

A Study on the behavioural changes among the youth prisoners in Jail

Abhitej Lyall, Dr. Jahanara, Dr. Bazil A. Singh

Master in Social Work Student, Department of Anthropology & Social Work, SHUATS, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh, India

Advisor, Prof. & Head, Department of Anthropology & Social Work, SHUATS, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh, India.

Teaching Associate, Department of Genetics & Plant Breeding, SHUATS, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh, India.

ABSTRACT

The present investigation “A Study on the behavioral changes among the youth prisoners of Naini Jail (18 – 35 yrs)” was carried out at Naini Central Jail, Prayagraj. A questionnaire consisting of around 40 questions was prepared to examine their behavioural change of the prisoners. The prisoners were interviewed for their Marital status, religion, situations that led them to commit crime, years of sanctioned imprisonment and behaviour before and after imprisonment. Hence, it has been concluded that, problems with their marital status, religion etc. all provide a lot of unsupervised time and conducive environment to the youth by encouraging them to get involved in easy and illegal ways of earning money or fulfilling their desires. A positive and educative environment, high quality work opportunities, healthy relationships, vocational trainings, adequate counselling, from Government can altogether catalyse a diminished criminal behaviour.

INTRODUCTION

Uttar Pradesh is a state in northern India. Abbreviated as **UP**, it is the most populous state in the Republic of India as well as the most populous country subdivision in the world. The densely populated state, located in the northern region of the Indian subcontinent, has over 200 million inhabitants. It was created on 1 April 1937 as the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh during British rule, and was renamed *Uttar Pradesh* in 1950. According to the National Crime Records Bureau (2011 data), Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of crimes among any state in India, but due to its high population, the actual per capita crime rate is low. Because of this, the NCRB states that UP is the third safest state in the country to live in. The value of human development index in Uttar Pradesh has steadily increased over time. The Uttar Pradesh Police, governed by the Department of Home, is the largest police force in the world.

Uttar Pradesh also reported the highest number of deaths—23,219—due to road and rail accidents in 2015, according to NCRB data. This included 8,109 deaths due to careless driving.

Between 2006 and 2010, the state has been hit with three terrorist attacks, including explosions in a landmark holy place, a court and a temple. The 2006 Varanasi bombings were a series of bombings that occurred across the Hindu holy city of Varanasi on 7 March 2006.

Allahabad, also known by its original name Prayag, is one of the largest cities of the North Indian state of Uttar Pradesh in India. Political protection to criminals, glamorising crime and violence in films and televisions, unemployment and frustration among youth need to be stopped with enforcement of law. Along with stringent laws, the humanitarian aspect of dealing with criminals needs to be implemented. There should be no violation of human rights while dealing with criminals. With sympathy and human-approach, many a criminals can become useful citizens. As per National Crime Record Bureau, a total of 41,385 juveniles were apprehended during 2015 out of which 40,468 were boys and 917 were girls. The percentage of girls to total juveniles is found to be following a decreasing trend from 2011 and has reduced to 2.2% in 2015. **Youth In India 2017 Central Statistics Office Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation Government of India (Social Statistics Division pg. 43 - 44).**

This dissertation focuses on the prisoners with high-risk behaviours, presents brief treatment strategies for managing each and concludes with a proposed set of recommended goals for creating a national strategy to develop behavioural rehabilitative and reformative programmes in correctional settings. These incidents led to the vast and drastic change in the attitude and behaviour of the prisoners in prison. Making a career out of social work in prisons and the correctional system at-large is challenging — one that is critical to the pursuit of prisoner rehabilitation, prison reform and reduced incarceration rates. Professionals with a master's in social work have the opportunity to play an important role in all aspects of correctional policy and operations, including entry and re-release into society, monitoring prison practices and conditions, family services, mental health and substance abuse counseling, probation management, job and life skills training, and implementing educational programs.

METHODOLOGY

A detailed account of methods and techniques followed to conduct this research investigation, is going to be investigated under the following heads: In Uttar Pradesh there are 5 Central Jails out of these jails Naini Central Jail Allahabad have been selected for the research. The area of research, Allahabad has been selected purposely, because it's geographical layout is big and variable, it has a mixed population with different categories of Communities (SCs, OBCs, Minorities, General etc.) and though the district economy is primarily rural based, it has a big urban population too. The district has adequate literacy levels but cannot boast of richness and a large size of the population is poor and semi poor. Besides, the Naini Central Jail is located in Allahabad where prisoners of other districts are also kept. The respondents were selected in the age group between 18 to 35 years old and also the one who were imprisoned for life time. The appropriate number of respondents were selected in accordance to the availability of respondents, as it was not possible to undertake survey of entire population of Naini Central Jail. 30 youth prisoners were randomly selected among the entire enumeration.

For the collection of data, development of interview schedule, covering various objectives of the present investigations will be made so that the data may be collected from respondents. Observation method was such a method in which only primary data was collected. Each respondent was observed and the data that the researcher thinks was relevant was collected by him which was benefited for the study. The data collected through interview schedule were transferred on the master sheet. For various parameters frequencies were marked and percentages were calculated to interpret the results.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

The present survey was carried out at the Naini Central Jail Allahabad to analyse the behavioral change of the youth prisoners sentenced to jail for committing serious crime. A questionnaire was made according to which the following facts were observed:

Table 4.1: Distribution of the respondents according to their Marital status.

N=30

S.No.	Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Married	10	33.33
2.	Unmarried	20	66.67
	Total	30	100

From the above Table 4.1 it was observed that 66.67 % of the respondents were unmarried and 33.33 % of the respondents were married. The findings of the study are in confirmation with **Kathryn L. et al. (2015)**

Table 4.2: Distribution of the respondents according to their Religion.

N=30

S.No.	Religion	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Hindu	10	33.33
2.	Muslim	15	50.00
3.	Christians	02	6.67
4.	Others	3	10.00
	Total	30	100

From the above Table 4.2 it is clearly seen that 50.00 % of the respondents were Muslims, 33.33 % were Hindus, 10.00 % belonged to other religions and 6.67 % were Christians. The findings of the study are in confirmation with **Vijay R and Roshni N (2011)**.

Table 4.3: Distribution of the respondents according to Situations that led them to commit crime

N=30

S.No.	Situations	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Dowry	5	16.67
2.	Land issues	5	16.67
3.	Extra Marital Affair	10	33.33
4.	Poverty	10	33.33
	Total	30	100

From the above Table 4.3 it was found out that 16.67 % of the respondents committed crime due to Extra Marital Affair of their wives and due to poverty respectively while 33.33 % of the respondents committed crime due to Land issues and Dowry respectively

Table 4.4: Distribution of the respondents according to their Years of Sanctioned Imprisonment

N=30

S.No.	Years of Sanctioned Imprisonment	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Life Imprisonment	5	16.67
2.	1-7 years	10	33.33
3.	8-10 years	12	40.00
4.	Above 10 years	3	10.00
	Total	30	100

From the above Table 4.4 reveals that majority (40.00%) of the respondents were sentenced for 8-10 years. Around 33.33 % of the respondents were sentenced to 1-7 years, 16.67 % were sentenced for life and 10.00 % were sentenced for over 10 years. .The findings of the study are in confirmation with **Mehrishi R, et al. (2015)**

Table 4.5: Distribution of the respondents according to their Behaviour before sentenced to Jail**N=30**

S.No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Cool	12	40.00
2.	Normal	15	50.00
3.	Aggressive	3	10.00
	Total	30	100

A rapid glance at the table 4.5 reveals that majority of the respondents 50% belong to normal category, 40% of the respondents belong to cool category while only 10% respondents were aggressive.

Table 4.6: Distribution of the respondents according to their Behaviour after sentenced to Jail**N=30**

S.No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Cool	5	16.67
2.	Normal	10	33.33
3.	Aggressive	15	50.00
	Total	30	100

A rapid glance at the table 4.6 reveals that majority of the respondents 50% belong to aggressive category, 33.33% of the respondents belong to normal category while only 16.67% respondents were cool.

Table 4.7: Distribution of the respondents according to interest in vocational trainings**N=30**

S.No.	Vocational Trainings	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Weaving Baskets	12	40.00
2.	Making candles	14	46.67
3.	Yoga	4	13.33
	Total	30	100

An overview from the table 4.7 indicates that majority of the respondents 46.67% were interested in making candles and 40% of the respondents were interested in weaving baskets and 13.33% were interested in Yoga

Table 4.8: Distribution of the respondents according to the influence of other inmates on their behavior

N=30

S.No.	Inmates influence	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Too much	2	6.67
2.	Strong	10	33.33
3.	Little	18	60.00
	Total	30	100

From the table 4.8, it is made out that 60% of the respondents had little inmates depending on their behaviour followed by 33.33% being in the company of strong inmates based on their behaviour and only 6.67% had a very high inmates group influence.

Table 4.9: Distribution of the respondents according to their behavior during imprisonment

N=30

Sl.No.	Behavioural changes in prison	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Feeling jealous of other people	2	6.67
2.	Avoids joining in social gathering	7	23.33
3.	Being Egoistic	6	20.00
4.	Losing his mental balance	4	13.33
5.	Hates others	3	10.00
6.	Feeling inferior when failing to achieve goal	2	6.67
7.	Having a weak will power	3	10.00
8.	Bluffing	3	10.00

The result furnished in table no. 4.9 depicts the frequency and percentage of the behaviour of respondents during their imprisonment and clearly states that 6.67% felt jealous of other people; 23.33 % avoided joining in social gatherings; 20.00% were egoistic; 13.33% lost their mental balance; 10% hated others; 6.67% felt inferior when failing to achieve goal; 10.00% suffered from weak will power and 10% were involved in bluffing inside the prison.

A deeper probe into the study based on the behaviour of the respondents during imprisonment clearly depicts that a majority of the prisoners avoided joining in social gatherings and were egoistic. About 20% suffered from weak will power and hated others, while more than 13% suffered from inferiority complex and were jealous of others along with few others who were involved in bluffing.

CONCLUSION

Crime and society both exist together and are interdependent to a great extent. Lack of education, wide spread poverty, lack of work opportunities, all provide a lot of unsupervised time and conducive environment to the youth by encouraging them to get involved in easy and illegal ways of earning money or fulfilling their desires.

A positive and educative environment, high quality work opportunities, healthy relationships, vocational trainings, adequate counselling, socio-economic support from Government can altogether catalyse a diminished criminal behaviour.

If we look at the history of criminals, we can clearly see that many of them hail from dysfunctional families, where they do not have anyone to show them the right path. It is here that parents and teachers can intervene and play an important role in controlling crime.

Reducing unemployment can be an effective way to curb crime as a majority of people are compelled to commit crime because of financial problems. If the government works in the direction of creating more jobs, it can definitely bring about a drop in the criminal activities

A vital aspect of the modern day prisons need to be their belief in correction, rehabilitation and reformation of the criminals. It is the need of the hour to implement a restorative approach to justice and focus upon rehabilitation of the criminals and bring them into the mainstream society with social security, constructive guidance and economic support. A restorative environment within the jail can effectively bring amends in the nature and behaviour of the prison inmates by repairing the harm done by the prisoners to whatever extent possible and by restoring the lives affected by the crime. These measures can successfully bring about a better and hopeful vision for the future.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Akhilesh K, Manish J, K.P. Uday S, Surekha S, Jyoti, Anuja, Seema R and Ankur B. (2016)Prison Statistics India 2015 pg: 1-306

Appleton C. & Grover B,(2007). The pros and cons of life without parole. *British Journal of Criminology*,**47**, 597-615.

AryehNeier, David J. Rothman, 1991.Prison Conditions in India

Basanth R. (2017). The Wire: Why we need to talk about the conditions of India's Prisons.

Burdon W, Roll JM, Prendergast M, Rawson R. (2001). Drug courts and contingency management. *Journal of Drug Issues*.;31 (1):73–90

Burdon WM, Farabee D, Prendergast ML, Messina NP, Cartier J, (2002) Prison-based therapeutic community substance abuse programs—Implementation and operational issues. *Federal Probation*;66(3):3–8.

Carli V, Jovanovic N, Podlesek A, Roy A, Rihmer Z, Maggi S, Cesaro C, Marusic A, Sarchiapone M.(2010). The role of impulsivity in self-mutilators, suicide ideators and suicide attempters - a study of 1265 male incarcerated individuals. *Journal of Affect Disorder*;123:116-122

Dumont, L. (1970): "Homo Hierarchicus : The Caste System and its Implications". Delhi: Vikas Publication

Fagan TJ, Cox J, Helfand SJ, Aufderheide D. (2010). Self-injurious behavior in correctional settings. *Journal of Correct Health Care*;16:48-66

Fazel S, Danesh J. (2002)Serious mental disorder in 23 000 prisoners: a systematic review of 62 surveys. *Lancet*.;359: 545–550.

Gaiffas A, Galera C, Mandon V, Bouvard MP. (2014)Attention-defecit/hyperactivity disorder in young French male prisoners. *Journal of Forensic Sciences.* ;59:1016–1019.

Gibling, Sinha; Sinha, Roy; Roy, Tandon; Tandon, Jain; Jain, M (2008). "Quaternary fluvial and eolian deposits on the Belanriver, India: paleoclimatic setting of Paleolithic to Neolithic archeological sites over the past 85,000 years". *Quaternary Science Reviews.* 27 (3–4): 391.

Gupta PK, Dadiya VK, Baig VN. (2015). Socio-demographic profile and factors associated to nature of crime of prisoners in central jail of Kota (Rajasthan). *National Journal of Community Medicine*; 6(3):405-410.

Jamieson, R. & Grounds, A. (2005). Release and adjustment: Perspectives from studies of wrongly convicted and politically motivated prisoners. In A. Liebling & S. Maruna (Eds.), *The Effects of Imprisonment*. Devon: Willan Publishing, (pp. 33-60).

Kathryn L, Egara K and Moses P. (2015). Efficacy of Rehabilitation Programmes on Psychosocial Adjustment of Elderly Male Offenders in Kakamega Main Prison, Kenya, *The International Journal Of Humanities & Social Studies* 3 (11), 70-80

Kazi. (2009).*International Journal of Infectious Diseases*, 14, e60-e66.

Khullar, Vatsal (2018). "Uttar Pradesh Budget Analysis 2018-19" (PDF). *PRS Legislative Research*. Retrieved 28 March 2018.

Knoll JLt.(2010)Suicide in correctional settings: assessment, prevention, and professional liability. *Journal of Correct Health Care*;16:188-204.

Liebling, A. &Maruna, S. (2005). Introduction: The effects of imprisonment revisited. In A. Liebling & S. Maruna (Eds.), *The Effects of Imprisonment*. Devon: Willan Publishing. (pp. 1-29)

Marzano L, Hawton K, Rivlin A, Smith EN, Piper M, Fazels.Crisis.(2016).Prevention of Suicidal Behavior in Prisons,37(5):323-334.

Mehrishi R and A Kini R. (2015). National Crime Records Bureau, Prison Statistics India (pp 73)

Mehrishi R and A Kini R. (2015). National Crime Records Bureau,Prison Statistics India (pp 111)

Miller, N. W. M. (2002). An exploratory study of different types of violence presented in early Christian and Islamic historical documents. *Psychological Reports*, 91, 520-524

Nina S and Tomer E, (2018).*Criminal Justice and Behavior* ,45, Issue 5, pp. 628 – 643

"President's Rule in Uttar Pradesh" (2018). *uplegisassembly.gov.in*. Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly. Retrieved 14 March 2018.

Raghavan V and Nair R. (2011). A Study of the Socio Economic Profile and Rehabilitation Needs of Muslim Community in Prisons in Maharashtra, Centre for Criminology and Justice School of Social Work. (pp 27-28)

Rivlin A, Hawton K, Marzano L, Fazel S. (2010). Psychiatric disorders in male prisoners who made near-lethal suicide attempts: case-control study. *British Journal of Psychiatry*;197:313–319.

Rohan L. Jayetilleke (2007). "The Ghositarama of Kaushambi". Daily News. Archived from the original on 4 June 2011. Retrieved 29 October 2008.

