

## IMPACT OF EXPOSURE OF CHILDREN TO CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS ON RISK OF SECURITY AND SAFETY IN NIGERIA

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### Abstract

This study examined the impact of exposure of children to correctional institutions on risk of security and safety in Nigeria. The survey research design was used for the study. The population comprised of all juvenile children and staff at the correctional centres in Ogun and Ondo states. Purposive sampling technique was adopted to select one hundred and thirteen male and female respondents for the study. The instrument used is self-developed questionnaire “Correctional Child Safety Governance Scale (CCSGS)” with reliability co-efficient of 0.83. The data collected was analyzed using descriptive statistics of frequency and percentage. The findings of the study revealed that there is a significant roles of correctional institutions in ensuring the safety and security of children in Nigeria. There is a significant effects of facilities and manpower dedicated to meeting the needs of children. Also, there is a significant challenges faced by children in correctional institutions in Nigeria concerning their security and safety. The study recommended that the security of the children at the correctional institutions should be improved, increase in manpower and children should be well catered for.

**Keywords:** Exposure, Children, Correctional Institutions, Security, Safety.

### Introduction

Children, universally recognized as a society's most vulnerable members, embody innocence, curiosity, and boundless potential (Huynh, Costa, & Lee-Koo, 2015). They serve as the custodians of the future, embodying the hopes and aspirations of humanity across the globe. They represent the hope and promise of the future, serving as the cornerstone of society's progress and continuity. However, regardless of geographical location, children face a myriad of challenges that impede their holistic development. This vulnerability is tragically exacerbated when children encounter the harsh realities of correctional institutions. Nigeria remains the most populous country in sub-Saharan Africa, with a large and youthful population facing significant developmental challenges; millions of its children continue to experience limited access to quality education, widespread malnutrition, inadequate healthcare, and exposure to violence and poverty that adversely affect their physical and mental well-being (Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, 2025; UNICEF, 2025). Children across Nigeria grapple with a multitude of challenges that impede their growth and well-being. From the pervasive grip of poverty to the staggering barriers blocking access to education, healthcare, and basic necessities, many children face uphill battles from the earliest stages of their lives. Moreover, the stark reality of violence, exploitation, and abuse looms large, casting shadows over their innocence and dimming the prospects of a brighter tomorrow. Seeing a child less than the legal age (below 18 years) getting involved in criminal activities is quite alarming. In the face of these adversities, children navigate a complex landscape fraught with uncertainties, their tender spirits often tested by circumstances beyond their control.

Correctional institutions, also known as juvenile detention centers, are intended to provide rehabilitation and reformation for children who have come into conflict with the law. These institutions however often fall short of their intended purpose, leading to adverse consequences for the vulnerable children within their walls. The involvement of correctional institution is a feature in the Nigerian crime situation nowadays. Children in Nigeria are among the most vulnerable members of society, and their exposure to correctional institutions poses significant risks to their safety and security (UNICEF, 2018). A nation that fails to educate the teens, teenagers and adolescents but corruption is only keeping money to build more juvenile correctional centres and prisons (Idowu and Muhammed, 2019). A life of want, family instability, exposure to physical, sexual and emotional abuse has been associated with delinquent behaviour among children, and so a large number of Nigerian children are expected to be involved with the juvenile justice system (Human Development Initiatives, 2004).

In Nigeria, children may be exposed to correctional institutions due to a range of interrelated socio-economic and familial pressures. Family instability and lack of parental supervision have been identified as major contributors to juvenile delinquency, as children from broken homes often experience neglect and emotional distress that increase their vulnerability to criminal behaviour (Adam, 2025). Socio-economic challenges such as poverty, unemployment, and limited educational opportunities further exacerbate these risks, pushing young people toward antisocial activities as coping mechanisms (Oseghale, 2025). Peer group influence and exposure to violent media also play significant roles in shaping delinquent behaviour among youths (Ola-Williams et al., 2024). These combined factors not only increase the likelihood of youth offending but can also lead to contact with the justice system when appropriate support and protective structures are absent (Adam, 2025).

However, these are faced with the significant risks to their safety and security when exposed to correctional institutions. These institutions, intended for the rehabilitation and secure confinement of individuals who have committed crimes, can have detrimental effects on the well-being and development of children. The experiences within correctional institutions can result in long-lasting physical, emotional, and psychological effects, impacting their future prospects. Correctional institutions are meant to help rehabilitate children who have committed crimes and provide them with a safe and secure environment to aid their development.

The safety and security of children within these institutions is crucial for their development and well-being. Children in correctional institutions are at risk of physical and sexual abuse, exploitation, and other forms of violence (Human Rights Watch, 1994; UNICEF/Ministry of Interior report, 2024/2025). The experience of being in a correctional institution can have long-lasting physical, emotional, and psychological effects on children, affecting their development and future prospects. Correctional institutions are designed to provide rehabilitation for offenders, but they can also present risks to children who are placed in them.

Safety and security are paramount considerations within correctional institutions, especially concerning the welfare of children exposed to these environments. In this context, Safety refers to the physical well-being and protection of individuals, while security encompasses measures to prevent escapes, maintain order, and ensure the overall safety of the facility (Smith & Jones,

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2020). Safety and security are especially important in correctional institutions for children exposed to these environments (Smith & Jones, 2020). Safety and security are paramount in correctional institutions, especially when it comes to children exposed to these environments. The welfare of these young individuals, whether they are incarcerated as offenders or visiting family members behind bars, is of utmost concern. The critical dimensions of safety and security in correctional institutions within the context of children's exposure can be physical, emotional, and psychological aspects, as well as security measures, educational support, and legal safeguards that collectively contribute to a safer and more humane environment for these vulnerable individuals.

The physical safety of children within correctional institutions is a fundamental consideration. Protection from harm is paramount. This entails safeguarding them from violence, abuse, or harm from other inmates or staff members (Smith, 2016). The principle of "first, not harm" applies here, emphasizing that these institutions should not exacerbate the vulnerabilities that led children to their doors. Incarcerated children may be at risk of physical harm from other inmates or even from correctional staff (American Academy of Pediatrics, 2017). Moreover, ensuring access to healthcare and medical services is essential. Adequate medical care must be provided to address any physical health issues these children may have or develop during their time in custody (Frost, 2009). Neglecting their health can have long-lasting consequences.

Children need safeguards against abuse and neglect while in custody. Correctional institutions should adhere to strict policies and procedures to prevent mistreatment (Child Welfare League of America, 2012). Children exposed to correctional institutions often carry emotional and psychological burdens. Trauma-informed care is vital to address their mental health needs (Harris, 2018). Many of these children have experienced trauma before entering the system. Their experiences within correctional institutions should not re-traumatize them but instead help them heal. Exposure to the prison environment can be emotionally distressing for children. Witnessing violence, harsh conditions, and experiencing emotional turmoil during visitations can deeply impact their emotional and psychological well-being (Hairston, 2009).

Support systems, including counseling services and access to mental health professionals, must be established. These services play a pivotal role in ensuring the emotional well-being of children in correctional settings (Skowyr & Coccozza, 2007). Providing a safe space for them to express their feelings and work through their trauma can be transformative. Physical safety of children is crucial, security measures in correctional institutions must strike a delicate balance. Institutional security is vital for preventing escapes and ensuring the safety of everyone involved (Austin, 2013). This necessitates the implementation of security protocols, surveillance, and controlled access. Maintaining institutional security is vital for preventing escapes and ensuring the safety of children, staff, and the community. Maintaining institutional security is vital for preventing escapes and ensuring the safety of children, staff, and the community. This involves the implementation of security protocols, surveillance, and controlled access (Trulson et al., 2013).

However, security measures must also include effective conflict resolution mechanisms. De-escalating situations and preventing violence or disturbances within the facility is just as vital.

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Restorative justice practices can play a pivotal role in fostering a safer and more supportive environment, where accountability and rehabilitation coexist (Van Ness & Strong, 2015). Effective conflict resolution mechanisms should be in place to de-escalate situations and prevent violence or disturbances within the facility. Restorative justice practices can also contribute to a safer and more supportive environment (Braithwaite, 2016). Effective conflict resolution mechanisms should be in place to de-escalate situations and prevent violence or disturbances within the facility.

Other security measures include: visitor screening: security measures for visitors, particularly children visiting incarcerated family members, are critical. These measures aim to prevent the introduction of contraband and maintain the safety of all individuals within the facility. Youth detention standards: correctional facilities housing juvenile offenders are often governed by specific standards that emphasize the safety and well-being of youth. These standards outline requirements for staff training, living conditions, and programming (Juvenile Justice Standards, 2003). Use of restraints: the use of restraints on children within correctional institutions is a contentious issue. Overreliance on restraints can compromise their physical and psychological safety (Human Rights Watch, 2015).

Safety and security in correctional institutions concerning children's exposure are multifaceted and interconnected. Ensuring physical safety, emotional and psychological well-being, security measures, access to education, rehabilitative services, and legal safeguards collectively contribute to a safer and more humane environment (Hannah-Moffat & Maurutto, 2013). Protecting the rights and well-being of these children is not just a legal and ethical imperative but also a critical step in breaking the cycle of involvement with the justice system. By fostering an environment that prioritizes healing, growth, and rehabilitation, we can offer these children a chance for a better future and a safer society for all. Ensuring the safety and security of children exposed to correctional institutions in Nigeria, and worldwide, requires a comprehensive approach. This approach encompasses physical safety, emotional and psychological well-being, security measures, educational support, legal safeguards, and a commitment to rehabilitative and trauma-informed care. Protecting the rights and well-being of these children is not only a legal and ethical imperative but also a crucial step in breaking the cycle of involvement with the justice system and promoting their successful reintegration into society.

Children in correctional institutions must have access to educational programs that support their intellectual and developmental needs. Education can be a protective factor against recidivism and plays a vital role in their rehabilitation (National Center on Education, Disability and Juvenile Justice, 2014). Access to education is a powerful tool within correctional institutions. Children must have opportunities to learn and grow. Education not only supports their intellectual development but also acts as a protective factor against recidivism (Gagnon, 2016). It is a pathway to a brighter future. Rehabilitative services, such as vocational training and counseling, should complement educational programs (Lipsey & Cullen, 2007). These services can enhance a child's prospects for reintegration into society, contributing to their long-term safety and security. Providing access to rehabilitative services,

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such as vocational training and counseling, can enhance a child's prospects for reintegration into society, thereby contributing to their long-term safety and security (Taxman et al., 2014). Focusing on rehabilitation programs rather than punitive measures can enhance safety by addressing the root causes of delinquency and reducing recidivism (Feld & Bishop, 2012). Restorative justice practices, which prioritize repairing harm and addressing the needs of victims and offenders, can contribute to a safer and more supportive environment within correctional institutions (McCold & Wachtel, 1998).

Correctional institutions, designed to hold individuals involved with the justice system, play a pivotal role in society. Within this system, children represent a vulnerable group that requires special attention and care. To ensure their well-being, the provision of appropriate facilities and the presence of skilled manpower are critical components. Adequate facilities and skilled manpower are indispensable components of correctional institutions for children. These elements are foundational for ensuring the safety, well-being, and rehabilitation of children exposed to the justice system. By providing appropriate infrastructure, well-trained staff, and specialized services, correctional institutions can contribute to the positive development and successful reintegration of children into society, ultimately breaking the cycle of involvement with the justice system. The effective combination of facilities and manpower ensures that these institutions fulfill their role not only as places of confinement but also as centers for rehabilitation and support for the future of children within the justice system. Adequate facilities are the cornerstone of any correctional institution. In the context of children, these facilities serve as more than just structures; they directly impact their safety, development, and future prospects.

Physical Infrastructure Facilities encompass secure housing, educational spaces, healthcare units, and recreational areas. These physical structures are essential to meet the basic needs of children and provide them with a supportive environment (Mallik-Kane & Visher, 2008). Secure housing ensures their safety, while educational and recreational spaces promote their intellectual and social development. Educational facilities within correctional institutions are instrumental in promoting the development and future prospects of children. Access to classrooms, libraries, and vocational training workshops is crucial to help children acquire essential skills and knowledge (Lipsey et al., 2010). Education not only prepares them for reintegration into society but also serves as a protective factor against recidivism.

Healthcare facilities within correctional institutions are essential to address the medical and mental health needs of children. Timely access to medical professionals and appropriate treatment ensures their physical and emotional well-being (Teplin et al., 2006). A child's health is intrinsically linked to their ability to learn and grow. Furthermore, the quality and training of manpower within correctional institutions profoundly influence the well-being of children. Staff members play a crucial role in creating a safe and supportive environment, promoting rehabilitation, and helping children reintegrate into society. Correctional staff, skilled and well-trained correctional staff are essential in managing interactions with children in custodial settings. Contemporary research emphasizes that staff must be knowledgeable in child and adolescent development, trauma-informed care, and conflict-resolution strategies to promote

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safety, emotional well-being, and positive behavioral outcomes for children. Supportive, developmentally informed staff practices have been shown to reduce institutional violence, build trust, and enhance rehabilitation and long-term adjustment among justice-involved youth (Leipoldt et al., 2023; Malvaso et al., 2024; Day et al., 2019). A supportive and knowledgeable staff can mitigate potential harm and facilitate the rehabilitation process.

**Educators and Counselors:** Qualified educators and counselors are indispensable in providing educational and psychological support to children in correctional institutions. These professionals can contribute significantly to the rehabilitation and well-being of children by addressing their academic and emotional needs (Lipsey et al., 2010). Educational support is instrumental in breaking the cycle of involvement with the justice system. **Medical and Mental Health Professionals:** Trained medical and mental health professionals are vital for early intervention, diagnosis, and treatment of physical and mental health issues among children (Teplin et al., 2006). Their expertise ensures the overall health of children and provides essential support for those dealing with trauma and mental health challenges.

### **Statement of the Problem**

The exposure of children to correctional institutions in Nigeria represents a critical concern demanding urgent attention, as it inherently jeopardizes their safety and security (UNICEF, 2021). This exposure is compounded by persistent challenges within Nigeria's correctional system, including overcrowding, poor living conditions, inadequate infrastructure, and a shortage of trained personnel (Amnesty International, 2020; National Human Rights Commission (NHRC, 2018). These systemic deficiencies collectively contribute to unsafe and harmful environments for children held in correctional institutions, increasing their vulnerability to abuse, neglect, and psychological harm (Alemika, 2015). Consequently, there is a pressing need for effective policy and institutional interventions to reduce children's contact with correctional facilities and to enhance the protection, rehabilitation, and overall well-being of this vulnerable population (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC, 2019).

Furthermore, limited scholarly research on the risks and safety concerns faced by Nigerian children in correctional settings underscores the need for comprehensive investigation and analysis. Therefore, this study aims to conduct a thorough examination of the safety and security risks experienced by children within Nigerian correctional institutions. Through an in-depth analysis of these risks and the underlying contributing factors, the study seeks to identify effective strategies for improving the safety and well-being of children in these facilities. By shedding light on the specific challenges encountered by these children, this research endeavors to inform policymakers and correctional authorities in the development of targeted interventions and reforms aimed at fostering a safer and more supportive environment for children in Nigerian correctional facilities.

### **Research Questions**

To achieve the research aims, the following research questions were formulated to guide the study:

1. What are the specific roles of correctional institutions in ensuring the safety and security of children in Nigeria?
2. To what extent are facilities and manpower dedicated to meeting the needs of children in correctional institutions in Nigeria?
3. What are the significant challenges faced by children in correctional institutions in Nigeria, particularly concerning their security and safety?

**Methodology**

The study was descriptive survey research design. The population for this study comprised all staff and children at the correctional centres in Ogun state and Ondo state. Purposive sampling technique was adopted for the research to select one hundred and thirteen respondents for the study. The research instrument used for the study was a self-developed questionnaires namely Correctional Child Safety Governance Scale (CCSGS), Correctional Child Welfare Resources Scale (CCWRS) and Correctional Child Safety Challenges Scale (CCSCS). The respondents filled the questionnaire and returned them to the researchers. A pre-assessment of the research instrument was carried out on the participants in juvenile centers in Ogun and Ondo states for four weeks to determine the reliability of the instruments using test-retest method. A split-half technique was used to check the reliability coefficient of the instrument which yielded 0.83. The data collected was analyzed using descriptive statistics of frequency and percentage.

**Results**

**Research Question 1:** What are the specific roles of correctional institutions in ensuring the safety and security of children in Nigeria?

**Table 1: Correctional institutions roles for ensuring the safety and security of children**

Statements	Yes	No	Not really	I don't know	Total
1 Do you know what correctional institutions are supposed to do to keep children safe?	71 (62.8%)	33 (29.3%)	4 (3.5%)	5 (4.4%)	113 (100%)
2 Do you think it's important for correctional institutions to help children feel safe and secure?	43 (38.1%)	60 (53.1%)	9 (8.0%)	1 (0.8%)	113 (100%)
3 Do you think correctional institutions should teach children how to stay safe and avoid dangerous situations?	50 (44.2%)	53 (46.9%)	9 (8.0%)	1 (0.8%)	113(100%)
4 Do you think correctional institutions should provide activities to help children learn	50 (44.2%)	53 (46.9%)	8 (7.1%)	2 (1.8%)	113(100%)

	new skills and improve themselves?					
5	Do you believe correctional institutions should help children understand the consequences of their actions and how to make better choices?	43 (38.1%)	39 (34.5%)	16 (14.2%)	15 (13.3%)	113 (100%)

Data in table 1 showed that 62.6% and 29.3% participants aware and not aware respectively what correctional institutions are supposed to do to keep children safe; 3.5% were not sure, while 4.4% didn't know. More so, 38.1% and 53.1% participants believed and otherwise respectively that it's important for correctional institutions to help children feel safe and secure; 8% were not sure, while 0.8% didn't believe. Similarly, 44.2% and 46.9% participants believed and otherwise respectively that correctional institutions should teach children how to stay safe and avoid dangerous situations; 8% were not sure, while 0.8% didn't believe. Moreover, 44.2% and 46.9% participants believed and otherwise respectively that correctional institutions should provide activities to help children learn new skills and improve themselves; 7.1% not sure, while 1.8% didn't believe. Also, 38.1% and 34.5% participants believed and otherwise respectively that correctional institutions should help children understand the consequences of their actions and how to make better choices; 14.2% were not sure, while 13.3% didn't believe.

**Research Question 2:** To what extent are facilities and manpower dedicated to meeting the needs of children in correctional institutions in Nigeria?

**Table 2: Facilities and manpower dedicated to meeting the needs of children**

	Statements	Yes	No	Not really	I don't know	Total
1	Do you feel comfortable with the cleanliness of the living areas in the correctional institution?	31 (27.4%)	43 (38.1%)	14 (12.4%)	25 (22.1%)	113 (100%)
2	Do you think the buildings and rooms in the correctional institution are safe for children to be in?	69 (61.1%)	35 (31.0%)	4 (3.5%)	5 (4.4%)	113 (100%)
3	Do you feel that there are enough books, toys, and games for children to use in the correctional institution?	50 (44.2%)	53 (46.9%)	9 (8.0%)	1 (0.8%)	113(100%)
4	Do you feel that the bathrooms and showers in the correctional	35 (31%)	60 (53.1%)	4 (3.5%)	14	113(100%)

	institution are clean and safe to use?					(12.4%)
5	Do you think there are enough adult staff members to help if there's an emergency in the correctional institution?	43 (38.1%)	59 (52.2%)	6 (5.3%)	5 (4.4%)	113 (100%)

Data in table 2 showed that 27.4% and 38.1% participants aware and not aware respectively felt comfortable with the cleanliness of the living areas in the correctional institution; 12.4% were not sure, while 22.1% didn't know. More so, 61.1% and 31% participants believed and otherwise respectively that the buildings and rooms in the correctional institution are safe for children to be in; 3.5% were not sure, while 4.4% didn't believe. Similarly, 44.2% and 46.9% participants believed and otherwise respectively felt that there are enough books, toys, and games for children to use in the correctional institution; 8% were not sure, while 0.8% didn't believe. Moreover, 31% and 53.1% participants believed and otherwise respectively that the bathrooms and showers in the correctional institution are clean and safe to use; 3.5% not sure, while 12.4% didn't believe. Also, 38.1% and 52.2% participants believed and otherwise respectively that there are enough adult staff members to help if there's an emergency in the correctional institution; 5.3% were not sure, while 4.4% didn't believe.

**Research Question 3:** What are the significant challenges faced by children in correctional institutions in Nigeria, particularly concerning their security and safety?

**Table 3: The challenges faced by children in correctional institutions concerning their security and safety**

	Statements	SA	A	D	SD	Total
1	Have you ever felt scared or threatened by someone in the correctional institution?	30 (26.5%)	33 (29.2%)	14 (12.4%)	36 (31.9%)	113 (100%)
2	Do you think there are enough rules in the correctional institution to keep everyone safe?	30 (26.5%)	57 (50.4%)	4 (3.5%)	22 (19.6%)	113 (100%)
3	Have you ever seen anyone getting hurt or being treated badly in the correctional institution?	23 (20.4%)	30 (26.5%)	25 (22.1%)	40 (35.5%)	113(100%)
4	Do you feel that the correctional institution has good ways to help	37 (32.7%)	40 (35.4%)	15 (13.3%)	21 (18.6%)	113(100%)

	children who are feeling upset or worried?					
5	Do you think children in the correctional institution need more help to stay safe?	43 (38.1%)	59 (52.2%)	6 (5.3%)	5 (4.4%)	113 (100%)

Data in table 3 showed that showed that 26.5% and 29.2% participants felt scared or threatened and otherwise respectively by someone in the correctional institution; 12.4% were not sure, while 31.9% didn't know. More so, 26.5% and 50.4% participants believed and otherwise respectively that there are enough rules in the correctional institution to keep everyone safe; 3.5% were not sure, while 19.6% didn't believe. Similarly, 20.4% and 26.5% participants have witnessed and otherwise respectively anyone getting hurt or being treated badly in the correctional institution; 22.1% were not sure, while 35.5% didn't believe. Moreover, 32.7% and 35.4% participants believed and otherwise respectively that the correctional institution has good ways to help children who are feeling upset or worried; 13.3% not sure, while 18.6% didn't believe. Also, 38.1% and 52.2% participants believed and otherwise respectively that children in the correctional institution need more help to stay safe; 5.3% were not sure, while 4.4% didn't believe.

### Discussion of Findings

Results from research question one reveal that most participants (62.6%) were aware of the roles of correctional institutions in keeping children safe. Approximately 38–44% believed that institutions should help children feel safe, teach them to avoid danger, provide skill-building activities, and promote understanding of consequences. However, a notable portion of participants were unsure or disagreed, indicating gaps in awareness and understanding of institutional responsibilities. These findings are consistent with Alemika (2015), who highlighted that many children in Nigerian correctional facilities are not adequately protected due to systemic deficiencies.

Findings for research question two indicate that participants' perceptions of the correctional institution's environment were mixed. Around a quarter felt comfortable with cleanliness, while most were unaware or unsure. The majority believed the buildings were safe, though opinions were divided regarding the availability of books, toys, and games. Fewer participants considered bathrooms clean and safe, and slightly over a third felt there were enough adult staff to assist in emergencies. These results align with previous research showing that youth in correctional institutions often hold mixed perceptions of cleanliness, safety, and resource availability (Day, Casey, Vess, & Ward, 2012; Schubert, Mulvey, & Glasheen, 2004; National Research Council, 2013).

Results from research question three demonstrate that participants' perceptions of safety within the correctional institution were varied. About a quarter felt scared or threatened, while a similar proportion believed sufficient safety rules were in place. Fewer participants reported witnessing harm, and opinions were divided on whether the institution provides adequate

support for children who are upset or worried. Most participants recognized that children may require additional help to remain safe. These findings are supported by Cottle, Lee, and Heilbrun (2001), who reported that incarcerated youth often perceive their environment as unsafe and inconsistently supportive. Baglivio et al. (2014) also emphasized that many youths in correctional facilities feel at risk and need additional protective measures.

### **Conclusion**

The study concluded that participants' awareness and perceptions of correctional institutions were mixed. While a majority were aware of the institutions' roles in keeping children safe, gaps in understanding remain regarding specific responsibilities such as promoting safety, teaching avoidance of danger, and providing skill-building activities. Perceptions of the physical environment, including cleanliness, safety of buildings, availability of recreational materials, and adequacy of adult staff, were varied, indicating areas for improvement. Furthermore, participants expressed mixed feelings about safety and support within the institution, with many recognizing that children may need additional help to remain safe. Overall, the findings suggest that both institutional practices and children's awareness of these practices require attention to enhance safety, well-being, and support.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the results of this study, the following recommendations are suggested:

1. Correctional institutions, in collaboration with management and security personnel, should review and strengthen safety protocols, ensuring that rules are clear, consistently enforced, and effectively communicated to children. Programme coordinators and child welfare officers should implement initiatives that teach children how to stay safe, understand consequences, and develop practical life skills.
2. Facility administrators and maintenance staff should maintain cleanliness, provide sufficient recreational materials, and ensure bathrooms and living areas are safe and well-maintained. Institutional management and oversight agencies should establish routine assessments of children's perceptions and institutional practices to identify gaps and guide continuous improvement.
3. Correctional institutions, supported by human resources departments, should recruit and train additional adult staff to provide guidance, supervision, and timely assistance in emergencies. Correctional officers and social workers should conduct regular sessions to educate children about the roles of correctional institutions, their rights, and available support services to improve understanding and trust.

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