Towards an Assessment of the Impact of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Diffusion in the Nigerian Corrections Services

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ABSTRACT

The study x-rayed the extent of ICT adoption Nigeria Corrections Service – with a focus on the Federal Capital Command Headquarters, Abuja, Nigeria. We shed light on the positive and negative impact of ICT adoption and finally the challenges posed by ICT adoption. The study observed that ICT adoption had a very positive impact on the Nigeria Prisons Service FCT Command headquarters. Based on the above, the researcher recommends the provision of alternative power supply sources and regular training of staff in ICT applications. There is also a need for adequate funding of ICT in the Nigeria Prisons Service FCT Command headquarters office.

Keywords: Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Corrections Services, Nigeria, Adoption, Prisons

1. INTRODUCTION

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) can be said to compose of 4 C’s – Computing, Content, Communications and human Capacity. The rapid development and increasing global distribution of modern information and communications technologies such as PCs, the internet, email and mobile phones have transformed the way economies operate and the way individuals, societies and states interact with each other. ICT is an essential instrument when it comes to reducing poverty, driving social and economic development and supporting democracy and good governance as well as education and health care. It enables better access to knowledge for sustainable development and opens up new ways of involving large swathes of the population in political decision-making processes (German BMZ, 2013). Information and Communication Technology encompasses all technical equipment and facilities that convert, process, save and transfer various types of information in digital form. It includes voice telephony, data communications and computer, radio, television and similar technologies. Copper wires, fibre optics and a variety of wireless technologies can be used for the exchange of data (German BMZ, 2013). A study conducted by the World Bank shows that increasing the diffusion and use of ICT significantly boosts productivity and economic growth. The study found that in low and medium-income countries, increasing internet penetration by 10 percentage points will boost economic growth by about 1.12 percentage points (World Bank, 2009).
1.1 Application of Information and Communication Technology
ICTs have been the basis for human existence from time immemorial and this has driven man to continuously seek ways to improve the processing of information and communicating such information to one another irrespective of distance and on a real-time basis (Ndukwe, 2002). Surviving in the information age depends on access to national and global information networks. According to the Federal Government of Nigeria 2001 (in Ogbomo & Ogbomo, 2008), ICTs are the bedrock for the survival and development of any nation in a rapidly changing global environment, and it challenges us to devise initiatives to address a host of issues such as reliable infrastructure, skilled human resources, open government, and other essential issues of capacity building.

According to Tiemo (2006), the importance of information cannot be overemphasized. People need information to plan and carry out their decisions. More than 90 percent of Africa's population could greatly benefit from information on better choice of food, safe water and basic nutrition, child care, family planning, immunization, prevention and control of endemic diseases. The combination of modern communication devices could play significant roles in the collection and dissemination of global information. Oji-Okoro (2006) supported this view by stating that mobile telephony usage by individuals enables them to communicate with loved ones, clients and business associates. For large businesses, it is a means of providing a service that leads to an increase in profits. For governments, revenues are gained through taxes and duties. As a tool for sustainable livelihoods, mobile telephones provide employment for many who could have been idle.

Information and Communication Technology is a vast field encompassing virtually all technologies that can store, receive or transmit signals electronically (Walton, 2018). With electronic devices so tightly wound into the fabric of modern society, the advantages of ICT use may seem very obvious and the disadvantages may not be immediately apparent. However Karehka (2012), lists the advantages of ICT as easy access to information, it encourages innovation and creativity, improved communication, promotes convenience of traveling, improved housing and lifestyle, improved entertainment, improved efficiency and productivity, convenience in education, social networking, and finally a positive change in the health industry. He also goes on to identify the disadvantages as increased loneliness, job loss, competency, invasion of individual privacy and aiding crime.

1.2 Statement of the Problem
Although the Nigeria Prisons Service has embraced the benefits of implementing the different aspects of Information and Communication Technology, simply identifying relevant information needs and technology available provides only part of the picture. Those with experience in building Information and Communication Technology capacity in any criminal justice agency understand that it is not enough to put the technology in place, although that alone can be a considerable feat (Pattavina, 2004). It is also necessary to incorporate this new technology into day-to-day decision making, problem analysis and strategic planning initiatives. For example, in the Nigeria Prisons Service today, it is not uncommon for information to be sent from states commands to the National Headquarters in Abuja by road in Hard copy format even though the sending states have operational personal computers and access to internet service, simply because bureaucratic policies have not been amended to reflect the availability of secure and more efficient digital transmission paths for data.

There are however, organizational and policy issues that are appropriate for discussion because of their relevance to making the most of information technology in correctional services, constraining factors such as:

Inadequate I.T. knowledge: on the part of staff, at present the FCT command Abuja has functional computer systems and a router LAN network. However, due to lack of adequate training simple issues such as a dislodged pc ram can ground the I.T. unit until an external technician is called in.
Paucity of funding: there are many departments in the prisons service that are constantly demanding for a share of scarce funds released from the federal budget and Information and Communication Technology does not get the necessary funding.

Lack of maintenance culture: due to the high cost of Information and Communication Technology equipment, and the high exchange rate it is difficult for the command to replace damaged equipment and to purchase updates to software.

Poor Power supply: the lack of steady electricity cannot be overlooked and due to the poor funding the power generators cannot be used constantly.

Networking: There is also the challenge of creating information sharing protocols. Not only must information technology be well designed to support internal functions of an agency, but in the case of re-integration, it should also be flexible enough to support external functions such as information sharing. At present, the FCT prisons command does not have a functional intranet or external internet connection. Collaboration sounds good in theory, but sustaining it over time is usually much more difficult (Sridharan & Gillespie, 2004).

Research Aims and Objectives of the Study
The main aim of the study is to review the present applications of Information and Communication Technologies on the development of the Nigeria Prisons Service and to determine the impact of these applications. The specific objectives were:
To identify the extent of ICT adoption in the Nigeria Prisons Service FCT Command.
To assess how ICT has positively impacted on the Nigeria Prisons Service FCT Command.
To identify the challenges associated with ICT adoption in the Nigeria Prisons Service FCT Command.
To proffer solutions to the identified challenges associated with ICT adoption in the Nigeria Prisons Service FCT Command.

1.3 Significance of the Study
This study will benefit the Nigeria Prisons Service administration, the staff of the prisons, the inmates of the prisons and interested public and private interest groups. The study will highlight how the different aspects of Information and Communication Technology have been incorporated into the customary office routine and prison yard functions of the Nigeria Prisons Service, allowing for an evaluation of the merits and demerits of this modernization effort on the part of the management of the service. The policy makers of the Nigeria Prisons Service will therefore be able to determine the effectiveness of the considerable financial, manpower and infrastructural resources that have been invested thus far, they will also be able to determine where more effort is needed, such as staff sensitization, basic I.T. training, maintenance of equipment and construction of dedicated structures as introducing I.C.T. in multiple prison institutions raises significant logistical and operational challenges (Tsend-Ayush, 2017). Prison staff will be able to better understand the importance of incorporating I.C.T. knowledge into their skill sets. They will also be able to have a glimpse into what the future of the prisons job function is likely to be.
2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Christensson, (2010) defines ICT as technologies that provide access to information through telecommunications. It is similar to Information Technology (IT), but focuses primarily on communication technologies. This includes the Internet, wireless networks, cell phones, and other communication mediums. In the past few decades, information and communication technologies have provided society with a vast array of new communication capabilities. For example, people can communicate in real-time with others in different countries using technologies such as instant messaging, voice over IP (VoIP), and video-conferencing. Social networking websites like Facebook allow users from all over the world to remain in contact and communicate on a regular basis. Modern information and communication technologies have created a “global village,” in which people can communicate with others across the world as if they were living next door. For this reason, ICT is often studied in the context of how modern communication technologies affect society.

2.1 Information and Communication Technology and the Society

Developments in ICT have brought about the merger of the computing, information, communications, entertainment and mass media industries, thereby providing a means of exchanging information in the digital format used by computers. Social structure has changed with information and communication technology. With this, the values, structure, customs and economic activities etc of the society are facing more challenges than ever before. The impact of ICT is much more and further reaching than any other technology invented so far (Kaur, 2017). ICT is empowering society both economically and socially.

2.2 History of the Nigeria Prisons Service

Dr Wokekor& Sotonye (2018) says the origin of modern Prisons Service in Nigeria is 1861. That was the year when conceptually, Western-type prison was established in Nigeria. The declaration of Lagos as a colony in 1861 marked the beginning of the institution of formal machinery of governance. At this stage the preoccupation of the colonial government was to protect legitimate trade, guarantee the profit of British merchants as well as guarantee the activities of the missionaries. To this end, by 1861, the acting governor of the Lagos colony and who was then a prominent British merchant in Lagos, formed a Police Force of about 25 constables.
This was followed in 1863 by the establishment in Lagos of four courts: a Police court to resolve petty disputes, a criminal court to try the more serious cases, a slave court to try cases arising from the efforts to abolish the trade in slaves and a commercial court to resolve disputes among merchants and traders. The functioning of these courts and the police in that colonial setting necessarily means that prison was needed to complete the system. And it was not long in coming for in 1872, the Broad Street prison was established with an initial inmate capacity of 300. In the Niger Delta, the relationship between the local people and the British merchants had before then been moderated by special courts of merchants backed by the British Navy especially with the appointment of John Beecroft as a consul in 1849. The need for a merchant court was underscored by the fact that most conflicts between the merchants and the local people were in the main commercial. Although there was evidence of prison in Bonny at this time, not much is known about its size and content. But those who were later to oppose British rule were usually deported as happened in the case of Jaja of Opobo and King Dappa of Bonny.

However, the progressive incursion of the British into the hinterland and the establishment of British protectorate towards the end of the 19th century necessitated the establishment of the prisons as the last link in the Criminal Justice System. Thus by 1910, there already were prisons in Degema, Calabar, Onitsha, Benin, Ibadan, Sapele, Jebba and Lokoja. The declaration of protectorates over the East, West and North by 1906 effectively brought the entire Nigeria area under British rule. However, that did not mark the beginning of a unified Nigerian Prisons. Had that been so, it would have negated official colonial policy for that would have required funds which the colonial power was not prepared to expend.

Even so, the colonial prison at this stage was not designed to reform anyone. There was no systematic penal policy from which direction could be sought for penal administration. Instead prisoners were in the main used for public works and other jobs for the colonial administration. For this reason there was no need for the recruitment of trained officers of the prisons. Hence colonial prisons had no trained and developed staff of their own and instead the police also performed prison duties. As time went on ex-servicemen were recruited to do the job. They were also very poorly run and the local prison conditions varied from one place to another in their disorganization, callousness and exploitation. But so long as they served the colonial interests of ensuring law and order, collecting taxes, and providing labour for public works, they were generally left alone. The result was that the prisons served the purpose of punishing those who had the guts to oppose colonial administration in one form or the other while at the same time cowing those who might want to stir up trouble for the colonial set up.

The Prison regulation was published in 1917 to prescribe admission, custody, treatment and classification procedures as well as staffing, dieting and clothing regimes for the prisons. These processes were limited in one very general sense. They were not geared towards any particular type of treatment of inmates. Instead they represent just policies of containment of those who were already in prison. Besides, they were limited in application to those who were convicted or remanded in custody by criminal courts of the British-inspired supreme or provincial types. Those remanded or convicted by the Native courts were sent to the Native Authority prisons. The prison regulation also distinguished between Awaiting Trial and convicted inmates and even stipulated the convict – category to be found in each type of prison. But the limited application of this general rule to the national Prison while the native Authority Prison went their own way effectively stultified the appearance of a national Prison goal-orientation in terms of inmate treatment.

It was not until 1934 that any meaningful attempt was made to introduce relative modernization into the Prison Service. It was at this time that Colonel V. L. Mabb was appointed Director of Prisons by the then Governor Sir Donald Cameron. Although a military officer, Mabb had an understanding of what prisons should be. And he went on to do his best. What he seemed to have focused his attention on was the formation of a unified Prison structure for the whole country but he failed.
Yet he succeeded in extending the substantive Director of Prisons’ supervisory and inspectorial powers over the Native Authority Prisons by this time dominant in the North. It was also during his tenure that the Prisons Warders welfare Board was formed. His efforts were to be continued by his successor R. H. Dolan (1946 – 55). Mr. Dolan was a trained prison officer and when he assumed duties in Nigeria he already had a wealth of experience in prison administration in both Britain and the colonies. Although a scheme for the introduction of vocational training in the National Prisons had been introduced in 1917 and it failed except in Kaduna and Lokoja prisons where it was functioning in 1926, Mr. Dolan reintroduced it in 1949 as a cardinal part of a penal treatment in Nigeria. He also made classification of prisoners mandatory in all prisons and went on to introduce visits by relations to inmates.

He also introduced progressive earning schemes for long term first offenders. He also transferred the Prisons Headquarters formerly in Enugu to Lagos to facilitate close cooperation with other Department of State. He also introduced moral and adult education classes to be handled by competent Ministers and teachers for both Christian and Islamic education. Programmes for recreation and relaxation of prisoners were introduced during his tenure as well as the formation of an association for the care and rehabilitation of discharged prisoners. But above all, he initiated a programme for the construction and expansion of even bigger convict prisons to enhance the proper classification and accommodation of prisoners.

On manpower development, he was instrumental to the founding of the Prison Training School, Enugu in 1947. He also saw to the appointment of educated wardresses to take charge of the female wings of the prisons and he generally tried to improve the service conditions of the prison staff. In addition, he took classification a step further when in 1948 he opened four reformatories in Lagos and converted part of the Port-Harcourt prisons for the housing and treatment of juveniles. Five years later he was to build an open prison in Kakuri - Kaduna to take care of first offenders who had committed such crimes as murder and manslaughter, and who are serving terms of 15 years or more. The idea was to train them with minimum supervision in agriculture so that on discharge they could employ themselves gainfully. In fact, Dolan’s tenure represented a very high point in the evolution of Nigeria Prisons Service.
3. NIGERIA PRISONS SERVICE TODAY

The abolition of Native Authority prisons in 1968 and the subsequent unification of the Prisons Service in Nigeria therefore marked the beginning of Nigerian Prisons Service as a composite reality. Prior to this, the prisons in the North were under the general supervision of the Northern Inspector General of Police who was ex-officio Director of Prisons. In the same vain the Director of Prisons was in charge of the prisons in the south. The Gobir report put an end to all that (Jarma, 1998). As a consequence of that report Native Authority prisons were abolished with effect from 1st April, 1968. However, due to the vagaries of the civil war then raging in the country, it was not until 1971 that the government white paper on the reorganization of the prisons was released. It was followed in 1972 by Decree No.9 of 1972 which spelt out the goals and orientation of the Nigerian Prisons Service. The Prisons was charged with taking custody of those legally detained, identifying causes of their behaviour and retraining them to become useful citizens in the society.

From the foregoing it seems clear that though the Decree makes secure custody the first role of the prisons, it also makes it explicit that reform and rehabilitation are the ultimate aims of the Prisons Service. And to achieve this objective the administration of the prisons became streamlined. The service which had hitherto been generally administered under one Director, now had in addition to the Director “three principal agencies or divisions performing different roles to enable (the prisons) execute its programme expeditiously and achieve its goal. These divisions are Technical, Inspectorate and Welfare with each unit under a Deputy Director of Prisons. The idea was that in consonance with the stipulations of Decree 9 of 1972, there was the need to introduce specialized units to take care of specific areas of the Prisons Service. The Technical Division for instance was charged with the responsibility of general administration and the provision of logistics to addition to supervising the farms and industries. The Inspectorate Division was to oversee staff deployment, training, discipline, promotion and recruitment. The welfare division was to be the pivot of the new prison order. It was to see to inmate treatment, training and rehabilitation. It also oversees the medical needs of the prisons in addition to liaising between the prisons and voluntary and humanitarian organizations who assist in the treatment and rehabilitation of the prisoners.

Following from this was the need to employ skilled manpower especially in the social welfare unit. To this end between 1974 and 1980 a group of officers, mostly pivotal teachers was recruited as social welfare officers to take on adjustment-related programmes and rehabilitation of prisoners. In addition professional Nurses and Doctors were recruited to beef up the medical staff strength as well as expertise. Besides between 1972 and 1974 over three hundred graduates were recruited into the Service as general duty officers to see to the day to day running of the Prisons. It was hoped that their enlightenment will help direct other staff towards the goals of the prisons which are in the main treatment of offenders.

There have been massive transformations in the Service since 1972. It has undergone some reorganization from its modest three Directorates in 1980 to six Directorates in 1993. There was the 1986 reorganization of the Prisons consequent upon the creation of the Customs, Immigrations and Prisons Board and centralization of the administrations of these paramilitary Services in the Board. There was also the removal of the Services from the Civil Service in 1992. It now has a command structure that boast of 8 Zonal commands, 36 State Commands, 1 FCT Command, 144 Prisons including farm centres and 83 Satellite Prisons. It also has four Training Schools, one Staff College and 2 Borstal Institutions. At the level of manpower the Service now boasts of more men of the professions than at any other time in its history. There are among the officers, medical, environmental health officers, sociologists/psychologists, lawyers, general administrators, engineers etc. As for professional spread, the full complement of these officers is on ground to ensure that the goal of inmate reform is attained. In the last ten years no less than 12 new satellite prisons and 3 prison hospitals have been built, the purpose being to modernize and create the enabling environment for proper treatment and training of offenders. There is also no doubt that the Special Prison Reform Program of the Federal Government in 1999 made a lot of difference to the structure of Prisons.
4. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY IN THE PRISONS SERVICE

The advantages of ICT have convinced paramilitary agencies in Nigeria such as the Nigeria Immigration Service, the Nigeria Customs Service, the Nigeria Police and the Nigeria Prisons Service to implement ICT in the performance and discharge of their mandated functions. As Correctional/Prisons services in the developing world move away from punishment and towards the challenges of rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders, corrections officials are searching for ways to improve both their efficiency and effectiveness. There is often a lack of resources available to manage and provide quality correctional services, even when the will to do so is enduring (Kathuria & Porporino, 2015). Compounding the challenge is the fact that most corrections and prison systems in developing nations have been unable to join the information age; they continue to rely on traditional paper-driven, resource intensive, unreliable, unsecure and difficult-to-access record keeping. Pursuing humane and professional correctional aims for the rehabilitation of offenders is a complicated task that requires a multifaceted approach and an inevitable embrace of modern management principles and strategies.

The Nigerian Prisons Service as a front-runner of corrections departments in Africa has not been left out in the utilization of Information and Communication Technology for the improvement of its operations. With the increasing use of Information and Communication Technology in the Nigeria Prisons, it is necessary to examine the positive and negative impact of the utilization so far and determine if the introduction of Information and Communication Technology has been a welcome development. As corrections in the developing world moves away from punishment and toward the challenges of rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders, corrections officials are searching for ways to improve both their efficiency and effectiveness. There is often a lack of resources available to manage and provide quality correctional services, even when the will to do so is enduring. Compounding the challenge is the fact that most corrections and prison systems in developing nations have been unable to join the information age; they continue to rely on traditional paper-driven, resource intensive, unreliable, unsecure and difficult-to-access record keeping. Pursuing humane and professional correctional aims for the rehabilitation of offenders is a complicated task that requires multifaceted approaches and an inevitable embrace of modern management principles and strategies (Kathuria & Porporino, 2015).

Information as well as the legal, administrative and financial areas is crucial to prison system as a whole. Knowing what is happening gives prison administrators as leaders of particular prison institution the power not only to react to problems urgently, but also to prevent them. In recent decades, IT has undergone significant changes. Prison administrators can now keep in touch by e-mail and can share information on web pages on the Internet with relevant organizations in order to optimize available resources (Schmalleger & Smykla, 2000). IT gives a more accurate and quicker access to information and internal units of the prison. The timely, accurate and relevant information sharing with both partner and subordinate organizations is the indispensable characteristic of modern prison administration. The following IT devices are commonly used in prison institutions around the world.

Videoconferencing is another way to share thoughts and ideas in the prison administration. Meetings that once required expensive travel can now be attended from the one’s office or from a local teleconference site. In addition, satellite TV and video technology have enhanced distance communication for prison administrators (Schmalleger & Smykla, 2000). Mapping tools (electronic bracelets) are another ICT solution. These can help prison administration by tracking disciplinary incidents, visitation patterns and medical information; managing gangs and escape threats; and identifying personal information about prisoners’ daily activities. In the form of data collection, storage, and processing systems, IT Database allows the prisons administration to cooperate with local governments, and sister security organizations. There are various kinds of information management systems (software) and solutions available and applicable for the specific operation and performance of different prison institutions - pre-trial detention centers, medium security prisons and high security prisons (Hungarian Prison Service Yearbook, 2014).
This means that the overall process of decision making and agenda setting (which are the main functions of prison administrations) become more agile and productive. Therefore secured intranet and internet networks, computers and software programs play critical role in managing daily activities of prison administration.

4.1 Information and Communication Technology for Prison Staff
The increasing use of ICT is an important aspect in addressing the needs of prison officers. New technologies have been helpful in reducing costs and improving the effective operation of facilities. Modernization of security systems and improved protection for staff are key issues facing prisons. Real power in a prison resides in information. To manage prisons effectively, operators need to control information at all levels. This means knowing what is happening at all times (Tsend-Ayush, 2017).

The wider implementation of ICT in prisons helps to increase the level of security for the prison officers and prisoners. Because of their unique situation, prisons staff are constantly facing dangerous conditions which could put their life and wellbeing in jeopardy. Information Technology has provided several solutions to tackle the persistent issues of security and safety in the prison system. The physical security measures for prison staff include X-ray machines, wands and portals for detecting metals; systems for detecting explosives; and biometric entry systems for visitors, to ensure that prisoners do not escape by posing as visitors.

Telemedicine
In healthcare service, many prisons’ medical units utilize telemedicine. Telemedicine allows physicians to consult with medical personnel from a distance through videoconferencing using devices such as video cameras. It can improve health care in prison establishments by reducing costs of health care for prisoners, and making the work of prison medical staff more efficient. Taking a prisoner with health issues to a specialist outside the prison poses a danger to prison staff and the community by giving the prisoner an opportunity to escape. The aim is to provide high quality consultant-led care to prisoners, while keeping them within the Prison facility. This will minimise the security risks while responding to prisoners’ health needs (Airedale NHS Foundation Trust, 2012).

Surveillance
Technology such as CCTV allows prison staff to view several areas of a prison at the same time. A study by Bradshaw indicated that possible purposes that may be associated with the use of CCTV in prisons were improving feelings of safety and reducing offensive behaviour such as prisoner assaults (Bradshaw, 2002). The benefits of Surveillance Equipment are:

- Improved visual coverage – Many prisons and correctional facilities are expansive, consisting of a variety of different areas, all of which require close monitoring. While guards and officers can't be everywhere at once, security cameras can provide continuous coverage of an entire facility.
- Monitor inmate activity – The constant presence of surveillance cameras helps officers to spot suspicious inmate activity, and can prevent prison incidents from getting out of hand.
- Provide visual evidence – Archived surveillance footage is an extremely valuable resource for investigations of prison incidents.
- Maintain order in common areas – Locations where large groups of inmates convene, such as dining and recreational areas, necessitate tight surveillance from multiple security cameras.
- Reduce the frequency of assaults – In prisons and correctional facilities, tension is high, and fights are inevitable. Security cameras work to deter such behavior and also help in analyzing incidents of violence.
- Prevent drug smuggling – Video surveillance systems help in preventing inmates from smuggling drugs into the facility from the outside.
- Monitor officer behavior – Instances where guards and correctional officers act out of line towards inmates are caught on camera. Such footage is used in investigations and can help to prevent further misconduct.
Safer transport – Security cameras installed in hallways and throughout cellblocks provide an enhanced level of safety when inmates and others are escorted through the facility.

Enhanced search capabilities – Digital surveillance technology allows video footage to be archived and stored on digital video recorders and hard-drives rather than bulky cassette tapes. Searching footage is significantly easier and more efficient in digital format.

Remote video monitoring – With a networked digital surveillance system, users can access the footage remotely over the internet. Authorized users are able to view multiple camera feeds from their personal computers, rather than a lone monitoring room within the prison or correctional facility.

Risks of Video Surveillance are:

- Tampering – There exists a risk that inmates will attempt to tamper with a facility's security equipment. While many prisons use tamper-resistant cameras to cope with this problem, there's always a possibility that a camera will be damaged and lose its signal. In such cases, it's important that a backup security plan is in place.

- Over reliance – Prisons and correctional facilities should not rely too heavily on surveillance equipment. While security cameras are effective and undoubtedly necessary in helping to maintain order in a prison environment, they are only one part of a larger security effort that must include the proper staffing of officers and guards, along with alarm systems and other safety measures.

- Privacy – Concerns over privacy are a constant debate when it comes to video surveillance. In the case of prisons, it's a tricky subject. Some facilities feel that for the safety of their inmates, it's appropriate to use security cameras to monitor individual cells, while others consider this a breach of what little privacy the prisoners have left.

- Radio Communications: Prison managers and staff use professional mobile radio (PMR) systems to meet their secure communications needs. PMR solutions offer useful additional functionalities such as group management and priority management. Communication between patrol teams and station beats are also facilitated by 2 way radio communication.

- Prisons Information Management System: manages the prison system administrative and operational activities while facilitating the management in its monitoring, forecasting and decision making process (EmetSoft, 2016). The key functional components of the PIMS are described as below;
  i. Manage all administrative, rehabilitation and correction related information on the convicted and un-convicted inmates.
  ii. Establish effective and reliable authentication mechanism for identifying prisoners to minimize any impersonations of the prisoner.
  iii. Facilitating the retrieval of accurate information on prisoners in all form of institution, departmental, ministerial and any third party stakeholder requirements.
  iv. Availability of data in digital forms and thereby providing the Prisons system with all kind of analysis, preservations and reporting.

IT application in prisons impacts on the daily activities of prison staff such as less movement, diminished routine tasks, and versatile communication between prison staff and prisoners.
4.2 Information and Communication Technology for Prisoners

**E-Learning:** The main area of the prisons institution where IT has made a vivid footprint is educational programs for inmates. By participating in the programs, the inmates can have access to digital literacy (E-learning). The programs could support prisoners’ rehabilitative potential. IT programs increase and equip the inmate’s knowledge and opportunities for empowering them.

**Gsm Calls/Video Visitation:** Human beings need connection with one another. For people imprisoned in prison institution, it can be very important. Regular interactions with family, friends, and supporters can help to alleviate the pain of imprisonment. According to international conventions and recommendations the prisoners have the same right to education as other citizens (United Nations Office on Drug and Crime, 2015). Education helps to develop the personality and character of the individuals. Education plays an important role in the process of reintegration. **Mobile Phone Jammers:** Smuggling of items into prison – in particular mobile telephones – is a major security headache for prison operators. Mobile phones have become a vital tool for escape attempts involving contact with accomplices outside the prison walls. As phones become increasingly smaller and contain fewer metal components, they become harder to detect using conventional metal-detection technology. Carefully targeted jamming of mobile phone frequencies has emerged as the most effective means of combating this kind of threat (Thalesgroup, 2018).

5. CONCLUDING REMARKS AND FUTURE WORKS

Although the Nigeria Prisons Service has implemented aspects of Information Technology from its inception such as military radio signal communication, it was in the mid-2000s that other IT systems were adopted such as CCTV, PIMS and GSM phones. However, there is very little in contemporary literature on the impact of the use of the aforementioned IT on the prisons system. Our further research in aims to pioneer a study into this critical social and economic sector as a way of preferring solutions to the myriads of challenges facing the adoption, diffusion and utilization of ICTs in correctional services in Nigeria.

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