

Role of Police in the Rehabilitation of Released Prisoners of Western Odisha : A Critical Appraisal

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Abstract

Thoughts regarding the rehabilitation of an offender should start from the day one of his entry into the prison for incarceration. Classification of the prison inmates need to be done with all seriousness keeping in view of one's proper reformation and rehabilitation after release. Research regarding the factors responsible for the development of criminal behaviour needs serious analysis to find out the cause and effect relationship which will goad the researcher and the prison keeper alongwith the police to chalk out effective plans and programmes for rehabilitation. The unsolved problems of the released prisoners before conviction and the newly anticipated problems, after release need to be taken up as a challenge by the Police, Prison Welfare Officers and the N.G.O. personnel in rendering all kinds of support, so that these persons do not resort to crime again, but lead a peaceful and harmonious life. In this paper, an attempt has been made to critically examine from the perspective of the released prisoners as to how they have experienced the role of police in their process of rehabilitation. The scholars have suggested the relevance and importance of community treatment focussing attention on Community Policing handling the problems of rehabilitation effectively involving the rural youth in villages.

(Keywords: Rehabilitation, Aftercare, Prison Vocational Training Programmes, Prisonisation, History Sheeters and Non-History Sheeters)

Released Prisoners though small in number, yet constitute a vulnerable section in every society. They are looked down by everyone for the act they have committed violating the laws of the land and the prevailing social norms and values. The manner in which they are treated and humiliated outside the prison after release is more pathetic and painful than that of the life while undergoing imprisonment. The ray of hope to spend time till death peacefully on release becomes juxtaposed on account of the stigma attached i.e., called "DAGI" results in socio-cultural re-victimisation. Due to lack of social,

economic, political and moral support they revert to crime again and again and re-enter the jail causing over-crowding, mal-adjustment and unhygienic condition. The process of prisonisation leads to the learning of serious crime by petty offenders in association with the hardened criminals. For some habitual petty offenders the prison has become a "Short Stay Home". In this context police as a law enforcing agency play a crucial role in protecting the life and property of the people in general on one hand and on the other rendering support and assistance to the released prisoners for their effective rehabilitation.

In practice, police chase the persons having criminal records with similar modus operandi to detect and apprehend the culprits committing crime. It also becomes part of policing to check and verify the behaviour of the offenders in terms of their patterns of livelihood, extravagant life style and source of earning which gives input of suspicion specifically in property offence cases. Therefore, police keeps a track of the new upcoming criminals as well as the offenders who have been released from prison. Frequent visit of the police to the released prisoner's house on account of suspicion or calling him to the police station now and again adversely affects the smooth re-integration and reformation processes. It is a truism that such action of police used to negatively work in their process of rehabilitation because the public suspect that they might have again got involved in some type of crime commission. No doubt, the role of police in terms of reformation and rehabilitation is commendable in spite of their multiple assignments and pressure of work. But it becomes sociologically relevant to critically examine and assess from the perspective of the released criminals as to what kind of opinions they possess on the functioning of the police with regard to their social re-integration.

Keeping in view the above assumption, the present paper developed two main objectives for analytical enquiry and analysis.

Main Objectives

1. To find out from the perspective of the released prisoners as to what support they expected from the police for their social re-integration.
2. To critically examine the impact of police intervention as experienced by the released prisoners in their process of rehabilitation.

Research Design and Methodology

This paper is an outcome of the data collected for the Ph.D. programme during 2012-2013 and the degree awarded in the year, 2016. Exploratory-cum-Descriptive Research Design was adopted for the purpose of the study. The Universe of the study comprises of eight selected districts of Western Odisha out of the ten, namely Bargarh, Bolangir, Boudh, Sonepur, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Kalahandi and Nuapada.

Sampling

The study involved two categories of respondents for the collection of data namely the released prisoners and the police personnel of the study area. In order to draw the sample from the universe, purposive random sampling method was followed to select 155 released prisoners, because the nature of habitation of the released prisoners was not homogeneous and most of them were living in distant remote places. In addition, they voluntarily changed their residences to different places or were rehabilitated at different places after their release. Though list of respondents and details regarding their locations were obtained from the police stations and prison records; the respondents were not available for the interview at the same locations. On the other hand simple random sampling method was followed as to draw the sample of the police personnel because unlike the released prisoners they were available at their offices for the interview.

The researcher has selected the respondents from the released prisoners on the basis of duration of their stay in the prisons. The police personnel were also selected on the basis of their experiences working in police station and dealing with activities of released prisoners.

For the convenience of the study 8 districts among 10 districts of western Odisha were selected as the universe. These districts are typical in nature in respect of their underdevelopment and strong religious belief and faith of the people. There is caste based social stratification and occupation based social status, which attracts the life of the released prisoners. The sample size of the respondents, i.e. the released prisoners is 155. Keeping in view the significant concentration of the released prisoners as obtained from the district crime officials and also due to paucity of time, energy and fund it was felt proper to confine our attention on the 8 districts instead of covering 10 district of Western Odisha.

Focus of structured interviews

Two duly structured interview schedules were designed to collect the data from the two categories of the respondents, i.e. the released prisoners and the police personnel in different districts of western Odisha. The schedules were framed containing both open- ended and close-ended questions to cover the overall socio-economic aspects of the respondents with specific reference to the problems and prospects of the released prisoners. The interview schedule focused on each household respondents among the prisoners and individual respondents among the police personnel. The major emphasis of the schedule was to find out the information relating to their past and present socio- economic status, income pattern, causes of imprisonment, supports from different sources, rehabilitation process, future expectation, future plan etc. So to say, the schedule was designed to assess the overall situation of the released prisoners. The tool had been executed technically so as to extract the information from the respondents pertinent to the

topic of the research keeping in view to its accuracy and reliability.

Case Study

There were altogether six case studies undertaken on the prisoners who utterly suffered from various problems after their release from the prison. It focused on how life of an individual after imprisonment went on a change, how it led to crisis and how it influenced the entire life system of the prisoner and his family. It was an intentional exercise to test the questions raised in the problem formulation process. The findings of the study through this method had borne a substantial support to the argument of the study that what and how different forces acted in the life of a prisoner and his family. The most fitting cases for the case studies were derived from the sample area during the field work. During the interview process the suitable cases were identified looking into the relevance of the study.

Analysis of Data

Simple statistical analysis of primary data collected from the released prisoners was undertaken for better analysis, interpretation and understanding. In the process of analysis, a critical analysis of the collected data had been made for further verification and re-interpretation of variables that were to be found crucial to the study area. The researcher paid special attention during scrutiny of data collected, classification, coding and tabulation of data to make them measurable and amenable to interpretation. Efforts were made to give systematic treatment to data so as to avoid any form of variation and difficulty in the analysis. The tables were systematically organized in order to explain them under different chapters pertaining to the thesis of the study.

Tabulation

After the careful classification of data the researcher meticulously computed, systematically arranged and represented the data in the tabular forms under different headings and sub-headings in a master chart. Then the data were re-arranged into various tables and figures. The tables and figures of the study, consisting smaller and larger units, were organized in order to cross-check the assembled data presented in the master chart to make the same valid, explanatory and reliable. The tabulation plan of the study was so arranged as to facilitate an interpretation and factual analysis of data pertaining to the study.

Role of Police in the Rehabilitation Process

Crime is a manifestation of a disease motivated by numerous factors over which the criminal has no control. Essential rehabilitation service programmes need to be followed up immediately after release of the prisoners to check the motivating factors for repetition of crimes. "The most critical period in a criminal's life is not that which follows his entry into the prison, but that which follows immediately after his release. Whatever, be the monotony of the prison life, its sense of security, orderly routine and its steady and regular supplies of food, clothes, shelter and the like; the prisoner depends on others even for his essential needs. The longer the prisoner in the prison, the greater are his difficulties. On release, he, therefore, finds himself like a cripple leaning to walk again on the avenue of social life with all its characteristics, competitions and struggle for the survival of the fittest. In this atmosphere of insecurity he often finds himself to be a lone traveller, detested by his family, hated by his friends and shunned by society with a little or no money in his pocket to meet his essential needs" (Deb, 1975:603).

In Indian context, it is urgently necessary that an officially recognised system should be evolved to pursue and ensure that the follow up action for the rehabilitation of the offenders must start from the day a prisoner enters into the prison and end with his proper rehabilitation in the family and the society as a whole. This job may not be difficult in India because majority of prisoners hail from the agricultural community and they may be easily absorbed in their original system with little bit of counselling and social assistance. This kind of support and services will be necessary only for those who have lost their socio-economic roots in the process of incarceration. In India, the necessity for the proper rehabilitation of offenders has been started time and again, since the All India Jail Committee, 1919. In fact, all the Prison Reform Committees, since then have made plethora of recommendations for evolving an effective rehabilitation system for the released offenders. But unfortunately, implementation status of these recommendations has not been up to the mark. It is the urgent need of the day that some machinery is created at the Government level to pursue the follow up action of these recommendations. In order to give a fillip to rehabilitation of released offenders, the Government has to play a dominant role. Some organisations like Rehabilitation Bureau which functions under the Government of Japan needs to be created in the country for continuous review and monitoring of the rehabilitation work, since the day they enter into the prison, till they are settled in their normal life (Chattoraj, 2007, pp.5).

The ultimate objective of the correctional administration is the rehabilitation of offenders in the mainstream of social life. Aftercare as the harbinger of any rehabilitative endeavour and as a vital link in the correctional cycle, has been

concerned as an approach and as a service designed to reduce the offender's social isolation and dependence, to help him to get over his social handicaps, to remove the stigma that darkens his present and future life and finally to accelerate the process of his rehabilitation as a socially useful and productive citizen of the country. The person in a prison is often a victim of circumstances and his detention period needs to be utilised for giving him training and equipping him with skills which would help him to rehabilitate himself in the society (Sabnis, 1958).

After release from the prison, the released prisoners confront with several challenges, the most important ones being, lack of co-operation from the family members, neighbours and friends. In this connection Priyamvadha Thilagraj(2005) states that the indifferent attitude of the society towards the released "juveniles" causes adverse harm on their re-integration and results in delinquent persistence.

It is said that today in the contemporary period the police has to behave as a friend, philosopher and guide for an individual in the society. Whether, such a role is applicable for the released prisoners or not is a big question mark? The answer is "Yes", because the released prisoners have already been reformed during their period of detention while undergoing disciplined life inside the prison and after release, they need police help and co-operation for their effective integration. But in reality the picture is somewhat different. The so called system of "History Sheeters" often adversely works in the process of their rehabilitation, because the police always keeps an eye on those persons. Any crime recently committed with similar modus-operandi of a released prisoner (History Sheeter), gives a scope

to the police to immediately apprehend that person who had undergone imprisonment having committed that sort of crime. The police immediately calls for the released prisoner and interrogates, in this process sometimes the already reformed offenders are again looked under suspicion by the public along with the friends and relatives. In their study on "Examining Impact of Official Intervention and Delinquent Persistence among Released Juveniles from Correctional Institution"(Thilagaraj and Priyamvadha, 2008) have stated that the official intervention increases the probability of involvement in subsequent delinquency and deviance because intervention triggers exclusionary consequences. The official intervention has been taken as the intervention of the Juvenile Justice System with special reference to police intervention.

In order to ascertain the real state of affairs in matter of rehabilitation of released prisoners from jails and released inmates from correctional institutions, a study was conducted during 1996 to 1998 in the Union Territory of Delhi. The study covered 200 adult released prisoners and 100 juvenile offenders from jails and correctional institutions, respectively. One of the interesting findings of the study reveals that, too much of police interference on their post release life was experienced by 67 per cent of adults and 85 per cent of released juvenile offenders (Chattoraj, 2007). According to Priyamvadha (2005) the severity of stigmatization in the society due to official intervention paves way for the released juveniles to relapse into criminality.

Generally, it is accepted that once a person enters into the prison he is branded as an offender. In traditional Indian society people used

to attach a social stigma (DAGI) on such persons, even sometimes the entire family members are looked down by the public and ostracised. This very process of stigmatization has been elaborately analysed and discussed in the theory of labelling as propounded by Lemert (1967).

Becker writes: “——social groups create deviance by making rules whose infraction creates deviance, and by applying those rules to particular people and labelling them as outsiders. From this point of view, deviance is not a quality of the act the person commits, but rather a consequence of the application by other of rules and sometimes to an ‘offender’. The deviant is one to whom that label has been successfully applied; deviant behaviour is behaviour that people so label (1963:9)”. While society uses the stigmatic label to justify its condemnation, the deviant actor uses it to justify his actions. He wrote : “To put a complex argument in a few words: instead of the deviant motives leading to the deviant behaviour, it is the other way around, the deviant behaviour in time produces the deviant motivation (1963:26)”.

Thilagaraj and Priyamvadha (2008:14-15) states that “The police intervention in the life of the juveniles plays a significant negative role. Affixing a deviant label could be a momentous occurrence in a juvenile’s life. But thereafter they are suspected and watched vigilantly by police. Their every mis-step is used as an evidence to prove their delinquent nature. Once they are officially labelled as delinquent they are excluded more and more from legitimate activities. Hence, they are designed and dealt with as delinquents and they are finding it very difficult to move into law-abiding path even if they could overcome their own belligerent reaction and self-image, and tried hard to do so. Some of the case studies clearly

indicate that the very image of police is immaterial whether intervention of police is positive or negative; it has adverse effects on the juvenile career. Some of the younger age group released delinquents complained that they faced more problems when compared to higher-level age group juveniles from police”. Apart from the negative perception of the juveniles towards police, there is a societal reaction, which confirms that delinquent label on the juveniles who are frequently contacted by the police. Hence, the chances for de-labelling a juvenile is very limited if he has a prolonged police intervention. In other words, official intervention by way of labelling of delinquent behaviour leads to delinquent persistence.

According to labelling theory, official efforts to control crime often have the effect in increasing crime. Individuals who are arrested, prosecuted, and punished are labelled as criminals. Others then view and treat these people as criminals, and this increases the likelihood of subsequent crime for several reasons. Labelled individuals may have trouble obtaining legitimate employment, which increases their level of strain and reduces their stake in conformity. Labelled individuals may find that conventional people are reluctant to associate with them, and they may associate with other criminals as a result. This reduces their bond with conventional others and fosters individuals the social learning of crime. Finally labelled may eventually come to view themselves as criminals and act in accord with this self-concept. (Mohanty and Mohanty, 2012:pp.100).

Analysis and Discussions

As already stated earlier, the paper focuses on two main objectives; the first one being

to highlight the expectations of released prisoners from the police with regard to their social re-integration in the society and secondly, to critically examine the impact of police intervention as perceived by the released prisoners in their process of rehabilitation.

It is an inevitable fact that the more the period of detention of a prisoner the greater becomes the problem in the process of his social re-integration. If the family members or relatives are not regularly visiting the prison and keeping in touch with the prisoner, then it becomes difficult on his part where to settle down? Whether in his own society within the family or in a host unknown society? If his own family members show indifferent and hostile attitude then the problem becomes more complex and complicated. The first and foremost requirement for a released prisoner is a safe place to stay and a regular source of income for maintaining his livelihood.

A flash on the demographic profile (Table-1) of the released prisoners reveal that out of the 155 respondents, 153(98.7%) are Hindus and 2(1.3%) are Christians.

Table-1: Distribution on the basis of Religion

Religious Background	Frequency	Percentage
Hindu	153	98.7
Christian	2	1.3
Total	155	100.0

Further, on the basis of ethnic composition (Table-2) the data distribution indicated that 10 (6.5%) belong to the General Castes, 36 (23.2%) belong to the OBCs, 82 (52.9%) belong to the S.C.s and 27 (17.4%) belong to the S.T.s

Table-2: Distribution on the basis of Social Groups

Castes	Frequency	Percentage
Gen.	10	6.5
OBC	36	23.2
SC	82	52.9
ST	27	17.4
Total	155	100.0

Looking at their present occupations (Table-3) after release it was found that 19(12.3%) were engaged in agriculture, 63(40.6%) were wage earners, 1(0.6%) farm labour; 1(0.6%) hotel boy; 9(5.8%) rickshaw pullers; 9(5.8%) engaged in small petty business (betel shop, tea stall, small grocery shop, illegal sale of liquor, etc.); 28(18.1%) were working as gardeners, part time watchman, fishing, wood cutting from forest, etc; and 25(16.1%) were engaged in more than one job, such as agriculture with small business, farm labour with daily wage earner, etc.

Table-3: Post-release Occupation

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Agriculture	19	12.3
Wage earning	63	40.6
Farm labour	1	0.6
Hotel boy	1	0.6
Rickshaw puller	9	5.8
Business *1	9	5.8
Others *2	28	18.1
Multiple occupation	25	16.1
Total	155	100.0

1. *Business denotes petty business like betel shop, illegal sale of liquor (kuchia), tea stall, small grocery shop, etc*

2. Others refer to garden keeper, part time watcher, migration for labour work, fishing, wood cutting, etc

Pertaining to their place of stay (Table-4) it was observed that after release 131 (84.5%) were living in their own natives, while 24 (15.5%) had migrated to different places.

Table- 4: Distribution on the basis of place of stay

Place of Stay	Frequency	Percentage
Same Place	131	84.5
Different Place	24	15.5
Total	155	100.0

Considering their family type (Table-5) and marital status, it was found that 134 (86.4%) were living in nuclear families, 18 (11.6%) were staying in joint families and 3 (1.9%) were single persons staying independently.

Table-5: Distribution on the basis of Family Type

Family Type	Frequency	Percentage
Nuclear	134	86.4
Joint	18	11.6
Single	3	1.9
Total	155	100.0

Their marital status (Table-6) revealed that out of 155 respondents, 148(95.5%) were married, while 7 (4.5%) were unmarried.

Table-6: Distribution on the basis of Marital Status

Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage
Married	148	95.5
Unmarried	7	4.5
Total	155	100.0

On examination of the educational level (Table-7) of the respondents it was found out that, 64(41.3%) were illiterate without any formal education. 3(1.9%) were having knowledge of non-formal education in Adult School and Jail. The respondents who completed up to IV standard constitute 51 (32.9%) of the total respondents followed by 17 (11%) of the respondents having completed standard VII to X and 7 (4.5%) have completed above X standard. The figures shown in the Table indicated that from among the people of all the levels of education the highest incidents of crimes, i.e., 41.3% were committed by the people who were illiterate. Next to them, the second highest incidents of crimes were shown by the people who studied up to only IV standard. Least involvement in crimes was shown by the people who were having non-formal education.

Table-7: Distribution on the basis of Educational Background

Educational Background	Frequency	Percentage
Non-formal Education	3	1.9
I to IV	51	32.9
V to VI	13	8.4
VII to X	17	11.0
above X	7	4.5
Illiterate	64	41.3
Total	155	100.0

Data on age categories reveal that only 1(0.6%) fall in the category of upto-20 years; 6(3.9%) belong to the age group of (21-30 years); 97(62.6%) belong to the age group (31-

60 years) and 51(32.9%) fall in the age group of more than 60 years.

Table-8: Distribution of the Respondents on the basis of Age

Age Group	Frequency	Percentage
Up to 20 yrs.	1	0.6
21 to 30 yrs.	6	3.9
31 to 60 yrs.	97	62.6
more than 60 yrs.	51	32.9
Total	155	100.0

An examination of the monthly income reveals that prior to imprisonment majority i.e. 119 (96.8%) were having a monthly income upto Rs.1000/-, while 32(20.6%) were having upto Rs. 5000/-and only 4 (2.6%) were having upto Rs. 10,000/- as their monthly income.

Table-9: Income wise distribution of respondents (Pre-Imprisonment)

Monthly Income	Frequency	Percent
Upto 1000	119	76.8
Upto 5000	32	20.6
Upto 10,000	4	2.6
Total	155	100.0

But after release much change has not been observed in their income categories. Data reveal that because of old age and social stigma 8 (5.2%) convicts are having no source of income, they are dependent on others and old age pension, etc. Further, 111 (72.0%) fall in the group of monthly income upto Rs. 1000/- per month; 32 (20.6%) upto Rs. 5000/- per month; 03 (1.6%) upto Rs. 10,000/- per month and only 1(0.6%) is having upto Rs. 20,000/- per month. Majority of the respondents viewed that even after a period

of ten to fifteen years of their release from prison; the present income is not at all adequate looking at the price hike of essential commodities. They are still in acute poverty and hand to mouth as far as their livelihood is concerned.

Table-10: Income wise distribution of respondents (Post-Imprisonment)

Monthly Income No source of Income	Frequency	Percent
	8	5.2%
Upto 1000	111	72.0%
Upto 5000	32	20.6
Upto 10,000	03	1.6
Upto 20,000	01	0.6
Total	155	100.0

Support Expected by the Released Prisoners from the Police

The Prisoners soon after release from the prison confront with great challenges for their re-adjustment in the society. Being stigmatized as law breakers and enlisted for police surveillance, they seek support and co-operation from the police for their re-integration into the society. Police has to play the role of a friend, philosopher and guide for the released prisoner for effective social rehabilitation. Being cut-off for a long period from the families, friends, relatives and the society as a whole, it is but natural that the prisoner has to encounter with several mental pressure while re-building the past familial and social relationships. The emotional sufferings which the family members have undergone during the period of detention of the released prisoners cannot be compensated by anyone. The financial crisis and the negligence of support for the family members cannot be discussed unless one personally experiences it. The family prestige and image is ruined for no

fault of the family members, but due to the misdeed of the culprit.

It is a truism that a released prisoner usually expects some support from the Government agencies to revive his normal life in his own village alongwith the family members. In some cases it has been found that in order to get rid of the defamation and humiliation from the family members and society, some released prisoners have started rehabilitating in new areas (host societies). The released prisoners who are not in contacts with their family members expect that the jail authorities and the police should trace out the whereabouts of the family members and develop liaisoning with them for their re-union. Quite a significant number of the released prisoners opined that they expect the police to come forward in arranging BPL Card, housing through Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), loan for agriculture and small business, education of the children, special provision of Government if any for the ex-prisoners, land patta, employment opportunities, etc.

It is a fact that the police in our country are over-burdened with severe pressure of work. Day by day, due to the increase in population growth, changing life style of the people and craze for more comfort and modern amenities, the nature and type of crimes are becoming more and more complex, complicated and rampant. The public and police ratio for maintenance of law and order situation is not being maintained as it should have been for which the police in general are hard pressed with the workload in carrying out their day to day activities.

The local police used to verify and ascertain the chance of law and order situation, reverting to further crime, targeting someone for

personal grudge or vendetta, the probable source of livelihood of the convict before someone is released into the society. Thus, police visit the family members and discuss with them regarding the convict's rehabilitation plan and programme. The recommendation for release of the offender by the police is made usually, verifying the records available at the Police Station regarding the past character and antecedents from his associates, opinion collected from the victim, and also about the threat perception of the culprit after release into the community.

While making verification of the ex-offenders for recommending release from prison, the police used to visit their houses for thorough enquiry. It is a herculean task for every police officer to ascertain the bare truth about ex-offenders' background of offending and attitude towards re-offending. The neighbours residing around the ex-offender's house are not prepared to accept him as a normal human being, therefore they intentionally misguide the police about his family's present socio-economic condition. There is also fear in the minds of the neighbours that the ex-offender may take revenge on them if something disclosed about his conduct and character. Moreover, suspicion develop in the minds of the public when police visit the house of the ex-offender on a regular routine check up and as to find out regarding his wellbeing and problems. The irony of the problem is that the police while undertaking criminal investigation, in the first round usually suspect the "History Sheetters" who have committed similar types of offences adopting the same type of modus-operandi. These "History Sheetters" are usually considered as "detective" by the police to apprehend the new offenders who have either independently committed the crimes under

provocation or jointly participated in the event of committing such acts. It has been revealed by a significant number of History Sheetters, who have committed their first offences that the frequent visit of the police to their houses and their regular attendance in the police stations have un-necessary developed a negative perception of the public against them. The public in general and the neighbours in particular think that the released criminal again has involved in some type of offence, therefore, the police suspicion and surveillance. The “History Sheetters” in particular confront with such types of problem from the police, which they consider to be adversely affecting the process of rehabilitation and re-integration. Some of them even went to the extent of stating that life inside the prison was much better and comfortable than what we find in our own village along with the family members. No peace and harmony are found in the family and neighbourhood, because of the stigmatisation of imprisonment. Nobody is prepared to accept the released offender as a reformed person with a normal personality (good conduct and character). The image of “British Model Police” is still persisting in the minds of our people and that too more prominently prevailing among the rural people.

It has been pointed out by several released prisoners that the police instead of helping

them for rehabilitation in their respective places of stay, used to harass and humiliate particularly the young released offenders if they were involved in various illegal activities along with their associates. Police used to engage such young released offenders several times as informers taking advantage of their past criminal records. Analysis of data reveal that 44(28.38%) respondents were inhumanely harassed by police being physically tortured. Similarly 11 (7.09%) were un-necessarily scolded by the police using obscene language. Scolding by police using slang languages was mostly experienced by the middle and old age released convicts. 5(3.22%) respondents opined that they were un-necessarily harassed by the police personnel being frequently called to the police station. Further, 2(1.29%) of them said that they were for no reason called to the police station and detained for long hours, on such days they had to forgo their daily wage earning and food, etc. Similarly, 49(31.61%) of them viewed that various types of harassment and exploitation have been mostly experienced by the middle and old age released prisoners from the police. Such harassment and exploitation were mental, physical and financial. Nevertheless, 44(28.38%) of them very honestly revealed that so far they have not experienced any kind of torture and harassment from the police after release.

Table-11: Age Group and Type of Harassment by Police

Age in years	Beating unreasonably	Scolding in obscene language	Calling to police station unnecessarily	Detaining at police station	Various ways of harassment & exploitation	No Harassment	Total
up to 30 yrs.	2	-	1	-	1	3	7
30 to 60 yrs.	25	8	2	1	36	25	97
more than 60 yrs.	17	3	2	1	12	16	51
Total	44	11	5	2	49	44	155

Various types of socio-economic and emotional problems are faced by the released prisoners from the very day of their release from the jails. The hope of rehabilitation in family, neighbourhood and the society as a whole does not materialize when no support is received from the near and dear ones. The stigma attached as “Dagi” becomes the major cause for their ostracism and alienation. The released prisoners were not invited to cultural and religious functions of the villages. Being humiliated from all quarters, some of them have become alcoholics. A few of them being socially boycotted, resorted to crimes and re-entered in the prison, where their basic requirements of life i.e., food, shelter and clothing are assured of. The vocational training acquired by the inmates seems to be irrelevant in the competitive job-oriented market. Besides, as discussed above, harassment by the police in different ways have stood on the way of their rehabilitation and re-integration in the family, neighbourhood and society.

Conclusions

In order to avoid the multifarious problems of the released prisoners in their process of rehabilitation, prospective plans and programmes need to be chalked out for their effective reformation and after-care.

Steps should be taken for early disposal of cases in the court so that the under-trials need not suffer from the problems of losing their jobs, normal family life, etc. Further, un-necessary detention inside the prison for the under-trial involved in the petty offences promotes the “process of prisonization” thereby they interact with the habitual offenders and learn about the different tools and techniques of committing sophisticated and serious crimes.

Judiciary should speed-up the process of granting probation and parole to the deserving offenders for extra-mural (community based treatment), so that they are not cut-off from their family life and social life and do not lose their means of livelihood. In this regard the formation of “Community Policing System” should be seriously thought of, where the voluntary workers come forward to help the police in understanding this challenging work. The Community Policing system could also minimise the burden of police functioning, when a handful of dedicated, sincere and hard working youth share the responsibility of police work in surveillance of released convicts and also helping them in shorting out their various problems with regard to social re-integration.

The problem of apprehension which the neighbours and villagers have towards the History Sheeters with regard to repetition of crime commission when the police visit their houses or call them to police station could be handled tactfully and intelligently by this group of young volunteers. They can act as informers for the police in discharging this benevolent work with regard to the process of rehabilitation along with the prison welfare officers and after-care service personnel. For effective rehabilitation of these released prisoners the volunteers of the community policing should on priority basis keep the “3 point programme” in mind such as:- 1) Re-integration and revival of normal family life, 2) A house (under IAY or any other/arranging loan from bank) to live in, or if existing, necessary renovation and 3) Regular source of income for livelihood).

The existing Odisha Jail Manual need to be modified and given a fresh look as per the recommendations given by the India Model Prison Manual, 2005 prepared by BPR & D, New

Delhi. Steps taken so far in this regard should be expedited at a faster rate without further delay keeping in mind the future prospects of crime prevention and control in our country and state as well as for the future life of the prisoners released and to be released.

The role played by police for released prisoners has two objectives; i.e. (i) to check re-offending (recidivism) and (ii) to support and help in the process of rehabilitation. But in our study it has been found that the police used to give more attention and priority to the first objective of crime prevention and control than that of looking after the rehabilitation process of the released prisoners in his area of operation. Further, it is suggested that the Prison Welfare Officer and the local police officer should jointly undertake the programme of counselling with the villagers and the released prisoners for effective rehabilitation.

The recent judgement of the Honourable Supreme Court of India with regard to the release of the under-trials who have already spent more than half of their period of detention as per the nature of crime committed, excluding the offenders who are likely to be convicted for life and awarded death penalty is a milestone in the area of Criminal Justice Administration and particularly with regard to Prison Administration. The directive of the Supreme Court that within a period of two months, with the help of District Court Judges action for release of such under-trials should be completed in our country. This short of exercise will help reducing the major problem in prison administration, i.e. over-crowding followed by all other ancillary associated problems. Besides, earlier release of the under-trials will definitely make their process of social re-integration more easy and the task of police with regard to surveillance of these persons for crime prevention

and control can be minimized. Further, the process of prisonisation for the petty offenders undergoing trial will definitely decrease the adverse impact on their personality.

In Tamil Nadu there are voluntary organisations, which help the prisoners on their release. The Tamil Nadu Government has undertaken massive projects for the rehabilitation of the habitual offenders, through the police department, by forming Industrial Colonies in selected areas. The Discharged Prisoners Aid Societies in various districts and Nationalised Banks also play their parts in extending financial assistance to the ex-prisoners and others (Murthy, 2008, p.p. 52). Further, the “Crime Prevention Society” in Uttar Pradesh is looking after the re-socialisation process of the criminals. Prisoners’ colony in Rajasthan is a creditable community programme extended for the prisoners. It has been set out of the prison walls. Here prisoners are made to settle down with their family and allowed to do any occupational activity of their interest without any security hitch in the outside world. This helps the prisoners to get back into the fold of community life. In Maharashtra, the establishment of Nava Jivan Mandals (Released Prisoners Aid Society) is a fine example of community participation. The Bombay Presidency Released Prisoners Aid Society is arranging financial assistance and jobs for the prisoners through Probation Officers by visiting and collecting the particulars of the prisoners to be released regularly. Prisoners in search of job or not having any means for livelihood are offered fooding and lodging at the Society’s Home at Agripada, Mumbai (Murthy, 2008).

In Odisha, particularly in the rural areas, the feeling of stigmatisation on the released

prisoners as “Dagi” is very severe. Accepting a released prisoner as a normal human being seems to be a myth. This sort of feeling is more accelerated due to the role of police which disturbs the mind of rural people. The rural youth and the police personnel constituting the Community Policing System need to focus attention on the development of Human Factors, such as “awareness” about the various issues pertaining to the process of rehabilitation; “positive perception” about the released prisoners, realistic inputs to be generated for “motivation” of these persons for joining hands with the villagers in getting co-operation and support and also inculcating a spirit of “positive attitude” to meet all challenges in achieving success goals. Once the team acquires and develop these human factors, they can interact with the villagers in organising meetings regularly along with the released prisoners and inculcate in them a feeling to develop and promote such factors, thereby gradually helping the process of rehabilitation to work effectively and smoothly.

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