

Examining Designs of Selected Juvenile Correctional Facilities in Nigeria: A Case Study Approach

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Abstract:- The term, built environment can be explained as the environment characterized by humans which provides the environs for human activity, this can be seen from buildings, parks, green areas down to neighborhood and cities which usually includes support facilities such as water supply and energy networks. Thus, during the architectural design phase of the juvenile correctional centers, qualities that will enhance the rehabilitation process should be considered and implemented. It is in this regard, visual surveys were used to collect data and interviews were done in juvenile correctional facilities in Rivers state, Kwara state and Kastina state respectively Which are in different Geopolitical zones. This study concludes that the design of juvenile facilities in these regions are designed focusing more on punishment and less on reintegrating and reformatting these juveniles.

Keywords:- Built Environment; Juvenile Centers; Reintegration; Rehabilitation; Correctional Facility.

I. INTRODUCTION

Throughout the history of architecture, the uses of natural features such as objects, shapes have given life to a lot of things. This can be seen through the representation of ornaments which exhibits some characters gotten from plants and animals.

The relationship between humans and nature can be described as one of respect and love rather than one dominating the other...The result of this makes it rich, satisfying, and last longer successfully, but only if both partners agree to change their association so as to become better relevant to each other...With how knowledgeable and responsible we are. new environments can be created to form aesthetically pleasing, ecologically sound...we can create new environments that are sustainably sound, aesthetically satisfying, economically rewarding...This process of reciprocal adaptation occurs...through minor changes in the people and their environment, but a more conscious process of design can also take place.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The main law, the Nigeria's Children and Young Persons Act (CYPL) adopted in 1943 stated its purpose of juvenile justice administration is "to provide for the upkeep and care of the young and the treatment of young offenders and for establishing juvenile court" this law revolves around children who have committed an offence against the law, children to need to be taking care of and protected and children who find it makes the control of them by their parents difficult.

In view of the above mentioned, In Nigeria, the ratio of young people in the country is very high as young people aged 10 to 19 years make up of a larger proportion of the country's population which makes them a great force to create changes in the society. This was explained by Idris and Ejikeme (2005) Therefore, any program, investment or platform to reduce the high rate of cases of child offenders; reprimanding, reforming these child offenders into the society is worth the investment needed to avoid or sop problems that may ensue in the future.

Types of juvenile correctional facilities

There are various institutions established for reprimanding juvenile offenders, they prison sentence to children and adolescent within the ages of 12-18 years isn't acceptable.

1. Observation Schools.

This is a short-term stay for juveniles. It is used to house juvenile offenders who are under trial and in conflict with the law, while they are awaiting trial or to be moved to an appropriate home or Borstals institution.

2. Special Homes.

These are facilities set up for child offenders, they are provided with various facilities to cater and enhance their rehabilitation speed through such as accommodating them, educating them, counselling them and making them involved in vocational activities.

3. *Certified Schools.*

These are modified form of 19th century reformatories or industrial schools for the homeless, destitute and juvenile offenders. They are run by the state which goal is to cater for delinquent children. They are also known as approved schools which provide training and education to juveniles who are yet unfit to be released. The duration of stay depends on the inmates' requirements upon the discretion of the school administration, the stay range for this facility is minimum six months to a maximum of three years.

4. *Borstals.*

This is a long term correctional facility for juvenile offenders. It is mostly housed by adolescents between the ages of fifteen to twenty-one years while been found punishable with imprisonment.

5. *Remand Homes.*

A remand home is a place where juveniles are housed as at the time of the duration in which their cases are being considered or on trial. It's also a place where a child character is closely observed and information regarding their home condition and antecedents are known. After all these are concluded, they appear at juvenile courts and are treated based on prisoner's students Act.

If the home conditions of these juveniles are satisfactory, they are returned back to their parents and a probation officer still has a close supervision of them. If their home conditions are nothing to write home about, they are moved to juvenile correctional institutions such as "certified schools" or "fit person intuitions".

2.1 *Juveniles Behavior and the Built Environment*

The harsh realities remain in the large population of juveniles detained in adult prisons and the decrepit state of juvenile rehabilitation center across Nigeria (Adetula, Adetula & Fatusin, 2010). what juveniles need are far not in common with what the adults need and this should be considered in the way they are reprimanded as compared to adult prisoners as explained by the juvenile justice system of children and young person's law. Rehabilitating and reforming of juvenile offenders is more stressed upon instead of making them go through punitive measures.

Also, environmental psychologists have established a relationship between the built environment and how human behave and studied the function of architectural design in making the behaviors of humans better (De Young, 2013). Behavioral theory or psychology is built upon the idea that all behaviors are acquired through conditioning and conditioning occurs through interaction with the environment, and our responses to environmental stimuli shape our behavior (Watson, 1913; Watson, 1925).

Bell, Greene, Fisher, and Baum (1996) defined this relationship as architectural determinism which explains that architecture without delay enhances and remolds the behavior of people around and within its environs. This goes further to throw more light on the concept of environmental determinism which it's most extreme form sees the physical

environment as the only, or at least as the primary cause of behavior. In relation to environmental determinism are the concepts of environmental possibilism and environmental probabilism. Environmental possibilism views the environment as presenting us with opportunities as well as setting potential limits on behavior (Porteus, 1977, Bell et al, 1996).

According to behavior modification of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (2000), behavior can be explained as the way in which a person responds to things or behave, which brings to one's understanding that behavior is how we acts toward people, things, objects and situations. objects. It can be either bad or good. It can be normal or abnormal according to societal norms.

(UNESCO, 2000). Society will always want to change bad behaviors and try to make behaviors that do not sound normal or that is more of an abomination is made normal. Environmental intervention is proactive and culturally sensitive in nature and seek to prevent juveniles from engaging in problem behaviors by changing the environment in which the behaviors occur and teaching prosocial behaviors (Duda & Utley, 2005).

Positive environmental interventions can also be employed to help juveniles acquire the behavioral and social skills that they will need to succeed in an inclusive environment (Choutka, Doloughty & Zirkel, 2004; Lane, Pierson, & Givner, 2004; Lane, Pierson, & Givner, 2006).

When the built environment is seen and understood in a way especially in rehabilitation centers it has been noted to have an influence on the behavior of inmates within such facilities. Which could either be positive or negative. The built environment has a significant role to play on developing persons one's behavior and attitude. (Villanueva, 2006). This built environment includes all structures created by people, such as buildings, streets, sidewalks, and other utilities (McClure & Bartuska, 2007). It denotes the integrated built context in which individuals live, which affects people in many ways in their attitude and behaviour (Mazumdar, 2000). Rama, Yogesh and Alka (2010) summarized the built environment to be the physical features of colonies mainly the structural, environmental, proximity, infrastructure and service dimensions that make the primary component of built environment. Therefore, both the good or bad environment will adversely affect the normal development of individuals through perception (Malekpour, 2007).

2.3 *Spatial Organization and visual character*

The spatial organizations of a juvenile correctional center are best described and positioned with spaces that allows in the proper utilization of the required natural light and ventilation (Waid & Clement, 2001). The layout of a juvenile correctional facility should have functions which are interrelated with one another and are grouped into clusters which are functional or arranged in a linear pattern with enough access to outdoor environment which should be

easily accessed to the users and at the same times providing a means of privacy to each peculiar facility. With these requirements, the best form of spatial organization that would be appropriate for juvenile correctional centers with focus on reformation through the arrangement and placement of buildings, is the centralized or courtyard form of organization. The centralized layout provides an easy means of monitoring the activities of juvenile delinquents from the central space (Waid & Clement, 2001). The central spaces or courtyards, when beautified, would also serve as good view from different sections of the facility thereby improving the perception of delinquents positively.

III. METHODOLOGY

This study tends to examine three local juvenile facilities in Nigeria, Government Approved school Borokiri, Rivers state, Borstals training school, Adigbe, Abeokuta, Kakuri Borstals Training Institution, Kaduna. The building layout, design and its environment are examined and how these features has helped in reprimanding these juveniles. These facilities are designed to keep custody of juveniles who are against the law (Borstals institutions and Remand center Act, Cap.B11 LTN 2004, laws of federation of Nigeria, 2004).

This study was done based on physical perceptual approach. This approach has to do with taking of pictures and given best guesses as to the present state of the building environment, it is gotten through visual images or through our other sensory organ. Here, both the good and bad elements of these built environments are evaluated. This method has been used to predict positive or negative evaluation of scenic quality (Bell et al, 1996).

This study is descriptive in nature and data is gotten from both visual survey and oral interviews, the visual survey examines the built environment of these facilities and compares it to the desired characteristics of other juvenile correctional facilities. The oral interviews are taken to get data from inmates and staffs, the questions for the inmates were;

1. Why are they being in custody.
2. What offense did they commit?
3. Could their crime be committed out of law by their parents or relatives?
4. What is it like being in a Borstals institution?
5. In what way where they corrected?
6. Are they intending to turn into a new leaf upon release?
7. What will they change in the system if given a chance?

While for the staff questions were asked based on;

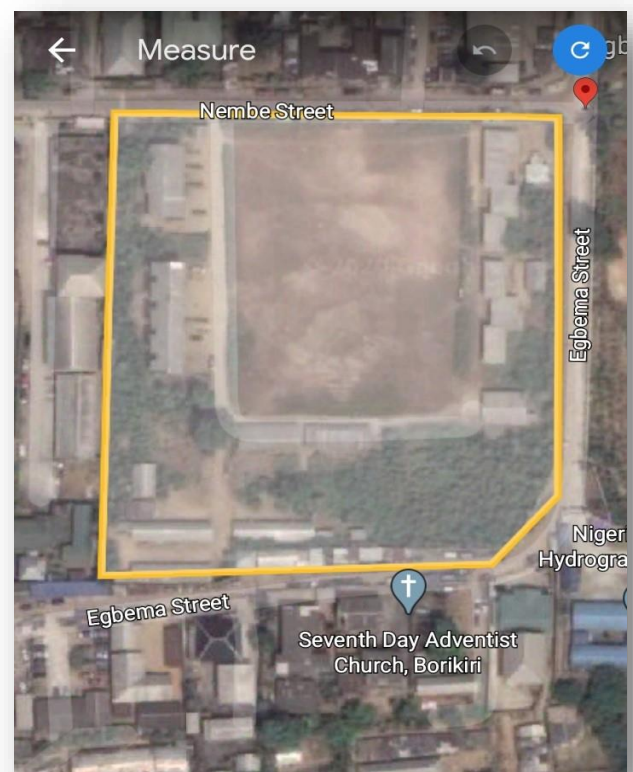
1. What determines a person a juvenile?
2. Duration of stay in facilities.
3. Success rate of this rehabilitation.
4. Design capacity of the facility.
5. Present situation of the facility.
6. Offenders ratio (male to female)
7. Security measures put in place in the facility.
8. What activities are done to reprimand and rehabilitate these offenders.

3.1 CASE STUDY; GOVERNMENT APPROVED SCHOOL BOROKIRI, PORTHACOURT, RIVERS STATE.

Government approved school Borokiri is located at Borokiri which ma town with agglomeration of buildings is where people live and work, it is characterized by a tropical monsoon climate. Which has more raining season as compared to dry season.

It was formally a Borstal home for juvenile delinquents. It is no more functional due to poor management of the place; the structure is still in good condition as it still houses people and some of the facilities are still in use.

The site layout of this facility is of campus/courtyard style. Firstly, when coming into the environment, a football field is seen and by the left-hand side of it are staff houses provided for staffs that work in the facility, by your left-hand side are vocational centers such as tailoring, welding, catering, mechanical/ electrical workshops. Etc. At the rear end are the administrative area and at the back of it are inmate's residences. They are all single structures. The facility occupies a small area of land that can't actually accommodate all units and services needed to run a juvenile correctional center. The site is bounded by residential buildings.



Google map of Government approved school Borokiri showing the Ariel view, gotten from google earth 2021.

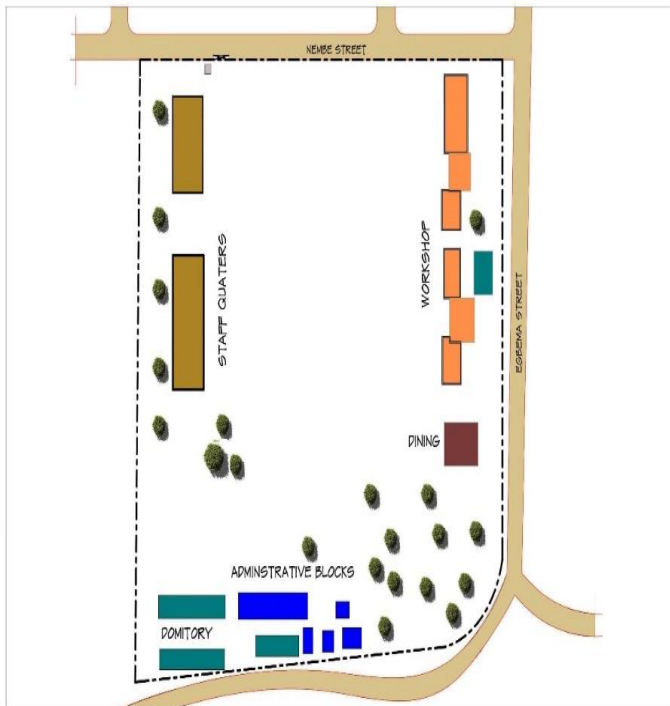


Fig 1: layout of Government Approved School Borokiri, Rivers sate: Authors field survey.

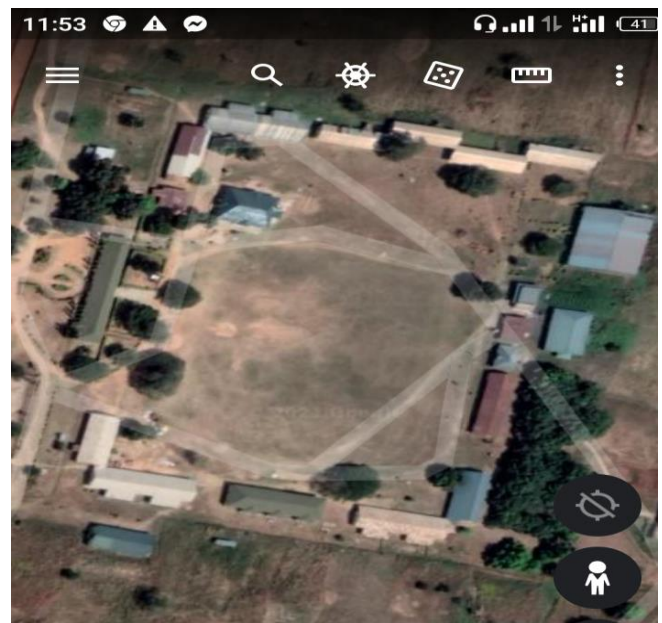


Fig 2: Kakuri, Bortal training institution, Kaduna State: Authors field survey.

3.2 CASE STUDY; KAKURI BORSTAL TRAINING INSTITUTION, KADUNA STATE.

Kakuri Borstals training institution is located at the north western region of Nigeria along a gentle hill, along Zaira. It is located in a populated region and it is characterized by a wet, tropical savanna climate which has alternating wet and dry climate, there is less annual rainfall in this region. Thus, buildings have to a bit closely beside each other and trees and shrubs should be existing so as to limit the wind that comes into the environment. the facility is a borstal home for young offenders for boys. The site layout is of an open courtyard pattern as all building are around a courtyard, which provides natural light and ventilation to the buildings. The site has vegetation, small shrubs, and trees and large expanse of soft land.

The facility is located in a serene and quiet neighborhood. There is no interference from noise coming from vehicles. The facility has existing greens and natural vegetation and trees.



Google map of Kakuri borstal institution showing the Ariel view, gotten from google earth 2021.

3.3 CASE STUDY 3; BORSTAL TRAINING COLLEGE, ADIGBE, ABEOKUTA, OGUN STATE.

Borstal training institution Adige is a juvenile correctional facility which is located in the south western region of Nigeria, the climate in this region is a Sahel savannah climate. It is predominantly occupied by boys. The site layout is of courtyard pattern. As all buildings are connected through an open space. The site consists of shrubs, flowers trees.

It is located hot far from residential area as there is no interference with noise coming from vehicles and other buildings. The facility consists of different blocks which some are a bit dilapidated but with the donations & commissioning of buildings in recent months, there tends to be a change in the welfare & treatment of these juveniles.

The facility has a more user-friendly approach to reform and also various activities undergone in this facility makes it easier for interaction between stay grand students.

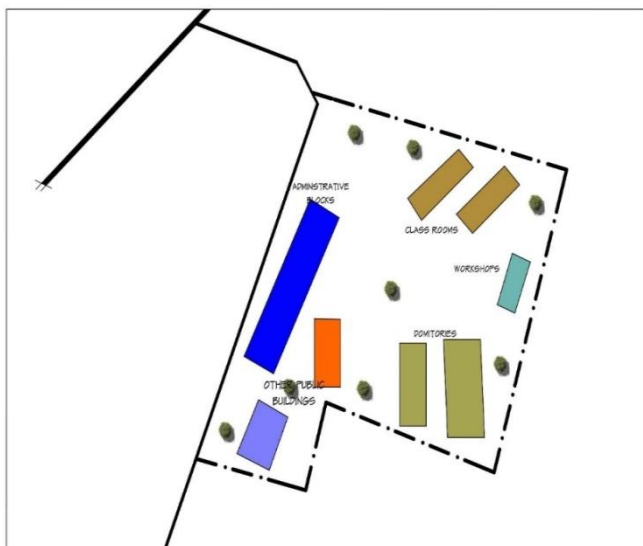


Fig 3: Kakuri, Bortal training institution, Kaduna State: Authors field survey.



Adigbe Borstals institution showing the built environment of the facility, gotten from hotels.ng Places, Borstals training institution, Abeokuta.

IV. ORAL DATA FINDINGS

From oral Interviews conducted on three juvenile correctional facility listed above, the status of rehabilitation services in these facilities were known. Questions were asked to the inmates of this facility and also the staffs available at that time of visit.

From this interview conducted on them, I was able to understand that;

1. Most of the inmates are in custody because of cultism and armed robbery.
2. It was difficult for crime to be settled out of court by their parents because most parents don't know what their children do behind their watch.
3. Staying in the facility is not a pleasant experience.
4. They are thought skills, vocational training and counselled
5. They want to turn a new leaf because they wish not to come back to the facility.
6. What they will want to change in the system is the meal given to them.

From this interview conducted on them, I was able to deduce that;

1. A juvenile is regarded as someone within the age of 15-18 years.
2. The duration of stay in these facilities are within 1-3 years.
3. The success rate of rehabilitation had reduced because government isn't supporting with them`
4. The design capacity for inmates in this facility are within the range of 100-200 inmates
5. In a ratio of 2-10, about 2 out of 10 inmates are females.
6. The security measures put in place are the use of wall fences, barb wires which is not adequate.
7. The activities done to reprimand and rehabilitate these inmates are making sure they are involved in vocational and skill acquisition programs so as to take their minds away from crimes.

V. RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION

This paper made use of surveys visually and through interviews which were conducted orally to collect and analyze data. The visual survey showed that there is a decline in providing basic facilities when in contrast to international standards. As towards the oral interview asked it is understood that a large amount of the inmates have no good thing to say about the built environment and the government has done little or nothing to improve the state of the facilities. It also shows that the inmates are aware of their environment and thus, the increase for making the built environment conducive and give the inmates a positive view of the environment should be made available so that these juveniles will in turn not come out worse than they are upon release.

The built environment of these facilities can be improved on if the use of Biophilic design is taking into consideration, this has to do with the process of humans having a close relationship with nature, also, it can be defined as the direct human inclination to adapt with nature that even in the modern world, nature continues to affect people's physical & mental health & wellbeing (Kellert 1997).

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