



Perceived Impact Of Counselling Services Programmes Offered To Prison Inmates In Rivers States

Okirigwe, Nimi Uche

**Department of Educational Foundations,
Rivers State University, P.M. 5080, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria
E:mail:princessnimi8421@yahoo.com, princessnimi8421@gmail.com
Phone: Phone:08033108421**

ABSTRACT

This study examined Perceived Impact of Counselling Services Programmes Offered to Prison Inmates in Rivers States. Three objectives, research questions and hypotheses were posed to guide the study. Descriptive survey design was used for the study. The Population was 3,066 respondents (69 Prison Staff and 2997 inmates) in two prisons in Rivers State out of which a sample of 767 was drawn from the study. Data for the study were collected by means of questionnaire titled Perceived Impact of Counselling Services Programmes Offered to Prison Inmates Questionnaire (PICSPIQ)". The PICSPIQ adopted a four point rating scale of Strongly Agreed to Strongly Disagree. Test-re-test method was used for the reliability test which yielded reliability co-efficient of 0.70. Copies of questionnaire were distributed, and 667 were retrieved for analysis. Mean and Standard Deviation were used to answer the research questions, while z-test was used to test the hypotheses. The findings revealed that Prison inmates, like any other human being, are subject to psychological, sociological, legal and other challenges. Counselling services in order to have stable minds and also to improve their inter-personal relationship with the outside world. Based on the findings, conclusion was made and recommendations made amongst others that Prison authorities should organise for each inmate and sensitise them on the availability of counselling services available for them. Prison authorities should organized refresher courses for officers to increase their knowledge in the care and wellbeing of inmates.

Keywords: Counselling Services Programmes, Inmates

INTRODUCTION

Counselling services in the prisons is meant to assist the inmates to reform themselves by making relevant decisions that will repair the deficiencies in them so that they can return to society and become productive members (Egbo, 2013). Counselling is a learning process in which a counsellor helps an individual or individuals learn, understand themselves and their environment and be in a position to choose the right type of behaviours that will help them develop, grow, progress, ascend, mature and step up, educationally, vocationally and socio personally (Egbo, 2013). In other words, counselling is a transformative process of helping people to learn all that are to be learnt both in and outside the School. Okoye (2010) viewed counseling as an interactional relationship designed to facilitate the personal development of information leading to effective decision making and awareness of the self. Prison inmates are some of the most maladjusted people in society. Most of the inmates have had too little discipline or too much, some have come from broken homes and have no self-esteem; which makes them insecure and at war with themselves and as well with their respective societies (Szumski, 1985). Pietrofesa (1993) in Mutanana and Gasva (2014) state that counselling is a professional service offered by a competent counsellor who has the expertise to generate alternatives, help the client in loosening and breaking old patterns, facilitate the decision making process as well as to find viable solutions to problems. Tenibiaje (2010) argues that counselling is an important and practical tool for empowering prison inmates through attitudinal and behavioural changes which are consciously and concisely moderated to lower crime and recidivism. Upon receiving proper

counselling, one would expect a decline in re-offending among prisoners and a change in the attitude as well as the behaviour of offenders.

Prison is an institution designed to securely house people who have been convicted of crimes or are on awaiting trial. These individuals known as prisoners or inmates are kept in continuous custody on a short or long-term basis. Usually, the more serious the offence, the longer the prison term imposed. Awake (2005) defined prison as a total institution or a place of residence and work, where a large number of like situated individuals are cut off from the wider society for an appreciable period of time together, lead and enforce formally administered round of life. Prison inmates, like any other human being, are subject to psychological, sociological, legal and other challenges. They, therefore, need counselling services in order to have stable minds and also to improve their inter-personal relationship with the outside world. Counselling also benefits prison inmates as it enhances their social and educational skills. Thus, counselling should not only be offered to these prison inmates, but the community also needs to be guided accordingly in as much as these „born again“ societal members (ex-prisoners) are concerned. The importance of counselling to inmates can never be over emphasised as it is a helping service geared towards developing a relationship between the counsellor and the counselee. Pietrofesa, Hoffman and Splete (1984) have counselling as a relationship between a professionally trained and competent counsellor and an individual seeking help in gaining greater self understanding to improve his decision making, behaviour changing skills for problem solving solution and for developmental growth. Makinde (1990) buttressed this further that counselling is the heart of the work of guidance and counselling; as it is concerned with the feelings, attitudes and emotional dispositions of the individual about himself and the situation facing him/her leading to modification of one's behaviour in the environment.

French and Gendreau (2006) advanced a suggestion that the best technique used in reform and rehabilitate criminals is counseling. Individuals need counseling to improve their well-being, alleviate distress and mal-adjustment and resolve conflicts (Todd & Bohart, 2003). Brammer (1988) stated that, "the goal of guidance and counseling is to bring change in lifestyles, increase awareness or insight, understanding, relief from suffering and changes in thoughts and self-perceptions". Dobb (1994) held the opinion that when law breakers are labeled criminals, they enter the phase of secondary deviance where they admit that they are criminals. Guidance and Counseling services in the prisons would assist the inmates to reform themselves by making relevant decisions that would repair the deficiencies in them so that they could return to society and become productive members. Guidance programs would provide many self-improvement avenues, such as work in prison industries and other institutions, vocational training, drug abuse treatment, parenting, anger management and other programs that teach essential life skills. Szumski (1985) pointed out that these kinds of programme would provide skills and habits that would replace the sense of hopelessness which prisoners have. . It was on the basis of this, that the researcher was worried and decided to carry out this study to find out the Perceived impact of Counselling Services offered to Prison Inmates in Rivers State.

Statement of the Problem

Counselling then helps them to appreciate that they can reform, and the community can accept them as normal functioning human beings. Counselling should also not only be offered to prisoners, but the community also need to be educated about these „born again“ community members (ex-prisoners) so that they can accept them when they return home and to their communities. Prison inmates are not an exception to the current economic challenges being experienced in the country. Some of these inmates are orphans who have not received the much needed parental love and guidance. Counselling is needed to change their attitude and behaviour in the community upon release from custody. There are some challenges faced in the counsellor-prison inmate counselling relationships. Larivieri (2001) posit that prison officers who are the correctional officers' attitude towards inmates would be associated with better work adjustment. The main challenge has to do with the attitude of prison officers towards counseling of prison inmates. Some prison officers have negative perceptions about prison inmates, and believe in the hard and tight rules when dealing with offenders, which contracts with the fundamental principle of having positive regard when conducting counselling. This could be as a result of poor counselling skills and the researchers, based on their professional background in counselling, have been wondering if prison officials are aware of the various approaches that are used in counselling prison inmates. To this end, Frakas (1999) believes that the orientation of correctional officers towards prison inmates must be examined. Reising and Lovrich (1998) also argue that

individual attitudes, positional characteristics and managerial practices have an effect on correctional officers' approach in handling prison inmates.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to determine the Perceived impact of Counselling Services offered to Prison Inmates in Rivers State, Specially, the objectives were to:

1. To identify the Follow-up service offered to prison inmates in Rivers State
2. Ascertain the extent to which referral service influence prison inmates in Rivers State.
3. To identify the challenges faced by both the prison inmates and the prison officials during the counseling Services.

Research Questions

The following research questions were posed to guide the study;

1. To what extent does Follow-up service influence prison inmates in Rivers State?
2. To what extent does referral service influence prison inmates in Rivers State?
3. What are the challenges faced by both the prison inmates and the prison officials during the counseling Services in Rivers State?

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 level of Significance

The following hypotheses are formulated and will be tested at 0.05 level of significance:

1. There is no significant difference in the mean responses of warders and inmates on how Follow-up service influence prison inmates in Rivers State.
2. There is no significant difference in the mean responses of warders and inmates on how referral services influence prison inmates in Rivers State.
3. There is no significant difference in the mean responses of warders and inmates on the challenges faced by both the prison inmates and the prison officials during the counseling Services in Rivers State.

Literature Review

Concept of Counselling Service

Counselling is a process of helping individuals or group of people to gain self-understanding in order to be themselves. Burks and Steffler (2009) see counselling as a professional relationship between a trained counsellor and a client, Olayinka (2012) defined it to be a process whereby a person is helped in a face-to-face relationship while Makinde (2013) explained counselling as an enlightened process whereby people help others by encouraging their growth. Counselling is a process designed to help clients understand and clarify personal views of their life space, and to learn to reach their self-determined goals through meaningful, well-informed choices and a resolution of problems of an emotional or interpersonal nature. It believes that every human individual has the potential for self-growth, self-development and self-actualization.

Counselling focuses on in-depth discussion of problems and sharing information that aids understanding and future decision making. It refers to the help some individual students receive from credentialed professional to overcome personal and social barriers to learning (West Virginia Department of Education, 2011). Ifelunni (2003) defines counselling as the assistance that an individual who is trained gives to another to enable such an individual to understand his potentials such as interest, his aptitude, strength and weaknesses. On the other hand, Okeke (2003), defines counselling as a helping relationship involving the counsellor and the client, in which the counsellor uses his professional knowledge and skills to assist the client attain proper development and maturity, improved functioning and ability to cope with life's problems. Counselling is also defined according to Eze (2012), as an inter-personal relationship between a professionally trained individual (counsellor) and a troubled individual (counsee) or individuals (counsees) whereby the former utilises his professional skills to help the latter to be able to solve his educational, vocational and person social problems.

The Counselling Service is here to help you gain understanding and insight into any difficulties you may be experiencing, to develop emotional resilience and put into effect real change, enabling you to fulfil your academic and personal potential. The Service offers free and confidential support, but it is not an emergency service. It also promotes the holistic development of pupils and students by

providing on-going prevention and intervention services and offering personal counselling to pupils and students.

Counseling is built with teamwork, through collaborative efforts with others; collation is built towards meeting up with the expectations of children's needs (Lenhardt & Young, 2011). The need for guidance and counselling in the Nigerian school system is increasingly rapidly in today's society. The youths have variety of choices to make in life in areas such as; health, subjects to choose, course of choice to study in the university and so on.

Guidance is a specialized and developmental service aimed at assisting, and directing students for understanding and acceptance of themselves and their world so as to be able to live a productive life, (Okeke, 2003). These "cluster of formalized educational services" mention by Denga in Okeke (2003), are technically called Counselling services. They include the following: Orientation service, appraisal service, placement service, counseling service, information service, Referral service, Research service, follow-up and evaluation service.

Counselling service is a face to face interaction between the counsellor and the students, through which students are assisted towards overcoming obstacles to their academic, vocational, personal-social progress and other life needs. Okeke (2003) defined counselling services as a personalized interaction between the client experiencing a problem and the counsellor who tries to help. Emphasis here is on making the individual to have better understanding of himself and his world. Denga (2001) states that counselling services are regarded as the heart of guidance and counselling since it provides a forum for interaction, a link between the client and the counsellor. Counselling services are very critical for the students because they need it to solve career, study, personal and social problems they encounter in life. Counselling Service is a face to face interaction between the counsellor and the client who has a challenge. Counselling in schools is aimed at assisting the students to live a more productive life and self-satisfying life style. The main focus of the school counselor is to facilitate needed educational growth among the students (Oguntuga, 2015).

Orientation service is the information given to students in order to help them adjust better to new school environment. According to Oluremi, Esere, Omotosho & Eweniyi (2010) when new students are admitted every new academic year in secondary schools, they feel lost socially and psychologically in their new environment. This is because they no longer enjoy the psychological support of their parents, friends and former teachers. Also, the new environment has rules, regulations and administrative set up which appear completely different. Orientation services are therefore designed to help such students adjust during such critical transition periods. Obidoa and Onwurah (2006) opined that orientation services are planned to assist both new students and staff get acquainted with their new school, adapt to their new environment and the people in it. At this point, students are exposed to the rules and regulation guiding behavior and interpersonal relationship within the school (Idowu, 2004).

Referral service affords the school counsellor an opportunity to refer the cases which he cannot handle to specialists like clinical psychologist, medical practitioner and others. Referral Services some problems and concerns are beyond the capability of the school counsellor or guidance teacher, it is important to establish a referral network. This should consist of a team of well trained and skilled professionals who have expertise in assisting referred individuals, (UNESCO, 1990). Referral does not imply the helper might have failed, but signifies strength on the part of the helper, who recognizes his limitations, and explores opportunities to maximize the help he/she can offer. The professional should therefore, be well informed about referral services, which include social workers, doctors, psychiatrists, psychologists, priests and the police among others.

Evaluation services is designed to ascertain the extent to which the guidance programme previously carried out by the school is meeting the objectives for which it was established, and to follow or trace a student after school and to the world of work. School counsellors develop a systematic plan for maintaining contacts with former students. Yahaya (2010) notes that the data obtained from follow-up is kept in the school and it is used in evaluating the effectiveness of the entire guidance and counselling programme.

Follow-up Service consists of activities which help the counsellor to access if the client is coping after the counselling session. This could involve visit to other places like institutions and employment establishment. Follow up services is necessary for planning and evaluation purpose (Adeoye, 2016).

Research service helps the school counsellor to discover relevant information that can improve students learning and understanding. The service should be an on-going process which professional counsellors should embrace and encourage. These services constitute the core of any guidance program and should be organised to facilitate the growth and development of all students from kindergarten through post high school experiences (Erford, 2010; Erford, 2011; Neukrug, 2011).

Information Service is defined as creating awareness, letting people know of the existence of material or non-material things. Information according to Omeje (2007), is a valid and usable data relating to particular situations, persons and things at a specific time and place. It also means knowledge communicated or received concerning a fact or circumstance or knowledge gained through communication, research and instruction among others. Information services have the aim of providing students with better knowledge of educational, vocational and social opportunities that can be used to make better and well informed decisions. Okeke (2003) states that these services are tailored towards equipping students with the necessary information in the areas of educational, vocational and personal- social in order to be able to make wise decision about life. Information service is a vital aspect of guidance and counselling now that the society is growing complex.. The school guidance counsellor provides the students with accurate information on educational, vocational and personal social opportunities facts that are available in order to assist the students in making informed decision and choices (Alabi, 2006).

Appraisal services: This involves the use of tests and non-test instrument to collect, analyze and interpret data for students to understand themselves better. It also affords counsellors and significant others the opportunity of having insight into the strength and weakness of students, (Okeke, 2003). Information from appraisal services can be used for different educational purposes. To counsel, the counsellor needs information on students to understand the student. She/he can get the knowledge about the students through appraisal services.. Adefila (2000) noted that the appraisal of an individual is the value judgment arrived at, based on the result of the assessment of various relevant characteristics of the person. It involves the collection of data, analysis of subjective and objective personal and psychological data about a student. This gives a full understanding of these students and how they can be helped.

Placement service is concerned with assisting students to adjust to the next stage of development whether in school or on the job. Placement Services: These are services that have to do with the process of helping students to enter and to make adjustment in the next stage of development, (Okeke, 2003). The placement services are very essential at the end of secondary school education, where a student needs to decide on the next step after secondary school. The services assist students in selecting subject combinations required for particular courses and choosing of the right career. Makinde (1994) states that placement services are designed to aid an individual to select and utilize opportunities within the school and in the labour market.. This involves placing students in an appropriate class or school, courses, training or vocations. The counselor assists the students to choose the right subject combination in line with their traits. This process is useful in carrying out the placement of these students into science, arts, commercial or technical class. The placement programmes also assist the graduating students to choose the right course at the University (Alabi, 2006).

Counselling For Prison Inmates

Counselling occurs in some of the Correction centres in Nigeria. The usual guidance services such as information, referral, diagnosis, and follow-up do take place. For instance, some of those who are academically inclined are counselled to pursue their education right there in the Correction centre. Such people are given information that they could read for their ordinary and advanced level exams in the Correction centre and that they may even enroll in the Open University of Nigeria while serving their jail terms. Some undergo training to become religious leaders and when they come out they are reformed individuals who become pastors and religious leaders in different places. Others embrace vocational guidance services. They engage in occupational training in careers such as agriculture, masonry, carpentry and leather works, which some then embark upon after they are discharged. All these help them to settle into another life after jail, some of them move to other towns to begin their new life.

Correction centre are supposed to be a place for transformation and ' rehabilitation, but Nigeria Correction centre have become training ground for inmates to become hardened criminals. Hence, there is need for counselling in the Correction centre. Counselling is a moulding, reconstruction and a rehabilitation process (Ipaye, 2004). It is a process that involves rehabilitating, reintegrating, and behaviour modification of inmates. Rehabilitation counsellors give assistance to inmates in securing a job through specific training received and find job through direct contact or connection by the rehabilitation counsellors with employers. They should also provide counselling, psychotherapy training, career counselling, relationship issues, creative training, job development skills and counselling in financial management to the prison inmates. Rehabilitation counsellors should assist prison inmates, so as to achieve optimal adjustment to living and working within their chosen environment.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design: Descriptive research design was used to carry out this study.

Population and Sample of the Study: The Population of this study consists of 3,066 (Three Thousand and Sixty Six) prison staff/inmates from two prisons in Rivers State. The sample size for the study consist of 767 determined using 25 percent of the total population of 3066 for Prison staff including the inmates population which was 69 for Prison staff and 2, 997 inmates as sample for both prison staff/inmate.

Instrumentation: The instrument used for this investigation was A 4-point Modified Likert scale which is an interval scale-ranging from Very High Extent to Very Low Extent, with a numerical value ranging from 4 points to 1 points. The instruments that were used for this study were the questionnaire titled: Perceived Impact of Counselling Services offered to Prison Inmates Questionnaire (PICSPIQ). The instrument has 16 (Sixteenth) items. A weighted average of 2.5 was accepted for research questions.

Validation and Reliability of the Instrument: The instrument was validated by Experts in Measurement and Evaluation in the faculty of Education, who ascertained the face and content validity. The reliability of the instrument was determined through test-re-test method, using Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Coefficient statistical tool. A reliability coefficient of 0.70 was obtained for the study.

Data Analysis: The comparative analysis was achieved by means of utilizing z-test statistic for the comparison of mean scores at 0.05 level of significance. While, the research questions were answered by descriptive statistics: Mean and Standard deviation.

RESULTS

Research Question 1: *To what extent does Follow-up service influence prison inmates in Rivers State?*

Table 41: Mean and Standard Deviation on how Follow-up service influence prison inmates in Rivers State (N = 667)

| S/N | Item Statements | Prison staff = 69 | | | inmates=598 | | |
|----------------------------|---|-------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|
| | | \bar{x} | SD | Remarks | \bar{x} | SD | Remarks |
| 1 | Counsellor visits inmates after counselling sessions. | 2.86 | 1.07 | Agreed | 2.77 | 1.07 | Agreed |
| 2 | Counsellor visits inmates after resolution of their problems. | 3.00 | 1.05 | Agreed | 2.77 | 1.11 | Agreed |
| 3 | Counsellor develops plans to trace former inmates after leaving prison. | 3.03 | 1.06 | Agreed | 1.88 | 1.07 | Disagreed |
| 4 | There is counsellor-student relationship after prison. | 2.45 | 0.93 | Disagreed | 3.31 | 0.89 | Agreed |
| Total Mean & SD | | = | 11.34 | 4.11 | 10.73 | 4.14 | |
| Grand Mean & SD | | = | 2.83 | 1.02 | 2.68 | 1.03 | |

Source: Field Survey, (2020)

Table 4.1 which was for research question one showed that three items were agreed. The respondents agreed that Counsellor visits inmates after counselling sessions. Counsellor visits inmates after resolution of their problems. The confirmation was made with a grand mean of 2.83 and standard deviation of 1.02 for Prison staff while that of inmates were 2.68 and 1.03 for mean and standard deviation.

Research Question 2: *To what extent does referral service influence prison inmates in Rivers State?*

Table 2: Mean and Standard Deviation on referral service influence prison inmates in Rivers State (N = 667)

| S/N | Item Statements | Prison staff = 69 | | | inmates=598 | | |
|-----|--|-------------------|-------------|---------|--------------|-------------|---------|
| | | \bar{x} | SD | Remarks | \bar{x} | SD | Remarks |
| 1 | Inmates are helped to receive outside support concerning personal issues. | 3.12 | 0.99 | Agreed | 3.20 | 0.96 | Agreed |
| 2 | Counsellor always identifies Inmates with special needs which require the services of referral sources | 2.96 | 1.04 | Agreed | 3.00 | 1.03 | Agreed |
| 3 | Inmates are encouraged to visit other professionals for help. | 2.91 | 1.13 | Agreed | 3.22 | 0.84 | Agreed |
| 4 | Resource persons are always invited by our counsellor | 3.07 | 1.01 | Agreed | 3.43 | 0.93 | Agreed |
| | Total Mean & SD = | 12.06 | 4.17 | | 12.85 | 3.76 | |
| | Grand Mean & SD = | 3.01 | 1.04 | | 3.21 | 0.94 | |

Source: Field Survey, (2020)

Table 2 which was for research question two showed that all the items were agreed. The respondents agreed that Inmates are helped to receive outside support concerning personal issues. Counsellor always identifies Inmates with special needs which require the services of referral sources. The confirmation was made with a grand mean of 3.01 and 1.04 while standard deviation of 3.21 and 0.94 for both Prison staff and inmates.

Research Question 3: *What are the challenges faced by both the prison inmates and the prison officials during the counseling Services in Rivers State?*

Table 3: Mean and Standard Deviation on the challenges faced by both the prison inmates and the prison officials during the counseling Services in Rivers State (N = 667)

| S/N | Item Statements | Prison staff = 69 | | | inmates=598 | | |
|-----|---|-------------------|-------------|---------|--------------|-------------|---------|
| | | \bar{x} | SD | Remarks | \bar{x} | SD | Remarks |
| 1 | the attitude of prison officers towards counseling of prison inmates. | 3.26 | 1.03 | Agreed | 3.49 | 0.85 | Agreed |
| 2 | prison officers have negative perceptions about prison inmates | 2.87 | 1.03 | Agreed | 3.32 | 0.99 | Agreed |
| 3 | Poor counselling skills | 3.19 | 0.94 | Agreed | 2.90 | 1.14 | Agreed |
| 4 | | 2.96 | 1.08 | Agreed | 3.28 | 1.04 | Agreed |
| | Total Mean & SD = | 12.28 | 4.08 | | 12.99 | 4.02 | |
| | Grand Mean & SD = | 3.07 | 1.02 | | 3.24 | 1.00 | |

Source: Field Survey, (2020)

Table 3 which was for research question three showed that all the items were agreed. The respondents agreed that the attitude of prison officers towards counseling of prison inmates. prison officers have negative perceptions about prison inmates. The confirmation was made with a grand mean of 3.07 and 1.02 and standard deviation of 3.24 and 1.00 as responses of the respondents on both Prison staff and Inmate.

Test of Hypotheses

Hypotheses 1: There is no significant difference in the mean responses of warders and inmates on how Follow-up service influence prison inmates in Rivers State.

Table 4: z-test Analysis on the mean responses of warders and inmates on how Follow-up service influence prison inmates in Rivers State

| Respondents | N | \bar{x} | SD | Std Error | DF | α | z-cal | z-crit | Decision |
|--------------|-----|-----------|------|-----------|-----|----------|-------|--------|----------|
| Prison staff | 69 | 2.83 | 1.02 | 0.12 | 665 | 0.05 | 1.25 | 1.96 | Accepted |
| Inmates | 598 | 2.68 | 1.03 | | | | | | |

Source: Field Survey, 2020

From the z-test in Table 4, the t-calculated value of 1.25 is less than t-critical value of 1.96 at 0.05 levels of significance and 665 degree of freedom. The null hypothesis is accepted.

Hypotheses 2: There is no significant difference in the mean responses of warders and inmates on how referral service influence prison inmates in Rivers State.

Table 5: z- test Analysis on the mean responses of warders and inmates on how referral service influence prison inmates in Rivers State

| Respondents | N | \bar{x} | SD | Std Error | DF | α | z-cal | z-crit | Decision |
|--------------|-----|-----------|------|-----------|-----|----------|-------|--------|----------|
| Prison staff | 69 | 3.01 | 1.04 | 0.13 | 665 | 0.05 | 1.53 | 1.96 | Accepted |
| Inmates | 598 | 3.21 | 0.94 | | | | | | |

Source: Field Survey, 2020

From the z – test in Table 5, the calculated value is 1.53 while the z – critical value is 1.96 at 0.05 level of significance. The z – calculated value is less than z– critical value, the null hypothesis is therefore accepted.

Hypotheses 3: There is no significant difference in the mean responses of warders and inmates on the challenges faced by both the prison inmates and the prison officials during the counseling Services in Rivers State.

Table 6: Z-test Analysis on the Mean Responses the challenges faced by both the prison inmates and the prison officials during the counseling Services in Rivers State

| Respondents | N | \bar{x} | SD | Std. Error | DF | α | z-cal | z-crit | Decision |
|--------------|-----|-----------|------|------------|-----|----------|-------|--------|----------|
| Prison staff | 69 | 3.07 | 1.02 | 0.12 | 665 | 0.05 | 1.41 | 1.96 | Accepted |
| Inmates | 598 | 3.24 | 1.00 | | | | | | |

Source: Field Survey, 2020

From the z-test in table 6, the t-calculated value of 1.41 is less than t-critical value of 1.96 at 0.05 levels of significance and 665 degree of freedom. The null hypothesis is accepted.

CONCLUSION

From the findings of the study, it can be concluded that prison inmates have very little need for educational guidance with male prisoners needing it more than the female inmates. Both male and female prison inmates have very high need of counseling services with female inmates having a greater need than their male counterparts. Furthermore, both male and female prison inmates have very high need of personal-social guidance with female inmates having a greater need than their male counterparts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended therefore that:

1. Prison authorities should organise for each inmate and sensitise them on the availability of counselling services available for them.
2. Prison authorities should organized refresher courses for officers to increase their knowledge in the care and wellbeing of inmates.

- 3 Educational guidance needs offered in prisons should be modified to suit their current educational needs.
- 4 The expressed educational, vocational and personal-social guidance needs of prison inmates should be provided to ensure their proper rehabilitation and integration into society upon their release.
- 5 Regular guidance needs assessment should be done in prison establishments to find out the current needs of prisoners for their best provision.
- 6 Studies should be done to find out the reasons for the differences in the expressed educational, vocational and personal-social needs of male and female prison inmates.

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