



Forensic Psychological Insights into Criminal Behaviour in Nigeria: A Contextual Analysis

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Abstract

Forensic psychology in Nigeria is a growing field that aims to understand criminal behaviour through psychological insights. This study employs qualitative research methods to analyse case studies from Nigerian prisons and interviews with forensic psychologists. The data were collected through semi-structured interviews and archival review. A key finding is that a significant proportion (30%) of criminal cases are linked to childhood trauma, which highlights the need for early intervention programmes in Nigeria's justice system. The analysis indicates that addressing psychological vulnerabilities could lead to more effective rehabilitation strategies and reduced recidivism rates among offenders. Policymakers should consider implementing comprehensive mental health support services within Nigerian prisons, particularly focusing on interventions for trauma victims. Forensic psychologists are urged to collaborate with social workers to offer holistic care solutions.

Keywords: *Nigerian, criminology, qualitative, forensic, psychological autopsy, contextualization, neuropsychology*

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