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## A Study Of Rehabilitation And Reintegration Of Released Convicts From Central Prison Mysore

Santhosh<sup>\*</sup>

Limbya Naik<sup>2\*\*</sup>

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### Abstract

The rehabilitation of released convicts is one of the major objectives of good prison administration. In order to achieve these objectives, many initiatives have been taken by the state as well as from the central government in the rehabilitation and welfare of prisoners after their release. The present study has been undertaken to evaluate the current rehabilitation conditions of the released convicts from central prison, Mysore. 15 released convicts were interviewed; to collect information about their criminal background, prison life and the rehabilitation programmes offered to them during the period of punishment. From the study, it was found that, for most of them, reentry into the society with normal life is a big challenge because of their criminal background. However, implementation of rehabilitation programs was not up to the mark. In- prison; rehabilitation programs play a key role in the state's efforts to reduce recidivism. In order to achieve good rehabilitation practice, in- prison rehabilitation programs should be designed with good principles outlined such as ensuring that programs are evidence based. Priority has to be given for aftercare services so that, once again prison reentry can be prevented.

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### Author correspondence:

Research Scholar, DOS In Criminology and Forensic Science, Maharaja's College, University of Mysore, Mysore-5.

Email: nsanthoshmphil@gmail.com

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\* Doctorate Program, Linguistics Program Studies, Udayana University Denpasar, Bali-Indonesia (9 pt)

\*\* STIMIK STIKOM-Bali, Renon, Denpasar, Bali-Indonesia

## 1. Introduction.

The term 'rehabilitation' is used to represent 're-enabling' or 'making fit again'. In the prison context, it means making released convicts to reunite into the society as useful and law-abiding members of the community. It was observed that, most of the prisoners once after their release have never been 'habilitated' in society in the leading position [1-3]. Improper rehabilitation measures will result in an increase in prison population. We look at the difficulties the Prison Service faces in providing purposeful activity within prisons and at those caused by the current high level of transfers between prisons. We examine the high level of reconviction of ex-prisoners and the appropriateness of reconviction rates as a measure of re-offending and therefore of the success of rehabilitation. Although these various pressures and constraints on the prison Service must be acknowledged, they must not be used as an excuse for neglecting the issue of rehabilitation. In this research paper, an attempt has been made to assess the rehabilitation status of released convicts [2-5].

## 2. Research Method

A survey has been conducted to assess the rehabilitation status of the released convicts, particularly the impact of prisons in reducing the prison reentry through rehabilitation. We have looked in detail at the provision of education, vocational training, paid work and offending behavior/cognitive skills programmes. With this context the present study is undertaken to address the following issues.

- Are an adequate number of educational, vocational and work programmes being provided to rehabilitate prisoners?
- Are the programmes having an impact in reducing re-offending? If not, what should be done differently?
- Are certain groups of prisoners—remand and short-term prisoners, women prisoners, young offenders and prisoners with mental health problems—receiving adequate rehabilitation?

## 3. Results and Analysis.

A survey has been conducted to assess the rehabilitation status of released convicts from central prison Mysore. Fifteen respondents were participated in the survey. The interview conducted mainly focused on the rehabilitation measures undertaken to them during their imprisonment. As per the official data from the Prison department, Karnataka it shows that, from the government of Karnataka released well-behaved prisoners on the occasion of Suvarna Karnataka 2006. Out of the 309 prisoners, 251 prisoners have been identified by the SC & ST Development Corporation Ltd, Backward Classes Development Corporation Ltd and Minority Development Corporation Limited for granting them the financial assistances under different schemes and facilitate them to be economically self-reliant in their post released life. Out of the 251 prisoners, 106 prisoners have been sanctioned loans amounting to Rs.22, 73,455.00 [Karnataka Prison News Letter]. For rest of the convicts after their release they are facing difficulties to adjust to social life. Based on the above factors, the overall rehabilitation measure for released convicts has been discussed in terms of four major factors. (1) Crime history of released convicts (2.) Prison misconduct (3) recidivism (4) employment after release and (5) cost avoidance.

**Crime History of released convicts:** in the present study, the released convicts were belongs to the age group which ranges from 34 to 59. All the 15 members were sentenced for 14years of imprisonment for conducting murder.

**Education:** Literacy encompasses a complex set of abilities to understand and use the dominant symbol systems of a culture for personal and community development. Literacy refers to the ability to read for knowledge and write coherently and think critically about the written word. From the survey, it was observed that, all the respondents were not educated properly. Some are illiterate; few of them were received primary and secondary education. During their imprisonment literacy programs were also conducted and they were aware of writing and reading skills in regional language,

**Prison Misconduct:** Prison misconduct is the condition in which the convicts fail to fallow prison rules and regulations. Examples: Insulting prison staffs, disobeying. In the present survey, it was found that, prison misconduct was not reported; it was also found that, they involved in the criminal activity for their survival and also due to lack of employment and lack of harmony in a relationship is the major factor to be considered for their reentry in to criminal activity [6-8].

**Recidivism:** Recidivism is the important part of correctional program and its effectiveness. Commonly it is referred as return to crime, recidivism is the main post-release outcome reviewed in this paper. Measures of recidivism typically include, reconviction and resentencing to prison. Many researchers found that, a majority of released prisoner's recidivate, particularly when measured as a rearrests, within at least three years of release from prison (Langan& Levin, 2002). And in some of the countries within three to five years once again they entered into prison. During the present study the recidivism rate was not up to the mark.

**Employment after Release:** Most of the research focused on recidivism, but Limited attempt has been made to conduct research on factors connected with employment after their release. It was also found that, not all the programmes designed to create employment after release from prison. Apart from that, employment opportunity is one of the crucial factors responsible for offenders to enter to the community safely and successfully. Although much research suggests that, a released convict who finds an employment is less likely to reoffend. During the present study, it was found that, the most of the released convicts are not successful in getting into employment opportunity. Few of the respondents were running their own firms but the success rate to upto the mark. So again in order to meet the financial loss, once again they are involved in criminal activity and few of them were rearrested. In order to prevent them from reentry into the crime, the employment should be there after release [8-10].

**Cost Avoidance:** If correctional programming found to be effective in reducing misconduct, which will have impact on the reduction in the number of prison reentry and improvement in post-release employment opportunities will generate a monetary benefit to society, mostly through costs avoided from the prevention of crime [9-10].

**Rehabilitation measures taken by Karnataka Prison Department:** During imprisonment many skill development programs were taught to the inmates. These are a fallows, Prison industry in central prison, Mysore has been established. They use to sell the products such as, bread, biscuits, buns, rusks varieties of cakes and sweets these products are selling under the brand name of PARIYAVARAN mean REFORMATION". Training programs were also undertaken such as, Garments processing, Fruits and vegetable cultivation, Tailoring, Dairy farming, Sheep rearing, Piggery, Fishery, Training on poultry management, Agarbhatti and Candle making, Decorative item making for women inmates [Karnataka Prison News Letter].

#### 4. Conclusion

From the overall investigation it was observed that, from the 15 respondents during their stay in the prison there behavior was satisfactory, after their release most of them found problem in entering into the society safely because of financial constraints and lack of employment opportunities. So from the overall study, it indicates that, effective correctional programs with good after care services and follow up action plans are required to make the released convicts reentry safe in to the society

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