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A STUDY ON PRISON INDUSTRY IN TAMIL NADU

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Abstract

Prisons serve the public by keeping in safe custody those committed by the courts and treating them with humanity and helping them lead a useful life in society as law abiding citizens after their release from the prison. Prison in India is an age old concept. In the early periods, unused old forts were used as prison where the persons who acted against the government were lodged. During the period of the Sultanate, there were no regular prisons. Prisoners are one segment of the population who are treated as a special category under the custody of court of law for their involvement in illegal activities or against the government. In India, prison is an age old concept from ancient periods but in British periods it was regularized and a model prison was constructed and a special Act was enacted to systemize the prison administration in India.

Keywords: Prisons, administration, Society, Prisoners, entrepreneurial competence, prison bazaar, product.

INTRODUCTION

The words 'Prison' and 'Goal' derived from the Latin words which mean to "Seize" and "Cage" respectively. The Oxford English Dictionary defines prison as, "A place properly arranged and equipped for the reception of persons who by legal process are committed to it for safe custody while awaiting trial or punishment". Prison is one of the complicated and pathetic places where the convict and the under trial persons are lodged because of their involvement in illegal or unlawful activities. It is the universal phenomenon which had an ancient history from the age old periods.

System and treatment of prison and prisoners have been changing owing to growing evaluation of the human rights approach. In the early periods, prison was one of the places where the anti-social and anti-national persons were lodged, but now it has been changing, and even if the prisoners are convicts, they are treated as human beings and his/her rights are protected by law. That rehabilitation steps are being taken to create a new life after imprisonment is quite common all around the world. With this view, the present paper discusses the prison industries in Tamil Nadu.

PRISONS IN TAMIL NADU

The Presidency Jail for women in Vellore, was the first prison constructed in Tamil Nadu during the year 1830 followed by Madras "Penitentiary" during the year 1837 and thereafter all other prisons were constructed one by one up to the year 1872. After Independence Central Prison, Puzhal was the only prison constructed during the year 1981 and some additional accommodation was made in other prisons. All the prison buildings are more than 150 years old.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Bhattacharya has devoted many years of first-hand study to the subject of prison reform and penal reform in general which is very near to his heart. Looking at world penological literature we do not find very many examples of High Court judges appearing in the role of reformers and interesting themselves in all the details of this unpopular topic with the enthusiasm and knowledge exhibited by author.

The prison is a community within the community. It is a social system which despite occasional disruption, function reasonably well (Cloward, 1960).

Srivastava (1977) has concluded in his study that prison as a system may develop a sub-rosa organization and may maintain all those institutional characteristics which form an essential part of any social organization. In such a social system a prison is once again able to maintain a status and role in the prison community.

Datir's 'Prison as a social system' (1978) is the first comprehensive work on the subject in India. Vidyabhushan has written a work called "Prison Administration in India" and Dr. Barkar has also given us an account of modern prison system in India. The work of these scholars deal with one aspect of prison system. His comprehensive, historical, analytical study had concluded with certain deeper theoretical debates connected with the prison as sub system, and its relation to specific larger-class

society. His book suggests many ideas which can be analyzed in a more fundamental manner.

George H. grosser in his "Exteranla Setting and Internal relations of the Prison" provides an introduction to the prison as a social system through age neral discussion of its relationship to larger society, its internal dynamics, including patterns of deviance and control, and some implications of its organizational structures to the stated goal of treatment.

John Gatling in his "The Social Functions of Prison", analyse the social functions of the prison. He brings to his work the necessary academic scholarship in the social sciences plus the direct experience of his incarceration in a Norwegian prison as a conscientious objector.

Table 1

Prisons in India and Tamil Nadu

Category of Prisons	Number		Percentage to India
	India	Tamil Nadu	
Central Prisons	131	9	6.87
Special Prison for Women	19	3	15.78
Borstal School	20	12	60.00
Special Sub Jails (Men : 2 Women : 3)	37	5	13.51
District Jails	364	9	2.47
Sub Jails (Men : 87 Women : 8)	758	95	12.53
Open Air Prison	54	3	5.56
Others	04	-	-
Total	1387	136	9.80

Source: Tamil Nadu Prison Department

Table 1 indicates that there are 9 central prisons, 3 special prisons for women, 12 borstal schools, 5 special sub jails, 9 district jails, 95 sub jails and 3 open air prisons in Tamil Nadu.

Table 2
Prison Industry

Sl. No	Name of the Prison	Industries
1	Central Prison -I, Puzhal	Sealing Wax, Tag Making, Weaving
2	Central Prison, Trichy	Manufacture of Wash well soap, Weaving of Gauze & Bandage cloth and Woollen Blankets, Book Binding and flat file making
3	Central Prison, Madurai	Hand Made Paper, Weaving manufacture of flat files & covers
4	Central Prison, Vellore	Boot making Industries, Weaving of bandage & Gauze cloth, Binding, flat file making
5	Central Prison, Salem	Aluminum Industry, Black smithy Industry, Hand Made paper flat file making & binding
6	Central Prison, Coimbatore	Weaving, Tailoring, Book Binding, Hand Loom Spinning, manufacture of T.C. Cloth, Carpet, Raincoat, Mosquito Net, convict cloth, uniform garment and flat file making
7	Central Prison, Cuddalore	Weaving (Gauze and Bandage)
8	Central Prison, Palayamkottai	Handmade paper, Weaving of bandage & Gauze Cloth Manufacture of flat file cases and covers
9	Special Prison for Women, Vellore	Tape Making, Twisted thread making and Bandage
10	Borstal School, Pudukottai	Manufacture of Phenyl, Tag making

Source: Tamil Nadu Prison Department

The above table 2 indicates the prison industry in each central prison in Tamil Nadu. Weaving is the most common industry in almost all the central prisons.

Table 3
Prison Industries in Tamil Nadu

Industry	Prison
Coir production unit	Central Prison, Cuddalore
Hollow Block Brick-making unit	Central Prison, Trichy Central Prison, Madurai
Bakery Unit	Central Prison – I Puzhal
Removing of thread from the Baniyan Waist	Central Prison, Coimbatore and Special Prison for Women, Puzhal
Agharbathi Making	Special Prison for Women, Vellore.

Source: Tamil Nadu Prison Department

Apart from the general training and industry in prisons in Tamil Nadu, some of the special production units are functioning such as coir production unit in central prison, Cuddalore; hollow block brick making unit in central prison, Tiruchirappalli and Madurai; bakery unit in central prison-I Puzhal; removing of thread from the baniyan waist in central prison Coimbatore and special prison for women, Puzhal and Agharbathi making unit in special prison for women, Vellore.

A Bakery Unit has been established in Central Prison-I, Puzhal at a cost of Rs. 45.00 Lakh. Bakery products such as Bread, Bun, Cookies etc., are prepared by the prisoners in this unit and supplied to the prisons and sold to the public at a nominal rate in the Prison Bazaars

Terry Cotton & Poly Viscose uniform clothes required for the Police, Fire and Rescue Services and Prison Department in Tamil Nadu are being manufactured in the Weaving Industry in Central Prison, Coimbatore. This industry is being upgraded by installing new modern power looms, at a cost of Rs. 150.00 Lakh, to augment the production capacity and attain self-sufficiency.

Handmade Paper Units are being established in all Central prisons at a cost of Rs. 90.00 Lakh.

PRISON BAZAARS

Prison bazaar is one of the novel concepts which help to market the prisoner's products in the prison industry. Now days it is very popular in all the central jails in Tamil Nadu. In order to channelize the manpower of the prisoners towards a positive direction and to provide an opportunity of reformation and rehabilitation to the prisoners confined in prisons PRISON BAZAARS were established in Central Prison Complexes. The articles manufactured in the prisons, such as Bakery items, Paper cups, Greeting Cards, Leather Shoes, Wallets, Mineral Water, Nursery Products, Detergent Soap/Powder, Candles, Mosquito Net, Rain Coat, Ready Made Garments, Honey, Masala Powder, Handicrafts etc., are sold to the public at nominal rates, in this Bazaar, under the brand name of "FREEDOM". An outlet of the PRISON BAZAAR is functioning in the Prison Head Quarters also.

Business standard (2012) under a new initiative called 'Freedom', the Tamil Nadu government has decided to sell products including clothes and [bakery products](#) made by the jail inmates in the state through a 'prison bazaar'. The programme has been launched at the Central Prison at suburban Puzhal in Chennai. Tamil Nadu chief minister [J Jayalalithaa](#) had earlier announced the setting up of prison bazaars with an investment of Rs 10 lakh, in May last year. These would sell cloth, bakery products, footwear, soaps and masala products among others. It is part of the state's efforts to provide an opportunity for reformation and rehabilitation to the prisoners. After Chennai, Coimbatore would be the next in line to get a bazaar, which would be ready this month. The products will be priced at a nominal rate, and will be available at the prisons between 9 am and 9 pm.

CONCLUSION

Industries are the backbone of the economic development of the country which helps to generate income, employment, purchasing power, utilization of local resources etc. Developing countries like India need more industries to meet the demands of the people. Therefore government has taken serious steps to promote the industries through entrepreneurship development activities. But it has been reached only in limited aspects. Many people are having entrepreneurial competence, but they could not practice because of lack of awareness or poor supportive mechanism. If the environment is suitable, any one and even prisoners can start the industry. In our country almost all the central jail have certain type of industrial units which make a lot of products by prisoners. As such prison industry in Tamil Nadu is also contributing significantly to the economic development of the state. Weaving, Tailoring, Bread making, Handle making, Brick making, and Food products making are very popular in the prison industry of Tamil Nadu. Prisons Bazaar is one of the milestones in the history of prison reforms, which transform the prisoners into entrepreneurs. This kind of practice will be very useful to the prisoners to become successful entrepreneurs after competing their imprisonment.

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