THE ROLE OF BORSTAL INSTITUTIONS IN CHILD CARE AND PROTECTION

A CASE STUDY OF SHIMO LA TEWA BORSTAL INSTITUTION

BY

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Abreviations

B.I – BORSTAL INSTITUTION
PO- PROBATION OFFICERS
DCS- DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN SERVICES
DPP- DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PROSECUTION
JJS – JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM
CCPO-CHILD CARE AND PROTECTION OFFICERS
ABSTRACT

There is little doubt that juvenile violence is currently a prevalent issue and concern in the criminal justice field.

The different perpetrators between ages 15-25 years have either fallen victims of mob justice, extrajudicial killing, or imprisonment in different youth offender institution (in this case Shimo la Tewa BI hosting young offenders).

Shimo La Tewa Borstal institution is a government facility that contains youthful offenders between the age 15 to below 18 years for the purposes of correction rehabilitation and reintegration of the youthful offenders.

Other functions include safe custody and security to enhance, retribution, deterrence and prevention of crime by the children. The institution runs a number of programs ranging from formal education, vocational training, character building, life planning skills, talent nurturing etc,
BACKGROUND OF SHIMO LA TEWA BORSTAL INSTITUTION

The institution was established in 1965

Aim was to accommodate juveniles in conflict with the law

It hosts boys between 15ys to below 18years committed for a period not exceeding 3 years (irrespective of the crime committed).

The main objectives of Borstal institution is correction, rehabilitation and reintegration.

This is made possible through various programs psychological and psychosocial programs
INCLUSION CRITERIA FOR BOYS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR ADMISSION TO SHIMO LA TEWA BI

Since the institution is designed for correction, rehabilitation and reintegration, it only admits boys who meet the following criterion;

- The boy must be considered as a child in conflict with the law.

- The boy must have been between 15yrs and below 18yrs at the time he committed the offence of which he is being committed to the BI.

- The boy must be under the supervision of either a children’s officer or a probation officer.

- On admission the boy must therefore be accompanied by a vacancy confirmation form and an initial home report document.
PROCEDURES AND ROLE OF BI WITHIN THE JJS WITH REGARD TO THROUGH CARE AND AFTERCARE

1. Confirmation of vacancy by Probation or children’s officers.

2. Reception of the boy to the institution

3. Motivational interview is administered.

4. A physical examination is then conducted to ascertain health.

5. Official handing from the escorting police to the BI.

6. The receiving officer then briefs the boy on his rights, responsibilities


8. Orientation, RNR assessment and individual treatment plan.
EMPOWERMENT AND CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMS OFFERED INCLUDE BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

- Guidance and counseling
- Formal education.
- Adult education
- Vocational training.
- Games and sports
- Spiritual welfare
- Other co-opted professional trainings
CORRECTION AND REHABILITATION MONITORING PROCESS

1. Initial PROGRESS REPORT
2. Initial environmental adjustment/ progress report.
3. Final progress report
4. Final environmental adjustment
5. Family conferencing
6. Board Of Visitors
ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Graduated boys to high schools including national schools.
2. Registration of trade test exams for all enrolled boys.
3. Effective reintegration through family conferences.
4. Provision of basic needs to all boys.
5. Low recidivism
6. In 2017 the institution managed to send 3 pupils to national schools.
7. The school drama team has participated to national level in 2016, 2017, 2018 and won 1st price.
**CHALLENGES**

1. Insufficient modern equipment’s for the vocational training section.

2. Stigma from community affecting reintegration process.

3. Insufficient resources for vocational training for physically challenged boys.

4. Shortage of professional staff.

5. Misconceptions on roles of BI. (for punishment)
RECOMMENDATION

1. The community should support the boys in correction, rehabilitation and reintegration within the institution and after discharge back to the community.

2. Other non-state actors within the JJS and CCPO should participate in the correction, rehabilitation and reintegration process.

3. Increase of funding for both school and vocational training sections.
THANK YOU

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