



## MAXIMUM SECURITY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY: DESIGNING FOR ANTI-VANDALISM AND PRISON BREAK

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### ABSTRACT

It has been observed that over the years, the challenges in the Nigerian Criminal Justice System have taken its toll on conditions in the prisons. Issues of congestion, infrastructural decay, lack of recreational facilities, access to justice, etc., have greatly impacted on the role of the institution. This in turn has had negative impacts on the inward mates as all they desire is a means of exit as the environment does not encourage safe livelihood. To this end, there is high need for this facility to be designed with the inert thought of making building materials self-protective in other to avoid hard impact that comes from hard inmates actions from causing damage or vandalism and for other facilities that will encourage prisoners serve their terms peacefully. Therefore, this paper through a careful analysis of secondary data journal and reviews examines possible methods that will reduce possible causes of vandalization of structure which can in-turn escape and prevent prison break and furthermore seeks highlight design considerations that will prevent building escape and vandalism.

**Keywords:** Priso Break, Vandalism, inmates, Anti-vandalism.

### INTRODUCTION

Prison as the word implies can literally mean a place of confinement, a place where people are kept for close monitoring. As examined from Adelola, (1982), that the physical appearance of prison as tall walls supplanted with barbwire, an iron gate and antiquated buildings separated Prisons from its larger community outside. These isolated structures according to him are meant to accomplish the confinement aspect. While confinement is made to detach the prisoners from his previous infectious groups, this new, environment is expected to provide the prisoner with particular opportunities of rethinking, stock taking and repentance from old ways.

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A Prison can also be seen as a physical structures in a geographical location, where a number of people living under highly specialized condition utilize the resources and adjust to the alternatives presented to them by a unique kind of social environment McCorkle and Korn (1970).

The aims of establishing the prison institution in all parts of the world including Nigeria is to provide incarceration facility for people who have violated the rules and regulations of their society and this cannot be effectively carried out in the conditions prevalent in most of our prisons. Bradshaw, J. (1988)

It is a known fact vandalism in prison only come from: Hardened inmates(criminals) who seems to be domineering and seeks for escape because they believe there is once justice for them, and those that are Innocent and seek but can't find justice, therefore will resort to working out their freedom themselves. These sets of people have the mentality that the environment they found themselves is an ill and uncomfortable one and as such will never want to be confined there against all odds. Joel, J. (1985).

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Vandalism also comes to mind when these inmates are not pre occupied with routine activities that help to serve as a revamp to livelihood and gives them a prospect after their jail terms.

A fundamental aspect of prison security is the physical security of the institution. Aspects of physical security include the architecture of the prison buildings, the strength of the walls of those buildings, the bars on the windows, the doors and walls of the accommodation units, the specifications of the perimeter wall and fences, watchtowers and so on.

They also include the provision of physical aids to security such as locks, cameras, alarm systems (internal and external), x-ray machines, metal detectors, radios, handcuffs and such like. Good practice is to set minimum physical security standards for each type of prison, and for each element within that prison. The specification for perimeter security, for example, may include an outer concrete wall and an inner prison mesh type fence. The height, width, foundations, building materials and method of construction would

be specified, along with the distance between the wall and fence, the type and location of perimeter lighting, perimeter alarm system and a CCTV system to trigger the cameras when a perimeter alarm is activated. In designing the physical aspects of security, a balance needs to be found between the best way of achieving the required security level and the need to respect the dignity of the individual. For example, it is possible to use architectural designs which meet the need for cell and dormitory windows to be secure while, at the same time, meeting the standards for access to natural light and fresh air. Physical aids to security such as cameras, monitoring and alarm systems by definition intrude on personal privacy. In making decisions about where they have to be placed, there needs to be a balance between legitimate security requirements and the obligation to respect individual privacy. The use of physical security instruments (such as chains, handcuffs and fetters) that are applied directly to prisoners, can be a contentious issue.

The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) pay attention to physical security instruments and prohibit the use of chains, irons and other instruments of restraint which are inherently degrading or painful. The rules also regulate the use of other instruments of restraint, applicable only in the course of transfers as a precaution against escape; or, by order of the prison director, to prevent a prisoner from injuring him- or herself or others or from damaging property, if other methods of control fail.

### **PRISON ENVIRONMENT AND ITS IMPACT**

As architects we may have a great deal of data about room arrangement and architecture, about humane and austere settings but we know little about the uniqueness and versatility of responses to stress settings or different impacts of such setting on an individual. We cannot ignore this aspect since this work is all about designing environments to serve people who are under stress. In setting out to study prisons as environment, we are concerned about understanding life in the prison, particularly with the inmates who have trouble adjusting to life in prison. While some inmates quickly adapt to the challenges of prison life, for the majority there is a visible struggle to adapt. There is a plausible

potential for arranging prison environments to reduce stress by realigning resources.

### **IMPACT OF BUILDING DESIGN MATERIALS.**

Many penologists are of the opinion that the design of the facility as well as the materials used in its construction have a large psychological impact on the inmates and can either hamper or enhance feelings of stress. Most prison prototypes constructed affects their users with extra ordinary force as most grew out of the public demand for protection and vengeance. Its tall turrets, barred window, drab colors and materials of concrete and steel form a striking image of repression. Self-protective materials are encouraged to the used to form resilience to the escape.

A set of criteria can be used to judge a good design. These are safety/ health, performance, comfort, aesthetic value. These criteria should be applied to the environmental factors that shape the quality of the space. (Ching F, 1999).

### **COMFORT**

Comfort is closely linked with performance. This is a psychological feeling of wellbeing. The performance in a space will be hindered if the space is uncomfortable.

### **AESTHETIC VALUE/ PLEASANTNESS**

Pleasantness depends on certain dimensions. These dimensions are determined by our visual experience and are perceived differently by different individuals. However, in all these diverse perceptions there is a meeting point. Some of the physical dimensions include scale, proportion, balance, harmony etc. A well designed prison space should be aesthetically pleasant without being opulent, simple without being inhumane and open without compromising security.

Colour affects space design because the environment is appreciated primarily because of the quality of light. Too much or too little light affects the health of an individual. Similarly, the color of a space is known to affect the mood of its occupants. The right colours for spaces depend on the intended effects of the space by its users. The table below gives an assessment of colors.

***Another principle that can combat anti-vandalism is highlighted below.***

- Security also depends on an alert group of staff who interact with and who know their prisoners; staff developing positive staff-prisoner relationships; staff who have an awareness of what is going on in the prison; and staff who make sure that prisoners are kept busy doing constructive and purposeful activities.
- Prison staff should develop and sustain supportive and productive relationships with prisoners.
- Central policy provision should promote the role of prison staff in developing and sustaining constructive relationships with prisoners, in making judgements and in dealing effectively with fluid and complex situations.
- It is imperative that staff working with prisoners have a high level of interpersonal skills.
- Dynamic security is most effective where there is a professional and well-trained group of staff.
- Unit management and direct supervision enhance operations, create a safer, more secure environment and provide opportunities for leadership development.
- A fundamental aspect of dynamic security is that it feeds the prison intelligence system. Prison staff who mix with prisoners observe and listen to what is going on and obtain information from prisoners.
- There is an increased risk of manipulation of staff by prisoners where there is frequent contact between staff and prisoners, so appropriate measures should be put in place to prevent staff manipulation and corruption.
- Channeling prisoners' energy into positive activities is an essential element of dynamic security principles. Therefore, constructive activities and programmes should be offered to all prisoners.

In the bid to restructuring the inmate and reducing their thought of vandalism and escape is to engage them on necessary skills that can help reform them and make them fit and useful to the society. This can be achieved through the creation of basic necessary skills training that has the tendency to making them self-reliant and sole entrepreneur at the completion of their jail terms. When these inmates are placed on a routine that engages them through

workshops and seminars, hand-on skills as it relate to their drive and passion the thought escape and vandalism will be mitigated.

### MITIGATING OVERCROWING

This is another subject matter that can cause discomfort the leaving the inmates with the thought of escapes. Combating overcrowding can be resolved by ensuring multiple provision these facilities across region. Also the need for architects to design a more functional and ample space cell rooms can also mitigate this factor. Nevertheless.

Restorative justice offers an ideal opportunity for prison reformers and penologists to combat prison congestion in a given country. The article indeed accentuated the dire need and urgent call to adopt and incorporate restorative justice programme into the three phases of the Nigerian criminal justice system (the police, courts and prisons), for this will go long way in addressing the systemic problem of overcrowding in our prisons. In doing so, restorative justice will bring to the knowledge and conviction of the presiding officer the need to reconsider an offender or an accused by probing deeper into their profile, remorsefulness and contrite apology. This development will ultimately result in a more lenient treatment and recommendation other than incarceration or remanding deviants in prison custom

Bradshaw (1988), stated that the reason in favor of restorative justice intervention is based on the fact that because judgments and adjudication by professionals in the traditional criminal justice most of the times prove unhelpful and fail to reflect the justice need of the stakeholders. Interestingly, as emphasized by restorative justice, the intervention of family members of the parties involved who are knowledgeable about the incident will go a long way in creating an avenue for the resolution of the conflict amicably to the satisfaction of the parties involved.

Certain building material can help mitigate escape as it restrains exit of hardened inmate. Such material ranges from, steel, iron bars precast wall, reinforced wall, high Barret fence with slippery texture, electronic detection walls at peripheries, concertina electro

coated top fence bar, an lot more can be used appropriately to restrain physical escape

The traditional criminal justice system in Nigeria is patterned on punitive and retributive measures, with our correctional facilities on the receiving, as a large number of offenders and the accused are on a daily basis remanded in the institution. Thus, suggesting that Nigeria has not yet realized the fact that restorative justice is an alternative to imprisonment and a strategy for decongesting the prison. Its timely implementation will invariably play a vital role in combating overcrowding in Nigerian penal institutions. Instead of clinging to the rigours of punitive approach and holding tenaciously to the court principle or ideology of separating offenders from victims and the entire society, the article emphasized the need for the Nigerian criminal justice administrators to formally exploit the numerous opportunities restorative justice offers in order to reduce the number of people on admission in Nigerian prisons.

It is on the basis of this that Siegel (2008) describes restorative justice as a process of using humanistic, non-punitive strategies to right wrongs and restored social harmony. It has grown out of a belief that the traditional justice system has done little to involve the community in the process of dealing with crime and wrongdoing. What has developed is a system of coercive punishment, administered by bureaucrats, which are inherently harmful to offenders and reduce the likelihood offenders will ever become productive members of society.

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#### **CONCLUSION**

Vandalism is an imperative subject matter that is on increasing rate as the year unfold. Different tactic is being adopted by hardened criminal in other find their way out of the prison yard. To this end is of high necessity for the prison to imbibe design construction modalities that will serve as a self-barrier in the prevention of escape. The use of self-protective building materials in the construction sensitive areas in the prison will in turn mitigate this vandalism factor.



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