

Correctional Education and Training Programme in Prisons

1st Author: Ms. Sarik Ankitha
Assistant Professor
Department of Criminology
School of Social Work, Roshni Nilaya
Mangalore,
Co-Author: Rachitha P. Cabral
Assistant Professor
Department of English
School of Social Work, Roshni Nilaya
Mangalore.

Abstract :

Prisoners are a group of people often forgotten or ignored by society as a whole. Yet recidivism – reoffending – is a serious drain on resources worldwide, and tackling it has been the subject of much research and policy development. Education in secure environments and beyond helps offenders reduces recidivism and improves employability. Here, we talk about Prison inmates who receive general education and vocational training are significantly less likely to return to prison after release and are more likely to find employment than peers who do not receive such skill development programmes.

Good communication skills for offenders returning to the community are central to new and successful lives and new chances. Effective speaking and listening skills are essential to entering and sustaining work. Prison Officials identify skills imbibed among the inmates and trained them according to their level of efficiency. The opportunity to work offers opportunity for change. This not only supports the offender but their families and the community at large. However, improving skills may rank highly on the offender's priority list. Offenders need to realise that such skills are a vital part of resettlement and considerably improve job opportunities and re adjustment to the society.

Talking to and collaborating with colleagues on work-related activities using appropriate and polite language, taking instructions and messages and passing them on to colleagues, and Contributing to meetings, training sessions and reviews helps in the overall progress of the inmates.

Overall, the paper talks about having a learning culture in a prison, with a whole-prison approach to learning.. Training programmes should be part of a sentence plan and properly sequenced and structured with other interventions across a sentence and the plan should properly follow prisoners when they move.

These approaches need to be coupled with a culture change about offender learning with employers, and a culture change in society as a whole. Offender learning should be about values rather than about costs. Prison education needs to be inspiring and motivational and must provide links to employment and 'real life' on release.

With increasing emphasis on giving prison governors autonomy over their operations and budgets, it will be important to insure good governance of education in prisons.

This article develops the idea that skills-based approach to education and training, successful in institutions, could be of considerable use in prisons. The release from prison of appropriately educated offenders should not only reduce re-offending rates, but also help to close the 'skills' gap' in India.

Key Words: Prison, Education, Inclusiveness, Correctional Centres, Rehabilitation, Reformation, Training Programme

Prisons are an integral part of the Criminal Justice System and function as custodians of prisoners. While the purpose and justification of imprisonment is to protect the society against crime, retribution and punitive methods of treatment of prisoners alone are neither relevant nor desirable to achieve the goal of reformation and rehabilitation of prison inmates. The concept of Correction, Reformation and Rehabilitation has come to the foreground and the prison administration is now expected to also function as curative and correctional centres.

It is our endeavour to make the prisons Correctional Centres. Our thrust, therefore, is on Reformation, Correction and Rehabilitation of the prison inmates and to churn out reformed and better citizens from the prisons, who can lead an honourable and dignified life after their release. We firmly believe that often crime is a creation of compelling circumstances, unsuitable environment and emotional disturbance resulting in impulsive reactions.

Our above objective and efforts cannot succeed 100% without the active cooperation, support and participation by the cross section of the Society for which it is equally necessary to educate them to give up their inhibition and accept prison inmates, after their release, with open arms and without any stigma attached to them.

Historical Perspective :

In India Prisons were set up by the British Regime and it was well taken care of by the Officers.

A beginning of jail reforms was made in the States with the installation of popular governments in 1937, when political leaders with first-hand experience of prison applied their minds to removing some of the rigours of the prison.

The first scientific effort at modernizing our prisons began in 1952, when the United Nations sent to India an expert, Dr. W.C. Reckless, under the U.N. Technical Assistance Programme. He studied the conditions and produced an excellent report on the 'Prison Administration in India'. A conference of the Inspector General of Prisons was held in 1952 which made far reaching recommendations.

In 1957, the Government of India appointed an All India Jail Manual Committee which worked for three years and made various important recommendations, one of which was revision of States Prison Manuals on the basis of a Model Manual prepared by the Committee.

The Central Bureau of Correctional Services was set up under the Ministry of Home Affairs in 1961 to follow up the recommendations of the All India Jail Manual Committee, to collect information and statistics on a national basis, to exchange ideas with the various State

Governments and with the U.N., and to undertake training, research, evaluation and encourage sound social defence policies and programmes within the country.

Several Committees have also been constituted by the Government of India to study and report about various aspects of prison reforms and some of them are:

1. Model prison Manual, 1960.
2. Working group on prisons, 1972.
3. All India Jail Reform Committee 1980-83.
4. National Expert Committee on Women Prisoners, 1987.
5. All India Model Prison Manual Committee, 2000.
6. Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women, 2001-02.

At Central level, prisons are a part of the responsibility of the Ministry of Home Affairs while probation and Juvenile delinquency are looked after by the Department of Social Welfare. At the State level, there is no uniform pattern. Generally, an Inspector General of Prisons looks after the prison administration.

The Karnataka state has a total of 100 prisons of various classification with an authorized capacity of 11290 male prisoners and 923 female prisoners totally 12213 prisoners. Out of 100 prisons, the Central Prison Bijapur is the oldest date back to 1593 A.D. Constructed during the regime of Adil Shah. Ramanagara Sub Jail is of 18th Century. 1783 A.D. and 25 Jails are of 19th Century.

All Prisons situated in **Karnataka** fall under the following classes:

- Central Prisons(8),
- District Prisons(13),
- District Hq Sub Jails(4) ,
- Special Sub Jails(2),
- Taluka Sub Jails(70(29 under Department Control and 41 under Revenue Department Control)
- Borstal School (1),
- Juvenile Jail (1),
- Open Air Jail(1).

Karnataka is one of the progressive states where attempts have been made for reforming the Jail administration. They have made considerable strides towards achieving their objectives of Reformation, Correction and Rehabilitation of Prison inmates and transforming the prison into curative centres.

Prison education, also known as Inmate Education and Correctional Education, is a broad term that encompasses any number of educational activities occurring inside a prison. These educational activities include both vocational training and academic education. The goal of such activities is to prepare the prisoner for success outside of prison and to enhance the rehabilitative aspects of prison.

Educational programmes offered inside prisons are typically provided and managed by the prison systems in which they reside. Funding for the programs are provided through official correctional department budgets, private organizations (e.g. colleges, nonprofits, etc.), and the prisoners or their families, if the prisoner is pursuing education through a correspondence programme. Educational opportunities can be divided into two general categories: academic education and vocational training.

Education helps with the most onerous obstacle to keeping out of prison—finding gainful employment. Legitimate employment is the basis for other requirements on the outside, including the ability to pay for housing and food. Holding a degree or certificate is a boost to these efforts. Pell funding holds an added potential of making religious programming, study, and training more widely available.

The expansion of religious programming is a boon for prison culture since involvement in religion is associated with positive outcomes for prisoners, including lower recidivism, improved self-esteem, and movement away from gang subcultures. Increased opportunity for religious study is a unique aspect of education known to transform the lives of inmates.

REFORMATIVE MEASURES:

Some of the measures incorporated in the jail daily routine to facilitate the inmates to correct, reform and thereafter rehabilitate themselves as good citizens on their release are Vocational Training in various crafts of their choice, Training in modern techniques of Agriculture, Horticulture, and Sericulture, Sheep rearing, Dairy farming, Wormi-culture, Manufacture of Organic Manure, Nursery Seedlings, Wage earning scheme, Sports, games and cultural facilities, Reading room and library facilities, Interview, letter correspondence and remission system, Canteen facilities, Panchayat system, Temporary release facilities on parole and furlough, Remission system and Premature release.

Efforts have been made to make the prison inmates economically self-reliant through training them in various vocational and trade crafts and bring out their latent skills. The following vocational training programmes have been incorporated in the jail daily routine:

For imparting training, the following industries are functioning :Power loom and handlooms, Tailoring for men and women prisoners, Carpentry, Carpet making, Printing, Foot wear making, Tent making, Soap and phenyl manufacture, Black smithy and steel furniture making, Laundry, Training in modern techniques of Agriculture, Horticulture, and Sericulture, Sheep rearing, Dairy farming, Wormiculture, Manufacture of Organic Manure, Nursery Seedlings, Pig rearing, Soft Toy Making – for Women Prisoners, Fabric Painting for Women Prisoners, Wool Knitting, Embroidery, Bread and Confectionaries making Candle Making, Beautician course, Home Nursing and Mid-wife Training Wormiculture, Manufacture of organic manure.

EDUCATION AND LIBRARY:

No restriction is imposed on prisoners when it comes to reading materials: They are allowed to access material for their recreation or nurturing of their skills and development of personality including their capacity to pursue education while in jail.

In almost all the major jails and district jails including Open Air Jail, library facilities have been provided for all categories of prisoners, adequately stocked with both recreational and instructional books. They can pursue their studies through open universities and classes are being conducted inside the prisons to educate the illiterate prisoners. Starting

from 1993-2000, totally 149 prisoners have enrolled for various courses through IGNOU (Indira Gandhi National Open University) and passed in the respective courses at the cost of Government.

a) Higher Education:

Prisoners are encouraged to pursue their education at Government cost through different open universities. 59 prisoners have enrolled for different higher education courses viz., B.A, M.A, Diploma in Journalism, Post Graduate Diploma in Business Administration from 2005 to 2007 and Rs 1,93,055.00 was paid towards fees.

b) Free Distance and Postal Education:

Bangalore University has started a novel programme to impart formal education to prisoners in distance mode. The Directorate of Distance Education and correspondence courses of Bangalore University in association with prisons department has taken the responsibility of extending benefits of its different courses to 500 prisoners, free of cost. The university started the scheme in October 2006. They have implemented it in Bangalore, Belgaum, Gulbarga, Bellary and Bijapur.

In this programme prisoners may pursue their studies and enroll to different Graduation and post Graduation Courses.

So far 351 prisoners have been enrolled to different Graduation and post-Graduation courses under this scheme. University will start communication programme at all central Prisons. So far 183 prisoners have attended the common entrance examination seeking admission to various courses.

Apart from the above, they are also being provided daily newspapers, periodicals, magazines in all the regional language along with TV/Radio and World Space Radio for their recreation and as well as to link their mind with the society.

c) Suvarna Akshara Andolana: Akshara Kalika Sibhira:

In coordination with District Literacy Committee 18 day's literacy camps were organized at Central Prison, Bangalore, Gulbarga, District Prison, Chamarajnar and Tumkur.

d)Adult Education Programme :

Adult Education Programme was organized at Central Prison, Mysuru under Social Responsibility Scheme and free slates, Chalks and Books were distributed.

e)English Teaching Camp:

English Learning classes have been organized for the benefit of inmates at Central Prison, Bangalore. 71 inmates have been trained in the first phase.

SPORTS AND CULTURE ACTIVITIES:

The inmates are provided with the facilities for indoor and outdoor games like Chess, Carrom, Cricket, Volleyball, Khabaddi, kho-kho etc,. They are facilitated to enact dramas and conduct cultural programmes on special occasions like Ganesha Festival, Kannada Rajyosatava etc., Yoga, meditation classes, Pranic Healing and Art of Living classes.

WAGE EARNING SCHEME :

As per the Government Order No: HD 37 PRA 96, Dated: 22-1-99 wage rates of prisoner have been enhanced to:

Rs.60 -- unskilled prisoner

Rs.70 -- skilled prisoner

Rs.80 -- highly skilled prisoner

* Note: the above amount is inclusive of Rs25/- towards food and clothing.

The **wage-earning scheme** will facilitate prisoners to accumulate a sizable amount of money in their account during their stay in the prisons. This will help them to rehabilitate after their discharge from the prison. Prisoners can spend their earnings on purchase of writing materials, payment of fine, to meet the expenses on their legal obligations and to purchase the essentials in the jail canteen.

Vocational training in different trades is one of the important reformatory measures to rehabilitate the prisoner for their post prison life. They are allowed to participate in recreational activities, Yoga classes and indoor and outdoor sports.

- Every illiterate prisoner is being advised to undergo literacy through adult education programmes and literate prisoners are allowed to pursue higher studies, and they have access to the prison library.
- Every prisoner is entitled to free healthcare special treatment, dental / eye care and sick prisoners are being treated regularly
- Every prisoner is allowed to observe the tenets of this religion, and attend religious functions and prayers.
- Prisoners are entitled to free **legal assistance**, appeal and petition, to the concerned courts and are allowed to delegate powers of attorney to settle property, land, civil suits, business etc., and execute their will.
- Every prisoner is allowed to communicate with outside world through letters and periodical interviews with their legal advisors, family members and friends.
- Prison Panchayat** is a system, which offers principles of democracy in the prison among the prisoners.
- The Parole and Furlough** are the incentives provided to the prisoners to meet kin and kith, and to rebuild conducive atmosphere for their post prison life.

Central Prison for Women: A separate central prison for women prisoners has been started in the state and it is yet to start functioning.

(d) TRAINING:

Training in Knitting, Tailoring, Embroidery, Basket making, Dress designing, Fabric Painting, Candle Making, Agarbatti manufacturing, bag making, bakery products making, leaf cup making, Midwife and Home Nursing Training etc., are given by the jail authorities in association with Non Governmental organizations. Sewing machines have been issued to jails under modernization of prison administration.

RECREATION:

Periodical meditation courses, cultural programmes, recreation through TV/ Radio, etc., legal aid to the needy prisoners, better toilets, Hygiene facilities in the barracks, providing hot water, separate kitchen to cook their food. Literacy programmes, crèches to the children of women prisoners in coordination with the NGO are some of the important reformatory measures adopted by the Department for improving the living conditions of prisoners. Prisoners are also trained in theatre art and also encouraged to stage dramas. World Space Radios have also been installed at Central Prison, Bangalore, Mysuru, District HQ Sub-jails, Kolar, Tumkur, Hassan, Mandya and Open Air Jail, Koramangala and it is proposed to extend the facilities to all the remaining jails upto Special Sub-jails.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES: ENACTMENT OF DRAMA BY PRISONERS

Lonely life behind bars dissipates human creativity and enthusiasm for engaging oneself in creative activity. Such a scenario makes our efforts to reform the prisoners is more onerous and challenging. In order to overcome this and enthuse the prison inmates and emotionally reform the inmates through the media of theatre and also provide opportunity to public to view the prison inmates differently, enactment of a famous drama 'Madhavi', written by well known Play Wright Late Sri Bhisma Sahani, by the inmates of Central Prison Mysuru and Bangalore, was staged at Karnataka Exhibition Center, Mysuru a galaxy of Play Wrights, Art Critics viewed the drama along with the public. The enactment of drama and the talent of prison inmates was highly appreciated. The Drama 'Kurushetra' by the inmates of Central Prison, Bangalore staged at ADA Kalamandira, Bangalore and 'Taledanda' by the inmates of Central Prison Mysuru was staged at Kalamandira, Mysuru and Ravindra Kalashetra, Mysuru and at the World famous Bhagvan Bahubali Mahamastakabhisheka at Sharavana Belagola, Hassan District. Recently a drama on 'Kasturi Ba' was enacted by the inmates of Central Prison Bangalore and Mysuru at the prestigious theatre of Bangalore.

The Department of Criminology had the opportunity to visit the Mysore Central Jail and were fortunate enough to interact and have an in-depth insight into the workings and life style of the prison inmates. And this is what was observed by the students.

The Female barracks had inmates who worked on making agarbattis and stitching clothes. Trained personnel are hired to train the inmates so that the products that are made are of good quality and are of high standard.

The Male barracks too had many vocational units where skilled, semi-skilled and Non-skilled inmates worked and earned wages as mentioned before. The various vocational units included the carpentry section, bakery section, weaving (carpet making) section which included a dyeing unit and a tailoring block. The inmates worked in two shifts from 8:00am to 11:30am and 12:30pm to 4:30 pm. The most interesting to watch was the bakery section wherein 6 inmates worked and produced various snacks such as Biscuits, Dilkush, Egg and

Veg puffs etc. which were sold in the brand name: 'Parivarthan products' at various outlets in the city especially at railway stations and at courts. The group was given a chance to try and taste the bakery's biscuits which were quite delicious.

The tailoring unit consisting of 6 members, made prison clothes for the inmates and also undertook ironing assignments from prison officials. The group also had the opportunity of interacting with the workers of the carpentry unit under the supervision of Mr.Ragupathi wherein it was learnt that the prison products were known for being of superior quality and workmanship and thus costed higher than what was made and sold in the city.

Towards the end of the prison tour the group came to learn that the prison grew vegetables in its very own backyard which was well maintained and near the backyard there was a small church, a mosque and a temple where prisoners were allowed to visit from time to time to render their prayers and near the places of worship was a meditation centre named 'Om Shanthi Meditation Centre' where inmates were trained in meditation and yoga.

BEST PRISON PRACTICES IN PRISON ADMINISTRATION:

- Remission System
- Yoga and Meditation courses for the Prisoners with the help of NGO's, Charitable Trust, Religious leaders and Institutions.
- Moral lectures / discourses conducted by spiritual leaders of various organizations.
- Art of Living Courses
- Pranic Healing courses
- Religious discourses
- Adult Education classes-
- Providing opportunity to the inmates to continue their education through various open universities ex. IGNOU, KSOU etc.,
- Facility for indoor and outdoor games
- Library facilities
- Television facilities
- Premature release of well behaved life imprisonment convict prisoners
- Wage earning Scheme
- Vocational training in different trade craft for both convicted (Male &Female)
- Canteen facilities
- Health camps-Eye, Skin, Dental, Cardiac, HIV/ AIDS, General Health Check Camps.
- Counselling sessions for both individuals and in groups
- Legal Assistance, Legal Awareness programmes
- Lok Adalath camps
- Creche and Nursery facilities for the children accompanying women inmates
- Arogya Bhagya Scheme
- Staff Benevolent Fund
- Video Conferencing Facility
- CCTV Facility
- Pay Telephone Facility
- Interviews with relatives, friends and Advocates
- Prisoners Panchayat System
- Special Courts at Prison Premises

- Metal Detectors – Doorframe and Hand Held
- Walkie Talkie and High Frequency wireless sets
- Introduction of World Space Radio for the entertainment of prison inmates.
- New Meal scheme – ‘Saviyoota’ by Akshaya Patra Foundation – ISKCON- to the prisoners of Central Prison, Bangalore
- Issue of Varieties of Breakfast
- VCTC centre, Central Prison, Bangalore
- Free Tooth Powder and Bathing Soaps to prisoners
- Installation of grievance boxes
- Inter departmental seminar on ‘Correction, Reformation and Rehabilitation of Prisoners’
- Rehabilitation of Prematurely released convict – financial assistance by – D. Devraj Urs Backward Classes Development Corporation Ltd., Karnataka Minorities Development Corporation Ltd, Dr.B.R. Ambedkar Development Corporation Ltd
- Speedy disposal of cases through Lok Adalath Camps
- Implementation of guidelines issued by Hon’ble Supreme court in Writ Petition No: 559/94 between R.D. Updhaya vs Andra Pradesh Government and others- treatment of women –lactating and pregnant and children of women prisoners.
 - a) Extra Nutritious food for the Lactating and Pregnant women prisoners
 - b) Extra clothing to the women prisoners
 - c) Nutritious diet to the children with women prisoners of age group 0-6 years.
 - d) Issue of clothing, bedding and utensils to the children with women prisoners
 - e) Amendment to the Rule 86 of Karnataka Prison Rules 1974
 - f) Incorporation of a new chapter- for treatment of Children and Pregnant and Lactating Women Prisoners in Karnataka Prison Manual 1978.
- Reduction of Parole Security deposit amount from Rs6000- to Rs1000.

According to the statistics of 2017, 17 convicts were released from Mysore Central Prison for their good conduct. The State Government usually releases prisoners for good conduct during Independence Day and Republic Day celebrations.

It has released convicts including a few serving for life term. Provisions have been made for the convicts released to be granted bank loans to start a new life.

To conclude we would like to state that Inmates should be taught to have an interest in a job that they are passionate about, they should be focused and be hard working in their vocational training, they should value themselves, their work and always put in their best.

The prison officials must urge the inmates to see prison as a centre for reformation, rehabilitation and recreation to become a better person in the nearest future.

If inmates are neglected the efforts at maintaining peaceful society would not become visible. Prison is a place where people we tagged as criminals in the society are confined. When we talk of peace and orderliness in the society, then we are talking of people that are breaching the orderliness and the place they are confined is the prison. So the organisation is focusing

on the society and the prison such that we are to complement people coming out of prison passing through integration, rehabilitation and reformation back into the society.

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