



EDUCATING MISCREANTS FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES' DEVELOPMENT AND SAFER WORLD: A CASE IN LAGOS STATE, NIGERIA

By

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Abstract

This paper suggests a more sustainable integrative community approach and strategy that helps rehabilitate street miscreants of Lagos State Nigeria. Lagos State for over ten years expended efforts towards rehabilitating miscreants but year in year out have failed to reduce the level of unsafe environment and the population of miscreants. Investigation of the efforts however shows that the strategies adopted are deficient, certain community and social work approaches and identified need for integration and synergy of efforts by social agencies and government. The proposed rehabilitation model indicates, that a safer world is sure when cognitive strength of miscreants to revalidate their social value through perception and reflective capacity, vocational skills and other correctional education tended towards citizen participation training and re – insertion and integration of miscreants. Emphasis that government have blames to share in the conditions and frustrations that led individual citizens to “Miscreanship,” this paper recommends that Lagos State government should seek the help and partnership of both local and international organisations towards a successful implementation of the rehabilitative programme for miscreants in Lagos state. For this end an integrated approach is modelled from synthesised theories of transformative learning theories, correctional education, and community participation to ensure that miscreants a rehabilitated in mind and vocational skills result to a safer community and the world in general.

Keywords: *Sustainable development, education, Lagos state, miscreants, development.*

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Introduction

One of the ways to create a better world is to minimise local violence, inter personal violence and reduced poverty. “A better-world” is without doubt easily becoming a mirage as many are increasingly becoming homeless in big cities due to the highly economic growth, which care less about peoples wellbeing (Hanson-Easey, Every ; Tehan ; Richard; Kraackowizer, 2016). Slums emerge in these cities, as crime rates and illicit businesses increase among these homeless and poor people who struggle through for a living (Akinwale, 2018). They are called miscreants lately because of their negative activities in Lagos State, Nigeria. Elsewhere they are Street Crawlers, Walkers, and Hoodlums and so on. Miscreants in Lagos State grew as the population became Over-populated, due to the oil boom and the mere factor that it was the federal capital of the Nation until 1991. Lagos State was also an industrial nerve centre of the nation, with the only functional sea ports. Commerce and white-collar jobs thrived a Lagos became a haven for job seekers and drive for better life opportunities. Rural-Urban migration happened unchecked, increasing the population in Lagos State the capital (The Community Development Exchange, 2011). Soon Lagos State grew into a metropolis, gradually fizzling out in Agricultural production and increasingly depended on food and raw material (This Day News Paper, 2021, May 9) from other States of the federation. It became over populated (Big Think. 2019), with high crime rate and poor housing (Statista, 2021, National Bureau of Statistics, 2017). Unemployment increased (National Bureau of Statistics, 2021), as well as hunger (The Punch, March, 12, 2022). Lagos State, with more than 20 million inhabitants, is the nation’s largest urban city. Its population growth rate challenged Lagos existing urban management system, leaving it with poor power supply (Guardian 2022, Dec 5), traffic and sanitation (Lawal; Egbejule; Norbrook,2016). Lagos State also became very expensive , coupled with the implication on unemployed, were the illegal means of survival, ranging from prostitution, robbery, cunning, car snatching. The effect on the poor and insufficient housing implied on the increased of homeless people living under bridges and in slums. Street crimes increased as miscreants emerged, posing fear on decent living and safety of the neighborhood.

In 1980, Street Boys and Girls claimed prominence, because of their usefulness in the hands of politicians (TheCable, 2020). Used as thugs, forming groups and cult, they became necessary for election campaigns and violence. In a sense “Miscreanship” is described as a trade activity, a

lucrative outlaw trade of organised street crimes. Miscreants are paid for illegal jobs and contracted illicit jobs. Miscreants became hugely rewarded and encouraged to form criminal syndicates and organisations when politicians employ their services to disrupt electoral processes (Shahara Reporters, 2019). Loafers, unemployed, school drop outs, drug addicts, ex-convicts and others, as they contain, are involved in various kinds of crimes as they share territories of control, which they protect and operate in. All efforts of military regimes and civil regimes to eliminate the menace caused by these miscreants in Lagos state and make Lagos safe have not been achieved. Since year 2000, many of these miscreants have been arrested, prosecuted and jailed. Lagos State Task Force on crimes in Lagos State, and The Environmental and Special Offences Enforcement Unit, claimed to have arrested and jailed 210 miscreants in 2017, and 87 miscreants and 35 cultists arrested (Vanguard News 13, Feb. 2017, and Vanguard News, May 13, 2017), with more being arrested. The promise of the State government to rid the state of hoodlums and miscreants were emphasised, pointing out that it has impacted, adversely on the development of the State.

Other strategies for riding the State of Hoodlums and Miscreants is the return of 2,217 beggars, and homeless people who are non indigenes. Miscreant's caught for various acts are returned to their different states of origins while indigenes are sent for rehabilitation. Another strategy is the education of the same people under the name "Education without roof" sponsored by the State in areas accessible to them (). It becomes a serious problem to assess the various programmes and strategies for their effectiveness and success. This is justified, given the facts that many miscreants, after these programmes return to their old ways and some re-arrested. In one study by Ayodele Atere and Badewu (2013), they found out that although activities of 'Agberos' have remarkable negative effects on the socio-economic lives of Lagos, more than 50% of respondents considered economic hardship as one important factor that led them to invade motor parks and Bus Stops by 'Agberos'. Education, without addressing basic functional vocational needs of the rehabilitated or re-educated miscreants was also adduced as one of the reasons for the continued return of miscreants to the street; despite government's efforts. This paper therefore examines the rehabilitation system of the miscreants, to recommend better systems using education's best practices, to transform miscreants, to afford them opportunity to live normal civil life out of crime and nefarious activities. To achieve this, the paper explores different rehabilitation strategies adopted in Lagos State with conceptual model based on transformational and functional education

to build an integrated model that will ensure a sustained rehabilitation of miscreants suggested. To accelerate this process, the following reviews would be made. Who is a miscreant? What is the socio-economic development importance of Miscreants? Lagos State's efforts and educational rehabilitation system, theoretical models of educational rehabilitation for deviants and miscreants, are therefore reviewed.

Who is a miscreant?

The word miscreant has so many synonyms which include trouble makers, scoundrels, criminal, wrong doer, and so on. Hornby (2010) in Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary describes a miscreant as "someone who has done something illegal and behaves badly." Edewor (2014), quoting Encarta (2004) posits that miscreants "lack regular legal access to adequate housing." In his opinion, because of what a miscreant have turned him or herself into, he lacks "access to basic human rights and is exposed to physical and sexual abuses if a lady, hunger and occasional hostile weather conditions." Oduwaye and Lawson (2008), aver that miscreants are gangsters. Omomia (2015) calls them "social miscreants" and identifies them with "political thugery and hooliganism." The psychologists would call the miscreant a deviant, because he/she behaved in contrast to the law and lives according to his or her own thoughts. The miscreant is, because he/she straying or deviating especially from an accepted norm. There are many different theories which help the understanding of what causes a person to become a deviant. These include biological, sociological, and psychological explanations.

The sociological explanations for deviants behaviour, focuses on how social structures, forces, and relationships foster deviance. The biological perspectives focus on physical and biological differences and how these might connect to cause deviance. Psychological explanations take a different approach. Psychological perspectives approach deviance on some common key features (Spiegler, & Guevremont, 2003). First, the individual is the primary unit of analysis. This means that psychologists believe that individual human beings are solely responsible for their criminal or deviant acts. Second, an individual's personality is the major motivational element that drives within individuals to deviate. Third, criminals and deviants are seen as suffering from personality deficiencies, which means that crimes result from abnormal, dysfunctional, or inappropriate mental processes within the personality of the individual. Finally, these defective or abnormal

mental processes could be caused by a variety of things, including a diseased mind inappropriate learning, improper conditioning, and the absence of appropriate role models or the strong presence and influence of inappropriate role models (Gross, 2010). Starting from these basic assumptions, psychological explanations of deviant come mainly from three theories: psychoanalytic theory, cognitive development theory, and learning theory. Psychoanalytic theory, developed by Sigmund Freud, states that all humans have natural drives and urges that are repressed in the unconscious (Davis & Palladino, 2005). Additionally, all humans have criminal tendencies. The cognitive development theory, states that crimes and deviance results from the way individuals organize their thoughts around morality and the law (Akers & Jensen, 2006; Akers & Sellers, 2009). Learning theory is based on the principles of psychology, which hypothesises that a person's behaviour is learned and maintained by its consequences or rewards. Individuals thus learn deviant and criminality by observing other people and witnessing the rewards or consequences that they receive. For example, an individual who observes a friend shoplift an item and not get caught nor punished for their actions instead are rewarded by getting to keep the stolen item, is more likely to join to shoplift, hoping for the same reward. According to this theory, if this is how deviant is developed, then taking away the reward value of the can eliminate deviant.

These three explanations are even though tenable and relevant; here we adopt the learning theory and the sociological. Here we review four of the major sociological explanations for deviant. Of the available, four theories, structural strain theory, labelling theory, social control and theory of differential association, the structural strain and theory of differential theories' explanation shall be adopted, because of their relevance in discussing the effect of the society and learning from peers respectively. The structural strain theory, explains that societies are composed of both culture and social structure. Where Culture establishes goals for people in society, social structure either provides or fails to help people achieve their goals. Where imbalance between cultural norms and institutional structures, exists in the society, people tend to apply deviance to fulfil their lives dreams and goals. The theory of differential association explains that crime is learned through interactions with other people. Through interaction and communication, people learn the values, attitudes, techniques, and motives for crimes. This shows the effect of peer influence on people, where they learn through observation, and those who associate with delinquents, deviants, or

criminals learn to value deviance. The greater the frequency, duration, and intensity of their immersion in deviant environments, the more likely it is that they will become deviant.

The learning theory in its explanation makes us understand that Social learning theory is a general theory of criminal and deviant behaviours that has found consistent and robust empirical support for more than four decades (Gottfredson & Hirschi, 1990; Hirschi, 1969). The generality and validity of the theory has through those years become increasingly recognized. In a recent major compilation on the status of criminological theory, social learning theory along with control theories (Akers & Jensen, 2006; Akers & Sellers, 2009) and strain theories (Agnew, 1992, 2006) were placed as the “core” theories in the field (Cullen, Wright, & Blevins, 2006). Moreover, according to the latest survey by criminologists, social learning theory is the most frequently endorsed explanation of both minor delinquent and serious criminal behaviour (Ellis, Johnathon, & Walsh et al., 2008). Therefore this shall be a very important ingredient in evolving a formidable strategy for undertaking rehabilitation of miscreants.

Socio-economic and communities’ development importance of a miscreant in Lagos state

Miscreants have their negative role in the society. Their positive sides are never explored. Miscreants sometimes help in creating awareness on issues that affect their immediate communities. They are employed to do some menial jobs, and to kind neighbours they serve as informants, to reciprocate kind gestures in unexpected ways, unsolicited. Their socio-economic importance to development is describable as negative. Over all, the afflictions cause the people and innocent citizens are grave. Crime is in every society. Crime not only affects economic productivity when victims miss work, but communities also are affected through loss of tourism and retail sales. Even the so-called victimless crimes of prostitution, drug abuse, and gambling have major social consequences. Drug abuse affects workers’ productivity, uses public funds for drug treatment programs and medical attention, and leads to criminal activity to support the expenses of a drug habit. Implication of miscreants activities and live styles directly impacts upon communities’ development where governments spend public funds for police departments, prisons and jails, courts, and treatment programs, including the salaries of prosecutors, judges, public defenders, social workers, security guards, and probation officers. The amount of time spent by

victims, offenders, their families, and juries during court trials also take away from community productivity.

Table 1: Crimes reported in Some Local Government Areas of Lagos Metropolis in 2005

Local Govt. Area	Status By Income	Entry & Stealing	Armed Robbery	Bank Robbery	Threatening & Violence	Common Assault	Murder	Fals Pretence	Car Theft	Sudden & Unnatural Death	Total
Eti Osa	High	10	16	1	4	23	1	22	62	1	140
Apapa	High	8	12	2	4	34	4	52	120	2	238
Ikeja	Middle	12	34	6	8	23	8	22	101	3	217
Surulere	Middle	8	14	4	6	44	11	44	186	4	321
Kosofe	Low	15	25	2	10	65	20	48	129	13	327
Oshodi Isolo	Low	12	16	4	28	188	12	12	200	10	482
Somolu	Low	122	100	1	87	300	22	54	102	12	800
Agege	Low	128	80	2	63	205	41	82	234	18	853
Total		315	297	22	210	882	119	336	1134	63	3378

Source: Oduwaye, L. and Lawson, T. O. (2008). Poverty and Environmental Degradation in the Lagos Metropolis. [www.unilag.edu.ng/...p?sno=4236&doctype=doc&docname=\\$](http://www.unilag.edu.ng/...p?sno=4236&doctype=doc&docname=$)

The rate of crime and its negative effects on the development of Lagos state, empirical evidence from the Nigeria Police Force Report in Lagos Metropolis on crime in some Local Government

Areas, namely Apapa, Ikeja, Surulere, Kosofe, Oshodi Isolo, Somolu and Agege is shown in Table 1 (Oduwaye and Lawson, 2008). The table headings are typical of their attributes. The crimes they committed were "Entry and Stealing" (315), "Armed Robbery" (297), "Bank Robbery" (22), "Threatening and Violence" (210) "Common Assault" (882), "Murder" (119), "False Pretence" (336), "Car Theft" (1,134), and "Sudden and Unnatural Death" (63). There were, in total, 3,378 cases of these classes of crime for the period.

The Vanguard (2016) reported the following about the miscreants:

Those arrested included 87 miscreants and 35 notorious cultists. swooped on the affected and arrested them. that an ex-convict, who was just released from Potoki Prison at Badagry, was among those arrested. ... after serving a six-month jail term for robbery was arrested by Lagos State Task Force last year September for snatching a Samsung phone under Oshodi bridge and was prosecuted. ... immediately after the raid, directed further that the 210 arrested miscreants and hoodlums be charged to court.

One of the arrested cult members confessed that his friend lured him to become a member of the 'Omije Boys' in the previous year after he dropped out of school. They had been involved in different criminal activities in the Metropolis, and that "he was recently released from Lagos State Remand Home after he and his friend were caught during a robbery operation in Ikorodu." As usual, underage miscreants, when arrested, are taken to the Lagos Remand Home, Oregun. Also, Edewor (2014) had earlier said this about their backgrounds, ways of life, characteristics and what may become of them:

Plate 2 shows a cross-section of arrested and eventually prosecuted 210 miscreants and hoodlums when they were raided along railway lines, markets and under the bridge at Oshodi in early 2017.



Plate 2: Cross-section of prosecuted 210 miscreants and hoodlums in parts of Lagos Metropolis

Source: *The Punch* newspaper, April 2, 2017.

This group of miscreants attack innocent citizens at any slightest opportunity. They are often referred to as Area Boys, Agbevo, Omo'ta, etc. Terrible encounters with them are better imagined than experienced. Habitually, they operate at motor parks and bus stops, under bridges, and team up with *Omo'nile* to foment trouble at night, in evenings (under the cover of darkness), at social gatherings, marketplaces and so on. They kill where they are so dastardly disposed and whenever they could not have their way. Often, they foment a substantial part of civil unrest in the Metropolis, anywhere, any time.

Rehabilitation and sustainable communities - a link in essence

Rehabilitation has assumed a lot of meaning ever since the concept has been used to make meaning for human reforms (Davis, 2005). The importance of the concept is derived in the objective and daring need for citizens, youths, girls and boys to become safe and free from deviant behaviours and Juvenile delinquency. The term is expanded to mean restoring medical and social well-being. The action of restoring a sick, or social deviant or delinquent to good-health or normal life, through training and therapy.

Rehabilitation: is the process of re-educating and re-training those who commit crime (Gross, 2010). It generally involves psychological approaches, which target the cognitive distortions associated with specific kinds of crime committed by particular offenders - but may also involve more general education such as literacy skills and work training (Spiegler and Guevremont, 2003). The goal is to re-integrate offenders back into society.

Sustainable development's idea: is that a human society must be able to grow to meet its own needs without affecting adversely its future generation from also having its ability to meet their own needs. Sustainable development was developed for the first time in the Brundtland Report (1987). Ever since it has been used as the organisation of a long-term development. In other words, sustainable development in a human community is viewed as an organisation of a development plan in, where goals and achievements are lasting for future generations (UN, 2015). In the context of this paper, rehabilitations and transformation strategies would be adopted for Miscreants' rehabilitative education in Lagos State, for long-term goals and benefits.

Efforts of the Lagos State Government and forward for new approach over miscreants

Lagos state government have adopted three basic methods of riding the state of miscreants. The first, rehabilitation of miscreants use education and vocational training. The second is through penal sentence of the miscreant to jail for various offences. The third, deportation of miscreants, is for several reasons including reduction of high level of destitution. In the State, these rehabilitation efforts of the government seem not to have been productive, even though research has not in any way shown that this is seriously functional, the deportation of miscreants and the high level of sentence have not shown any sign of improving the state of "Miscreanship" in the Metropolis. This in evidence shows that there is need for revalidation of these strategies. There are models that the State could avail from. These are suggested below. It's a promised method of rehabilitation and eliminating Miscreanship or reduces it to a most minimum. The method integrates, education approach and community collaborative participatory approaches that harnesses many stakeholders' welfare professionals and government structures.

Education's roles and models for rehabilitating miscreants

Education models helps us understand the roles, education play in the rehabilitation and transformation of an individual and as a result the society and community, are as followed; education here is the main agent of change, defined here for our purpose as the process for a permanent change in character and behaviour. Rehabilitation therefore is regarded and defined as the process of arresting bad behaviours and anti-social philosophies in any citizen to bring about good conduct and civil conduct likely. Transformation here will deal with the thoughts and pre-conceived opinions and assumptions in an individual – miscreant giving him/her a power to reflect and think over his situation and actions. Below elaborates the theoretical process and practical usage of transformation learning as a rehabilitation strategy for sustaining a safer world without miscreants.

The Transformative learning theory: Jack Mezirow is known as the founder of transformative learning. Transformative learning is one theory of learning, and particularly focuses on adult education and young adult learning. Transformative learning also called transformation learning, posits that based on New ideas learners (Miscreants) can adjust their thinking (1981). Mezirow theorized that students had important teaching and learning opportunities connected to their past experiences, (Mezirow, 1975). Mezirow found that critical reflection and critical review could lead to a transformation of their understanding (Mezirow, 2000, Mezirow, 1997). As a theory, says that the process of "perspective transformation" has three dimensions: psychological (changes in understanding of the self), convictional (revision of belief systems), and behavioral (changes in lifestyle) (Brookfiel, 2000, Clark, 1991, Mezirow, 1981). States how individual's perception can be transformed. It identified three focal areas where perceptions can be transformed. First is the psychological where changes in understanding of the self must be made, second is the convictional where individuals are helped to revise their belief systems, and the third is the behavioural which focus on changing lifestyles of the individual.

Elias, (1997) "an orientation which holds that the way learners interpret and reinterpret their sense experience is central to making meaning and hence learning." Transformative learning expands the consciousness of individuals to recognise specific capacities of the self, and it is facilitated through consciously, directed processes that ensure that individual make a reflection over their

existence self, and develop a corresponding behaviour that would alleviate their social and psychological conditions and status (Dirkx, Mezirow, Cranton, 2006). In other words, a safer world can be secured if people are given the basic or are helped to reflect about their society and the role expected of them to contribute towards its betterment (a safer world) (Swanson, 2010). Perspective transformation, leading to transformative learning, occurs infrequently. Jack Mezirow believes that it usually results from a "disorienting dilemma" which is triggered by a life crisis or major life transition —although it may also result from an accumulation of transformations in meaning schemes over a period of time. Less dramatic predicaments, such as those created by a teacher for pedagogical effect, also promote transformation (Torosyan, 2007). This transformation education will contribute to the new approach proposed in this paper is that important part of transformative learning in the transformation and process of Miscreants to change their frames of reference by critically reflecting on their assumptions and beliefs, is explored so that miscreants can consciously make and implement plans that bring about new ways of defining their worlds. This process is fundamentally rational and analytical (Grabove, 1997).

Correctional education: is a rehabilitative programme offered in prisons, justice confinement facilities, and many jails and detention centres. Correctional education is a broad term that applies to the many learning opportunities that can be made available to people who are incarcerated. This might include everything from parenting education to vocational training to college and graduate-level courses (Daniels, 2022). Gehring (1988), identified five principles of correctional education which must be in place for a good correctional education programme different from normal penal prison. They are : priority, focus on behavioral change, use MacCormick's 'old red barn' theory of personnel selection, put educators in charge of educational decisions, and place trust in inmates. In Gehring's view Correctional education should focus on both the acquisition of practical knowledge and social development, so that the inmate acquires both the vocational and social knowledge required to function normatively in society. Released offenders could be properly rehabilitated with the knowledge and skills to find jobs, pay taxes, and enrich the economy. This is a growing world strategy for ensuring a safer world with deviant's criminals and who are inmates incarcerated in prisons. This state of the arts approach provides correctional education to individuals having below average levels of educational attainment before incarceration. This also adult educations programme. Education "behind bars" as they are called presents remedial

opportunity for the incarcerated to prepare for success upon release. Vocational and Applied Technology Education, Technical and Adult Education, Adult Education and Literacy, play unique coordinating role for correctional education. Correctional education must follow the Andragogical processes of facilitating knowledge so that experience of the inmate and the needs of the organisation and the learners are all factored into the objective of learning

Communities' roles and models for rehabilitating miscreants

Community Participation Theory: Midgley et al (1986) suggested that the historical antecedents of community participation include: the legacy of western ideology, the influence of community development and the contribution of social work and community radicalism. Citizen Participation provides private individuals an opportunity to influence public decisions. It has been a long time component in democratic decision-making processes. Public involvement ensures that citizens have their direct voice in public decisions. The terms “citizen” and “public,” and “involvement” and “participation” are often used interchangeably. While both are generally used to indicate a process through which citizens have a voice in public policy decisions, both have distinctively different meanings and convey little insight into the process they seek to describe. Mize reveals that the term “citizen participation” and its relationship to public decision-making have evolved without a general consensus regarding neither its meaning nor its consequences (Mize, 1972). Lachapelle & Austin E.(2014), Community participation involves both theory and practice related to the direct involvement of citizens or citizens action group potentially affected by or interested in a decision or action. Community is conceptualized as involving a social group of any size whose members reside in a specific locality (often referred to as community of place) or sharing a common heritage or set of values, for example with a common cultural identity or with political bonds (often referred to as community of interest). However, there has been increasing need for combined efforts of individuals and agencies. This is called the integrated approach to community and social work. All groups and agencies, institution involved in rehabilitation or a common phenomenon are made to combine force in a synergy towards achieving a need. We therefore propose an integrative model approach that would ensure that all efforts are made solve a problem of miscreants which government agencies cannot achieve alone.

Integrated education and empowerment for a Safer and Sustainable Communities' Development

The basic necessities of life are shelter, food and drink (water), clothing and love (Dharam, 1978). According to him, many modern lists emphasize a minimum level of consumption of “basic needs” of not just food, water, clothing and shelter, but also sanitation, education, and health care. Different agencies use different lists. But the foregoing discussion has established that the miscreants in the Metropolis lack much of the basic needs of man, that would have made them law abiding citizens and loved by all and sundry. But such basic needs are fundamental and must be provided. Fig. 1 presents a seven-stage schema on how these basic needs could be met for the miscreants over time. The chart, among other requirements, shows that the miscreants, wherever they are in (on the streets, under bridges, at motor parks, the beaches, markets, public event enters, in uncompleted buildings, in broken down vehicles and other places) within the Metropolis, must be identified and brought together under the same umbrella of “Government Care”. This proposal promises to be successful with the active collaboration of government (local and state), welfare services departments and law enforcement agencies. At such specialized centres (which may be at least three in the metropolis), each of them would be made to learn at least a trade.

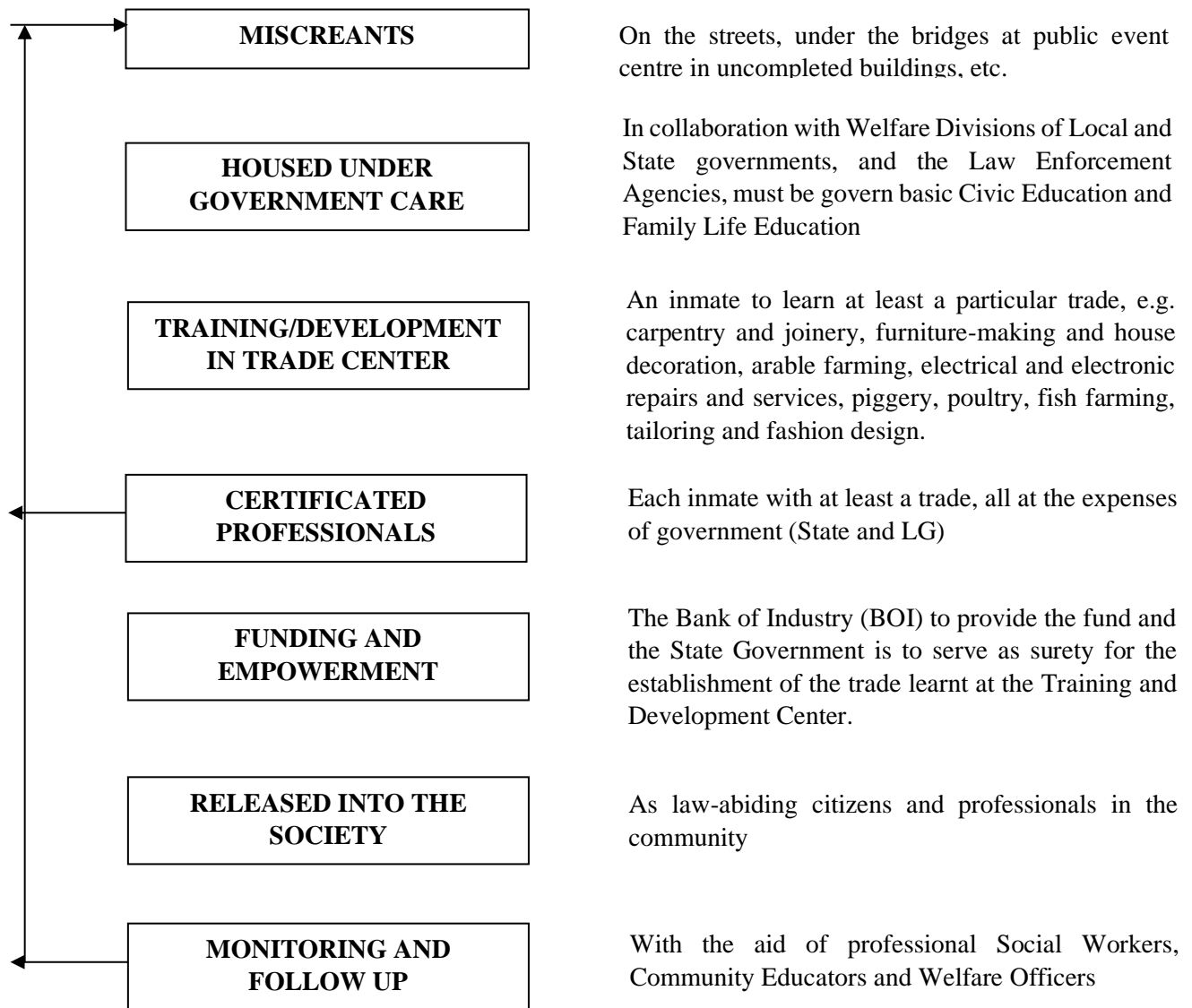


Fig. 1: A Flow Chart of Training/Development and Empowerment Programme for Miscreants

Carpentry and upholstery, farming, electrical and electric services, plumbing, fashion design, hairdressing, barbing, computer studies, photography, catering and hotel management, dress making, shoe and leather works, among others have been identified by many commentators as professions that may take a relatively short time to learn, get certificated in and established (Olumide-Faoseke, 2002; Mabogunje, 2002; Fadare and Oduwaye, 2009; Power, 2015; Ugbodaga, 2017). After being certified as professionals, the Bank of Industry (BOI), and government as surety fund the businesses. As may be required, the loan must be revolving, easily accessible, sufficient, and with a reasonable payback period.

The participants trained, developed and empowered, repented and now law abiding citizens, may be released into society. However, there must be a follow-up through professional community educators, welfare officers and or social workers. Any symptoms of scoundrel behaviour identified in any trained, certificated and empowered one must be tagged as evidence of an unrepentant miscreant that must be returned to the basics in the house under government; and the rehabilitation cycle continued. If before reaching-Stage Four, an inmate fails to satisfy the conditions for certification as a professional, he would also go back to the basics.

Discussion, Conclusion and Recommendations

It is obvious that the activities of these miscreants are no doubt negative, but evidence also showed that some positive role could be played by these miscreants to make the world a safer place to live in. Two important facts deducible from these study are that miscreants are products of the society and they can also provide good service and play good roles if only they can be rehabilitated. Therefore, there is an urgent need to adopt approaches that would address fundamental issues such as homelessness among children and youths as a way of ameliorating the already existing situation the human factor is very crucial in the successful implementation and execution of any programme that could be put in place to alleviate the challenges posed by miscreants. Government must therefore create a culture of peace by encouraging tolerance of diversity through public awareness campaigns on radio, television, and newspapers in churches and mosques, and at public fora, and promote security of livelihoods particularly for the urban poor through appropriate legislation and access to employment, credit and education; make use of mechanisms such as town hall meetings, and citizens' fora, and promote civic responsibility, especially with regard to voting for responsible

leadership and protecting the property of community members. The youth must be urged to shun activities which could land them in jail.

The number of Vocational Training Centres across the Metropolis must increase and the youth generally must be encouraged to register in those centres for particular trades and vocational skills in order to dissuade them from engaging in criminal activities in the first instance, and to make them become useful to themselves and to society at large. Finally, it must be emphasized that any planning for the miscreants must align with development programmes to correct the current situation of poor electricity, transport and communication, insecurity, unsustainable waste management, lack of potable water, lack of adequate health care delivery system, etc. It is only when this is done that the city can truly aspire to become a megacity that will be sustainable and a pride of the nation and of black Africa as a whole.

In addition to funding from the Bank of Industry, other kinds of assistance could be sought from the federal government and from international bodies such as the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (formerly, United Nations Fund for Population Activities) (UNFPA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Bank, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and philanthropists. It is hope that if the integrated efforts are used with a synergy of efforts and social serve delivery towards the rehabilitation of these miscreants there would be an safer Lagos state in Nigeria and the world in general in the next decade.

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