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## COMMUNITY BASED CORRECTIONS PROCESS AND RECIDIVISM

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### ABSTRACT

*Prison overcrowding leads to serious problems for prison authorities. It is related to serious health hazards and disturbs penal rehabilitation and reformation programs. As a result, security problems, terrorism, and subversive actions may occur. If prison is overcrowded hard and soft criminals interact with each other, which may lead to connecting mild offenders to hardcore criminals. Overcrowded prisons cause stress for prison officials and further strain prisoners as they live in unacceptable conditions. In Sri Lanka, we have very few non-institutional treatment methods, and those methods have not been effective due to administration problems and provisions. Therefore, it is time to improve the treatment of offenders through the enhancement of community-based corrections process alternatives to incarceration. Many countries have probation, parole, and community service which are commonly known as traditional alternatives to imprisonment. These non-institutional treatment methods are widely used in many developed and developing countries. The non-institutional measures are mostly community-based corrections. The concept has evolved with the thinking that correction if linked to the community, will be less costly, more humane, and more effective than imprisonment in dealing with offenders convicted of minor offenses. There is a need in the field of community corrections for a systematic and orderly development having due regard for local conditions and local needs. In developing such a system, it is necessary to ensure that no individual who does not require incarceration for the protection of others is confined in an institution and that no individual is subjected to more supervision or control than required. On the other hand, the creation of community-based programs should ensure that they respond not only to the needs of the offenders but also to the interest of the community. If they are not administered properly it will amount to the criminal justice system going soft on crimes and criminals. (Glaze, 2011).*

*The research leads to identifying the effectiveness of community-based corrections when the initial threat is recidivism. Recidivism means the person who relapses in the rehabilitation process frequently. And how it's developed through the community-based corrections functions. There are several direct and indirect causes of recidivism from a psychosocial perspective, but this research focused on community corrections itself because community-based corrections emerged as an alternative to prisons. When utilizing community-based*

*corrections resources in an effect should be possible to reduce recidivism (Bouffard and Muftic 2006). The introduction clearly explains the evaluation of community corrections through the ancient period and then the rationale of the study explained the justification of the topic to the support conceptual study. To collect information and data about this problem a researcher able to use primary data and secondary data, to get primary data researcher use observation, focus group discussions and interview with clients & professionals. For secondary data researcher used a community-based corrections performance annual report. This data collection and data findings were clearly explained accordingly than explained the way of findings and the way of choosing the sample size and to analyze the whole data about the research and researcher used thematic analysis to find out the accurate problem which they are having when engage in proving services for respondents. Finally, it will focus on the social work interventions in the effective discharge planning for offenders, roles of professionals, specifically social workers, in discharge planning/reentry planning, issues surrounding recidivism, community-based programs, and evaluation of the work surrounding them. I hope this research helps to study future researchers to do better involvement in their research and it's allowed to empower Community based corrections parliament Act, policies, and programs in the process that especially focus on the challenges faced by community-based corrections officers and recidivists.*

**KEYWORDS:** Community, Corrections, Criminals, Prison, Rehabilitation

## **Introduction**

Community-Based corrections Provide correctional Supervision and services in a community setting as an alternative to jail or prison. Community-based corrections programs began in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. The programs offer an alternative to incarceration within the prison system. Many criminologists believed a significant number of offenders did not need incarceration in high-security prison cells. Some inmates, who might otherwise have been ready to turn away from a life of crime, instead became like the hardened criminals they associated with in prison. In response, states, counties, and cities established local correctional facilities and programs that became known as community-based corrections. These facilities, located in neighborhoods, allowed offenders normal family relationships and friendships as well as rehabilitation services such as counseling, instruction in basic living skills, how to apply for jobs, and work training and placement.

The purpose of this study is to obtain professional perspectives on the role of the community-based corrections process in reducing recidivism through the professionals that directly serve this population. Understanding the systems and barriers in our society. It's time to start finding the cause that our high rates of recidivism. It's a burning social problem in developed countries as well as developing countries. Sri Lanka is one of the Developing countries, and recidivism become a social problem in the future, "prevention is better than cure" based on this statement Sri Lanka now facing the problem is overcrowding in prisons, either recidivism is one of the reasons for it. In many counties, recidivism is a burning social problem I felt that it's important to understand more about the community-based corrections process and how far it's effective on offenders' development other hand community-based corrections service providers need support from internal and external resources for empowering offenders and minimizing recidivism. Finally, this curiosity about learning about this subject area enhanced my ability as a researcher to effectively decipher the constructed themes that have emerged from my research questions. This chapter has discussed the introduction of the research study, the rationale of the research, the Problem statement, the main objectives, and the main research questions, conceptual framework, the methodology, the data analyzing method, the research finding analysis, and finally the conclusion and summaries of the whole research study. Furthermore, it will be focused on social work interventions in the correctional settings and minimize the recidivisms.

## **Rational**

In the current scenario, an alarming problem is the crime rate increasing gradually, Prisons over-growing, and the expenditure of the prison rate also, unfortunately, increasing worldwide. In Sri Lanka housebreaking and theft 15,050, theft of property 10,980, Abduction/Kidnapping 1,036, manufacture or any quantity of Heroin, cocaine, morphine, trafficking, import or possession of dangerous drugs 1,155, cheating 8,651, hurt by knife 2,635, Robbery 4,235, rape/incest 2,080 and assault rate (source: Sri Lanka police,2014). The crime defines in two parts, major offenses such as murder, etc., and minor offenses or deviant behavior such as illicit liquor-related offenses, public nuisance, etc. On other hand increasing government costs incurred in the maintenance of prisoners, Recurrent Expenditure (1) Actual 4,620,303,182, Capital Expenditure (2) Actual 1,905,927,903, Average Cost Per Prisoner (Approximately) (I) Per Year 256,741 (2) Per Day 703, Average Cost of Food per Prisoner (I) Per Year 48,111 (2) Per Day132 (Source: Department of Prisons, 2015). And the overcrowding in the prison, the Prison population totals 16,990 and the official capacity of the prison system 11 762, and the occupancy level is 190.6% (via Sunday times, Sri Lanka). Approximately 5228 prisoners are incarcerated out of the capacity of prison occupancy. It's an alarming condition of the country because on one side crime rate gradually increasing and other side prisons over-crowding rate also increasing if its alarming condition will be continuing it should be a major burden for peace and harmony of the society. Globally these unfavorable conditions have been faced by many states, then they introduced a mechanism for solving them. For this situation, they have introduced Community-Based Corrections; it is possible to change the situation while giving priority to the minor offenders and identifying their needs and working for their community for the particular time period. In community-based correction should be processed to improve the potential of the offender's skills and rehabilitate them within the community and preserve their family unity through developing them mentally, physically, economically, and spiritually. It deals with a primary level of an individual and functions a major role in reducing overcrowding in the prisons, costs incurred in the maintenance of prisoners, and reoffending rate. The community-based corrections are designed systematically and it's a way of social work. But nowadays recidivism is a kind of threat to these community-based corrections. If a person was rehabilitated by a community-based corrections program and relapsed in its process and returned to imprisonment for the same offense. It's a double burden for the government because 17 governments allocate costs for the department of community-based corrections as well as the department of prisons. But the increasing crime rate and offender rate have been exiting in society. For community-based corrections, the annual total expenditure was 174,779,846.18 in 2014. Government expectations and the goals of the department of community-based corrections both are destroyed because of the challenge of recidivism. However, one

side reason should be the lack of a community-based corrections process for the repetition. Recidivism is one of the core factors for the increasing crime rate and the overcrowding of prisons. The correction system is a continuous and dynamic process in this process reoffending is one of relapse on it, and if one finds out the main cause of recidivism it is easy to work on it. This research is based on it and the area chosen for collecting related information in Northern Province. From 2000 to 2006 no community correction orders were sentenced in Northern Province but suddenly 952 numbers of community correction orders were issued in 2011. From 2011 to 2014 number of community correction orders were issued. In Northern Province, Jaffna district Mallakam DS division has 92 community correction orders issued and it's leading among other DS divisions.

## **Research objectives**

### **Main Objectives**

To study the effectiveness of Community Based Corrections.

### **Specific objectives**

- To study the process of Community Based Corrections.
- To study the challenges faced by community corrections officers in the community-based corrections process.
- To explore the factor that influencing on recidivism.

### **Research Question**

- What is the process designed in community-based correction?
- What are the challenges faced by community corrections officers in the community-based corrections process?
- What is the factor that influencing on recidivism?

### **Conceptual framework**

Underlying all the research that student researcher has reviewed a theme of needed renovations and improvements upon existing community-based correctional programs to be more efficient, of higher quality, and with better developed placements specific to offender types. Though much of the general research available provides mixed results and attitudes for the effectiveness of community-based programs, there is still a strong belief that these programs can produce even better results if a focus on program implementation was enhanced. If programs such as community supervision, supportive reintegration, and electronic monitoring were utilized specifically for the types of offenders that do best while participating in them, both recidivism and

financial burdens could be reduced. Successful programs are invaluable for reintegrating individuals back into their communities, lowering prison populations, and recidivism. The research I have reviewed revealed mixed results in community-based correctional programs. These programs are not necessarily appropriate for all offenders, nor are they as successful as they could be. However, there seems to be a consensus among the researchers that these different types of programs could be used to a far greater extent than they are now, with greater efficiency, and higher success rates. Community-based correctional programs need to be 29 dynamic, multi-faceted, and specifically designed to address certain types of offenders. Until these programs are restructured and refocused, researchers will not be able to effectively study their full potential for reducing recidivism. Currently however, general research does not convincingly support the benefits and utilization of community supervision. On the other hand, supportive reintegration appears to be influential and successful in reducing re-arrest rates. This can most likely be attributed to the multi-faceted nature of this type of program and its focus on rehabilitation. Offering services and resources that allow offenders to address and possibly overcome multiple issues, limitations, and impediments, as well as connect with a supportive network, seems to be a convincing combination for reducing re-offenses. Future research is needed on all types of correctional programs, both prison and community based. More information is also necessary on offender typing with the intention of better understanding proper placement within community corrections and recidivism rates by demographic information (e.g. race, age, location, etc.). Furthermore, comparing our correctional systems, programs, and outcomes to other Western nations may provide thoughtful insights into alternative penal structures and possibilities. For community-based corrections to be fully understood and utilized, we need to have a deeper appreciation of how they work, with what types of offenders they benefit most, and how their implementation can be best employed to maximize recidivism reduction, decrease correctional costs, and increase public safety.

## **Methodology**

### **Research perspective**

The recidivism and escalating crime rate in particular region and the nature of the research question. I am a strong believer in the subjectivity of human experience and that human beings tend to influence each other's perceptions. Such a perspective has influenced my practice as a correctional social worker, as I have the tendency to find out the perception of the re-offenders and the correctional officers, I work with towards their issues and situations before I assess their situations. I would also frequently check with them about what shapes their perspective, thinking and ideologies.

## **Research design**

A qualitative approach was chosen as it allows getting the data from Recidivist and key informants through the semi-structured interview. That methodology will be adopted to allow for an in-depth exploration of the experiences of Recidivist. Thus, the focus in the data collection is on collecting individual accounts of the research strived to gain an understanding of community-based correction process programs 'role in reducing recidivism to identify the challenges faced by community-based corrections officers in Mallakam judiciary place and helping ex-offenders succeed within the community and linking it back to the literature after data analysis.

## **Study area**

This study was carried out in Community Based Corrections Magistrate's Court Mallakam, Jaffna to collect the important and relevant data's the study location was selected, and there was an available sample to select to conduct the interviews at one place. Therefore, the Mallakam Community Based Corrections selected to the study. This research trends to study the process of Community Based Corrections and the Challenges of correctional officers and Risk Factors that influencing on Recidivism to obtain effective and efficiency services from Community Corrections. According to that purpose qualitative method is more suitable for this study.

## **Sampling method**

Researcher has suggested Convenience purposive sampling to try to find out the data from Recidivist and minor offenders who received community Based Corrections Order and the key informants. It utilizes purposive sampling to find a closely to address the purposes of the research. Purposive sampling allows us to select a case that demonstrates some feature or process that the researcher is interested in, which means in this research that the informant was selected based on having challenges to fulfill the need of Recidivist, as well as based on risk Factors for the Recidivism in Community Based Corrections. However, informants to be selected for the research could vary in terms of their opinion, gender, religion and ethnicity, and with differing experiences so as to add fullness to the data

## **Selection criteria**

The sample size was 10, the research; purposive sampling was used to select cases that met the following criteria, as well as on the availability of such informants. Several criteria were adopted for the selection of informants. Firstly, they should regard the respondent had received Community Based Corrections order more than

one time on their Rehabilitation. This criterion is given so that only informants who felt that their own risk factors influencing on Recidivism. Finally, informants were to be chosen on the basis that they are able to recall their experiences with previous offences, corrections services and reasons for relapsed on rehabilitation process and agree to be interviewed at least one times.

### **Data collection method**

This research study has used face to face interviews, observation, and focused group discussion as a data collection method. This research was found out the fact behind the issues. Interviews, observation, and focused group discussion were helped to get more information rather than conducting other surveys. It has used interview guide as a data collection tool and observed the Recidivist and Corrections officer's behavior as well.

Interview was one of the main primary qualitative data collection methods of this research study. A semi-structured interview guide was created, based on the research questions, for the first interview for recidivist, as well as the second of interviews for key informants. Questions were kept open-ended to facilitate sharing by the informants and to allow participants the flexibility to personalize the way in which to share their resilience experiences. Observation was another tool used to collect data on this research study, through the observation it has gathered the behaviors, body Language, expressions, and their level of communication with others in the Community Based Corrections and Court environment. Focused group discussion the focused group discussion guided the researcher to improve the research purpose and the objectives of the research. The Focus group discussion had with Community Corrections Officer, Work Supervisor, Counsellor Development Officers, Respondents 10 Key informants interview Community Corrections Officer 1 Work Supervisor 1 Counsellor 1 Development Officers 5 in-depth interviews Respondents (Minor Offenders) Family members 10 not completed.

That discussion between the Community Based Corrections officers and other professionals to gather the data related the topic of the research. Therefore, the researcher would be able to do the analysis with a support of in- depth interview or semi- structured interview. data collected information Tamil was used as the primary language of interview in this research and the recording would be translated into English for data analysis.

### **Data analysis method**

Manual method was used to analyze the data's. Under the manual method the thematic tool was used to analyze the data. The thematic method is very use full way



to analyze the qualitative data in this study. The main themes are 1. *Social Cognition Risk indicators include*: "Attitudes, values, beliefs, rationalizations, and a personal identity that is favorable to crime. 2. *Social Associates or Social Support for Crime Risk indicators include*: "Includes the association with pro-criminal others and relative isolation from anti-criminal others. 3. *Family/Marital Circumstances Adult Risk and Youth Risk indicators include*: "Poor quality of the relationships (parent-child, spouse-spouse); inconsistent rules, low expectations, lack of parental monitoring and neutrality regarding criminal behavior 4. *School/Work Risk indicators include*, "Low levels of performance and involvement and low levels of rewards and satisfactions 5. *Leisure/Recreation Risk indicators include*, "Low levels of involvement and satisfactory in anti-criminal leisure pursuits." 6. *Substance Abuse Risk indicators include* problems with alcohol and/or drugs. Once interviews were transcribed, each interview was initially read several times, with each of the main aims and questions of the study in mind that risk factors influencing on recidivism and the link with challenges faced by correctional officers. These were made as main themes of this research study.

## **Findings**

The main themes are social cognition the addictive process reinforces distorted thought patterns. Your thoughts can harm your emotional life and become a reason to use and continue the addiction. Distorted thoughts can also trigger a relapse. A composite measure of criminal thinking was created for the six months measured by adding individual criminal thinking constructs together. Participants with higher scores indicate higher levels of criminal thinking. (K. Knight et al., 2006.) Likewise, respondents in Mallakam community-based corrections they have certain irrational thought patterns it's cause for the recidivism when link with professional's challenges when providing rehabilitations. Hence Government should face burden from prisons as well as community-based corrections. Antisocial associates The Orientation of Social Support (OSS) instrument was used to obtain the number of family members and friends within the participant's social network with whom they commit crimes and use drugs (Aleml et al., 2003). The deviant peers were the strongest predictor of criminal conduct as compared with employment or friendship networks. As youth age, it appears that pathways such as marriage, employment, and other maturation events diminish the effect of antisocial peers for some offenders in Mallakam. The professionals go beyond what are resources available in their community so there facing challenges to providing effective services to recidivist. Family and marital relations Family who were caring and provided emotional support to the participant. The family and marital relationship also cause for the respondent's relapse. In the Mallakam community-based corrections respondent 's family status should be mostly in broken and poor parental monitoring. If family couldn't support for the rehabilitations of the respondents, it also definitely interrupting in process of

corrections. Employment The nature of employment is a way of stimulating the person to involving deviant behavior and the surrounding and co-workers also part of the deviant behavior of the respondents. In the Mallakam community-based corrections mostly depend on the agriculture and hard workers so they strongly believe on their irrational thoughts its increasing recidivism when professional face challenges on providing suitable services for them. Leisure and recreation time The Community Assessment Inventory (CAI) was used to measure leisure and recreational time (Brown, O'Grady, Battjes, & Katz, 2004) by totaling the amount of hours spent each week in the following areas: passive activities, social and recreational areas, self-help and productive activities, and family time. This measure excluded time spent using drugs and engaging in criminal activity. It captures aspects of leisure and recreational activities found to be related to criminal involvement among adult populations. In Mallakam the innocent respondents couldn't know about leisure time activities then they are engaging in deviate behaviors with their peer groups. It should be clashes with a rehabilitation process and the professionals facing challenges to providing suitable therapy and training for them to understand and implementing the services. Substance use Substance use are more common risk factor when it's come to the Mallakam community-based corrections rehabilitations. The respondent addict to the alcohol and drugs uses these substance use stimulating by their family context, deviant peer group associations, poor ability on recreational activities and employment. Hence the professional handling the substance uses client it shouldn't focusing only for addition rather than all aspect of other risk factor as well. So, the professionals facing on the challenges to provide holistic services to respondents it should be cause for the recidivism.

## **Conclusion**

According to (Bouffard and Muftic 2006) if couldn't be utilized appropriately and efficiently it burdens the government. The community-Based Corrections emerged purposively to decrease overcrowded prisons, more cost-effective, and reduce reoffending rates as well. The concept of community corrections has a very effective and special concern for the offender's worth and dignity and to preserve the family and employment. It's a very appreciate rehabilitation rather than prisons. That's why it's an alternative to prisons for minor offenders. Hence the above-mentioned issue should chaos the community-based corrections model and the lack of resources is challenging when it's come to the Mallakam judiciary. if community-based corrections are to be fully understood and utilized, we need to have a deeper appreciation of how they work, with what types of offenders they benefit most, and how their implementation can be best employed to maximize recidivism reduction, decrease correctional costs, and increase public safety. In conclusion, if minimizing the challenges within community-based corrections. And introducing innovative and effective amenities for needy respondents it's obviously reducing recidivism at the

same time increases the effectiveness of community-based corrections rehabilitation services. For innovation and support for the correctional settings, Social Work is one suitable profession. Because SW is an art. it requires great skills to understand delinquent and criminal behavior. It is a science because of its problem-solving method and its attempt to be objective in determining offenders and criminal activities and in developing principles and operational concepts to deal with delinquency and crime. Juvenile delinquency and crime are major problems in modern society. Social work has an important role to play in the control correction and prevention of delinquency and crime. Social work attempts to help the individual, his family, and the community to face and solve delinquency and crime through the utilization of individual, family, and community resources. Casework, group work, and community organization are the basic processes utilized by the social worker in correctional settings. The correctional social worker is given authority to change the way offenders (clients) express values in action. All social workers work with offenders in terms of values. More than any other function, the correctional social worker's task is defined in terms of changing the values of the delinquent or criminal so that they become suitable to act with the values of society. The social worker helps, particularly the police departments, courts, probation, institutions, parole, and prevention. Therefore, professional social work in correctional settings is a comprehensive constructive social attitude, therapeutic in some instances, restraining in some instances, but preventive in its total social impact. In conclusion, utilized appropriately and efficiently, have the potential to decrease overcrowded prisons, be more cost-effective than incarceration, and reduce reoffending rates”

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