

Present challenges to Prison System: A sociological analysis of vocational training to inmates

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I. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The words 'Prison' and 'Goal' derive from the Latin words meaning respectively, 'to seize' and 'a cage' (Datir, 1978:1). Whatever may be the official designation as jail, work house, reformatory, penitentiary, state prison, house of correction, or whatsoever else, it is a place where the punishment of imprisonment is executed (Mueller,1970:50).

In preliterate societies imprisonment was rarely used as penalty. Similarly the penalty of imprisonment hardly ever occurred in early Greece (Vinegradaff, 1920-22:190). "The penalty of imprisonment was almost unknown in France in the later Middle ages (Von, 1916:191). "The last Code of Laws in France previous to the revolution was made in 1670 and contained no mention of imprisonment as a penalty. In the first part of the 16th Century in Frankfurt it was ordered that for certain offences," the Criminal shall be imprisoned and

forgotten for a time (Sutherland and Cressey, 1960:271).

Prison system has a unique position in the society in which organizations compete either for economic resources or for the loyalty and support of group members. It is non competitive in the sense that no other organization challenges it directly (Grosser, 1968:11). Prison system is a closed or protected system. Members of the larger society (except for the relatives of the inmates, and official and non official visitors) have no direct stake in the prison in terms of ownership, goods, services, or reciprocal relation of any kind. Thus, the prison is relatively protected from outside scrutiny. Since the Prison Administrator generally holds a monopoly of the channels of communication with the outside world, he can keep much information that is deemed detrimental, within the walls as long as he can count on the loyalty of his staff. In its relative independence, then, the prison administration may turn its attention to internal organization, enjoying a position that

tests ultimately on its monopoly of the exercise of force and channels of communication, and the assurance of continued financial support. It is perhaps because of this independence that prison system displays such a variety of forms of management, control and internal conditions. This isolated close, non competitive and protected system is designed to meet contradictory goals. Society wants criminals changed so that they will commit no more crimes. The prison system is expected to (reform or rehabilitate criminals). Next the society wants protection from criminals. The prison system isolates criminals from general society so that they cannot commit crimes during certain period of times. Also, society wants retribution. The prison system is expected to make life unpleasant for people who, by their crimes, have made others lives unpleasant. Finally, society wants to reduce crime rates. The prison system is expected to reduce crime rates not only by reforming criminals but also by deterring the general public from behavior which is punishable by imprisonment (Sutherland and Cressey, 1960:461). Even though the prison system is designed to meet the contradictory goals, as described above, the effectiveness of custody is a barometer of the efficiency of the system. In 1964 when a highly successful trained robber, who had been sentenced to 30 years imprisonment, was

rescued by friends from Win son Green Prison in Birmingham, the event was the subject of very wide comment in the press, on the radio and on television. The opposition in Parliament used to mount an attack on the Home Office and the prison service. The Home Office in turn carried out an inquiry into the escape (Chapman Dennis, 1968:213).

No society can be crime free and criminals are found in all age groups, among both sexes and in all strata of society. Apparently, the prison represents the worst of the social system (Clemmer, 1953:313, 14). The culture and value systems and the poor economic conditions have prevented the jail administration to evolve better models of management (Tappan, 1960:430-435). The rules and regulations governing management and administration of prisons and treatment of prisoners have been embodied in the Jail Manuals and executive instructions issued by the Inspector General of Prisons from time to time for the guidance of prison personnel. The All India Jail Manual Committee, 1957 – 59 had prepared a Model Prison Manual which was circulated in 1960 by Govt. of India to all the States and Union territories for the purpose of revision of their Jail Manuals. The main objective of the prison education is the socialization of the inmates and their individual needs. Education also mitigates the tendency towards criminality,

helps them to stand on their own legs when they return to the society. It also increases discipline in them and acts as a tool in character remolding (Criminal Law Journal, 2005:239).

The reformatory theory implies that the offender should, while punished by detention, be put to educative and healthy influences. He should be reeducated, and his character traits be re-shaped and put once again in the furnace for being moulded. Reformatory punishment may mean either that the offender is reformed while being punished, or that he is reformed by punishment itself (Ewing, 1929:73).

Under a Utilitarian Philosophical system or Utilitarianism what is good is that which benefits the 'many'. Thus even if it is painful to the individual, if the majority benefit from a certain act, then Utilitarianism would define that act as good. Plato argued that punishment is a benefit to the person because it improves their souls or characters cited in (Murphy, 1995:17) and (Bentham, 1748- 1832:10), the classical advocate of utilitarian punishment believed that punishment could be calibrated to deter crime.

Review of literature

So long as the term of imprisonment lasts, a convict is only under an eclipse and the moment this period expires, he has the right to come out of the clouds of ignominy and take his due place

in that sphere of life which he chooses, like any other member of the community. A duty is, therefore, cast on the Government to see to it that a prisoner, when he is released, is not materially handicapped in any way and he should be able to walk back straight to place in the social structure of life after paying due price for his lapse. Individuals who have no employment, who are alcoholic and drug addicts, who are mentally ill and who lack close ties with friends and family belong to the group of murderers (Chakravarty, 1982). Individuals who are unable to restrain their selfish impulses or to sustain affectionate relations with others are inclined to commit murder because of their inability to influence others, in conventional way (Akers, 1973). Murder, therefore, is an effort to deal with others when conventional means fail or are inadequate. So it can be said that murder reflects pathology in relationships. During a study on six murderers, (Duncan et. al, 1959) found that for those who committed these offences, physical brutality at the hands of the parents had been a constant experience. Hence, conditioned to physical torture, each of these individuals eventually restored to the techniques that had been deeply impressed upon them. (McCord and McCord, 1959) found a similar result with reference to the importance of brutality by the father in subsequent murderous behavior, (Chakravarty, 1982) observations are

very similar to the above findings. Physical torture by parents and siblings make children cruel, brutish revengeful and selfish. It forces them to torture others.

For (Wolfgang and Ferracuti, 1967) violent sub-culture has two main characteristics: first, compared with other groups, individuals in such sub-culture are highly touchy. Those who belong to this sub-culture regard certain situations that other groups would find unimportant, as a serious challenge to their integrity. Second, the norm of such sub-cultures requires violent responses to such challenges, “quick resort to physical combat as a measure of daring courage, or defence of status appears to be a cultural expression”. Murder is, therefore, rooted in one’s conformity to the violent norm of some sub-culture in the society.

Hypotheses of the study

On the basis of the findings of previous studies conducted in various countries e.g. America, Europe and India, formal and informal discussions with experts in the field of criminology and personnel who have worked on convicted prisoners for a number of years and the researchers own experience with them the following major hypotheses have been formulated:

- Offences are learned within the culture and represent an image on the values indoctrinated into the offenders.
- Convicted prisoners who are unemployed and poverty ridden are more sustain to commit offences.
- In prison, type of correctional measures and through its various training to convicts becomes a direct, positive precipitator of his/her future after release.
- There is a direct and significant relationship between the prisoners and manpower.
- The provision through correctional measures is directly related to creating resources through manpower.

Objective of the study

The present study deals with convicted prisoners their corrections and rehabilitation with reference to prison and manpower. The main objectives of the study are:

- To find out the quantum of remuneration/day.
- To analyze the contribution of convicted prisoners towards economic development.

- To interpret the use of manpower after release.

Universe of the Study

The present study, in view of its objective, may be considered as diagnostic. Various concept and variables are framed to describe each and every aspect related to the convicted prisoners. The sample was drawn from a universe of convicted prisoners undergoing imprisonment at Central Prison, Nagpur. Simple random sampling technique was used to draw sample size from the population.

Tools and Methods of Data Collection

Keeping in view the literacy level of the prisoner's interview schedule was used to collect the data, as the principal tool. How far could the respondents participate in the interview? In the beginning in the interview many of them tried to show that they were introverts, but gradually, they become very talkative and open about the personal life and secret. Accordingly structured interview schedule was developed for the prisoners/ respondents.

Analysis and Interpretation

The analysis plan was designed in a manner to exclude all possible errors during the data processing. The statistical analysis is done such

as simple frequency, bi-variate statistical analysis for establishing the significant relationship between the independent and dependant variables. During the interpretation fluctuations of one response over the other is also taken care of and conclusion are drawn thereof. Further interpretation is made with an study how the independent variables as a relationship with dependant variables. Again here a comparative interpretation is made of the responses of two variables, to draw various inferences.

Training during Imprisonment

Prisoners are trained in different vocational training so that on release from prison the prisoners rehabilitate in the society. In every prison vocational training organized in carpentry, textile, tailoring, weaving, power looms, saw mills, leathering, printing such as mechanics on automatic machines, binding , envelop making, foundry for rubber stamp making, printing of ballot papers, operating numbering machines, motor mechanic for four wheeler and two wheelers, T.V. assembling course, embroidery course, tailoring course for women prisoners, wireman\electrical course, etc. On completion of such courses prisoners are issued certificate to that effect. Apart from aforesaid courses the Inspector General of Prisons in its Circular dt.14/10/2005 has please

to issue directions to all prisons to provide driving classes courses to the prisoners. In Prisons vocational Training Classes are regularly conducted and they are closely devoted with institutional work programs. The technical staff for each industry impart training to the prisoners working in the various production units the inmates instructors conduct job training classes under the supervision of the technical staff of the Prison Department. It is observed that by imparting on the job training not only the skills of prisoners have improved, but the quality of prison products has also improved. (The Maharashtra Prisons Employment of Prisoners Rules 1965, Jail Manual pp. 344, and xviii).

The occupation particularly determines the socio-economic security. It also determines the earning capacity of a human to sustain the family expenditure. Occupation suggests the economic empowerment of a human. It was found that the respondents in majority one out of six 17.2 per cent had no occupation at all, 22 per cent were engaged as labourers and hamaals, one out of seven 14.8 per cent were involved in illegal occupations, 12 per cent were self employed, 11.2 per cent were agricultural labourers, farmers and cultivators, 9.2 per cent were workers in factory/mills ,6 per cent were craftsman/technicians, 5.6 per cent were traders and businessman, 1,2 per cent were domestic

servants and 0.8 per cent were government servants. It is significant to note that no occupation results into high crime rates. (Grogger, 1995, Holzer et al, 2003, Pager, 2003, Seiter and Kadela 2003) Arrest and conviction typically mark a person as a permanent deviant reducing his access to legal channels of livelihood.

Table No 1.01

Occupation before conviction of the respondents

Occupation before conviction	Frequency	Percent
1 Agricultural laborers/farmers/cultivators	28	11.8
2 Traders and businessman	14	5.6
3 Technician/craftsman	15	6.0
4 Factory workers	23	9.2
5 Domestic servants	03	1.2
6 Labourers and hamaals	55	22.0

7		
Government servants	02	0.8
8		
Self employed	30	12.0
9		
No occupation at all	43	17.2
10		
others	37	14.8
Total	250	100

Table No. 1.02

Vocational training to the respondents

Vocational training	Frequency	Percent
1		
Carpentry	29	11.6.
2		
Weaving/power loom	32	12.8
3		
Printing	16	6.4
4		
Farming	17	6.8
5		
Bakery	03	1.2
6		
	06	6.4

Tailoring		
7		
Smithy	01	0.4
8		
Laundry	10	4.0
9		
Fabrication	00	00
10		
Night watchman	33	13.2
11		
Convict overseer	36	14.4
12		
Kitchen	12	4.8
13		
Conservancy work	13	5.2
14		
Extra mural work	12	4.8
15		
Canteen	04	1.6
16		
Office work	03	1.2
17		
Any other	13	5.2
Total	250	100

Income before conviction is an independent variable and quantum of remuneration to the inmates is dependent variable. Financial status is an important yardstick for economic well being of the respondent. One of the basic requirements for happiness is having enough secure income for a satisfactory life. A life disturbed by financial worries is unlikely to be contended. There is a general consensus that income has a strong effect on the demand for health (Strauss et al, 1998). Studies had proved that lower class people, and people living in lower class areas have higher crime rates than other group (Braithwaite, 1979).According to Gary Becker’s analytical framework, crime rates depends on the risks and penalties associated with apprehension and also on the difference between the potential gains from crime and the opportunity cost.

Quantum of remuneration and occupation before conviction

It was found that the respondent with no income at all before conviction were 20.8 per cent, the monthly income less than Rs.500/- were 34.8 per cent, Rs.501/-to Rs.750/- were 10.8 per cent, Rs.751/-to Rs.850/- were 6.8 per cent, Rs.851/-to Rs.1000/-were 3.6 per cent, Rs.1001/-to Rs.1200/-were 7.2 per cent, Rs.1201/- to Rs.1500/-were 10 per cent and only 6 per cent who earned Rs. 1501/- and above. Poverty and crime march side by side throughout the world. Poverty stricken humans are more prone to

crime .Violent crime is jointly determined by the pattern of income distribution and by the rate of change of national income (The Journal of Law and Economics, 2002:26).

Table No.1.03

Monthly income before conviction and quantum of remuneration /day of the respondents

Monthly income before conviction	Quantum of remuneration per day			Total
	1 Rs.25.50 per day	2 Rs.17.50 per day	3 Rs 12.75 per day	
1 No income at all	19	17	16	52
2 Less than Rs.500/-	42	39	06	87
3 Rs.501/- to Rs.750/	16	11	00	27
4 Rs.751/- to Rs.850/-	12	03	02	17

5 Rs.851/- to Rs.1000/-	08	01	00	09
6 Rs.1001/- to Rs.1200/-	14	02	02	18
7 Rs.1201/- to Rs.1500/-	23	01	01	25
8 Rs.1501/- & above	12	02	01	15
Total	146	76	28	250

Quantum of remuneration per day given to the inmates is categorized on the basis of task performed. Inmates having no income with 20.8 per cent were also getting remuneration for their work. It was evident that one out of two was getting the quantum remuneration of Rs.25.50/day, one out of three was getting Rs.17.50/day and one out of four was getting Rs.12.75/day respectively.

All inmates are compulsorily engaged in different task and one of the most important

aspects taken into account is with income, occupation and vocational training. It has been observed that all inmates are provided with different kind of work which is categorized as skilled, semiskilled and unskilled. The highest earning inmate was reported from Chandigarh i.e. Rs.16390.6 during the year 2010 as per the statistical data (Prison statistics in India, 2010:4). The convicted prisoners are entitled for wages fixed according to the rules for the work done by them on different trade and industries. The wages for the prisoners per day for skilled worker Rs. 25.50, semi skilled Rs. 17.50 and unskilled Rs. 12.75.

Conclusion and suggestion

Manpower which is also called as Human Resource consists of convicted prisoners in this research. It is said that right man should be at the right place, but research on prison claims that every man possess skill and competencies to do work even a convicted prisoner contribute to the achievement of organization goals. Human Resource Planning has got an important place in the arena of industrialization. Prison work as a huge industry or an organization where prisoners are manpower who contribute to generate revenue to the government they too are not behind in contributing economic development of the nation from behind the bars.

Based on the quantitative exploration of the relationship between human resource development through education and vocational training, and the findings thereof, this study concludes that there is a clear-cut and obvious relationship between human resource development through education and vocational training and economic growth over time. Also, government's expenditure on education and vocational training to prisoners will jointly exert significant effect on economic growth during their imprisonment and even after release. However, the contribution of human capital development to economic growth in prison system has been less than satisfactory and there is much room for improvement. These systems need increased government funding in order to further enhance their role in the growth process. Further, the government has the major responsibility of providing quality education, vocational training and satisfactory health care delivery, with the private sector playing a complementary role. Genuine action to back meaningful human resource development effort needs to be put in place to give effect to the importance of human resource development noted in the past and present national plans of the country. Based on the above conclusion that human resource development through education and training enhances economic growth, and the finding that the contribution of human resource

development to economic growth in prison though significant has been less than satisfactory, though significant, the study recommends as follows:

The government should adopt planned strategies in the education and health sectors as highlighted in the needs document.

The government should increase budgetary allocation and stimulate more funding channels to these systems of the economy.

More encouragement should be given to the prison system to increase its participation in provision of education and training to the inmates. This can come in the form infrastructure and government-private sector partnership in the areas of research funding, diversification into science and technology-driven knowledge acquisition, dissimulation and application.

Finally, the government should institute a genuine effort to improve the prison system so that the inmates become the more productive part of the economy.

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