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*Dr. R.A. Aminogah*

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African Journal for the Study of Educational Issues (AJEDUI) is committed to the publishing of research articles in the areas of educational issues in researches and practices. It is accessible to researchers from any part of the world who have articles in the field of education and want to share their thoughts and experience with their colleagues it is published twice a year, March and October.

The format below is acceptable for submission of papers for publication.

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## Foreword

The literature on educational research (like in the natural and the social sciences) has also tried to distinguish between pure and applied research. It will be suffice to say that pure research is supposed to be the one where primary purpose is to advance knowledge, while applied research is primarily intended to influence policy and more particularly practice.

In the effort to ensure a more direct and visible impact of knowledge generation (i.e. research) on development, new concepts have emerged. This edition is more imprunitive as it follows the pattern of sheer number of contributing in their quality subsequent editions will as usual give particular emphasis on research-development divide in education with the aim of pushing further of the frontiers of knowledge and practice in education.

We are impressed by the number of collaborative research efforts reported here in the form of joint-authored articles. The advance of knowledge is helped by researchers collaborating to analyse issues from as wide a variety as possible. We do hope that the tradition of joint research undertakings will be encouraged in our faculties of Education.

Perhaps the most important attraction of this journal is the immediate applications of the findings of the research reported to education policy and practice. Our future editions will give particular emphasis on this, since the research-development divide in Education must be bridged as a means of promoting the habit of evidence-based policy and practice decisions.

**Prof. Pai Obanya**  
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## Editorial

African Journal for the Study of Educational Issues (AJEDUI) is primarily meant to publish research reports which can make professional teachers as well as laymen utilize educational principles in making the human organisms more mentally and healthy intellectually across African countries and beyond.

The journal seeks to publish articles on subjects relating to education, training and development. It aims to be a conduit between theory and practice.

Views expressed in this journal are not necessarily those of AJEDUI, while every attempt is made to ensure that information published here is accurate, no responsibility is accepted for any loss or damage that may arise out of the reliance of any person upon any of the information this journal contains.

AJEDUI 5 (1) March, 2010 includes reports of quantitative experiences and surveys, mixed method studies action researches, metaanalyses and discussions of conceptual and methodological issues.

Our readers should do well to make the journal a must read; a must keep and a must applied materials. We earnestly look forward to your scholarly contributions that will maintain the high standard that have been the hallmark of this issue.

It is our hope that our numerous readers will continue to read, keep and apply these valuable materials, and we earnestly look forward to your scholarly contributions, as we maintain the high and enviable standard, of this journal.

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# A Comparative Study Of Prisoners And Non-Prisoners On Temperamental Attributes: Implication On Crime Commission

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## Abstract

The study compared the temperamental attributes of prisoners with non-prisoners to determine particular temperamental areas where prisoners excelled as well as the least possessed by them compared with the non-prisoners. One hundred inmates of Agodi prison as well as One hundred non-prisoners in Ibadan participated in the study. The main instrument used for the study was a structured temperamental questionnaire adapted from Honk (2004), *t*-test statistic was used to analyze the four tested hypotheses. The results revealed that no significant difference existed between prisoners and non-prisoners on temperamental attributes; however, the mere fact prisoners excelled on choleric, melancholic and phlegmatic temperaments based on means and SD results calls for attention, and recommendation were made towards conscious remediation of temperamental excesses.

**Keywords:** prisoners, non-prisoners, temperamental, attributes

**Word Count:** 120

## Background to the Study

An attempt to search for a crime free society has been discovered to be an effort in futility and chasing after shadows. The reason is not far-fetched every human has an innate potential to commit crime for the purpose of survival, maintenance of territorial control, or for the expression of their inherent inimical intentions.

The Biblical attestation to this fact described as naturally wicked and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was continually evil (Gen. 6:5). This indicates that something is wrong somewhere. Could there be any contradiction to God's Statement of Gen. 1:31 that everything He created was good? No! But something happened between the two recorded statements of God. The Adamic sin of eating the forbidden fruit might be responsible for the global and colossal spoilage of the holy man. The effects were passed down into the descendants and various generations of Adam. Hence there is no exception, all human beings have been spoiled, the personality is

badly affected and therefore, naturally prone to committing crime.

Psychologists and sociologists such as Lombroso (1911), Durkehim (1993), and Lord (1959) postulated that crime is a moral phenomenon in all societies; according to them, a society exempted from crime would necessitate a standardization of moral concepts of all individuals which is neither possible nor desirable. The current socio-economic pressures and the high rate of unemployment tend to weaken the moral behavior of individuals in the Nigerian society. Crime rate is on the alarming increase and fast becoming a daily feature of our national life (Adegoke, 1990; Animasahun 2002). Pages of Nigerian newspapers are full of crime stories ranging from stealing, bribery and corruption, assault, gambling, exam malpractices, forgery, impersonation rape, arson, cultism, drug trafficking, kidnapping, embezzlement, armed robbery to murder, (Akos, 1986; Haruna, 1987; Adegoke, 1990; Animasahun 2002).

Vines and Rees (1985) placed man at the apex of the animal kingdom with an alarming manifestation of undesirable behavior of criminality. Lombroso (1946) had earlier submitted that criminal are born, not made. This means crime is innate and therefore something is wrong with an area of man's personality.

Several studies have given reasons why people commit crime (Lombroso, 1946; Nye, 1958; Mergen, 1969; Chambliss and Seidman 1971; Sherpherd, 1981; Osinowo, 1982; Adegoke, 1990; Eysenck (1997); Animasahun, 2002; Airmen, 2005. the consensus opinion is that human behavior is phenotypic i.e. it is produced by the interplay of the genotype and the environment.

While it is believed that the cause of criminal conduct is a combination of hereditary and environmental factors, we need to specify with some precision, the environmental conditions which predispose a person to crime, as well as the inherited personality traits which predispose a person to succumb to temptation. The focus of this paper is not on environmental factors but hereditary, specifically to know the kind of personality that is highly



susceptible to crime. While there are different dimensions to personality traits, this paper focuses attention on temperamental aspects of personality and strive to know which one is more prone to committing crime by comparing those of convicted prisoners and non-prisoners in the society.

### Literature Review

The doctrine of temperaments or humours dated back to tradition of the classical Greece especially associated with the medicine of Galen. This was based on the belief that nature was made up of combinations of four elements (earth, air, fire and water) and perhaps, also the significance of the number four itself. Human body also that four essential fluids: blood, phlegm, yellow bile and black bile, which determines the prevailing temperament.

Braungart, Plomin, Defires, and Fulker (1992) described temperament as the physical foundations of personality; such as the prevailing mood, sensitivity and energy levels. They asserted that differences in temperaments are significantly influenced by genetics. The four temperaments are characterized both by the fluid elements and its physiological and physiognomic effects. The dominance of humour indicated a characteristic disposition, blood means sanguine, preponderance of phlegm means phlegmatic, yellow bile means choleric while black bile means melancholic. The different temperaments are indicated by external signs, which are open to observation. Mansfield (1998) defined temperament as a fundamental disposition of the soul, which itself whenever an impression caused by thought-by thinking about something or by representation through the imagination or by the external stimuli.

Hence, knowledge of the temperament of any person supplies the answer to the questions. How those a person deport himself? How those he feel moved to action whenever something impresses him strongly? How does he really behave? How does he react to or handle situations, or especially when praised or rebuked, when he is offended, when he feels sympathy for or aversion against something? And finally, how those he act if in a storm, or in a storm, or in a dark forest, or on a dark night the thought of imminent danger comes to him?

For an easy picture and comprehensive understanding of each temperament, character traits of the different temperaments are summarized below:

### I. Choleric Temperament

- Is self-composed; seldom shows embarrassment, is forward or bold.
- Eager to express himself before a group if he has some purpose in view.
- Insistent upon the acceptance of his ideas or plans; argumentative and persuasive.
- Impetuous and impulsive; plunges into situations without any serious consideration for sequences.
- Self-confident and self-reliant; tends to take success for granted.
- Strong initiative; tends to elation of spirit; seldom gloomy or moody; prefers to lead.
- Very sensitive and easily hurt; reacts strongly to praise or blame.
- Not given to worry or anxiety. He is seclusive.
- Quick and decisive in movement; pronounced or excessive energy output.
- Marked tendency to persevere; does not abandon something readily regardless of success.
- Emotions not freely or spontaneously expressed, except anger.
- Makes best appearance possible; perhaps conceited; may use hypocrisy, deceit, disguise.

### II. Sanguine Temperament

- Is self-composed, seldom shows sign of embarrassment, perhaps forward of bold.
- Eager to express himself before a group; likes to be heard.
- Prefers group activities; work or play; not easily satisfied with individual projects.
- Not insistent upon acceptance of his ideas or plans; agrees readily with others' wishes; complaint and yielding.
- Good in details; prefers activities requiring pep and energy.
- Impetuous and impulsive; his decisions are often (usually) wrong.
- Keenly alive to environment, physical and social; likes curiosity.
- Tends to take success for granted. It's a follower; lack initiative.
- Hearty and cordial, even to strangers; forms acquaintanceship easily.
- Tends to elation of spirit; not given to worry and anxiety; is carefree.
- Seeks wide and broad range of friendships; is not selective; not exclusive in games.



- Quick and decisive in movements; pronounced or excessive energy output.
- Turns from one activity to another in rapid succession; little perseverance.
- Makes adjustments easily; welcomes changes; makes the best appearance possible.
- Frank, talkable, sociable emotions readily expressed; does not stand on ceremony
- Frequent fluctuations of mood; tends to frequent alterations of elation and depression.

### III. Melancholic Temperament

- Is self-conscious, easily embarrassed, timid, bashful
- Avoid talking before a group; when obliged to, he finds it difficult.
- Prefers to work and play alone. Good in details, careful.
- Deliberative, slow in making decisions; perhaps overcautious even in minor matters
- Lacking in self-confidence and initiative; complaints and yielding.
- Tends to detachment from environment; reverse and distant except to intimate friends.
- Tends to depression; frequently moody and gloomy; very sensitive; easily hurt.
- Does not form acquaintances readily; prefers narrow range of friends; tends to exclude others.
- Worries over possible misfortune; crosses bridges before coming to them.
- Secretive; seclusive; shut in; not inclined to speak unless spoken to.
- Slow in movement; deliberative or perhaps indecisive, moods frequent and constant.
- Often represents himself at a disadvantage, modest and unassuming.

### IV. Phlegmatic Temperament

- Deliberative; slow in making decisions; perhaps overcautious in minor matters.
- Indifferent to external affairs.
- Reserved and distant.
- Slow in movement
- Marked tendency to persevere
- Constancy of mood.

Source: Hock C. (2004)

The questions now are:

Which particular temperament is possessed in highest degree by the prisoners compared with non-

prisoners, and which is the least possessed by the prisoners compared with non-prisoners?

The following hypotheses stated in the null form will be tested at 0.05 level of significance.

1. There is no significant difference in the choleric temperamental scores between prison inmates and non-prisoners.
2. There is no significant difference in the sanguine temperamental scores between prison inmates and non-prisoners.
3. There is no significant difference in the melancholic temperamental scores between prison inmates and non-prisoners.
4. There is no significant difference in the phlegmatic temperamental scores between prison inmates and non-prisoners.

### Design

The study employed a simple descriptive survey method.

### Subjects

A total number of 200 participants (i.e. 100 Agodi prison inmates and 100 non prisoners) both male and female whose ages range between 18 and 55 with a mean of 36.5 were used.

### Instrumentation

A structural questionnaire adapted from Honk (2004) tagged Temperamental Questionnaire was used for data collection. It has 2 sections. Section A consists of demographic data while section B consists of 40 items spread over the 4 temperaments based on 5-point Likert Scale. The coefficient of test-retest reliability was calculated as ( $r=0.76$ ,  $N=305$ ,  $P<0.001$ ).

### Procedure

Sequel to arrangements made with the Agodi prison officials, questionnaires were administered on the prisoners with the assistance of the Welfare Officers while the researcher administered the same on the non-prisoners made up of Teachers, Bank Workers, Civil servants and students in Ibadan, Oyo State.

### Data Analysis

The collected data was analyzed by using the simple t-test statistics since the researcher was only comparing the differences between two independent means.

## Results

The results of the tested hypotheses are presented in table 1-4.

The first hypothesis stated that, there is no significant difference in the choleric temperamental scores between prison inmates and non-prisoners.

**Table 1: Shows the comparison Between Prison Inmates and Non-inmates on the Basis of Choleric Temperamental Scores.**

Variables	N	X	SD	Df	t-cal	t. crit	P
Prison inmates	100	40.36	25.335	198	1.062	1.960	NS
Non-prisoners	100	38.70	21.528				

The null hypothesis is accepted ( $1.062 < 1.960$ ).

The second hypothesis states that, there is no significance difference in the sanguine temperamental scores between prison inmates and non-prisoners.

**Table 2: Shows the Comparison between Prison and Non-Prisoners on the Basis of Sanguine Temperamental Scores**

Variables	N	X	SD	Df	t-cal	t. crit	P
Prison inmates	100	28.36	20.202	198	0.690	1.960	NS
Non-prisoners	100	37.52	20.310				

The null hypothesis is accepted ( $0.690 < 1.960$ ).

The third hypothesis states that, there is no significant difference in the melancholic temperamental scores between prison inmates and non-prisoners.

**Table 3: Shows the Comparison Between Prison and Non-Prisoners on the Basis of Melancholic Temperamental Scores.**

Variables	N	X	SD	Df	t-cal	t. crit	P
Prison inmates	100	40.24	2.322	198	1.250	1.960	NS
Non-prisoners	100	38.20	19.718				

The null hypothesis is accepted ( $1.250 < 1.960$ ).

The fourth hypothesis states that there is no significant difference in the phlegmatic temperamental scores between prison inmates and non-prisoners.

**Table 4: Shows the Comparison between Prison and non-prisoners on the Basis of Phlegmatic Temperamental Scores.**

Variables	N	X	SD	Df	t-cal	t. crit	P
Prison inmates	100	38.36	20.202	198	0.890	1.960	NS
Non-prisoners	100	37.28	19.83				

The null hypothesis is accepted ( $0.090 < 1.960$ ).



## Discussion

The results have shown that no significant differences actually exist between prisoners and non-prisoners as far as temperamental endowments are concerned. However, the obtained mean and standard deviations show that prisoners are more choleric, more melancholic and more phlegmatic in that order of magnitude than non-prisoners. However, non-prisoners ranked better on sanguine temperamental scale.

The study has clearly revealed that temperamental disposition is inborn and naturally resident in the individual no matter the background, environment, training and gender. This revelation further strengthens the findings of chess (1990) that temperament is the combination of inborn traits subconsciously affect the individuals behavior.

Also the study showed that more males commit crimes than females. Out of the 100 inmates used, only 15 were females. In fact, as at 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2005, Agodi Prison, Ibadan inhabited 670 inmates out of which only 21 were females. This means 96.9% of the inmates were male while only 3.1% were females. This is in line with the earlier findings of Hutchings and Mednick (1975) who, while investigating gender issue on crime, found that crimes committed are rampant among male than female counterparts in the society. Graham and Bowley (1995) also supported this view in their research carried out on Juvenile offending delinquency, it was concluded that male children are more likely to exhibit delinquent behavior than female children. Temperament and crime committed can also be influenced by the parental poverty which influence gender in committing crime, which has more effects on the male than the females.

The fact that there are no significant differences between the temperamental dispositions of convicted prisoners and non-prisoners prove that it is not only temperamental factors but genetic and environmental factors may also play important parts in the genesis of antisocial and criminal behavior. This finding corroborates the earlier discovery of Eysenck (1994). However, it is opposed to the submission of Nhivi (2000) who concluded that genetic factors were unimportant in determining anti-social behavior. But the findings of Raine and Durkin (1990) as well as Raine and Venables (1992) suggest that environmental factors influencing temperaments are more likely to play a role in the young rather than older antisocials.

## Implications

The revelation on gender disposition to committing crime urgently requires parents with male children to hold it as a task, be extra careful, cautious and be more focused in their parenting duty over their wards.

In view of the fact that the Nigerian prisons have a large number of inmates, who are expected to join the labour market on completion of their terms and consequently need to prepare for the attendant

challenges in life after incarceration (Omogbemi Odunewu 2009).

The findings of this study suggests that missing gaps in the prison services be filled. Public libraries need to take up the challenges of information provision for the disadvantaged groups as done by Maryland Correctional educational libraries (Shinley, 2006) and Danville Public Library (Alexander, 2008). Funding of library services need to be looked into as mere N10,807,740 (Ten million, eight hundred and seven thousand, seven hundred and forty naira) was budgeted for 147 prisons, in Nigeria on the average, this about N73,552 (seventy-three thousand, five hundred and fifty-two naira per prison if released, this can not achieve much.

The services of the helping professionals like the guidance counselor, social workers, psychologists should be involved in the mental rehabilitation and reformation of the inmates.

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