

**USES OF COMPUTER IN
CLASSIFICATION OF
PRISONERS**
(Case study of Nigerian prisons service)

BY

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CERTIFICATION

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ABSTRACT

This project aims at reducing or eliminating the problems usually encountered in manual classification of prisoners by introducing the use of computers.

Classification of prison inmates is carried out to avoid contamination of first offenders by hardened criminals and also determine the best training that will suit the need of an individual prisoner.

In carrying out this study, a feasibility study was conducted by using fact finding techniques. These include interviews, observations, and review of related literature.

Furthermore, we develop a program that will classify prisoners according to the type of offence committed, cell type, duration of sentence and type of training he would undergo.

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my Wife and Children.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 DEFINITION OF A COMPUTER

A Computer is an electronic device that accepts data as input, carry out some processes on it and output it as information. That is, a computer processes data using a set of instructions referred to as programme to produce information.

The physical components of a computer system are referred to as the hardware while the set of programmes that are used in the operation of a data processing unit are known as the software. A computer hardware consists of the keyboard, the central processing unit (CPU), the monitor and other peripheral devices like ports, mouse etc, which we can see and touch and are used for input and output operations. The hardware components of a computer can be used in classifying it into different types based on capability and physical size. Thus, we have four types of computer system namely:

- (a) Microcomputer.
- (b) Minicomputer.
- (c) Mainframes.
- (d) Supercomputers.

MICROCOMPUTER

This is the smallest and least expensive computer. It has less primary storage, it is less complex and executes programs at slower speed than any of the rest. It is a single user and a single task oriented system which supports a wide range of applications. It has no limitations in terms of uses and

applications. It is often referred to as personal computer (PC). This type of computer is usually found in homes or used for small businesses.

MINICOMPUTER

This is a general purpose computer which allows for many users at once. It is a smaller version of the mainframe computer. The only difference is that, it costs less, has less storage capacity, and process data more slowly than the mainframe. It is used in businesses that does not require the capabilities of a mainframe.

MAINFRAME COMPUTER

This is a computer that has more speed and larger storage capacity than the minicomputer. It is used to solve highly sophisticated problems and it serves more users at a time than the minicomputer. It also operates at very high speed. This type of computer is usually used at Banks, Government Agencies like NITEL, NEPA, NNPC, etc.

SUPERCOMPUTER

This is the largest and fastest and the most expensive computer we have today. It is capable of performing 10 million arithmetic operations per second. This type of computer can be used in a wide variety of fields, especially in scientific researches.

1.2 DEFINITION OF A PRISON

"We are all in prison" says Sir Alexander Paterson, but it is just a matter of degree". By this statement, he was saying that all of us are restricted to certain parts of the world geographically owing to employment, political, economic or other

conditions. But these conditions are circumstantial and the victim might perhaps be quite unconscious of the circumstances. There is however, a difference when we consider the imprisonment enforced by sentence of court on a citizen who is suspected or convicted of a breach of the law.

For purposes of definition, a prison is any place demarcated and declared as such by the law of the state created to ensure restraint and custody of individuals accused or convicted of violating the criminal law of the state. Civil prisoners as debtors, prisoner of war and state detainees are also received and kept in the prison.

Prisons Decree No. 9 Vol. 14 of 1972 governing the creation of prisons in Nigeria and section 2 (i) and (ii) of the same decree states that:

(i) "The Federal Minister of Internal Affairs may declare any building or place in Nigeria to be a prison and by the same or a subsequent order, specify the area for which the prison is established".

(ii) Every prison shall include:

(a) "The grounds and buildings within the prison enclosure, and

(b) Any lock-up house for the temporal detention or custody of prisoners newly apprehended or under remand which is declared by the Minister by order in the Federal Gazette to be part of the prison.

(c) Subject to subsection (4) of this section, every prison shall be a prison for the imprisonment of prisoners of every description.

1.3 CLASSES OF PRISON

In Nigeria, we have five classes of prisons. These are convict prisons, Divisional prisons, Provincial prisons, lock-ups and prison camps.

1.3.1 CONVICT PRISONS

A convict prison receives all classes of prisoners. That is, long and short term prisoners, condemned criminals, Female Prisoners, etc.

1.3.2 DIVISIONAL PRISONS

This type of prison only holds persons sentenced to imprisonment under two years. Prisoners sentenced to death or imprisonment above two years must be transferred to a convict prison.

1.3.3 PROVINCIAL PRISONS

This can hold prisoners with long or short sentences where accommodation, law, and departmental directives allow.

1.3.4 LOCK-UPS

These are usually located at places having a court, and it holds prisoners serving not more than 3 months.

1.3.5 PRISON CAMPS

These hold prisoners that are first offenders or stars who are not of sophisticated type. These prisoners are sent to camps to serve their sentences under conditions not different from their conditions before conviction and separate them from evil influences common in the prison yard where different classes of prisoners are kept.

However, due to the sophistication of criminals nowadays, prisons was modified and regrouped into the following types:

Maximum security, medium security, satellite prisons and Detention centres. The main emphasis of this classification is security.

1.4 CLASSIFICATION AND COMPUTERS

Classification of inmates is the bedrock for a successful retraining and reformation of prisoners. Classification is the much desired treatment of the inmates which is also one of the main objectives of imprisonment in Nigeria could be achieved.

Classification is the separation of classes of prison inmates according to such criteria as age, sex, race, criminality, ability and capability for the purpose of designing some programmes for their treatment according to the needs.

The main aim of classification is to prevent the contermination of good prisoners by the bad ones; facilitate training and treatment of prisoners and to maintain discipline at all time in the prison yard. Effective classification can only be achieved with the use of computers. Experience has shown over the years that manual classification of prisoners as being done now is tedious, time consuming and in some cases very difficult or impossible to accomplish. With the use of computers, classification would be made easy with less paper work and time, while information got through the use of computers would be more accurate and reliable. Individual prisoner would be monitored and assessed more effectively with the use of computers.

In order to achieve this objective, the use of computers will be introduced in our prisons where an incoming prisoner would be documented and also monitor his response to his new

environment and training in the yard. That is, it will enable the prison authority to know how the inmate respond to the various reformation processes.

1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This project work aims primarily at improving the efficiency of classification and training of prisoners in our prisons using computers.

Classification has tremendous benefits not only to the individual prisoners involved. but also to the prison authority and the larger society.

1.6 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

This study will be carried out in such a way that it will not jeopardise the security arrangement in the prison yard. As security agents, we are not allowed to divulge certain sensitive information about our job, but we will make sure that, no relevant information needed to make this study complete would be left out.

CHAPTER TWO

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

2.1 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF CLASSIFICATION:

The objective of imprisonment at the early stage of evolution of prison up to the early part of 1940 was mainly punitive. But from the latter part of 1940 to the present time, emphasis has shifted to reformation of offenders. It is widely acclaimed opinion that no meaningful reformation of prisoners can be realized in Nigeria prisons without proper and effective classification of offenders.

The principal reason for classifying offenders is to ensure that those who had criminal records do not have bad influence or pollute the star prisoners or first offenders. Apart from classifying prisoners, prison cells are also classified accordingly to take care of convicts, condemned criminals, awaiting trial male, female prisoners, Armed Robbery suspects, political detainees, lifers and lunatics. Reformation of inmates will be a farce without a proper classification of prisoners. Every reformation/rehabilitation institution should normally identify the needs of offenders before it can embark on any tangible activity. One way of doing this is to classify prisoners according to their problems and needs.

As earlier said, classification is the process of observation and documentation of inmates, in which security requirements and the needs of the individual inmates in the area of treatment and training are assessed and given an order of priority, so that the allocation can be made to that prison best suited in receiving the prisoner.

That is, the best way of achieving effective classification for training should be to classify and send various categories of prison inmates to special prisons so built for their class.

Schedule are, sub-section (4) of the prisons decree No. 9 of 16th April, 1972 provides that;

"the separation of classes of prison inmates for the training of any class of prisoners or for any other purposes, that the Minister of Internal Affairs may by order in the Federal Gazette appropriate any prison or part of a prison to particular class of prisoners, and any prisoner of the class to which any prison, or part of a prison has been appropriated may lawfully be conveyed thereto and imprisoned therein, whether or not the warrant or order for his imprisonment has been issued by a court having jurisdiction in the place where the prison is situated".

For administrative convenience as well as to facilitate the effort of retraining and rehabilitation of the inmates, many provisions were made accordingly in various Acts and Legislation for the separation (Classification) of prisons inmates. For example, the prisons legislation and Act of 1960; prisons Act of 1972 (Section 2, sub-section 4); chapter 159 of the laws of the federation of Nigeria, (1958 edition - volume 1); and prisons Act, CAPA 366 of 1990; all made provision for the separation of prisoners on ground of sex, age and criminal history.

Classification was equally asserted by Alan Milner, a British lawyer and writer who wrote a book on "Nigeria Penal system", Page 230-231, 1972), when he said that, "the statutory

requirements of classification of prisoners should take the following pattern; total separation of males from females; Adults from juveniles; unconvicted from convicted criminals, civil prisoners (non-criminal debtors) from other categories of prisoners. Capital offenders on awaiting trial from condemned criminals awaiting execution; criminals from non-criminal lunatics; long from short terms; escapees and potential escapees should be kept under constant surveillance to ensure adequate security all the time".

That is, classification of prison inmates should be a division of inmates into different classes in such a way that those who committed simple/minor offenses for the first time (stars) should be kept separately in both their cells and working places distinctively away from the hardened criminals. Likewise, awaiting trials are to be kept separately from any group of convicts. Female prisoners of all categories, i.e convicts and awaiting trials are to be kept separately in the female wing specially built for that purpose and separated completely by high concrete security wall from the male portion of the prison. Lunatics, both criminal and civil are also kept away in their separate cell called lunatics asylum. Condemned criminals and those awaiting trial on capital charges/offenses are kept separated into a very secured portion of the prison and the place is always kept under extensive security. Lastly, all civil prisoners have to be kept away from any group of prison inmates.

In order to devise a good classification system that will foster offenders treatment, the British home office Research unit set up inter-regional committee in 1967 which produced a document

for classification and allocation of short term prisoners (3 to 18 months) called form S.C.F.1 and dossier for prisoners serving sentences over 18 months, - form S.C.F. 2 (Wakefield Lecture manual for senior prisons officers on prison management course,1980). Not quite long after these forms were designed, each region introduced training teams comprising an Assistant Governor or Governor, a psychologist, and a principal officer. These teams proceeded to the prison staff college in April, 1968 to make themselves thoroughly conversant with the dossier. The main objective of the training was to achieve a good system of classification and treatment of inmates. Part of the training been given to the teams was how to observe and document inmates, and determine the security requirements. The needs of the individual inmate are assessed in the area of treatment and training so that the allocation can be made to that prison best suited to deal with that inmate.

Classification and treatment of inmates should be seen as a matter of rules and regulations. The United Nations resolutions of the minimum rules for treatment of prisoners provides that member Nations should try as much as possible to implement its provisions on these two important areas. Sections 8 of part 1 of the general application of the rule states as follows:

"different categories of prisoners shall be kept in separate prisons or part of institutions taking account of their sex, age, criminal records, the legal reasons for their detention and the necessities of their treatment".

Although, this universal provision on classification and

treatment of offenders may vary from one cultural context to another due to some obvious reasons, an attempt is necessary here. Not only shall different categories of prisoners be kept separate, but this should be backed up with suitable reformation programs. Sections 67, 68 and 69 of the U.N.O's provision further states that-

67-"Prisoners shall be classified to separate from others those who, by reason of their criminal records or bad characters, are likely to exercise a bad influence on others".

68-"To divide the prisoners into classes in order to facilitate their treatment with a view to ensuring their social reformation".

69-"Separate institution or separate sections of an institution shall be used for the treatment of the different classes of prisoners".

Since the concern of this study is the use of computers in classification and training of prisoners and their eventual reformation, attempt will be made to define reformation especially as it goes hand in hand with classification. Reformation is treatment of prisoners sentenced to imprisonment in order to establish in them the will to lead law-abiding and self-supporting life after their discharge. Reformation programmes should be such that would encourage their self-respect and develop their sense of responsibility.

2.2 CATEGORY OF CLASSIFICATION

The objectives of classification include:

To prevent contermination of good prisoners by the bad ones, facilitate training and treatment of prisoners and to maintain

discipline in the yard at all times.

In carrying out these objectives, classification is categorised for effective implementation. There are two types of classification.

(a) Convicted and unconvicted prisoners which is known as prison classification.

(b) Legal classification which is determined by the order to sentence of the courts, such orders include:

- i. Imprisonment with hard labour.
- ii. On remand.
- iii. Detention by the order of the Governor.
- iv. For trial.
- v. Death.
- vi. For debt (debtors).
- vii. Sentence to be determined during the president's (Head of State) pleasure.
- viii. As civil or criminal lunatic.

classification can also be based on the offence committed. Some of these offenses include:

- a. Manslaughter/Murder/culpable homicide.
- b. Armed Robbery.
- c. Rape.
- d. Burglary/Theft.
- e. Forgery/impersonation.
- f. Fighting and causing injury/Public disturbance.
- g. Cheating/Break of trust.
- h. Being in possession of property suspected to be stolen.
- i. Idleness/Loitering/Wandering.

- j. Negligence of duty.
- k. Abduction/Kidnapping.
- l. Violation of Native law and customs (Marriage).
- m. Drugs offenses, etc.

Classification can also be based on the type of vocational training available in a particular prison. These include:

1. Carpentry and joinery workshop.
2. Tailoring.
3. Fibre/Mat weaving.
4. Blacksmith workshop.
5. Shoe mending.
6. Bricklayers.
7. Laundry.
8. Leather works.
9. Carving
10. Cane work.
11. Barbing.
12. Painting/Decoration.
13. Catering.
14. Cabinet making.
15. Electrical.
16. Plumbing.
17. Photography.
18. Needle work.
19. Basket making.
20. Soap and pomade making, etc.

Vocational training is one of the objectives of imprisonment. Since not all long termers may respond to training

due to their criminal records and socio-economic background, Particularly the ordinary class (Hardened criminals). Ages and interest of an individual to learn a trade is to be considered along while allocating prisoners to workshops. However, classification during the allocation should be emphasised if the philosophy of imprisonment is to achieve its objectives. Availability of training types in a particular prison depends on its location.

2.3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

A). This study is aimed at reducing or eliminating the difficulties encountered in classifying prisoners by introducing the use of computers in our prisons.

B) It also emphasises the importance of training the prison inmates in order for them to acquire a trade through effective classification. This will facilitate their reformation and eventual rehabilitation.

C) Furthermore it discusses how to use computers in reinforcing the security system in a prison yard.

2.4 LITERATURE REVIEW

It is common knowledge that if offenders are classified according to their age, sex, social needs and criminal records.

treatment and correction would have two types of classification;

a) Institutional classification; This entails building special houses for certain classes of offenders.

b) Internal classification which involves mapping out certain parts of prison for certain classes of offenders.

According to John Irwin (1980), an ideal correctional institution primarily organised to rehabilitate prisoners would

require an elaborate systematic planning process that determines the nature of the individuals criminality and prescribed cure.

Elias (1968), has the following comments to make on the classification and treatment of inmates in Nigeria. He said that "classification is considered to be one of the solutions of the administrative problems. This system he says, at first, consisted of more segregation for the purpose of discipline and administrative control, but it has now come to be known as the basis for differentiation according to such criteria as age, sex, race, dangerousness", (Elias pg.84,1968). It is a fact from Elias view that proper classification of prison inmates is synonymous with treatment of individual cases.

A critical evaluation of classification process in Nigeria prisons reveals that official lip service is still being paid to this exercise and this seriously inhibits reformation and rehabilitation of inmates of our prisons.

According to John Irwin (1968), treatment is the least important consideration in the classification process. The idea of deterrence and retribution still ranks high in the present day Nigeria Prisons management. This could be seen from the incessant conflict arising between the prison custodians and prisons social workers. While the former emphasise on security. the latter emphasis on reformation.

It is shocking to realize that some eminent Nigerians are opposed to classification. The point of their argument is that classification amounts to segregation of prisoners from one another. It is their belief that reformation of inmates will be better achieved in a situation where prisoners are allowed free

interaction with one another. These people say that there is no proof to show that hardened criminals will influence first offenders if they stay together. Though the argument may be sound but it should be disowned. This is because there no gain saying the fact that if lunatic offenders, rapists, armed robbery suspects, and those convicted on the charges of culpable homicide are locked together with first offenders and those imprisoned on the charges of loitering, the behaviour of the latter will be influenced. Apart from influencing their behaviour, the lives of those other two classes of offenders may be endangered.

Socialization is a continuous process in human being irrespective of age and experience. One should also consider the effect of group on individual's behaviour. Experience has also shown that not all categories of prisoners can be trained in different trades. The trainable ones can only be spotted out where proper classification is in practice. One of the sociological attributes of all institutions like the prison is that socialization of its inmates takes place very rapidly. Socialization is the learning of social values, norms and ideas of a society, social group or organisation which are internalized and which guide the individual's behaviour in the society, social group and institution.

In the prisons, inmates have social codes and values which guide and regulate their behaviour. There is also the existence of informal organisations among them. Some of the provisions of inmates social codes are in contrast with the prisons standing order (S.O). Inmates are socialised on these codes. Besides this, hardened criminals tutor first offenders on crime. A

situation like this will turn the prison into a crime breeding centre. But with proper classification of inmates, this can be averted or minimized where complete aversion is not possible. In as much as the existence of informal organisation within a formal organisation can be useful in the management of its goal if properly handled, it can also militate against the attainment of the organisational goal. An example of this can be seen from the study of some industrial workers by Homans (1950 and 1954) as was documented by David Silverman (1978). This study reveals that man comes to this organisation as a social being with needs, and takes an opportunity to become intimate with others and acceptable to them. His productivity in the organisation and perception of the organisations goals are mainly guided by the groups perception.

If this situation is further likened to inmates relations in the prisons, it is possible that the situation where hardened criminals and first offenders share the same cells and have a governing rules, the behaviour of the first offenders will be surely influenced. This kind of relationship will produce an ugly system whereby the hardened criminals will have an upper hand over the first offenders and will dictate to him how to react to the custodian staff and training programs. The first offenders life is also in danger should he attempt to resist any of the hardened criminals move to socialize him. A situation like the above which actually occurs in our prisons could be avoided with proper classification.

The place of proper classification in the correctional institutions and the day to day management of such institutions

cannot be overemphasised. Even those who are not prison officials are of the view that prisons will be nothing more than a punitive institution as long as it is not possible to classify prison inmates. This is part of the views expressed by some legal practitioners and a judge in the front page of Sunday New Nigerian Newspaper on 29th March, 1987.

Some reformation instruments being used in the prison to modify the behaviour of inmates owe their workability to proper classification of offenders. It is with proper separation that observation of variables and effects are possible as this could be outrightly measured by observing the behaviour of the experimental group and comparing them with the behaviour of the control group.

This practice can be likened to what W.E Baugh (1977), says. According to him, classification is a continuous process in that those grouped together will be observed from time to time with a view to ascertaining their response to treatment. The various groups will be reclassified from time to time until they leave the prison. Baugh (1977), also states that, the awaiting trial prisoners should not be left out in the classification exercise. They should be kept in the prisons according to their criminality and prisons social workers should interact with them, to gather information about their social background, criminal records, etc. such information should be forwarded to the trial courts to guide them in their trials. This Baugh's opinion though sounds British, it can be useful in Nigeria context as this will determine the kind and length of sentence to be given to a prisoner.

CHAPTER THREE

FEASIBILITY STUDY

3.1 METHODOLOGY

A feasibility study is carried out in order to gather enough data for this study. This proved to be a useful method of finding out all necessary information for the systematic analysis and subsequent design of the proposed automated system.

The feasibility study was conducted through fact finding techniques such as interview, observations and a review of research efforts already carried out in the past by different authors in the area of classification. This is related to the present activities of the inmates and how the manual classification system is being handled.

Using all available information, it made it easy to create a data base management system. This DBMS involves a series of programme that will control inflow of information necessary for classification purposes. It contains 4 database structure which will require to be run on 486/166mghz.

3.2 OUTLOOK OF CURRENT CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

The gatekeeper recieves all incoming prisoners. The gatekeeper must make sure that each prisoner is accompanied by a duly signed warrant or order from a court of law. Furthermore, he sees to it that the person admitted is the one named in the warrant or order; the crime, sentence and date of conviction are recorded therein, and that the warrant or order bears the signature of proper authority; that the name of each admission is entered in the gate book (prison Book No. 16) under the appropriate column.

From the gate, police escort follows him (inmate) and property plus cash already recorded at the gate lodge are also transferred to records and handed over to the officer in-charge. After satisfying himself that the prisoners warrant is in order. The record officer takes the prisoner from the police escort and issue him (police) body receipt in appropriate prison form 124. The record officer maintains a record in which he record the successive number under which all prisoners shall be registered. This is known as 'General Admission Register', which will show all admissions whether convicted or not. He will also record all information about the inmates in the appropriate prison books. These information include physical identification, address, occupation, next of kin, tribe, state of origin, religion, Nationality, etc.

Some of the prison's books used in documentation of prisoners are the daily state Journal (form 11), which records the total figure of inmates in a prison; unconvicted prisoner's register (form 12A); convicted prisoner's register (form 63); record of long-term prisoners (form 40); short-term prisoners (form 53A); Gate book (No.16); classification of prisoners (form 60); periodical review of long term prisoners (form 64); and observation of superintendent (form 1A).

On arriving at any prison in Nigeria, every new prisoner or awaiting trial must undergo a number of admission processes before he is formally admitted or correctly referred to as an inmate of that prison. Admission is necessary in order to identify antecedents and do proper classification to determine the right correctional programme for the prisoner. The process

of admission can simply be categorised into five major stages.

- (a) At the gate lodge (with the gate keeper).
- (b) The record office (with record clerks).
- (c) Before the reception or at the admission board.
- (d) Before the medical officer.
- (e) At the Chief warder's office.

The first two stages have already been explained.

3.3 BEFORE THE RECEPTION BOARD

Section 9 of the prison standing order (S.O) provides that every new prisoner must be seen by a special committee of prison officers called the admission board within 24 hours of his arrival into the prison. The board comprises of the following:

- i. Officer in-charge(Superintendent) of the prison who is the Chairman of the board.
- ii. His immediate deputy.
- iii. Other interested senior officer.
- iv. The Chief warder.
- v. The welfare officer or his representative.
- vi. The medical officer or representative.

Interview is conducted here to know more about the prisoner. Cash and valuable properties he brought into the prison are confirmed, and he will be informed of his rights, privileges and obligations in the prison. He is also informed of his right to receive visitors and to communicate with his friends including his legal advisers.

Also, the wards and cells of the prison are allocated to prisoners strictly in accordance with the prison regulations regarding classification. The superintendent will also make

comments regarding each prisoners employment in the yard based on his occupation before conviction and criminality. The ultimate is to train prisoners in skilled trades by drilling them through the theory and the practical of the trades along with the Government trade test syllabuses to enable them acquire the required skill in the trades, then take the trade test examinations, in order to equip them for employment on discharge. Prisoners are also trained to acquire work habit.

3.4 BEFORE THE MEDICAL OFFICER

All prisoners admitted and convicted are taken before the prison medical officer, who will give instructions regarding age and labour. He will ensure that no convicted person admitted is put to labour until such time he has been medically examined and that any prisoner with contagious disease is separated from the rest.

3.5 AT THE CHIEF WARDER'S OFFICE

The Chief warden is responsible for carrying out the instructions/comments of the superintendent regarding the cell and workshop a prisoner is allocated.

The workshops available in most of our prisons are: Capentary Workshop, Tailoring workshop, laundry and carwash services, pomade and soap making workshop, weaving works, Blacksmith, Leather works, Block making and photographic section.

Each Workshop has at least a professional prison staff in-charge. He makes periodic assessment of each prisoner in his workshop to the superintendent in charge of the prison. He makes recommendation for an inmate to sit for the trade test examinations, and also monitors the behaviour and response of the

inmates to their colleagues and environment. His assessment of the inmates is very important as he works closely with them. His comment on any of them will determine the next stage of reformation process the prisoner should undergo. It should be pointed out that, the prison authority have elaborate training programmes for the convicts only. Likewise, not all offenses carry fines or jail terms as some offenses like murder, armed robbery, carry death penalty. People in this class are excluded from training programmes.

3.6 THE STATE OF THE PROBLEM

There are a lot of problems inherent in the manual classification of prisoners. Foremost, there is no laid down procedure to follow in the assessment and monitoring of inmates. Manual classification has become obsolete in this age of computer technology. The manual system is prone to a lot of problems and inadequacies among which are:

- a) It involves a lot of paper work. We have over 124 books and forms we use in the prison. This has equally lead to duplication of records, while filling in new set of records at each stage and making extension manually is tedious and sometimes cumbersome.
- b) Assessment of inmates is based mainly on human judgement which may be error prone or give room for favouritism.
- c) Using paper in classification does not create room for long storage and it can easily be destroyed unlike when information is stored on a diskette.
- d) There is no proper organisation in the way the inmates are classified and monitor.

e) Easy accessibility to record by an unauthorised persons. Warrants are usually kept in file cabinets which makes it easy for any unauthorised persons to read the documents.

Prison's documents concerning inmates can serve a useful purpose in determining the fate of those seeking political offices or other Government appointments.

It is envisaged that the proposed automated system will eliminate these inadequacies of the manual system.

3.7 PROPOSED COMPUTERIZED CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

The solutions to the manual classification system involves designing and hopefully implementing a computer information system (MIS) that will create and maintain the data in our prisons and for easy accessibility. That is, the system must be able to add or create new records for an incoming prisoner, to modify (edit) existing records when information changes, and delete (remove) existing records when they are no longer needed.

The automated system has facilities that will allow for smooth running operations. The computerized system will endeavour to:

- a) Speed up access to and availability of data of an inmate when needed.
- b) Eliminate duplicated, conflicting records and eradicate human errors.
- c) Create and maintain a detailed file for each inmate.

The computerised classification system would be designed to eliminate the need to do all classification work manually while at the same time ensuring that accurate record are properly maintained. The system would be able to take care of the tasking

work encountered in the manual system by taking over completely the documentation and monitoring of inmates, and the report generation aspect needed in courts, state security service offices, etc.

The medium that best suits the purpose of inmates classification are printed reports, which are reports generated by the computer using printers. In addition, careful consideration would be taken to ensure that proper backup are made to guard against hazard and computer failure for future references.

Since full automation is suggested, the existing staff handling the classification of inmates need to be trained to handle the machines in all its operations. The authority can organise in-service training for the staff. This will afford them to acquire new skills and develop themselves accordingly.

The researcher thus recommended that there should be a computer room in each prison where a micro-computer with a printer can be installed. Also, recommended for the computer room is a cooling system with steady power supply. The average cost of a micro computer with a printer is between N200,000 - N300,000 depending on the models.

In general, computerised data processing is far more efficient than the manual system since it enables a larger, accurate and broad based information to be generated.

CHAPTER FOUR

ANALYSIS

4.1 WRITING THE PROGRAMME

This programme is written using dBASE III plus. It is one of the leading database program. Database is a collection of related data about an organisation serving as a pool of information for many users. DBASE III plus can create both simple and complex database applications.

This program is written to accept among others, the name of prisoner, age, sex, offence committed, educational background, duration of sentence, Nationality, religion, tribe, cell type and the type of training the prisoner will undergo bearing in mind his offence and duration of sentence.

This is possible as dBASE III plus has the advantage of allowing the user to interact with his data through menu selections. The user can also use dBASE commands called dot commands directly without using the menu facilities. It is a powerful and flexible system capable of organising, analysing, storing printing data from our database and retrieving information on a microcomputer.

4.2 TESTING THE PROGRAM

The program developed has the attributes of a good program. The program has been tested and found to be performing according to specifications. The program is understandable without complexity.

4.3 SYSTEM EVALUATION

The new system is designed to be much more reliable and maintainable than the old system. The system accepts data concerning each prison inmate in order to determine the cell type and the type of training he should undergo.

Because of the facilities offered by dBase III plus - a query language system, the user is able to interact with the system. The system specifications and requirements does not allow for errors while in use. The system also makes it possible to generate several reports among which are date of conviction, type of training and duration of sentence. The user of the system have no problem as the system is working perfectly. Any irregularity of the system can be rectified easily while modifications can be made to meet future expectations and changes.

4.4 COST ANALYSIS AND ESTIMATE

It is a fact that the cost of installation of the new automated system is much more than the cost of maintaining the old system. Before the new system can function effectively. We need a microcomputer and a printer in each of our prisons. The market value of a microcomputer with a printer is between N200,000 - N300,000. For these machines to operate effectively, a dust proof room with cooling system and constant power supply has to be provided. Prisons that are located in areas with irregular power supply or places without electricity has to be provided alternative source of electricity. The cost of a 2.5 Kv generator is between N100,000 - N300,000 depending on the model.

Regardless of the cost of the new system, it is envisaged that on the long run, the benefits of the new system will outweigh the cost.

CHAPTER FIVE

IMPLEMENTATION OUTPUT

5.1 ADVANTAGES OF THE SYSTEM

The new computerized system has a number of advantages over the manual system. The new system creates an organised way of classifying prisoners, while inmates response to training will be effectively monitored.

It will also eliminate the problem of duplication of records. Records of inmates will be centrally controlled not in different stages as in the manual system.

Access to information is fast and not cumbersome. The new system makes it impossible for an unauthorised person to have access to the records as these will be stored using codes. The diskettes used in storing the information are portable and easy to store for a long period of time.

5.2 LIMITATIONS OF THE SYSTEM

The new system has some limitation in terms of the scope of its application and availability in the prisons.

Foremost is the cost of a microcomputer with a printer. The cost of buying these machines may be too high for the prison authority to contemplate. For example, in Niger State alone, we have seven prison yards. By the time we think of the cost to procure these machines for all the prisons in the country, the cost will be enormous. But, it is suggested that, the prison authority can buy these machines gradually over a period of time so that the effect won't be felt so much.

Another problem is the fact that the computerized system is

complex. Programs need to be written and people trained to handle its operations. The right software has to be installed, if not, the system will turn out to be a nightmare.

The new system requires the training of people to handle or operate the machines. Furthermore, a conducive environment and constant power supply must be provided for the machines. All these make the systems to be very costly in implementing.

5.3 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Once inmates are properly classified through the use of computers, and treatment of offenders being effectively and regularly pursued, the pains of imprisonment will be greatly reduced, and this will obviously strengthen the security of such prisons as inmates will be fully occupied.

Proper classification of offenders will also foster the application of any treatment technique that will be based on inmates needs. In a situation like this, it will be easy to motivate prisoners to exhibit good behaviour and become law abiding.

Besides, the enhancement of treatment and correction of inmates, the automated system will also intensify or reinforce security in the prisons. This is because, with proper classification, hardened criminals with previous records will be fished out and be kept in separate cells where security will be intensified while minor offenders will be kept in separate cells. This kind of arrangement will, apart from reinforcing security ease the work of prison personnel.

Therefore, it is envisaged that with the new system, a complete overhaul of the classification system will be done while it will be of immense benefit to the inmates, the prison authority and the larger society.

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```

Set Date British
Set Status Off
Set Safety On
Set Scoreboard Off
Set Talk Off
Clear All
Use inmate
Do While .T.
store rem to mrem
store c_no to mc_no
Store name to Mname
Store tribe to Mtribe
Store nat to Mnat
store state to mstate
store train to mtrain
Store h_add1 to Mh_add1
Store h_add to Mh_add
Store occup to Moccup
Store n_of_kim to Mn_of_kin
Store pid to Mpid
Store off_c to Moff_c
Store court_s to Mcourt_s
Store Space(3) to Mdur_s
store t_cell to mT_cell
Store date_s to Mdate_s
store rel to mrel
@1,1 To 23,78 Double
set color to g+r
@2,25 Say "FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA      Today's Date "
@3,15 Say "NIGERIAN PRISONS SERVICES ,MINNA - NIGER STATE"
@3,63 say date()
@4,2 to 4,77
set color to
@5,5 say "Serial No:" get mc_no
      READ
      IF MC_NO="XXXXXX" .OR. MC_NO="xxxxxx"
        RETURN
      ENDIF
LOCATE FOR C_NO =MC_NO
      IF FOUND()

@5,45 Say "Name:" Get name
@7,5 Say "Tribe:" Get Tribe
@7,28 Say "Nationality:" Get nat
@7,55 say "State:" get state
@9,5 Say "Home Address:" Get h_add1
@9,50 say "Rel:"get rel
@10,19 Get h_add
@10,50 say "Date Convicted" get date_s
@13,5 Say "Occup:" Get occup
@13,31 Say "Next-of-kin:" Get n_of_kim
@15,5 Say "Phy.id:" Get pid
@17,5 Say "Offence com:" Get off_c
@15,31 Say "court Sent:" Get court_s
@15,60 Say "Dura sent:" Get dur_s
set color to r
@17,30 say "Cell Type" get T_cell
@17,49 say "Training Type" get train

```

```
@19,5 say "Remarks" get rem
set color to
set color to g+r/*
@21,19 SAY "Enter (XXXXXX) To Quit "
@23,32 say "Edit Menu..."
set color to
endif
```

```
Enddo
replace Name with MNAME
Replace tribe with mtribe
Replace nat with Mnat
Replace h_add with Mh_add
Replace h_add1 with Mh_add1
Replace occup with Moccup
Replace n_of_kin with Mn_of_kin
Replace pid with Mpid
Replace off_c with moff_c
Replace court_s with Mcourt_s
Replace date_s with Mdate_s
Enddo
```

```

Set Date British
Set Status Off
Set Safety On
Set Scoreboard Off
Set Talk Off
Clear All
Use inmate
store space(6) to mc_no
Do While .t.
@1,1 To 23,78 Double
set color to g+r
@2,25 Say "FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA      Today's Date "
@3,15 Say "NIGERIAN PRISONS SERVICES ,MINNA - NIGER STATE"
@3,63 say date()
@4,2 to 4,77
set color to
@5,5 say "Serial No:" get mc_no
read
locate for c_no = mc_no
  IF MC_NO = "xxxxxx" .OR. MC_NO="XXXXXX"
    clear
  RETURN
endif
if found()
  clear
@5,45 Say "Name:"
@5,51 say name
@7,5 Say "Tribe:"
@7,11 say Tribe
@7,28 Say "Nationality:"
@7,41 say nat
@7,55 say "State:"
@7,61 say state
@9,5 Say "Home Address:"
@9,18 say h_add1
@9,50 say "Rel:"
@9,54 say rel
@10,19 say h_add
@10,50 say "Date Convicted"
@10,64 say date_s
@13,5 Say "Occup:"
@13,11 say occup
@13,31 Say "Next-of-kin:"
@13,42 say n_of_kim
@15,5 Say "Phy.id:"
@15,12 say pid
@17,5 Say "Offence com:"
@17,17 say off_c
@15,31 Say "court Sent:"
@15,42 say court_s
@15,60 Say "Dura sent:"
@15,70 say dur_s
set color to r
@17,30 say "Cell Type"
@17,39 say T_cell
@17,49 say "Training Type"
@17,62 say train

```

```
@19,5 say "Remarks"
@19,12 say rem
set color to
set color to g+r/*
@23,32 say "View Menu..."
set color to
ELSE
  CLEAR
SET COLOR TO W*
@10,10 say "No Such Number Exist"
SET COLOR TO
  ENDIF
ENDDO
```

```
replace Name with MNAME
Replace tribe with mtribe
Replace nat with Mnat
Replace h_add with Mh_add
Replace h_add1 with Mh_add1
Replace occup with Moccup
Replace n_of_kin with Mn_of_kin
Replace pid with Mpid
Replace off_c with moff_c
Replace court_s with Mcourt_s
Replace date_s with Mdate_s
Enddo
```

```

Set Date British
Set Status Off
Set Safety On
Set Scoreboard Off
Set Talk Off
Clear All
Use inmate
Do While .T.
store space(10)to mrem
store space(6) to mc_no
Store Space (25) to Mname
Store Space(10) to Mtribe
Store Space(2) to Mnat,mstate
store space(12) to mtrain
Store Space(20) to Mh_add1
Store Space(20) to Mh_add
Store Space(10) to Moccup
Store Space(10) to Mn_of_kin
Store Space(10) to Mpid
Store Space(10) to Moff_c
Store Space(10) to Mcourt_s
Store Space(3) to Mdur_s,MT_cell
Store ctod(" / / ") to Mdate_s
store space(1) to mrel
@1,1 To 23,78 Double
set color to g+r
@2,25 Say "FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA      Today's Date "
@3,15 Say "NIGERIAN PRISONS SERVICES ,MINNA - NIGER STATE"
@3,63 say date()
@4,2 to 4,77
set color to
@5,5 say "Serial No:" get mc_no
      READ
      IF MC_NO="XXXXXX" .OR. MC_NO="xxxxxx"
      RETURN
      ENDIF
LOCATE FOR C_NO =MC_NO
      IF FOUND()
@21,15 SAY "Duplicate Record is NOT Permitted..."
@22,15
      WAIT
      CLEAR
      LOOP
      ENDIF

@5,45 Say "Name:" Get Mname
@7,5 Say "Tribe:" Get Mtribe
@7,28 Say "Nationality:" Get Mnat
@7,55 say "State:" get mstate
@9,5 Say "Home Address:" Get Mh_add1
@9,50 say "Rel:"get mrel
@10,19 Get Mh_add
@10,50 say "Date Convicted" get mdate_s
@13,5 Say "Occup:" Get Moccup
@13,31 Say "Next-of-kin:" Get Mn_of_kin
@15,5 Say "Phy.id:" Get Mpid
@17,5 Say "Offence com:" Get Moff_c
@15,31 Say "court Sent:" Get Mcourt_s

```

```
@15,60 Say "Dura sent:" Get Mdur_s
set color to r
@17,30 say "Cell Type" get MT_cell
@17,49 say "Training Type" get mtrain
@19,5 say "Remarks" get mrem
set color to
set color to g+r/*
@21,19 SAY "Enter (XXXXXX) To Quit "
@23,32 say "Adding Menu..."
set color to
Read
Append Blank
repl name with mname,tribe with mtribe,nat with mnat
repl c_no with mc_no, state with mstate,h_add1 with mh_add1
repl h_add with mh_add,rel with mrel,date_s with mdate_s
repl occup with moccup,n_of_kim with mn_of_kin,pid with mpid
repl off_c with moff_c,court_s with mcourt_s, dur_s with mdur_s
repl t_cell with mt_cell,train with mtrain,rem with mrem
Enddo
```

```
replace Name with MNAME
Replace tribe with mtribe
Replace nat with Mnat
Replace h_add with Mh_add
Replace h_add1 with Mh_add1
Replace occup with Moccup
Replace n_of_kin with Mn_of_kin
Replace pid with Mpid
Replace off_c with moff_c
Replace court_s with Mcourt_s
Replace date_s with Mdate_s
Enddo
```

```

CLEAR
SET COLOR TO
SET TALK OFF
SET STATUS OFF
SET SCOREBOARD OFF
SET DATE BRITISH
DO WHILE .T.
@1,1 TO 22,75
  set color to w+/Gr
r=1
do while r<25
@r,1 say repl(chr(247)+chr(247),78)
r=r+1
enddo
set color to
SET COLOR TO W+/B
@3,26 SAY "FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA"
@4,17 SAY "NIGERIA PRISONS SERVICES, MINNA, NIGER STATE"
@6,27 SAY "M A I N M E N U"
@6,55 say date()
@8,27 SAY "      CODE      TASK"
@10,27 SAY "      A      ADD RECORD"
@12,27 SAY "      V      VIEW RECORD"
@14,27 SAY "      E      EDIT RECORD"
@16,27 SAY "      R      REPORTS"
@18,27 SAY "      Q      QUIT"
set color to
I=0
SET COLOR TO r+/BR
@23,27 SAY "Please Enter Choice"
SET COLOR TO
DO WHILE I=0
I=INKEY()
IF UPPER(chr(I))$ "AVERQ"
  EXIT
ENDIF
I=0
ENDDO
DO CASE
  CASE UPPER(CHR(I))= "A"
    clear
    DO PRISON
  CASE UPPER(CHR(I))= "V"
    DO VIEW
  CASE UPPER(CHR(I))= "E"
    DO EDIT
  CASE UPPER(CHR(I))= "R"
    DO PR2
  CASE UPPER(CHR(I))= "Q"
    CLOSE DATABASE
    CLEAR ALL
    QUIT
ENDCASE
ENDDO

```

```
clear
SET STATUS OFF
SET SCOREBOARD OFF
SET TALK OFF
SET SAFETY ON
SET DATE BRITISH
set device to screen
r=0
CLOSE ALL
DELETE FILE TYPE.DBF
USE INMATE
SET COLOR TO /*W
@1,1 SAY "Sorting Please"
SET COLOR TO
Sort on nat to type
CLEAR
use type
r=60
DO WHILE .T.
if r>50
@3,17 SAY "NIGERIA PRISON SERVICES NIGER STATE COMMAND"
@4,15 SAY "(DURATION SENTENCE AND TYPE OF TRAINING...)"
@4,70 say date()
@8,3 SAY "Serial No."
@8,14 SAY "Name"
@8,28 SAY "Tribe"
@8,35 SAY "Nat."
@8,40 SAY "State"
@8,48 SAY "Dur_Sent"
@8,59 SAY "Cell"
@8,65 SAY "Training"
r=9
endif
do while .not. eof()
@r,3 say c_no
@r,14 say name
@r,28 say tribe
@r,35 say nat
@r,40 say state
@r,49 say DUR_s
@r,59 say T_cELL
@r,66 say TRAIN
skip
r=r+1
if r>50
exit
endif
Enddo
if eof()
wait
return
endif
Enddo
close database
return
```



```
clear
SET STATUS OFF
SET SCOREBOARD OFF
SET TALK OFF
SET SAFETY ON
SET DATE BRITISH
set device to screen
r=0
CLOSE ALL
DELETE FILE TYPE.DBF
USE INMATE
SET COLOR TO /*W
@1,1 SAY "Sorting Please"
SET COLOR TO
Sort on nat to type
CLEAR
use type
r=60
DO WHILE .T.
if r>50
@3,17 SAY "NIGERIA PRISON SERVICES NIGER STATE COMMAND"
@4,15 SAY "(DATE CONVICTED AND OFFENCE COMMITTED REPORT....)"
@4,70 say date()
@8,3 SAY "Serial No."
@8,14 SAY "Name"
@8,28 SAY "Tribe"
@8,35 SAY "Nat."
@8,40 SAY "State"
@8,48 SAY "Date Conv"
@8,59 SAY "Off-Comm"
@8,69 SAY "Court-Sent"
r=9
endif
do while .not. eof()
@r,3 say c_no
@r,14 say name
@r,28 say tribe
@r,35 say nat
@r,40 say state
@r,49 say date_s
@r,59 say off_c
@r,72 say court_s
skip
r=r+1
if r>50
exit
endif
Enddo
if eof()
wait
return
endif
Enddo
close database
return
```

```
SET DATE BRITISH
SET STATUS OFF
SET SAFETY ON
SET SCOREBOARD OFF
SET TALK OFF
Clear All
Use Inmate
Do While .T.
@1,1 TO 23,77
@2,25 say "FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA          Today's Date"
@3,15 say "NIGERIA PRISON SERVICES, MINNA - NIGER STATE"
@3,63 say date()
set color to g+r
mc_no=space(8)
mname=space(25)
mtribe=space(10)
mnat=space(2)
mstate=space(2)
mtrain=space(12)
mh_add1=space(20)
mh_add=space(20)
moccup=space(10)
mn_of_kin=space(10)
```

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA Today's Date
NIGERIAN PRISONS SERVICES ,MINNA - NIGER STATE 19/01/97

Serial No: PR0042

Name: JOHN DAVID

State: EDO

Nationality: NG

State: ED

Home Address: NO 5 BENIN ROAD
AGBOR

Rel: C
Date Convicted 01/02/92

Occup: FARMER

Next-of-kin: MRS DAVID

Physical: TALL/BLACK

Court Sent: MAGISTRATE

Dura sent: 2

Offence com: RAPE

Cell Type

Training Type WOODWORK

Remarks NOT BAIL

Enter (XXXXXX) To Quit

Adding Menu...

```

*****
*****
*****FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA*****
*****NIGERIA PRISONS SERVICES, MINNA, NIGER STATE*****
*****M A I N M E N U*****19/01/97*****
*****
*****      CODE      TASK*****
*****
*****      A      ADD RECORD*****
*****
*****      V      VIEW RECORD*****
*****
*****      E      EDIT RECORD*****
*****
*****      R      REPORTS*****
*****
*****      Q      QUIT*****
*****
*****Please Enter Choice*****
*****

```


NIGERIA PRISON SERVICES NIGER STATE COMMAND
 (DURATION SENTENCE AND TYPE OF TRAINING...)

23/09/97

| Sl No. | Name | Tribe | Nat. | State | Dur_Sent | Cell | Training |
|--------|---------------|--------|------|-------|----------|------|------------|
| 01 | ADE ADEDUN | NUPE | NG | N | 2 | CVC | WOOD MAKER |
| 02 | EDWARD SUNDAY | IBO | NG | IM | | CCC | |
| 04 | JOHN EDWARD | GWARI | NG | NG | 2 | CVC | WOODWORK |
| 05 | AKIN OLA | NUPE | NG | NG | | CCC | |
| 11 | JOHN GABRIEL | YORUBA | NG | OY | 2 | CC | CARPENTARY |
| 42 | JOHN DAVID | EDO | NG | ED | 2 | | WOODWORK |

ny key to continue...

NIGERIA PRISON SERVICES NIGER STATE COMMAND
 (DATE CONVICTED AND OFFENCE COMMITTED REPORT....)

23/09/97

| Sl No. | Name | Tribe | Nat. | State | Date Conv | Off-Comm | Court-Sent |
|--------|---------------|--------|------|-------|-----------|----------|------------|
| 06 | | | | | / / | | |
| '8 | | | | | / / | | |
| 1 | ADE ADEDUN | NUPE | NG | N | 02/04/97 | RAPE | MAG |
| 2 | EDWARD SUNDAY | IBO | NG | IM | 01/08/67 | ROBBER | H/COURT |
| 4 | JOHN EDWARD | GWARI | NG | NG | 01/05/82 | RAPE | H/COURT |
| 5 | AKIN OLA | NUPE | NG | NG | 12/05/96 | MURDER | M/COURT |
| 1 | JOHN GABRIEL | YORUBA | NG | OY | 01/01/95 | RAPE | MAGISTRA |
| 2 | JOHN DAVID | EDO | NG | ED | 01/02/92 | RAPE | MAGISTRA |

y key to continue...

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA Today's Date
NIGERIAN PRISONS SERVICES ,MINNA - NIGER STATE 19/01/97

Serial No: PR0042 Name: JOHN DAVID
Tribe: EDO Nationality: NG State: ED
Home Address: NO 5 BENIN ROAD Rel: C
AGBOR Date Convicted 01/02/92
Occup: FARMER Next-of-kin: MRS DAVID
Phy. id: TALL/BLACK court Sent: MAGISTRATE Dura sent: 2
Offence com: RAPE Cell Type Training Type WOODWORK
Remarks NOT BAIL

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA Today's Date
NIGERIAN PRISONS SERVICES ,MINNA - NIGER STATE 19/01/97

Serial No: PR0042 Name: JOHN DAVID
Tribe: EDO Nationality: NG State: ED
Home Address: NO 5 BENIN ROAD Rel: C
AGBOR Date Convicted 01/02/92
Occup: FARMER Next-of-kin: MRS DAVID
Phy. id: TALL/BLACK court Sent: MAGISTRATE Dura sent: 2
Offence com: RAPE Cell Type Training Type WOODWORK
Remarks NOT BAIL

Enter (XXXXXX) To Quit