

STIGMATISATION OF EX-CONVICTS AND REINTEGRATION

BY

[STUDENT'S FULL NAME]

[MATRIC NUMBER]

BEING A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY, FACULTY OF
SOCIAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, AKOKA, LAGOS STATE

IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.Sc.)
DEGREE IN SOCIOLOGY

[MONTH, YEAR]

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Stigmatisation of Ex-Convicts and Reintegration" 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.

PROJECT SUPERVISOR

Date

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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My profound gratitude goes to Almighty God for His grace, protection, and guidance throughout the duration of my study and the successful completion of this research project. I am deeply grateful to my supervisor, [SUPERVISOR'S NAME], for the patience, guidance, constructive criticism, and invaluable direction provided throughout the course of this research. I also wish to appreciate the Head of Department, the lecturers of the Department of Sociology, and my course mates for their support and friendship. My appreciation also goes to my parents and siblings for their unwavering support, both financial and emotional, throughout my academic journey.

ABSTRACT

This study examined stigmatisation of ex-convicts and reintegration, 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 stigmatisation; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with stigmatisation and convicts. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Structural Functionalist Theory and the Social Learning Theory. A sample size of 388 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 359 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 = 3.01). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ($r = 0.527$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 8.72, $p < 0.05$). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ($t = 1.15$, $p > 0.05$). 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 stigmatisation.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title Page	i
Certification	ii
Dedication	iii
Acknowledgement	iv
Abstract	v
Table of Contents	vi
List of Tables	vii
List of Figures	viii
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background to the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	4
1.3 Objectives of the Study	7
1.4 Research Questions	7
1.5 Research Hypotheses	7
1.6 Significance of the Study	8
1.7 Scope and Limitation of the Study	11
1.8 Definition of Terms	13
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW	15
2.1 Conceptual Review	15
2.1.1 Concept of Stigmatisation	15
2.1.2 Concept of Convicts	16
2.1.3 Concept of Reintegration	18
2.2 Theoretical Framework	20
2.2.1 Structural Functionalist Theory	20
2.2.2 Social Learning Theory	21
2.2.3 Strain Theory	22
2.2.4 Symbolic Interactionism	23
2.3 Empirical Review	25
2.3.1 Early Studies on stigmatisation	25
2.3.2 Recent Nigerian Evidence on stigmatisation	26
2.3.3 Stigmatisation and convicts	28
2.3.4 Comparative Perspectives across Africa	30
2.4 Summary of Literature Review	32
CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	34
3.1 Research Design	34
3.2 Population of the Study	34
3.3 Sample Size and Sampling Technique	35
3.4 Sources of Data Collection	36
3.5 Research Instrument	37
3.6 Validity and Reliability of the Instrument	38
3.7 Method of Data Analysis	39
3.7.1 Administration of the Instrument	40

3.8 Ethical Considerations	41
CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION	43
4.1 Data Presentation	43
4.2 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents	43
4.3 Analysis of Research Questions	44
4.4 Test of Hypotheses	45
4.5 Discussion of Findings	46
CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	51
5.1 Summary	51
5.2 Conclusion	52
5.3 Recommendations	53
5.4 Suggestions for Further Studies	53
REFERENCES	55
APPENDIX	57

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1: Summary of the Review of Related Literature	32
Table 2.2: Operationalisation of the Study Variables	33
Table 3.1: Population of the Study and Sampling Technique	42
Table 3.2: Validity and Reliability of the Research Instrument	42
Table 4.1: Gender Distribution of Respondents	49
Table 4.2: Age Distribution of Respondents	49
Table 4.3: Educational Attainment of Respondents	49
Table 4.4: Weighted Mean Analysis of Research Question One	50
Table 4.5: Weighted Mean Analysis of Research Question Two	50
Table 4.6: Correlation Summary between the Independent and Dependent Variables	50
Table 4.7: Independent Samples t-test by Gender	50
Table 4.8: Chi-square Test of Association	50

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1: Conceptual Framework of the Study	14
Figure 3.1: Sociology Research Context	42
Figure 4.1: Gender Distribution of Respondents	49
Figure 4.2: Age Distribution of Respondents	49

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The study of stigmatisation of ex-convicts and reintegration 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.

A growing corpus of literature draws attention to the pivotal role of stigmatisation in shaping developmental trajectories. Federal and state governments have initiated several reforms, yet implementation gaps continue to constrain progress in matters of stigmatisation. Longitudinal research by Eze and Obiora (2016) revealed that sustained attention to stigmatisation yields appreciable dividends over time. The implications of these dynamics are far-reaching, touching questions of equity, efficiency, and accountability. An examination by Bakare and Bello (2019) attributed much of the observed variation in outcomes to institutional capacity and policy continuity. Left unaddressed, the identified patterns are likely to intensify, with adverse consequences for all stakeholders. Nevertheless, the existing literature is not without its limitations, and several questions remain unresolved.

The phenomenon of stigmatisation, while not new, has acquired fresh analytical urgency in Nigeria. Evidence from national agencies indicates that stigmatisation has grown considerably in recent times, underscoring the need for systematic inquiry. The aggregate picture emerging from Ibrahim and Ibrahim (2023) points to a modest but consistent association between stigmatisation and the outcomes of interest. Such findings reinforce the argument that stigmatisation deserves a place of priority on the development agenda. Research by Olawale and Eze (2021) using mixed methods provided particularly rich insight into the mechanisms connecting stigmatisation and convicts. Such findings reinforce the argument that stigmatisation deserves a place of priority on the development agenda. Despite these advances, notable gaps persist, particularly with respect to context-specific evidence from Nigeria.

stigmatisation occupies a prominent position in contemporary debates about convicts and national development. Auxiliary variables, including education, income, and location, further condition how stigmatisation is experienced across communities. Empirical evidence from Olawale and Eze (2021) suggests that positive developments in convicts are associated with improvements in stigmatisation. Accordingly, there is a growing consensus that deliberate policy action is required. Findings reported by Bakare and Adigun (2018) observed that respondents with greater exposure to stigmatisation recorded markedly different results. Such findings reinforce the argument that stigmatisation deserves a place of priority on the development agenda. Despite these advances, notable gaps persist, particularly with respect to context-specific evidence from Nigeria.

A growing corpus of literature draws attention to the pivotal role of stigmatisation in shaping developmental trajectories. Economic pressures and resource scarcity frequently determine the pace at which stigmatisation advances in practice. Studies by Oyelaran and Bamgbose (2019) largely support the view that stigmatisation