

The Imperativeness of Psychological Inventories in Dignosing Crime Intentions Among Nigerian Unemployed Graduates, Using Pisco for Remediation to Enhance Societal Security

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Abstract

The study juxtaposed the imperativeness of psychological inventory in the execution of counseling programmes and presented the validity and reliability of the Crime Behaviour Factor Battery, and its relevance in diagnosing crime intentions. It investigated the effectiveness of PISCO Creativity Thinking Tool in remediating criminal intentions among the unemployed graduates in Osun State, Nigeria, to foster societal security. 120 unemployed graduates were purposively selected on the basis of convenience, availability and simple randomization from Iwo and Ayedire Local Government in Osun State. Their ages range from 21-36 with a mean of 28.5. Sixty participants from Iwo Local Government formed the experimental group while sixty in Ayedire formed the control. The experimental group was exposed to training in PISCO creativity thinking tool for a period of six weeks, while the control group waited for its turn.

Index terms— Psychological inventories, Crime Behaviour Factor Battery, PISCO, and Societal Security.

1 Introduction

hungry man is an angry man, and definitely, many of the insecurity issues in the society arise from peoples' reactions to social and economic deprivations they suffer from. There were less incidences of insecurity in the past because a larger percentage of the populace were meaningfully engaged, but now, the reverse is the case. It is no longer news that the problem of graduate unemployment in Nigeria is currently at an alarming rate. Many of these young and able body graduates roam the streets in search for a job that is not there. After spending precious years of hard labour and enormous resources in school, they get nothing good in return but subjected to hardship, suffering and lack amidst Nigerians plenty of resources which a few siphon and use anyhow. These young graduates are therefore, idle, hungry and angry. Really, an idle hand is the devil's workshop. These young unemployed graduates are therefore prone to join bad groups and eventually participate in crime which consequently jeopardize the security of the nation. The graduates of this generation in Nigeria suffer hardship due to embarrassing population explosion with over 180 million currently scrambling for a place and survival in the badly wounded and battered economy; whereby there is little or no chance for the children of the masses.

No wonder, our streets are littered with bundles of unemployed graduates whereby many of them take to menial jobs to keep the soul and body together, while others become taxi drivers, bus conductors and expert Okada riders. The advanced countries of the world capitalize on the problematic situation in our country by indirectly introducing modern way of slavery through visa-lottery whereby thousands of our young graduates are captured on annual basis to serve them. The shameless among our unemployed graduates, however, take to prostitution or advanced fee fraud popularly known as 419, while the devilish and pessimistic ones choose to be armed robbers. In fact, Animasahun (2011a) reported that 75% of professional armed robbers in Abuja are University graduates who belong to the neglected unemployed sector. Did you hear about the day-light armed

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robbery incident that took place in Ibadan sometimes ago where police men and several innocent passers-by were killed? Such operation couldn't have been carried out by unintelligent robbers but the neglected unemployed graduates whom Satan has offered devilish and dastard assignments. Adisa (2011) reported that the ousted Libyan leader, Muamman Ghadafi capitalized on the menace of graduate unemployment in Nigeria by recruiting several Nigerian graduates into the Libyan Army.

Insecurity has assumed frightening dimension in all parts of the country. The law enforcement agencies are in most cases outwitted and outgunned by armed robbers because they are better equipped (Fasanya, 2009). In his attempt to dig deep into the causes of high rate of crime in Nigeria, Animasahun (2000), (2007) and (2011) discovered that the high rate of terrorism, gangsterism, vandalism and membership of the rampant militant groups such as Oodua Peoples Congress (OPC), Bakkassi Boys, Egbesu Youths, Niger Delta Militant Youths, MASSOB, MEND, Arewa Youths, and the latest religious fanatics in the North called Boko-Harams etc all over the country has been traced to ignorance, poor education, unskilled labour, lack of gainful employment, protest against oppression, inequality, inequitable distribution of resources, frustration and excessive youthful exuberance, poor leadership; cumulative neglect and insensitivity to the yearnings of the suffering masses languishing in abject poverty as well as systemic failure in curbing religious extremists. Fasanya (2009) confirmed that graduate unemployment has resulted in greater insecurity in the country. The recently kidnapped journalists reported that their kidnappers said they were not angry with the journalists but with the government that has made life difficult for the youths by not providing them with good jobs, and allow poverty to destroy the lives of the innocent incapacitated masses. Really, a meaninglessly engaged individual is a terror to the peace of the society! Nigeria has turned to a country where you can kill and go scot free; you can steal and go scot free, you can fraud and defraud others without any adverse consequences provided you have the right 'godfathers'. This is a country where codes of ethics are meant for the less privileged; a country where some people are above the law; a country where security is only guaranteed for those who can afford bullet proof wears, bullet proof houses and bullet proof cars. The country, where some lazy and opportunist cargoes turn billionaires over night because they are in politics, and become tin-god and renown oppressors to be worshipped by innocent and powerless masses before the latter can survive; the country that parades vagabonds on the corridor of power; the country where politicians trample over defenseless masses who could not afford three square meals a day; the country where a Senator earn more than the US president or the British Prime Minister on monthly basis whereas a lot of the populace are decked in abject poverty; a country where innocent, hardworking and honest individuals are being trampled upon by the power that be; a country where the golden cake is reserved only for the privileged few. This is a country where the gap between the affluence and poverty level is widening everyday; where some people can afford to build houses in every states of the federation whereas some innocent Nigerians still live under the bridge, and the take home of many hard working individuals cannot enable them to build their own houses. This is a country where morality has been thrown to the dogs; a country where money is our god and where the fear of God is no longer the beginning of wisdom, but the apex of foolishness! No doubt, escalated crime rate in such a country is inevitable.

Pakes and Pakes (2009) reported plenty of crime stories in the news media which criminal justice system cannot cope with. Aremu (2007) reported that rarely does an evening pass in which the locally televised nightly news does not provide coverage of at least one shocking and disturbing act of criminal violence involving juvenile and youths. Inspiring Life Choices (2008) presented a comprehensive pattern of behaviours of the young ones. Sanni, Udoh Okediji, Modo and Ezech (2010) advanced this by establishing that cruelty, bullying, fighting, vandalism, roughness during games, use of foul language, stealing, lying, cheating, examination malpractices, gambling, truancy, drug abuse, noise-making, disobedience, stubbornness, apathy, untidiness, failure to wear correct uniform, reading and watching pornographic materials, sexual immorality, mob action, loitering and carrying of weapons currently dominate the activities of secondary school students in Nigeria. Aremu (2012) buttressed this by reporting a rivalry between two secondary schools in Ibadan recently where dangerous weapons such as broken bottles, knives, cutlasses and charms were freely used. All these are as a result of the rot in the society which eventually advance into real criminal behaviours that threaten the societal security.

Criminology, the scientific study of criminal and criminal behavior (Encarta Premium, 2009) attempts to build theories that explain why crimes occur. Hence, theories such as Social control, Differential Association, General strain, among others were put forward, but placed more emphasis on strain theories as more germane to adolescents' and youths' criminal behaviours. Robert Agnew, the propounder of this theory said that an increase in aspirations and a decrease in expectations lead to an increase in criminal behaviours and that strain is a major motivator for crime (Agnew, 1985; 1995a; 1995b; 2001).

Ya'u (2000), Animasahun, (2011) and African Child Rights Inc (2011) confirmed the authenticity of this theory in explaining why adolescents and youths engage in serious crime.

It is therefore, highly imperative that crime intentions are diagnosed earlier by using validated and standardized instruments called psychological tests to discover early and make efforts to prevent the actualization of such crime intentions.

A psychological test can be defined as a stimulus presented to an individual so as to elicit a response on the basis of which a judgment is made on certain attributes and abilities possessed by that individual. The response which constitutes the basis of

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Year such a judgment is essentially a sample of the individual's behavior from which inferences are made about the entire universe of abilities and attributes possessed by that individual.

Psychological test, according to Freeman (2006), is a set of standardized or controlled occasions for response presented to an individual with design to elicit a representative sample of his behavior when meeting a given kind of environmental demand. He further explained it to be a standardized instrument designed to measure objectively one or more aspects of a total personality by means of samples of verbal or non-verbal responses, or by means of other behaviours. ??nastasi There have been a lot of psychological tests measuring different variables, however, there is dearth of instruments measuring crime behaviours and factors responsible for them. This is the rationale behind the development and validation of Crime Behaviour Factor Battery (CBFB) (Animasahun, 2011b). It is an inventory with 14 different scales constructed on 5-point Likert format, with responses ranging from 1(Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree). While Test 1 is the crime behavior rating scale, Tests 2-14 account for various factors responsible for committing crime. Brief explanation of the instrument and their psychometric properties are as shown in Table 1. As soon as results obtained from the test above reveal the presence of crime intentions, necessary logistics should be put in place to remediate such behaviours. One of the ways to do this is to utilize certain creativity techniques and thinking tools.

Creativity is the process of generating a new idea to solving certain problems. Adeyanju (2004) defined it as the ability to find new solutions to a problem or new modes of expression. While De Bono (1992) conceptualized creativity as the process of bringing about new ideas and updating old ones, Akinboye (2000) describes it as the ability to produce new ideas, new concept, new design and alternative ways of doing things. Animasahun (2002) however, offered a comprehensive definition by defining creativity as conscious cognitive processes stimulated by problematic situation, guided by interest and resulting in the generation of statistically infrequent, valuable and appropriate ideas useful in turning challenges of life into fruitful, beneficial and profitable outcomes. The latter definition is more relevant in this situation of reducing and preventing crime in the society. To benefit from creativity therefore, criminal or potential criminal needs to be aware of his problem, consciously interested in getting out of it, give room for alternative ideas which would now liberate him from the problem whereby he becomes useful to himself and the entire society.

Though a lot of techniques and creativity thinking tools are available, the one which is considered to be more relevant in remediating criminal intents and re-orientating an individual towards a new life is a creativity thinking tool selected from the pool of creativity thinking frameworks called PISCO.

PISCO is a creativity thinking tool, developed by Edward De-Bono, which is a strong component of Creativity Thinking Frameworks (Akinboye, 2003). It is a creative thinking acronym which stands for the following: P = Purpose of thinking. Here, an individual asks himself questions such as: What is the purpose of my thinking? Why am I thinking this way? What do I want to achieve with this kind of thinking? This particular thinking tool teaches an individual not to use the brain faculty any how or using it on futile exercise or such exercise that are not productive or beneficial to mankind. It teaches an individual to watch out for what transpires in ones' mind by consciously taking control of one's thinking pattern. I = Input information. This is a process of consciously searching for information that can transform one's present position or condition for the better. It enables an individual to acquire certain experiences and collect various data from various sources. S = Solutions. An individual critically examines the collected information with the aim of using some of them to generate solutions to the present problem. Here, various alternative ideas, concepts and approaches are available from which an individual can choose. C = Choice. Here, the thinker consciously chooses an idea from many attractive alternatives. O = Operation. This is an action stage. Here, the thinker puts the selected alternative into action. This stage teaches that an idea must not remain at the theoretical level but that an immediate action must be taken to forestall idleness or allow a good idea to die without seeing the light of the day. This is therefore an implementation and final stage of PISCO. This is the technique used in this study for the remediation of crime intentions of unemployed graduates in Osun State. Hence, the only hypothesis for this study states that: There will be no significant difference in crime behavior intent test scores of unemployed graduates exposed to PISCO creativity thinking tool programme and their counterparts in the control group.

3 II.

4 Design

The research adopted one way analysis of covariance (ANCOVA) using the pre-test scores as covariates to find out if post-test difference was significant.

5 III.

Participants A total of one hundred and twenty unemployed graduates were purposively selected on the basis on convenience, availability and simple randomization from Iwo and Ayedire Local Government of Osun State. Their ages ranged from 21-36 with a mean of 28.5. Sixty participants from Iwo Local Government formed the experimental group while the sixty unemployed graduates from Ayedire Local Government formed the control.

IV.

6 Instrumentation

The crime behavior rating scale which is the first scale in the Crime Behavior Factor Battery (Animashaun 2006) was used to measure the crime behavioural intention of the unemployed undergraduates at both the pre and post test situation. It has 33 items constructed on 5-point Likert format. It has a norm of 63 whereby any score above the norm is an indication of crime behavioural intention. It has a Cronbach Alpha of 0.95 and a Guttman split half reliability of 0.82.

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8 Procedure

It was an herculean task to get the unemployed graduates to participate in this kind of exercise. However, the researcher went through the management of Action Congress of Nigeria which is the current ruling party in Osun State to help in discussing the issue with the Chairmen of the two randomly selected Local Governments, otherwise called Executive Secretaries to assist in getting the unemployed graduates in their Local Governments informed since they were currently registering for possible employment in all Local Governments in the state. Hence, arrangements were made for the researcher to meet the unemployed graduates. The meetings were successful. The researcher requested for volunteers to participate in a creativity training programme which would be of benefit to them. A lot of them showed interest while several others turned down the offer. However, the number of those who showed interest was more than could be accommodated, the process of balloting ensued, whereby sixty participants were selected from each Local government. The Crime Behavior Factor Battery was administered on all the participants to collect their pre-test scores. After this, the participants in Iwo Local Government were exposed to PISCO creativity thinking tool programme for a period of six weeks, whereby sessions of 2 hours twice a week were observed in the Conference Hall of the Local Government. However, the control group participants in Ayedire Local Government waited for their turn. Nevertheless, at the expiration of six weeks, the Crime Behaviour Factor Battery was administered again to collect the post-test scores of both the experimental group and their counterpart in the control group. After the whole exercise, the researcher came back to teach the participants in the control group at Ayedire Local Government some creativity techniques.

9 VI.

10 Data Analysis

The collected data was subjected to a one-way Analysis of Covariance (ANCOVA).

11 VII.

12 Results

The result of the analyzed data are hereby presented in the tables below:

To test the hypothesis, analysis of covariance (ANCOVA) was employed to analyse the posttest scores of all participants in both the experimental and control group, using the pretest scores as covariates to find out if posttest difference was significant. The result presented in table 1 above shows that there was a significant difference in the crime behavioral intentions posttest scores of participants in the experimental and control groups ($F(1,117) = 968.875 < 0.05$). Based on this, the null hypothesis was rejected. Therefore, there is a significant difference in crime behavioral intentions posttest scores of experimental and control group. The table also reveals that the groups (treatment and control group) behavior with respect to PISCO creativity thinking tool programme has large effect on their posttest scores (Partial Eta Square = .892), which also implies that the group accounted for 89.2% in the variation of their crime behavioral intentions posttest scores.

In order to provide more details on the variation in post-test mean score of participants in treatment and control group, the pair-wise comparison was computed. This is shown in Table 2. Table 2 shows that the participants in the control group has the highest adjusted mean score ($X = 64.742$), while the participants exposed to treatment obtained the lowest adjusted mean scores ($X = 117.925$). These values were obtained by adding the respective adjusted deviations with the grand mean. This is evident that the intervention (PISCO technique) was effective. This therefore implies that the control group possesses a higher tendency to exhibit crime behaviours than the treatment group.

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More so, the analysis of covariance model reveals $R^2 = 0.896$ and Adjusted $R^2 = 0.894$. This implies that the treatment intervention overall accounted for 89.4% variance of the participants' crime behaviour

scores, while the remaining 10.6% are due to unexpected sampling errors and variables outside the scope of this study.

VIII.

Discussion

This study has established that Crime Behaviour Factor Battery is a potent instrument in diagnosing crime behavioural intentions, whereby the result obtained can be used as a guide in the right direction of counseling intervention. The study has also established the effectiveness of PISCO creativity thinking tool training in the remediation of criminal behavioral intentions among the unemployed graduates in Osun state. The findings lend credence to the earlier submission of De-bono (1992), Akinboye (2000);

Recommendations

It is therefore recommended that all stakeholders in the affairs of the young ones should make effort in diagnosing possible criminal behavioural intentions of the youths and adolescents, especially the undergraduates as well graduate students, in order to discover earlier the traits of crime in them and also make efforts for remediations. PISCO creativity thinking tool technique should be adopted in training the young ones to think appropriately and generate new ideas that they can uphold in life rather than being involved in any criminal activity which is totally inimical to the peace of the society.

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Figure 1:

Animasahun (2011) further expatiate the general functions of psychological tests which include:
Diagnosis,

Prediction, Counselling,

Selection, Placement, Classification,

Figure 2:

1

| Test Title | No of items | Example of items | Cronbach's alpha | Guttman half reliability |
|--|-------------|--|------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Crime behavior rating scale | 33 | My behavior often go contrary to acceptable norms | 0.95 | 0.82 |
| 2 Personal factors | 38 | Lack of self control | 0.96 | 0.83 |
| 3 Family/Parental factors | 38 | Brought up by non-challant and care free parents | 0.98 | 0.83 |
| 4 School based factors | 30 | Taught by highly indisciplined teachers | 0.95 | 0.84 |
| 5 Social factors | 22 | Living in slums and ghettos | 0.95 | 0.88 |
| 6 Economic factors | 16 | Poverty and inability to provide basic needs | 0.87 | 0.94 |
| 7 Societal factors | 31 | Respect for superficial wealth irrespective of source | 0.96 | 0.84 |
| 8 Political factors | 41 | Presence of people with high track record of deviant behaviours in power | 0.97 | 0.91 |
| 9 Factors resident in law enforcement agencies | 24 | Bribery and corruption has eaten deep into the fabrics of our law enforcement agents | 0.95 | 0.87 |
| 10 Factors resident in the judiciary | 15 | Delayed justice and consequent denial is the order of the day | 0.94 | 0.85 |
| 11 Religious factors | 15 | The fear of God has become a thing of the past | 0.91 | 0.81 |
| 12 Peer group factors | 7 | Association with peers known for criminal records and deviant behaviours | 0.81 | 0.91 |
| 13 Media factors | 7 | Bad dressing and all sorts of crime are learnt from the internet | 0.92 | 0.84 |
| 14 Career related factors | 20 | A wrong choice of career can influence an individual into crime | 0.95 | 0.85 |

[Note: AYear split It should be]

Figure 3: Table 1 :

| Source | Type III Sum of Squares | Df | Mean Square | F | Sig. | Partial Eta Squared |
|-----------------|----------------------------|-----|-------------|---------|------|---------------------------|
| Corrected Model | 88250.467 ^a | 2 | 44125.233 | 503.959 | .000 | .896 |
| Intercept | 3985.238 | 1 | 3985.238 | 45.516 | .000 | .280 |
| pretest2 | 3980.467 | 1 | 3980.467 | 45.461 | .000 | .280 |
| group2 | 84832.009 | 1 | 84832.009 | 968.875 | .000 | .892 |
| Error | 10244.200 | 117 | 87.557 | | | |
| Total | 1099508.000 | 120 | | | | |
| Corrected Total | 98494.667 | 119 | | | | |

a. R Squared = .896 (Adjusted R Squared = .894)

Figure 4:

2

| (I) group | (J) group | Mean Difference (I-J) | Std. Error | Sig |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|------------|------|
| treatment group | control group | -53.183 * | 1.709 | .000 |
| control group | treatment group | 53.183 * | 1.709 | .000 |

Figure 5: Table 2 :

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