



CHARACTERIZATION OF PERSONS DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY (PDLs) AT CABARROGUIS DISTRICT JAIL, CABARROGUIS, QUIRINO

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ABSTRACT: *At present, the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) have in its custody a total of sixty thousand four hundred thirty-six (60,436) inmates detained in its four hundred twenty-three (423) district, city and municipal jail facilities. Only about five percent (5%) of the detainees are sentenced and the rest are either awaiting or undergoing trial.*

Coupled with the fact that most jails in the urban areas are grossly overcrowded, it is imperative then for the BJMP to make sure that they are properly taken care of and that their basic needs such as food, water, and accommodations are provided and that they are humanely treated by the jail officers who are sworn to keep them safe while in detention.

District jails under the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology created by virtue of the DILG Act of 1990 paved way on the creation of more jails efficiently manned by professionals, qualified, trained and committed jail personnel all over the country. In the Province of Quirino, there is a lone district jail located in Enrile Road, Purok 7, Zamora, Cabarroguis. Quirino, manned by a commissioned officer. It has a total of one hundred thirty three Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) committed for the trial of their cases. The jail caters to PDLs who are awaiting final judgment.

This study was limited on the characterization of PDLs committed at the Cabarroguis District Jail, in Cabarroguis, Quirino. The researcher made use of a questionnaire to gather the needed data from the respondents. Interview was also conducted in order to verify some vague answers on the questionnaire. Findings of the study on age, most of the respondents are young with an age brackets of 28-37 years old years old, majority are males, married, Roman Catholic, reached / finished high school, not employed, committed crimes against person and were arraigned, attended 1-5 times court hearings, been in jail for almost 1 month - 6 months and most claimed that they were alleged suspects of the crimes charged against them. It is therefore concluded that select variables like sex, highest educational attainment and occupation before detention of the respondents have something to do with the commission of crimes.

KEYWORDS: *Arraignment, Commitment Order, Crimes, Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs), Court, Court Trial, Safekeeping, Rehabilitation, District Jail, Characterization. Judgment, Release, Reintegration.*



INTRODUCTION

At present, the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) have in its custody a total of sixty thousand four hundred thirty-six (60,436) inmates detained in its four hundred twenty-three (423) district, city and municipal jail facilities. Only about five percent (5%) of the detainees are sentenced and the rest are either awaiting or undergoing trial.

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One of the best practices being done in the jail initiated by the district warden is the six o'clock angelus participated by all the PDLs. This way according to the warden, it gives them the chance to realize that there is hope in everything and this leads them to a total reformation.

According to Rule 89 of the Standard Minimum Rules, All persons deprived of their liberty have the right to be treated with humanity and respect for their dignity. This is a fundamental and universal rule which must be guaranteed at all times and independently of States' available material resources.

Every detained or imprisoned person has the right not be subjected to discrimination. Except in exceptional circumstances, suspects shall be separated from convicted prisoners;



unconvicted detainees have the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty and therefore also have the right to more favourable treatment than convicted prisoners. States have the duty to provide convicted prisoners with teaching and training aimed at their reformation and social rehabilitation.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

This study was focused on the characterization of Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) at Cabarroguis District Jail, Cabarroguis, Quirino. Specifically, it sought to answer the following questions:

1. What is the profile of the respondents in terms of:
 - 1.1 Age
 - 1.2 Sex
 - 1.3 Civil Status
 - 1.4 Religion
 - 1.5 Highest Educational Attainment
 - 1.6 Occupation before Detention

2. What was the crime committed by the PDLs?

3. What is the status of the case of the PDLs as to:
 - 3.1 Arraignment Status
 - 3.2 Number of hearings
 - 3.3 Number of years in jail

4. What circumstance that has led to the commission of the crime?

5. Is there a relationship on the crimes committed when grouped according to select profile variables?



METHODOLOGY

This study employed the descriptive-correlational research design. It was used particularly to describe the profile of the Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) at Cabarroguis District Jail, Cabarroguis, Quirino to determine the relationship among the profile variables, the status of the case and the circumstance that has led to the commission of the crime.

The primary tool in gathering the needed data was the questionnaire. The questionnaire was constructed by the researcher and pre-tested to determine the validity of the questions. Results of the pre-test were the basis of revising some questions not properly understood during the pre-test.

The data were tabulated, analyzed and interpreted by the researchers using descriptive statistics such as frequency counts, percentages and Pearson r' .

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Profile of the Respondents

Table 1. Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Respondents' Profile as to Age

Age	Frequency	Percentage
Below 18 years	1	.75
18-27 years old	35	26.31
28-37 years old	43	32.33
38-47 years old	26	19.54
48-57 years old	17	12.75
58 or more	11	8.27
Total	133	100

The frequency and percentage distribution of the respondents' profile as to age is shown in Table 1. As presented, a frequency of 43 or 32.33 percent belongs to the age brackets of 28-37. The lowest frequency of 1 or .75 percent belongs to the bracket of below 18 years of age. The data imply that respondents are relatively young when they committed the crimes



charged against them and a minor who is committed in a regular jail to due to lack of a facility intended for minor offenders.

Table 2. Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Respondents' Profile as to Sex

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	129	96.99
Female	4	3.01
Total	133	100

Table 2 shows the frequency and percentage distribution of the respondents' profile as to sex. As shown in the table, majority or 129 with 96.99 percent male and 4 or 3.01 percent female PDLs which imply that males are more prone to the commission of crimes compared to female.

Table 3. Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Respondents' Profile as to Civil Status

Civil Status	Frequency	Percentage
Single	63	47.36
Married	70	52.63
Separated	-	-
Widow/er	-	-
Total	133	100

As presented in Table 3, a frequency of 70 or 52.63 is married while the rest are single PDLs. The data imply that married individuals are still not careful enough to get involved in the commission of crime despite the fact that their responsibilities are heavier compared to single individual.

Table 4. Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Respondents' Profile as to Religion

Religion	Frequency	Percentage
Roman Catholic	92	67.17
Iglesia Ni Cristo	27	20.30
United Methodist Church	5	3.75
Born Again	8	6.01
Others	1	.75
Total	133	100



As presented in Table 4, majority of the respondents are Roman Catholics with a frequency of 92 or 67.17 percent. The data imply that Roman Catholic is the most dominated religion in this part of the province.

Table 5. Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Respondents' Profile as to Highest Educational Attainment.

Highest Educational Attainment	Frequency	Percentage
Elementary Level / graduate	55	41.35
HS Level / graduate	71	53.38
College Level / graduate	6	4.51
Post Studies Level / graduate	1	.75
Total	133	100

The frequency and percentage distribution of the respondents' profile as to highest educational attainment is presented in Table 5. A frequency of 71 or 53.38 percent reached /finished high school followed by elementary level or graduate with a frequency of 55 or 41.35 percent. The lowest frequencies of 1 or .75 percent has reached or finished post studies. The data imply that most of the respondents have undergone the basic formal secondary education.

Table 6. Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Respondents' Profile as to Occupation before Detention.

Occupation before Detention	Frequency	Percentage
Farmer	51	38.34
Government Employee	1	.75
Self-Employed	2	1.5
OFW	-	-
Others (not employed)	79	59.39
Total	133	100

The frequency and percentage distribution of the respondents' profile as to occupation before detention is presented in Table 6. Majority of the respondents with a frequency of 79 or 59.39 percent was not employed before the commission of the crimes which imply that do not have permanent jobs as a source of living.



Table 7. Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Crime Committed by the Respondents

Crime committed	Frequency	Percentage
Crimes against persons	73	54.88
Crimes against property	5	3.75
Crimes against Special Laws	54	40.60
Others (kidnapping)	1	.75
Total	133	100

Table 7 presents the frequency and percentage distribution of the crime committed by the respondents. As shown in the table, 73 or 54.88 percent of the respondents committed crimes against persons like “murder, homicide, rape, physical injuries and the like” followed by a frequency of 54 or 40.60 percent on crimes against special laws while the lowest frequency of 1 or .75 percent on kidnapping. The data imply that majority of the respondents got involved on crimes against persons punishable by the Revised Penal Code and special laws (like RA 9165) wherein the penalty is heavier compared to those crimes punishable under the RPC.

Table 8. Frequency and Percentage Distribution on the Status of the Case of the Respondents as to Arraignment

Arraignment Status	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	121	90.97
Not Yet	12	9.02
Total	133	100

Majority of the respondents with a frequency of 121 or 90.97 percent have been arraigned on the cases filed against them as presented in Table 8 which implies that most of the PDLs were informed of the cause of accusation against them and were asked by the court if they pleaded guilty or not on the crime charged.



Table 9. Frequency and Percentage Distribution on the Status of the Case of the Respondents as to Number of Court Hearings

Number of Court Hearings	Frequency	Percentage
0	13	9.77
1-5	87	65.41
6-10	15	11.27
11-15	13	9.77
16-20	3	2.25
21 or more	2	1.5
Total	133	100

Table 9 presents the frequency and percentage distribution on the status of the case of the respondents as to number of court hearings. As gleaned from the table, a frequency of 87 or 65.41 percent attended court hearings falling within the bracket of 1 to 5 times. The data imply that most of the PDLs have attended many court hearings for the cases filed against them in order that their side of the story would be heard by the court before the pronouncement of judgement.

Table 10. Frequency and Percentage Distribution on the Status of the Case of the Respondents as to Duration of Stay in Jail

Duration of Stay in Jail	Frequency	Percentage
Below 1 month	11	8.27
1 month - 6 months	44	33.08
6 months 1 day-12 months	20	15.03
1 year 1 day to 2 years	16	12.03
2 years 1 day to 3 years	20	15.03
3 years 1 day and more	22	16.54
Total	133	100

The frequency and percentage distribution on the status of the case of the respondents as to duration of stay in jail is shown in Table 10. The highest frequency of 44 or 33.08 percent of the respondents stayed in jail falling within the bracket of 1 month - 6 months. The lowest frequency of 11 or 8.27 percent has stayed in jail for barely a month. The data imply that most of the respondents have been in jail for quite some time for court trials for



the crimes charged against them and are awaiting final judgment of the cases filed against them.

Table 11. Frequency and Percentage Distribution on the Circumstance that has led to the Commission of the Crime

Circumstance that has led to the Commission of the Crime	Frequency	Percentage
Revenge	16	12.03
Alleged Suspect	40	30.07
Jealousy	1	.75
Poverty	3	2.25
Self-Motivated Interest	35	26.31
Self-defense	25	18.79
No reason	12	9.02
Others (Grudge)	1	.75
Total	133	100

The frequency and percentage distribution on the circumstance that has led to the commission of the crime is presented in Table 11. A frequency of 40 or 30.07 percent of the respondents claimed that they were “alleged suspects” for the crime charged against them. The data imply that majority of the respondents have common reason or circumstance that made them incarcerated in jail.

Table 12. Test of Relationship on the Crimes Committed and the Profile of Respondents

Profile	r' value	Decision
Age	-.174	Reject
Sex	.208	Accept
Civil Status	-.013	Reject
Religion	-.210	Reject
Highest Educational Attainment	.412	Accept
Occupation before Detention	.348	Accept

± .170 critical value .05



The test of relationship between the crimes committed and the profile of the respondents at Cabarroguis District Jail is presented in Table 12. As shown on the result, the r' value of .208 for sex, .412 for highest educational attainment and .348 for occupation before detention are higher than the critical value of .170. It means that there is a significant relationship between the crimes committed and select profile variable – sex, highest educational attainment and occupation before detention of the PDLs. The data imply that the null hypothesis is accepted whereas other profile variables have nothing to do with the commission which implies that the null hypothesis is rejected in select profile variables.

CONCLUSION

On findings of the study, it can be concluded that select variables like sex, highest educational attainment and occupation before detention of the respondents have something to do with the commission of crimes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In the light of the foregoing findings, the researcher has the following recommendations to offer:

1. Jail programs must be strengthened in preparation for PDLs reintegration.
2. Lessen the commission of crime by providing more job opportunities for PDLs.
3. Court trials shall be scheduled the soonest possible time to shorten the stay of PDLs in jail.

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