



PERCEPTION OF DETAINEES ON THE PROGRAM AND DOCUMENTATION SERVICES OF THE BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY (BJMP) OF TUAO, CAGAYAN

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ABSTRACT: *The Bureau of Correction of the Philippines has undertaken rehabilitation programs to help an inmate lead a responsible, law abiding and productive life upon release. Efforts shall be made to ensure an optimum balance between the security of the prison and the effectiveness of treatment programs. Inmate and public safety, and the requirements for effective custody, shall, however, all other activities at all times and shall not be compromised. Rehabilitation and treatment programs focus on providing services that will encourage and enhance the inmates' self-respect, self-confidence, personal dignity and sense of responsibility (www.academia.edu). This study is designed to ascertain the program and documentation conditions and management of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology of Tuao, Cagayan in the province of Cagayan. Since this study designed to ascertain the inmate programming and documentation conditions the descriptive method of research was utilized which primarily attempts to collect quantifiable information to be used for statistical analysis of the population sample. The respondents of the study were the detainees of the jail. The descriptive statistics was employed to summarize the mean and in the analysis and interpretation of the perception of the respondents as regards the domains, the weighted mean was utilized. A questionnaire was utilized to gather information from the respondents was patterned from the published study of Dr. Chona P. Agustin. Result of the study revealed that though the facility in most aspects have been compliant to its mandate of providing the necessary inmate programming and documentation conditions to inmates, it may have performed short on some aspects to implement its mandate as perceived by the respondents. In view of the findings of the study, it is therefore recommended that the facility may devise a mechanism for the provision on*



the needs of the LGBT inmates specifically on the separate programs and documentation conditions attendant to their sexual orientation and development plan should be provided for feed backing and suggestions from inmates must be properly treated and recognized by the management.

Keywords: *perception, detainees programming, documentation, Bureau of Correction, RA 10592, rehabilitation, LGBTI, religious programs*

INTRODUCTION

State and federal prisons have long provided programming to inmates during their confinement. Institutional programming encompasses a broad array of services and interventions, including substance abuse treatment, educational programming, and sex offender treatment. The objective of providing prisoners with programming is to improve their behavior, both before and after release from prison. Indeed, institutional programming is often intended to not only enhance public safety by lowering recidivism, but also to promote greater safety within prisons by reducing misconduct. Although U.S. correctional systems typically offer some programming opportunities within prisons, research suggests many prisoners do not participate in programming while incarcerated (Lynch & Sabol, 2001).

In general, programs designed in accordance with established principles of effective correctional intervention that maintain integrity upon implementation should be more successful than those that deviate from their original designs and compromise evidence-based program elements (Andrews & Dowden, 2005; Gendreau, Goggin, & Smith, 1999; Lowenkamp, Latessa, & Smith, 2006). The principles of effective correctional intervention have, over time, increasingly been used by U.S. correctional systems as the guiding framework for program delivery; yet, to some extent, these principles still represent the ideal more than reality. Indeed, validated risk assessment tools are not always used to determine recidivism risk, programming dosage is not consistently calibrated to recidivism risk, and offenders are sometimes assigned to interventions regardless of their criminogenic needs or responsivity issues.



As Latessa and colleagues (2002) point out, many correctional programs fail to work because they are not rooted in sound criminological theory and, thus, exemplify “correctional quackery.” At the same time, however, a common reason for the failure of programs, including those with a solid theoretical foundation, is that they lack therapeutic integrity (Cullen & Gendreau, 2000). Scholars have argued that some of the variation in effectiveness observed among meta-analyses of correctional programs likely stems from a lack of program integrity (Cullen, 2002; Gendreau, 1996). Despite its importance, program integrity has often been overlooked within the correctional literature. The consensus from the few existing studies on this topic, however, is that program integrity is critical to the success of programming.

Existing research reveals that both individual- and institutional-level factors are associated with prison misconduct. In their meta-analysis, Gendreau, Goggin, and Law (1997) found that antisocial attitudes and behavior, a previous criminal history, and age were the strongest individual-level predictors of disciplinary infractions. Reflecting the findings reported by Gendreau and colleagues (1997) that having antisocial companions increases the likelihood of misconduct, several studies have indicated that gang membership (i.e., identification as a member of a security threat group) is positively associated with rule violations (Gaes et al., 2002; Tewksbury, Connor, & Denney, 2014). Gendreau, Goggin, and Law (1997) also noted that social achievement (e.g., education, employment, marital status, etc.), early family factors, and race had modest associations with disciplinary infractions. Research further indicates that misconduct is affected by institution-level factors such as size, location, and security level, as well as the overall characteristics of staff and inmates (Camp et al., 2003; Huebner, 2003; Steiner & Woolredge, 2008).

As mentioned in the study of Tejaro (2015), the different programs introduced by the government for the rehabilitation of offenders need a lot of resources for its proper implementation. Trained jail officers to implement the programs would mean more personnel for them to focus on the different programs. The continuity of its implementation would also require a lot of funds allotted for its proper and timely implementation. With



these, a better result is expected and this would help the offenders adjust with the changes in their lives inside the jail and in preparation for their reintegration.

In the Philippines, the Bureau of Correction has undertaken rehabilitation programs to help an inmate lead a responsible, law abiding and productive life upon release. Efforts shall be made to ensure an optimum balance between the security of the prison and the effectiveness of treatment programs. Inmate and public safety, and the requirements for effective custody, shall, however,

all other activities at all times and shall not be compromised. Rehabilitation and treatment programs focus on providing services that will encourage and enhance the inmates' self-respect, self-confidence, personal dignity and sense of responsibility. Corrective and rehabilitation services include religious guidance/ psychotherapy/ socialization health and sanitation/ vocational training/ development/ and value formation and education. Occupational and vocational training programs are based on the needs of the inmates, general labor market conditions, and institution labor force needs. An important component is on the obtaining which inmates receive through institution job assignments and work in federal prison industries. The Bureau also facilitates post-secondary education in vocational and occupationally-oriented areas. Recreation and wellness activities encourage healthy life styles and habits. Institution libraries carry a variety of fiction and nonfiction books, magazines, newspapers, and reference materials (www.academia.edu).

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

This study is designed to ascertain the program and documentation conditions and management of the District Jail of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology of Tuao, Cagayan in the province of Cagayan. Specifically, it attempted to answer the following questions:

1. What is the perception of the respondent-detainees on the provision of the current programming condition of the inmates?



2. What is the perception of the respondent-detainees on current documentation and assessment of inmate behavior domain condition of the inmates?

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND STATISTICAL TREATMENT

Since this study designed to ascertain the inmate programming and documentation conditions of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology of Tuao in the province of Cagayan, the descriptive method of research was utilized which primarily attempts to collect quantifiable information to be used for statistical analysis of the population sample. The respondents of the study were the detainees of the jail. The descriptive statistics was employed to summarize the mean and in the analysis and interpretation of the perception of the respondents as regards the domains, the weighted mean was utilized. A questionnaire was utilized to gather information from the respondents was patterned from the published study of Dr. Chona P. Agustin.

In the analysis and interpretation of the perception of the respondents as regards the domains, the weighted mean was used which is calculated by the equation:

$$X = \frac{\sum WX}{N}$$

N

where:

X = frequency

WX = weighted mean

N = population

F = sum of the frequency

The weighted mean was interpreted using the following criterion scale:

Numerical Value	Mean Range	Descriptive Scale
3	2.34-3.00	fully complied
2	1.67-2.33	partially complied



1 1.00-1.66 not complied

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 1: Item Mean on the Perception of the Detainees' as to Inmate Programming Domain

INMATE PROGRAMMING DOMAIN	Mean	Descriptive Scale
The facility offers educational programs	2.94	Fully complied
The facility offers spiritual programs	3.00	Fully complied
The facility offers livelihood programs	2.94	Fully complied
The facility offers recreation/sports programs	2.94	Fully complied
The facility offers programs for inmates with special needs like PWD inmates	2.44	Fully complied
The facility offers reentry programs to prepare inmates for release	2.73	Fully complied
There are sufficient courteous and fully trained rehabilitation officers	2.94	Fully complied
Rehabilitation officers are knowledgeable on inmate programs	2.94	Fully complied
The facility has protocol on the selection of participants on inmate programs	2.90	Fully complied
Inmates participate on the programs based on their needs	2.94	Fully complied
The facility has protocol on recognition of service providers	2.94	Fully complied



Programs have beginning and end (modular programs) (example, 3-month program)	2.75	Fully complied
Programs have clear curriculum	2.88	Fully complied
Programs have basis for evaluation to determine effectiveness	2.88	Fully complied
Programs have continuity with other programs	2.75	Fully complied
Weighted Mean	2.86	Fully complied

As gleaned from the table, *“The facility offers spiritual programs”* garnered the highest item mean of 3.00 from the respondents which implies that the facility prioritized the spiritual upliftment of the detainees. In the study conducted by **Roman and Roman (2016)** on Faith-based Advocacy for Prison Reform stressed that large, multistate studies of prisoner reentry reveal that soon-to-be released prisoners identify religious or spiritual assistance as a key need, but less than half of them receive the needed support upon release. Addressing this incongruity appears important in light of other studies that report a strong relationship between increases in faith and self-reported ability to achieve better outcomes post-release. A study that they conducted while at the Urban Institute found that individuals who successfully completed a faith-based reentry program believed that their new sense of higher power strengthened their belief that they could change their life. In similar studies conducted, studies show that religion enhances emotional well-being among prisoners, but they rarely address how. Professors Sung Joon Jang and Byron R. Johnson at the Institute for Studies of Religion at Baylor University, examine the effects of religion on offenders in the South African correctional system. They test whether religiosity is likely to lead to a sense of meaning and purpose in life and the development of virtues, thereby reducing prisoners’ negative emotions. Their findings suggest that the concept of offender rehabilitation should be expanded to include how to help offenders restore their existential significance and develop virtuous characteristics. The positive effect of religion on subjective well-being is well documented in social scientific studies using samples of the general population, and the same effect has been found among prisoners. This finding has practical implications because negative emotions such as anger, frustration, depression, and anxiety among prisoners may contribute to mental health problems and prison infractions including



violence and suicide. Previous studies have indicated that inmates are prone to these emotions because in prisons, also called “total institutions”, they not only experience the loss of liberty, access to goods and services, security, sexual partners, and autonomy, but they also often struggle with feelings of shame and guilt about their crimes and incarceration.

Table 1: Item Mean on the Perception of the Detainees’ as to Inmate Documentation Domain

DOCUMENTATION SERVICES	Mean	Descriptive Scale
The facility has office for documentation and assessment of inmate behaviors	2.69	Fully complied
The facility has equipment for documentation	2.81	Fully complied
The facility has personnel assigned for documentation and assessment of inmate behavior	2.94	Fully complied
The documentation and assessment personnel have relevant education	2.88	Fully complied
The documentation and assessment personnel have sufficient training	2.75	Fully complied
Overall, the documents and equipment are well-maintained	2.75	Fully complied
Overall, there is sufficient budget for documentation and assessment	2.31	Partially complied
The facility monitors the length of stay of the inmates	2.94	Fully complied
The facility identifies inmates who are overstaying	2.94	Fully complied
The facility provides a certification of detention to inmates	3.00	Fully complied
The facility systematically collects data on inmate participation in programming	2.88	Fully complied
The facility systematically collects data on inmate rule infraction	2.81	Fully complied
The facility has a clear written protocol in granting GCTA	2.94	Fully complied



The facility provides a certification of good conduct time allowance (GCTA) credited to inmates	3.00	Fully complied
Documentation and assessment of inmate behaviors guide housing assignment	2.75	Fully complied
Documentation and assessment of inmates behaviors guide grade privileges	2.81	Fully complied
Weighted Mean	2.82	Fully complied

The table showed the *“The facility provides a certification of detention to inmates”* and *“The facility provides a certification of good conduct time allowance (GCTA) credited to inmates”* have both garnered an item mean of 3.00. According to RA 10592, Good conduct time allowance or GCTA is a sentence reduction provision afforded prisoners who show good behavior. It has been in existence since 1906. Act 1533 provided for the “diminution of sentences imposed upon prisoners” in consideration of good conduct and diligence. Good conduct time allowance is a privilege granted to a prisoner that shall entitle him to a deduction of his term of imprisonment. According to Stanford law Professor A. Mitchell Polinsky found that rewarding good behavior of prisoners, with reduced sentences or parole, **decreases costs for society without increasing crime**. Society saves money when well-behaved prisoners are rewarded with early release, according to a study by a Stanford professor.

CONCLUSION

Result of the study revealed that though the facility in most aspects have been compliant to its mandate of providing the necessary inmate programming and documentation conditions to inmates, it may have performed short on some aspects to implement its mandate as perceived by the respondents.

RECOMMENDATION

In view of the findings of the study, it is therefore recommended that:



1. The facility may devise a mechanism for the provision on the needs of the LGBT inmates specifically on the separate programs and documentation conditions attendant to their sexual orientation.
2. A development plan should be provided for feed backing and suggestions from inmates must be properly treated and recognized by the management.
3. A similar study may be conducted to look into a greater scope and other variables or aspects not covered in the present study.

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