



CHARACTERIZATION OF PERSONS DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY (PDLs) AT NUEVA VIZCAYA PROVINCIAL JAIL

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ABSTRACT: *In the Philippines, provincial jail system was first established in 1910 under the American regime supervised and controlled by the provincial government and headed by the Provincial Jail Warden. The provincial jail of Nueva Vizcaya is located in the town of Bayombong. The jail offers many programs for Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) to make them busy and productive during their stay in jail. At the government-managed provincial jail, the PDLs use their precious time to pursue their elementary and secondary education while engaging in other livelihood projects. The provincial jail entered into a partnership with the Department of Education to conduct the Alternative Learning System program among the PDLs willing to pursue their education. The PDLs received certificates and diplomas bearing the DepEd seal signed by the Secretary of Education, certifying their competencies as comparable to graduates of the formal school system. The ALS beneficiaries were also recognized by the DepEd and the provincial government after passing the Accreditation and Equivalency Test for elementary and high school levels. There were fifty four (54) respondents available during the schedule of data gathering. The researcher was the given the chance to interview some of the PDLs for both male and female. Findings of the study on age, most of the respondents are young with an age brackets of 18-27 years old, majority are males, single, Roman Catholic, reached / finished high school, self-employed, committed crimes against person and were arraigned, attended 1-5 times court hearings, been in jail for almost 1month - 6 months and most claimed that they were alleged suspects of the crimes charged against them. It is therefore concluded that the respondents' profile are similar despite the fact that PDLs came from all walks of life as observed on the data gathered.*

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

INTRODUCTION

In the United States, jails are usually run by sheriffs and/or local governments and are designed to hold individuals awaiting disposition of their case, waiting for transport to a state prison system following conviction, or serving time after a misdemeanor. State prisons are operated by the state where the person was convicted of a felony. Federal prisons are



operated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) and are designed to hold individuals convicted of federal crimes, such as tax evasion, bank robbery, or kidnapping, among others. Jails operate work release programs, boot camps, and other specialized services. They try to address educational needs, substance abuse needs, and vocational needs while managing inmate behavior. State prison systems operate halfway houses, work release centers, and community restitution centers — all considered medium or minimum custody. Inmates assigned to such facilities are usually reaching the end of their sentences.

Jails are usually run by local law enforcement and/or local government agencies, and are designed to hold inmates awaiting trial or serving a short sentence. Often “short” is designated as a misdemeanor conviction versus a felony, so in some instances where misdemeanor sentences are run consecutively, one may spend more than a year in jail. Jails often operate work release programs and boot camps, and some offer educational, substance abuse, and vocational programs. While many of these programs are designed to help the inmates change their lives and improve themselves so they stand a better chance of avoiding a return visit, they also have the added benefit of keeping the inmates occupied and less likely to cause problems for jailers.

Jails are also known as detention facilities. Lockups are facilities in smaller communities where one to a few arrestees can be held for a short time pending transfer to a nearby jail/detention center. A lot of new detainees are delivered to jails daily. Some may stay less than one day or only for a few days, until they are okayed for release in a court proceeding. Some are released after putting up bail, are released to a pre-trial services caseload, are placed under supervision by a probation agency, or are released on their own recognizance with an agreement to appear in court.

A considerable number of people arriving at a jail are actively or recently drunk or high, arrive with injuries from fights/assaults that led to their arrest, and/or are mentally ill with no other place for law enforcement to deliver them. This makes the intake process challenging for the jail’s staff and its medical personnel.



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“In fact, they are providing much for their family needs and learn while serving their penalty inside the provincial jail” (Pasion 2017).

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

This study was focused on the characterization of Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) at Nueva Vizcaya Provincial Jail. 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 Nueva Vizcaya Provincial Jail 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	16	29.62
28-37 years old	13	24.07
38-47 years old	10	18.51
48-57 years old	10	18.51
58 or more	5	9.25
Total	54	100

Table 1 presents the frequency and percentage distribution of the respondents' profile as to age. As presented, frequencies of 16 or 29.62 percent belong to the age brackets of 18-27 years old followed by a frequency of 13 or 24.07 percent belong to the age bracket of 28-37 years old. The lowest frequency of 5 or 9.25 percent belongs to the bracket of 58 years old or more. The data imply that respondents when they got involved in crimes were at their young ages.

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

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	51	94.44
Female	3	5.55
Total	54	100

Table 2 shows the frequency and percentage distribution of the respondents' profile as to sex. As presented, a frequency of 51 or 94.44 percent is male 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	28	51.85
Married	23	42.59
Separated	2	3.70
Widow/er	1	1.85
Total	54	100



Table 3 present the frequency and percentage distribution of the respondents' profile as to civil status. As presented, a frequency of 28 or 51.85 percent is single while a frequency of 23 or 42.59 percent if married. The data imply that single individuals are more prone to commit crimes for they are less concern of their responsibilities and repercussion of their actions.

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

Religion	Frequency	Percentage
Roman Catholic	41	75.92
Iglesia Ni Cristo	4	7.40
Born Again	1	1.85
Others	8	14.81
Total	54	100

As presented in Table 4, Roman Catholic is the most dominant religion in this part of the province with a frequency of 41 or 75.92 percent.

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

Highest Educational Attainment	Frequency	Percentage
Elementary Level / graduate	12	22.22
HS Level / graduate	24	44.44
College Level / graduate	14	29.92
Post Studies Level / graduate	4	7.40
Total	54	100

Table 5 shows the frequency and percentage distribution of the respondents' profile as to highest educational attainment. A frequency of 24 or 44.44 percent reached /finished high school. 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	9	16.66
Government Employee	5	9.25
Self-Employed	39	72.22
Others (not employed)	1	1.85
Total	54	100



The frequency and percentage distribution of the respondents' profile as to occupation before detention is presented in Table 6. Majority of the respondents were self-employed before the commission of the crimes which implies that they do not have fix source of income.

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

Crime committed	Frequency	Percentage
Crimes against persons	24	44.44
Crimes against property	3	5.55
Crimes against Special Laws	23	42.59
Others (kidnapping)	4	7.40
Total	54	100

Table 7 presents the frequency and percentage distribution of the crime committed by the respondents. As presented, 24 or 44.44 percent of the respondents committed crimes against persons like "murder, homicide, rape, physical injuries and the like" followed by a frequency of 23 or 42.59 percent on crimes against special laws. 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	42	77.77
Not Yet	12	22.22
Total	54	100

Majority of the respondents with a frequency of 42 or 77.77 percent have been arraigned on the cases filed against them as presented in Table 8 which implies that most of the PDLs have been informed of the charges 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	-	-
1-5	51	94.44
6-10	3	5.55
11-15	-	-
16-20	-	-
21 or more	-	-
Total	54	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 51 or 94.44 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 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	4	7.40
1month - 6 months	16	29.62
6 months 1 day-12 months	10	18.51
1 year 1 day to 2 years	11	20.37
2 years 1 day to 3 years	5	9.25
3 years 1 day and more	8	14.81
Total	54	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 16 or 29.62 percent of the respondents stayed in jail falling within the bracket of 1month - 6 months. The data imply that most of the respondents have been in jail for quite some time for their court trials for the crimes charged 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	-	-
Alleged Suspect	37	68.51
Jealousy	-	-
Poverty	-	-
Self-Motivated Interest	-	-
Self-defense	2	3.70
No reason	1	1.85
Others (Grudge)	14	25.92
Total	54	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 37 or 68.51 percent of the respondents claimed that they were just “alleged suspects” for the crime charged against them. 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	-.010	Reject
Sex	.029	Reject
Civil Status	-.155	Reject
Religion	.039	Reject
Highest Educational Attainment	.114	Reject
Occupation before Detention	.185	Reject

± .268 critical value .05

The test of relationship between the crimes committed and the profile of the respondents at Nueva Vizcaya Provincial Jail is presented in Table 12. As shown on the results, the r' value of the profile of the respondents are lower than the critical value of .268. This implies that the null hypothesis is rejected which means that there is no significant relationship between the crimes committed the profile of the PDLs.



CONCLUSION

From the findings of the study, it can be concluded that most of the respondents' profile are similar and have common reasons or circumstances that led to the commission of the crimes despite the fact that PDLs came from all walks of life.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. Jail programs in preparation for PDLs reintegration shall be strengthened.
2. Speedy disposition of cases should be given attention by the concerned agency.
3. More job opportunities to minimize the possibility of committing crimes.

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