

ABSTRACT

Prison rehabilitation strategies are strategies that are used in reforming offenders in prisons. The programs consists of training activities which include vocational training such as carpentry, masonry, tailoring and building that are carried out to reform offenders. The inmates are taken through the activities by prison officers who supervise and record their progress irrespective of the crime one has committed. Despite all the rehabilitation activities, crime and recidivism in Kenya continues to increase from 12% in 1984 to 25% in 2013. The purpose of the study was to investigate the influence of Kenya prison rehabilitation strategies on the reformation of offenders at Kisii main prison. The researcher adopted a case study design. It targeted a sample of 150 inmates through snow ball and stratified sampling. Quantitative data was collected through administration of questionnaire while qualitative data was collected using interview guide to the selected respondents. Data was analyzed using correlation and regression analysis to determine relationship between the dependent and independent variables. The collected data was coded and then entered into SPSS version 20 to develop a database. Descriptive statistics such as tabulations, frequencies, percentages were used to summarize, describe, analyze, and present the statistical information of this study. From the regression analysis, 4.1 percent variation in rehabilitation of inmates was attributable to industry skills, The study finding established that at 0.01 significance level and two tail test, the Pearson correlation coefficient was established as 0.672. This is a strong relationship of 67.2 percent between level of prison rehabilitation strategies especially industrial skills acquisition such as carpentry and metal work and reformation of inmates. From regression analysis, 28 percent variation in reformation of inmates was attributable to education of inmates. At 0.01 significance level, and two tail student t - test, the correlation between Prison rehabilitation strategy of increasing education level of inmates and Reformation of inmates was established at .467 implying an almost average positive association of 46.7 percent between Prison rehabilitation strategy of increasing education level of inmates and Reformation of inmates. At 0.01 significance level, and two tail student t - test, the correlation between Prison rehabilitation strategy of spiritual life of inmates' emphasis and Reformation of inmates was established at .877 implying a strong positive association of 87.7 percent between Prison rehabilitation strategy of spiritual life of inmates emphasis and Reformation of inmates. Over 71 percent variation of inmates was attributable to spiritual programs. The study makes the following recommendations; The Kisii main prison should strengthen the industry skills training program, revitalization of the Kenya prison enterprise farms and industries so as to enhance the scope and quality of programs on rehabilitation and re-settlement of offenders as well as improving correctional services by implementing integrated correctional reform agenda to address both offender and staff welfare.