PERSONALITY AND RETALIATION AS PREDICTORS OF CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR AMONG MURDER SUSPECTS IN AGODI PRISON, IBADAN.

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated personality traits and retaliation as predictors of criminal behaviour among murder suspects in Agodi prison, Ibadan. The independent variables are Personality traits and retaliation while the dependent variable is criminal behaviour. The study was conducted in Ibadan city adopting the expo facto design. Purposive sampling technique was used to sample 151 participants consisting of 141 males, 10 females. The Big Five Personality Inventory by Gerlitz and Schupp (2005), Retaliation scale developed by Mccullough, Root and Cohen (1998), and Rashwan (2003)'s criminal Behaviour scale (BSC) were the instruments used in the study. Mean scores, frequencies, percentages, Pearson's correlation, t test for independent and multiple regressions were used for analysis. The results disclosed that while males scored higher than females on criminal behaviour t (149= 7.999; P<.01), participants with higher scores on extraversion personality traits were also scored higher on criminal behaviour compared to individuals with lower scores on extraversion t(149)=2.248; P<.05). Also, age, sex, marital status, crime committed, duration and type of sentence jointly predict criminal behaviour(R=.378; R2=.143'F (5,125) =3.492; P<.05). However, sex independently predicted criminal behaviour (B=.34; t=4.214; p<.01). The implication of these findings is to inform the government and general society about the need for psychologists to be involved in the rehabilitation process of individual inmates in prison; offenders should be reported to psychologists for therapy instead of huge corporal punishment alone. This is because the reasons for some of these behaviours are psychological and as such require psychological interventions in addition to their sentence.
Keywords: Personality Traits, Retaliation, Criminal behaviour, Inmates, Agodi prison.

INTRODUCTION

Considering the phenomenon of retaliation as a social problem despite the availability of law enforcement agencies such as the police and other paramilitary like the civil defence corps, incidence of crime and criminal activities have not abated at all. As a matter of fact, not less than ten people are being brought to the prison on weekly basis for committing one crime or the other (Daily Trust, July 1, 2017). There are many factors responsible for the development of criminal behaviour, and many of these factors have been explored across various disciplines. Some factors that are contributing to the criminal behaviour may include personality and retaliation, among others (Dambazau, 2007 and Ellison, 1991).

Personality and retaliation have been said to be among the strong predictors of criminal behaviour, personality comprising the characteristic patterns of thoughts, feelings and behaviours that make a person unique usually arises from within the individual and remains fairly consistent throughout life (Ellison, 1991).

Researchers have different definitions for personality. However, many contemporary psychologists have agreed on the following definition. Personality is the pattern of characteristics thoughts, feelings, and behaviours that distinguish one person from another and that persist over time and situations (Phares and Chaplin, 1997). Personality is the particular combination of emotional, attitudinal, and behavioural response of an individual(source?). It can be defined as consistency in a person's way of operating, thinking, acting and reacting (Krauskopt and Saundar, 1994). The study of personality is based on the essential insights that all people are similar in some ways, yet different in others (Phares et al, 1997).

Anatomical structures located in the brain also contribute to personality traits. For instance, the frontal lobes are responsible for foresight and anticipation. In addition, certain psychological functions such as hormone secretion also affect personality. For

example, the hormone testosterone is necessitated for sociability, affectivity, aggressiveness and sexuality (Funder, 2001).

In terms of research, some are empirically driven such as the "Big Five" personality model whereas others emphasize theory development such as psychodynamic theories. Lewis Goldberg proposed a five-dimension personality model, nicknamed the "Big Five" (Ellis *et al*, 2009).

1. Openness to Experience: the tendency to be imaginative, independent, and interested in variety versus practical, conforming, and interested in routine.
2. Conscientiousness: the tendency to be organized, careful, and disciplined versus disorganized, careless, and impulsive.
3. Extraversion: the tendency to be sociable, fun-loving, and affectionate versus retiring, sober, and reserved.
4. Agreeableness: the tendency to be soft hearted, trusting, and helpful versus ruthless, suspicious, and uncooperative.
5. Neuroticism: the tendency to be calm and self-satisfied versus anxious, insecure, and self-pitying.

These five dimensions of personality as stated by the Big Five are generally stable over time and appear to be attributable to a person's genetics rather than the effects of one's environment. However, some personality researchers (Oluwadare and Agboola, 2011) argue that this list of major traits is not exhaustive. Some support has been found for additional factors such as: excellent versus ordinary and evil versus decent. However, no definitive conclusions have been established (Santrock, 2008).

Another factor considered to be a predictor of criminal behaviour is retaliation. It is a harmful action against a person or group in response to a grievance, be it real or perceived. It may be characterized as a form of justice, an altruistic action which enforces societal or moral justice aside from the legal system (Francis, 2004).

Some societies in Nigeria especially those in the north those extremist religious views such as Shiite group (Vangaurd, October 16 2016), Maitatsine and Boko-haram sect encourage the revengeful behaviour (retaliation) which is called blood feud. These societies usually attribute the honour of individuals and group a central role. Thus, while protecting his reputation, an avenger feels as if he restores the previous state of dignity and justice (Nirmala, 2009). According to Michael Ignatieff (2000), "revenge is a profound moral desire to keep faith with the dead, to honour their memory by taking up their cause where they left off" (Brandon and Richard, 1999). Thus, honour may become a heritage that passes from generation to generation. Whenever it is compromised, the affected family or community members might feel compelled to retaliate against an offender to restore the initial "balance of honour" that preceded the perceived injury. This cycle of honour might expand by bringing the family members and then the entire community of the new victim into the brand-new cycle of revenge that may pervade generations (Yakovelev-Golani.2012)

Researches have also found gender disparity when dealing with revenge. Stuckless and Goranson (1992), supported the contention that men have more positive attitudes towards vengeance; they also found substantial positive correlations between vengeance and trait anger. Such findings are consistent with previous research reporting that males score higher on general measures of aggression. Daly (1995) point out that violence is a male resource where broad sex differences emerge. "Men possess evolved morphological, physiological and psychological means for effective use of violence" (Wilson and Daly, 1995; Daly and Wilson, 1988; 1990; 1993; Wilson and Daly, 1985). Results of Kenrick and Sheets (1994) offers additional support for sex differences. They found that males recall more homicidal fantasies than females; "Males also reported longer and more detailed fantasies and were more likely to imagine strangers and co-

workers as victim" (Kenrick and Sheets, 1994, p.231). Males' greater acceptance of interpersonal aggression may correlate with acceptance of attitudes related to revenge and participation in vengeful behaviours.

Ellison (1991) found two religious variables that influenced the acceptance of defensive violence to defend the honour and safety of one's self and one's family. He found that hierarchical images of God as a master and judge were associated with increased acceptance of defensive violence. "Much of hierarchical theology stresses the themes of moral judgement and divine correlated with the literal acceptance of the Old and New Testaments including all of the view or revenge described above. It is therefore expected that Biblical literalists (often called religious conservatives) may possess more positive attitudes towards vengeance when compared to individuals who do not accept the Bible as the literal word of God. Also, Osinowo (1982) confirmed that majority of deviants found in our penal institution come from the lower socio-economic classes.

The definition that stems from this line of reasoning is that a crime is a violation of the criminal law or any behaviour that majority of the people do not approve of. Anyone who behaves in this manner is to be therefore sanctioned. Williams (1955) following this perspective, defined a crime as an act that is capable of being followed by criminal proceedings, having one of the outcome (punishment) known of the following proceedings. The conflict perspective is directly opposed to the consensus view; conflict perspective would rather consider a society as having a group of people with diverse views depending on the group they belong to. It goes without saying that the different groups will have different outlook to late and consequently re-disposed some more than others to committing crimes. It is the inequality and differentials in power that authors in this school of thought claimed to promote crime (Turk, 1969; Quinney, 1970 and Chambliss and Seidman, 1971). As such, the introduction of Marxist theory influences this school of thought.

The interactionist approach falls between the conflict and the consensus perspectives. Symbolic interactionism (Blumer, 1969) gives a number of assumptions. First of all, when we behave in a particular manner, we are guided by the interpretation of reality and the meaning that such events represent for us. The second assumption is the emphasis of learning about the meaning of what we do and this results from how we react either negatively or positively toward any given situation or individual. Finally, the third assumption is based on the evaluation of our own behaviour that is made according to the meanings learned and acquired from other people. The general purpose of this study is to investigate how personality and retaliation serve as predictors of criminal behaviour among murder suspects in Agodi prison, Ibadan.

Despite the availability of law enforcement agency and other paramilitaries, incidence of crime and criminal behaviour are still rampant. As stated earlier, an average of 10 people are imprisoned weekly for diverse offences (This Day, July 1, 2017). The causes of such numbers of imprisonment has arguably been an under researched area until recent decades. Additionally, research that has been conducted has produced conflicting findings, making it difficult to draw overall conclusions. Therefore, this study is being conducted to further investigate the predictors of criminal behaviour and to improve awareness about the means of preventing and curbing crime both outside and within the prison environment. Personality is generally a predictor of many behaviours including criminal behaviour; retaliation informally has been discovered to be one of the factors that triggers crime or violence. Taking into account the deficiency in the data base for the rate at which personality traits and vengeance has caused crime in our society; this study set to investigate the percentage of crime committed among the inmates as a results of different personality traits and retaliation traits.

These prompted the necessity of this study because there is hardly a day when there are no reports of one crime or criminal activities in the media, in newspaper, the police station and at the prison such as; youth unrest, kidnapping, insurgency in the northern Nigeria, robbery and vandalism (Dambazau, 2007; Oluwadare and Agboola, 2011). There is dire need to look at factors like personality and retaliation as predictors of criminal behaviour among prisoners. Therefore, the following research questions will be answered to guide the research objectives:

1. Will personality traits predict criminalbehaviour among murder suspect inmates?
2. Is retaliation a predictor of criminal behaviour among murder suspect inmates?
3. Will demographic variables such as; age, sex, marital status, crime committed, duration of incarceration and type of sentence predict criminal behaviour among murder suspect inmates?

Hypotheses

HO_1: Male participant will score significantly higher on the measures of criminal behaviour than their female counterparts among the offenders.

HO_2: Personality traits (extraversion, introversion, openness to experience, neuroticism, conscientiousness and agreeableness) will significantly predict criminal behaviour.

HO_3: Participants with high level of retaliation will significantly score higher on the measures of criminal behaviour than their counterparts with low level of retaliation.

HO_4: Demographic variables (age, sex, marital status, crime committed, duration of incarceration and the type of sentence) will significantly independently and jointly predict criminal behaviour among murder.

METHODOLOGY

Research design

The study makes use of cross-sectional survey, making use of ex post facto design. The independent variables of the study are personality and retaliation while the dependent variable is criminal behaviour.

Population

The population of this study comprises of murder suspect inmates awaiting trial as well as those that have been convicted at Agodi Prison, Ibadan.

Participants

The participants were a total of 151 murder suspect prison in-mates. 141(93.4%) were males while 10(6.6%) were females. The frequency distribution of age of the participants reveals the participant whose age ranges from 18-25 years are 20(13.2%) 26-35 years were 53(35.1%) 36-45 years were 32(21.2%) 46-55 years were 31(20.5%) and 56 years and above were 15(9.9%). Marital status frequencies show that participants who are single were 42(27.8%), married were 78(51.7%), separated were 19(12.6%) and widowed were 12(7.9%).

Measures

This study employed a questionnaire with four major sections: Section A consisted of the demographic section which consists of six items of demographic variables that tap age, sex, marital status, crime committed, duration of incarceration and type of sentence. Section B was a "Big Five personality scale" of Gerlitz and Schupp (2005), which consists of 10 items. The cronbach's alpha for the study is .536. Section C was a retaliation scale which consists of 6 items. This retaliation measurement scale was adopted from Mccullough, Root and Cohen (1998). For this study .572 cronbach's alpha

was obtained. Section D is a criminal behaviour scale developed by Rashwan (2003), it consisted 10 items, which was employed to measure criminal behaviour. The scales are in likert format for this study, that range from strongly agree, agree. disagree, strongly disagree. The internal consistency of the scale showed .50.

Procedure

The researcher sought permission from the controller of prisons in charge of Oyo state command before embarking on questionnaire distribution among the prison in-mates In addition, the participants consent was sought before the administration of the questionnaires. One hundred and fifty-one questionnaires were distributed and collected back from the participants. The questionnaire were collected and given to the analyst for statistical analysis.

Data analysis

Hypotheses 1, 2 and 3 were analysed with t-test for independent samples. Hypothesis 4 was analysed with multiple regressions. The statistical tests used include t-test for independents samples, ANOVA, for testing significant difference between independent and multiple regression analysis for predictions.

RESULTS

Table 1: Summary of t-test for the independent samples showing the influence of sex on crime behaviour.

	Sex	N	Ẋ	Sd	df	t	p
	Male	141	26.29	3.94			
Criminal behaviour					149	7.999	<.01
	Female	10	20.70	1.94			

Table 1 results indicate that male participants scored significantly higher on criminal behaviour than their female counterparts t(149)= 7.999; p<.01. However male participants recorded a mean of (Ẋ=26.9) and female participants recorded a mean score of (Ẋ=20.7). This result implies that there is a significant difference between male and female on the measure of criminal behaviour among prison inmates in Agodi Ibadan. Therefore, the result confirmed the stated hypothesis and it is accepted as this study. By implications, male prisoners are more likely to engage in criminal behaviour with a (Ẋ =26.9) than female prisoners with a (Ẋ =20.7).

Table 2: Summary of t-test for independent samples showing the influence of extroversion on criminal
behaviour.

Extraversion	N	Ẋ	SD	df	t	P
Higher	87	26.54	4.40			
Crime behaviour				149	2.248	<.05
Low	62	25.09	3.49			

Table 2 results indicate that participants with higher level of extraversion scored significantly higher on criminal behaviour than participant with low level of extraversion t(149)= 2.248; p<.05). However, participants with higher level of extroversion recorded a mean of (26.54) and participant with low level of extraversion recorded a mean score of [25.09]. This implies that there is a significant difference on extroversion personality among prison inmates. Therefore the result confirmed the stated hypothesis and it is accepted in this study.

Table 3: Summary of t-test for independent samples showing the influence of retaliation on criminal
behaviour.

Retaliation	N	Ẋ	sd	df	t	p
Higher	94	26.64	4.37			
Crime Behaviour				149	-3.048	<.05
Low	75	24.73	3.27			

Table 3 results indicate that participants with higher level of retaliation scored significantly higher on criminal behaviour than participant with low level of retaliation t(149)= -3.048: P<.05. However, participants with high level of retaliation recorded the mean score of (26.64) and participants with low level of retaliation recorded a mean score of (24.73). This result implies that there is a significant difference between the levels of retaliation among the study sample. Therefore, the result confirms the stated hypothesis and it is accepted in the study.

Table 4: Summary of multiple regressions showing the influence of age, sex, marital status, crime committed, duration of incarceration and type of sentence on criminal behaviour.

S/N	Variable	R	R^2	F	P	B	t	P
1	Age					.036	.388	>.05
2	Sex					-.364	-4.214	<.01
3	Marital status					-.062	-.672	>.05
4	Crime committed	.378	.143	3.492	<.05	.042	-.397	>.05
5	Duration					-.142	-1.363	>.05
6	Type of sentence					-.067	-.744	>.05

Dependent Variable: Crime behaviour.

The results in table 4 showed that age, sex, marital status, crime committed, duration of incarceration and type of sentence jointly predicted criminal behaviour among prison inmates in Agodi Prison, Ibadan (R = .378; R^2 = .143' F (6.125) = 3.492; P < 0.5. this result implies that age, sex, marital status, crime committed, duration of incarceration and type of sentence jointly accounted for 14.3% variance in criminal behaviour while the remaining 85.7% could be attributed to other variables not considered in this study. However, analysis of the independent predictions indicated that only sex predicted influence on criminal behaviour (β = -.364; t = -4.214; P < 01) among prison inmates in Agodi Prison, Ibadan. Therefore, the stated hypothesis is supported by the result obtained and it is accepted in this study.

DISCUSSION

This study investigated personality and retaliation as predictors of criminal behaviour among murder suspects in Agodi prison in Ibadan. The findings in previous studies seem to be similar to this current research in the selected area.

The first hypothesis stated that male participants will score significantly higher on the measures of criminal behaviour than their female counterparts; the hypothesis was tested with t-test for the independent samples and result indicates that male participants scored significantly higher on criminal behaviour than their female counterparts among murder suspect prison in-mates in Agodi Prison, Ibadan. This result implies that there is significant different in the sex of participants on the measures of criminal behaviour among the study sample. Gender was the strongest related variables to criminal behaviour (Summer, 1994 and Denno, 1994). In relation to gender, the large majority of studies have found higher prevalence rates for criminal behaviour in males than females (Prison Rehabilitation and Welfare Action, 2000; Oluwadare and Agboola, 2011) with only few noting no significant relationship.

Hypothesis two stated that personality traits will significantly predict criminal behaviour. The results show that participants with high level of extraversion personality significantly score higher on the measures of criminal behaviour than their counterparts with high level of introversion personality traits. These implies that the extraverted individual will be much more susceptible to criminal behaviour than their counterparts with low level of extraversion personality These implies that the extraverted individual

will be much more susceptible to criminal behaviour compared with the introverted individual. Extraversion dimension was singled out because this is the dimension that directly involves interpersonal relationships. As such, for a crime to be committed it has to be against another person, property or community. This result is similar to (Heaven, 1996) who confirmed that there was a significant relationship between extraversion, violence and vandalism. Added to that, Dennison, Stough, and Birgden (2001) compared different types of sex offenders with non-offenders and found significant differences for neuroticism, extraversion, and conscientiousness. Taken together, these studies suggest that extraversion is a predictor of criminal behaviours; this maybe as a result of their nonchalant attitudes and attention seeking behaviours.

The third hypothesis stated that participant with high level of retaliation will significantly score higher on the measures of criminal behaviour than their counterparts with low level of retaliation. The hypothesis was tested with t-test for independent samples and the results indicate that participants with high level of retaliation scored significantly higher on criminal behaviour than their counterparts with low level of retaliation. This result implies that there is significant difference between the levels of retaliation among the studied sample. This result supported the previous researches that concluded that retaliatory behaviour in individual do predict criminal behaviour (Dambazau, 2007 and Ellison, 1991)

The fourth hypothesis stated that age, sex, marital status, crime committed, duration of incarceration and the type of sentence will significantly independently and jointly predict criminal behaviour. The hypothesis was tested using multiple regressions and the results shows that age, sex, marital status, crime committed, duration of incarceration and type of sentence jointly predicted criminal behaviour. This result implies that age, sex, marital status, crime committed, duration of incarceration and type of sentence jointly accounted for 14.3% variance in criminal behaviour while the remaining 85.7% could be attributed to other variables not considered in this study. Also the results of the independent predictions indicated that only sex had significant independent influence on criminal behaviour among murder suspect prison inmates in Agodi Prison, Ibadan. The earlier studies of demographic variables had found that socio-economic factors are strong predictors of criminal behaviour (Osinowo, 1982 and Ellison, 1991) especially in developing countries.

Conclusion

This study has investigated personality and retaliation as predictors of criminal behaviour among murder suspects in Agodi prison, Ibadan. In summary, the study found that, there is significant difference in the sex of participants on the measure of criminal behaviour among the participants; t-test result reported that there is a significant difference on extraversion personality among murder suspect inmates. Also, t-test for independent sample reported that, murder suspect participants with high level of retaliation scored significantly higher than their counterpart murder suspect participants with low level of retaliation. Further result of multiple regression analysis results shows that age, sex, marital status, crime committed, durations of incarceration and type of sentence jointly predicted criminal behaviour while independent predictions indicated that only sex predicted independent influence on criminal behaviour among murder suspect inmates.

Recommendations

The results of this study, keeping other things constant, have proven that criminal behaviour among the murder suspect inmates is influenced by personality traits and retaliation (vengeful acts). Clinical psychologist may be of great help by providing, psycho-educational awareness in schools and society such that it may be possible to develop a program to address such problems. If these problems are identified, then it will inform the extent and patterns of such crime prevention practices as it may be serve as a better alternative to crime rehabilitation. In addition, rather than instilling fear in individuals as to the consequences of criminal behaviour, there is need to address the predictive factors instead of exhibiting a negligent attitude towards this predictor factors (personality & retaliation).

Finally, it is highly recommended that related studies be conducted in heterogeneous groups, particularly at inter-state levels with prison services and facilities.

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