



CHARACTERIZATION OF PERSONS DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY (PDLs) AT SANTIAGO DISTRICT JAIL – MALE DORM, SANTIAGO CITY, ISABELA

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ABSTRACT: *Incarceration in the United States is one of the main forms of punishment and rehabilitation for the commission of felony and other offenses. The United States has the largest prison population in the world, and the highest per-capita incarceration rate. In the United States criminal law is a concurrent power. Individuals who violate state laws and/or territorial laws generally are placed in state or territorial prisons, while those who violate United States federal law are generally placed in federal prisons operated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), an agency of the United States Department of Justice (USDOJ). The BOP also houses adult felons convicted of violating District of Columbia laws due to the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997. The Santiago City District Jail Male Dorm is located in Purok Paraiso, Barangay Batal, Santiago City. The male dorm is situated in the same compound with the female dorm. It is manned by a male jail commissioned officer. At the time of data gathering, there were five hundred thirty (530) available PDLs. The researchers 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 28-37 years old, all are males, most are single, Roman Catholic, reached / finished high school, not employed, committed crimes against special laws 3 years 1 day and more and most have no particular reason for committing the crime charged against them. It can be concluded based from the findings of the study that majority of the respondents' profile are similar despite the fact that PDLs came from all walks of life except on the educational attainment and 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

Incarceration in the United States is one of the main forms of punishment and rehabilitation for the commission of felony and other offenses. The United States has the largest prison population in the world, and the highest per-capita incarceration rate.

In the United States criminal law is a concurrent power. Individuals who violate state laws and/or territorial laws generally are placed in state or territorial prisons, while those who violate United States federal law are generally placed in federal prisons operated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), an agency of the United States Department of Justice



(USDOJ). The BOP also houses adult felons convicted of violating District of Columbia laws due to the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997.

O'Donnell (2016), as of 2004, state prisons proportionately house more violent felons, so state prisons in general gained a more negative reputation compared to federal prisons. In 2016, almost 90% of prisoners were in state prisons; 10% were in federal prisons.

U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics (2012), perhaps the single greatest force behind the growth of the prison population has been the national "War on Drugs". The War on Drugs initiative expanded during the presidency of Ronald Reagan. During Regan's term, a bi-partisan Congress established the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986, galvanized by the death of Len Bias. According to the Human Rights Watch, legislation like this led to the extreme increase in drug offense imprisonment and "increasing racial disproportions among the arrestees". The number of incarcerated drug offenders has increased twelvefold since 1980. In 2000, 22 percent of those in federal and state prisons were convicted on drug charges. In 2011, 55.6% of the 1,131,210 sentenced prisoners in state prisons were being held for violent crimes (this number excludes the 200,966 prisoners being held due parole violations, of which 39.6% were re-incarcerated for a subsequent violent crime). Also in 2011, 3.7% of the state prison population consisted of prisoners whose highest conviction was for drug possession (again excluding those incarcerated for parole violations of which 6.0% were re-incarcerated for a subsequent act of drug possession).

The Santiago City District Jail Male Dorm is located in Purok Paraiso, Barangay Batal, Santiago City. The male dorm is situated in the same compound with the female dorm. It is manned by a male jail commissioned officer. At the time of data gathering, there were five hundred thirty (530) available PDLs.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

This study was focused on the characterization of Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) at Santiago District Jail – Male Dorm, Santiago City, 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 Civil Status
 - 1.3 Religion
 - 1.4 Highest Educational Attainment
 - 1.5 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 Santiago District Jail – Male Dorm, Santiago City, 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 researchers 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

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

Age	Frequency	Percentage
Below 18 years	2	3.77
18-27 years old	116	21.88
28-37 years old	188	35.47
38-47 years old	139	26.22
48-57 years old	73	13.77
58 or more	12	2.26
Total	530	100

Table 1 presents the frequency and percentage distribution of the respondents' profile as to age. As presented, the frequency of 188 of 35.47 percent belong to the age bracket of 28-37. The lowest frequency of 2 or 3.77 percent belongs to the bracket of below 18 years of age. The data imply that respondents are relatively young when they got involved in crimes and charged by the court for such violations. Further, minors were also charged for they have



violated laws and were committed at the 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 Civil Status

Civil Status	Frequency	Percentage
Single	295	55.66
Married	223	42.07
Separated	3	.56
Widow/er	9	1.69
Total	530	100

As presented in Table 2, a frequency of 295 or 55.66 percent of the respondents is single during the commission of the crimes. The data imply that single PDLs are more carefree and less mindful of the consequences of their acts in committing violation of laws.

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

Religion	Frequency	Percentage
Roman Catholic	303	57.16
Iglesia Ni Cristo	156	29.43
United Methodist Church	1	.18
Born Again	13	2.45
Others	57	10.75
Total	530	100

Table 3 presents the frequency and percentage distribution of respondents' profile as to religion. As gleaned from the table, there are 303 or 57.16 percent are Roman Catholics which implies that Roman Catholic is the most dominated religion in this part of the province.

Table 4. Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Respondents' Profile as to Highest Educational Attainment.

Highest Educational Attainment	Frequency	Percentage
Elementary Level / graduate	230	43.39
HS Level / graduate	256	48.30
College Level / graduate	30	5.66
Post Studies Level / graduate	12	2.26
Total	530	100

The frequency and percentage distribution of the respondents' profile as to highest educational attainment is presented in Table 4. There are 256 or 48.30 percent respondents who reached or finished high school followed by 230 or 43.39 percent who have reached or finished elementary. The data imply that most of the respondents have undergone basic formal education when they got involved in the commission of crimes.



Table 5. Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Respondents' Profile as to Occupation before Detention.

Occupation before Detention	Frequency	Percentage
Farmer	80	15.09
Government Employee	32	6.03
Self-Employed	15	2.83
OFW	5	.94
Others (not employed)	396	74.71
Total	530	100

Most or 74.71 percent of the PDL respondents were not employed during the commission of crimes as presented in Table 5. The data imply that the respondents do not have permanent jobs as a source of living.

Table 6. Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Crime Committed by the Respondents

Crime committed	Frequency	Percentage
Crimes against persons	125	23.58
Crimes against property	19	3.58
Crimes against special laws	375	70.75
Others (estafa, kidnapping)	11	2.07
Total	530	100

As presented, 375 or 70.75 percent of the respondents committed crimes against special laws specifically on violation of Republic Act 9165 of the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002. The data imply that majority of the respondents got involved on selling and pushing of illegal drugs wherein the penalty is heavier compared to those crimes committed by other PDLs punishable under the RPC.

Table 7. Frequency and Percentage Distribution on the Status of the Case of the Respondents as to Arraignment

Arraignment Status	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	450	84.90
Not Yet	80	15.09
Total	530	100

A frequency of 450 or 84.90 percent of the respondents were already arraigned by the courts on the cases filed against them as presented in Table & which implies that the courts have read the charges against them and the respondents were asked if they were guilty or not.



Table 8. 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	418	78.86
6-10	112	21.13
11-15	-	-
16-20	-	-
21 or more	-	-
Total	530	100

Table 8 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 418 or 78.86 percent has 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 due to various reasons and were given chances by the court to defend themselves before the pronouncement of final judgment by the court.

Table 9. 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	32	6.03
1-6 months	83	15.66
6 months 1 day-12 months	89	16.79
1 year 1 day to 2 years	94	17.73
2 years 1 day to 3 years	101	19.05
3 years 1 day and more	131	24.71
Total	530	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 9. The highest frequency of 131 or 24.71 percent of the respondents stayed in jail falling within the bracket of 3 years one day and more followed by 2 years one day to three years with a frequency of 101 or 19.05 percent. The lowest frequency of 32 or 6.03 percent has stayed in jail for barely a month. The data imply that most of the respondents have been staying in jail for quite some time for court trials for the crimes charged against them.

Table 10. 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	10	1.88
Jealousy	3	.56
Poverty	31	5.84
Self-Motivated Interest	164	30.94
Self-defense	4	.75
No reason	317	59.81
Others	1	.18
Total	530	100



The frequency and percentage distribution on the circumstance that has led to the commission of the crime is presented in Table 10. A frequency of 317 or 59.81 percent of the respondents gave no particular reason why they have committed the crimes. The data imply that majority of the respondents could hardly pin point the exact reason that forced them to commit the crimes.

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

Profile	r' value	Decision
Age	-.171	Reject
Civil Status	-.048	Reject
Religion	-.076	Reject
Highest Educational Attainment	.201	Accept
Occupation before Detention	.091	Accept

± .085 critical value .05

The test of relationship between the crimes committed and the profile of the respondents at Santiago District Jail – Male Dorm, Santiago City, Isabela is presented in Table 12. As shown on the results, the r' value of .201 for highest education attainment and .091 for occupation before detention are higher than the critical value of .085. This means that there is significant relationships between the crimes committed and select profile variables of the respondents. This implies that the null hypothesis is accepted in the select variables whereas all other profile variables have nothing to do with the commission which implies that the null hypothesis is rejected. The data imply that less educated individuals are more prone to commit crimes and the nature of occupation has something to do with the commission of crimes.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded based from the findings of the study that majority of the respondents' profile are similar despite the fact that PDLs came from all walks of life except on the educational attainment and 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 for the PDLs re-entry into the community.
2. More job opportunities to minimize the chance of committing another crime on reintegration.
3. Shorten the stay of PDLs in jail through speedy disposition of their cases.



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[U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics: "Prisoners in 2012 Trends in Admissions and Releases, 1991–2012" by E. Ann Carson and Daniela Golinelli](#) Table 11: Estimated sentenced state prisoners on December 31, by most serious offense and type of admission, 1991, 2001, 2006, and 2011 | December 2013