SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF CONVICTED FEMALE HARD-DRUG TRAFFICKERS IN NIGERIAN PRISONS

BY

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CERTIFICATION

This thesis entitled - "Socio-Economic Characteristics of Convicted Female Hard-Drug Traffickers in Nigerian Prisons" by Okeshola, Folashade Bosede meets the regulation governing the award of the degree of M.Sc. (Sociology) of Ahmadu Bello University and is approved for its contribution to knowledge and literary presentation.

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis is a record of my own research efforts. It has been composed by me and has never before been submitted for any earlier application for a higher degree. All quotations are distinguished either by quotation marks or are typed in single line spacing, and all sources of information are acknowledged by means of references.

Signed: _____

F. B. Okeshola (Ms)

Date: 8 - 12 - 94

DEDICATION

To my cherished parents - my Dad Reverend John Adepoju Okeshola and my Mum Mrs Deborah Mojirola Okeshola - who did not spare any effort to see me through.

And to God in His Full Glory.

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the socio-economic characteristics of convicted female hard-drug traffickers in Nigerian prisons. It is also meant to ascertain the extent of female involvement in drug trafficking and how it has led to the abuse and degradation of the "dignity of the woman". The study also examines the correctional policies for convicted traffickers;it aims at discovering the underlying guiding principles and at determining its effectiveness and efficiency regarding the attainment of set goals.

The researcher has opted for the functionalist perspective. Functionalists view society as a system. They develop the conception of society as "self-contained systems" which consist of interrelated and interdependent parts. These are said to perform functions which maintain and equilibrate the whole, in so far as they are believed to be mutually supportive of, and compatible with, one another.

Most of the information for this study are collected through interviews, questionnaire schedules and personal observations. These three methods were used in order to provide for adequate and comprehensive study.

Findings reveal that most convicted female hard-drug traffickers are either self-employed or unemployed, educated, married and mostly from poor family background.

Factors such as economic hardship, unemployment, desire to

make ends meet, to live a luxurious life, availabilility of black market for exchanging foreign currency, peer group influence for early socialization, influence of the law enforcement agents, aiding and abetting in drug trafficking, have all been stated as responsible for female engagement jn drug trafficking.

It was also discovered that a few of the female convicted were drug barons, while the majority were drug couriers. Cocaine, heroin, indian hemp and L.S.D were mostly found on them. Body cavity was mostly used as their mode of concealment.

The failure of the correctional goals, such as deterring and rehabilitating offenders, shows that most convicted female inmates are willing to go back into drug business rather than live as needy or deprived citizens. They therefore show no remorse as to the gravity of the punishment.

On the whole, the knowledge of females' social and economic right should spur them up not into criminal activities, but into hard work, so that they can take up dignified positions in the society. That means, there must be a conscious education of women by the feminist movement. The desire to get rich quick by hook or crook must be discouraged by all women organizations and other social institutions. Women who seek to eradicate inequalities in the system must not do so through criminal activities,

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GLOSSARY

A.C.P.	-	Assistant Controller of Prison
A.S.P.	-	Assistant Superintendent of Prison
B.B.	-	Belly Bank
C.S.P.	-	Chief Superintendent of Prison
D.F.	-	Degree of Freedom
L.S.D.	-	Lysergic Acid Diethy-Lamide
NDLEA	-	National Drug Law Enforcement Agency
N.P.S.	-	Nigerian Prison System
Sic	-	*Indicating Direct Recording of Speech*
S.S	-	Stomach Save
X^2	-	Chi-square

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

The problems of illicit production, distribution, sale and trafficking of narcotics have intensified since the early 1980s, thereby threatening human welfare and dignity in many parts of the world. The illicit drug scene in Nigeria had become so disturbing to the Federal Military Government in 1984, that during the Buhari/Idiagbon regime, Government Promulgated the Special (Miscellaneous Offences) Decree No.20, 1984, which, among other penal provisions, introduced capital punishment for offences relating to cocaine, heroin, L.S.D., or similar substances. The Decree created Special Tribunals to try drug cases.The verdicts of these Special Tribunals were final, as no provisions were made for appeal.

However, the 1986 Special Tribunal (Miscellaneous Offences Amendment) Decree converted the death sentence prescribed for drug offences to life imprisonment and also created a special Appeal Tribunal (Ahire, 1992:9).

The NDLEA (1989) contained in its preamble the following: The Federal Military Government "is deeply concerned about the magnitude of, and the rising trend in, the demand for and traffic in narcotic drug and psychotropic substances which adversely affect

the international image of Nigerians and Nigeria, recognising the links between illicit traffic in drugs and psychotropic substances and other related organised criminal activities which undermine the legitimate economy and threaten the stability and security of the country. It is also determined to eliminate the root causes of the problem of illicit drugs, including the illicit demand for such drugs and substances as well as the enormous profits derived there from (Decree 1989,No. 48, sections a, b, f).

It is against this background that the Federal Government reviewed the existing drug laws enacted since 1984. This resulted in the promulgation of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Decree No. 48 of 1989.

Essentially, this law established the NDLEA to co-ordinate local and international drug laws and enforcement functions by adopting measures to eradicate illicit dealings in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. In other words, this Decree vests in the NDLEA all the responsibilities relating to the prevention and control of drug trafficking and abuse, including the arrest, investigation and prosecution of drug offenders as well as the treatment and rehabilitation of drug-dependent youths. The Decree empowers the Agency to investigate and possibly seize the assets derived from drug offences, and also to take positive measures to check the laundering of drug money (Emafo 1991,Osinbajo 1991).

In order to provide for effective operation, the NDLEA zoned the country into three. These are the Lagos zone, Kano zone and Port -Harcourt zone . Each of these zones has four units for their

mode of operation. The NDLEA in each zone is empowered to closely monitor drug trafficking business and drug abuse activities at the airports, land borders and sea ports within their jurisdiction. Two more zones (Maiduguri and Warri) were added towards the end of 1992.

In Nigeria, convicted drug traffickers or related drug offenders are kept in four of the Federal Prisons, namely, The Women Security Prisons and Male Maximum Security Kirikiri Prison, in Lagos State. These two prisons serve the NDLEA in Lagos zone. The Kano Central prison in Kano State where both male and female convicted drug-related offenders are kept, serve the NDLEA in Kano zone. The Port-Harcourt Prison in Rivers State where convicted male and female drug offenders are kept, serve the NDLEA in Port-Harcourt. It is worth mentioning that the above - named prisons sometimes keep those drug offenders still awaiting trial. Inmates of these prisons are kept for deterrence and rehabilitative purpose. whether the purpose is achieved or not, we shall get to know in course of study.

The problem has,however, remained intractable, as evidenced by the increasing number of arrests of Nigerians, especially females, within and outside the country, for drug-related crimes. While the newspapers have reported on such incidences of arrests and the concomitant denting of the country's image,many public spirited Nigerians have been expressing their views openly on the causes of the drug trafficking.

Only very few criminologists or sociologists have shown

interest in this area. As such, the available theorization on the problem is not based on systematic empirical data founded upon social scientific methodology and research.

This study is therefore conducted with the hope of helping to fill, to some extent, this yawning gap between theory and research.

1.1 Explication of Terms

Some key concepts for the study are operationally defined as follows:

1. **Crime** in its general term, is regarded as the violation of the criminal laws. Behaviour is considered a crime when it is characterised by five elements:

   (a) There must be an act, either by commission or omission;

   (b) There must be **mens rea** (evil intent or guilty state of mind);

   (c) The act must involve the violation of a specific legal norm or code;

   (d) There must be harm of some kind precipitated by the illegal behaviour;

   (e) There must be a sanction or punishment of some kind, imposed for the violation of legal norm or code". (Blumberg, 1974:23).

2. **Drug** is any substance which, when taken into the body, may modify or change one or more of its functions. Drug, in this study, would refer to the psychoactive drugs, that is those which exert

their major effect on the brain and the central nervous system (CNS), producing sedation, stimulation or changed mood (Ahire, 1990:4).

3. **Drug Trafficking** means engaging in, or being concerned with, the unlawful supply, transportation, storage, importation or exportation of a controlled drug (Iyamabo, 1990:38).

4. **Drug Traffickers** refers to people who trade in illicit drugs, particularly at the local community levels. The term extends to those who engage in drug trafficking at the international levels as well.

5. **Drug Barons** are large scale financiers responsible for the reception, importation and re-distribution of large quantities of illicit drug into the country. They are largely wholesalers.

6. **Drug Couriers** are agents of the drug barons, they are responsible for the international trafficking of drugs. These couriers are of two categories:

   (a) Drug courier importers are responsible for importing illicit drugs from the producing countries to Nigeria; and

   (b) Drug courier exporters export illicit drugs, using various devises, from Nigeria to other parts of the world where they are expected to be consumed (Alaba Yusuf cited in Vintage People,November 1990:4-5)

TABLE 1.2.1: STATISTICS OF NIGERIANS ARRESTED ABROAD FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING IN THE YEAR 1990

Country	Cocaine (Kg)	Heroin (Kg)	Cannabis (Kg)	Amphetamine/Pemoline/ Diamorphine etc. (kg)	Total (Kg)	No of persons Arrested
Afghanistan	-	6.480	-	-	6.480	6
Australia	-	1	-	-	1	1
Austria	-	0.195	-	-	0.195	8
Bahamas	-	-	-	-	-	1
Belgium	-	0.685	-	-	0.685	10
Britain	-	6.403	29	0.850	36.253	2
Canada	-	0.450	-	-	0.450	1
Colombia	-	24.225	-	-	24.225	3
Czechos-lovakia	-	2.84	69	-	71.84	5
Egypt	-	18.898	-	3800 Tabs	18.898	18
Ethiopia	-	1.760	-	-	1.760	2
Gabon	0.750	-	-	-	0.750	2
Germany	1.819	-	-	-	1.819	3

Hongkong	-	-	2.995	-	2.995	15
India	-	7.625	-	-	7.625	18
Italy	2.43	19.702	20.06	-	42.192	73
Ivory Coast	-	-	-	-	-	21
Malaysia	-	3.860	-	-	3.860	6
Netherland	-	2.640	59.4	-	62.192	9
Poland	-	-	-	-	-	1
Saudi Arabia	-	-	1.467	1150 red capsules	1.467	6
Senegal	-	-	-	-	-	12
Spain	-	-	-	-	-	6
Thailand	-	40.477	-	-	40.477	30
Togo	-	-	-	-	-	3
U.S.A.	-	-	-	-	-	1
Yugoslavia	-	0.146	-	-	0.146	1

Total	4.999	137.386	181.922	0.850	325.309	283

Source: NDLEA Press Office, No 2B Ruxton Road, Ikoyi, Lagos.

Table 1.2.2: STATISTICS OF NIGERIANS ARRESTED ABROAD FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING IN THE YEAR 1991.

Country	Cocaine (Kg)	Heroin (Kg)	Cannabis (Kg)	Amphetamine/Pemoline/ Diamorphine etc (Kg)	Total (Kg)	No of Persons Arrested
Austria	0.560	-	-	-	0.560	1
Belgium	-	-	-	-	-	5
Benin Republic	-	0.100	-	-	0.100	1
Britain	9.250	4.800	110	0.250	124.300	31
Egypt	-	5.130	-	-	5.130	3
Germany	1	-	-	-	1	2

India	-	12.5	-	-	12.5	3
Italy	3.015	15.715	0.718	-	19.448	33
Ivory Coast	3.5	-	-	-	3.5	2
Kenya	-	2.136	-	-	2.136	9
Netherland	0.440	0.504	44.329	-	45.273	5
Niger Republic	0.205	0.135	-	-	0.340	2
Saudi Arabia	-	-	-	-	-	3
Sweden	-	0.214	-	-	0.214	1
Thailand	-	4.630	-	-	4.630	4
U.S.S.R.	-	3.3	-	-	3.3	1
Zambia	-	0.098	-	-	0.098	1
Total	17.970	49.262	155.047	0.250	222.529	107

Source: NDLEA Press Office, No 2B Ruxton Road, Ikoyi, Lagos.

Most recent studies indicate that the high rate of apprehension and seizures may be interpreted not as an indication of policy effectiveness, but as that of a persisting boom in narcotic trafficking. Moreover, recent incidences suggesting attempts at corrupting the officials of the Drug Law Enforcement Agency are indicative of the present danger that drug cartels and barons may pay-off law enforcement officials.

All this brings to mind some pertinent questions which this study seeks to investigate. Such questions include: What is the extent of female involvement in drug trafficking? What is the nature and character of female drug trafficking? Are certain categories of females more likely to be involved than other? What are the goals of the correctional system especially with regard to handling female drug traffickers? How effective are the corrective measures? It is against this background that the study is set.

1.3. Research Objectives

1. To ascertain the extent of female involvement in drug trafficking and how it has led to the abuse and degradation of the "dignity of the woman".
2. To investigate the socio-economic characteristics of convicted female hard-drug traffickers.
3. To examine the correctional policies for convicted traffickers with a view to discovering the underlying guiding principle and determining its effectiveness and efficiency regarding the attainment of set goals.

4 To provide well informed suggestions that can be adopted in order to minimise the increasing wave of drug business.

1.4 Statement of Research Hypothesis:

1. Socially disadvantaged persons are more likely to be involved than socially advantaged persons, in drug trafficking (a socially disadvantaged person is who possesses one or more of such attributes as low socio-economic status - income, education, occupation -it is the reverse for the socially advantaged).
2. The extent of female involvement in drug trafficking at any particular time is determined by deficient government economic policy.
3. Narcotics policies and their implementation in Nigeria do not favour the realisation of the stated aim of reforming or rehabilitating drug offenders.

1.5 Scope and Significance of Study

The study focuses on the socio-economic characteristics of convicted female hard - drug traffickers in Nigerian prisons. Kano Central Prison in Kano State and Women Security Prison Kirikiri, in Lagos State, were chosen for this research due to financial constraint and time limit.

This study was carried out in January, February, June and

December,1992. The population of this research was drawn mainly from convicted female hard-drug traffickers in the two federal prisons.

This study is one of the pioneering ones on the recent global endemic hard-drug trafficking. Nigerians have featured conspicuously among those involved in the offence. This study will highlight the socio-economic characteristics of women convicted of the offence, the social pressures exerted on them and the circumstances which made them engage in the offence. Herein lies the significance of this pioneering effort.

Furthermore,a systematic documentation of these predisposing factors and how they actually committed the offence will assist law enforcement agencies and guardians of minors lured into drug trafficking, to prevent commission of the crime. Finally, with respect to this significance,the study is likely to be relevant to other countries, since hard-drug trafficking cuts across national boundaries.

1.6 Theoretical Framework

Criminology shares in common with all other social sciences the fact that the research we do and the explanations we provide flow from and reflect the general theoretical perspective within which we work(chambliss, 1975:167).

Fundamental perspectives have provided researchers with opportunities to investigate and attempt to explain and predict why and under what conditions certain activities, conventional and

> Crime is then necessary, it is bound up with the fundamental conditions of all social life, and,by that very fact, it is useful, because these conditions, of which it is a part, are themselves indispensable to the normal solution of morality and law (Cited in Wolfgang. 1970:12).

Thus, crime creates a tighter bond between, and leads to greater solidarity among, members of the community (Emile Durkheim, 1958).

Robert Merton (1968:185-214) adopted Durkheim's notion of anomie to determine when people accept the goals of a society and use socially approved means to fulfill their aspirations - or reject such goals and function without direction from social norms. Merton maintained that one important cultural goal is success, measured largely in terms of money. In addition to providing this goal, society offers specific instructions on how to pursue success.

Merton reasoned that people adapt in certain ways, either by conforming to or by deviating from such cultural expectations. Conformity to social norms, is the opposite of deviance. It involves acceptance of both the overall societal goal and the approved means. In Merton's view, there must be some consensus regarding accepted cultural goals and legitimate means for attaining them. Without such consensus, societies could only exist as collectives of people - rather than as unified cultures - and might function in continual chaos.

The other four types of behaviour identified by Merton all involve some departure from conformity. The "innovator" accepts the goals of a society but pursues them with means that are not societally accepted. The "ritualist" has abandoned the goal of material success and has become compulsively committed to the institutional means. Therefore, work becomes a way of life rather than a means to the goal of success. The "retreatist" as described by Merton, has basically withdrawn from both the goals and the means of a society.

The final adaptation identified by Merton reflects people's attempts to create a new social structure. The "rebel" is assumed to have a sense of alienation from dominant societal means and goals and to be seeking a completely different social order. Merton was not attempting to describe five types of individuals; rather, he offered a typology to explain the actions that people usually take.

For instance, the extreme emphasis upon the accumulation of wealth as a symbol of success in Nigeria militates against the effective control of institutionally regulated modes of acquiring a fortune. Fraud,corruption, vices, crime and the entire catalogue of proscribed behaviour,become increasingly common when the emphasis on the culturally induced success - goal becomes divorced from societal means.

If one looks at convicted female hard-drug traffickers from the perspective of Merton's theory of anomie, one would refer to them as "innovators," who have accepted the goals of success but

rejected the institutional means of attaining those goals.

As findings would later reveal, it was discovered that most convicted hard-drug traffickers are either unemployed, self-employed, or bent on improving their living conditions.

Economic hardship felt in Nigeria as well as high rate of unemployment and bad economic policies, have all given rise to negative attitudes in people struggling to survive under the bad economic conditions.

On the other hand, the drug barons who are the real financiers responsible for the importation of large quantities of hard-drugs could be referred to as "rebels", who have a sense of alienation from the society's dominant means and goals and are seeking a completely different social order. Deviance can therefore be understood as socially created behaviour, rather than as a result of momentary pathological impulses.

Merton therefore suggested that society should redress the structural imbalance between socially prescribed goals and approved means.

Similarly, Cloward and Ohlin explain further the issue of legitimate and illegitimate means mentioned by Merton. They clarify that,as legitimate means are not equally accessible to the people in the society, the same goes with the illegitimate means; therefore, whether a person or group will go for legitimate or illegitimate means or not, depends solely on the opportunity structures open to them at a specific time(Wolfgang,1970).

This paradigm conceives of the society as a self-contained

functioning whole with all its parts functioning to maintain social order and equilibrium. As such, crime is seen as a destabilising activity because it upsets this equilibrium of the society. Therefore, to maintain this equilibrium, the law enforcement agencies in the society have to enforce laws backed with sanctions that will be binding on everybody in the society.

The functionalists also recognize the class division and conflicts which exist in any capitalist society. The functionalists fail to take cognizance of the fact that, based on the capitalist socio-economic order, the law in operation serves the interest of the capitalist class.

SOCIAL INTERACTIONIST PERSPECTIVE

This approach rejects the absolutist conception of crime and its causes. It emphasizes the nature of social rules and the labels or social reactions aimed at individuals who break such rules (Taylor et al. 1973:140). In their explanation of criminality, the social interactionists view deviant behaviour or crime as an outcome of interactive processes.

For instance, Lemert(1967)stressed that, it is social control that leads to deviance. This statement can mean at least three different things:

1. It can simply mean that, whilst a massive amount of rule-breaking goes on in our society, this is not really deviant behaviour, or is not to be regarded as deviant behaviour until some social audience labels it deviant.

2. An actor will become deviant as a result of experiencing the social reaction to an initial rule infraction.

3. It can mean that everyday existence of social control agencies produces given rate of deviance. In this sense, it is obvious that, actual indices of crime or deviation are produced as a result of the everyday workings of the police, courts, social workers, which probably do not reflect actual amount of deviance, but the extent to which they have worked(Lemert,1967:5)

Albert Cohen (1966:24), for instance, discussed the question of the application of deviant definitions and pointed out that it is one thing to commit a deviant act, it is quite another thing to be charged and invested with a deviant character. Thus, mere definitions of reality are not always real in their consequences; the social self is therefore firmly rooted in interaction with others. And it is this social fact which is important in the consideration of an individual career.

However, H. S. Becker (Wolfgang, 1958: 314) notes that the illegal distribution of drug is limited to "sources which are not available to the ordinary person. In order, for a person, to begin marijuana use for instance, he must begin participation in some group through which these sources of supply become available to him." Due to these restrictions on the availability of drugs, new users must become affiliated to old users. They must learn the love of drug use and the skills required in making appropriate connections.

Therefore, the drug-user must be understood not only in terms of his personality and social structure, which create a readiness to engage in drug use, but also in terms of the new patterns of associations and values to which he is exposed as he seeks access to drug.

Meanwhile, this paradigm is not without its own criticism,One of the critiques is its focus on micro level interaction. It lays emphasis on the immediate environment and not on any structure outside the interactive process. It is also accused of extreme voluntarism. The paradigm sees the actor as powerless in the hands of its definer. Social interactionists lay emphasis on flexibility and freedom of human action thereby down-playing the constraints on actions by the existing social structure.

Furthermore social interactionists are aware of historical component, but do not tell us that action is interpretable in terms of the historical period in which they live. They attempt to modify the notion of societal determinism through subjective argument. These interactionists seem to see conflict in society, but fail to explain how one conception of reality comes to dominate in communities other than theirs.

MARXIST PERSPECTIVE

Although neither Marx, Engels nor Lenin wrote extensively on crime or the criminal justice system, the starting point of the Marxist perspective is the nature of social relationships in the organisation of production and how this gives rise to divisions of

people and interests into classes. It is within this perspective that Marx examines the relationship between law and society.

Within the Marxist tradition, criminal law has been conceived as a product of specific forms of interaction (struggle) among certain historical forces that accompany the development of relations of production. The central thesis of the Marxist paradigm is that whatever the legal machinery used for making a certain type of conduct criminal, most acts declared as criminal are prohibited because they are considered by those in power to be injurious to the vested interests of their class (Omaji, 1984:34).

According to Balkan (1970), social phenomena including crime and the operation of the criminal justice system cannot be seen in isolation from the historical process of society. Human behaviour and other societal institutions are therefore seen as being determined, influenced and shaped by the economic base.

The Marxist perspective assumes that social behaviour is best understood in terms of conflict or tension among competing groups. Karl Marx viewed struggle between social classes as inevitable, given the exploitation of workers under capitalism.

Nigeria is operating a capitalist economy in which the means of production are owned and controlled by the minority, whereas the majority own only their labour which they sell in return for small wages. There is a high rate of unemployment in Nigeria at present. According to the International Labour Organization (I.L.O. 1988) the Nigerian unemployment rate in 1980 was 10% of a working population of 28 million; but in 1987, the unemployment rate rose

to 30% of a working population of 35 million. Many authors have regarded the I.L.O. figure of 30% unemployment rate as very conservative, particularly in urban areas where the rate may be as high as 45%. There is now a tendency for jobless youths including university and polytechnic graduates to join the narcotics trade (Azinge, 1990)

In the process of surviving the present difficulties arising from the government economic policies, some engage in drug trafficking in order to make ends meet, others want to get rich as quickly as possible and to be regarded as "respected" persons in their society. The drug trafficking, therefore, directs the hostility of the oppressed against the people in power. The latter in turn, perceive such hostility as a threat to their own morality, property and their existence; as a result ,laws are made to prohibit such acts so as to safeguard their property. Therefore, the ruling class makes rules which are included in the law books invariably in order to suppress the common people who constitute a threat to its existence.

However, in class-divided societies, like Nigeria, the skills and social practices employed by oppressed groups to survive under difficult conditions may offend the material and moral interests of dominant groups. As such, crime, particularly conventional crime in Nigeria, may be regarded as a part of the struggles of the peasants and workers to survive the contradictory and exploitative relationship imposed by our peripheral capitalist social order (Thompson, 1975; Hay, 1975 cited in Ahire, 1989).

In the same vein, Richard Quinney (1974) pointed out that, the state is organized to serve the interest of the capitalist ruling class. Criminal law is the instrument of the state and the ruling class to perpetuate the existing social and economic order. Crime is therefore a manifestation of the struggle between classes. That is between the owner class and the have-nots or the exploited (Quinney, 1974:16). The problem with such radical accounts, however, is that "they tend to read off crime directly in a rather instrumentalist and reductionist manner from the material interests of dominant groups. In so doing, Quinney ignored the moral/ideological and political dimension of crime" (Ahire, 1989).

> Furthermore, Albert Einstein (1966) had stressed that:
>
> What constitutes the essence of the crisis of our time concerns the relationship of the individual to society. The individual has become more conscious than ever of his dependence not as a positive asset, as an organic tie, as a protective force, but rather as a threat to his natural rights, or even to his economic existence. Moreso, his position in society is such that the egotistical drives of his make-up are constantly being accentuated, while his social drives, which are by nature weaker, progressively deteriorate. All human beings, whatever their position in society, are suffering from this process of deterioration. Therefore, the economic anarchy of capitalist society as it exists today is the real source of evil. (The Analyst, Vol. 4, March/May,1989:28)

Odekunle (1978) posited that Nigeria is experiencing a "crime-problem" which is a direct concommitant of the operative social order. The type of socio-economic order which a country operates dictates, in a large part, the type, magnitude and seriousness of that country's crime problem." Therefore, in Nigeria today, the sky is the limit for the few in whose hands are concentrated the wealth, power and prestige of the country.They can acquire whatever they want and they have almost limitless opportunities to do as they please (Odekunle, 1976, 1978).

However, the Marxist school has also been subjected to criticisms. First, the Marxists recommend the overthrow of the capitalist mode of production and its replacement with socialism, but the relatively high rate of property crime in socialist countries as in capitalist countries as shown by Shelley (1981) is indeed an embarrassment to the marxist school.

Secondly, if private ownership of the means of production were eliminated, there would be, by definition, no 'social classes' and therefore no elite with the power to criminalize the deviance of anyone; but in reality this is not so. The dissolution of one social class will only breed a new set of social classes with little or no modification of the former ones.

Thirdly, the concept of class adopted by the Marxist school, such as the ruling class and the proletariat, is not rigidly demarcated in any society, as mentioned. This is because some individuals within the ruling class may not own any means of production. Yet they constitute part of the ruling class.

From the foregoing review, the functionalist perspective emerges as the most appropriate for conceiving the research problem. This perspective offers the possibility of uncovering the predicament of female hard-drug traffickers as well as that of examining whether or not narcotics policies and their implementation in Nigeria favour the realisation of the stated aim: reforming or rehabilitating drug offenders, who continue to be an integral part of the society considered as a "system" with functionally interdependent elements.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELEVANT LITERATURE

2.0 Introduction

A review of relevant literature has revealed that there is a paucity of research report on the issue of female hard-drug trafficking in Nigeria. As a result, newspapers, magazines, journals and conference papers constitute the only source of information. The review of relevant literature therefore delves into the two perspectives of increase in female crime, economic factors, crime attributed to drug trafficking and image of the country

2.1 The Two Perspectives on Increase in Female Crime

Some scholars, notably sociologists and criminologists, argue that, increases in the rate of female crime, especially drug trafficking and shifts in the nature of womens' involvement in criminal activities, are commonly attributed to the emergence of the feminist movement and inordinate greed. For instance, an investigation carried out among women drug traffickers by the NDLEA in British Prisons in 1990, confirmed that "the traditional Nigerian women of yester-years today replaced with the modern day "go-getter", competing with men for contracts, ten per cent and various other money ventures" (Mbosowo 1990:11).

There have consequently emerged two theories about the effects of the feminist movement on female crime. According to one

perspective, the influence of women's movement on crime is direct: feminist women, or women holding favourable attitudes towards feminism, are more likely than women with more traditional attitudes to engage in criminal misconduct. Among advocates of this perspective is Adler, who credits female criminals with feminist principles when she writes that "the criminal, as well as the law-abiding feminist women, knows too much to pretend or to return to her former roles" (Adler 1975:15 cited in Mbosowo 1990).

She asserted that, the female criminals of today are "fighting not only for urban social change but also for sexual equality along with other women". In other words, feminist movement filters down to greedy women in the form of increasing opportunities, growing group support for illegal behaviour and weakening social controls especially by parents and husbands. Same scholars also posited that increases in female crime are attributable to changing attitudes towards the feminine gender role.

It is against this background that the second perspective emerged. For instance, Giordano and Cernkovich (1979), view broader social changes as responsible for shifts in patterns of female crime. Here, the influence of the feminist movement is regarded as indirect rather than direct.

According to this perspective, attitudes towards feminism do not directly relate to criminality, because women in the lower classes are the least likely to be aligned with the feminist movement. Yet they are the most likely to be involved in criminal offences. Giordano and cernkovich further asserted that "it may be

more accurate to conceive of these women in the lower classes as recipients, rather than themselves being the catalysts responsible for a new era of equality in sex roles with resulting increases in deviant behaviour" (1975: 27).

For instance, Maryam Babangida (1991), in her anti-drug campaign, emphasised that "womanhood is recognised and identified as an embodiment of virtue, honour and dignity. As such, women are the strongest instrument and vehicle for the perpetuity of the human species". Therefore, involvement of any woman in vices like drug trafficking, tend to draw immense disloyalty from the wider society. She therefore urged women groups to stir up campaign against women used as drug couriers, in order to redeem the image of womanhood (National Concord, April 25, 1991:7).

Similarly, Justice Adebayo Desalu, Chairman of the Lagos zone of Miscellaneous Offences Tribunal, in passing judgement on one of the female victims of drug trafficking, emphasised that "you, Gladys Caroline Iyamah, have disgraced yourself and your family. Your act is not only shameful but abominable. You have also debased womanhood" (Newswatch, July 11, 1988:25).

Women have changed their area of concealment of well packaged and sealed balloons of heroin and cocaine, from their body cavities, due to the intense use of X-ray on their stomachs. They are gradually shifting their wares beneath their skin, by hiring medical practitioners to suture them and open them up again on reaching their destinations. Thus, the social stigma attached to conviction is such that it has made drug traffickers use assumed

names and fake addresses to protect their identities in their nefarious but get-rich-quick business. The drug traffickers are the "nouveau riches" who are seen in most expensive outfits and are highly sophisticated.

Furthermore, convicted female drug traffickers who are entering prison for the first time face a severe shock and then a period of painful adjustment. "The newly incarcerated woman experiences a variety of feelings - anger, hate, deprivation, anxiety, futility and loss of identity. Convicted female drug traffickers are required to make some sort of adjustment to the fact that their freedom is gone and that the prison is to be their home. Separation from her family, her husband or lover, and her children is one of the pains to bear. Absence of privacy, lack of a social life and the complete removal of male companionship intensify the impact of being locked away. As such, self-respect begins to disappear and she will be forced to live with women that she may dislike. As far as the prison life is concerned, her feelings do not matter (Johnson 1978: 541).

Similarly, Kathy who went to Holloway prison as a research programmer gathered that: the customs officials believe that semi-illiterate women were now used as couriers. In the past, evidence showed that educated, sophisticated women were used by the drug barons, but they have resorted to cunning women who did not realise the full implications, if they are caught (Daily Times, July 23, 1991).

Ironically, the majority of the Nigerians caught for drug

smuggling at both the British and American ports of entry in 1985 were pregnant women. Many of them were well-known names from well-known families in Nigeria. Those who were pregnant at the time of arrest were allowed to give birth in prison. Their children are with them, subjected to the agony of life behind the bars. Therefore, the emotional distress and misery experienced by these women is out of proportion with their actions (Newswatch July 11, 1988:22).

However, according to Mbosowo (1990), women participation in property and financial offences involve three groups of women. The first group involves women in high status occupations. These are the women who hold favourable attitudes towards feminism. They are in the occupational positions that are likely to expose them to fraud, embezzlement and forgery. The second group involves women who are poor and would want to steal to survive. These are the unemployed, unskilled and illiterates who cannot get gainful employment, and do not have enough money to invest in any gainful business. The third group involves business women and those who want to get rich quick. These are the ones who are forced by their desire to commit crimes against lawful authority.

Mbosowo, in explaining the third group of women, further classified them into two sub-groups. The first group of women involves the unemployed and those who want to get rich quick, who are being employed by the drug barons. The second group contains those women who, after working for their masters, decide to be on their own. These are women who believe in independence of women.

Most of such women do not believe in marriage. They are just out to make money (Mbosowo, 1990:10-11).

From the foregoing, one would conclude that women get into crime as a result of resentment over social marginality. The feminist movement, having created a new awareness in women, opens their eyes to see themselves as an exploited class. Since it addresses gender and class issues, it prepares women to collectively fight against inequality and discrimination.

Female criminality is therefore seen as a social protest. Therefore, all age-old customs and practices that have effectively marginalised the women in society's scheme of things must be re-evaluated and subsequently abolished. There is now a great need to balance economic and social inequalities in favour of women so as to reduce the rate of crime.

Women also need to carry out a thorough self-evaluation of their current gender roles as liberated, assertive women in society. The knowledge of their social and economic rights should spur them up not into criminal activities, but into hard work, so that they can take up dignified position in the society. That means, there must be a conscious education of women on the feminist movement. The desire to get rich quick by hook or crook must be discouraged by all women organisations and other social institutions. Women who seek to eradicate social inequalities in the system must not do so through criminal activities.

2.2. Economic Factors

Trade in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances is one of the fastest growing sectors of International commerce. The illicit drug enterprises make significant contributions to the economic growth of the South American Nations in the area of foreign exchange earnings and employment opportunities. Furthermore, money available through drugs may help stimulate economic activities in the depressed and debt-ridden Third World Economies.

The developed nations, particularly the United State of America and United Kingdom, are forcing developing nations to halt production and trafficking in their countries because of the havoc originating from that business (Alemika 1991:9-14).

Omoluabi (1990), identified two important factors responsible for increase in drug trafficking in Nigeria. First, Nigeria was once discovered as a new drug trafficking route where the traffickers can operate without being harassed by law enforcement agents. It seemed that the other routes from Asian and South American countries to Europe and North America were getting rather impracticable and uncomfortable for the traffickers. The second reason is the economics of the drug business. The traffickers discovered that they could become rich within a very short time.

Consequently, they introduced their friends and relations into the business. Therefore, the backbone of the drug business is the profit motive and the enormous amount of wealth amassed from the business. It was at this point, when more and more people were engaging in the business, that public became aware of the problem

(Omoluabi,1990, cited in Master Detective, September 1990: 7-8).

Furthermore, it has been pointed out by Alemika (1990) that "Nigeria's narcotic drug problems must be understood and analysed in relation to the country's social, economic and political systems and as parts of the nation's increasingly worsening problems of criminality, corruption and thievery by top-ranking government officials. Retrenchments,instead of appointments,have become the order of the day in the public sector" (Alemika 1990: 110).

Similarly, Iyamabo (1990) stresses that, "It is the economic situation in the country which subsequently deprived our law-abiding youths of gainful employment, that made some of them engage in risky adventures such as drug trafficking. This, in turn, provides them with two alternatives: to make it and be rich, or be caught and head for the jail house where at least three square meals are assured. Thus, little or no remorse seems to be noticeable in the countenance of most arrested drug traffickers who eventually resign themselves to their fate when the game is up" (Iyamabo 1990:17-19).

In reference to the arguments put forward by the two scholars (Alemika and Iyamabo), we can say that we are quite aware of the economic depression and high rate of unemployment among our youths, which subsequently pushes them into trafficking in drugs. And if these activities are not put under control, then different groups within the drug world, would like to be in control of the whole economy. As such, this may invariably lead to a state of anarchy where each group would like to be recognized by the populace.

On the other hand, if the drug trafficking business goes unchecked, it will not only jeopardise the National development, but it will amount to a waste of human resources which could have contributed immensely to the growth of the nation. Therefore, drug trafficking should not be seen as an alternative way of solving the suffering of the populace.

Nonetheless, Osita Eze (1990) viewed narcotic drug problem in Nigeria in relation to the political economy. As such, he assigns primacy to material (economic) factors as opposed to the cognition on which the latter depends. That is, the economy is the base on which the other superstructures revolve. Therefore, it is the type of economic system a country has that will reflect what the law dictates.

He also stresses the dynamic and dialectical character of social phenomena. Eze, for instance, "sees society in a condition of constant change, the changing being propelled by the conflicts resulting from the interdependence and interconnectedness of the various facets of our social existence in which different classes play a role, the conflict being resolved for the better or the worse" (Osita Eze 1990:187-8).

The implication of this is that, law is essentially a dependent variable which interacts with the other facets of our material and social existence; that its essence is determine by the dominant economic system, whether it is feudal, capitalist or socialist, which, in turn, determines the nature of the state and the character of the social group(s) that control the state

apparatus and use it to decree and enforce their will in the form of law.

If, for instance, one looks at the African philosophy of communalism as illustrated in the work of Onwuejeogwu (1987) "it's concerned with collective sentiments and attachment. This traditional social work consists of an integration of all community members who play complementary roles in the delivery of service. The focus here is on the well-being of the group, as opposed to just the individual. The group is social, economic and an insurance unit, complementing in dealing with the realities of their social world" (Onwuejeogwu 1987).

On the other hand, in Nigeria, our present method of managing the economic development has been turned into concerted aggression against the common people, producing a theatre of alienation in which all agents of development have collaborated to close all frontiers of state intervention. In this system, greed and quest for materialism are propagated. In this kind of socio-economic system, how can the efficacy of deterrent principles deal with crimes that are motivated by survival and greed?

However, international drug trafficking experts tie its increase to economic difficulties being felt in Nigeria. Many of those involved in the trade appear to be very well educated. Only a few of them are semi-literates and those whose businesses have failed. Thus, the British and American officials noted that "the Nigerian drug couriers are individuals whose professional life was interrupted by the nation's economic problems"(Newswatch July 11,

1988:26).

2.3 Crime Attributed to Drug Trafficking

Other social causes of drug abuse include "increasing likelihood of involvement in criminal behaviour (to finance the addiction).....and offences committed while under the influence of drugs increased demand for social service, health care, and legal aid" (Earp 1987:10).

However, there are very serious economic problems that are precipitated by the activities of drug barons and couriers. Some of the consequences of illicit drug ventures are the destabilization or distortion of national economic plans, frustration of monetary or fiscal control, and inflation due to laundering of profits. For instance, Alemika (1991) pointed out that there are serious implications of the vast assests derived from illicit drug trade, the reason being that, the wealth from the trade are in turn used to influence political decision. This is done through campaign donations. Therefore barons may exert considerable influence over candidates and officials. In the circumstance, drug merchants would automatically wield both political and economic power thereby making strict control and enforcement of regulations against trade in narcotics and psychotropic substances difficult (Alemika 1991:9).

According to Lupsha (1989), these are conditions that are more or less prevalent in countries like Panama, Peru, Columbia, Bolivia, Mexico and even the United States. Therefore, the degree

to which drug merchants have penetrated government in Nigeria is not known. In Bolivia, for example, "the political and military elites have always played a major role in drug trafficking". The strong relationship between drug barons, political and military elites has been observed in many nations; the terms "narcocracy" and narco-governance" have been coined to denote those situations where "drug traffickers" and those behind them are the regime in power" (Lupsha, 1989). This phenomenon partly accounts for the difficulties experienced in crippling illicit drug activities.

Meanwhile, the level of sophistication and the wealth of criminal enterprises are so enormous that the drug merchants can even topple government. The drug problem therefore needs a specialized agency made up of men of unquestionable integrity, and highly specialized in the art of criminal investigations (Today Magazine March 1991:2). The political implications of illicit drug ventures in a society can be quite disastrous.

Of recent, evidence of crime such as assassination is now being attributed to "increase in drug trafficking and drug abuse among the youths in Nigeria. Cocaine trafficking is a destabilizing political force in the sense that, the violence and corruption associated with the drug trade erode public commitment to democratic institutions. Yet most cocaine traffickers seek to penetrate and to manipulate established economic and political institutions.

For instance, on September 14th 1984, the U.S.A. Secretary of State George Shultz described "the growing narcotics network as

part of a trend towards international lawlessness and called the traffickers "modern pirates". Therefore this modern version of piracy includes narcotics trafficking, terrorism and similar outlaw behaviour. In the 1960s and 70s, their wares were constituted mainly of Indian hemp, but, in the 1980s, they graduated to peddling cocaine, heroin and other deadly illicit drugs for national consumption.

Furthermore, cocaine traffickers use a combination of carrot and stick to influence drug enforcement policies in their countries. Traffickers prefer to use blandishments - bribes, donations, and charitable activities to achieve their ends. Money is by far the mafia's most important political weapon.

Talking of the influence and ruthlessness of the barons, the Columbian example is a case in point. Columbia , a South American Country, has been in running battle with the drug cartels. The horrors in Columbia are a nightmare. For instance, judges trying drug trafficking cases in Columbia are offered the proverbial or choice of 'plomo O plata'(head or silver.) Death if they convict, a bribe if they set aside the charges. In the past four years, criminal court judges released from jail or dropped charges against, four major cocaine dealers: Gillberto Rodriguez Orejuela, Jose Santa- Cruz Londono, Evari Stopornas, and Jorge Luis Ochoa (see Transactional social science and modern society vol. 27, no.2, 1990).

However, evidence shows that, Hernando Baquero Bada, a Supreme Court Judge, was killed in 1986 on the orders of the drug barons.

A leading presidential candidate, Senator Luis carlos Galan was assassinated for his voice of opposition to drug lords. In the same vein, another presidential candidate was murdered in cold blood in June 1990 by a fifteen year old boy purportedly sponsored by the drug cartels. Cocaine traffickers buy protection from police, prosecutors, judges and, where necessary, the military. For example, in April 1988, the Intelligence Chief of the Columbian Army's 4th Brigade, based in Medelin was dismissed, because investigations verified that he had "contacts with drug traffickers'. Thus, the South American cocaine Mafia has been called variously an "empire without frontiers" and "a state within a state" (Transactional Social Science, January vol. 27. no. 2,1990).

Moreover, evidence shows that, the drug merchants also came from top members of the ruling class. Deposed Manual Noriega, the former Panamanian strong man, faced trials in the United States of America allegedly for drug trafficking. Arnaldo Ochoa, a Major General and member of the ruling communist party of Cuba was executed in July, 1990 for establishing a drug ring (see Master Detective, September, 1990: 14). Those who are involved in the drug trafficking business follow a chain of distribution network of cartels, barons, couriers and retailers across several nations. Participants in the trade operate with utmost secrecy characteristic of mafia and organised crime syndicates. Indeed, any "member who violates the code of secrecy, cheats or informs on the organization, is threatened with death of family members"

(Alemika 1991: 13). Therefore, the issue of drug trafficking should be fought from many angles, if there is to be a change or reduction in the alarming wave of drug trafficking and abuse in Nigeria.

2.4 Image of the Country

Ahire (1992) noted that,

> The massive involvement of Nigerians in drug trafficking and abuse is one of the most serious social problems confronting the country. The frequent arrest and exhibition of Nigerian drug couriers at international entreports is a matter of great embarrassment to the government and people of Nigeria. Indeed, the notoriety which Nigerians have acquired in the trafficking of prohibited drugs has cast doubts on the integrity of all Nigerians, and compelled some countries to adopt stringent immigration controls targetted specifically at Nigerians. Some countries like Thailand have stopped granting visas for short term visits to Nigerians, while others like Britain and the United States of America have established special anti-drug squads to police their airports against the activities of drug traffickers" (Ahire 1992:1-2).

For a long time now, Nigerians travelling to many parts of the world have been subjected to thorough and often humiliating treatments at various ports of entry. Prominent Nigerians, including justices, high ranking police officers and prominent politicians have had cause to suffer at the hands of immigration and customs officials abroad. There is no doubt that Nigerians are

among the leading perpetrators of the drug crime. It is no wonder that Nigerians receive shabby receptions in most Western nations (Today Magazine March, 1991:2).

For instance, Nobel Laureate Wole Soyinka had a taste of this kind of treatment at the hands of the United States Customs in 1990. Same happened to Ade Adedokun, a Nigerian pharmacist, arrived in Houston, Texas, his base, from Nigeria, only to be physically humiliated under the suspicion that he fitted the "profile" of a drug career. According to the source, he was later driven to a hospital where he was X-rayed. Though nothing incriminating was found on him, the trauma he went through was enough to force the embittered pharmacist to institute a court action against his tormentors (Newswatch August 20, 1990:12).

An American drug expert, Joseph Digenover (1990) pointed out that, Nigerians are relatively newcomers in the area of heroin smuggling, and that even though their activities came into scene in the late 1983, they have learned how to be proficient in the business. They are skilled in cutting their heroin with diludents in order to increase its bulk, which brings them larger profits. Therefore, the traffickers have not only dented the image of the country, but they have also exposed innocent Nigerians to ridicule by their nefarious activities in the Far East, Europe and the United States of America.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter is mainly concerned with the methods employed in this research. The aspects convered include location of the study, sampling of respondents, methods of data collection and techniques of analysing and interpreting these data. Finally, the experience and the problems are examined.

3.1 Location

The research was carried out among the convicted female hard-drug traffickers in Women Security Prisons, Kirikiri, in Lagos state and those in the Kano Central Prison in Kano State.

The choice of these prisons was determined by the fact that the NDLEA, in order to provide for adequate and effective monitoring of the drug trafficking and other related offences, specified in the promulgated Decree No. 48 of 1989, zoned the country into three. They are the Lagos zone, the Kano zone, and the Port-Harcourt zone. Arrested offenders are tried in any of the Special Tribunals for miscellaneous offences in each zone. Convicted female traffickers in kano zone are taken to the Kano central prison, those of Port-Harcourt zone are taken to Port-Harcourt prison, while Women Security Prison in Kirikiri serves the convicted female traffickers in Lagos zone. It should be noted that, it is only in Lagos zone, that women have a separate prison from their male counterparts. The heterogenous population in the

above-named Nigerian federal prisons can therefore be regarded as representative of the country because they accommodate prisoners from the entire Federation.

For the purpose of this research, Women Security Prisons in Lagos state and female section of the Kano Central Prisons in Kano State, were studied. The choice of these two prisons in the two zones is due to financial constraint, time and convenience.

3.2 Sampling

As at the time of the research, only 100 convicted females were in the two prisons. All the available 100 convicted female traffickers were interviewed.

It was after the collection of data, that the researcher classified the inmates in the four categories existing in the drug world. These categories are the drug baron, the courier, which were sub-divided into courier importer and courier exporter. Then lastly is the striker.

3.3 Variables

For the purpose of this research, three sets of questionnaires were prepared. Sets of questions in 'Appendix A' were designed for the NDLEA officers in the investigation unit.

Here, the intention was to collect information on the apprehension procedures of drug traffickers, the profile of those arrested, type of major hard- drugs caught with the female traffickers, aim of the punishment meted out to them.

It was also the researcher's intention to know the NDLEA officers' views on punishment at home of deported female traffickers after a first punishment abroad, to know their views on the best strategy to curb the increasing waves of illicit drugs. Their advice to the Internal Affairs Officer on the issuing of passport and their efforts in detecting people bearing fake names as well as passports, also received the attention of the researcher.

The researcher was also determined to know how far they had gone in curbing the relationship between the Customs Officers and the drug barons in the country. At the end, it was the researcher's intention to know the reason behind the establishment of the NDLEA academy, period of study, the profile and qualifications of those admitted, as well as to ascertain whether there is any insurance policy for the NDLEA members.

In 'Appendix B' those sets of questions designed for the prison officers were meant to help the researcher in knowing the socio-demographic variables of the prison officers, duties to perform on the convicted female traffickers. It was the researcher's intention to also know their views on the punishment meted out and the possible problems they face with this group of inmates. The questions were also meant to know whether governmental decisions influence their decision to punish this group of inmates. The questionnaire was also meant to find out if the attitude of this group of offenders has led to the transfer or has lowered any officer's grade. Moreover, the researcher would like to know what

help they wanted the Federal Government to extend to them.

The questions in 'Appendix C' were designed for female hard-drug traffickers. It was the researcher's intention to know the socio-demographic variables of this group of inmates, nature of arrest, type of hard drugs found on the person, why they engaged in drug business. The questions are also meant to provide information on the aspect of the transaction they engaged in, the categories each belonged to in the drug world, their point of arrest, area of concealment.

The researcher is also interested in getting information about how each of them got to know about the drug business, as well as who takes the responsibility of their dependants while they are serving their jail term. She also wanted specific information on their prison experience so far, their strength of conviction, the role played by the security officers or government officials in the drug business, type of associations each belonged to, and to know their views to the Federal Government on the issue at stake.

3.4 Methods of Data Collection

It is not the fact themselves which make science, but the methods by which they are dealt with, and the unity of all science consists in its methods and not in its material alone; (Pearson 1911: 116 cited in Ogbon, 1973: 8 unpublished B.Sc project). The importance of this statement makes it necessary to discuss the methodology of this study. Data for this study were collected from a variety of sources, the most significant of which are as

follows:-

1. Primary documentary sources:
   a. The records of the NDLEA consisting of the name of the convicted female hard-drug traffickers, type of drugs found on the person, weight in gramme or kilogramme and years of conviction.
   b. The prison record of the hard-drug convicted female inmates consisting of their socio-demographic variables.
2. Questionnaire scheduled for the convicted female traffickers and informal interview on general issue relating to the prison environment.
3. Personal observation of the female inmates and the prison officers.
4. Questionnaire scheduled for the prison officers and the NDLEA officers. In addition to informal interview, each of these sources are used for particular purposes at particular stages of investigation .

3.5 Techniques of Data Analysis and Interpretation

Most of the information for this study were collected through interview, questionnaire schedule and personal observation. These three methods were used in order to provide for adequate and comprehensive study.

For the purpose of administering the questionnaires and conducting the interviews,a place was provided in the Welfare

Office. The Welfare Office is quite big. Convicted female traffickers preferred an open place where all of them can chat and discuss freely. To them, asking them questions in a secluded place would mean they were afraid of the prison officers. Therefore, in order to show the prison officers that they feared nobody, they all preferred to fill in their questionnaire in an open place. Secondly, it always offered them a unique opportunity to know their new convicted members since they stayed in different cells.

As such, the welfare officer introduced the researcher to them at once, instead of introducing herself, and her purpose of visiting them one after another. The Welfare Officer called two inmates by names at a time in order to avoid overcrowding, since that was the case; what the researcher did was that, as each inmate submitted her questionnaire, she was asked to wait until we cross-checked to see that all the questions asked were answered. In a situation where only half of the questions asked were answered, we interviewed such an inmate on the remaining unanswered questions without necessarily involving the welfare officer in charge, in a persuasive way. The researcher was at a corner of the office fifteen feet away from the welfare officer, therefore her influence on the inmates response was not allowed.

In collecting information from the prison authority, a total of 24 prison officers were selected from the two zones. Twelve (12) officers from Lagos zone and 12 from Kano zone. In selecting the 24 officers, the researcher looked into three categories:-

8 Officers with a university degree

8 Officers with NCE/OND equivalent

8 Officers with 'O' level G.C.E. result.

This was done in order to have a variety of answers or responses. The sampling frame was made up of 52 prison officers in the two zones. Stratified simple random sampling method was used in selecting 12 officers in each zones. Officers in each of the categories were given equal chance of being selected.

In Lagos zone, as at the time of this research, 20 officers of different cadres were present. Out of the 20 officers only 12 of them were selected:-

4 with a university degree

4 with NCE/OND equivalent

4 with 'O'level G.C.E. result.

The reason for this was that, in the Women Security Prison, there are three shifts; as such, that accounted for their relatively small number as at the time of the research.

In Kano zone, male and female inmates were in the Kano Central Prison together, officers in this prison were relatively more in number than those in Women Security Prison in Kirkiri. There were four (4) female wardresses out of the 32 prison officers present:-

10 with a university degree

6 with NCE/OND equivalent

16 with 'O'level GCE result.

They too were running three shifts daily. Only 12 officers were selected from the three cadres.

In collecting data from the NDLEA, there were four units.

These were the General Assets and Investigation Unit, the Prosecution Unit, the Counselling Unit, Training, Research and Development Unit. For the purpose of this research, questionnaires were distributed to twenty four (24) officers in the investigation unit. In this section of the NDLEA, there were three shifts. In each shift, there were investigating teams. Each team worked according to the issue at stake. While some stayed in the office, one or two teams might be sent out to investigate. So, within each shift, there were a number of investigating teams.

As such, twenty four (24) questionnaires were given to twenty four (24) officers to be filed. Random sampling was used in selecting four officers in each of the three shifts. The investigating teams were not less than six. The same procedure was used for Lagos and Kano Zones. The above-mentioned unit was therefore picked for the purpose of this research, because any arrest made, be it in the Airports, at land borders or sea ports, was brought to them. it was in this unit that the arrested persons were detained pending the outcome of their investigation. If there were enough evidence that warranted the prosecution of the arrested person, the investigation unit would then forward the case to the prosecution unit, where arrangements were to be made for the arrested person or body to appear before the Special Tribunal for Miscellaneous offences. The body concerned may be discharged and acquitted or sentenced to a jail term, depending on the gravity of their offence.

It is worth noting here that, it was not everybody who was

arrested by those in the investigation unit that was prosecuted. There were cases also where an investigation team might be detained for performing their work effectively, if the person or body was powerful and had connection. Reasons for doing these were best known to those in the NDLEA, even when there were more than enough evidence and proof to prosecute such a person or body.

DATA ANALYSIS

The data collected is quantitative in nature, and is intended to be analysed by using both nominal and interval level of measurement. This is where one can test the level of significance as well as the intervals of the occurrence. The statistical procedures used is Chi-square. This is very necessary in order to predict the order of pairs of cases, and to provide answers to questions such as: Does an association exist in the variables intended to be measured? If an association does exist, how strong is it? What is the pattern and/or the direction of the association.

3.6 Difficulties Encountered and Experiences Gained in the Study.

The researcher was given a letter of introduction from the Department of Sociology to the NDLEA chairman in the person of Mr Fulani Kwarjafa. She was later given four letters meant for the Directors in NDLEA branch office in Ilupeju. The chairman told the researcher that the directors head the various sections and would tackle any problem the researcher might run into in the process of

carrying out her field work.

On getting to the General Assets and Investigating Unit, the researcher met the Deputy Director who told her that they had only the list of arrested persons and not the convicted ones. On getting to the Training, Research and Development Unit, the letter was read by the Deputy Director in the unit; she was later taken to their scientific laboratory. The researcher disclosed her intention and she brought out the list compiled which consisted of names and type of drugs found on the culprit, weight in grammes or kilogrammes as well as the year of conviction. She only instructed the researcher not to write the names of those convicted for security reasons.

The researcher told the Deputy Director in the investigating unit, her willingness to interview the convicted female traffickers. He therefore responded positively and spontaneously to her request. He drafted a letter to be handed over to the assistant controller of Women Security Prison in Kirikiri.

On getting to the female prisons in kirikiri, the letter was handed over to a wardress for onward transmission. The Assistant Controller explained that, she should not receive instructions from outside the prison system. Therefore the letter should be addressed to the zonal co-ordinator in Alagbon close. The letter was also not honoured by the zonal co-ordinator in Alagbon close;the latter directed her to Abuja because she could not grant such permission.

The frustration notwithstanding, the researcher went to Abuja

and gave the letter to the Director of Prisons. He asked her some questions on the objectives of her study and what she intended to achieve at the end of her findings; she responded. He then assured her that there was no problem, he would give her the permission. The researcher was latter given two letters to be handed over to the Prison State Controllers in Kano and Lagos zones. On getting back to Lagos, the researcher was given a letter from Alagbon close for the Assistant Controller of Women Security Prisons in Kirikiri. In this prison, there were designated names given to some of the inmates. Among the names was the 'Secretary'. She was the first hard-drug convicted inmate. Her duty was to lend library books out and to write down names of those who used to buy things on credit from the officer, since they were disallowed from keeping their money themselves. She also knew the total number of those convicted for various offences as well as those awaiting trial. She knew the number of inmates in each cell, depending on the gravity of the offence.

There was also the 'Matron'. The inmate designated 'matron' was the oldest female convicted for drug trafficking. The name was just to respect her and to make her feel free with the rest of them. There was also an inmate designated "Chief Caterer". She was the head of those who prepared their meals in the kitchen. An inmate was also designated 'Headmistress'whose duty was to see that everybody went to the workshops as well as the programme established for them by a philantropic group in Lagos. The programme included secretarial study, catering, fashion design and

hair dressing salon. She was to keep the hairdressing equipment in good order. There were two typewriters in the prison for them to practice on, since they were allowed out to attend the course at a nearby workshop.

However, it was a pleasant experience to be with this group of inmates. They were very neat, educated, sociable and very jovial. We thought they would refuse the questionnaires, but they accepted it whole-heartedly. To them, they had committed no offence, but all they knew was that they too should ride in 'V -booth'. This group was very lively and healthier than the other group of offenders.

In Kano Central Prison, the case was quite different. On gaining access to the prison environment, we saw that everywhere was packed full of both convicted and those awaiting trial. The males were in rags. The officers were very co-operative. On seeing the convicted female hard-drug traffickers, we could not believe our eyes. They looked so dirty, frustrated, dejected, helpless and malnourished.

All convicted female hard-drug traffickers stressed how they compelled the officers to grant them transfer permission to Lagos, but their demands were not granted. Since they believed that they were the weaker sex, this resulted in open confrontation between the convicted male hard-drug traffickers and the officers in the Kano Central Prison. There were other reasons which they were not able to put forward, that resulted in hostility and open confrontation. Among them was lack of work to do. They were redundant, no workshop to practise their profession. The hostility

of the male convicted traffickers was so tense and their outspokenness so uncontrolable that they were able to mobilise other groups of criminals against the authority. They were recalled back to their senses with thorough force on the part of the warders.

Furthermore, these convicted female traffickers were of the belief that money could buy their freedom anytime they were ready. They stressed that if each of them could get =N=200 today, they would free themselves from this prison, emphasis added. Asked how that would be done, they disclosed that 'most of the warders guarding them and officers were highly corrupt. They could influence them with their feminine nature. After a candid promise by the convicts, the officer would then connive with those in the medical section of the prison to devise a means of diagnosing one serious and infectious disease which should make co-existence of the supposed patient with other inmates impossible. The fake medical report would then be forwarded to the appropriate authority for approval, and the inmate in question would be freed.

The authenticity of this statement was not known, but they all assured me that they had been making connection to get a sum of money to buy their freedom. The researcher then wished them good luck in their future endeavour.

CHAPTER FOUR

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF CONVICTED FEMALE HARD-DRUG TRAFFICKERS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter provides a background information to the understanding of female involvement in drug trafficking by highlighting the social characteristics of the inmates. It focuses on the socio-economic and family background of inmates and their peer association. This will enable us to ascertain the categories of female that are most likely to get involve in drug trafficking bearing in mind their socio-economic background.

4.1 *Comparative Figures of Convicted Male and Female Hard-Drug Traffickers* From the foregoing, we start the presentation of findings by showing the comparative figures in conviction of male and female hard-drug traffickers over a period of five years, 1988 to 1992.

TABLE 4.1 **CONVICTION OF MALE AND FEMALE HARD-DRUG TRAFFICKERS IN KANO AND LAGOS ZONES, 1988 TO 1992.**

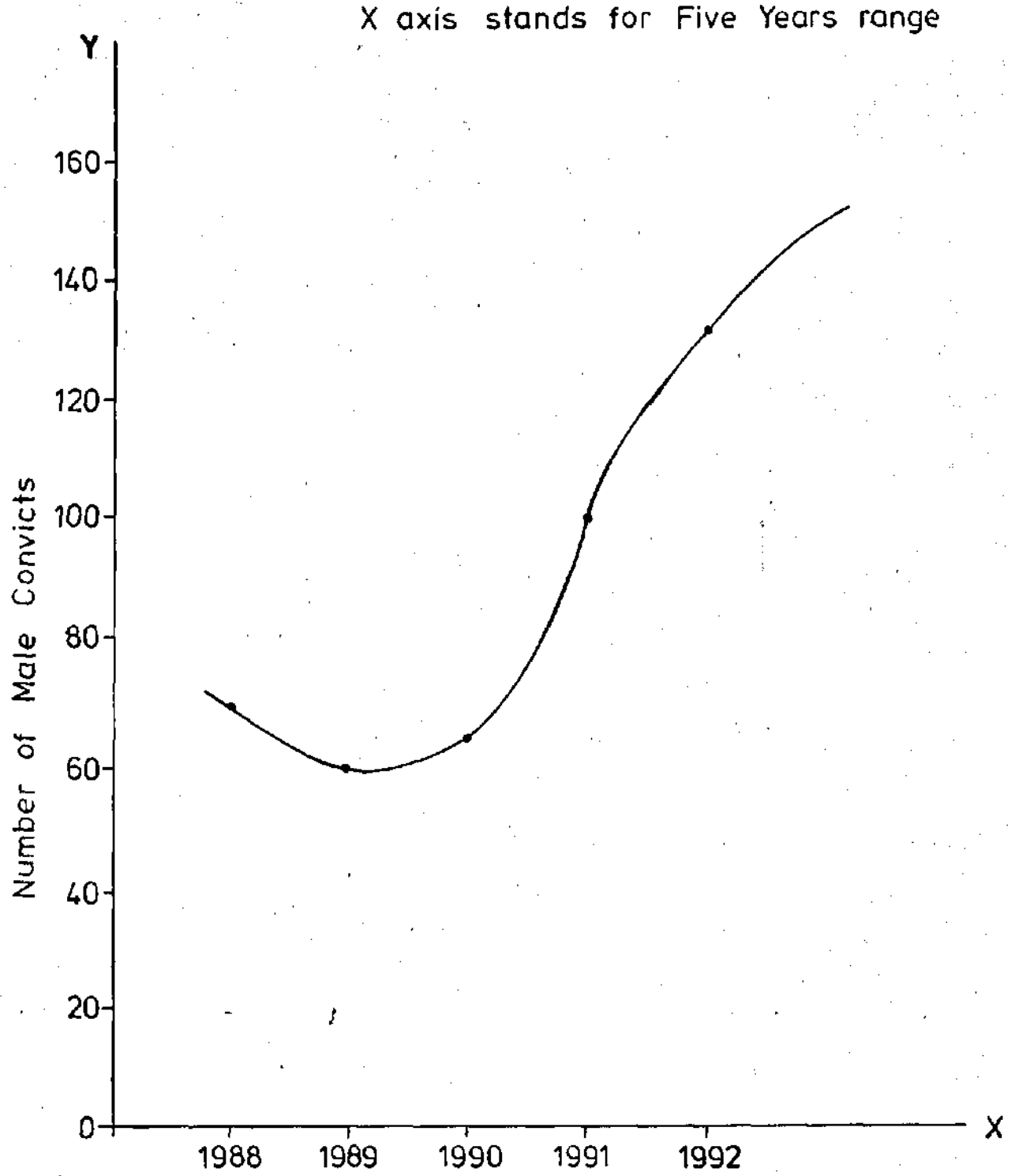
Year	No. of males convicted	No.of females convicted
1988	70	12
1989	60	7
1990	65	22

1991	100	25
1992	132	34
Total	427	100

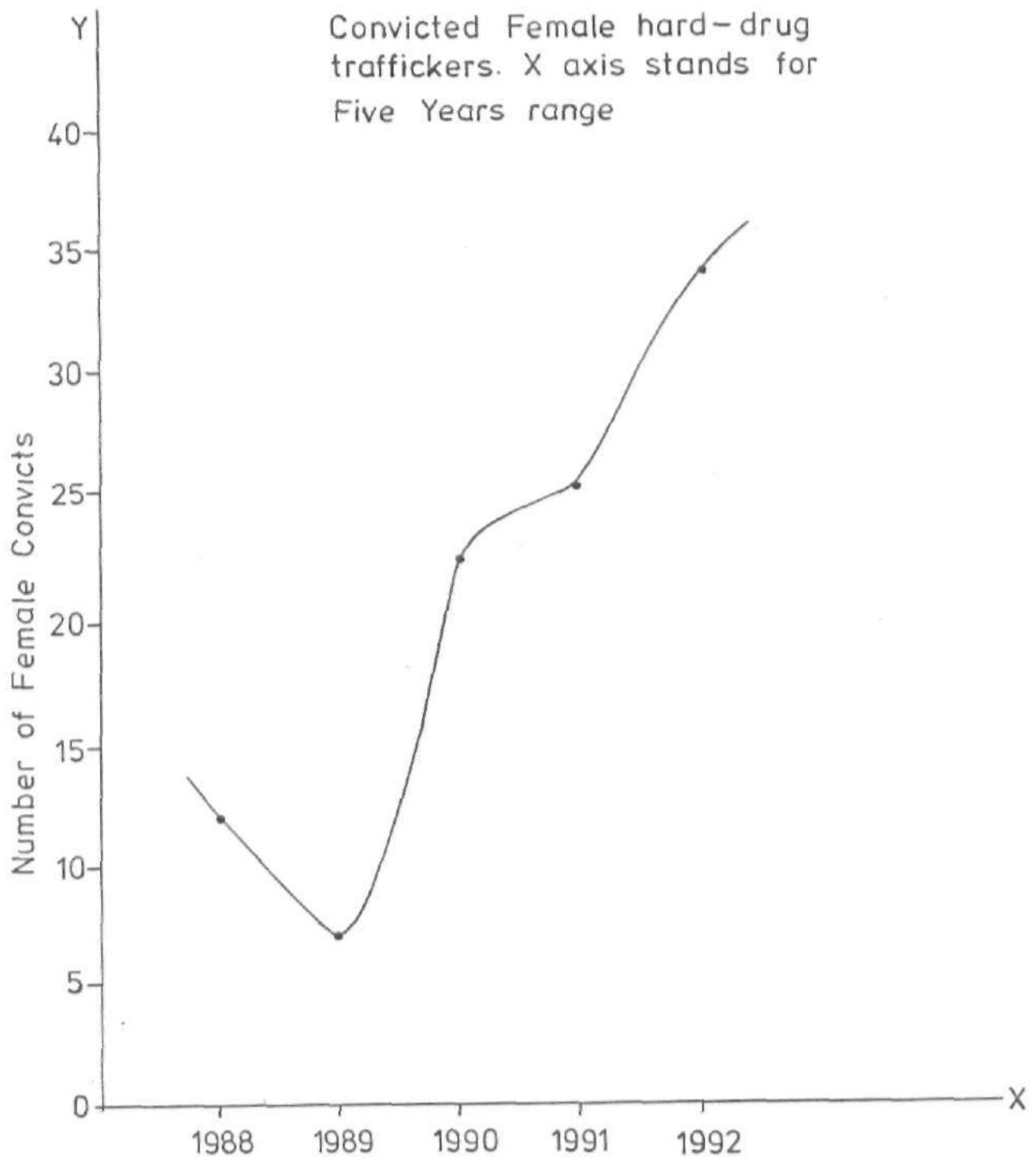
The data collected on convicted male and female hard-drug traffickers in a bid to know the difference between the two, show that 427 males were convicted between the years 1988 and 1992, while 100 females were convicted for the same offence.

The graphs below show the variations in the number of convicted males and females within the five years range.

GRAPH I: Scale: Y axis stands for No. of Convicted Male hard-drug traffickers. X axis stands for Five Years range



GRAPH II:


Scale: Y axis stands for No. of Convicted Female hard-drug traffickers. X axis stands for Five Years range
Y
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
Number of Female Convicts
X
1988
1989
1990
1991
1992

We can now see that the high rate of apprehension and seizures may be interpreted not as an indication of policy effectiveness, but as that of a persisting boom in narcotic trafficking and therefore of lack of deterring effects. Moreover, recent incidences suggesting attempt at corrupting the officials of the Drug Law Enforcement Agency are indicative of the present danger that drug cartels and barons may pay-off enforcement officials.

Therefore, efforts should be geared towards attaining a high degree of certainty of arrest and conviction of drug barons, traffickers, and peddlers within the country. Asset seizures should, therefore, be a very helpful means of curbing trafficking and may also be a source of revenue for the government (Alemika 1991:21-22).

4.2 Social Background of Inmates

The social backgrounds of inmates discussed in this section covers the age, state of origin, education, religion and marital status. The discussion is mainly based on descriptive statistics generated from the field survey.

4.2.1 Age of Convicts

Convicts' age as recorded ranged between 16 and 46 years. Specifically,the distribution is such that 2% of the inmates are between the age of 16 and 20, 14% fall between 21 and 25 with a majority, 31%, falling between the ages of 26 and 30 as shown in

Table 4.2.1. below:

Table 4.2.1: **Age of Convicted Female Hard Drugs Inmates**

Age range Composition	Number	Percentage
16-20	2	2
21-25	14	14
26-30	31	31
31-35	21	21
36-40	16	16
41-45	10	10
46 and above	6	6
Total	100	100

The analysis has shown that those involved in drug business mostly seem to fall between the ages of about 21 and 46, with very few falling below this age range.

4.2.2 States of Origin of Convicts

The data showed that all convicts except one from U.S.A. are from the southern states of Nigeria. In the sample,33% are from the South Eastern States, which include Abia, Anambra, Cross River, Delta, Edo, Imo and Rivers States and 66% are from South Western States, that is, Kwara, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo,and Oyo.

If one relates state composition of convicted female hard-drug

traffickers to Robert Merton's anomic theory of goals and means, society encourages individuals to achieve certain goals through the specified means, but these means are not evenly distributed as such: some people are denied access to the legitimate means.

If one looks at the South-Western States, one will realise that, in the early 1960s', cocoa export was their main source of income and one realises that the value has now fallen and cocoa no longer yields income as it used to do. It simply means that what people in South-Western States live on as their main source of sustenance in order to accomplish certain goals have been disrupted so as to survive the depressed economy. Some people therefore took to illegitimate trade like drug trafficking, to achieve their goal.

Reports from the NDLEA and the prisons in the two zones revealed that while females from the South-Western States are more than other females in drug trafficking, males from South-Eastern States dominate male drug peddlers in Nigeria. To date, the Southern States have remained the most europeanized, commercialized, Westernized; and people are more conscious of property acquisition than in other states of Nigeria. It is therefore not surprising that inhabitants of these states pursue wealth even in societally unacceptable avenues like drug trafficking.

4.2.3 Educational Attainment of Convicts:

Evidence from the data shows that virtually all the convicted female drug traffickers have acquired one form of formal education or the other as in table 4.2.3. below:

Table 4.2.3. Inmates' Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment	Number	Percentage
No formal education and Quaranic education	3	3
Primary education	6	6
Secondary/technical education	65	65
University and Postgraduate education	26	26
Total	100	100

In Table 4.2.3, it can be observed that a majority (65%) have had post-primary education either in a secondary, technical or teachers' colleges. This large majority is followed by 26% in the sample who have acquired university and postgraduate education. Even though 3% of the respondents claimed to have had no formal western education, the same 3% speak and write English language, because they were market women who dealt with people of different educational background.

Reports from the prison staff in the two NDLEA zones buttress these findings. In the reports, it was indicated that, unlike the other convicts' domain, those convicted for drug trafficking were

educated individuals who could easily be distinguished from other inmates convicted for other offences, because of their life style. The ever growing unemployment in the white colar job sectors, the glorification of money in the value system of Nigeria,prompt the educated to take to illicit trades like drug peddling.

4.2.4 Religious Affiliation of Convicts

The data revealed that inmates belonged to three religious groups that are in practice in Nigeria. In the sample, 39% muslim, 53% christians and 5% were of African traditional religion.Only 3% did not indicate their religion.

From the findings, one can conclude that the number of christians seems to be the highest, followed by that of the Muslims and that of any other known religion in Nigeria. This is expected, in that the Southern States, where the inmates come from are predominantly christian.

4.2.5 Marital Status of Inmates:

In the sample from both prisons, the married inmates were in the majority with a total of 47% followed by the unmarried inmates who constitute 30% of the sample; another 14% claimed to be separated or divorced, while 9% of the inmates were widowed. Discussions with the NDLEA and the Prison Staff showed an expectation for single females to be more in the drug business than the married, because of their money consciousness, but the reverse was the case. All categories of females - married and unmarried -

now go out to seek wealth. The burden of child rearing, which is now shared between spouses, coupled with the national economic crisis which has penetrated every home, encourage this expectation.

4.3 Economic Background of Inmates

4.3.1 Occupation of Inmates:

The inmates were in various occupations before they were caught in the illicit trade and convicted. The data showed that 19% posited to be civil servants, with 7% positing to have been in the informal sector of the economy. 35% inmates in the sample were self-employed, while 38% were unemployed. The unemployed constituted the majority of the inmates convicted for drug offence. Only 1% of the inmates did not respond to the question on occupation. Derived from this, is the fact that, the self-employed and the unemployed dominate the scene of the convicted female drug peddlers. In other words, those denied access, or meaningful access, to legitimate avenues for earning a living, turn to illegitimate avenues ,as exemplified by the data. To those who turn to drug peddling, the end justifies the means.

4.3.2 Annual Income of Inmates:

The inmates, prior to their conviction and imprisonment, generally earned some income, as shown in Table 4.3.2 below:

Table 4.3.2 Annual Income of Inmates

Inmates' annual Income Prior to Conviction	Number	Percentage
Below =N=1,200	7	7
=N=1,200 - 2,400	9	9
=N=2,412 - 3,600	24	24
=N=3,612 - 4,800	11	11
=N=4,812 - 6,000	10	10
=N=6,012 - 7,200	6	6
=N=7,212 - 8,400	6	6
=N=8,412 - 9,600	15	15
=N=9,612 and above	12	12
Total	100	100

As regards the annual income earned prior to conviction, Table 4.3.2. above stresses that a majority of the inmates, 24%, earned between =N=2,412 - 3,600 per annum; though 15% of the sample earned as much as =N=8,412 - 9,600 and another 12% earned =N=9,612 and above, per annum.

Curious enough, although 38% said they were unemployed, 39% of the sample earned above =N=6,000 a year. This is surprising, because, on the basis of transferred earning, 40% of the sample

still earned =N=3,600 or less in a year, which was still high.

4.4 Family Background and Peer Association of Inmates

Socialization of children primarily starts in the home and later in peer groups and formal institutions, particularly the school.

A probe into the family background, socialization in peer groups, among others, would, to a large extent, provide an explanation to the current behaviour and predicament of inmates. It is to this end that variables of family background and early socialization situations are discussed here under.

4.4.1 Family Wealth Status

Inmates were asked how wealthy their families were and a majority, 47%, indicated that they came from poor families, 34% claimed that their families were averagely wealthy, with only 18% positing to have come from wealthy families. Based on this, the tendency therefore is for the children of the poor to be involved in drug trade, given the high potentials of the trade to make people easily rich.

This assertion is, to some extent, supported by the fact that 64% of those in the sample said their parents were still living, with only 34% claiming their parents were dead. While death of parents may reduce control on the behaviour of individuals, poverty does same. Thus, those in the drug business are likely to be those who have little or no control from their parents, for reasons of

poverty or death of parents.

4.4.2 Parental Control and Upbringing

On the assumption that individuals with good parental control and upbringing are not likely to participate in such deviant behaviour like drug trafficking, the issue of parental background was pursued further. An issue raised with the respondents regarding this was that of marital situation of the parents. Responding, while 44% indicated that their parents were still living together, 20% said their parents were separated. The remaining 36% reported their parents were either dead or that they were not sure of the situation.

It is one thing for parents to be dead, poor and separated or divorced and have little or no behavioural control from parents; it is another for children to internalize behavioural value from parents from childhood. It is in the light of this that this study tries to find out with whom the inmates spent their childhood. The assumption is that those who grew up under both parents are likely to be less involved in drug trafficking.

In pursuance of this, it was found that 35% grew up under both parents, 29% under either the father or the mother alone, 33% grew up under brothers, sisters and other relatives and 3% grew up in motherless baby homes. In other words, 65% of the sample grew up under conditions which were not likely to impart strong moral principles and ethics to them. This weakness in the upbringing is likely to provide room for accommodation and exhibition of negative

behaviour, like drug trafficking.

4.4.3. Peer Group Socialization of Inmates

Like family control and upbringing, the effect of peer group socialization on individuals in the society is important for behaviours exhibited in adulthood. All inmates in the sample said they had peer groups in their youth and adulthood. With this admission, respondents were asked to assess the influence of the peer groups on them by describing the nature of peer groups they belonged to in their childhood.

While 39% claimed that their peer groups were conscious of societal values and encouraged one another towards achieving goals and aspirations within societal values and mores, only 2% claimed that their peer groups did not give them this encouragement. In any case, a large majority, 59%, indicated that they belonged to peer groups which were rather delinquent and showed some criminal tendencies. By implication, 61% of the inmates in the sample did not have proper socialization that would help them later in life.

4.4.4. Membership of Associations

The respondents belonged to a wide range of varied associations which included women liberation movements and trade unions, as in Table 4.4.4.

Table 4.4.4 Membership of Association by Inmates

Association to Which Inmates Belong Prior to Conviction	Number	Percentage
Women in Nigeria (WIN)	14	14
Market Women Association	8	8
Nigerian Union of Teachers (NUT)	2	2
Labour Union	1	1
Student Union	3	3
Not Applicable	72	72
Total	100	100

From the data, it can be observed that 28% of the traffickers in the two NDLEA zones belonged to one association or the other, prior to their conviction: 14% belonged to the Women in Nigeria Association (WIN), 8% were members of the market women association, while 2% belonged to the Nigerian Union of Teachers (NUT), prior to their conviction. 3% belonged to Students Union, and 1% a Labour Union member. However, a majority, 72%, did not belong to any interest group or association.

From the above information, one could say that even though 72% of the inmates claimed not to belong to any association, one can easily conclude that, all the inmates convicted for drug peddling

must have belonged to the drug trafficking cult, whose operations are with high secrecy and organized syndicate, in which any member who reveals the secret of the business is threatened with instant death.

CHAPTER FIVE

FEMALE INVOLVEMENT IN DRUG TRAFFICKING:ANTECEDENTS AND MODUS OPERANDI

5.0 Introduction

Given the highlighted backgrounds of inmates, some of which have potentials of propelling individuals towards criminal behaviour, it is pertinent to discuss the ways respondents got involved in the drug trade as well as highlight their acknowledged mode of operation. But first, where and how were they arrested? In the sample, all, except one inmate, were arrested at an international departure or entry point. The analysis showed that 91% were arrested at airports, 2% at seaports and 6% along land borders. This indicates that most of those in drug trafficking business prefer travelling by air, possible because of its fastness and safety. Those caught at the airports were either leaving the country or entering the country with imported hard drugs.

It should be noted that very few were apprehended within towns and cities. In fact, the analysis showed that 1% of the respondents were apprehended within the town and not at any of the departure or entry points as is almost always the case.

5.1. Sources of Drug Trade Information

To get involved in a trade, one has to know about it, and sources of such information are widely varied. when asked how respondents got information about the drug business, 16% sourced the information from god-fathers or mothers with most of them, 72% posited that they got to know about the business through friends; 7% read from magazines and books about the business, and others, 5% learnt of the trade from husbands and relatives. On the whole, it can be observed that peer groups play very significant role in disseminating information on the business.

In the course of this study, sources of drug trade information were cross tabulated with Age of inmates, Education, Annual income and marital status .

The data for this work are analysed and interpreted by using largely quantitative tools of analysis. Such quantitative as correlation coefficient and test of significance among others were all employed in the analysis and interpretation. The customary 0.05 is taken as the confidence level.

Table 5.1.1 **THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOURCES OF DRUG TRADE INFORMATION AND AGE OF INMATES**

Sources of Information	AGE OF INMATES							
	16-20	21-25	26-30	31-35	36-40	41-45	46 and above	Total
god father/ Mother	0	2	4	4	1	3	1	15
Friends	2	11	23	16	15	3	3	73
Reading	0	0	1	1	1	2	2	7
Relatives	0	1	2	0	0	2	0	5
Total	2	14	30	21	17	10	6	100

X^2 = 24.23 d.f. = 18 Contingency coefficient = 0.44

Table 5.1.1 shows the relationship between sources of drug trade information and age of inmates. It was observed that 23 (23%) of convicted inmates between the ages of 26 and 30 years mostly sourced drug trade information from their friends. This is followed by 16 (16%) of the inmates between the ages of 31 and 35 years and 15 (15%) between the ages of 36-40 years. 11 (11%) between the ages of 21-25 years sourced drug trade information from friends.

The correlation coefficient calculated for variables age and sources of drug trade information shows a moderate positive correlation of 0.44. Though this is a moderate relationship, yet it

is not significant. We can conclude that inmates that fall within the age of marriage are more likely to source drug trade information from friends as can be seen from the above table.

Table 5.1.2 **THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOURCES OF DRUG TRADE INFORMATION AND INMATES' EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT**

	INMATES EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT				
Sources of Information	No formal Education	Primary Education	Secondary Education	University Education	Total
godfather/ mother	0	2	9	4	15
Friends	2	4	52	15	73
Reading	0	0	4	3	7
Relatives	0	0	2	3	5
Total	2	6	67	25	100

$X^2 = 7.73$ d.f.= 9 contingency coefficient = 0.27

Table 5.1.2 Shows the relationship between sources of drug trade information and inmates educational attainment. It was observed that 52(52%) of convicted inmates with secondary education mostly sourced drug trade information from their friends. This is followed by 15(15%) of the inmates with University education. 9(9%) with secondary education and 4(4%) with University education

sourced drug trade information from godfathers/godmothers.

The correlation coeffficent calculated for variables education and sources of drug trade information shows a weak positive correlation of 0.27. Though this is a weak relationship, yet it is not significant. We can conclude that as inmates educational attainment progresses, more informations are sourced from friends because of the likelihood to associate more than inmates with only primary education or no formal education at all.

Table 5.1.3 **THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOURCES OF DRUG TRADE INFORMATION AND INMATES' ANNUAL INCOME**

Sources of Infor mation	INMATES ANNUAL INCOME: Less than =N=2,400	=N=2,400- =N=4,800	=N=4,812- =N=7,200	=N=7,212- =N=9,600	=N=9,612- and above	Total
god father/ mother	3	4	3	5	0	15
friends	10	28	11	13	11	73
reading	1	3	0	3	0	7
relatives	1	0	2	1	1	5
Total	15	35	16	22	12	100

X^2 = 12.25 d.f. = 12 Contingency coefficient = 0.33

Looking at the relationship between sources of drug trade information and inmates annual income as shown in table 5.1.3 above; 28(28%) of convicted inmates with annual income of between =N=2,400 and 4,800 mostly sourced drug trade information from friends. This is followed by 13(13%) of the inmates with annual income between =N=7,212 and 9,600 and 11(11%) between =N=4,812 and 7,200. 11(11%) with =N=9,612 and above also sourced drug trade information from friends.

The correlation coefficient calculated for variables income and sources of drug trade information shows a weak positive correlation of 0.33. Though this is a weak relationship , yet it is not significant. We can conclude that most inmates sourced drug trade information from friends regardless of the variations in annual income.

Table 5.1.4 **THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOURCES OF DRUG TRADE INFORMATION AND INMATES' MARITAL STATUS**

Sources of Information	Married	Separated/ Divorced	Single	Widowed	Total
godfather/mother	6	3	6	0	15
Friends	36	9	22	6	73
Reading	3	1	2	1	7
Relatives	5	0	0	0	5
Total	50	13	30	7	100

x^2 = 8.23 d.f. = 9 Contingency coefficient = 0.28

It was observed from table 5.1.4 that, 36(36%) of married inmates sourced drug trade information from friends. This is followed by 22(22%) inmates that were single and 9(9%) divorced inmates.

6(6%) of married inmates and 6(6%) single inmates sourced drug trade information from god fathers/ mothers. Only 5(5%) of married inmates sourced drug trade information from their relatives.

The correlation coefficient calculated for variables marital status and sources of drug trade information shows a weak positive correlation of 0.28. Though this is a weak relationship, yet it is not significant. We can conclude that inmates with different marital status sourced drug trade information from any avenue opened to them. This is due to the economic hardship which has penetrated every home in Nigeria. Inmates not minding their marital status engaged in drug trafficking.

5.2 Factors That Lured Respondents into the Trade

The next issue raised was what actually lured them into drug trafficking. In response, 34% claimed unemployment, 60% went into the business to improve their conditions of living, with 6% claiming no other reasons than peer group factor, that is the desire to do what members of one's peer group are doing.

This notwithstanding, unemployment is a significant factor in motivating individuals to be involved in the trade. With dwindling employment opportunities and harsh economic conditions, the rate of entrance into the trade is on the increase for the deprived in the

society, the risk of the trade notwithstanding. Indeed, to the convicts, affluence in the prison is preferred to poverty in a free world.

Reports from the NDLEA and the prison staff explained that, convicted inmates always show signs of sheer affluence, pride, arrogance and always feel that they are "Very Important Prisoners" (V.I.P.) and so should be treated with respect by the prison authorities. It was also observed during data collection that, those who pay them visits show the affluence and the pride of these convicted traffickers in one way or the other. The affluence that results from involvement in the trade vis-a-vis the harsh economic realities in Nigeria strongly induces individuals into participating in drug trade.

This is backed up by the evidences put forward by the prison staff in the two NDLEA zones. The staff indicated that, those convicted and sent to them show neither remorse nor regret for their offence. Rather, they are hardened and become intolerable, very determined. They discuss freely even with the prison staff and often assert that "they will still go back into the drug business, that they too must ride in a "V-booth". In addition, they all boast that they will be released before the completion of the sentence term given them "emphasis added".

5.3 Mode of Participation by Inmates

The inmates are involved in various aspects of the drug business. The aspects identified include being a drug baron in the sense of a

financier, a courier by taking and delivering drugs for the barons or being a striker by retailing the drugs to final consumers.

Findings show that among the respondents, 8% inmates admitted to had engaged in the transaction as drug barons, while 84% of the inmates engaged in the business were drug couriers. The couriers formed the majority of those convicted for drug trafficking. 7% of the inmates claimed to be strikers. However,1% of the respondents did not fall in any of the categories because she vehemently denied ever participating in drug business, and alleged that she was framed by the law agents. That a majority are couriers can be explained by the fact that, this aspect of the trade requires no personal capital.

Moreover, the barons and strikers are less visible for arrests. Either as barons, couriers or strikers, the respondents, in various ways, operate across the borders, mainly as importers or exporters. The data showed that, while 29% import the drugs into the country, 71% are couriers as exporters of drugs to consuming nations. The 71% couriers constituted the majority of the convicted inmates in the sample from the two zones.

It was gathered from the inmates that it is preferable to be a drug courier exporter because one is only expected to deliver the well-packed drugs to consumers in the consuming nations of the world,for a handsome reward. According to them, engaging in importation is seen as being too strenuous, the reason being that the drugs are still raw from the producing countries. so also are there limits as to where the drugs can be concealed in order to

avoid it being detected by the security agents. As such,this explains the reasons why there is a wide gap between the number of inmates who engage in importation and exportation of hard drugs.

5.4 Involvement of Law-Enforcement Personnel

In the various modes of participation in drug trade, the respondents claimed that the security agents aid, abet, or aid and abet,the drug business. During data collection, 63% of the inmates said the security agents aid the business, 16% said they only abet, with only 21% claiming that the agents both aid and abet in the drug business.

In line with this finding, interview conducted with the NDLEA agents on how far the agency had curtailed the activities of corrupt security agents particularly, customs officials who formed the link with the drug barons, simply confirmed that "such allegations exist and that this constitutes a problem for NDLEA to perform its task of curbing drug trafficking effectively".

The problem is compounded by the numerous international passports in possession of drug traffickers. The passports bear different fake names, countries, as well as fake addresses. The issue of rampant passport racketeering among the immigration officers adds to the problem of drug business control in the country.

However, it is not only the Customs officials that are corrupt, but also all the Nigerian security agents. This is because, virtually all the 100 inmates interviewed responded to be serving those that were in power and claimed that any attempt to

disclose their names as barons often led to threats with instant death.

5.5 Type of Hard-Drugs Caught With Inmates

Either caught-red handed or otherwise, respondents had been caught with various types of hard-drugs at points of arrest. The data showed that they were caught with four types of drugs which included Indian hemp, cocaine, heroin and LSD.

A majority of the inmates had been caught with cocaine and heroin. A total of 53% were caught with cocaine and 42% were caught with heroin. The reason for this is that, cocaine and heroin are not bulky; rather, they are very light. These drugs can easily be carried and neatly concealed in different parts of the body. Moreover, the value and the cost of carrying a gramme of any of the drugs is enormous. Thus, most respondents tend to go in for trafficking in cocaine and heroin.

In the early 1960s, the dominant drug of trade was mainly Indian hemp. But from the early 1980s, It shifted drastically to the new form of drug in use in Europe and North America. Note worthy is that, only 3% of the inmates were apprehended with Indian hemp and 2% were caught with LSD.

Reports at the NDLEA showed that at the point of arrest, drug traffickers of both sexes were mostly caught in possession of cocaine, heroin, Indian hemp, Amphetamine, Pemoline, LSD, Barbiturates, etc. But for the females arrested, they are often caught with cocaine and heroin,with a few cases of LSD and Indian

hemp.

In the course of this study, type of hard-drugs were cross tabulated with Age of inmates, Education, Annual income and Marital status . 0.05 is taken as the confidence level.

Table 5.5.1 **THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TYPE OF HARD-DRUGS AND AGE OF INMATES**

Type of Drug	AGE OF INMATES							
	16-20	21-25	26-30	31-35	36-40	41-45	46 and above	Total
cocaine	1	8	16	11	8	3	5	52
Heroin	0	5	13	9	9	6	1	43
Others	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	5
Total	2	14	30	21	17	10	6	100

X^2 = 15.33 d.f. = 12 Contingency coefficient = 0.36

It was observed from table 5.5.1 that, 16(16%) of convicted inmates between the ages of 26 and 30 years are caught with cocaine, followed by 11(11%) inmates between the ages of 31 and 35 years and eight(8%) between the ages of 36 and 40 years. 13(13%) inmates between the ages of 26 and 30 years are caught with Heroin, While inmates caught with other drugs such as indian hemp and L.S.D. cut across different ages.

The correlation coefficient calculated for variables age and

type of drug shows a weak positive correlation of 0.36. Though this is a weak relationship, it is not significant. In Table 5.5.1 it is evident that inmates within the marriage age are more likely to be caught with cocaine and Heroin than any other age groups.

Table 5.5.2 **THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TYPE OF HARD-DRUGS AND INMATES' EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT**

	INMATES EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT				
Type of drug	No formal Education	Primary Education	Secondary Education	University Education	Total
Cocaine	0	3	34	15	52
Heroin	2	2	30	9	43
Others	0	1	3	1	5
Total	2	6	67	25	100

$X^2 = 5.16$ d.f. = 6 Contingency coefficient = 0.22

Table 5.5.2 shows the relationship between type of hard-drug and inmates educational attainment. It was observed that 34 (34%) of convicted inmates with secondary education were caught with concaine. This is followed by 15(15%) of the inmates with university education. 30(30%) with secondary education and nine (9%) with university education were caught with Heroin.

The correlation coefficient calculated for variables education and type of drug shows a weak positive correlation of 0.22. Though

this is a weak relationship, yet it is not significant. We can conclude that inmates with secondary education are mostly caught with cocaine and Heroin than any other inmates with different educational background.

Table 5.5.3 **THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TYPE OF HARD-DRUGS AND INMATES' ANNUAL INCOME**

	INMATES ANNUAL INCOME					
Type of drug	less than =N=2,400	=N=2,400- =N=4,800	=N=4,812- =N=7,200	=N=7,212- =N=9,600	=N=9,612 and above	Total
cocaine	10	15	7	14	6	52
heroin	4	18	8	8	5	43
Others	1	2	1	0	1	5
Total	15	35	16	22	12	100

X^2 = 5.43 d.f. = 8 Contingency coefficent = 0.23

It was observed that,15(15%) of convicted inmates with annual income of between =N=2,400 and 4,800 were caught with cocaine. This is followed by 14(14%) of the inmates with annual income of between =N=7,212 and 9,600. 18(18%) with annual income of between =N=2,400 and 4,800 were caught with Heroin. The correlation coefficient calculated for variables income and type of drug shows a weak positive correlation of 0.23. Though this is a weak relationship,

yet it is not significant. We can infer that the type of drug caught with inmates has no significant bearing on their annual income. This is because most of the convicted inmates are drug c-ouriers and this aspect of the trade requires no personal capital.

Table 5.5.4 **THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TYPE OF HARD-DRUGS AND INMATES' MARITAL STATUS**

	INMATES MARITAL STATUS				
Type of hard-drug	Married	Separated/ Divorced	Single	Widowed	Total
Cocaine	28	4	17	3	52
Heroin	21	9	9	4	43
Others	1	0	4	0	5
Total	50	13	30	7	100

$X^2 = 11.18$ d.f. = 6 Contingency coefficient = 0.32

It was observed from table 5.5.4 that, 28(28%) married inmates are caught with cocaine, followed by 17(17%) inmates that are single. 21(21%) married inmates are caught with heroin, nine(9%) divorced inmates and nine(9%)single inmates are caught with heroin.

The correlation coefficient calculated for variables type of

drug and inmates marital status shows a weak positive correlation of 0.32. Though this is a weak relationship, yet it is statistically significant. We can conclude that married inmates are mostly found with cocaine and heroin. This can be seen from the fact that the burden of child rearing which is now shared between spouses, coupled with the national economic crisis which has penetrated every home, encouragesthis expectation.

5.6 Mode of Hard-Drug concealment

For easy carriage at the very minimal risk of being caught by the security agents, many methods are devised by traffickers to enable them carry the drugs from place to place. In this respect, the findings are shown in Table 5.6 below:

Table 5.6: Mode of Concealment of Drugs by Respondents

Mode of Concealment of Hard-Drugs	Number	Percentage
Body cavity	63	63
Electrical gadgets	7	7
Holy books	1	1
In stew/shoes	14	14
Sophisticated hair do	2	2
Within clothes	9	9
Others (Specify) Suitcase	4	4
Total	100	100

As in Table 5.6 a majority of respondents, 63%, concealed the drugs in their body cavities. This was followed by 14% of the inmates who concealed the drugs either in stew or shoes. Other respondents either concealed the drugs in electrical gadgets (7%), Holy book (1%) (Quran), sophisticated hair-do (2%), lining of clothes (9%) or suitcases (4%). The tendency is for traffickers to hide the drugs in the body cavities, stew, and other personal effects regardless of the health hazards involved.

In the course of this study, inmates mode of concealment were cross tabulated with Age of inmates, Education, Annual income and Marital status. 0.05 is taken as the confidence level.

.Table 5.6.1 **THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MODE OF HARD-DRUG CONCEALMENT AND AGE OF INMATES**

Mode of concealment	AGE OF INMATES							
	16-20	21-25	26-30	31-35	36-40	41-45	46 and above	Total
Body cavity	0	6	23	15	10	4	3	61
Electrical gadgets	0	1	1	0	3	1	1	7
Stew/shoes	1	3	3	3	3	2	0	15
Within clothes	1	4	1	1	1	2	0	10
Others	0	0	2	2	0	1	2	7
Total	2	14	30	21	17	10	6	100

X^2 =35.36 d.f. = 24 Contingency coefficient = 0.51

Table 5.6.1 Shows the relationship between mode of hard-drug concealment and age of inmates. It was observed that 23(23%) of convicted inmates between the ages of 26 and 30 years mostly concealed hard-drugs in their body cavities, followed by 15(15%) inmates between the ages of 31-35 years and 10(10%) between the ages of 36-40 years. Three(3%) inmates between the ages of 36 and 40 years concealed hard-drugs within electrical gadgets. Inmates that concealed their drugs in stew or shoes cut across different ages as can be seen from table 5.6.1 above. Also, four(4%) of convicted inmates between the ages of 21 and 25 years concealed hard-drugs within their clothes.

The correlation coefficient calculated for variables age and mode of concealment shows a moderate positive correlation of 0.51. Though this is a moderate relationship, it is statistically significant. We can conclude that once we know the age, we can predict their mode of concealment.

Table 5.6.2 **THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MODE OF HARD-DRUG CONCEALMENT AND INMATES' EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMEMT**

Mode of Concealment	INMATES EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT				
	No formal Education	Primary Education	Secondary Education	University Education	Total
Body cavity	0	0	45	16	61
Electrical gadgets	0	2	4	1	7
Stew/shoes	1	2	8	4	15
Within clothes	1	0	8	1	10
Others	0	2	2	3	7
Total	2	6	67	25	100

X^2 =28.73 d.f. = 12 Contingency coefficient = 0.47

Looking at the relationship between mode of concealment and inmates educational attainment as shown in table 5.6.2. above; 45(45%) of convicted inmates with secondary education concealed hard-drugs in their body cavities, while 16(16%) with university education concealed theirs in their body cavities. Four(4%) with secondary education concealed hard-drugs in electrical gadgets, eight(8%) in their stew/shoes, with eight(8%) inmates who concealed hard-drugs within their clothes.

The correlation coefficient calculated for variables education and mode of concealment shows a moderate positive correlation of

0.47. Though this is a moderate relationship, yet it is statistically significant. We can conclude that education of inmates will, to a large extent, determine the sophistication, technique opted for by the female traffickers in drug concealment.

Table 5.6.3 THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MODE OF HARD-DRUG CONCEALMENT AND INMATES' ANNUAL INCOME

INMATES ANNUAL INCOME

Mode of Concealment	Less than =N=2,400	=N=2,400- =N=4,800	=N=4,812- =N=7,200	=N=7,212-=N=9,600	=N=9,612 and above	Total
Body cavity	12	15	10	20	4	61
Electrical gadgets	0	4	3	0	0	7
Stew/shoes	2	5	2	4	2	15
Within clothes	1	2	0	3	4	10
Others	0	4	1	0	2	7
Total	15	30	16	27	12	100

X^2 =27.54 d.f.=16 Contingency coefficient =0.46

From table 5.6.3,20(20%) inmates who earned between =N=7,212 and 9,600 per annum prior to conviction concealed hard- drugs in their body cavities. 15(15%) inmates with annual income of between =N=2,400 and 4,800 also concealed hard-drugs in their body cavities. Four(4%) inmates with annual income of between =N=2,400

and 4,800 concealed hard-drugs in electrical gadgets. Five(5%) inmates with annual income of between =N=2,400 and 4,800 also concealed hard-drugs in their stew or shoes.

The correlation coefficient calculated for variables annual income and mode of concealment shows a moderate positive correlation of 0.46. Though this is a moderate relationship, it is statistically significant. Table 5.6.3 (above) reveals that the amount of money earned by individual inmates prior to conviction, play a significant role as to the type of concealment they undertook, knowing fully well the implication of the illicit trade and its hazardous effect on their health.

Table 5.6.4 **THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MODE OF HARD-DRUG CONCEALMENT AND INMATES' MARITAL STATUS**

	INMATES MARITAL STATUS				
Mode of Concealment	Married	Separated/ Divorced	Single	Widowed	Total
Body cavity	31	8	18	4	61
Electrical gadgets	3	0	3	1	7
Stew/shoes	7	3	5	0	15
Within clothes	5	2	3	0	10
Others	4	0	1	2	7
Total	50	13	30	7	100

X^2=10.93 d.f.=12 Contingency coefficient= 0.31

Looking at the relationship between mode of concealment and inmates' marital status as shown in table 5.6.4 above; 31(31%) of married inmates and 18(18%) single inmates concealed hard-drugs in their body cavities. Seven(7%) of married inmates concealed hard-drugs in their stew/shoes, with five(5%) married inmates that concealed hard-drugs within their clothes.

The correlation coefficient calculated for variables marital status and mode of concealment shows a weak positive correlation of 0.31. Though this is a weak relationship, yet it is not significant. Table 5.6.4 shows that more married inmates concealed hard-drugs in their body cavities because of their experience in child birth.

CHAPTER SIX

SITUATION OF FEMALE DRUG TRAFFICKERS IN PRISONS

6.0 Introduction

When caught by the law enforcement agents, and the law takes due process, some end up in jail. Given that the sample is mainly drawn from imprisoned female drug traffickers, the study probed into some aspects of prison life and expected adjustments within the prison and after jail term.

6.1 Length of Sentence

Though similar offences are committed, the jail terms vary not only from individual to individual, due to circumstances of offence and other factors, but also from zone to zone. When asked to state their jail terms, the responses obtained are shown in Table 6.1 below:

Table 6.1 Length of Sentence.

Imprisonment Terms	Number	Percentage
1 - 2 years	12	12
3 - 4 years	16	16
5 - 6 years	18	18
7 - 8 years	13	13
9 - 10 years	18	18
11 and above	22	22
Life imprisonment	1	1

Total	100	100

From the findings, it was observed that, 12% of the respondents were sentenced to 1-2 years imprisonment; 16% to 3-4 years, 18% to 5-6 years, 13% to 7-8 years and 18% to 9-10 years in prison. However, evidence shows that 22% of the inmates in the sample were sentenced to 11-28 years, while just one(1%) has been sentenced to life imprisonment. Even though most of the respondents within the jail term ranging from 11 to 28 years will be serving 25 years, those sentenced to life jail, looking at the table above, are more in number than inmates who were not on life jail term.

From the NDLEA record, while females have jail sentences ranging from 1-28 years including life imprisonment, male convicts have sentences ranging from 1-50 years including life imprisonment. There is no official explanation for this except to say that the law has soft spot for the weaker sex.

Some of the NDLEA agents interviewed were unhappy about the long sentence pronounced by the Special Tribunal for Miscellaneous Offences on the arrested drug traffickers. They argued," there is injustice and discrimination in the sentencing pattern. There is no equality before the law, judgement was handed down by the tribunal responsible for miscellaneous offences on the basis of the status and or sex of the arrested drug traffickers". For instance, from NDLEA records on convicted traffickers provided by the Research and Training Unit of NDLEA, one can observe that the records consisted

of the names of the traffickers (both male and female), sex, type of drugs found on the culprit, the weight in grammes or kilogrammes, and the years of imprisonment. Given these records, one can see that traffickers caught with the same type and quantity of hard-drugs were not given the same length of jail term. In a case, a female trafficker was given one year imprisonment while the other was given eight years imprisonment for the same offence. In the same zone,two females were caught with cocaine; one was sentenced to 11 years imprisonment, while the other was set freed, discharged and acquitted, and another, for the same offence, was sentenced to life imprisonment.

In Kano zone, all the convicted female hard-drug traffickers were sentenced to 25 years imprisonment each, with the exception of one (1) inmate who was to serve eight (8) years. It is in the same zone that a male offender was sentenced to 50 years for similar offence. Looking at the way the Special Tribunal handled drug cases, one is forced to ask the question: why these discrepancies? These discrepancies in sentencing can be attributed to the discretionary power of the judges; one can observe an indiscriminate use of such powers. In addition to the judges discretion, the Agency staff play a role.

According to a respondent, she was framed and maliciously jailed. The respondent said:

> I came back from Pakistan on the business of hiring a ship for a freight forwarding business and I was indicted at the airport for coming from a drug

> prone area and was asked to co-operate with them (Agency staff). And that, if I don't pay with some dollars, he will not leave me. When I did not give the dollars, he decided that he is going to make a scapegoat of me, and will also make sure I am imprisoned. He then forced me to sign some of the documents. The Tribunal did not listen, no lawyer was allowed, so everything was a jungle justice and a breach of my fundamental right, emphasis added (sic).

In any case, the long term jail is not serving the purpose. According to a prison staff, the convicted drug traffickers are generally sent to the prisons for deterrence and rehabilitation purpose. But the aim of these punishments is far from being achieved. This is principally so because, there are no facilities to keep them busy, and thus there are constant threats and riots by prisoners, as in Kano Central Prison. It is found that drug traffickers mobilize other prisoners to disobey the law as well as taught other inmates the drug business, to enable them benefit from the business and its money, after their release.

The prison condition hardens them to become more arrogant, intolerant, unappreciative and unpredictable criminals. They indeed consider themselves as very important prisoners, who deserve special attention. The female drug traffickers are very influential and powerful among prisoners and prison staff, in addition to the influence and power of the god-fathers or mothers. Furthermore, it

was gathered that due to their influence and affluence, some prison staff have been dismissed and others demoted.

Moreover, according to one of the prison staff, referring to god-fathers, "most of these powerful people will just give order which the warder must at anytime obey, even if it is against the prison rules." It is thus suggested by one of the prison staff that:

> Government should be fair in the treatment and punishment of individuals, for what is good to the goose is also good for the gander. No traffickers should serve lesser jail term than others. It is the same offence all have committed (sic).

This would ease the problem of managing all categories of offenders in the prison.

In the course of this study,length of sentence were cross tabulated with Age of inmates, Education, Annual income and Marital status. 0.05 is taken as the confidence level.

Table 6.1.1 **THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LENGTH OF SENTENCE AND AGE OF INMATES**

	AGE OF INMATES							
Length of sentence	16-20	21-25	26-30	31-35	36-40	41-45	46 and above	Total
1-4years	0	4	8	6	2	5	1	26
5-8years	2	2	13	6	6	0	2	31

9years and above	0	8	9	9	8	5	3	42
life impri-sonment	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total	2	14	30	21	17	10	6	100

X^2=21.26 d.f.=18 Contingency coefficient=0.42

Table 6.1.1 shows the relationship between length of sentence and age of inmates. It was observed that eight(8%) of convicted inmates between the ages of 26-30 years were sentenced to imprisonment ranging from 1 and 4 years. This is followed by 13(13%) between the ages of 26 and 30 years sentenced to imprisonment ranging from 5 to 8 years. Nine(9%) between the ages of 26 and 30 years and nine(9%) between the ages of 31 and 35 years were sentenced to imprisonment ranging from nine(9) years and above. Only one(1%) inmate has been sentenced to life imprisonment.

The correlation coefficient calculated for variables length of sentence and age of inmates shows a moderate positive correlation of 0.42. Though it is a moderate relationship, yet it is not significant. In Table 6.1.1,it is evident that inmates, within the age of marriage, are less likely to be sentenced to life imprisonment.

Table 6.1.2 THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LENGTH OF SENTENCE AND INMATES' EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Length of sentence	INMATES EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT: No formal education	Primary education	Secondary education	University education	Total
1-4years	0	3	15	8	26
5-8years	1	3	18	9	31
9years and above	1	0	33	8	42
Life imprisonment	0	0	1	0	1
Total	2	6	67	25	100

X^2 = 8.52 d.f. = 9 Contingency coefficient = 0.28

Looking at the relationship between length of sentence and inmates' educational attainment as shown in Table 6.1.2 above; 15(15%) of convicted inmates with secondary education were sentenced to imprisonment ranging from 1 to 4 years. This is followed by 18(18%) with secondary education sentenced to imprisonment between 5 and 8 years. 33(33%) inmates with secondary education and eight(8%) with University education were sentenced to prison terms of nine(9) years and above. Only one(1%) inmate with secondary education was sentenced to life imprisonment.

The correlation coefficent calculated for variables education and length of sentence shows a weak positive correlation of 0.28.

Though this is a weak relationship, yet it is not significant. We can conclude that inmates' educational attainment has no bearing on the length of sentence pronounced on individual inmate.

Table 6.1.3 **THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LENGTH OF SENTENCE AND INMATES' ANNUAL INCOME**

Length of Sentence	INMATES ANNUAL INCOME Less than =N=2,400	=N=2,400- =N=4,800	=N=4,812- =N=7,200	=N=7,212- =N9,600	=N=9,612 and above	Total
1-4years	3	7	5	6	5	26
5-8 years	4	10	5	7	5	31
9years and above	7	18	6	9	2	42
life imprisonment	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	15	35	16	22	12	100

X^2 =10.88 d.f.= 12 Contingency coeffient =0.31

Table 6.1.3 shows the relationship between length of sentence and inmates' annual income. It was observed that, seven (7%) of convicted inmates with annual income of between =N=2,400 and 4,800 were sentenced to imprisonment ranging from 1 to 4 years. This is followed by 10(10%) of the inmates with annual income between =N=2,400 and 4,800, sentenced to imprisonment ranging from 5 to 8 years. 18(18%) with annual income of =N=2,400 to 4,800 and

nine(9%) with annual income of =N=7,212 to 9,600 were sentenced to prison terms of nine(9) years and above. One (1%) inmate with annual income of less than =N=2,400 was sentenced to life imprisonment.

The correlation coefficient calculated for variables length of sentence and inmates' annual income shows a weak positive correlation of 0.31. Though this is a weak relationship, yet it is not significant. Table 6.1.3 (above) reveals that inmates' annual income has no bearing on the length of sentence pronounced on individual inmate.

Table 6.1.4 **THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LENGTH OF SENTENCE AND INMATES' MARITAL STATUS**

Length of sentence	INMATES MARITAL STATUS				
	Married	Separated/ Divorced	Single	Widowed	Total
1-4years	15	3	7	1	26
5-8years	13	4	12	2	31
9years and above	21	6	11	4	42
Life imprisonment	1	0	0	0	1
Total	50	13	30	7	100

Some provided an insight into prison life. One inmate explained:

> First, the prison is a highly corrupt place. The workers are something else. Let me ask, is prison a corrective place or destructive? The wardresses beat people up at the drop of a haunt, rather than to counsel. The prisoners have nothing to occupy them. Anything collected from prisoners is not given to authorities, but held back by the wardresses. Rules are made out of jealousy and envy (sic).

Another inmate had this to say:

> The idle mind, they say, is a devil's workshop. There is nothing to do here, no educative measure is taken to keep the mind occupied. The food is inadequate and water is typhoid infested. The experience can destroy one for ever. Insubordination is the order of the day among the officials. No respect among wardresses who continually wake prisoners with shouts among themselves. There is only one visiting day and time allowed is five minutes. You are hardly seated before you are asked to stand. It is an experience of a Tarzan (sic).

All these make life in prison hostile and unbearable. The humiliation of convicted drug traffickers notwithstanding, 78% posited that they would like to continue with the business because of poverty and hardship which had forced them to engage in trafficking. Only 21% of the sample said they preferred living as

X^2 = 3.62 d.f. = 9 Contingency coefficient = 0.19

Looking at the relationship between length of sentence and inmates' marital status as shown in table 6.1.4. above; 15(15%) of married inmates and seven(7%) single were sentenced to imprisonment ranging from 1 to 4 years. 13(13%) of married inmates and 12(12%) single were sentenced to imprisonment ranging from 5 to 8 years. This is followed by 21(21%) married and 11(11%) single sentenced to prison terms of 9 years and above. One(1%) married inmate was sentenced to life imprisonment.

The correlation coefficient calculated for variables length of sentence and inmates' marital status shows a weak positive correlation of 0.19. Though this is a weak relationship, yet it is not significant. In Table 6.1.4, it is evident that more married inmates were convicted than other categories. This implies that inmates' marital status has no influence on the length of sentence pronounced on individual inmate.

6.2 Life of Female Traffickers in Prison

When in prison, different convicts have different dispositions towards prison life. On this assumption, respondents were asked to describe the entire prison environment. In the sample, 61% perceived prison life as very hostile, 36% described it as fair and three(3%) claimed that as far as they were concerned, life in prison was pleasant, gave good experience and enabled them to know that there was another world different from the one those in the free society were accustomed to.

Some provided an insight into prison life. One inmate explained:

> First, the prison is a highly corrupt place. The workers are something else. Let me ask, is prison a corrective place or destructive? The wardresses beat people up at the drop of a haunt, rather than to counsel. The prisoners have nothing to occupy them. Anything collected from prisoners is not given to authorities, but held back by the wardresses. Rules are made out of jealousy and envy (sic).

Another inmate had this to say:

> The idle mind, they say, is a devil's workshop. There is nothing to do here, no educative measure is taken to keep the mind occupied. The food is inadequate and water is typhoid infested. The experience can destroy one for ever. Insubordination is the order of the day among the officials. No respect among wardresses who continually wake prisoners with shouts among themselves. There is only one visiting day and time allowed is five minutes. You are hardly seated before you are asked to stand. It is an experience of a Tarzan (sic).

All these make life in prison hostile and unbearable. The humiliation of convicted drug traffickers notwithstanding, 78% posited that they would like to continue with the business because of poverty and hardship which had forced them to engage in trafficking. Only 21% of the sample said they preferred living as

needy to tarnishing their family reputation. On the other hand, those that were not on life imprisonment were very sure to go back to the business at the end of their prison terms.

6.3 Care of Respondents' Dependents:

With their wealth, influence, and their physical absence, the convicts required other people to care for their dependents while in prison. Therefore, they were asked to indicate the guardian of their dependents.

Responses showed that 20% claimed that their dependents were being taken care of by their drug barons, while serving their prison term. Over half of the sample, 54% indicated that their dependent(s) were left to their fate to care for themselves. On the other hand, 25% of the sample posited that their dependent(s) were being cared for by their family members.

When caught, the drug traffickers are often disowned by their family members and, sometimes, by the barons; thus the majority of the dependents have to fend for themselves. In the data, 74% of the inmates said they had no regrets and locking them up would not change their mind about the drug business, given the benefits derived from the business. On the other hand, only 25% regretted their involvement in drug business. To the convicts, the end justifies the means; therefore, to the majority, imprisonment is not deterring or corrective enough to prevent them from the trade.

6.4 Rehabilitation in the Prison:

After conviction and imprisonment, one expects that both the judicial system and prison conditions will rehabilitate the offenders. It is to this end that the last segment of this chapter is devoted to examining the extent to which rehabilitation of the inmates has been achieved along side the rehabilitation policies of the government.

6.5 Future Plans of Convicts:

The non-deterring or non-corrective nature of the punishment becomes apparent when one examines responses to future plans by convicts. The findings show that 39% of the inmates will still go back to drug business because no other business can fetch them money as the drug business. 27% voiced out the will to go for fashion design, since fashion is the order of the day; 33% wished to seek other employments after imprisonment, while one(1%) of the inmates was undecided on what to do. From this, it is obvious that a simple majority, 39%, will go back to drug trafficking.

6.6 The Failure of Inmate Rehabilitation

Prison as a correctional institution for erring offenders has not been able to achieve the purpose for which it was set up. In general, erring offenders are neither deterred nor rehabilitated. As such, a great number of inmates turn out to be recidivists at the end of their prison terms. Therefore, there was no significant difference between erring male and female offenders as far as

prison, which is meant to be a correctional institution, is concerned.

For example, one of the main objectives of the drug law is to improve the image of Nigeria abroad. Thus, a rehabilitated drug trafficker should, after serving the term, not do anything that may tarnish the image of Nigeria anywhere.

Inmates interviewed did not feel the image of Nigeria was at any risk due to drug trafficking. The data showed that 92% responded that the image of Nigeria had not been tarnished, although 38% said there could be basis for an argument that drug trafficking tarnishes the image of Nigeria. On the other hand, 62% indicated that drug business had nothing to do with the image of the country.

The implication of this is that the prison system has not been successsful in inculcating the spirit of patriotism in the drug traffickers. Thus, the inmates were critical, not of themselves, but of the individuals and the system that put them behind the bars. For instance one of the respondents said:

> It (imprisonment) is a filthy experience. Even at gunpoint, it is bad for a woman (members of the Special Tribunal in Kano zone) to pronounce 25 years for a young lady like me. A woman who knows the pain of conception and deliverance should not do that. In short, being in prison is the worst government can do to me. I am out of shape (sic).

With this expressed bitterness against the system, it is not

system is always truthful and right. No justice (sic). The Federal Government should tell themselves the truth. Self-honesty is good. All is involved, from the first citizen to the widow in the village. To be candid, no image is in danger. If this is then refer back to the Buhari regime and note their presentation of the issue before the world, neither the Babangida administration took study of that mistake, but went along its bad for Nigeria. Especially when the Federal Government of Nigeria receives money (bribe) to punish their citizens in an offence when they excel. The remedy is that we should tell ourselves the truth and stop all manners of betrayal for selfish ends of the Federal Government. Our national pride is eroded. Federal Government has no sense of direction. There are communists betraying us in the pretext of patriotism. NO! Consider America, how do they punish their citizens? president Bush was Chairman Drug Task Force. What happened? The producing countries should kill their producers? Let the Federal Government tell Nigerians the truth. We have no sense of direction. Today British system, tomorrow American system. But all is that until we become independent of the Arabs petrol dollar influence we will punish ourselves and end up saying "had I know" (sic).

Give me the opportunity to tell Nigerians the truth. Youths - productive youths are mercilessly being handed

down sentences more than their ages, not taking into consideration their future prospects to this country. Sending them from bad to worst. No reformative procedures to change them. No future for them from their jailers (Federal Government) after their terms. Nothing to compensate their families. Listen, I am not against punishment but the "gravity". We are correcting not destroying. So a fair democratic conviction is all right. The harsher you become, the more wayward (destruction) all becomes. So the only regret is that the Federal Government is misinforming Nigeria of the truth" (sic).

However, one of the inmates suggested that

> Frankly speaking, Nigerians involved in drug trafficking should be convinced out of this dangerous trade by embracing them as children and with useful suggestions of an alternative business. The government should censure scandalous publications from unscrupulous journalists in order to ease the problem of national image of Nigerians abroad (sic).

To salvage the good image of Nigeria, it was suggested that

> the ministry of external affairs should do her home work properly, give out handouts to foreign nationals ascertaining that Nigeria is not a drug producing nation, and to also advise Nigerian traffickers to stay clear of drug in other

countries (sic).

In a nutshell, during the interview, the inmates were rather critical of the drug law and legal procedure, which makes room for individuals to be framed on drug charges, to be given improper hearing and put behind the bars; meanwhile, the alleged drug trafficker is neither useful to self, the society nor rehabilitated. The long term jail even provides avenue to become hardened, and protests more vehemently against societal deprivations and laws.

CHAPTER SEVEN

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Earlier studies on the problem of illicit drug trafficking (by Ahire 1992, Alemika 1990, Eze 1990, Iyamabo 1990, Omoluabi 1990) have consistently shown that female convicts engaged in drug simply because of Economic, political and social hardship being experienced in the country, as well as massive rate of unemployment of our youth. It was also revealed that Nigeria was discovered as a new drug trafficking route where the traffickers can operate without being harrassed by the law enforcement agents. More females engaged in drug business because they discovered they could become rich within a very short time.

Since society is not static, but is constantly changing from one historical epoch to the other, there is bound to be conflict resulting from the interdependence and interconnectedness of the various facets of our social existence in which different classes play a role. These conflicts were being resolved for better or for worse, if we bear in mind that economy is the base on which other superstructures depend.

It is on this basis that the researcher has examined the socio-economic characteristics of the convicted female hard-drug traffickers. The research is also meant to examine the correctional goals and underlying guiding principles for convicted female drug

traffickers, as well as to determine its effectiveness and efficiency.

From the data collected and analysed in this study, the socio-economic characteristics of convicted female drug traffickers were first discerned. The data suggest that convicted female drug traffickers are mostly between the ages of 26-30 years, come from south-western states, virtually educated, belong to Christian religion, mostly self-employed or unemployed, married, serve as drug couriers-exporters most of the time. They are also from wealthy, average and poor family backgrounds with the majority from poor family background.

Furthermore, the study revealed that convicted female hard-drug traffickers got to know about the drug business mostly from their friends, and were caught with drugs such as cocaine, heroin and Indian hemp. The majority were arrested at the airport and drugs were recovered mostly from their body cavities. It was also learnt that the role of the security agents in aiding and abetting in drug business played a significant role in the inability of the drug law enforcement to effectively stop the illicit drug transaction.

Findings also show that, there are indiscriminate sentencing patterns by the Special Tribunal for Miscellaneous Offences. Record showed that inmates caught with the same weight of the illicit drugs were not given equal jail terms. For instance, in part IIB of Decree No. 48 of 1989, it was stated that "a person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable, on conviction, to

imprisonment for a term not exceeding 25 years". But the NDLEA and prison records have shown that a female has been sentenced to life imprisonment in Lagos zone, a male to 50 years in Kano zone. In another situation, two inmates were caught with the same quantity of cocaine. One was sentenced to eight(8) years imprisonment, while the other offender was discharged and acquitted. Even with enough evidence that warranted their imprisonment, some were discharged and acquitted on the basis of want of evidence. One could see that, it is not only the discretionary power of the judges that is at play, but also the inmates' connection with the drug barons who are also in power.

Findings from the convicts revealed that they preferred serving their jail term to exposing their barons, for fear of instant death based on their vow. A few inmates claimed that their dependents were being taking care of by the drug barons, while most of them posited that their dependents were left to their fate. They voiced out that they were of the opinion that the prison condition in Nigeria is far from deterring or rehabilitating offenders. There were no social or educational facilities or workshops, that could occupy their mind. According to an inmate, "an idle mind is a devil's workshop." There were poor living conditions, unprocessed water, no mattress; some convicts were found to be sleeping on mats. There is over-crowding and the presence of numerous infectious insects and diseases.

In Women Security Prison, Kirikiri, in Lagos zone, women were always occupied with one thing or the other. They had secretarial

studies with functioning typewriters for them to practise on, saloon equipment for perming and for jerry curls for those interested in hair-dressing; catering studies and fashion design were also made available to them twice every week. All these were lacking in Kano Central Prison in Kano zone.

It was also observed that inmates were mandated to cook to their taste in order to avoid unnecessary complain. In Lagos zone, It was the female inmates that cooked for themselves, because they had a prison of their own. In Kano zone, the reverse was the case. Male and female inmates were in the same prison. As such, males were mandated to cook for both of them, the reason being that male inmates far out-numbered females, so it was considered too strenuous to exploit the service of the few female inmates present in their midst.

It was stated by the convicts that, since they were not armed robbers, assassins, kidnappers, they saw no reason why these categories of offenders should be given lighter sentences than them. When released, they go into a free society for sometime, then come back to them. Convicted drug traffickers were rather seen as fools for allowing themselves to simply be dumped there with no alternatives from the Federal Government to better their lot at the end of their jail term.

The ineffectiveness and inefficiency of deterrent and rehabilitative principles were further supported by the way inmates responded to questions as to their intention after imprisonment. The majority boldly acknowledged their willingness to go back into

drug trafficking. As posited, they would rather go into drug business and get arrested overseas where the prison terms are conducive and very educative, than be re-arrested for the same offence in Nigeria.

It is a shameful thing that, after all these years of Nigerian independence, the prison system, rather than serve as a corrective institution for offenders, imposes itself as a very destructive institution. It is therefore not surprising that most of the prisoners are not reformed, and subsequently fall into a high rate of recidivism. Therefore, if the prison system cannot effectively correct erring offenders, there is no justification for its continuous existence in the country.

Findings also revealed that, the law Enforcement Agents are absolutely corrupt. Some Immigration Officers were on the payroll of the drug barons. Inmates arrested for drug trafficking were apprehended simply because of a hold up, which prevented the barons from keeping in touch with them regarding their plight, or because the immigration officers who were cronies to barons were off-duty.

The NDLEA officers were also accused of being prone to corruption and framing innocent citizens up on the their refusal to bribe them with dollars. Record also showed that inmates were kept more than three months in detention before prosecution, which was contrary to Decree No. 48, of 1989 regarding arrested drug traffickers.

The prison officers who worked where these inmates were kept, were often subjected to various hardships and constant threats,

because of the status of those involved in drug trafficking. Evidence showed that a few prison officers were demoted and a few dismissed on allegations concerning their dealings with the drug traffick inmates. It was also revealed that prison officers were always threatened by this group of inmates who often mobilized other inmates convicted for other offences to gang up against the prison officers. This could be proved by constant threats in Kano Central prison in Kano zone. Inmates convicted for drug trafficking are intolerable, unappreciative and quick to temper.

Furthermore, the prison officers were said to be highly corrupt. The study revealed that wardresses lacked self-respect, they seized inmates' properties and used them themselves to the detriment of the inmates, and this attitude was perceived as sheer wickedness and envy, rather than adherence to the law. It was also asserted that, even though they were given prison terms, some were said to be released before the stipulated term, based on the directives from above. Even though it is against the prison regulations, there is nothing the prison officers could do other than yield to the demand.

Apart from this, it was discovered that prison officers also released drug inmates at their own discretion, but mostly on contract basis. This was said to always be in conjunction with the prison medical personnel, the prison officer in question and the inmates, after the payment of a stipulated amount. This attitude was not restricted to any offence 'emphasis added'.

On the whole, findings from the convicted female drug

traffickers revealed that their activities, as far as they were concerned, had not tarnished the image of Nigeria in anyway and most of them had no regret for what they had done. One thing to bear in mind is that, even though the inmates did not perceive their engagement in drug trafficking as bad, the end product, which is drug abuse, is disastrous to the future generations in the country. It not only wastes human life by rendering them economically unproductive in the country, it also brings a lot of jeopardy to the family of orientation or family of procreation. This affects their psychological being, as a failure to their spouse, constant miscarriages and drug-related syndrome.

It is also worth noting that the Federal Government is not only concerned with illicit drug trafficking, but has observed that these drugs are used to support criminal motives and adversity. Increase in assassination and murder has been attributed to the use of these drugs. Arrested offenders were said to be exhibiting characters associated with taking some of these drugs.

On the whole, some inmates suggested that the Federal Government should improve the bad economic situation in the country, erase the structural adjustment policy and eradicate black market where foreign currency changes hand. The government was also advised to warn journalist against unscrupulous publications; the Minister of External Affairs should see to printing pamphlets meant for distribution to foreigners coming into the country, and making them aware that Nigeria is not a drug producing nation. Therefore, to curb illicit drug trafficking, the Federal Government should

stop aiding and abetting in this business. Only then can there be any positive result. The Federal Government was advised by the inmates to start from itself before any meaningful campaign could yield good outcome.

In the researchers' opinion, it is the nature of the Nigerian social structure and the present changes in the social system that have created opportunities for women to engage in all types of criminal activities, including drug trafficking. In Nigeria, more women are working mothers both in private and public sectors, This exposes their minds to various vices existing in the society. The drug subculture, created by the social system itself, has permitted the women folk to use the womanhood bestowed on them for procreation, as drug harbouring cavity.

RECOMMENDATIONS

On the basis of these findings, the researcher intended to make suggestions and recommendations. Bearing in mind that Nigeria is operating a capitalist economy, it is important to recognize, along with Lopez-Rey, that "prevention of crime depends more on socio-economic and political planning than on the formulation of specific preventive policies and programmes within an unjust socio-economic and political systems" (cited in Alemika 1990).

Nigeria's crime and narcotic drug problems derive from, and are rooted in, the country's socio-economic and political systems, which impoverish the vast majority of the population and encourage insatiable acquisition of wealth by the poor and wealthy through whatever means.

Therefore, the restructuring of the social order should be made more democratic, just and humane; this is more likely to yield acceptable results than any draconian legislation and brutal punishment that may be enforced in our quest to tackle and curb the rising tidal waves of illicit narcotic drug operations: It will also forestall any emerging danger of widespread cases of drug abuse and addiction.

Furthermore, as we know that certain female drug peddlers are forced into the trade on account of the inequalities arising from unequal allocation and distribution of our national resources, the Federal Government should, as a matter of urgency, step into this issue and make sure that all steps are taken to reduce unemployment and find solution to the effects of spiralling inflation.

In addition, the social policy on narcotics control must integrate supply and demand reduction measures, with broad socio-economic and political plans for providing people and nations with humane alternatives to involvement in illicit production, distribution and abuse of narcotics. This simply means that government attention should be more on demand-reduction such as education of the public on the dangers involved in such business. Nonetheless, demand-reduction goals should be pursued not merely as secondary concern to supply-reduction measures, but both should be seen as integral to each other. This is because supply tends to create demand, and demand also encourages supply. Hence, the need to simultaneously cripple supply of and demand for illicit drugs.

Similarly, the NDLEA and philanthropic organizations should

help identify the drug barons, and the law against them should be stepped up, otherwise the war against drug traffickers, which still remains at the level of couriers, is doomed to fail. In Nigeria, one realises that convicted female drug traffickers are mostly couriers who are not willing to disclose their barons. Intensive survey by the NDLEA officers will, to some extent, expose these barons, just as the U.S.A.(DEA) arrested Manuel Noriega of Panama for his connection with illicit drug trafficking. To do this, the NDLEA officers must be very disciplined and shun bribery, if good result is to be obtained.

However, stricter security control is needed to check the high incidence of drug trafficking in and out of Nigeria. Stricter passport control and punitive measures against Immigration Officers indulging in Passport racketeering will, to some extent, deter individuals from holding more than one international passport.

A close monitoring of the movement of people in and out of Nigeria is needed. A more effective security system at the major ports is also needed to discourage traffickers. Effective surveillance equipment at the various ports is also needed to boost physical security. Adequate arrangements should be made to police our porous land borders, riverine areas and creeks.

Similarly, emphasis should be placed on internal security as well. The NDLEA should, as a matter of fact, know that without the presence of hard-drugs in Nigeria, there can be no drug addicts. So the NDLEA officers should be deployed to various places like hotels, big parties, streets, in order to get the strikers; this

may lead to the arrest of other sub-barons in the business.

Furthermore, any drug control strategy for convicted drug traffickers should emphasize an enhancement of bilateral and multilateral international co-operation in the control of the traffick in narcotic drugs. By making these efforts we are likely to correct the negative impression foreign countries have about Nigeria, and they will stop harassing innocent Nigerian travellers. However, any Nigerian who deals illegally in illicit drugs must be dealt with in accordance with the due process of law in those countries.

The Federal Government should endeavour to introduce penalties which are in consonance with civilized and contemporary practice elsewhere. So also, should all property and monies forfeited by the female drug traffickers be used to help the handicapped and the motherless babies homes, rather than be diverted into private accounts of the officers concerned.

Moreover, whenever female drug traffickers are caught in a foreign country, in an aeroplane, or a ship, all law enforcement agents on duty at the port of departure must be probed, to determine their complicity or otherwise. If found guilty, they should be adequately punished, to serve as a deterrent for other officers. They should be dealt with accordingly and should not be seen as above the law in any case.

For the NDLEA to function efficiently and uninhibited, extra care must be taken in the selection, training and renumeration of its personnel, to ensure that the Agency is not penetrated and

corrupted by drug merchants who have more than enough resources for such purpose. Drug law enforcement officials should be carefully monitored for possible corruption by and collusion with drug dealers. We should not enact laws only to break them the following day.

Political interference in the enforcement of law against female drug traffickers and barons should be avoided. The provision of Decree No. 48 which vests in the President the power to authorise requests by the NDLEA to conduct "Investigation of any person whose life style appears to the Agency to be beyond his source of income" (Section 34) should be amended. As such, the power should be transferred to a high court, which will grant such authority after proceedings normally involved in applications for injunctions, habeas corpus, etc. The provision in its present form, can be abused by a dictatorial and malicious President, since we do not know the extent of involvement of government officials in illicit drug trafficking. To avoid benefit of doubt, such provision should be removed from the President's veto power.

Furthermore, convicted drug traffickers should consider the health risk involved in this business and desist from any engagement after their release. They should rather go into fashion design or trade in designers clothes which could fetch money as well. This type of business is legally accepted and seems to be the order of the day in Nigeria.

The Federal Government should see to the re-valuation of the national currency. Findings showed that more females engaged in

drug trafficking because of the continuous devaluation of the Naira; this subsequently made them go in for dollars in the black market. Therefore it was posited that, if the value of the Naira is raised from its present level, the Nigerian economy will improve, and life will be less difficult for citizens. It will also improve the standard of living of the populace.

However, the four strategies introduced by the NDLEA such as the legal and institutional strategy, the repressive or control strategy, the educative or demand reductive strategy, as well as the rehabilitative or detoxification strategy, should not be antagonistic to each other; rather, they should complement each other.

With regard to the legal and institutional strategy, the law should be spelt out as clearly as possible; equality before the law should be their motto in practice and not on paper. Fair and humane punishment should be emphasized.

Members of the Special Tribunal for Miscellaneous Offences should be disciplined. They too should not be above the law. Corruption and bribery should not be allowed to jeopardise the purpose of their assignment. Judgement should not be handed down to victims haphazardly; rather, due process of law should be allowed to prevail. Democracy should be their watch word in delivering judgement on victims who hail from wealthy, average or poor family background.

The law should not only focus on punishing the erring female offenders for drug trafficking, but should make provisions for ways

to curb illicit supply of, and demand for, these drugs. Only then could there be any meaningful result.

Secondly, the repressive or control strategy which seems to be the most dominant strategy used in the attempt to curb illicit trafficking should be looked into. To deter people from committing a particular offence, there must be facilities available to correct the offender and to allow the offender to see the reasons behind the punishment. Consequently, one only sees that deterrent and rehabilitation principles are only on paper. Convicted female inmates are only dumped into our Nigerian prisons without any facilities that could warrant their correction.Inmates rather remain idle throughout their period of imprisonment and, most of the time, they come out worse than they were when first convicted.

The Federal Government, with the help of the Special Tribunal for Miscellaneous Offences, only send offenders to prison after sentence without thinking of any alternative employment or business they can provide for these inmates after their prison term. With the economic situation in the country and with no alternative after release, the inmates are bound to go back into drug trafficking. It is better for the Federal Government to think twice and to know the pros and cons of convicting female drug traffickers.

This argument is not disproving the fact that the Federal Government should punish the drug traffickers; but they should not be one sided. The Government should think of the outcome of punishing them as well as provide alternative employment which will make them shun the dangerous trade. Since the deterrent and

rehabilitation principles are not yielding any positive result, the government should consider using parole, suspended sentence, community work, for female traffickers, because the Nigerian prison system is not serving the purpose it is intended for.

The third strategy which is the educative or demand reductive strategy at home and abroad should be the yardstick to the fight against drug trafficking and abuse. War against drug trafficking should be fought by all. Women should form various Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOS); they should preach to themselves about the moral degradation involved in using women as drug couriers. It should be preached in all walks of life and to the children as they grow up in school, home and in public places. The children should be socialized in a good way and shun any peer group influence that attempts to engage them in drug trafficking and abuse.

The fourth strategy, which is the rehabilitation or detoxification strategy, is not developed at all; it is only on paper and not in practice. The tradition whereby drug addicts are kept in the same prison as drug traffickers should be amended. There should be a separate site for the treatment programme and it should be in conjunction with the Ministries of Justice, Health, Education, Youth, Sport and Social Development. Drug addicts are meant to be rehabilitated and not to be punished. Keeping them with the traffickers create fear in the mind of other addicts. As such, they may be unwilling to disclose their intention, for fear of being punished.

In conclusion, the knowledge of females' social and economic

rights should spur them up, not into criminal activities, but into hard work, so that they can take up dignified positions in the society. That means, there must be a conscious education of women by the feminist movement. The desire to get rich quick by hook or crook must be discouraged by all women organizations and other social institutions. Women who seek to eradicate inequalities in the system must not do so through criminal activities.

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APPENDIX A

QUESTIONNAIRE FORMAT FOR THE NATIONAL DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY (NDLEA)

Please provide the necessary answers to the underlisted questions.

1 After the apprehension of drug traffickers, what steps does your Agency take?

.....

2 How will your Agency know whether the accused is an agent or a baron?

.....

.....

3 Can you please describe the profile of the female drug traffickers arrested so far?

.....

.....

4 And how many females have you thus far arrested and convicted?

.....

.....

5 What constitute the major hard-drugs found on the female drug traffickers?

.....

.....

6 What is the aim of the punishment meted out to the female drug

traffickers?

(a) Retribution ( )

(b) Deterrent ( )

(c) Rehabilitation ( )

7 Do you think the punishment meted out to the female drug traffickers in the Nigerian Security Prison could serve or had served as a deterrent to the general public?

(a) Yes ( )

(b) No ( )

8 If yes/No, give reason for your answer?

.....

.....

9 Do you think Nigerian female drug traffickers arrested outside the country should be repunished again on their arrival to Nigeria?

(a) Yes ( )

(b) No ( )

10 If Yes/No, give reason for your answer?

.....

.....

11 What, in your own opinion, could be the best strategies/remedies for reducing the wave of this illegal transaction?

.....

.....

12 Do you support imprisonment or execution as an effective

device for reducing the wave of illicit drugs business?

(a) Yes ( )

(b) No ( )

13 If Yes/No, to the above question, kindly proffer your reasons.

.....

.....

14 It is often claimed that many of these female drug traffickers have more than one international passport, bearing names which are not theirs, as well as claiming different states and countries. How far have you gone in detecting these facts?

.....

.....

15 What advice do you have for the internal affairs office on the issuing of international passports to people in the country?

.....

.....

16 Are other government forces willing to co-operate with you in carrying out your duty?

(a) Yes ( )

(b) No ( )

17 If No, give reason for your answer?

.....

.....

18 How far have you gone in curtailing the activities of corrupt custom officials who formed link with the drug barons?

.....

.....

19 What is the aim of detaining people in your branch in Ilupeju?

.....

.....

20 It is reported that a new school for NDLEA has been established in Jos, Plateau State, what purpose is the school intended to serve?

.....

.....

21 What profile and qualification must one possess before one can be recruited into the school?

.....

.....

22 How long is the duration of the course in this school?

.....

.....

23 After the training, what type of work would be assigned to successful graduate?

.....

.....

24 Is there any provision of life insurance by the Federal Government to protect the NDLEA members and their immediate family?

.....

.....

APPENDIX B

QUESTIONNAIRE FORMAT FOR PRISON OFFICERS

Please tick the appropriate box against each question:

Section I

1 Rank of respondent: .....

2 State of Origin: .....

Section II

3 Sex: (a) Male ( )

(b) Female ( )

4 Age at the time of interview:

(1) 15-20 ( )

(2) 21-25 ( )

(3) 26-30 ( )

(4) 31-35 ( )

(5) 36-40 ( )

(6) 41-45 ( )

(7) 46-50 ( )

(8) 51-55 ( )

(9) 56-60 ( )

(10) 61 and above ( )

5 Marital status:

(a) Single ( )

(b) Married ( )

(c) Widowed ( )

(d) Separated/divorced ( )

6 Religious Affiliation:

(a) Islam ( )

(b) Christian ( )

(c) Traditional ( )

(d) None ( )

7 What is your highest formal educational attainment?

(a) No formal education ( )

(b) Koranic education ( )

(c) Primary education ( )

(d) Secondary/Technical education ( )

(e) Diploma/certificate education ( )

(f) University First Degree ( )

(g) Postgraduate Degree ( )

8 How long have you been in the prison service?

(a) 1-5 years ( )

(b) 5-10 years ( )

(c) 11-15 years ( )

(d) 16-20 years ( )

(e) 21-25 years ( )

(f) 26-30 years ( )

(g) Over 30 years ( )

(h) Other (specify) ( )

9 What do you do as soon as a convicted drug trafficker is handed over to you after sentencing?

.....

10 What duty are you required to perform on a convicted drug trafficker?

.....

.....

11 What is the aim of the punishment meted out to the drug trafficker?

(a) Retribution ( )

(b) Deterrent ( )

(c) Rehabilitation ( )

12 Is the purpose really achieved?

(a) Yes ( )

(b) No ( )

13 Do you think the punishment being given to the drug traffickers is enough?

(a) Yes ( )

(b) No ( )

14 If Yes/No, give reason(s) for your answer?

.....

.....

15 What is the dominant profile (Characteristic) of the drug traffickers sent to you so far?

(a) Arrogant and intolerant ( )

(b) Unappreciative and unpredictable ( )

(c) Hardened criminal ( )

(d) V.I.P. and special attention ( )

(e) Very influential and highly educated ( )

(f) All of the above ( )

(g) None of the above ( )

16 Do you support any of the following punishments for any drug trafficker caught regardless of the socio-economic status of the person?

(a) Imprisonment ( )

(b) Amputation ( )

(c) Execution ( )

(d) None of the above ( )

(e) Other(specify) ( )

17 Give reason for your answer:

.....

18 Is Governmental decision to punish drug traffickers not influenced in one way or the other by powerful people in the outside world?

(a) Yes ( )

(b) No ( )

19 How has the influence of those people led to the transfer or a *down-grading of your staff?*

(a) Transfer ( )

(b) Down-grade ( )

(c) Dismissed ( )

(d) None of the above ( )

20 What problems are you facing in dealing with this group of offenders?

(a) Long term imprisonment ( )

(b) Lack of Facilities to work with ( )

(c) Mobilization of other prisoners against the authority. ( )

(d) All of the above ( )

(e) None of the above ( )

21 And how do you hope to solve such problems?

.....

22 What assistance do you think you need from the Federal Government as regards this issue of drug traffick inmates?

.....

.....

APPENDIX C

QUESTIONNAIRE FORMAT FOR CONVICTED FEMALE HARD-DRUG TRAFFICKERS IN NIGERIAN PRISONS.

Please tick the appropriate box of the following selections for each question.

1 Sex:

(a) Male ( )

(b) Female ( )

2 Age:

(a) 15-20 years ( )

(b) 21-25 years ( )

(c) 26-30 years ( )

(d) 31-35 years ( )

(e) 36-40 years ( )

(f) 41-45 years ( )

(g) 46 and above ( )

3 State of Origin; .....

4 Educational attainments:

(a) No formal education ( )

(b) Quranic education ( )

(c) Primary education ( )

(d) Secondary/Technical education ( )

(e) University education ( )

(f) Postgraduate Degree ( )

(g) Other (Specify) ( )

5 Religious Affiliation:

(a) Islamic ( )

(b) Christian ( )

(c) Traditional ( )

(d) None ( )

6 Marital Status:

(a) Married ( )

(b) Separated/divorced ( )

(c) Single ( )

(d) Widowed ( )

7 Number of children if married?

(a) One ( )

(b) Two ( )

(c) Three ( )

(d) Four and above ( )

8 Occupation at the time of arrest

(a) Civil servant ( )

(b) Informal sector ( )

(c) Self-employed ( )

(d) Unemployed ( )

(e) Other (specify) ( )

9 What is your monthly Income Earning before your engagement in drug business?

(a) =N=10-=N=100 ( )

(b) =N=101-=N=200 ( )

(c) =N=201-=N=300 ( )

(d) =N=301-=N=400 ( )

(e) =N=401-=N=500 ( )

(f) =N=501-=N=600 ( )

(g) =N=601-=N=700 ( )

(h) =N=701-=N=800 ( )

(i) =N=801 and above ( )

10 What is the socio-economic status or background of your family?

(a) Wealthy family ( )

(b) Average family ( )

(c) Poor family ( )

11 Are your parents still living?

(a) Yes ( )

(b) No ( )

12 If Yes, are they living together/separated?

(a) Living together ( )

(b) Separated ( )

13 Did you grow up with your parents/guardian?

(a) With your parents ( )

(b) With your father ( )

(c) With your mother ( )

(d) With your sister ( )

(e) With your brother ( )

(f) With your relatives ( )

(g) In a motherless baby home ( )

(h) Others (specify) ( )

14 How has the role of peer groups influenced your moral behaviour towards life?

(a) Socialized you in the right direction( )

(b) Socialized you in the wrong direction( )

(c) Socialized you as a delinquent child ( )

(d) Socialized you as a hardened criminal( )

15 Do you belong to any association?

(a) Yes ( )

(b) No ( )

16 If yes, which of these do you belong?

(a) Women in Nigeria (WIN)( )

(b) Market Women association ( )

(c) Nigerian Union of Teachers (NUT) ( )

(d) Labour Union ( )

(e) Student Union ( )

(f) None of the above ( )

(g) Other (specify) ( )

17 What actually motivated you or lured you into this kind of crime or business?

(a) Unemployment ( )

(b) Living a luxurious life ( )

(c) Making ends meet ( )

(d) Peer group factor ( )

(e) Other (Specify) ( )

18 How did you come to know about the drug business?

(a) Through a god father/god mother ( )

(b) Through friends ( )

(c) Through readings ( )

(d) Other (specify) ( )

19 Which aspect of the transaction were you engage in?

(a) As a drug baron ( )

(b) As a drug courier ( )

(c) Striker ( )

20 As a courier, which category?

(a) Drug courier (Importer) ( )

(b) Drug courier (exporter) ( )

21 Nature of Arrest:

(a) framed ( )

(b) caught red-handed ( )

22 Where were you arrested?

(a) Airport ( )

(b) Sea Port ( )

(c) Land border ( )

(d) None of the above (specify) ( )

23 Which type of hard-drugs are you caught with?

(a) Indian Hemp ( )

(b) Cocaine ( )

(c) Heroin ( )

(d) L.S.D. ( )

(e) Barbiturates ( )

24 Specify the area of concealment where the hard-drugs were recovered from you?

(a) Body cavity ( )

(b) Electrical gadgets ( )

(c) Holy books ( )

(d) In the stew/shoes ( )

(e) Sophisticated hairdo ( )

(f) Within the clothes ( )

(g) Other (specify) ( )

25 Do you regard drug peddling as a business?

(a) Yes ( )

(b) No ( )

26 *If Yes/No, give reason(s) for your answer?*

(a) Because of unemployment ( )

(b) To make ends meet ( )

(c) To live a luxurious life ( )

(d) Others (specify) ( )

27 What role do security officials or government big shots play in this kind of business?

(a) aiding ( )

(b) Abetting ( )

(c) All of the above ( )

(d) None of the above ( )

(e) Other (Specify) ( )

28 Who takes care of your dependent(s) while serving your jail terms?

(a) Drug baron ( )

(b) Left to their fate ( )

(c) Other (specify) ( )

29 What has life been like in prison?

(a) Pleasant ( )

(b) Fair ( )

(c) Hostile ( )

30 Do you think if you are free, you will prefer to live as a needy than to damage your reputation and that of your family?

(a) Yes ( )

(b) No ( )

31 Can you briefly narrate your experiences from the point of arrest to imprisonment?

.....

.....

32 On the strength of your conviction, for how long will you be in this prison?

(a) 1-2 years ( )

(b) 3-4 years ( )

(c) 5-6 years ( )

(d) 7-8 years ( )

(e) 9-10 years ( )

(f) 11 and above ( )

(g) Life imprisonment ( )

33 Do you have any regrets for what you did?

(a) Yes ( )

(b) No ( )

(c) Other (specify) ( )

34 How did you intend to spend your life style after the sentence?

(a) Go back to drug business ( )

(b) Enter into fashion design ( )

(c) To get employment ( )

(d) None of the above ( )

(e) Other (specify) ( )

35 What suggestion do you have for the Federal Government with respect to this issue of drug trafficking by Nigerians?

.....

.....

36 Drug trafficking has rumourdly tarnished this country's image particularly in the U.S.A. Europe and South East Asia. Do you think this assessment is justified?

(a) Yes ( )

(b) No ( )

37 And what can be done to rectify this unhealthy assessment?

.....

.....