

# Community's Perception towards Women Deprived of Liberty

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**Abstract:-**The study focused on One of the widely recognized objectives of corrections, whether carried out in prisons or by non-custodial interventions, is the reintegration of offenders into their own culture and society. There is a need to assist them with their reunification with their families and re-entry into the community to ensure that offenders released from detention centers, prisons, correctional institutions or recovery centers re-claim their part and position in society. Sustaining recovery and achieving reintegration through the community-based care of ex-offenders is therefore important. In addition, the commission of crime is a result or consequence of the interplay of variables and situations in one's self, the immediate and greater world, and the decisions and decision-making processes of one.

A qualitative research approach particularly a phenomenological design was used in this study., focused to the community members in barangay Bacayao Sur, Dagupan City composed of three members coming from the religious sector, three members from education sector and three members coming youth sector who have experienced in participating any rehabilitation programs for the women deprived of liberty.

Based on the study results, the researcher therefore concludes that the community perceived women deprived of liberty as victims of circumstances that lead them to commit crimes in order for them to survive and value the relationship to others. These findings show that community sectors viewed women offenders as less harmful than men offenders. In this regard, they are willing to contribute or support the rehabilitation of women deprived of liberty particularly in education, employment and healthcare.

**Keywords:-** Women Deprived of Liberty, Community Perception.

## I. INTRODUCTION

In restorative justice (RJ) sessions, the group has long been known as the primary third party. As Braithwaite writes, justice is restorative because, as a product of a plurality of stakeholders, it is about restoring victims, restoring perpetrators, and restoring communities. The sense of culture, however, always goes undefined and unchallenged. This lack of conceptual consistency has disturbed scholars and there have been several attempts to

resolve this. (Bottoms, 2003; Crawford and Clear, 2003; Cunneen & Hoyle, 2010; Doolin, 2007; Johnstone, 2013; McCold, 2004). However, when it comes to both identifying and examining the position of the group in RJ, there is still a considerable amount of darkness. Community participation in RJ can take on a number of meanings in practice. Inviting community volunteers to convene reparation boards also implies (Karp & Drakulich, 2003), restorative justice conferences, or victim-offender mediations (Dhami & Joy, 2007; Gerkin, 2012; Kirby & Jacobson, 2015; Roche, 2003). They act as a neutral third party in this position, guiding the community towards reconciliation. Community is conceptualized in other instances as the 'micro-community' around victims and perpetrators, typically near relatives and associates who have direct relations with the parties. (McCold, 2004). The participating participants in the restorative experience are members of the micro-community. Community engagement can also include the participation of 'macro-community,' mostly volunteers representing 'community values' at conferences on restorative justice. Although they are actively involved in the meeting, they are typically not part of the victim's micro-community and the offender (McCold, 2004). Finally, following a restorative experience, group engagement will take place, such as when young people and community volunteers work side by side in 'rescue community service' projects. (Bazemore & Karp, 2004; Bazemore & Stinchcomb, 2004; Wood, 2012).

In addition, criminals face a number of problems since being released from jail. (Davis, Bahr & Ward, 2012:447; Seiter & Kadela, 2003:361; Shinkfield & Graffam, 2009:30). Such challenges become an obstacle to recovery and raise the chances of reoffending for ex-offenders. Davis et al. (2012:447) note that the prison environment is markedly different from mainstream society. Such challenges become an obstacle to recovery and raise the chances of reoffending for ex-offenders. This presents a big obstacle to the reintegration of criminals. Given that effective reintegration of offenders is key to crime reduction, it is important to have a detailed understanding of the science of offender reintegration. Davis et al. (2012:447) note that a greater understanding of the reintegration of offenders helps professionals, families and communities to better facilitate offenders' transition upon release, which in turn decreases their risk of recurrence. Thurber (1998:1) states, with apprehension, that for many individuals, the reintegration of criminals back into mainstream society is disturbing.

In July 2002 the Government's Social Exclusion Unit (SEU) published its report, 'Reducing ex-prisoner re-offending'. The Prime Minister of England said in his introduction, "We need to ensure that a prison sentence punishes the offender, but also provides the maximum chance of reducing the likelihood of re-offending." Which means that we need to redouble our efforts to successfully rehabilitate inmates back into society.'

The idea of resettlement has a long pedigree, dating back to the voluntary assistance given by the nineteenth-century discharged convict aid societies and police court missions. By establishing a Directorate of Resettlement in place of the Directorate of Regimes, the prison service has recently reaffirmed its commitment to the idea. The Home Office has now published its "Reducing Reoffending National Action Plan" (July 2004) in response to the SEU report.

Since the 1980s, voluntary assistance has decreased in availability for the majority of inmates serving short sentences (less than 12 months). Short-term inmates have the greatest risk of re-offending, have the highest demand for resettlement, and still receive the least support either in jail or after release. Under existing relocation provisions, 71 per cent of all female inmates serving short sentences are particularly poorly catered for. Such particular categories often face additional specific needs: those that were drug-dependent before going into custody; juveniles; foreign national offenders kept in British jails before resettling either to families in Britain or abroad; the over 65s (there is an erroneous belief that detention is merely a 'young man's game'); and those who are mentally ill.

Imprisonment continues to intensify the causes of social isolation experienced by a high number of inmates prior to their imprisonment. The persistence of institutional bias, for example, means that an unreasonable number of inmates come from black and minority ethnic groups. (BSR produced a paper on this issue in 1999). In terms of educational achievement, basic skills and jobs, housing, financial support and debt, prisoners are usually significantly disadvantaged. Alcohol and illicit drugs are exploited by most of them. Imprisonment makes many criminals' conditions worse. A third are losing their homes, two thirds are losing their jobs, more than a quarter are facing increased financial difficulties, and more than 40% are losing touch with their families.

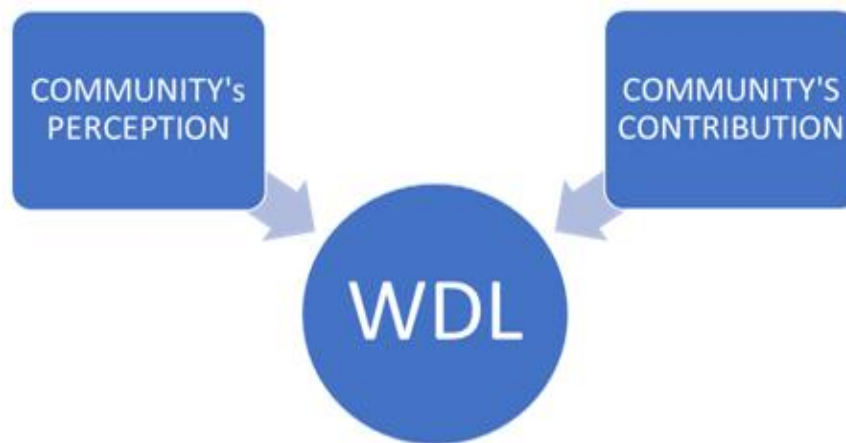
In this regard, one of the widely recognized objectives of corrections, whether carried out in prisons or by non-custodial interventions, is the reintegration of offenders into their own culture and society. There is a need to assist them with their reunification with their families and re-entry into the community to ensure that offenders released from detention centers, prisons, correctional institutions or recovery centers re-claim their part and position in society. Sustaining recovery and achieving reintegration through the community-based care of ex-offenders is therefore

important. In addition, the commission of crime is a result or consequence of the interplay of variables and situations in one's self, the immediate and greater world, and the decisions and decision-making processes of one. Therefore, in order to support ex-offenders in their reintegration attempts, these human and environmental factors need to be closely analyzed and effective steps taken. The group must be harnessed to assume greater responsibility for reforming criminals and avoiding recidivism, understanding that the community is typically often the locus of the offense or crime. The community and society must also play a crucial role in removing the psycho-social, economic and cultural obstacles and other causes of crime in their climate, in order to deter crime, to ensure stability and to foster local growth. Thus, with the above-mentioned problems, the researcher as a former law enforcer and criminology practitioner would like to conduct this study in order to identify the community's perception and contribution to the rehabilitation of women deprived of liberty. The output of this study will be used to develop measures to improve the participation of community in the rehabilitation of women deprived of liberty.

## II. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This study is anchored on the theory of Theological Imperative. Accordingly, through a church that bears testimony to the fact that human redemption is possible, God forgives those who sincerely repent. True repentance is shown by the ability of a person to face up to and tell the truth about the wrong done, and to render reparation for the misconduct. People will change, and a divine gift is such a change. Yet change is still very difficult, and can only be done with the intensive support of other group members. Christian community members have a history of providing help to those criminals who are attempting to make a new start.

In order to produce penance, there was a period when the object of recovery was to provide offenders with the opportunity to evaluate their own actions in isolation and before God's eyes. Indeed, it could be argued that this belief in ensuring that the person was given every opportunity to make amends for their actions drove the work of those responsible for rehabilitation for over a century, from the missionaries of the police court of the 1880s to the present day probation officers. The missionaries of the police court are tasked with offering moral and religious advice to criminals away from a life of crime toward a better life as respectable and proper members of society. The ideal was that the person should be provided with a fresh start by creating full-time and fixed jobs, decent accommodation and health care. It is an ideal reiterated by former Home Secretary David Blunkett's recent declaration in the preface to the government's report, "Making the Right Choices," in which he states, "A life of crime is not inevitable, regardless of your background, but if the basics are in place, it is easier to make the right choices about crime: good education, a place to live, decent health care and paid work."



**Figure 1. Paradigm of the Study**

### Statement of the Problem

This study will seek answers to the following question.

1. What is the perception of the community towards women deprived of liberty?
2. What are the contributions of the community to the rehabilitation of women deprived of liberty?

### III. DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

The research design and methodology, study population, data collection tool, data collection procedure, and data treatment are discussed in this chapter.

#### ➤ *Research Design and Methodology*

A qualitative research approach particularly a phenomenological design was used in this study. Pursuant to Neubauer et. Phenomenology, al. (2019), is a method of qualitative analysis, that focuses on the study of an individual's lived experiences within the world. In this regard, the researcher would like to study the lived experiences of the community members in participating in the rehabilitation of women deprived of liberty.

#### ➤ *Population and Locale of the Study*

The population of this study was focused to the community members in barangay Bacayao Sur, Dagupan City composed of three members coming from the religious sector, three members from education sector and three members coming youth sector who have experienced in participating any rehabilitation programs for the women deprived of liberty. They were determine using Purposive Sampling technique. Until participating, each person who agrees to the interview was asked to read and sign an informed consent form and pledge their full anonymity.

#### ➤ *Data Gathering Instrument*

The data gathered by means of an In-Depth Interview. The term "in-depth" is defined fairly vaguely in the literature: typically, it means a one-to-one interview on a single general subject that is discussed in detail. These qualitative interviews usually last about an hour, but often a lot longer. It sounds like two people having a debate, but there are gaps in the dynamics of power and the end goal:

these are' discussions with a reason' for the classic sociologist Burgess (2002).

#### ➤ *Data Gathering Procedure*

Immediately after approval of this research proposal, the researcher conducted data gathering by means in-depth interview. Mostly, with only an occasional question for clarification from the interviewer, the participants spoke over an extended interview about a wide range of subjects.

It recorded all the interviews. The interviews were open-ended and casual, and conducted in a conversational style.

In accordance with the interviews, follow-up interviews, observations, and casual experiences with subjects, the investigator also wrote field notes. While listening to recorded interviews, typing transcripts, and reflecting on a specific interview, notes were also written. The researcher gathered other data during the study in addition to the interviews and follow-up interviews, such as feedback from administrative and teaching colleagues, articles or other materials and ongoing literature review.

#### ➤ *Treatment of Data*

To treat the qualitative data, a thematic analysis of the data gathered was utilized by the researcher.

#### ➤ *Disclaimer*

The result of this study does not reflect the perception of the entire community due to the fact that it is conducted in one barangay only. The views, perception, analysis, interpretation, conclusion and recommendation derived from this study is not enough to justify the perception of the community towards women deprived of liberty. The researcher acknowledge the differences or individual perception of other members of the community. Finally, the data presented in this study was used for research purposes only.

#### IV. PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

This chapter presents, analyzes, and interprets the findings of the study on the community's perception towards women deprived of liberty.

##### ➤ *Perception of the community towards women deprived of liberty*

Upon analysis of the responses of the participants, the researcher has developed two themes.

##### • *Survivors*

Based on the data gathered, the researcher identified that the community perceived women deprived of liberty as survivors. This may be due to the fact that, whether it be economic, emotional, or physical, most crimes committed by women are motivated by survival. This shows that the community are aware that women committed crimes in order for them to survive economically may be because they are in poverty, single parent, or breadwinner. In addition, some participants believed that women commit crime because they were abused by their husbands or partners. The general strain theory of Robert Agnew helps unravel the mystery of female offending. The strain theory of Agnew, an extended and more inclusive version of the strain theory of Robert Merton, states that criminal activity increases in connection with many kinds of social strain. While the strain theory of Merton showed that deviation comes from the lack of social objectives, such as monetary success, to achieve societal objectives, Instead, Agnew casts a broader net to combine emotional, cognitive, and behavioral strains (Agnew 1992). In a much more recent work, Agnew et al. performed a study to clarify how the disparities in male and female criminal activity were explained by GST (General Strain Theory). Within the generation of pressure, and eventually criminal conduct, women's oppression in different social arenas can play a crucial role. Agnew argued that the following forms of strain may also be particularly conducive to female crime: (1) the failure to realize financial and interpersonal expectations; (2) the failure to handle others, including family members, intimate others, and employers, in an extremely reasonable and fair way; (3) the loss of healthy relationships with others; (4) a wide range of behavioral constraints... the experience of mental, physical, and sexual abuse; the role-related stresses often associated with "pink-collar" jobs and also the housewife role (Agnew et al. 1997). A second important theory of female crime is that of the work on the pathways of women by Kathleen Daly (1992). This structure is important not only because it addresses gender differences in crime, but also gender differences. Backed by a qualitative study of 34 women, her analysis highlights the survival strategies found in most female offenders. This study deserves recognition, though a limited sample, because it has been shown to be relevant in gender-specific literature (Bloom et al. 2003). Daly (1992) developed five different paths to crime that girls pursue. (1) Street women: that means women or girls fleeing and joining street life from harassment and crime. Drug use, prostitution, or property crimes may also be the crimes that follow. (2) Drug Linked Women: Women who are drug

users are often pushed into drug trafficking by intimate partners or family members. (3) Affected and Harming Women: severe violence including either physical or sexual abuse and/or negligence causing criminal conduct over a lifetime. (4) Battered Women: Women who are assaulted by intimate partners but are unlikely to have a crime committed prior to the violence. The offense that follows is aimed at coping and survival. (5) Economic offense: these women would be split into two categories: vulnerable women who are subsistence criminals and women who commit crimes of greed or social ambition. The latter may have no past at all. (Brennan et al. 2010; Daly 1992)

Survival motivates much of the above pathways. For the majority of female prisoners, brutality and trauma are involved, making them a somewhat different group from men (Bloom et al. 2003). The majority of female offenders and thus the truth of their lives reflect these pathways. In several gender-responsive studies, the implementation of this principle has been expressed and is extremely common within the literature.

##### • *Passionate offenders*

Moreover, the researcher also identified that the participants perceived women deprived of liberty as passionate offenders. This might be attributed to the fact that women value relationship and most likely they are sentimental. Thus, their emotions towards a certain person or things is extremely high leading them to commit crimes if they suffered disappointments or failures in their relationship. According to Relational Theory, this demonstrates that the state of relationships between women is typically the drive behind their criminal behavior (Covington et al. 2006). Most of the framework of this theory is rooted in psychology, and thus focuses on the disparity between male and female crime in each of their distinct types of identity growth. In her 1976 book *Toward a Replacement, The Psychology of Girls*, Jean Baker Miller writes that her relation to others is the first inspiration in the growth of a very female. Three key principles have been developed by authors in the field of relational theory: cultural context, relationships, and pathways to development (Kaplan 1984). Within the creation of the woman, each distinguishes a vital element. The cultural background means the significance of the social atmosphere in which a girl grows. The second, relationships, understands the significance of associations because of the central organizing function of the growth of a woman. The third, growth routes, shows that the importance of women placing on relationships can be a strength and could contribute to a healthy promotion of identity (Covington 2007; Kaplan 1984). This might, however, both positively and negatively play out. In order to maintain these bonds, women who build meaningful relationships in their lives are less likely to commit deviant acts. However, the alternative refers to some within the criminal justice system. Understanding relational theory tends to influence the understanding of female crime and how it varies from male crime. Since women are more attuned to relationships, their routes to crime frequently revolve around adverse relationships, such as intimate partners that are violent. It may also result from the absence

of marriages, the loss of many loved ones, or violence at a young age (Covington 2007). "The word "condemned isolation" was coined by Miller in her later work (1990). This term refers to a situation in which a lady feels in her essential relationships that she is the problem. Drug use and other self-destructive habits can also be triggered by this internalization of negative stimuli. The feminine attacker has a huge influence on children. 70 percent of girls in jail have kids, and half of these women never see their kids while serving time. (Bloom et al. 2003). The loss of relationships with their children, as well as prison isolation, can trigger significant obstacles during the recovery of a woman. Behaviors such as negativism, coercion, rule-breaking, and fighting can also be a sign of the sorrow and shame that women feel about their role as mothers being ruined. (Covington 2007; Garcia Coll et al. 1998). In Garcia Coll et al.'s qualitative study on incarcerated mothers, the loss of reference to their children has often cited because of the explanation for relapse into crime. One mother stated, "I don't have my children, what is going to I do? I'll return and to the drug again. I will be able to return to prostitution again. And I'll return to prison again. Why fight? Why fight if I've got nothing?" (Garcia Coll et al. 1998). The relational theory offers a basis for understanding the significance of relationships in not only triggering, but sometimes even avoiding, criminal activity. By separating mothers from their children in a way that perpetuates harm already done by adverse social conditions, prisons may also worsen that issue.

➤ *Contributions of the community to the rehabilitation of women deprived of liberty*

Upon analysis of the responses of the participants, the researcher has developed two themes.

• *Education to employment*

Based on the answers of the participants, the researcher identified that the participants are willing to contribute in educating and giving employment to the women in deprived of liberty immediately upon release. Education could be a human right that everyone can share. Job and vocational education programs allow inmates to engage in productive activities while at the same time learning new skills for possible future work. This increases prisoners' flexibility to effectively reintegrate into society and lead crime-free lives. Providing them with opportunities for schooling, jobs, and training will also normalize their time in jail, bringing them closer to community life and helping inmates lead independent lives after release.

Many still face gender-specific obstacles to their recovery after release, in addition to the difficulties women face in jail. These also represent things more generally about girls in society, such as perceptions of their position in society, low social and economic status, and hence the general lack of opportunities for women to have access to education and jobs in many countries. Before coming to jail, most girls will already face gender barriers to schooling, training, and jobs, and these barriers may remain after being released. Women inmates often have weak self-esteem and low aspirations, with many thinking it is not worth investing

in recovery services because they will never have the opportunity to use the skills or information gained. An obstacle to recovery may be the role and status of girls and girls within the family. Many women are the most child caregivers and other relationships, and their lack of economic freedom means that they are also passionate about male relatives, even those who have abused them. In preventing recurrence, the versatility to look for permanent jobs after discharge and break loose poverty is crucial. Female inmates, however, can face unique barriers to finding safe employment after their release. In addition, successful recovery is based on the existence of a healthy, supportive family and community atmosphere and good support after release.

• *Healthcare*

The researcher also identified that the healthcare is also supported by the community in rehabilitating women deprived of liberty. In the effective rehabilitation of inmates, the prompt recognition and adequate treatment of health problems, including substance and alcohol dependence, mental health issues, and any history of prior abuse, may play a major role, particularly if complemented by post-release care and support. When physical and mental health needs are identified at an early stage of incarceration, prisoners will be assigned to facilities that will provide for their needs, including health services and medicine available in terms of relevance, appropriate rehabilitation services, and opportunities for work and training. The recognition of patient needs will help prison administrators customize individualized treatment plans even when specialist assistance is not available. If health conditions are undiagnosed or untreated, or if there is no post-release treatment and help, former inmates will find it difficult to rehabilitate and fail to connect with others effectively. After their release, they will also find it hard to obtain suitable jobs and accommodation. A key thing about wellbeing and recovery may be the amount of time inmates will spend outside their cells. To justify limits on time spent outside the cell for other tasks, involvement in education and training can never be used by prison personnel, including opportunities to exercise and participate in sports. There are unique health care and sanitary needs for women and girls in jail. For these needs, Rules 6–18 of the Bangkok Rules offer detailed guidelines on healthcare provision. More specific advice is also provided by Rule 48 on the medical and nutritional needs of pregnant women, mothers who are breastfeeding and mothers with children in jail. In order to respond to female prisoners' healthcare needs, prison authorities must provide female-specific services, including sexual and reproductive healthcare, and adequate programs and services should be available to individuals who have encountered abuse, including violence and statutory crime.

## V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter presents the conclusions and recommendations of this research.

### ➤ *Conclusion*

Based on the findings of the study, the researcher therefore concludes that the community perceived women deprived of liberty as victims of circumstances that lead them to commit crimes in order for them to survive and value the relationship to others. These findings show that community sectors viewed women offenders as less harmful than men offenders. In this regard, they are willing to contribute or support the rehabilitation of women deprived of liberty particularly in education, employment and healthcare.

### ➤ *Recommendation*

Based on the foregoing conclusion, the researcher hereby recommends that a future and in-depth or a follow-up study may be conducted in the Philippines in order to support the result of this study.

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