

## **Effects of Prison Overcrowding On the Rehabilitation of Inmates in Liberia: A Study of Monrovia Central Prison**

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**ABSTRACT:** *This research thesis aimed at investigating effects of prison overcrowding on the rehabilitation of inmates in Monrovia Central Prison, Liberia. This research study aimed at achieving the following objectives to identify the effectiveness of inmates incarceration on behavior change in Monrovia Central Prison, to examine how prison overcrowding affects the self-sustainability of inmates in Monrovia Central Prison to determine the relevance of vocational education for inmates in Monrovia Central Prison and to establish the relationship between prison overcrowding and vocational education for inmates in Monrovia Central Prison, Liberia. Key informant interview guide was designed and administered to key informants to capture qualitative information. Data from questionnaire were edited and coded then entered in a computer and Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS) program was used to analyze it. The percentage number of respondents according to variables such as; sex, age, objectives and so on were computed and presented using tables. Prison overcrowding and its effects on the rehabilitation of inmates was established using Pearson Linear Correlations Coefficient Statistical Method. Findings revealed that the effectiveness of inmates' incarceration on behavior change in Monrovia Central Prison has the overall mean or had a value of 2.582 and standard deviation of 66.3%. This implies that inmates are likely to change their behaviors after all they have been jailed and released later on. Findings revealed that the Prison overcrowding affects the self-sustainability of inmates in Monrovia Central Prison had a mean rated to 2.713 and standard deviation of 0.795 estimated to 79.5%. The researcher concluded that there is a need to explore the Effectiveness of inmates incarceration on behavior change in Monrovia Central Prison.. The second objective was to investigate the extent to which prison overcrowding affects the self-sustainability of inmates in Monrovia Central Prison in Liberia. The study results based on a Pearson's Correlation revealed that there is a positive and weak relationship between prison overcrowding and rehabilitation programs at Monrovia Central Prison, Liberia The researcher recommended that the government of Liberia should protect prisoners' physical and mental health. That is to say: the time prisoners spend out of their cells may be increased, with maximum possible time spent in the open air*

**KEYWORD:** effects, prison overcrowding, rehabilitation of inmate, inmate

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## INTRODUCTION

According to Trester (1981), the concept “rehabilitative” is derived from Latin word “habilitatus” translated as having the ability or tendency to achieve something. Rehabilitation is a lifelong process in which prisoners acknowledge their anti-social behaviour and display a considerable level of commitment to reconstructing, asserting and redeveloping themselves to becoming reintegrated to their society after undergoing a psycho-educational programme (Tewksbury, 2012). Rehabilitation is therefore a result of an intervention process. According to Adler Freda (1990), a true test of success is non-involvement in crime following the same intervention.

Rehabilitation is a gradual process and the major indicator is reduced recidivism. The processes include safety and order in the management of prisons, discipline and participation. Prisoners are put on program upon admission by Reception Boards and monitored over time. After successful completion of an intervention programme, prisoners are awarded grade tests or certificates. Prisoners contact to outside world include family visits and friends, home release or parole, letters and telephones, legal advisors and consular representatives. Prison overcrowding: In the context of social work is a social phenomenon occurring when the demand for space in prisons in a jurisdiction exceeds the capacity for prisoners. The rise of overcrowding has resulted in: Poor health care, increased gang activity within the prisons, Increase in individual mental health issues, Violence/Racism, Spread of disease and Staff stress (Latessa and Allen, 1999). Rehabilitation: In the context of social work, rehabilitation of inmate is defined as an action taken to restore a prisoner to health or normal life through training and therapy during imprisonment.

Worldwide, prisons are places where offenders are held so as to undergo reformation and become law abiding citizens. The conditions of overcrowding, cruelty and captivity derails the prisons core function of rehabilitation. Humane living conditions are a prerequisite for the successful rehabilitation (Liberia National Commission on Human Rights, 2005). The rehabilitation of prison inmates should begin from the very day they are admitted into the prison to the day they are discharged (Igbo, 2007). Prison reforms aim at bringing best practices in the treatment of offenders and management of prison in general. Penal reforms being undertaken are in line with global trend to shift prison from a punitive and retributive penal system to a reformatory and rehabilitative system.

In Africa, that majority of prisoners throughout the world come from the most disenfranchised sectors of the community where they often have a low level of educational attainment and access. According to Warren Jenifer (2003) this could be the only hope of the inmate to gain skills which can transform his life after incarceration. In Tanzania, prison inmates serving long term sentences may receive vocational training at a prison training college. The country boasts that over 15,000 prisoners have for the past 25 years taken various trade tests.

In Liberia, Poor prison conditions and prolonged pre-trial detention are among the factors behind

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unrest in Liberia's prisons. There were 10 attempted prison escapes in 2010. Disturbances also occurred at prisons in Monrovia, Kakata, Gbarnga and Buchanan, according to United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL Secretary General's 22nd progress report to the Security Council). In Monrovia, prison system was introduced by the British West Africa Protectorate with enactment of West Africa Prisons Regulations No.12/1908 of April, 1871. The post-independence period was not different. Political dissidents were kept in prison as a way of deterrence. The authoritarian governments sought to gain control over them. They were kept under punitive conditions. Upon attaining independence in 1847, the government took interest on prisoners' conditions. The management of prisons took a different dimension with unfulfilled intentions of reforming the prison so as to operate under the requirements of law. Monrovia instituted modern laws to govern behavior of prisoners. For instance, in Liberia, the enactment of Chapter 90 laws of Liberia which deals with legislation for the treatment of adult offenders and chapter 92 laws of Liberia to establish the Borstal Institutions where young offenders of the ages (15-17 years) aimed at transforming prisons from places of punishment to places where offenders could be reformed (Babbie, 2001).

**Statement of the problem:** Prison overcrowding is a recurring problem for many prison administrations including the Monrovia Central Prison. The number of prisons establishments / institutions stood at 15 in 2015- the largest being the Monrovia Central Prison; and the 1164 and 137.5% in 2011. Presently, the official capacity of the prison system as at August 2016 stands at 1553 while the total number of prisons for the same period stands at 2354. Comparatively, there was an increase in the official capacity of the prison system by 389 (1553 minus 1164) which is an increase of about 33% in official prison population (Latessa & Allen, 1999). In all circumstances, the government has a clear and binding obligation not to expose prison inmates to conditions that constitute cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. Liberia's government, still struggling to rebuild the country after a 14-year internal armed conflict, has stated its determination to improve the prison system.

Even though, Amnesty International presented its findings and requested feedback from the Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation within the Ministry of Justice in August (2018) no change has been observed. Presently as of August 2016, prolonged-pre-trial detention across Liberia is put at 65%. The poor conditions of prisons and prisoners are also lifted in the US State Department Report on Liberia for 2013 released on May 5, 2014. Liberia's Solicitor General reported that the Monrovia Central Prison was holding 1,015 inmates in a space designed for 374 (Ministry of Justice Annual Report, 2018). It is in this context that the researcher investigated the effects of prison overcrowding on the rehabilitation of inmates in Monrovia Central Prison, Liberia.

Despite the efforts being made by the Liberian government, the conditions in Liberia's prisons are so poor that they violate basic human rights. Prison inmates are crowded into dark, dirty cells, without adequate food, sanitation or health care. Some suffer permanent damage to their physical or mental health as a result. Most have not been convicted of any crime. The vast majority are people living in poverty, without access to lawyers and with few financial resources.

**Specific objectives:** i. To identify the effectiveness of inmates incarceration on behavior change in Monrovia Central Prison. ii. To examine how prison overcrowding impacts the self-sustainability of inmates in Monrovia Central Prison. iii To determine the relevance of vocational education for inmates in Monrovia Central Prison. iv To establish the relationship between prison overcrowding and vocational education for inmates in Monrovia Central Prison, Liberia

## LITERATURE REVIEW

**Theoretical review:** This research study was based on Behavior Change Theory stated by Van Der Linden, (2013) as cited by Thinane (2010) and the Fogg Behavior Model approach profound by Fogg (2009) developed by Swartz and Townsend in (2011). Empirical studies in criminology support behavioral change theories. At the same time, the general theories of behavioral change suggest possible explanations to criminal behavior and methods of correcting deviant behavior. Since deviant behavior correction entails behavioral change, understanding of behavioral change can facilitate the adoption of effective correctional methods in policy-making. For example, the understanding that deviant behavior like stealing may be learned behavior resulting from reinforces like hunger satisfaction that are unrelated to criminal behavior can aid the development of social controls that address this underlying issue rather than merely the resultant behavior.

Specific theories that have been applied to criminology include the social learning and differential association theories. Social learning theory's element of interaction between an individual and their environment explains the development of deviant behavior as a function of an individual's exposure to a certain behavior and their acquaintances, who can reinforce either socially acceptable or socially unacceptable behavior. Differential association theory, originally formulated by Edwin Sutherland, is a popular, related theoretical explanation of criminal behavior that applies learning theory concepts and asserts that deviant behavior is learned behavior (Shove, et. al, 2012). This theory is suitable to underpin this study because it carefully examines the way inmates and would-be inmates conduct themselves. The theory further makes clear or describes in more detail or reveals relevant facts of correcting deviant or criminal behavior.

Whereas, Rehabilitation Theory is the most valuable ideological justification for punishment. It promotes the humanizing belief in the notion that offenders can be saved and not simply punished. It recognizes the reality of social inequity. To say that some offenders need help to be rehabilitated is to accept the idea that circumstances can constrain, if not compel and lead to criminality; it admits that we can help persons who have been overcome by their circumstances. It rejects the idea that individuals, regardless of their position in the social order, exercise equal freedom in deciding whether to commit crime, and should be punished equally according to their offence irrespective of their social background (Tan, 2008).

Furthermore, this theory is relevant to the study as it tries to establish the justification or rationale

behind the treatment of the convict by changing the attitude and behaviour of criminals so that they will be able to choose lawful means, in satisfying their needs (Dinitz & Dine, 1989). This theory emphasizes the need to retrain the convict so that he can live a lawful and independent life which upon release. It advocates that vocational training be designed to transform convicts' life styles through the vigorous application of discipline, education, work and other relevant programmes. Rehabilitation Theory is used to underpin this study because it helps to break the cycle of re-offending in the Liberian society. The theory also provides technical guidance to the administration of the Monrovia Central Prison on how to initiate and/or enhance rehabilitations programmes for inmates.

### Conceptual framework

#### Independent variable

##### Prison Overcrowding

#### Intervening variable

- Overstretched prisons
- Poor health
- Poor aeration
- Overstretched human resource
- Overstretched prison services

#### Dependent variable

##### Rehabilitation of inmates

- Behavior change
- Formal education programs and vocational training
- Safety and order

- Government policy
- Length of training
- Discipline and participation

**Source:** Adopted from Mnguni, S. 3. S. (2011) & Swartz, L., de la Rey, C. Duncan, N., & Townsend, L. (2011), but modified by the researcher (2020).

The independent variable is conceptualized as Overcrowded and overstretched prisons conditions, Non-family visits, letters and communication and Dirty cells. The dependent variable in the study is rehabilitation of inmates operationalized as behavior change (which is the non- involvement in criminal acts), Formal education programs and Vocational training (No. of courses, tests done,

Skills attained, Relevance and Training facilities) and safety and order. This is depicted in this study as the true measure of behavior change. Rehabilitation can also be affected by external factors which bring in the intervening variables like government actions to intervene and reinforce training policy, discipline and participation of inmates.

## **METHOD**

This study adopted case study. A case study research excels at bringing us to an understanding of a complex issue or object and can extend experience or add strength to what is already known through previous research. Case studies emphasize detailed contextual analysis of a limited number of events or conditions and their relationships. Researchers have used the case study research method for many years across a variety of disciplines. Social scientists, in particular, have made wide use of this qualitative research method to examine contemporary real-life situations and provide the basis for the application of ideas and extension of methods. A researcher Robert K. Yin (1984) defines the case study research method as an empirical inquiry that investigates a contemporary phenomenon within its real-life context; when the boundaries between phenomenon and context are not clearly evident; and in which multiple sources of evidence are used.

According to Kothari (2004), a study population is referred to as the total of people or items about which information is required. In 2016, the Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR) reported that the population of the Monrovia Central Prison is 1032. The majority of the inmates are males; women and minors comprise a small percentage of the population. A sample size of 279 respondents was selected from the population of 1032 people using Krejcie and Morgan (1970) sampling determination table shown (see Appendix TV). To determine the sample from the population of 1032 people, the sample size according to the pre-calculated table by Krejcie and Morgan (1970) was 279 respondents. Hence, the researcher dealt with 279 respondents to collect data and interviews.

**Table 1: Distribution of the sample size**

<b>Grade Ranking</b>	<b>Target Population</b>	<b>Sample Size</b>	<b>Sampling Techniques</b>
Officials of Liberia's Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation(LBCR)	10	4	Purposive sampling
Authority of the Monrovia Central Prison	12	5	Purposive sampling
Correction officers at Monrovia Central Prison.	40	10	Purposive sampling
Inmates	970	260	Simple random sampling
<b>Total</b>	1032	279	

**Source: INCHR, 202**

A number of tools will be used during collection of data and these included: A self-administered questionnaire was the major instrument that was used in data collection. Key informant interview guide was designed and administered to key informants to capture qualitative information. The main sources of secondary data included the following: reports, Internet surfing, reviewing of magazines, newspapers, reports and publications, public records and statistics.

In this study, data was analyzed in a way that data from questionnaire were edited and coded then entered in a computer and Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS) program was used to analyze it. The percentage number of respondents according to variables such as; sex, age, objectives and so on were computed and presented using tables. Prison overcrowding and its effects on the rehabilitation of inmates was established using Pearson Linear Correlations Coefficient Statistical Method. Whereas, qualitative data were organized according to themes that are going to be identified from research questions and analyzed using content analysis.

## RESULT DISCUSSION

Section shows the description of respondents' responses to the items based on the objectives.

**Table 54.2 Effectiveness of inmate's incarceration on behavior change in Monrovia Central Prison**

Descriptive Statistics	Mean	Std.	Interpretation	Rank
Most of the Prisoners have decided not involve themselves into criminal activities once being released	3.23	0.79	High	1.
The majority of inmates are for now attending prison fellowship every weekend	2.78	0.91	High	2.
There are some inmates who are willing to change their behavior once encountering the services of social workers	2.76	0.94	High	3.
Inmates no longer intermedate each other and newcomers are being welcomed accordingly	2.53	0.97	High	4.
Most of the inmates victims that are facing	2.48	0.98	Low	5.

incarceration are not willing to revenge after being released				
This time inmates are following the instructions of the prisons' supervisors	2.44	1.01	Low	6.
Some of the inmates confess to work hard and apply the vocational skills in the community once being released	2.43	1.03	Low	7.
This time, the majority of inmates want to practice several skills to meet their goals after being released	2.41	1.05	Low	8.
Turning into a good person is the only facts since I wasted my time instead I would have been doing something else!	2.39	1.08	Low	9.
<b>Overall means</b>	<b>2.582</b>	<b>.663</b>	<b>High</b>	

Source: Survey Research, 2021



The findings from the above table indicated that respondents when asked whether most of the Prisoners have decided not involve themselves into criminal activities once being released had the first mean value of 3.23 and corresponding standard deviation of 0.79. The results further showed that the majority of inmates are for now attending prison fellowship every weekend, the average value of was 2.78 and its corresponding standard deviation was 0.91. It can also be observed from the table above that this particular question was ranked the 2<sup>nd</sup> meaning that most respondents were high and satisfactory with this statement.

The average response on the there are some inmates who are willing to change their behavior once encountering the services of social workers and this was rated with a mean of 2.76 and with standard deviation of 0.94 and with a rank of being the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Additionally, the results further showed that inmates no longer intermediate each other and newcomers are being welcomed accordingly, this statement was rated with a mean of 2.48 and had a stand deviation of 0.98 with a 4<sup>h</sup> rank.

Considering the statement whether most of the inmates victims that are facing incarceration are not willing to revenge after being released, this statement was rated with a mean of 2.48 with a standard deviation of 0.98 and ranked 6<sup>th</sup>.

As well, based on the statement that as stated: “This time inmates are following the instructions of the prisons’ supervisors”. This statement was rated with a mean of 2.44 and its standard deviation 1.01, ranked 7<sup>th</sup>.

Some of the inmates confess to work hard and apply the vocational skills in the community once being released, this statement was rated with a mean of 2.43 and a standard deviation of 1.03, ranked 7<sup>th</sup>. Well, respondents well asked whether, this time, the majority of inmates want to practice several skills to meet their goals after being released and this was summarized with a mean of 2.42, a standard deviation of 1.05, 9<sup>th</sup> ranked. Moreover, turning into a good person is the only facts since I wasted my time instead I would have been doing something else, this had a mean of 2.39, a standard deviation of 1.08 ranked 9<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, by observing the overall means, the above analysis reveals that the effectiveness of inmate’s incarceration on behavior change in Monrovia Central Prison has the overall mean that had a value of 2.582 and standard deviation of 66.3%. This implies that inmates are likely to change their behaviors after all they have been jailed and released later on.

Findings revealed that inmates are likely to change their behaviors after all they have been jailed and released later on. This is in line with Katz (2001) who stated that behaviors can serve

"instrumental, adjustive or utilitarian," "ego-defensive," "value-expressive," or "knowledge" functions (Katz D, 2001). The functional view of behaviors suggests that in order for behaviors to change (e.g., via persuasion), appeals must be made to the function(s) that a particular behavior serves for the individual. As an example, the "ego-defensive" function might be used to influence the racially prejudicial behaviors of an individual who sees themselves as open-minded and tolerant. By appealing to that individual's image of themselves as tolerant and open-minded, it may be possible to change their prejudicial behaviors to be more consistent with their self-concept. Similarly, a persuasive message that threatens self-image is much more likely to be rejected (Lapinski Darrel, Maria Knight, and Franklin Boster, 2001).

**Table 3; Prison overcrowding effects on self-sustainability of inmates in Monrovia Central Prison**

Descriptive Statistics	Mean	Std.	Interpretation	Rank
Prisoners are exposed to very many diseases such as cholera due bad conditions they are living in	3.81	0.66	Very high	1.
Food and beverages are not enough for the prisoners, hence malnutrition disease is common in the Monrovia Central Prison	2.78	0.72	High	2.
There is no VIP room in Monrovia Central Prison, all prisoners are mixed in halls (of course, women are separated from men!)	2.74	0.74	High	3.
Monrovia Central Prison clinic lacks necessary drugs to treat prisoners	2.57	0.77	High	4.
In Monrovia Central Prison, none is allowed to use its owner medicine unless provide by the prison pharmacist	2.54	0.78	High	5.
The overcrowding of the prison mostly affect people disease contamination and therefore deaths are always reported once a trimester	2.52	0.80	High	6.

There is no aeration or/ventilation in Monrovia Central Prison	2.50	0.82	High	7.
Infectious diseases such as Tuberculosis and other diseases such as HIV and malaria become major causes of deaths in prison	2.49	0.84	High	8.
The Monrovia Central Prison Health and sanitation team has failed to provide policy to stop diseases connected to hand washing	2.47	1.02	Low	9.
<b>Overall means</b>	<b>2.713</b>	<b>.795</b>	<b>High</b>	

**Source: Survey research, 2021**

The findings from the above table indicated that respondents when asked whether prisoners are exposed to very many diseases such as cholera due bad conditions they are living in had the first mean value of 3.81 and corresponding standard deviation of 0.66.

The results further showed that food and beverages are not enough for the prisoners, hence malnutrition disease is common in the Monrovia Central Prison, the average value of was 2.78 and its corresponding standard deviation was 0.72. It can also be observed from the table above that this particular question was ranked the 2<sup>nd</sup> meaning that most respondents were high and satisfactory with this statement.

The average response on whether there is no VIP room in Monrovia Central Prison, all prisoners are mixed in halls (of course, women are separated from men!) was rated with a mean of 2.74 and with standard deviation of 0.74 and with a rank of being the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Additionally, employees were asked if Monrovia Central Prison clinic lacks necessary drugs to treat prisoners, this statement was rated with a mean of 2.57 and had a stand deviation of 0.77 with a 4<sup>h</sup> rank. This implies that vocational training play an important role to sensitize inmates to get prepared on their release from the prison.

Considering the statement whether in Monrovia Central Prison, none is allowed to use its owner medicine unless provide by the prison pharmacist, this statement was rated with a mean of 2.57 with a standard deviation of 0.77 and ranked 6<sup>th</sup>. As well, based on the statement that as stated: “The overcrowding of the prison mostly affect people disease contamination and therefore deaths are always reported once a trimester”. This statement was rated with a mean of 2.52 and its standard deviation 0.80, ranked 7<sup>th</sup>.

There is no aeration or/ventilation in Monrovia Central Prison, this statement was rated with a mean of 2.50 and a standard deviation of 0.82, ranked 7<sup>th</sup>. Well, if learnt social and economical skills, I wouldn't have been imprisoned in Monrovia Central Prison and this was summarized with a mean of 2.50, a standard deviation of 0.83, 9<sup>th</sup> ranked. Moreover, Infectious diseases such as Tuberculosis and other diseases such as HIV and malaria become major causes of deaths in prison, this had a mean of 2.49, a standard deviation of 1.02 ranked 9<sup>th</sup>. Based on whether The Monrovia Central Prison Health and sanitation team has failed to provide policy to stop diseases connected to hand washing was rated with a mean of 2.47 and with a standard deviation of 1.02.

Finally, the overall mean, from the above analysis reveals that the Prison overcrowding had the positive effects on self-sustainability of inmates in Monrovia Central Prison and had a mean rated to 2.713 and standard deviation of .795 estimated to 79.5%. This implies that prison overcrowding is the key contributing factors to poor prison conditions in Monrovia Central. Findings revealed that the Prison overcrowding affected the self-sustainability of inmates in Monrovia Central Prison. This implied that prison overcrowding is the key contributing factors to poor prison conditions around the world. Overcrowding, as well as related problems such as lack of privacy, can also cause or exacerbate mental health problems, and increase rates of violence, self-harm and suicide.

**Table 4 Relevance of rehabilitation programs for inmates in Monrovia Central Prison.**

Descriptive Statistics	Mean	Std.	Interpretation	Rank
I pass through Formal Education as rehabilitation programs in the prison	3.82	0.65	Very high	10.
I undergo Vocational Training as rehabilitation programs in the prison	2.79	0.71	High	11.
There is always a team that provide to us	2.75	0.73	High	12.
Life skills each 40 days in the prison				
There technical training skills they give to Prisoners	2.58	0.76	High	13.
Pastoral Bible Studies is the best rehabilitation project in the prison	2.55	0.77	High	14.
I am able to support my family with the skills learnt	2.53	0.79	High	15.

I believe, when I will be out of the prison,	2.51	0.81	High	16.
I will no longer be back on the street				
If learnt social and economic skills, I wouldn't have been imprisoned in	2.50	0.83	High	17.
Monrovia Central Prison				
A self-employed skills such as tailoring, carpenter and catering skills help me to become more responsible than before	2.48	1.01	Low	18.
Carpentry, Tailoring , Masonry, Electrical wiring and Welding are taught to prisoners in Monrovia Central Prison	2.45	1.03	Low	19.
<b>Overall means</b>	<b>2.582</b>	<b>.746</b>	<b>High</b>	

**Source: Survey research, 2021**

The findings from the above table indicated that respondents when asked whether they pass through Formal Education as rehabilitation programs in the prison had the first mean value of 3.82 and corresponding standard deviation of 0.65.

The results further showed that inmates undergo Vocational Training as rehabilitation programs in the prison, the average value of were 2.79 and its corresponding standard deviation was 0.71. It can also be observed from the table above that this particular question was ranked the 2<sup>nd</sup> meaning that most respondents were high and satisfactory with this statement.

The average response on whether there is always a team that provide to us Life skills each 40 days in the prison was rated with a mean of 2.75 and with standard deviation of 0.76 and with a rank of being the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Additionally, employees were asked if there technical training skills they give to prisoners, this statement was rated with a mean of 2.58 and had a stand deviation of 0.76 with a 4<sup>h</sup> rank. This implies that vocational training play an important role to sensitize inmates to get prepared on their release from the prison.

Considering the statement whether Pastoral Bible Studies is the best rehabilitation project in the prison, this statement was rated with a mean of 2.55 with a standard deviation of 0.79 and ranked 6<sup>th</sup>. As well, based on the statement that as stated: "I am able to support my family with the skills learnt". This statement was rated with a mean of 2.53 and its standard deviation 0.79, ranked 7<sup>th</sup>.

I believe, when I will be out of the prison, I will no longer be back on the street, this statement was rated with a mean of 2.51 and a standard deviation of 0.81, ranked 7<sup>th</sup>. Well, if learnt social and economic skills, I wouldn't have been imprisoned in Monrovia Central Prison and this was summarized with a mean of 2.50, a standard deviation of 0.83, 9<sup>th</sup> ranked. Moreover, A self-employed skills such as tailoring, carpenter and catering skills help me to become more responsible than before, this had a mean of 2.48, a standard deviation of 1.01 ranked 9<sup>th</sup>. Based on whether Carpentry, Tailoring , Masonry, Electrical wiring and Welding are taught to prisoners in Monrovia Central Prison was rated with a mean of 2.45 and with a standard deviation of 1.03.

Finally, the overall mean, the above analysis reveals that the relevance of rehabilitation programs for inmates in Monrovia Central Prison had a mean rated to 2.582 and standard deviation of 0.746 estimated to 75%. This implies that a rehabilitation program Provision of any form of training or education be it primary, secondary or vocational training is extremely important as majority of convicts will someday exit prison and return to their community as they will be better placed and equipped for all the challenges they might face.

Findings revealed that a rehabilitation program Provision of any form of training or education be it primary, secondary or vocational training is extremely important as majority of convicts will someday exit prison and return to their community as they will be better placed and equipped for all the challenges they might face. This is in agreement with Gerber & Fritsch (1995:136) work that education and training are importantly prerequisite to a stable, crime free life. An increase in job skills and productivity of offenders also contribute directly to the national economy. Moreover, if an offender is rehabilitated upon release from prison, the process of reintegration becomes easier and fruitful and that the released shall be productive in society. State and federal prisons have long provided programming to inmates during their confinement

**Table 5; Relationship between prison overcrowding and rehabilitation programs for inmates in Monrovia Central Prison, Liberia Pearson Correlation between Prison overcrowding and rehabilitation programs for inmates**

Prison overcrowding		Rehabilitation programs for inmates	
Prison overcrowding	Pearson Correlation	1	.493**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	279	279
Rehabilitation programs for inmates	Pearson Correlation	.493**	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	279	27

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The results presented in Table above indicate the Pearson's Correlation Coefficient for prison overcrowding and rehabilitation programs for inmates in Monrovia Central Prison, Liberia where ( $r = 0.493$ , Sig. value =  $0.000 < P$  value at  $0.05$ ). This means that there is a positive and weak relationship between prison overcrowding and rehabilitation programs for inmates in Monrovia Central Prison, Liberia. Based on these results, the researcher rejects the null hypothesis and concludes that there is a statistically significant relationship between prison overcrowding and rehabilitation programs for inmates in Monrovia Central Prison, Liberia.

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