



CHARACTERIZATION OF PERSONS DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY (PDLs) AT CAUAYAN DISTRICT JAIL, CAUAYAN, ISABELA

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ABSTRACT: *The Bureau of Jail Management and Penology under the Department of the Interior and Local Government was created by virtue of Republic Act 6975 of 1990. The act 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 Isabela, there are district jails created and one of which is located in Cabaruan, Cauayan, Isabela. There were one hundred forty six (146) Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) committed to the jail during the schedule of data gathering. These PDLs are incarcerated while the cases filed against them are on trial or awaiting final judgment by the court. 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 bracket of 18-27 years old, majority are males, married, single, Roman Catholic, reached / finished Elementary Level / graduate, not employed, committed crimes against special laws and were arraigned, attended 1-5 times court hearings, been in jail for 2 years 1 day to 3 years and 3 years 1 day and more respectively, most claimed that they were alleged suspects of the crimes charged against them. It is therefore concluded that majority of the respondents' profile are similar despite the fact that PDLs came from all walks of life except on the occupation before detention as observed on the data gathered.*

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

INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Jail Management and Penology under the Department of the Interior and Local Government was created by virtue of Republic Act 6975 of 1990. The act 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 Isabela, there are district



jails created and one of which is located in Cabaruan, Cauayan, Isabela. There were one hundred forty six (146) Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) committed to the jail during the schedule of data gathering. These PDLs are incarcerated while the cases filed against them are on trial or awaiting final judgment by the court.

Solda (2018) said that providing education to “people deprived of liberty” (PDLs) — a new politically-correct term for “inmates” — would help them become productive. It would also give PDLs a chance to avoid old habits, preparing them for their eventual release. Seeking to address the need for the successful reintegration in society of former inmates, the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) set education as a priority in its reformation program. “The provision of free education among persons deprived of liberty is one of our priorities. We see it as a good start of reintegration process back to their respective communities. According to Solda, 7,141 have been enrolled in the Alternative Learning System (ALS) in BJMP facilities. Of this number, 1,516 are in elementary and 5,581 are in high school. He added that 3,817 passed the Equivalency Test: 599 were from elementary and 3,218 were from high school. Of all the regions in the country, Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) had the highest passing rate — a 100 percent rate out of 41 takers. CAR is followed by Region XI (97 percent), MIMAROPA (87 percent), Region I (85 percent), and Region XII (83 percent).

In support to the programs of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) urged the public to support the cause of persons deprived of liberty (PDL) through the purchase of their PDL-made products. “BJMP firmly believes that these restorative efforts will inspire the PDL to rebuild their lost trail, and for the community to support their craft by accepting them as productive citizens of the society. At the same time, BJMP appealed for the support of the business sectors and other stakeholders through their respective corporate social responsibility to promote and engage the PDL crafts, a vehicle toward their successful re-entry back to the community.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

This study was focused on the characterization of Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) at Cauayan District Jail, Cauayan, Isabela. 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 Cauayan District Jail, Cauayan, Isabela 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 researcher 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	-	-
18-27 years old	41	20.08
28-37 years old	39	26.71
38-47 years old	37	25.34
48-57 years old	16	10.95
58 or more	13	8.90
Total	146	100

The frequency and percentage distribution of the respondents' profile as to age is shown in Table 1. As presented, frequencies of 41 or 20.08 percent belong to the age brackets of 18-27 years old, followed by a frequency of 39 or 26.71 percent belong to the bracket of 28-37 years old. The data imply that respondents are relatively young when they got involved in in the commission of crimes.

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

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	129	
Female	17	
Total	146	100

Table 2 shows the frequency and percentage distribution of the respondents' profile as to sex. As shown in the table, majority of the respondents with a frequency of 129 with 90.32 percent are males which implies 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	79	54.10
Married	59	40.41
Separated	2	1.36
Widow/er	6	4.10
Total	146	100

As presented in Table 3, a frequency of 79 or 54.10 percent is single which implies that unmarried individuals are more prone to get involved in the commission of crimes.

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

Religion	Frequency	Percentage
Roman Catholic	85	58.21
Iglesia Ni Cristo	49	33.56
United Methodist Church	1	.68
Born Again	6	4.10
Others	5	3.42
Total	146	100

Table 4 presents the respondents' profile as to religion., majority of the respondents with a frequency of 85 or 58.21 percent are Roman Catholics which implies 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	60	41.09
HS Level / graduate	51	34.93
College Level / graduate	30	20.54
Post Studies Level / graduate	5	3.42
Total	146	100



Table 5 presents the frequency and percentage distribution of the respondents' profile as to highest educational attainment. Majority of the respondents with a frequency of 60 or 41.09 percent reached /finished elementary followed by high school level or graduate with a frequency of 51 or 34.93 percent. The data imply that most of the respondents have undergone the basic formal education.

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

Occupation before Detention	Frequency	Percentage
Farmer	36	26.42
Government Employee	5	3.42
Self-Employed	13	8.9
OFW	6	4.10
Others (not employed)	86	58.90
Total	146	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 86 or 58.90 percent were not employed before the commission of the crimes which implies 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	50	34.24
Crimes against property	1	.68
Crimes against Special Laws	83	56.84
Others (kidnapping)	12	8.21
Total	146	100

Table 7 presents the frequency and percentage distribution of the crime committed by the respondents. As presented, 83 or 54.84 percent of the respondents committed crimes against special laws specifically against Republic Act 9165 or known as the Comprehensive



Drugs Act of 2002. The data imply that majority of the respondents got involved on crimes with heavier penalty 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	128	87.67
Not Yet	18	12.32
Total	146	100

The frequency and percentage distribution on the status of the case of the respondents as to arraignment is presented in Table 8. Majority of the respondents with a frequency of 128 or 87.67 percent have been arraigned on the cases filed against them which implies that most of the PDLs were informed of the charges against them and have been asked by the court if they pleaded guilty or not.

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	3	2.05
1-5	62	42.46
6-10	41	28.08
11-15	17	11.64
16-20	12	8.21
21 or more	11	7.53
Total	146	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 presented in the table, a frequency of 62 or 42.46 percent attended court hearings falling within the bracket of 1 to 5 times followed by a frequency of 41 or 28.08 percent have attended court hearings falling within the bracket of 6 to 10 times. The data imply that most of the PDLs have attended many court hearings for the cases filed against them due to various reasons and circumstances and are awaiting final judgment from the court.



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	-	-
1-6 months	20	13.69
6 months 1 day-12 months	26	17.80
1 year 1 day to 2 years	30	20.54
2 years 1 day to 3 years	35	23.97
3 years 1 day and more	35	23.97
Total	146	100

The frequency and percentage distribution on the status of the case of the respondents as to duration of stay in jail is presented in Table 10. The highest frequencies of 35 or 23.97 percent of the respondents stayed in jail falling within the brackets of 2 years 1 day to 3 years and 3 years 1 day and more respectively, followed by a frequency of 30 or 20.54 percent has stayed in jail for 1 year 1 day to 2 years. The data imply that most of the respondents have been staying in jail for years for the crimes charged against them and some are awaiting final judgment by the court.

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	-	-
Alleged Suspect	63	43.15
Jealousy	1	.68
Poverty	2	1.36
Self-Motivated Interest	12	8.21
Self-defense	55	37.67
No reason	6	4.10
Others (Grudge)	7	4.79
Total	146	100



Table 11 presents the the frequency and percentage distribution on the circumstance that has led to the commission of the crime. A frequency of 63 or 43.15 percent of the respondents claimed that they were “alleged suspects” for the crime charged against them. It was followed by a frequency of 55 or 37.67 percent wherein the respondents claimed that self-defense was the reason that led them to the commission of the crime. The data imply that majority of the respondents have common reason or circumstance that has led to the commission of crimes charged against them.

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

Profile	r' value	Decision
Age	-.031	Reject
Sex	.162	Reject
Civil Status	-.041	Reject
Religion	.059	Reject
Highest Educational Attainment	.071	Reject
Occupation before Detention	.243	Accept

± .163 critical value .05

The test of relationship between the crimes committed and the profile of the respondents at Cabagan District Jail is presented in Table 12. As shown on the result, the r' value of .243 is higher than the critical value of .163. This means that there is a significant relationship between the crimes committed and the occupation before detention of the PDLs. This implies that the null hypothesis is accepted whereas all other profile variables have nothing to do with the commission which implies that the null hypothesis is rejected. The data imply that the kind of occupation or job of a person has may push a person to commit crime.

CONCLUSION

On findings of the study, it can be concluded that majority of the respondents' profile are similar despite the fact that PDLs came from all walks of life except on the occupation before detention as observed on the data gathered.



RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. Strengthen jail programs in preparation for PDLs re-entry into the community as productive citizens.
2. More job opportunities for PDLs to lessen the chance of committing another crime after release.
3. Speedy disposition of cases to solve jail congestion.

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The Bill of Rights of the 1987 Constitution

BJMP Manual