in the field were done. This chapter comprised four (4) sections. Section 'A' dealt with the analysis and interpretation of data from the larger society. This section dealt with the perceptions of people concerning prisoners in the Ghanaian prisons. Members in the identified communities perceived prison inmates as illiterates and cannot express their ideas and opinions or make meaningful decisions. Ex-convicts as people

they perceive them are always in hopeless situation since few people are prepared to accept them after their release from prison. This obviously has its own negative influence and consequence on the prisoners themselves as well as the society. The problem of illiteracy thus tends to create worse problems for society as a whole.

Section 'B' dealt with the summary of prison life from the prisoners themselves as follows; Work is monotonous and sometimes meaningless for inmates. Social life of inmates is curbed in all sorts of ways, lack of freedom of movement, frequent lock-ups, especially whenever staff shortages made supervision of inmates a difficult one, being forced to accept abuses all the time and so on. The recidivists in their responses to the varied questions asked, they all remarked differently as follows, a kind of latent antagonism seemed to exist between prisoners and prison guards. Their responses also suggested that, a firm disciplinary system made self control entirely unnecessary and difficult for inmates.

The cumulative effect of such prison life in the view of the researcher is that, the inmates in the long run, would be quite incapable of coping with life outside the prison, and some of their actions may seem bizarre to others but to them they are inevitable- aspect of the effect of imprisonment. Prisoners begin to develop a warm interest in each other's affairs because they find themselves in the ~~same~~ life situation. It is probably in the prison that a delinquent subculture arises. Conversations among them usually centers on their aspirations and the means for realizing them. It is the prison that new and better tricks in the game are learnt.

Section 'C' analyzed the data from prison officials has enabled them to be abreast with the behaviour of the recidivists. This has resulted in creating an intimate relationship between the prison officials and the recidivists in the prison environment. The result of intimate association has brought a considerable knowledge of the behavior of the recidivists to the prison officials and finally section 'D' presented the procedure for testing the hypothesis.

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6.2 CONCLUSION OF THE STUDY

This study, which has elaborated into details the various contributory factors of recidivism, has also successfully outlined a number of recommendations which when effectively operationalized, can contribute to effectively managing the problem. The recommendations of the study are expected to reduce the various criminal activities such as theft, attacks, and sexual harassment at night and other forms of crimes in the Tamale Metropolis, which have resulted in the imprisonment of perpetrators on a number of times. It is believed that when policy makers adhere to the recommendations, some level of achievements can be made in terms of reducing the rate of recidivism in the Tamale metropolis.

It is regrettable that more prisons, and long prison terms have not reduced the crime rate in society. The imprisonment if inmates without effectively preparing them for the challenges of re-integration on release will create a conducive atmosphere for re-offending. The successful re-integration of ex-prisoners into society is a very critical challenge. It is true that ex-prisoners have endangered society by committing crimes, but if society's response to them does not redeem them, nothing has been gain. Returning

those who are incarcerated back to the society as productive citizens is very important, and efforts must be directed towards achieving this. The issue of releasing ex-prisoners from the prison unprepared for re-integration into the society and again resorting to crimes needs to be corrected. Those who by virtue of personal choice always resort to crime and live the rest of their lives battling with the lure of re-offending, in frustration and totally disillusioned.

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6.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations below are made based on the findings discovered at the end of the data collection and analysis.

Out of the twenty-two (22) recidivists studied, only three of them had education up to the senior high level. Seven (7) had no formal education, and another seven (7) obtained primary school education. It is quite obvious that, the level of educational attainment of the recidivists cannot support them to obtain any lucrative job than the meager jobs they have doing for all these years. For this reason, it is therefore recommended that, the prison officials who possessed requisite technical and vocational skills should be encouraged to facilitate the training of prisoners who had no skills. More basic tools and equipment needed to meet the training needs of prison inmates should be provided to the work of prison officers in the training and inculcation of skills to the prisoners.

The general decline in the quality of living conditions of prisoners which may be attributed to the deterioration of prison structures can be curtailed when there is a general rehabilitation and provision of the following facilities; toilet facilities, bathrooms

adequate bedding, sanitation, infirmaries and ventilation in the cells in which prisoners are kept. There should also be adequate supply of basic drugs in the infirmaries in not only the Tamale central prison but other prisons across the country.

Improper rehabilitation and stigmatization from society were identified as contributing greatly to recidivism. As a result of this, the radio stations and other media houses in the Tamale metropolis should also air some radio jingles on the need to stop stigmatization against ex-convicts, and which will be proceeded by discussions by opinion leaders in the communities, members of watch committees, prison officials and other members of the security agencies aimed at disabusing the minds of the members of the community to stop stigmatization which have contributed to pushing ex-convicts deep into practices that have resulted in habitual criminality.

The data obtained seem to suggest that, there was moral decadence among the youth of the various communities visited. As a result of this, efforts should be made to encourage the idea of introduction of moral talks in schools, communities, mosques, and even at the work place to instill in people the fear of God so as to make them upright in terms of morality. If this is properly done some level of, achievement can be made in our crime prevention strategies.

Unpreparedness on the part of parents to allow their family members and other relations to have marital relations with ex-convicts was also discovered after the data collection. In response to this, there should be an encouragement from parents to give consent to not only their family members but also their own children who have expressed interests in

marrying ex-convicts. This when accepted by members of society can contribute to effective social integration process of ex-convicts.

It was discovered that, most of the community members were not prepared to work with recidivists since majority of the respondents claimed they would never employ ex-convicts to work in their businesses. In view of this, there should be incentives to ex-convicts who have vowed not to get involved in acts and behaviours thathave resulted in their imprisonment. The incentive according to the respondents can be in the form of assisting ex-convicts with an initial capital to start up a business, or assisting those of school going age to get enrolled in school.

It was also found out that, various tricks concerning criminality were learnt in the prison environment as a result of prison contamination. In order to minimize this, community sentencing should be encouraged so as to curtail this problem, if not its total eradication. In connection with this, half-ways houses should be built and placed under the care of the community watch dog committees with supervision coming from the prison authority, for accommodating convicts under community sentencing. In these facilities, training programmes such as skills inculcation for inmates and educational programmes should be included.

The researcher also realized from the respondents especially the prison officials that, there should be legal reforms to enable ex-convicts gain employment into the public sector and also convincing private entrepreneurs to allow ex-convicts to work in their

businesses. This according to the prison officials can contribute effectively to reducing the incident of recidivism.

Long sentences should be given to recidivists. This is aimed at rendering prisoners incapable of causing harm to society. This objective is based on the principle of incapacitation and security. Another possible reason for long sentencing according to the officer in-charge of the Tamale Central Prison as a punitive measure. It is believed that, if offenders are adequately punished for wrongs, they will restrain from repeating such offences and other future bad behaviour.

The introduction of the restorative justice as an alternative to the judicial justice system can contribute to reducing recidivism. Those (respondents) who proposed this alternative were of the view that it is capable of repairing or restoring relations disrupted by crime. This can facilitate effective co-existence between offenders and victims of crime.

Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) 2002 and 2003 prisons cells report showed that, recreational facilities and other in-door games such as ludo, draughts and oware were virtually absent. As a way of solving this problem, there should be adequate provision of recreational facilities and other in-door games such as those already mentioned above in most of the country's prisons so as to make the prison environment boredom free and comfortable so that prisoners when released may not be hardened.

The report again showed that, most prisons of which the Tamale prison is no exception are not provided with the required grants for feeding. The prisoners according to some of the prison officials were fed by their relatives. In cases where prisoners have no relatives in the town of detention, they relied on the kind generosity of prison officers and other prisoners. Government should make the provision of daily ration for feeding of prisoners a top priority so that the nutritious requirements of the inmates would be met. The prison officials and other prisoners found to be generous should be encouraged to continue with their humanitarian services by assisting prisoners who have no relatives in the town where they are imprisoned when government daily rations are not provided in time.

Based on Mongoshi's identification of the Gateway Project" in Johannesburg, South Africa with the aim of helping ex-convicts to be proper re-integrated in society through skills and internship programs have led to the achievement of jobs. It is therefore recommended that such similar projects should be replicated in Ghana, particularly in the Tamale metropolis to provide training skills for ex-convicts who could not who could not acquire such similar whiles in prison.

The study by Odoeman in 2005 found out that, prisons in Nigeria have relegated certain statutory functions such as reformation, rehabilitation and re-integration of offenders, which could have helped ex-convicts to fit into the society to the background. In order to solve this, prison problem, prison authorities throughout the West African sub region should be re-oriented on the need to effectively carry out the above statutory roles of the prisons.

The issue of indiscriminate combination of prisoners, a situation where minor offenders are put together hardened criminals also came to light resulting into producing more recidivists due to prison contamination. In the issue of prison, contamination is solved, then ex-convicts would be released properly reformed to be able to reintegrate back to society. When this really occurs, the problem of recidivism will be brought under control.

A very significant finding capable bringing a sigh of relief to ex-convicts facing stigmatization, discrimination and rejection is the issue involving attempts by the Nigerian National Assembly to formulate an act that will allow ex-convicts to change their names in court so that their crimination will become the thing of the past. As a result of this, more efforts should be made to practicalize such legal framework in Ghana so as to prevent ex-convicts from being perpetually discriminated upon.

The above recommendations when considered by members of society, law enforcement agencies, opinion leaders and policy makers can contribute to effectively reducing the incidence of recidivism.

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APPENDIX A

QUESTIONNAIRES FOR MEMBERS OF CIVIL SOCIETY

SECTION A

(1) Age----------→ (a) 10-20 [ ] (b) 21-30 [ ] (c) 31-40 [ ] (d) 41-50 (e) 60 and above [ ].

(2) Marital status → (a) Single [ ] (b) Married [ ] (c) Divorced [ ] (d) Widowed [ ] (e) Other [ ]

SECTION B

(i) THE PRISON AS A REHABILITATION/REFORMATIVE CENTER

(3) Do you think the role of the Prison as a rehabilitation center is still feasible?
YES [ ] NO [ ].

(4) If NO, what is your reason?
(a) Repeat of crime by ex-convicts
(b) Increase in other forms of crime
(c) Ex-convicts do not treat people humanely
(d) Other specify.....

(4) Do you know of any situation where skills obtained by some ex-convicts are being put into practice to improve their livelihood? YES [ ] NO [ ].

(5)If NO, does it mean ex-convicts do not acquire any skills during their imprisonment?

(6) Do you have some of the recidivists living among the residents in your area?
YES [ ] NO [ ].

(ii) THE VARIOUS FORMS OF STIGMA EXPERIENCED BY EX-CONVICTS

(7) How are recidivists being treated by members of your community? (a) With respect

(b) as social outcasts (c) Not cordial (d) if any other specify.....

(8) Why do people behave the way they do that contribute to the stigmatization of ex-convicts?
(a) Improper rehabilitation
(b) Cannot trust habitual criminals
(c) They believe that once a prisoner always a prisoner
(d) Some ex-convicts have become so hardened.
(9)Would you consent to any of your family members and close associates marrying recidivists/ex-convicts? YES [ ], NO [ ]. Give reasons to support your answer

(10) Do you have any of your family members being recidivist YES [ ], NO [ ].

(11) If YES, how often do you visit them in Prison?
(a) Once every week
(b) Twice a week
(c) Once every Month
(d) Twice a month (e) other specify.....

(iii) SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF EX-CONVICTS

(12) Should ex-convicts be allowed back into the houses they lived before their imprisonment after being release from Prison? YES [ ], NO [ ].

(13) If NO, what do you think is the cause?
(a) Improper rehabilitation
(b) Cannot trust habitual criminals
(c) They thought that once a prisoner always a prisoner
(d) Some ex-convicts have become so hardened,
(e) Other, specify.....

(14) Should ex-convicts be invited to attend normal social gatherings such as wedding, outdooring, funerals and so on in your community? YES [ ] NO [ ].

(15) If NO, what is responsible of this behaviour from members of society?
(a) Improper rehabilitation
(b) Cannot trust habitual criminals
(c) They that once a prisoner always a prisoner
(d) Some ex-convicts have become so hardened, other specify.....

(iv) FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO RECIDIVISM

(16)Do you think the following under listed factors contribute to recidivism?

Improper rehabilitation of ex-convicts----------→ Agreed [ ], Not agreed [ ].

Society's inability to reintegrate ex-convicts----------→ Agreed [ ], Not agreed [ ].

Stigmatization from the larger society----------→Agreed [ ], Not agreed [ ].

Unemployment faced by ex-convicts----------→Agreed [ ], Not agreed [ ].

(v)ACCESSIBILTY TO JOB OPPORTUNITIES BY EX-CONVICTS

(17) Would you like to employ a recidivist to work in your business? YES [ ], NO [ ].

theory giving rise to recommendations. The third chapter comprises the background of the study area which was divided into the origins of the people in the study area, the health and sanitation of the area, economic activities of the people, the traditional authority of the study area, education of the area, religion of the people in the area as well as the maintenance of law and order were clearly stated as a guide to readers of this work.

The fourth chapter dealt with the methodology of the study. The methodology adopted for this study comprised the following components: the research design which was the social survey, the Sampling frame comprised the list of all the members of the identified groups in the study area. In all, about 26 different groups were identified with a total targeted population of about 1200 respondents.

The sampling technique/ procedure, which is a plan that indicates how cases (respondents) are to be selected for data collection, was also applied. In this research, both stratified (probability) and snowball (non-probability) techniques were used. Stratified random sample was used for the members of society outside the prison. For the key informants such as recidivists and prison officials, the snowball sampling technique was used. This technique was considered appropriate because knowledge about the target group in the prison was limited.

In the determination of the sample, Tamale was divided into 2 main categories namely the center and the periphery (North, South, East and West). Each of the groups was represented proportionately. In the center, 10 identified groups including the prison inmates as well as officers yielded about 50 respondents and 400 respondents from the center and the periphery comprising the North, South, East and West, resulting in obtaining a total sample of four hundred and fifty (450) respondents.

APPENDIX B

QUESTIONNAIRES FOR PRISON OFFICIALS ONLY

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

(1) Educational background no formal education [ ], Primary [ ], JHS [ ], Vocational Education/intermediary [ ], SHS [ ], diploma [ ], HND [ ], university degree [ ]

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DURATION OF PRISON OFFICIALS

(2) How long have you been serving in this prison as an officer?

.....

(3) What is your relationship with the inmates?
(a) Cordial and interactive
(b) Not cordial
(d) If any other? Specify.....

(4) What is the relationship among the inmates themselves?
(a) Cordial and interactive
(b) Not cordial,
(c) Other, specify.....

(5) What are some of the training facilities available in the prison to ensure that the Inmates are equipped with skills?.....

SUGGESTIONS TOWARDS SOLVING THE PROBLEM

(6)What advice would give to others to prevent them from coming into Prison?

.....

(7) What do you think can be done generally to curb the incidence of recidivism?

.....

APPENDIX C

QUESTIONNAIRES FOR PRISON INMATES (RECIDIVISTS)

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

(1) Age
(a) 10-20
(b) 21-30
(c) 31-40
(d) 41-50
(d) 60 and above.

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(2) Sex
Male [ ]
Female [ ].

(3) Marital status
Married [ ],
Single [ ],
Divorce [ ],
Widowed [ ].

(4) Number of children→
(a) 2 [ ],
(b) 3 [ ],
(c) 4 [ ],
(d) Other specify.....

(5) Educational background
No formal education [ ]
Primary [ ]
Junior High School [ ]
Vocational Education/intermediary [ ]
Senior High School [ ]
Diploma [ ]
Higher National Diploma [ ]
University Degree [ ]

(6) Occupation.....

CAUSES OF RECIDIVISM

(7) What do you think is the cause of your return back into prison?
(a) Improper rehabilitation [ ]
(b) Society's inability to ingrate ex-convicts [ ]
(c) Stigmatization [ ]
(d) Unemployment [ ]

(8) What is your relationship with the prison officials?
(a) Cordial [ ]
(b) Not cordial [ ]
(c) Other, specify.....

(9) What was the attitude of people outside Prison towards you, the last you were in their midst?
(a) Social rejection [ ]
(b) Love and affection [ ]
(c) Ridicule [ ]
(d) Other, specify.....

(10) How do you find Prison Life?
(a) Good [ ]
(b) Bad [ ]
(c) Other specify.....
(11)What advice would give to others to prevent them from coming or going into Prison?
.....

(12) What lessons have you learnt in Prison that you think can prevent from you from relapsing into criminality?.....

(13) What do think generally can be done to curb the incidence of recidivism?.....
.....

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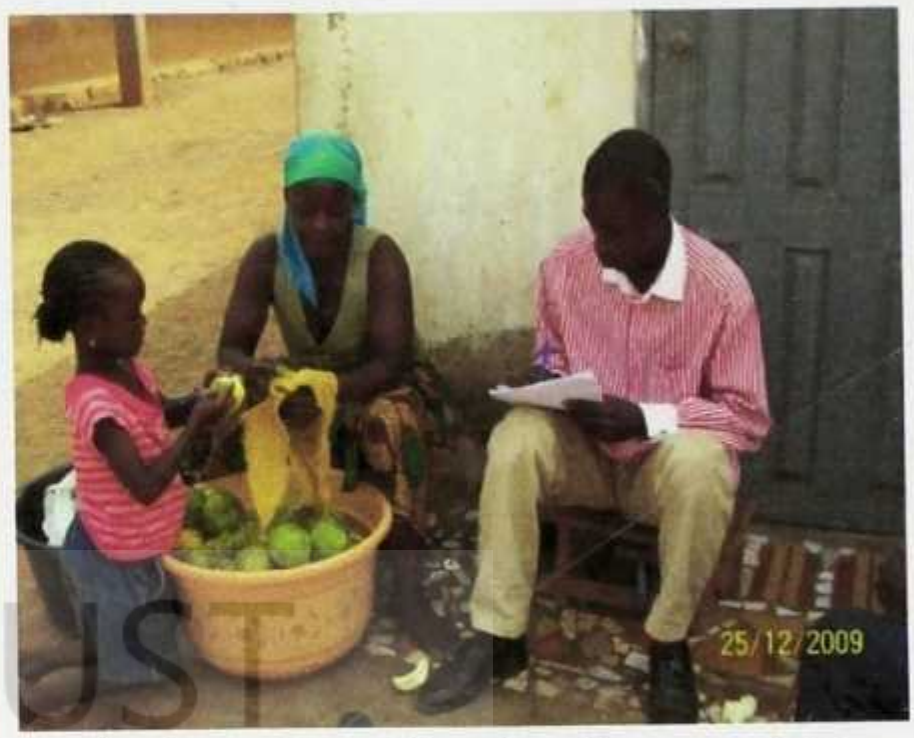
APPENDIX D

Researcher about to interview two (2) of the respondents.



Another interview with a female respondent to provide her opinions and views on recidivism

A research assistant interviewing another female respondent at Sabonjida in Tamale.

Interview with respondents to contribute towards the Data collection process.