



CHARACTERIZATION OF PERSONS DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY (PDLs) AT SOLANO DISTRICT JAIL, SOLANO, NUEVA VIZCAYA

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ABSTRACT: *By virtue of Republic Act 6975, the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology under the Department of the Interior and Local Government was created. 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 Nueva Vizcaya, there is a lone district jail located in Lorenzo St., Curifang, Solano, Nueva Vizcaya. The jail is manned by a commissioned officer as warden with three hundred forty six Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) under their care and supervision. 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 28-37 years old, majority are males, single, Roman Catholic, reached / finished elementary schooling, not employed, committed crimes against special laws and were arraigned, attended 1-5 times court hearings, been in jail for 1 month - 6 months and most claimed that they were alleged suspects of the crimes charged against them. The null hypothesis is accepted for some select variables (sex, highest educational attainment and occupation before detention) which means that the mentioned profile variable have something to do with the commission of crimes whereas all other profile variables have no effect in the commission of crimes which means simply that the null hypothesis is rejected. On findings of the study, it can be concluded that majority of the respondents' select profile variables are similar with each other despite the fact that PDLs came from all walks of life.*

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

INTRODUCTION

By virtue of Republic Act 6975, the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology under the Department of the Interior and Local Government was created. 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 Nueva Vizcaya, there is a lone district jail located in Lorenzo St., Curifang, Solano, Nueva Vizcaya. The jail is manned by a commissioned officer as warden with three hundred forty six Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) under their care and supervision.



IACHR- 2002, the right of persons deprived of liberty to humane treatment while under the custody of the state is a universally accepted norm in international law. In the Inter-American Human Rights System, this principle is enshrined primarily in Article XXV of the American Declaration, which provides: “every individual who has been deprived of his liberty has the right to humane treatment during the time he is in custody.” In addition, the humane treatment to be accorded to persons deprived of liberty is an essential element of Article 5(1) and (2) of the American Convention, which protects the right to humane treatment of all persons subject to the jurisdiction of a State party.

In addition, as already mentioned, the Principles and Best Practices on the Protection of Persons Deprived of Liberty in the Americas are grounded in the fundamental idea that “All persons subject to the jurisdiction of any member State of the Organization of American States shall be treated humanely, with unconditional respect for their inherent dignity, fundamental rights and guarantees, and strictly in accordance with international human rights instruments”.

According to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, a fundamental premise when dealing with the right of detainees and prisoners to maintain contact with the world outside the institutions where they are held is that, like free persons, those deprived of their liberty enjoy all the human rights guaranteed by international law, subject of course to those restrictions that are an unavoidable consequence of the confinement.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

This study was focused on the characterization of Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) at Solano District Jail, Solano, Nueva Vizcaya.

. 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 Solano District Jail, Solano, Nueva Vizcaya 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	1	.28
18-27 years old	72	20.80
28-37 years old	110	31.79
38-47 years old	84	24.27
48-57 years old	53	15.31
58 or more	26	7.51
Total	346	100

The frequency and percentage distribution of the respondents' profile as to age is shown in Table 1. As presented, frequencies of 110 or 31.79 percent belong to the age brackets of 28-37 years old. The lowest frequency of 1 or .28 percent belongs to the bracket of below 18 years of age. The data imply that respondents are relatively young when they got involved in the commission crimes and one minor was 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	321	92.77
Female	25	7.23
Total	346	100

Table 2 shows the frequency and percentage distribution of the respondents' profile as to sex. As shown in the table, a frequency of 321 with 92.77 percent male and 25 or 7.23 percent are female PDLs which imply that males are more prone to get involved in 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	185	53.46
Married	161	46.53
Total	346	100



As presented in Table 3, a frequency of 185 or 53.46 is married while the rest are single PDLs. The data imply that married individuals despite their marital status are less mindful of the effect of getting involved in the commission of crimes.

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

Religion	Frequency	Percentage
Roman Catholic	257	72.27
Iglesia Ni Cristo	40	11.56
United Methodist Church	17	4.91
Born Again	7	2.02
Others	25	7.22
Total	346	100

As presented in Table 4, majority of the respondents are Roman Catholics with a frequency of 257 or 72.27 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	153	44.21
HS Level / graduate	149	43.06
College Level / graduate	38	10.98
Post Studies Level / graduate	6	1.73
Total	346	100

Table 5 shows the frequency and percentage distribution of the respondents' profile as to highest educational attainment. A frequency of 153 or 44.21 percent reached /finished elementary schooling followed by high school level or graduate with a frequency of 149 or 43.06 percent. The data imply that most of the respondents have undergone the basic elementary and high school formal education.



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

Occupation before Detention	Frequency	Percentage
Farmer	87	25.14
Government Employee	5	1.44
Self-Employed	15	4.33
OFW	-	-
Others (not employed)	239	69.07
Total	346	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 not employed before the commission of the crimes as shown with the frequency of 239 or 69.07 percent 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	114	32.94
Crimes against property	3	.86
Crimes against Special Laws	193	55.78
Others (kidnapping, estafa)	36	10.40
Total	346	100

Table 7 presents the frequency and percentage distribution of the crime committed by the respondents. As presented, 193 or 55.78 percent of the respondents committed crimes against special laws specifically Republic Act 9165. The data imply that majority of the respondents got involved on crimes 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	304	87.86
Not Yet	42	12.13
Total	346	100



Majority of the respondents with a frequency of 304 or 87.86 percent have been arraigned on the cases filed against them is 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	40	11.56
1-5	189	54.62
6-10	60	17.34
11-15	27	7.80
16-20	10	2.89
21 or more	20	5.78
Total	346	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 189 or 54.62 percent 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 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	5	1.44
1 month - 6 months	110	31.79
6 months 1 day-12 months	56	16.18
1 year 1 day to 2 years	61	17.63
2 years 1 day to 3 years	44	12.71
3 years 1 day and more	70	20.23
Total	346	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 110 or 31.79percent of the respondents stayed in jail falling within the bracket of 1 month - 6



months. 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 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	223	64.45
Jealousy	4	11.56
Poverty	8	2.31
Self-Motivated Interest	1	.28
Self-defense	104	30.05
No reason	-	-
Others	6	1.73
Total	346	100

The frequency and percentage distribution on the circumstance that has led to the commission of the crime is presented in Table 11. The highest frequency of 223 or 64.45 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 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	-.072	Reject
Sex	.160	Accept
Civil Status	-.045	Reject
Religion	.005	Reject
Highest Educational Attainment	.165	Accept
Occupation before Detention	.126	Accept

± .105 critical value .05

The test of relationship between the crimes committed and the profile of the respondents at Solano District Jail is presented in Table 12. As shown on the result, the r' value of .160 for sex is higher than the critical value of .105. This means that there is a significant relationship



between the crimes committed and the sex of the PDLs. In another profile, the r' value of .165 for highest educational attainment is higher the critical value of .105. Finally, the r' value of .126 for occupation before detention is higher the critical value of .105. The data imply that the null hypothesis is accepted which means that the mentioned profile variable have something to do with the commission of crimes whereas all other profile variables have no effect in the commission of crimes which means simply that the null hypothesis is rejected.

CONCLUSION

On findings of the study, it can be concluded that majority of the respondents' select profile variables are similar 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. Strengthen jail programs in preparation for PDLs reintegration.
2. Provision of more job opportunities to give second chances to rehabilitated PDLs..
3. Ensuring immediate judicial sentencing of cases by the concerned court.
4. Expedite court trails in order to help PDLs and as a way to decongest jails.

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Art. 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

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