

# A Comparative Analysis of Juvenile Justice System in the Northern and Southern Part of Nigeria

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## Abstract

Prevention of offenses by juveniles is one part of the wider crime reduction strategy of any nation. Northern and Southern regions of Nigeria are components of one entity and the Child's Right Act is made in such a way that neither of the regions is exempted. The study examined the relatedness of the proceedings among the Juvenile Justice Systems of Northern and Southern Nigeria in handling issues concerning juvenile delinquency. Due to the wide distinguishing feature of the country, Akwa Ibom State and Nasarawa States were selected to represent the two regions. The study was conducted using cluster and quota sampling techniques to select the element for the study. 150 respondents were used, and 4 elements were selected from the population of Uyo metropolis which is settled at 305,961 to conduct the study. The 4 elements are Social Welfare Officers, Remand Home Staff, Nigeria Prison Service staff, and Juvenile Court Staff Primary data were sorted with the use of well constructed questionnaire and interview while Journals, text books and internet were sources of secondary data. The study reveals a dysfunctional Juvenile Justice System in Nigeria. The respective correctional institutions are poorly equipped, hence cannot serve their statutory functions. Also, through civic education juveniles ought to know the penalties attached to delinquent act. This is to prevent reoccurrence of delinquency and not until the offense is committed then the offender is sanctioned. The system should be geared towards reformation, reintegration and education rather than being punishment centered.

**Key words:** Juvenile, Delinquency, Juvenile Courts, Juvenile Justice System, Integration and Reformation.

## 1. Introduction

Children are the future of the society. Investing in them, protecting and safeguarding their interest means that the interest of the community is safeguarded. The concern of this study is the treatment of the young human offender within the Juvenile Justice System in Nigeria. Nigeria is a multidimensional entity, with diverse ethnic background and religious affiliations. Although Nigeria is one entity in principle, the multi-faceted disposition of the nation has influenced the growth, learning and the behaviour patterns of the various children growing within the nation's jurisdiction. Due to these facts, it becomes necessary to take a comparative analysis of the Juvenile Justice System in Southern and Northern Nigeria.

The increasing interest of the youth in delinquent activities has prompted the development of numerous theories, and the continuous, yet rigorous, study of youth behaviour. But only recently has the concept of juvenile delinquency become an issue in the way crime among youth is viewed. The implementation of Juvenile Justice System responsibility has led to the development of specific theories such as neutralization, labeling and social control theories, by people who had a first-hand interest in the juvenile delinquency cases.

Most criminal activity starts at young age, there are very few criminal who have picked up the trade in their adult life. Just as manners and norms are developed at an early age, delinquency or deviant behaviour is also. Such factor as hereditary do breeds deviant, how the individual may react to certain situations. The way individual is treated and disciplined as a young child directly affects how he or she will perceive and treats those around him/her in life. The environment a child grows up plays a key role in determining the child's view about life, which may have direct effect on the young child's proneness to delinquency.

The definitions of juvenile delinquency vary from one society to another. Usually, it refers to the offences of the immature persons. In the Nigerian Society, the law defines delinquency in terms of the age of those involved rather than in terms of their offences. The Children and Young person's Act (here after referred to as CYPA otherwise called CYPL as amended in 2003) which is a major piece of legislation dealing with matters affecting children and Young persons in Nigeria, defines, a child' as a person below the age of 18 years, and persons above 17 years of age are subject to normal processes of the Law (Inyang, 2003). In this work, children and Young person's Law (CYPL) will most frequently be used.

The choice of this topic on Juvenile delinquency arose from the fact that there is an alarming case of young offenders, such case range from child homicide, theft, loitering vagrancy, arson, snarshes of personal

effects, cultism in both primary, post primary schools and in higher institutions. The period of youth is a very short period in the life of any human, it is designed in such a way that if not carefully planned the period can vanish and not positively utilized. (Ruhi, 2009). The personnel of the respective arms of the system agitate on the poor funding of the system, the defaulted facilities no longer suit the present day society. Employment in the respective components of the Juvenile Justice System is now based on 'god fatherism' and not on merit. In view of this, wrong personnel are employed, wrong approaches are utilized and undesirable outcome is the reward. Even with the dysfunctional system, Nigerians in the rural communities facing difficulties in the behavioural pattern of their wards would want to try the services of the Juvenile Justice System but too far to access. A question arose between scholars as to why juveniles deviate from the family and societal norms, what can be done to reduce the juvenile deviancy in our society, is abating juvenile delinquency an exclusively reserved responsibility of the Juvenile Justice System? All these are food for thought.

### 1.1 *Objectives of the Study*

The primary objective of the study is to compare the similarity and differences of the Juvenile Justice System of Northern and Southern Nigeria. More specifically, the study seeks:

- i. To assess the performances of each of the components of Juvenile Justice System in Nigeria.
- ii. To examine whether religious doctrine could make a national law dysfunctional.
- iii. To investigate whether the inmates of the various components of Juvenile Justice System receive the proper care they deserve.
- iv. To investigate whether the child's Right Act is very effective in handling Juvenile Delinquents cases in both Southern and Northern Nigeria.

### 1.2 *Hypotheses*

Two hypotheses are formulated for the study.

**H<sub>0</sub>:** There is no relationship between implementation of Child's Right Act and religious doctrine in Nigeria.

**H<sub>1</sub>:** There is a relationship between implementation of Child's Right Act and religious doctrine in Nigeria.

**H<sub>0</sub>:** There is no correlation between Juvenile Justice System and execution of its statutory role.

**H<sub>1</sub>:** There is a correlation between Juvenile Justice System and execution of its statutory role.

## 2. **Legal Framework on Juvenile Justice System in Nigeria**

The Children and Young Persons Act II is the major piece of legislation dealing with matters affecting children and Young persons in Nigeria. Its stated purpose is to make provision for the Welfare of the young and the treatment of young offenders and for the establishment of Juvenile Courts. The Act was enacted in Lagos, representing the Southern Protectorate in 1943 by the colonial government and in 1958; the same Act was established in the Northern region of the nation.

According to the United Nations minimum standard rules for administration of Juvenile Justice, a 'Juvenile' is defined as a child or young person who under the respective legal systems is dealt with differently from adult for offenses they have committed. In the same vein, the United Nations Convention on the rights of the child (here after referred to as the UN Convention) and the African charter on the Rights and Welfare of the child (here after referred to as the African charter) a child is defined as a human being under the age of 18 years. (Inyang, 2004), notes that in the United Nation definition of the child. There is provision for adjustment of definition to accommodate laws under which a child attains maturity at an early age. Similarly, under Beijing rules, the age definition of juvenile is made dependent on each respective legal system in order to accommodate the different economic, social, political, cultural, and legal system of the member state.

According to international law, a child/ juvenile, means every human being below the age of 18 years. Today this is a universally accepted definition of a juvenile/ child which comes from the United Nations convention on the right of the child (UNCRC).

The CYPL recognizes the following categories of juvenile delinquents namely, juvenile in needs of care and protection and juvenile in conflict with law (JICL).

Section 2 (d) of juvenile justice, Act defined a child in needs of care and protection as;

- A child who is found without any home or settle place or abode and without any ostensible means of subsistence.
- A child who is found begging or who is either a street child or a working child.
- Child who resides with a person, whether a guardian of the child or not, as such person has threatened to kill or injure the child or abused and there is a reasonable like hood of the threat being carried out or has killed, abused or neglected some other child or children and there is a reasonable like hood of the child in question being killed, abused or neglected by that person.
- Child who is mentally or physically challenged or children suffering from terminal or incurable disease having no one to support to look after them.

- Child who has a parent or guardian, such parent or guardian is unfit or incapacitated to exercise control over the child.
- Child who does not have parents and no one is willing to take care of, or whose parents have abandoned him or who is missing or run away child.
- Child who is being grossly abused tortured or exploited for the purpose of sexual abuse or illegal acts.
- Child who is found vulnerable and is likely to be inducted into drug abuse and trafficking.
- Child who is a victim of any armed conflict, civil commotion or natural calamity ‘...’

Further the same Section 2(1) of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2000 defined ‘Juvenile in Conflict with Law’ as a juvenile who is alleged to have committed an offence and has not completed eighteenth year of age as at the date of commissions of such offence (2012 Special police unit for Women and Children) <http://www.dpju.com/index.php>. From the above, it is easy to distinguish delinquency from crime in two major ways. First, delinquency is a more inclusive term than crime, which means that it includes in addition to law violation, some other traits or behaviour that are not criminal such as, vulnerability. Secondly, delinquency is different from crime in that the people involved are immature that is, delinquents but not criminals. They are below 18 years of age.

Bearing in mind the distinctions between criminality and delinquency, regulations pertaining to treatment of delinquents apart from the adult criminals were enacted and documented, thus setting in motion separate Justice System called Juvenile Justice System. Basically the enactments of the laws were meant to protect the welfare of the children in this dispensation of Justice. The CYPL legislated against;

- The trying of juveniles in open adult criminal courts and made provisions for juvenile courts (except that of the North).
- The sentencing of juveniles to prisons and made provisions for juvenile probation (except that of North) and juvenile institutions.
- The maltreatment and neglect of the juveniles. The CYPL made provision that juveniles committed to juvenile institutions must be properly lodged, fed, cared for and instructed.

It is not clear as to why the CYPL of Northern Nigeria did not specifically provide for Juvenile Courts and probation. Notwithstanding, the CRA 2003 has provided for both juvenile courts and probation centers located in Kaduna in the North.

### **2.1 *Child’s Right Act 2003***

Owing to the understanding that preventing offending by juveniles, is the one part of a wider crime reduction strategy in Nigeria. The Government believes that early intervention with those at risk of offending is more effective than waiting until the juvenile is old enough to be dealt with by the court of Law. The Child’s Right Act, No. 26 of 2003, is intended to provide state authorities and courts, the opportunity to intervene with those at risk of offending by preventing them from being involved in crime. It provides social services and responsibilities to family’s arid states to ensure effective supervision and development of the child under the supervision of a responsible institution and individuals. This is considered a welcome development as well as an action in the right direction because of the near collapse of the moral values in our society. ([www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)).

### **2.2 *Juvenile Correctional Institutions***

It has been indicated above that the CYPL have legislated against trying juveniles in adult courts and committing them to prison with adults. This same law has made provisions for juvenile institutions for the handling of delinquents including juvenile courts. There are four types of juvenile institutions in Nigeria. These are Juvenile Courts, Borstal Centres, Approved schools and Remand homes.

### **2.3 *Juvenile Courts***

The courts are meant specifically for handling cases involving juveniles who need care and protection of the society. One of the major features of juvenile court is that, charges by a prosecutor are not encouraged. Instead, a report is presented to the court by a probation officer and/or a social worker as provided for by the Child Right Act [CRA 2003, Section 217 (6a)]. The presentation of the report is not read aloud, but provides the substance of the offence or the problem labeled against the juvenile and the circumstances surrounding the offence/problem. The fact that Juvenile Justice does not operate with a criminal procedure, and does not aim at a conviction and sentencing of the juvenile delinquents, but aimed at aiding the juvenile offender who is assumed to have committed an offence for some psychological or socio-economic reasons, gives the juvenile courts a caring and loving atmosphere in dealing with juvenile cases, hence, culminating the knowledge of law, science, social science and social work to manage cases of juvenile offenders.

## 2.4 *Borstal Centre*

Borstal centre derives its name from the village called Borstal, just outside Rochester, where it was first set up in Britain (Wills, 1962). The Borstal Institution being administered by the Nigerian Prisons Services. The Borstal Institution receives persons from age 16- 19 who must be discharged out of the place on or before the attainment of 21 years of age.

The Borstal training Institutions are established with the view that a young person should not be criminalised or penalised for behaviour that does not cause serious damage to the development of the person or harm to others. The policy the institution involves:

- The provision of opportunities in particular educational institutions and vocational centres to meet the diverse needs of young persons as well as provide supporting direction for safeguarding the development of all young persons, especially those who are not able to pass through the process of formal education and are in need of special care and protection.
- The institution programme is designed in such a way that members of the society and the families of persons on admission at the centre work hand in hand with the institution's personnel to ensure that young persons are routed to acceptable behavioural standards and norms.
- The over-all interest of the young person is the main reason for any official intervention in the welfare of juveniles. The individual takes part deciding any programme that will help him/her to make positive adjustments.
- The rights and the interest of the young person is given premium in the efforts to safeguard his/her welfare and development.

There are only two Borstal centers in Nigeria, one in Lagos state, representing the Southern region and the other in Kaduna State in the Northern region of Nigeria. Borstal institutions are meant for only the young persons. There are two major functions of Borstal institutions in Nigeria. The firstly, the encouragement of a personal relationship between the Borstal staff and inmates through which the inmates will be given 'progressive trust demanding personal decision, responsibility and self-control'. Secondly, the placement of emphasis on regular educational and vocational training regimen with a demanding physical training content.

On admission into the Borstal centre, the young person antecedents are taken, before he/she is moved to the observation centre, the young person is kept for three months. The professionals as in juvenile court earlier discussed, interact with him on a daily basis and further insights of the causes of the young person's anti-social behaviour is revealed. Employing the principle of individualism, the young person is assisted to discover his/her potentials in terms of the vocation and other empowerment programmes the young person could engage in. At the end of three month in the observation unit, the young person is assigned to a house, where the juvenile will declare his/her vocational and therapeutical intentions.

## 2.5 *Borstal Institution Programmes*

The two Borstal centers in Nigeria run a uniform programmes. The programmes range from educational to vocational learning. The institution runs junior and senior secondary education programmes for the young persons, they are presented for Junior West African Examination and Senior Secondary Certificate Examinations. The successful senior secondary students are presented to write pre-tertiary examinations. The table below presents data on the education performance of inmate of Borstal Institutions in Southern and Northern regions.

Table 1.

**Borstal Training Institutions, Inmates' Academic Performance as at July 2011**

Region	Education attainment	Number of Inmates
South	Admitted into Universities and Colleges of Education.	10
South	Credit passes in JSS examinations and promoted to SS1.	9
North	Junior/Senior WAEC candidates.	89
North	Junior/Senior NECO candidates	69
North	Admitted into tertiary institutions; University, Polytechnics and colleges of Education.	17

Source: Okagbue (2014)

## 2.6 *Explanation*

In North, a total number of enrolments for the two examinations stood at 152 inmates. Of these numbers, 6 gained admission into the university, 4 into Polytechnics and 7 into colleges of education. 103 of the inmates passed WAEC and NECO exams but could not proceed to any of the higher institutions of learning as at 2011. Also, their examinations are conducted under a school that is managed by the State Education Management Board of the state where they situate. Often times, the Institution organizes Inter-house sports and annual coral for the inmates.

### 3. Methodology

This study is a descriptive research since it enabled the researcher to collect data from respondents without imposing any condition on them. The respondents were asked information through questionnaire and interview as the research instruments. The design for this study outlined stages and the procedures needed in order to accomplish the goal of the investigation. Such procedures included the identification of universe, choosing of elements, selection of sample size, selection of respondents and data collection analysis. Therefore, the study was delimited to the Akwa Ibom State where the staffs of social welfare, Juvenile Courts and Remand Homes residing in Uyo Local Government Area, the State Capital were selected as the specific study site and as the population. The sample sizes of one hundred and fifty (150) respondents were drawn from 4 elements. Both quota and cluster sampling techniques were used for the study. Cluster sampling was used for the selection Akwa Ibom and Nasarawa States while quota sampling techniques was used for the selection of the 4 elements which comprises 50 respondents drawn from staff of social welfare, 30 staff of Remand Home of Nasarawa States, 40 Staff of Nigeria Prison Service drawn from Akwa Ibom and Nasarawa States and 30 Staff of Juvenile Court Uyo, Akwa thorn State.

Data collected from both the primary and secondary sources through the use of questionnaire, books, journals, among others, were collated presented and analysed with the help of simple percentages (%) and chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ).

#### 3.1 Data Presentation, Interpretation and Analysis

This paper is centered on the presentation, analysis and interpretation of data collection, as well as testing the research hypotheses that were stated in this paper. The data were collected with the use of correctly filled copies of the questionnaire and the analysis is based on the responses of 140 respondents.

#### 3.2 Testing of Hypotheses

Two (2) hypotheses were tested in the study. The chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) was used for the purpose. The null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) was tested in each case.

##### Hypothesis One

$H_0$ : There is no relationship between implementation of Child's Right Law and religious doctrine in Nigeria. The same structured questionnaire was mailed to staff of Remand home in Nasarawa state. The questionnaire were all filled and returned.

**Table 2. Computing Chi-square for hypothesis One**

Variable	Fo	Fe	(Fo-Fe)	(Fo-Fe) <sup>2</sup>	$\frac{(Fo-Fe)^2}{Fe}$
A	65	35	30	900	25.71
SA	38	35	3	9	0.26
D	25	35	-10	-20	-0.57
SD	12	35	-23	-46	-1.31
<b>Total</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>843</b>	<b>24.09</b>

Source: Researcher's field work 2014, Akwa Ibom State.

$$Fe - N \times \frac{x}{c} = 140/4 = 35$$

$$\text{Chi-square computed } (X^2) = 24.09$$

$$\text{Degree of freedom (df)} = (R-1) \times (C-1)$$

$$(R-1) = (4-1) = 3$$

$$(C-1) = (2-1) = 1 \text{ Df. } 3 \times 1 = 3$$

$$\text{Level of significance } (X) = 5\% \text{ or } 0.05 \text{ (df)} = 3 \text{ at } 0.05 = 7.82$$

**Decision Rule:** Accept  $H_0$  if  $X^2_o < X^2_c$  and reject  $H_0$  if  $X^2_o > X^2_c$

**Findings:** Based on the calculated value of  $X^2$  (table 1) which is greater than the table value (7.82), the null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) which stated that there is no relationship between implementation of Child's Right Law and

Religious Doctrine in Nigeria is rejected while the alternate hypothesis (Hi) which stated that there is a relationship between implementation of Child's Right Law and Religious Doctrine in Nigeria is maintained. Therefore, there is a significant relationship between the implementation of Child's Right Law and Religious Doctrine in Nigeria.

**Hypothesis Two**

**Ho:** There is no correlation between Juvenile Justice System and execution of its statutory role.

**Table 3. Computing Chi-square for hypothesis Two**

Variable	Fo	Fe	(Fo-Fe)	(Fo-Fe) <sup>2</sup>	$\frac{(Fo-Fe)^2}{Fe}$
A	10	35	-25	-50	-1.43
SA	12	35	-23	-46	-1.31
D	60	35	25	625	17.86
SD	58	35	23	529	15.11
<b>Total</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,058</b>	<b>30.23</b>

Source: Researcher's field work 2014, Akwa Ibom State.

$Fe - N_x/x = 140/4 = 35$

Chi-square computed ( $X^2$ ) = 30.23

Degree of freedom (df) = (R-1) x (C - 1)

(R-1) = (4-1) = 3

(C-1) (2-1) = 1

= 3 x 1 = 3

Level of significance (X) = 5% or 0.05

(df) = 3 at 0.05 = 7.82

**Decision Rule:** Accept Ho if  $X^2 < X^2$  and reject Ho if  $X^2 > X^2$

Findings: Based on table 2 above the computed value (30.23) is far greater than the critical value (7.82) the null hypothesis which stated that there is no correlation between Juvenile Justice System and the execution of its statutory roles is rejected while the alternate hypothesis which stated that there is a correlation between Juvenile Justice System and the execution of its statutory role is maintained. Therefore, there is a correlation between Juvenile Justice System and the execution of its statutory role.

**3.3 Discussion of Findings**

The major findings are on the comparative analysis of juvenile justice system in the Northern and Southern regions of Nigeria.

Nigeria's law classifies people under 17 years as Juvenile offenders, who should only be tried in juvenile courts, whereas, under international instruments, the maximum age for trial in a juvenile courts is 18. Moreover, juvenile courts are supposed to be held outside the view of the public and in separate buildings from where normal court proceedings are held, but lack of facilities has prevented the implementation of these provisions. Across the country, the condition of juvenile courts is poor, with old benches and defaulted chairs.

A study recently conducted by Nigeria Office of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF, 2010) found that Remand homes, Approved schools, Borstal centres are not equipped to serve their statutory functions. This means that the stated objective of rehabilitation and reform are defeated. Official figure show that of more than 40,000 juveniles held in 147 juvenile institutions across the country in 2002, over 60 percent were awaiting trial, while 73 percent of the juvenile in custody were first trial, while 73 percent of the juvenile in custody were first offenders.

Another study on Juvenile Justice System conducted by CRP with the assistance of Penal Reform International (PRI), found that police officers often falsify the ages of juveniles to pass them off in court as adults, in order to avoid adhering to the legal requirements for their treatment. This practice happens especially in states without Borstal Remand homes.

Those who are either born in jail or brought alongside their parents because there was no one outside to look after them; they lack educational and recreational facilities, proper health care and the special diets that children require for proper growth. Also, presence of these children in prison is not legally recognized by government authorities.

The introduction of Shari'ah Law in Northern Nigeria has further created new deficiencies in the administration of Juvenile Justice. Under Shari'ah the age of criminal responsibility is taken to be either puberty which is at least 15 years of age. In cases involving fornication or adultery, which may attract flogging or the

death penalty respectively, the age of responsibility is set at 15. The implication is that, in cases where children reach puberty earlier than 18 years, no distinction is made between them and adults in dispensing Shari'ah punishment.

However, the division created by the implementation of the Shari'ah law in the Northern region makes adherence to the CYPL and CRA of 2003 impossible in the Juvenile Justice System in North.

The Islamic faith encourages aims giving like any other faiths. The practice of begging becomes a persistent issue among the vulnerable children in the Northern region. Therefore it becomes normal for wandering children to move around the cities. As these juveniles grow, the 'beg for food' but not 'work for food' syndrome grows along with them. The wealthy who claim to be helping the vulnerable children by giving these juvenile fishes, have not realized that the juveniles should be taught to fish so as to secure better tomorrow for them and for the society at large.

The other issue is the decay of the CYPL of the 20th century, formulated over half a decade ago; this long aged CYPL cannot stand the taste of time anymore. In the contemporary global society bounded with diverse emerging technology, juveniles grow and learn faster than ever in the history' of humankind. Therefore there is urgent need for a revisited Child's Right Act in Nigeria. Table of the study shows that certain cultural practices and/or religious doctrine do hinder the proper implementation of a given National Law and this is the case in the Implementation of CRL in the Northern Nigeria. Region in a way would help to strengthen the functioning of the Nation's Juvenile Justice System.

### **3.4 Conclusion**

The purpose of the study, A comparative analysis of Juvenile Justice System of Northern and Southern region of Nigeria centered on the similarity and the differences in operation. However the study through focus Group Discussion have been able to identify factors that prevent proper implementation of Child's Right Act which in a way should solidify the functioning of the various components of Juvenile Justice System. Recommendation are made that would improve the functioning of the Juvenile Justice System in the country, Nigeria.

### **3.5 Recommendations**

It is observed that a number of things are wrong with the juvenile justice system between Southern and Northern Nigeria; ranging from the CYPL itself to the Juvenile Courts, the institutions that are meant to rehabilitate the juvenile delinquents and the religious injunctions have influence the implementation of the CYPL.

At this point, I want to focus my recommendations on the ground that juvenile delinquents are being triggered by some factors; such as poor parent-child relationship. It is said that the first trainer of the child is the mother. The child like unto a green and tender branch will grow according to the way it is trained. If the training be right, it will grow right, and if crooked, the growth likewise, and until the end of life that child will conduct itself accordingly. Therefore it is not enough to blame increase juvenile delinquency on the poor implementation of the CYPL but the blame should be based on how well was the child trained at home, The Baha'i Faith, (1996).

It is obvious that it is not so possible to segregate the human heart from the environment outside human and say that once one of these is reformed everything will be improved. Man is organic with the world. Juvenile human inner life molds the environment and is itself also deeply affected by it. The one acts upon the other and every change in the life of man is the result of these mutual relationship (Ruh Institute, 2009). In view of the rational choice of the juvenile to delinquency and the reaction of the environment, the juvenile institutions should be strengthened to assist those juveniles who are beyond parental control.

It is said that what goes around, comes around. Despite the great wealth of the nation, the Nigerian people have not been able to reduce the widespread of poverty or to remove the injustice that has torn the societal fiber apart. Until justice is given a chance in our society then will we have less juvenile delinquent so also will there be fewer criminals in Nigeria.

For juvenile institutions to be a substitute to home for juveniles as it is intended, the need for a spacious accommodation cannot be overemphasized. Each inmate should have a bed, well dressed with mattresses and beddings. Such accommodation should also be mosquito free.

The staff should not be concerned with only the neatness of the surrounding but should also make sure that each inmate baths at least twice daily, their beddings are properly washed each week, and their clothes are washed.

Corporal punishments where they are used as a control device should stop. Instead, positive reinforcements (reward in forms of privileges and material gifts) should be utilized. Corporal punishment only endangers hostility between the juveniles and the administrating agents in the institutions.

The 'iron wall' that is built between the juveniles and the community, where they are supposed to return to at the end, is very inappropriate. More damaging is the total loss of contact with parents, guardians and other relatives. So, efforts should be made to see that inmates see their parents or guardians and other relatives at least twice a month, if not each week. After all, as Article 17(3) of the ACRWC urges, 'the essential aim of treatment

of every child during trial and also if found guilty of infringing the penal law shall be its reformation, Reintegration into its family and social rehabilitation’.

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