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IS THERE ANY GUIDELINES TO CORRECT FEMALE PRISONERS? A STUDY ON SOCIAL WORK INTERVENTION OUTSIDE THE PRISON

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Abstract: Series of research completed had witnessed that when women are imprisoned the impact of same that causes on the family setting is serious and powerful, compared to the imprisonment of males. The main reason for that is the role of the mother to maintain entire family and also due to the social adaptation of children. The research study in focus of 63 women detained on whatever offences under the law, completed by using questionnaire, discussions, and case studies just to diagnose the closest reasons affected for

the female offensiveness. While the majority commented on the wrong conduct or influence of the husband, the broken family situations loss of interrelationship among family members have been negatively impact their antisocial behavior. The action for strengthening relationship between a wife and the husband through intervention of a social worker having established inter related connections so as to act as a mediator has been proposed through the research.

Key words: Female, Prisoners, Corrections, Imprison, Social Work

INTRODUCTION

Over half a million women and girls are held in penal institutions around the world, the largest populations being in the United States, the Russian Federation and Thailand (Reichert & Bostwick 2010). Everywhere, women are a minority in national prison populations but their numbers are increasing in many countries. In the US, for example, the number of incarcerated women has increased by 404 percent since 1985. The imprisonment of low-level drug traffickers has been reported to be the largest factor contributing to this increase (U.S. Department of Justice, Office of justice programs 2006). The increase in women's imprisonment is fueling the global trend towards the overuse of imprisonment and reflects the under-use of constructive alternative sanctions (Penal Reform International, 2008).

The vital constituent of a family is the relationship between husband and wife mainly due to the fact that social adaptation of children needs decisive influence of parents. Midst of such the role of Mother is a decisive element as also proved through studies of Human Scientists such as Margret Mead. Commenced within traditional society there were responsibilities, duties as well as a set of functions entrusted to and established within male and female within this transformation, personalities. Specifically in the traditional society husband was to deal with economic actions while female had to bring forth children and to foster them and to fulfil sexual needs of the husband. Yet, subjected for varied evolutions, the prevailed traditional practices were changed. The novel social structure emerged with the industrialization and the industrial based employment culture that had merged with globalization and the new economic process that occurred internationally with the transformation of labor and together with the changes happened in the educational sector the said families were subjected for direct influence with changes. Accordingly, women too involved in the sector of employment parallel to the male. Also discernable that open economic system introduced to countries like Sri Lanka in the decades of 1970s, had impacted on the traditional family system in varied nature. Thereby, an environment was emerged not only in Sri Lanka but in overseas too, for women to move away from their families seeking employment. The open economic method had affected the functionality of entire family system. Accordingly, more democratic families were come into existence. In this scenario, the relationship between husband and wife, sexual needs and also giving birth to children and caring children too, turned into a more democratic shape while also shifting into varied alternatives. Under the modern living pattern more than concerns on young and daintiness, the women had to shoulder the living burdens in parallel to the male besides the typical role of the family.

Table No. 01. Percentagewise distribution of employed population within the main industry

Main Industry	Male	Female
Agriculture	(25.4)	(30.3)
Industry	(26.9)	(26.7)
Services	(46.1)	(43.0)

(Department of Census and Statistics 2016)

The above table explains that the ways how traditional roles and norms of women had been changed. In parallel to the above involvement of women including criminal actions too, which is discernable through the number of imprisoned population at present.

Table No. 2 Convicted female prisoners 2010-2014

Year	Number
2010	1032
2011	773
2012	946
2013	894
2014	834

(Statistics of prisoners - Sri Lanka).

The above details illustrate the statistics on women those who were imprisoned annually in Welikada prison upon verdicts on confirmatory offences. Generally culpability of women is based on varied causes and facts in which the economic factors play a major role. It is also factual that several other motivate factors such as crimes based on poverty, illiteracy, low education and mental depression and the stresses are common reasons to involve in criminal actions.

A prisoner has to return to normal life after the imprisonment period. The prison system is expected to prepare the inmates for life outside the prison after release from the prison. Usually the prison trains the inmates in some vocational skills. They can also utilize those skills during their tenure within prison and earn some money which will be helpful to them after the release from prison. Yet, the skill training received within prison usually does not ensure suitable employment of a prisoner once s/he has been released. Most prisoners belong to the underprivileged background and have little contact in the employment market. The prison system does not have any scheme for helping the ex-convicts in getting a suitable employment after the release. The vicious circle of poverty may push some of them into crime again. Those few, who take up agriculture or some petty jobs in the nearby urban areas, may need assistance in order to sustain themselves in it and make a living.

This study addresses more serious causes those married women had to face than the variables stated above, mainly in focus of possible influence or other motivate factors liked to their husbands. And this study try to understand and implement a method or way for corrections through social wellbeing. Although rehabilitation programs are conducting within the prison system, when prisoners release from prison they are socialization with their previous and usual environment with usual experience. There is no argument this situation will lead them for criminality as well as re-victimization. Owing to this situation through this study, researcher try to explain ongoing guidance for social wellbeing and **highly discussed how to use role of social workers' tasks towards above said challenge.** And finally study focused to make a discussion about the application and intervention of social work guidance and principles to build interrelationships among members within the institute of family.

LITERATURE REVIEW

According to the literature, apart from meting out retribution to the offenders, prison organization is entrusted with the task of reforming and rehabilitating the offenders (Ahmad 1993: 369). But for many reasons, prison has largely failed in this mission (Bhushna

1971: 411). As a result there has been increasing reliance on voluntary organizations in the tasks of reformation and rehabilitation of prisoners as they can play important roles in areas where the prison administration is lacking, and thereby complement the efforts of prison for reformation and rehabilitation of the inmates. It is in this context that work with prisoners has been taken up by professional social work as an area of social intervention. Ronald is a PhD candidate in school of social work, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, INDIA has discuss alternatives for rehabilitation through social work. This paper discusses the sphere of professional social work with prisoners and presents some of the experiences of the Voluntary Action for Rehabilitation and Development (VARHAD) in social work intervention with prisoners. His paper has argued that Sphere of Professional Social Work with Prisoners Inmates of the prisons in India face problems with regard to three basic needs. They are related to (a) legal service, (b) maintenance of relationship with the family and (c) rehabilitation after release from the prison. Professional social work can play a meaningful role in catering to these needs of prisoners (Roland 2014).

Prisoners from the lower sections of the society are in special need of establishing and maintaining relationship with their family members. Their relatives often do not know their whereabouts. There are also families of prisoners that are reluctant to maintain contact with the prison inmates for fear of loss of social prestige (SDTT 2011). Families, wherein the only bread winner is imprisoned, face drastic economic deterioration. This puts additional burden on the women and children who may have to stop going to school and start working (SDTT 2011).

There are also families in which both the parents are in jail. In such cases children live with their relatives, neighbors or even alone and unsupported (Vaidya and Ronald 2009: 15). It is estimated that there are 484 children in jail with their convict mothers and 1639 children of under trial prisoners (NRCB 2008). **Unlike the other inmates, "children are in jail not for any delinquent behavior but because their mothers are in jail. Either they are born in jail, or they are too young to stay away from their mothers, or there is no one to look after them in the absence of their mother. Hence, they live in prisons" (Vaidya and Ronald 2009: 13). Thus helping prisoners maintain their relationship with the family members and paying attention to the needs of the children of prisoners are activities of professional social work with prisoners.**

Rehabilitation after Release

According to Wijewardhana 2018, has argued that the main cause behind prisoners to repeat illegal dealings on substance and alcohol, resulting repeated imprisonment, amidst of the release from prison time to time, is the environment consisted by drastically poor living conditions. There are several supportive factors affecting the continuation of dealing with alcohol and drugs such as; experience gained on surrounding factors after living for a period within slums; following the path of sub-culture in slums; attitude of earning for day to day living aiming at short-term enjoyment; alcohol has easy market; large crowd is addicted for alcohol.

The on-going practice of imprisonment as punishment is considered by so-called prisoners as an enjoyable opportunity for them to relax without struggling to earn money. Hence, more than punishing by imprisonment it would be more meaningful if rehabilitation is given higher priority. Nevertheless, it is clear that poor urban community is not the single force continuing the menace of drugs and alcohol. It is clearly visible that there are other categories of trouble makers those representing upper classes of social structure, too

involved in importing, distributing and selling alcohol and drugs in the country. Assuming that, authorities must take prompt action to surrender those actions and the following recommendations are made for the sake of women prisoners and to mitigate the insecure life style of disadvantaged segment of the urban community

As many scholars have noted, women remain peripheral in most analyses of the practices and effects of imprisonment. Number of research aims to redress this pattern by comparing the problems of long-term confinement as experienced by male and female prisoners, and then detailing the most significant and distinctive problems reported by the latter. It begins by reporting data that illustrate that the women report an acutely more painful experience than their male counterparts. It then focuses on the issues that

were of particular salience to the women: loss of contact with family members; power, autonomy and control; psychological well-being and mental health; and matters of trust, privacy and intimacy. The article concludes that understanding how women experience long sentences is not possible without grasping the multiplicity of abuse that the great majority has experienced in the community or without recognizing their emotional situation.

It is difficult to overstate how overwhelmingly disadvantaged women prisoners are. Women prisoners represent the most socially, culturally and economically marginalized populations in Australian society. The literature universally recognizes that the majority of women prisoners have a history of: Poverty - with the majority being dependent on centre link benefits and most being in debt upon entry to prison: Housing insecurity - with many having been homeless immediately prior to imprisonment: Unemployment - with the few who were employed prior to imprisonment, generally having worked in low income jobs: Poor educational outcomes - with most having not completed secondary schooling: Poor health - with the majority experiencing mental health and/or substance abuse issues: Institutional intervention - with more than half had been in state care as a child (and up to 25% having spent time in youth prison). A significant proportion of women prisoners also face other challenges including an intellectual or learning disability (with various studies finding between 12% and 50% of women prisoners living with one or both of these disabilities). 10% - 15% of women prisoners come from non-English speaking backgrounds. And, the significant majority of women prisoners are mothers of dependent children (Kilroy, 2016).

Stable marriages and strong familial relationships have been found to be protective factors which serve to reduce the risk of reoffending. Research indicates that a strong and lasting emotional attachment, in the form of marriage or otherwise detracts men from engaging in criminal behavior. However, the same does not appear to be true for female offenders in relation to men. In many cases women often engage in criminal behavior as accomplices to their male partners. Incarceration places marital relationships under significant stress. Sometimes, the stress is a consequence of the criminal behavior itself, while at other times it is a consequence of separation or from other difficulties faced during the sentence. In many cases there are a host of family problems that precede incarceration (Dehart, 2005) and (Wijewardhana 2018) . For example, family members who live with offenders prior to their arrests often experience police contact, family discord or domestic violence, poverty, substance abuse or other criminal behavior (Wijewardhana 2018). Thus, incarceration may **serve as the final straw in an already troubled relationship. A partner's incarceration may** provide a spouse with the opportunity to take the first step in severing ties with an offender

with whom there has been a history of problems. Research suggests that 45% of inmates lose contact with their families during their incarceration and 22% of married inmates divorce or separate. One possible explanation is that correctional facilities are often geographically isolated making travel to and from the facility challenging. For those families who do make the trip, they are often faced with inadequate visiting facilities that hinder healthy family interaction (Degaldo, 2011).

RESEARCH PROBLEM.

Despite the fact that varied professionals namely, criminologists, sociologists, psychologists and law & order experts on varied bases of personal criminality are developing varied concepts and theories for rehabilitations it is continuing the trends of crimes irrespective of male or female. Within the above circumstances which manner the social worker across the social work could control the deviant families while maintaining strong relationship with the majority of families is the research problem of this study?

OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH

Through this research, the researcher seeks to study the closest misdeed or offence that caused to a married women to be imprisoned and try to identify socio-economic and cultural background of the woman detained in prisons as well as to determine the factors affected for those imprisoned women to be offenders and study whether there was any influence of husband for the woman to be an offender. Finally, to control strategic approach to uplift married family units through social work centered intervention which to be launched by social workers as a state driven mechanism.

METHODOLOGY

Study Area and the Sample.

The study field of this research is the Welikada women detainees' prison in Sri Lanka. The selected sample is consisted by 63 married women belong to varied age limits, religions and nationalities also based on dissimilar offenses.

Data Collection

Stage 1: The team studied the offences involved by 206 female detainees at Welikada prison by using a questionnaire in particular, with causes affected for such misdeeds.

Stage 2: Out of 206 respondents 63 married women were selected for gathering information through questionnaire, Group Discussion, Focus Group discussion and observations.

Stage 3: Besides shared information of all case studies were attended with 10 women

Stage 4: Apart from researcher did 3 in-depth interviews from social workers to identify the way of intervention methods from social work.

RESULTS AND FINDINGS

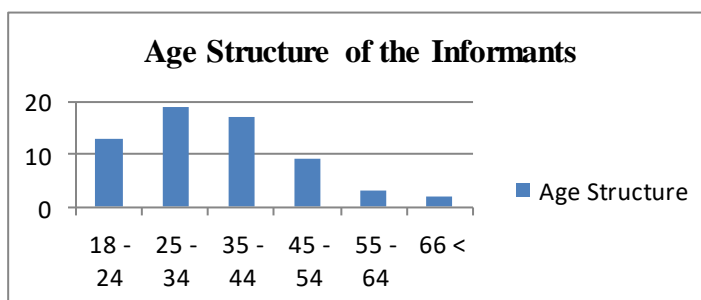


Table No. 03 Background information of the female inmates

Standards of education of the informers	n = 63	Percentage
Not attended school	04	(6.34)
Educated from 1-5 th grade	09	(14.28)
From 6 th grade to O/L	13	(20.63)
From O/L to A/L	11	(17.46)
Succeeded O/L	06	(9.52)
Succeeded A/L	11	(17.46)

Diploma holders	05	(7.93)
Degree holders	02	(3.17)
Any Other	02	(3.17)
Employment prior to the imprisonment	n = 63	Percentage
Cultivation	03	(4.76)
Casual Labour work	15	(23.80)
Self-Employment	17	(26.98)
Livestock Farming	04	(6.34)
Government Employed	09	(14.28)
Private Sector Employed	03	(4.76)
Pavement hawkers	04	(6.34)
Other	01	(1.58)
Unemployed	07	(11.11)
Nationality	n = 63	Percentage
Sinhala	37	(58.73)
Tamil	14	(22.22)
Muslim	09	(14.28)
Burger	02	(3.17)
Any Other (foreigner)	01	(1.58)
Number of children prior to imprisonment	n = 63	Percentage
No children	04	(6.34)
Between 1 -2 children	22	(34.92)
Between 3 -4 children	31	(49.20)
5 or above	06	(9.52)
Marital status prior to the imprisonment	n = 25	Percentage
Married	39	(61.90)
Widow	04	(6.34)
Living separately	06	(9.52)

Husband left the wife	02	(3.7)
Divorced	10	(15.87)
Lived together(Marriage not registered)	02	(3.7)
Sources of income of husbands	n = 63	Percentage
Cultivation	04	(6.34)
Casual Labour work	13	(20.63)
Self-Employment	03	(4.76)
Livestock Farming	11	(17.46)
Business	09	(14.28)
Government Employed	09	(14.28)
Private Sector Employed	04	(6.34)
Job in overseas	03	(4.76)
Other	07	(11.11)
Duration of imprisonment	n = 63	Percentage
Between 1 – 3 years	32	(50.79)
Between 4 – 6 years	12	(19.04)
Between 7 – 9 years	08	(12.69)
Beyond 10 years	06	(9.52)
Life-term imprisonment	03	(4.76)
Death penalty	02	(3.17)

Fig 2. Contiguous offence that caused for the detention

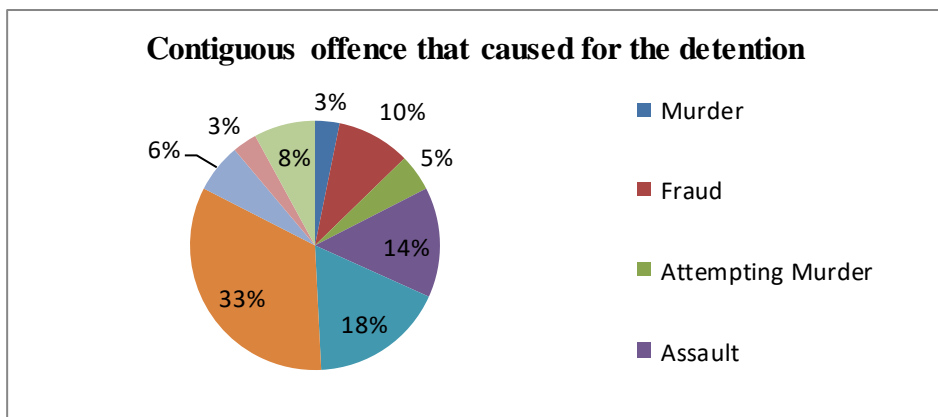


Fig 3. Causes affected for the offensiveness

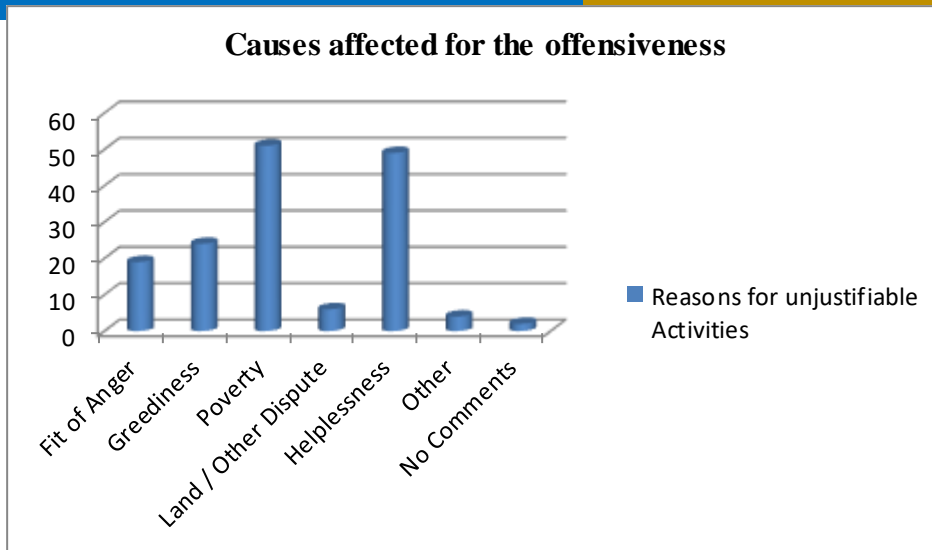


Fig 4. Family Motivation for Guilty

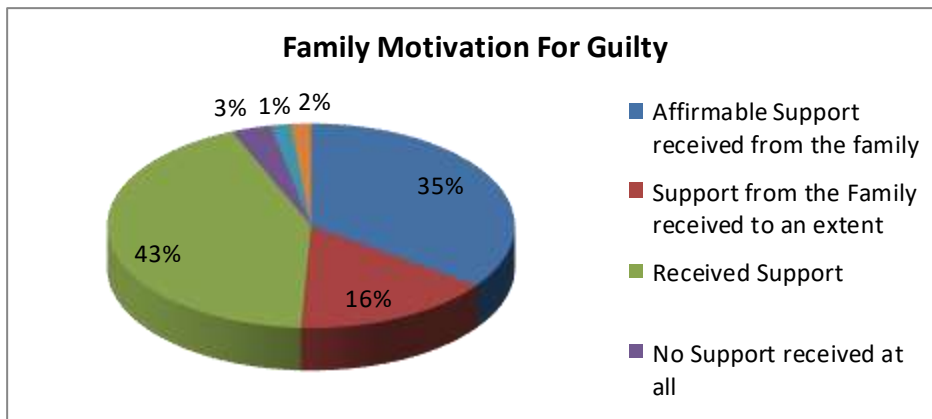


Fig 5. Support received from family environment for criminality

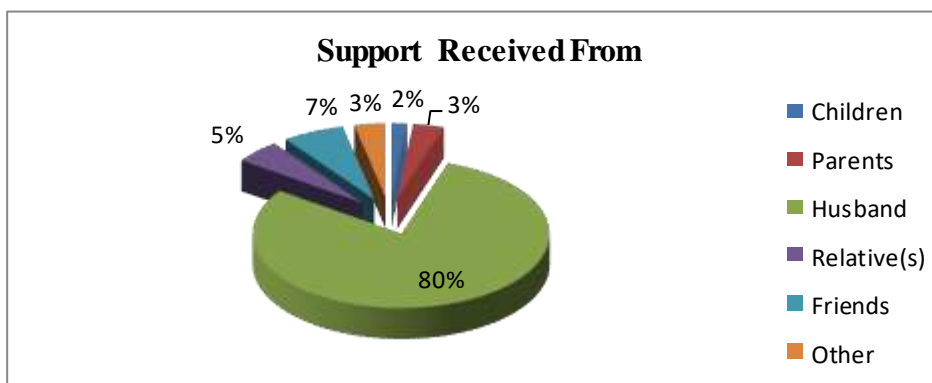


Fig 6. Nature of the Support from the Husband

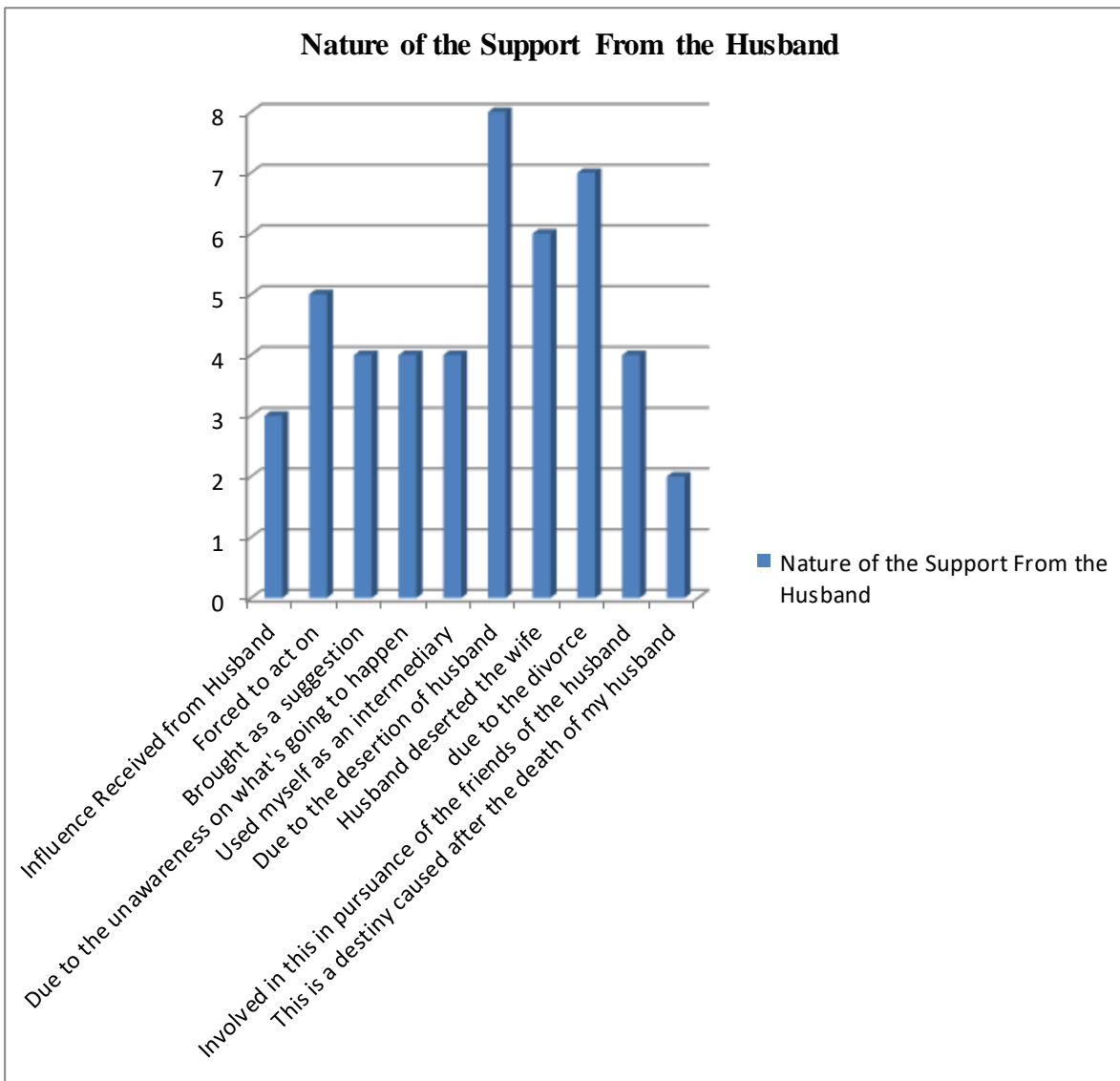


Fig 7. Opinion on the life in the prison

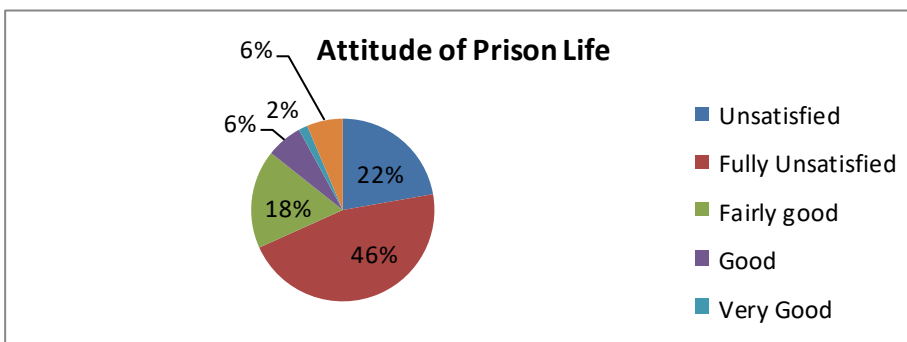
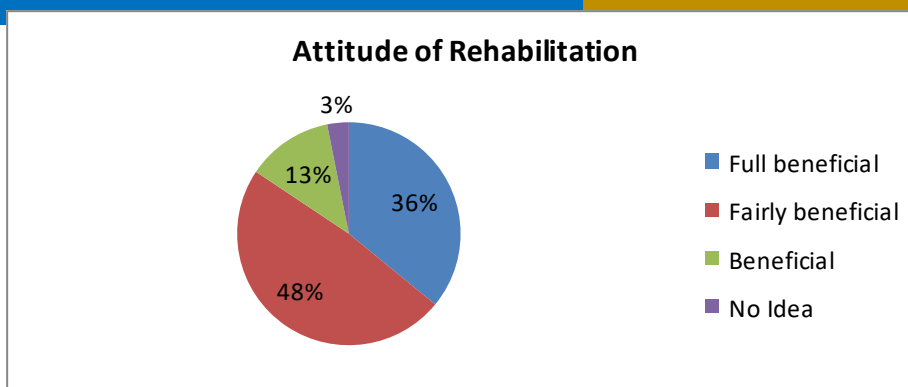


Fig 8. Attitude of Rehabilitation



DISCUSSION

Rather than ongoing rehabilitation actions it is worthwhile to launch alternative methods to continue the protected family relationships within the society, is believed by 50 % woman.

Case Study Number 01

*".....While keeping us inside there is no meaning of doing these. Once we return home we need to adjust ourselves to the system there because husband manages everything according to his desire. What we want is to live with children and the husband with enthusiasm. What we request from the Government is to introduce a suitable method to match into the situation."
(31 old Female prisoner)*

Case Study Number 02

It is apparent through above statements that the requirement is an action proceeding going beyond the rehabilitation to ensure strengthened family units with developed inter relationships. For which we can propose that there should be a mechanism to get contribution of the social worker who involves in the current community development practices as an experiment to try out in rehabilitation as well(43 old mother).

Intervention through Social Work

Influence of the Secondary Network on the Change of the Motivation of the Prisoners participating in the Prevention of Female criminality

Motivation of female prisoners to participate in rehabilitation.

The motives of female prisoners to participate in rehabilitation are internal and external: interest in the offer of friends or acquaintances by seeing the proofs regarding successful cases (when a person stopped using drugs); search for a new experience; the experience of compulsory detoxification at an imprisonment place; the experience of inner confusion and the need for help to overcome it; moral crisis stimulating a person to change; strong motivation to change already before rehabilitation after having stopped drug abuse and having realized the difficulties in making positive progress at an imprisonment place; links with the future, i.e. a wish to distance oneself from drug addicted husbands or family members, or a wish to get to rehabilitation in freedom in order not to relapse.

Intensification of the motivation of female prisoners to change when participating in rehabilitation.

The results of the research show that the motivation of female prisoners to not take drugs or any other criminal activities increases due to their participation in rehabilitation. According to the case studies done by researcher from Drugs related Women prisoners has found that it depends on different factors: the experience of the miraculous help of God to abandon drugs; reading of spiritual and psychological books; the change of the prisoners participating in rehabilitation, which strengthens their hope to abandon drugs; relationship with their relatives (**for example, a fear to lose one's own family, a wish to create a better future for one's children**). **Almost all respondents give priority to the change of their internal, personal motivation.** Sometimes a prisoner abandons drugs because of the fear to lose good living conditions at the imprisonment place. The wish to overcome psychological dependence shows the strengthening of prisoners' motivation.

A rehabilitation group as space for prisoners' advancement.

The female prisoners point out that environment is of high importance for their change. Group support (the support of prisoners experienced in rehabilitation and other people) helps not to relapse; within a group one learns to solve own problems without coercion. According to the respondents, a rehabilitation group is the space to change the way of thinking by following a clear direction, acquiring knowledge about dependences and the **state of mind necessary for changes. This influences the change of prisoners' life goals,** increases participation in learning processes and encourages taking responsibility for their environment.

The change of a female prisoner's relation with other prisoners when participating in a rehabilitation group.

The prisoners who participate in rehabilitation notice the changes in their relations with other prisoners because of the openness based on trust in each other; the understanding based on the support in the process of abandoning drugs and the ability to adjust to each other; friendliness and humaneness based on mutual acceptance; sincerity (admitting own guilt and apologizing each other); the fear based on peradventures regarding the opinion of others; disappeared no statutory relationships. The conception of goodwill changes from obedience to another person to the conception of acceptance as well as openness to another person.

The change of female prisoner's relations with his relatives when participating in a rehabilitation group.

The research shows that the relations of the prisoners with their relatives improve—**trust of the relatives in the prisoner's change increases, while their relations become more friendly.** The topic: personal change of a prisoner when participating in a rehabilitation group. When participating in the rehabilitation, the prisoners feel less anger, their ways of decision-making change. **Most prisoners state that they started to believe in God's help, which enables to make right decisions and to live without drugs.** The prisoners point out experiencing joy after abandoning drugs; they want to improve by analyzing own and other **people's actions. What is more, the results show that the research participants acquired the experience of communication with people, which they want to use in serving others as volunteers.** This can be regarded as an impact of a self-support group.

The change of female prisoners' relations with penitentiary employees when participating in rehabilitation.

The research results disclose that due to the participation in rehabilitation, the prisoners' relations with penitentiary employees change positively. Greater trust of the employees in the prisoners, which manifest itself in less control in rehabilitation than in a local sector is observed. The results also show that the prisoners change: they know how to distance from **employees' anger** by not reacting in the same way; they strive for good things regardless of **the employees' humiliation and distrust in prisoners.**

The Role of a Social Worker in Mobilizing the Secondary Network

The role of a social worker in a rehabilitation group.

The prisoners distinguish the following roles of a social worker in a rehabilitation group: a) **of a social consultant who carries out the programmes of changing prisoners' thinking,** render the knowledge necessary for their changes, support prisoners psychologically; b) of a mediator who performs social work with a team of employees and specialists in initiating **groups of 'anonymous drug addicts', collaborates with the volunteers (former drug addicts)** and supports prisoners; c) of a mobilizer who induces prisoners' **empowerment to act by** doing good things and implements psychological support of prisoners; d) of a capacitor who encourages prisoners to use their internal powers to do good, to fight with evil (empowerment in this sense is very important for prisoners because they are dependent on the decisions taken by other people or the administration and they cannot feel able to control their life and act independently).

Case Study Number 03

I married with drunker. He always quarrel with me. I have three kids. They don't go to school. Because we don't have sufficient environment to take them school. Actually I did drug selling. This is my second term in prison. When we enter the prison, officers are introducing some work us to do... But useless, because when release us, we are going same place and we have to face usual struggle to live. But the thing is no one doesn't give their attention for this matter. I think we need guidance and we need a team to look after us within the society. I live in dematagoda slums. All the people think we are not good and we are doing illegal activities. We need the best future. But we need help from society (39 old mother)

Case Study Number 04

I am a social worker. I did number of programs with prisoners when they release from prison. According to my experience they need someone's guide to lead their life. They need to someone monitor their day today activities. They need to change their lifestyle. I suppose social worker can do this properly. They lost their interpersonal relationships owing to poverty and many other reasons. If we can built good interrelationship among them it will be given a path to social wellbeing of them. Especially large number of female prisoners belong to Colombo district. All most all are living in slums. Social worker can do good job for them.

According to their views its clearly they seek help from society to escape from their anti-social behavior. When purposing this, social work can do good intervention of this task. The conception of social network intervention based on the theory of social systems, which

refers to the systemic viewpoint on a client and his / her problems, is important for social work. The model of social network intervention is also understood as a social assistance network because, **after the analysis of a person's social network, possible sources of social assistance become evident.** A social worker helps a client to get necessary services by strengthening his / her access to lacking resources; mobilizes social networks by creating new services, programmes as well as coordinating them; enables a client to be independent **from support and the problem so that he / she can 'move' from individuality to community** and from community to independence. Empowerment involves individual empowerment of a client when a social worker stops dominating and controlling him / her as well as the **enlargement of community or political power in order to strengthen the client's life control.** In the secondary prevention of drug addiction at imprisonment places, social work involves work with the network by correcting and reconstructing, mobilizing and concentrating it, **forming new or maintaining the same networks, because the structure of a prisoners' network is often infringed due to isolation: it is changed, not functioning or there is no relationship between the primary and secondary networks.**

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that the close-by offensiveness of women detainees are due to the direct and indirect influence of their husbands. Other revelation is the broken family settings caused and resulted due to the scratched relationships between husband and wife and also due to the critical methodologies applied within such family units under varied situations and socio-economic circumstances are factors creating such impact.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Since, there is a greater requirement to strengthen relationships between families in rural localities and also within family units through the intervention of state driven mechanism is intended. especially, when the women in a family or a mother is involved either in an illegal or anti-social affaire or in an offensive action it is unavoidable that children too will be affected due to the social adaptation in such families creating some other problems too, needs higher attention. When the mother is happened to be imprisoned children to be taken care by the probation or they will be exposed for some other ill-treatments or negligence. Hence, it is proposed to pay extremely inclusive attention in a responsible manner in order to secure the safe and respect of family settings.

Thus, it is important for a social worker to perform the following steps of network intervention: to find a competitive person in the network who is ready to cooperate; to renew broken or to restore existing relations; to convert the client into a person helping **others; to encourage the clients' self-support,** to cooperate with volunteers; to involve organizations (non-governmental) of the third sector.

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