



## ASSESSMENT OF ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS AVAILABLE AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS OF PRISON INMATES IN SOUTH-EAST, NIGERIA

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**Abstract:** The study investigated availability of entrepreneurial skills in South East, Nigeria prisons. Based on the purpose of the study, 1 research questions was raised and one hypothesis postulated that guided the study. It employed descriptive Survey design. Population of the study was 9,241 prison inmates. Multi-stage sampling procedure was used to select a sample of 924 subjects comprising 116 convicted inmates and 808 non-convicted prison inmates. The instrument for data collection was Questionnaire for Entrepreneurial Skills and Counselling Services in Prison (QESCSP). The face and content validities of the instrument was assured. In determining the reliability of the instrument, Cronbach Alpha test was used, reliability co-efficient of 0.73 was obtained. The research question raised was answered using descriptive statistic (Frequency, percentage scores). The major findings showed that there are entrepreneurial skills for prison inmates in South-East Nigeria. There was no significant difference between the responses of convicted and non-convicted prison inmates on the counselling services available to prison inmates.

**Keywords:** Entrepreneurial Skills, Prison Inmates, Health Implications, South-East, Nigeria.

### Introduction

The prevalence of social vices among Nigerian youths is not only alarming but appears to have reached worrisome level. This is because criminal behaviours and felony are becoming commonplace issues in Nigeria (Asokhia & Agbonluae, 2013). Among these social vices are armed robbery, kidnapping, drug trafficking, fraud, child trafficking, rape, murder and cybertheft to mention but a few. These behaviours are becoming more serious as they are now exhibited with new methods and techniques (Ugwu, 2016). In recent times, instances of the notorious and anti-social activities of some youths abound in terms of bombing, hijacking, kidnapping and other life-threatening incidences (Asokhia & Agbonluae, 2013). These unwholesome acts of the youths often land them in prison when convicted.

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## **Prison**

Prison seems to have been perceived differently by people. According to Opafunso and Adepoju (2016), prisons are public institutions established by the government for the rehabilitation and reformation of individual offenders who are in breach of the law. Onyekachi (2016) stated that a prison is a place delineated and declared by the law of the state restrained custody of individuals accused or convicted of violating the criminal laws of the state. Prison is also governmental physical institution built to reform offenders to become better and adjusted individuals in the society. It could be referred to as a space used to confine people convicted or awaiting trial. It includes every physical structure such as the land, the house and every other structure located within the institution and used for the purpose of detention and reformation.

### **Role of Nigerian prison and Programme demands**

Implicit from the definitions above, some prison experts highlighted the roles of Nigerian prison. The operators of Nigerian prisons are charged with the task of identifying the causes of anti-social behaviours; setting in motion mechanisms for their treatment, training of inmates for eventual reintegration into society as normal law-abiding citizens when discharged and administer prisons farms and industries (Ibrahim, 2012). It was also highlighted in the Laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1990) that prisons are charged to take into lawful custody of all those certified to be so kept by courts of competent jurisdiction and produce suspects in courts as and when due (Ibrahim, 2012).

In a bid to achieve these objectives, Nigeria prisons initiated several rehabilitation programmes. According to Obioha (2011), the preliminary steps taken to actualize the mission to reform the prisons, include the establishment of several working groups and committees on prison reforms with different mandates. The reform programmes can be traced to Obasanjo's regime in June 2001, which geared towards the rehabilitation of inmates and train prison's personnel (Asokhia & Agbonluae, 2013). Some of the Prison Reform Programmes are Prison Reform and Decongestion, State of Remand Inmates in Nigeria's Prisons, Prison Reform and Rehabilitation and Justice Sector Reform just to list but a few (Amnesty International, 2008). One of the agenda set for most of the committees and groups focused on skills development, education, and counselling (Obioha, 2011). The recommendations of these reform programmes centred on sustainable reforms in terms of skills development, decongestion and expression of concern that imprisonment was being overused. Apparently, it is still uncertain the extent these well-articulated objectives had been actualized.

### **Entrepreneurial Skills**

In view of this, many prisons have introduced educational programmes to help inmates move on with their lives after release, find careers and make productive— at least not destructive—contributions to society (Chappell, 2004; Costelloe & Langelid, 2011). One of the educational programmes is entrepreneurship. Ikeme (2012) stated that entrepreneurship is a way of thinking, reasoning, and acting that is opportunity obsessed, holistic in approach, leadership-balanced and absorbed in creativity and innovation. Similarly, Ede (2014) defined entrepreneurship as a systematic way of innovating ideas, identifying suitable environment and undertaking the financial and social risk in order to make a profit. Ezenwagu, Ughamadu, Ede, and Ugwoke (2016) viewed entrepreneurship as a process of creating societal valuable opportunity into a technical concept. Deducing, entrepreneurship is a dynamic process of creating wealth for the well being of both the entrepreneurs and individuals in the society like the prisoners.

Globally, prison-based entrepreneurship education began emerging in the 2000s with the teaching of self-employment skills to prison inmates before their return to society (Winig, 2012). Winig further explained that more than



30 states offered entrepreneurial skill programmes, mostly through non-profit organizations in 2010. Some of the entrepreneurship programmes shown have assisted ex-prison inmates to engage in successful businesses which include bakeries, commercial cleaning ventures, tailoring, carpentry, beauty salons, hair-dressing, photography, auto-mechanics skill, animal husbandry skill, shoes making, metal works and fabrications, soap making, and laundry.

In view of the above report, entrepreneurial skill could be particularly valuable to prison inmates because of its self-employment opportunity to an occupational or career path that may help them to overcome the inherent employers' discriminatory attitudes towards ex-prisoners (Cooney, 2012). It would also help in developing an entrepreneurial mindset in these prison inmates whose career paths have been changed (Haynie & Shepherd, 2011). Indeed, the acquisition of entrepreneurial skills in the various programme areas by Nigeria prison inmates would help them to surmount the ensuing economic depression after leaving prison.

Entrepreneurial skill seems to be reducing the crime rate in developing countries. Entrepreneurial skills are self-empowerment skills. Uduma (2004) opined that they are activities that are geared towards the management of an enterprise, be it in form of production, processing, and marketing. Ede (2014) defined entrepreneurial skills as the ability and innate tendencies to carry out certain tasks which are acceptable to a particular profession. Samian & Buntat (2012) asserted that entrepreneurial skills involve the process whereby a person acquires a particular skill or type of behaviour needed for business by undergoing training which would enable the individual to identify and exploit entrepreneurial opportunities for self-employment. The entrepreneurial skills include visionary leadership, self-knowledge, effective communication and bargaining, effective time management and financial practice, effective planning and strategy formulation (Olokundun, Hezekiah, Stephen & Fred, 2014). Deducing, entrepreneurial skills are referred to as innovative ideas and abilities that can be achieved through training for the purpose of self-reliance. The imperatives of entrepreneurial skills needs cannot be over-emphasized. It equips people with motivational knowledge and skills that are important for successful enterprise (Cho, 1998). It also helps entrepreneurs to acquire self-confidence, self-esteem and participate in decision-making at household and community levels (Cheston & Kuhn, 2002). It is a vital source of developing human capital (Brana, 2008; Ikegwu, 2014). Thus, it seems like entrepreneurial skills stimulate entrepreneurial activity and reduce business failure.

Despite the overwhelming importance of entrepreneurial skills as demonstrated above, it has remained unclear whether Nigerian prison especially those in the South-East region has the needed entrepreneurial for prison inmate to enable them to survive in life especially in getting legitimate source of livelihood when they get out of jail. Entrepreneurial skills in prisons can change the offenders' fundamental attitude not just towards entrepreneurship, but also towards important aspects of life that go far beyond what is taught in the programmes (Patzelt, 2014). It implies that building on their sense of optimism, the prisoners can develop a positive and constructive view of their personal future and of society as a whole.

From literature, it is observed that awaiting trial inmates do not participate in vocational skills acquisition (Ogunleye, 2014). In furtherance, Ogunleye decried this, as it poses great challenge to prison institutions. Specifically, Ogunleye explained that the awaiting trial inmates are not exposed to vocational skills acquisition when compared with their counterparts who are already convicted. This problem mentioned above may hinder skill acquisition training and counselling services designed to help prison inmates acquire vocational skills. Omini and Ijeh (2009) also confirmed that with proper counselling, the inmates, especially the awaiting trial inmates who are psychologically withdrawn and do not



know their fate might finally settle down to learn one skill or the other, which might help them when they are given their freedom.

However, Young (2014) opined that ex-prisoners still get frustrated by not getting jobs or even getting job interviews either in public or private sectors. Frey & Osborne (2013) is in agreement with the above when he asserted that the ex-prisoners encounter prejudice and suspicions linked with criminal conviction and incarceration in the society. Consequently, the recidivists and other inmates develop negative attitudes towards any correctional programme such as counselling and vocational skills acquisition. It is assumed that the negative thoughts of rejection by the society affect their attitude. No wonder, Okoh (2016) lamented that contemporary youths do not appreciate the novel federal government counselling programme initiatives and policies with regards to vocational skills.

Moreover, many employers automatically disqualify any person with a prior conviction from applicant pools (Goff, Rose, Rose & Purves, 2007) and persons convicted of a range of offenses are often barred by laws from entering many occupations (National Centre for Biotechnology Information (NCBI, 2014). Sometimes, discharged prisoners encounter exclusion and discrimination in the world of work (Gratton, 2010). Unless fully addressed, each of these conditions impede the returning prisoner's ability to compete for work today or for the jobs of the future.

Evidence abounds that the Nigerian prisons demonstrate a condition that cannot guarantee the counselling (reformatory process) of the inmates because they disregard the welfare of the inmates (Opafunso & Adepaju, 2016). The authors decried the nature of poor administration and unethical practices against the inmates' welfare. It seems that the abuse of human rights of inmates is being demonstrated at high proportion on awaiting trials population. This is disturbing as the purpose of establishing prison seems to have been thwarted and defeated. The empirical based literature on Nigerian prisons showed the serious concern, dissatisfaction and displeasure among scholars and parents regarding the poor implementation of prison reformation and vocational programmes as there is hardly any meaningful rehabilitation of the inmates (Emasealu & Popoola, 2016; Tanimu, 2006). It is on this note that Emasealu and Popoola (2016) remarked that this is against the Nigerian Prison Service fundamental principles which are to rehabilitate prison inmates.

Despite the efforts of prison vocational educators, counsellors, psychologists and welfare officers to offer the inmates opportunities to acquire skills and various trades capable of helping them enter into vocational related jobs when discharged using useful strategies, up till now it has not recorded many results in South East, Nigeria (Ajah & Nweke, 2017). The prison environment designed for vocational training and rehabilitation are not socially and psychologically favourable for the inmates to acquire the skills. It was based on the poor environment that Bradford and Andrew (2006) noted that majority of the inmates are always idle in the prison yard because they lack support, structure and social interaction which is obtainable in South East Nigeria. The few inmates that are privileged to learn may not have enough space and work to occupy them for a few day's works. This is evident where convicted inmates are discharged without acquiring any sellable life skills as well as getting back to their homes hardened in South East, Nigeria (Usman, 2014).

For instance, Abakaliki prison has the capacity to accommodate 387 inmates, but currently, it accommodates 846 prison inmates which is above its original carrying capacity (Ajah & Nweke, 2017). The same scenario applies to Awka prison that has the capacity to accommodate 238, but it is accommodating 440 inmates (Ajah & Nweke, 2017), which is 202 above its original carrying capacity. As a result of this, inmates in Abakaliki and Awka prisons are not corrected or reformed properly because the correctional facilities available cannot serve all the inmates. Unfortunately, this is worsened by the strained relationship between most of the inmates and the staff in Abakaliki and Awka Federal Prisons



which affects the reformation and reintegration of the inmates (Ajah & Nweke, 2017). These are major challenges confronting the Nigerian prison system in South-East Nigeria which require urgent research.

### **Health Implications of Prison Inmates**

It is worrisome to note that some of the reports, for instance, Presidential Committee on Prison Reform and Rehabilitation revealed that at least 65 percent of Nigeria's prison inmates have never been convicted of any crime; still, some are awaiting trial for years (Obioha, 2011). In addition, the report discovered that most prisoners are too poor to afford a lawyer and the appalling prison conditions have a seriously damaging effect on the mental and physical health of the inmates. According to the National Assembly Legislative Digest (2010), overcrowded prisons inexorably lead to inmates being exposed to improper health conditions that result in the spread of epidemics which are likely to cause death such as tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS among others when not properly treated.

More so, ex-prisoners who are excluded from the world of work most often have tremendous economic and psychosocial cost which leads them to re-offend. They do not only undergo exclusion in terms of employment and career placement but also they encounter psychological and educational problems. Ex-prisoners disproportionately suffer a higher incidence of mental illness, substance abuse and addiction, learning disabilities, illiteracy or below grade-level educational achievement (Gratton, 2014) and abuse or post-traumatic stress syndrome (Helmick, 2014). It had been attested that instead of prisons reforming and rehabilitating the inmate, they are hardening inmates, subjecting them to horrible and degrading conditions, giving punishments that exceed the crimes committed (Ibrahim, 2012). With these experiences, prison inmates are physically and psychologically damaged and many have contracted deadly diseases due to poor management (National Assembly Legislative Digest, 2010).

In Nigeria, the prison inmates' experiences are not just punitive but tortuous. Prisoners, instead of being meaningfully engaged in reformation and reintegration programmes, are exposed to all forms of abuse (such as rape) and this trend has been condemned (Emasealu & Popoola, 2016). Specifically, in Nigeria, these abuses have resulted in some of the prison inmates experiencing isolation, physical and psychological victimization, harassment, overcrowding and riots among other forms of abuse (Emasealu & Popoola, 2016). Nigerian Prisons Service Authority also acknowledged that 99% of prisoners in South-East Nigeria have psychological problems owing to congestion, overstay, inadequate food and Medicare (Nigerian Prisons Service – NPS, 2006; 2007; The Reformer, 2006).

In view of these inadequacies in the prisons in South East, the adjustment to imprisonment is usually hard and at times creates automatic thoughts that could be dysfunctional after discharge from prison (Ozioko, 2014). Because of this, prison inmates perceive prisons to be painful and incarcerated place and consequently, suffer subjective pain, poor self-image (Ozioko, 2014), emotional distress and social problem (fighting and bullying), mental disorder, opioid dependence (Goyal, Singh, Gargi, Goval & Garg, 2011), psychopathy, depression and psychiatric morbidity (Assadi Noroozian, Pakravannejad, Yahyezadeh, Aghayan, Shariat & Fazel, 2006; Duffy, Linehan, & Kennedy, 2006). It is against this background that this study intends to ascertain the availability of entrepreneurial skills and health implication for prison inmates in South East, Nigeria.

### **Purpose of the Study**

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The main purpose of this study was to ascertain the availability of entrepreneurial skills for prison inmates' in the South East, Nigeria. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. Determined the entrepreneurial skills given to convicted and non-convicted prison inmates.

### **Research Questions**

The following research questions were posed to guide this study.

1. What are the entrepreneurial skills given to convicted and non-convicted in South-East, Nigeria?

### **Hypothesis**

There is no significant difference between the mean scores of convicted and non-convicted prison inmates on the entrepreneurial skills given.

### **Method**

A descriptive survey design was adopted for the study. The area of this study was South East, Nigeria. South East is one of the six geopolitical zones in Nigeria. There are five states in this area of the study namely Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo. The States are Igbo speaking ethnic group with residents from other parts of the country and even non Nigerians. The five South Eastern states are located within the vast geographical expanse that extends from 4°15' to 7°5' N and from 5° 32' to 9' E. The study area covers an area of 76,355 square kilometres. In the South, it is bounded by Rivers State. In the North, it shares a boundary with North-Central geopolitical delineation. In the Northwest, it is bounded by the River Niger, and in the East-and-South East by the Cross River, whose general basin covers the Nigeria - Cameroon border. Based on the nature of the land, the inhabitants in this zone are mostly traders, farmers, civil servants, businessmen, and women.

The rationale for choosing south East, Nigeria is based on the evidence that the prison inmates' opportunities to acquire entrepreneurial skills and other vocational related jobs seemed to have been jeopardized in South East, Nigeria (Ajah & Nweke, 2017). Instead of training and rehabilitating the prison inmates, the prison officials appeared to have turned down the fundamental objectives of prison institution. As a result, about 90% of prison inmates in South East Nigeria seem not to be socially and psychologically stable. In this study area, about 90% of convicted inmates are discharged without learning sellable entrepreneurial skills in Nigerian Prisons in South East, Nigeria (Nwachukwu, 1998; Usman, 2014; Ajah & Nweke, 2017). Because of these poor correctional facilities in the study area, prison inmates are not corrected or reformed properly, and this has protracted to the extent that strained relationship exists between the prison inmates and staff in South East Nigeria (Ajah & Nweke (2017).

The target population of the study was all the convicted and non-convicted prison inmates in South-East Nigeria. This comprised 9,241 prison inmates (1,133 convicted males; 29 convicted females; 7,819 Awaiting trial males; 260 Awaiting trial females). Specifically, prisons in Abia State contained 1,625 prison inmates (169 convicted males; 4 convicted females; 1384 awaiting trial males; 68 awaiting trial females), Anambra State has 1560 prison inmates (205 convicted males; 4 convicted female; 1,320 awaiting trial males; 31 awaiting trial female), Ebonyi State contained 1,082 prison inmates (115 convicted males; 4 convicted females; 935 awaiting trial males; 28 awaiting trial females, Enugu State contained 2,352 prison inmates (379 convicted males; 11 convicted females; 1,916 awaiting trial males; 46 awaiting trial females) and finally Imo State has 2622 prison inmates (265 convicted males; 6 convicted females; 2,264 awaiting trial males; 87 awaiting trial females). Source: Nigeria Prison Service Headquarters, Abuja, 2017.

The sample size used for the study was 924 inmates chosen through multistage sampling technique. In the first stage the researcher used purposive sampling to select inmates from Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo state.

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Meanwhile, Abia State has 1,625 prison inmates with 171 convicted and 1452 awaiting trials, Anambra State has 1560 prison inmates 209 convicted 1,351 awaiting trials, Ebonyi State has 1,082 prison inmates with 119 convicted and 963 awaiting trials, Enugu State has 2,352 prison inmates with 390 convicted and 1,962 awaiting trials and finally Imo State has 2622 prison inmates with 271 convicted and 2,351 awaiting trial males. This all together, given a total of 1160 convicted inmates and 8081 non-convicted (awaiting trails). In determining the sample size, Nwana (1998) observed that if the population is a few hundreds, a 40% or more sample will do; if many hundreds, a 20% sample will do; if a few thousands, a 10% or less sample will do and if several thousands, a 5% or less sample will do.”

The sample was chosen using the percentage for few thousands for convicted and non-convicted (awaiting trails) which permits the researcher to use 10% on both inmates according to Nwana (1998). Therefore, the researcher used 10% to determine the sample size of convicted and non-convicted (awaiting trails), which gave a manageable population that was investigated.

The instrument used for data collection for the study is a questionnaire developed by the researcher titled Questionnaire for Entrepreneurial Skills in Prison (QESP). The items of the instrument were generated from the reviewed literature (for example Crawford, 2003; Garcia, 2013; Rujjanave, 2008; Schirmer, 2008). The QESP has parts A and B. Part A, elicited the personal demographic characteristics of the respondents such as prison inmate status, gender, state, sentence (in years), offense of conviction and age. Part B has two sections. In section A, contained 13 items which were placed on a 2-point scale of Available (A) and Not Available

Three copies of the instrument were given to three experts for face validation. The experts included two from Guidance and Counselling unit of Department of Educational Foundations and one from Measurement and Evaluation Unit of Department of Science Education, Faculty of Education, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. These experts were requested to face-validate and scrutinize the instrument in terms of the appropriateness, relevance, and clarity of the items with regard to the specific purposes, research question and null hypothesis stated for the study. The experts made some suggestions and corrections. Among the suggestion is that few items in the cluster were poorly articulated and needed to be recast. The corrections pointed out by the experts led to the restructuring of some items while the irrelevant ones were deleted.

In ensuring the reliability of the instrument, Questionnaire for Entrepreneurial Skills in Prison (QESP) was trial tested by administering 60 copies of the questionnaire to 20 convicted inmates and 40 awaiting trails in Agbor prison yard in Delta State, Nigeria which is outside the study area. To determine the internal consistency of the items, Cronbach Alpha statistical method was used to analyze the data collected. The result of data analysis gave Alpha coefficient values of 0.74 value indicating that the instrument is reliable to be used for the study.

Data collection was done by direct delivery and retrieval method. The researchers with the help of 9 research assistants who were briefed on the administration of the research instrument distributed and retrieved from the respondents the copies of the questionnaires on completion. The use of research assistants facilitated the distribution and retrieval of a questionnaire copies as well as to ensure a 100% return. Meanwhile percentage statistical tool was used for analysis of data obtained for research question and null hypothesis for the study. A score below 49.0% was considered negative which expressed that the material or skill was not available while 50.0% and above was considered positive which showed the availability of the material or skill. Also, t-test statistic test was used to test the hypothesis formulated for the study, was tested at 0.05 probability level.



**Result**

**Table 1: Frequency and Percentage Scores of the Respondents on the Entrepreneurial Skills Available to Prison Inmates in South-East, Nigeria**

S/N	Item	Convicted		Awaiting Trails		Total		Dec
		Available F	%	Available F	%	Available F	%	
1	Carpentry/ Furniture	116	12.6	806	87.4	922	56.3	A
2	Tailoring	110	12.7	759	87.3	869	56.35	A
3	Building	93	12.6	645	87.4	738	56.3	A
4	Masonry	104	12.7	713	87.3	817	56.35	A
5	Laundry	98	12.6	680	87.4	778	56.3	A
6	Soap making	91	12.5	636	87.5	727	56.25	A
7	Metal works/fabrications	94	12.7	644	87.3	738	56.35	A
8	Shoes making	94	12.9	635	87.1	729	56.45	A
9	Animal Husbandry skill	87	13.0	583	87.0	670	56.5	A
10	Auto-mechanics skill	62	12.4	437	87.6	499	56.2	A
11	Photography	21	13.4	136	86.6	157	56.7	A
12	Welding	96	12.5	672	87.5	768	56.25	A
13	Hair-dressing	94	12.6	652	87.4	746	56.3	A

**Keys:** % = Percentage; F=Frequency; A = Available, Dec. =Decision

Result in Table 1 shows the percentage scores of respondents on entrepreneurial skills available to prison inmates in South-East, Nigeria. The percentage scores indicated that most of the listed entrepreneurial skills were available to prison inmates in South-East, Nigeria. Generally, 56.35% of the respondents indicated that entrepreneurial skills listed in Table 1 are available to prison inmates in South-East, Nigeria prisons. The high percentage scores of availability of these entrepreneurial

skills from the respondents imply that the entrepreneurial skills are available to prison inmates in South-East, Nigeria.

**Hypothesis One:** There is no significant difference between the responses of convicted and non-convicted prison inmates on the entrepreneurial skills available to prison inmates in South-East, Nigeria.



**Table 2: Summary of X<sup>2</sup> of convicted and awaiting trails on the Entrepreneurial Skills given to Prison Inmates in South-East, Nigeria.**

S/ N	Items	Convicted Inmates % Available	Awaiting Trial % Available	X <sup>2</sup>	Asymp. Sig.	Decision
1	Carpentry/ Furniture	12.6	87.4	.288a	.592	Accepted
2	Tailoring	12.7	87.3	.144a	.704	Accepted
3	Building	12.6	87.4	.008a	.931	Accepted
4	Masonry	12.7	87.3	.198a	.657	Accepted
5	Laundry	12.6	87.4	.008a	.929	Accepted
6	Soap making	12.5	87.5	.004a	.948	Accepted
7	Metal works/fabrications	12.7	87.3	.112a	.738	Accepted
8	Shoes making	12.9	87.1	.364a	.546	Accepted
9	Animal Husbandry skill	13.0	87.0	.412	.521	Accepted
10	Auto-mechanics skill	12.4	87.6	.017a	.898	Accepted
11	Photography	13.4	86.6	.116a	.733	Accepted
12	Welding	12.5	87.5	.012a	.912	Accepted
13	Hair-dressing	12.6	87.4	.008a	.931	Accepted

X<sup>2</sup>=Chi-Square, Asymp. Sig. =P-Value

The result of data analysis in Table 2 shows that there was no significant difference between the responses of convicted and non-convicted prison inmates on the entrepreneurial skills available to prison inmates in South-East, Nigeria, given the p-values which ranged from .521 to .948. Therefore, the hypothesis which stated that there is no significant difference between the responses of convicted and non-convicted inmates on the entrepreneurial skills available to prison inmates in South-East, Nigeria is not rejected.

#### Discussion

Base the assessment of availability of entrepreneur skills in South-East, Nigeria prisons. The study revealed that carpentry or furniture, tailoring, masonry, laundry, welding, hair-dressing,

metalwork/fabrications, shoes making, building, soap making, animal husbandry skill and auto-mechanics are the entrepreneurial skills available to prison inmates in South-East, Nigeria. Further analysis showed that there is no significant difference between the responses of convicted and non-convicted prison inmates on the entrepreneurial skills available to prison inmates in South-East, Nigeria. This result agrees with Ogunleye (2014) who revealed that the convicted inmates in the prisons are exposed to vocational skills when compared with their counterparts who are awaiting trial. This finding also agrees with Nwachukwu (1998) who revealed skills that enhance trades are available in all the prisons: In the same vein, the present findings supports Asokhia and Agbonluae (2013) who showed that there is the



availability of facilities for shoemaking, carpentry, and tailoring in the 4 prisons and the fact that a cottage shoemaking industry. In line with the finding of this present study, Uche, Uche, Ezumah, Ebue, Okafor, and Ezegebe (2015) found that rehabilitation programmes cover carpentry, tailoring, arts and crafts and welding. The findings of the studies are interesting and appealing. This is because in spite of the time frame and location with which the reviewed studies were conducted yet the present study still supports the findings. This is an indication that the management of Nigeria prison is effective in providing entrepreneurial skills to the prison inmates. On that note, one could guess that the availability of those entrepreneurial skills is an opportunity for the prison inmate better post-prison career experience.

### **Conclusion**

The result revealed that entrepreneurial skills are available to prison inmates in South-East, Nigeria but they prison inmates seriously suffer health challenges. Further analysis showed that there is no significant difference between the responses of convicted and non-convicted prison inmates on the entrepreneurial skills available. Given that entrepreneurial skills availability, prison inmates have the opportunities of exploring talents and career if they will be provided with good environment. On the contrary, if those entrepreneurial skills are not given to prison inmates, instead of becoming productive members of society, they will come back more hardened. But with the availability of entrepreneurial skills, the promising positive implication is that the prisoners may be self-employed and enjoy career path and career satisfaction which would be realizable if government would employ experts for such job.

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