



SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF RELEASED CONVICTS FROM CENTRAL PRISON OF MYSORE

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ABSTRACT

Prison punishment is the most crucial social control regulation and one of the methods to prevent crime. Increased number of prisoners has negative socio-economic impacts on government. The present research paper focused on socio-economic condition of released convicts from central prison of Mysore. Before assessing various aspects of human rights of prisoners; the socio-economic, demographic and cultural characteristics of the released convicts have been identified. The sample contains twenty male respondents of different age groups. Further; data have been collected about the respondents through survey. The survey was conducted through questionnaires method. From the overall investigation, it was found that, majority of the released convicts were not comfortable in socio-economic status and still they are struggling for reintegration in the society.

KEYWORDS : Socio-economic, Central Prison, Mysore, Released Convicts.

INTRODUCTION:

The reintegration of released convict's from prisoner encounter prejudice and suspicion associated with an arrest, criminal conviction and incarceration. Many corporate sectors including some of the largest industries automatically reject any person with a prior conviction from applicant pools and persons convicted of a range of offenses are barred by laws from entering many occupations. The disproportionate number of returning prisoners who are under age will likely to encounter illegal activities. Prisoners disproportionately suffer higher incidence of mental illness, addiction, learning disabilities, illiteracy or below grade-level educational achievement and abuse or post-traumatic stress syndrome. Unless fully addressed, each of these conditions will affect the returning prisoner's ability to compete for work today or for the jobs of the future. Most of the researchers stated that, released convicts are not prepared to reintegrate back into the community. Some convicts lack reading and writing abilities, job skills, and life skills that are necessary for a successful transition back into society. With this concept, the present research work has been undertaken to evaluate, the prison life, crime and After-care services offered from government to the released convicts in order to lead normal life in the society.

SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES:

The prison population in India has been growing steadily for more than 30 years. The Bureau of Justice Statistics reports that, since 2000 an average of 6,80,000 inmates have been released from state prisons and almost 5 million released convicts are under some form of community-based supervision. The release convicts reentry can include all the activities and programs conducted to prepare ex-convicts to return safely to the community and to live as law-abiding citizens. Some released convicts, however, eventually end up back in prison. Studies have indicated that, most of the released convicts are ill prepared to reintegrate back into the community. Some still struggle with alcohol and substance abuse and are not aware of programs that are available to them. With this concept, the present study has been undertaken with an objective to assess the socio-economic status of released convicts from central prison, Mysore.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The study focuses on the socio-economic condition of the released convicts from central prison Mysore. The present study was undertaken to develop a clear idea about the current situation of released convicts from central prison, Mysore. The study also aims to suggest interventions to address the problems and concerns of released convicts. As a part of data collection process a combination of both quantitative and qualitative methods was applied to collect data from the released convicts.

Research design

The research work was carried out in descriptive form. The study aims to address the socio-economic and educational background of released convicts from central prisons in Mysore. In addition, the study aims to reveal the experiences of released convicts with reference to criminal justice and the system and identifying their rehabilitation needs. In order to achieve these objectives, the quantitative methodology using the survey method has been used to collect primary data. In addition, interviews with prisoners included a few questions to capture some qualitative dimensions about the situation of the respondents and their subjective viewpoint about their reasons of arrest and entry into the crime world. A few case studies have been evaluated to have complete information to the observations as an outcome of the research. Respondents for the interviews were identified from the official data which was available in the prison records. A questionnaire format was framed to collect all information related to the released convicts. From the list prepared, all of them were chosen for the interviews.

SOURCES OF DATA COLLECTION:

Primary sources: The data has been primarily collected from the central prison Mysore by verifying official records. Further information was collected by direct communicating with the released convicts.

Secondary sources: Secondary sources also include a review of literature, review from books, newspaper reports, official reports and internet sources etc.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

The present investigation consists of collection of primary and secondary data about released convicts. The overall surveys conducted about the released convicts with respect to various issues are presented as follows.

EDUCATION AND AGE: 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. They belong to the age group from 34 to 65 years.

FAMILY:

Most of the prisoners are from joint families because joint families are now a days the hot beds of misunderstanding leading to torture

that ultimately leads to commission of crime by the persons, Many factors are responsible for that, eg: too many depends in a family to a single person, death of parents, lack of education, unemployment, family commitments are the reasons which provoked them to get into crime. Another reason is that, joint families are prone to economic weakness. To combat with such a situation there is every need of family counseling facilities, awareness through media with community involvement.

SOCIAL STATUS:

As per the survey conducted with the resealed convicts, it was observed that, social status of the released prisoners was not up to the mark. Most of the convicts find very difficult to reunite with the family members, friends and neighbors because of their crime history. After the release from prison, even if they wish to lead their normal life in a right way, the surrounding people will not allow them to be a part of the entire community. Because of these attitudes most the respondents are still suffering mentally due lack of their social rights.

ECONOMIC STATUS:

Among all the respondents, the common reason to not placed in jobs was due to their crime history. It was also observed that, during imprisonment lot of self-employment skills were also been thought to them. But to start their own firms even it is small they require financial assistance. Because of that, they are suffering a lot with the financial constraints. It was also found that, due to lack of financial support, some respondents were once again involved in crime activities.

REHABILITATION ISSUES:

Most of the released convicts are found to be living in kaccha houses before imprisonment. The reason behind living in kaccha houses is due to their poor economic status and rural inhabitation. For proper economic rehabilitation of the released convicts, self-employment is the prioritizing factor from the released convicts. Most of the respondents are from rural background; so they are staying in their own houses at their native places. Some of them are residing in rented houses particularly who belong to urban areas. Study also shows that, released convicts living in rural areas are committing more crime than that of released convicts living in urban areas.

CONCLUSION:

From the present research, it can be concluded as follows

- The social status of the released convicts was not up to the mark
- All the respondents were facing economic crisis
- They require financial assistance as a part of self-employment
- Reunite with family members after imprisonment was found difficult. No of dependents in family also made them to involve in crime.
- Lack of education due to the death of parents or lack of guardians.
- Problem of rehabilitation after imprisonment.

SUGGESTIONS:

- Even though lot of initiatives have been undertaken to reintegrate the released convicts into the society, still there are certain issues that needs to be addressed at a proper time, so that, they can get into the social life easily.
- It is also important to take initiation to reduce poverty by creating avenues for more job and skill developing centers.
- In order to reduce reoffending, certain job oriented programs must be introduced. Establishment of more post-release centers close to community facilities which allow them to reintegrate back into society and gain employment and have more contact with family members would significantly decrease the chance of reoffending and improve their quality of life upon release.
- Provide more opportunities for education and teaching of basic literacy, numeracy and life skills to the prisoners.

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