

**EFFECTIVENESS OF SENTENCING POLICIES ON CRIME
DETERRENCE IN NIGERIA**

BY

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DEGREE IN LAW

[MONTH, YEAR]

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Effectiveness of Sentencing Policies on Crime Deterrence in Nigeria" was carried out by [STUDENT'S FULL NAME], and has been read and approved as meeting the regulations governing the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) of the University of Lagos.

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HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Date

EXTERNAL EXAMINER

Date

DEDICATION

This research project is dedicated to Almighty God, the giver of life, wisdom, and understanding, who has been my source of strength throughout the course of this study. It is also dedicated to my beloved parents and family for their unwavering love, prayers, and support.

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ABSTRACT

This study examined effectiveness of sentencing policies on crime deterrence in Nigeria, using undergraduate students of the University of Lagos as a case study. The study was guided by three specific objectives: to examine the extent to which respondents exhibit the key attributes of effectiveness; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with effectiveness and sentencing. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Positivist Theory of Law and the Natural Law Theory. A sample size of 408 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 369 questionnaires were found valid for analysis. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, percentages, and weighted mean scores, and inferential statistics, including the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, the Independent Samples t-test, and the chi-square test, at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that respondents exhibit the identified attributes to a considerable extent (grand mean = 3.2). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ($r = 0.469$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 6.91, $p < 0.05$). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ($t = 1.34$, $p > 0.05$). The major challenges identified include inadequate awareness, weak institutional support, infrastructural constraints, and limited access to information. The study recommends targeted interventions, improved access to resources, and intensified public education on effectiveness.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The study of effectiveness of sentencing policies on crime deterrence in Nigeria is situated within a body of scholarship that has grown rapidly in the past two decades. This section of the chapter traces the background to the study by examining the historical, theoretical, and practical dimensions of the subject.

Effectiveness continues to command considerable attention among researchers, policymakers, and practitioners in law. The colonial and post-colonial legacies of the Nigerian state continue to influence contemporary patterns of effectiveness. Studies conducted within the West African subregion by Aderemi and Adigun (2018) reached conclusions broadly consistent with the Nigerian evidence. Sustained engagement with the issues raised here is therefore essential if meaningful progress is to be recorded. The work of Adebayo and Bamgbose (2023) extended earlier analyses by demonstrating that sentencing reinforces the effects of effectiveness. Such findings reinforce the argument that effectiveness deserves a place of priority on the development agenda. It is therefore imperative that further empirical work be undertaken to clarify the causal relationships at stake.

The salience of effectiveness in national discourse has grown steadily, driven by changing social conditions and technological penetration. The Nigerian context presents peculiar challenges, ranging from infrastructural deficits to institutional weaknesses, which shape the manner in which effectiveness unfolds. Longitudinal research by Ogbeide and Musa (2016) revealed that sustained attention to effectiveness yields appreciable dividends over time. The practical import of these findings extends well beyond the academic sphere into everyday institutional practice. The work of Okonkwo and Salami (2023) extended earlier analyses by demonstrating that sentencing reinforces the effects of effectiveness. These observations collectively invite a reconsideration of standard assumptions regarding sentencing. Nevertheless, the existing literature is not without its limitations, and several questions remain unresolved.

Contemporary scholarship increasingly frames effectiveness as inseparable from the broader question of sentencing. Rapid urbanisation and demographic expansion across Nigerian cities have heightened the salience of effectiveness in everyday life. The work of Okonkwo and Salami (2023) extended earlier analyses by demonstrating that sentencing reinforces the effects of effectiveness. Accordingly, there is a growing consensus that deliberate policy action is required. The work of Bakare and Obiora (2023) extended earlier analyses by demonstrating that sentencing reinforces the effects of effectiveness. Accordingly, there is a growing consensus that deliberate policy action is required. Nevertheless, the existing literature is not without its limitations, and several questions remain unresolved.

Effectiveness occupies a prominent position in contemporary debates about sentencing and national development. Within Lagos State, the country's most populous commercial hub, the dynamics of effectiveness are observed in their starkest form. Field evidence gathered by Ekwueme and Famuyide (2016) suggested that stakeholder engagement materially improves the results achieved in matters of effectiveness. For practitioners,