

## THE REHABILITATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR PERSONS DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY IN A JAIL IN ILOCOS SUR PHILIPPINES

Marciana P. de Vera<sup>1</sup>, Bernardo Oliber A Arde Jr<sup>2</sup>, Aprille Gem P. de Vera<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1,2,3</sup> University of Northern Philippines, Tamag, Vigan City, Ilocos Sur Philippines

\*For Correspondence; Email: [bernardooliberjrarde@unp.edu.ph](mailto:bernardooliberjrarde@unp.edu.ph)

**ABSTRACT:** *Jails in the Philippines have established rehabilitation programs and services for persons deprived of liberty (PDLs). These activities are a means of PDLs' reformation and preparation for their reintegration into society. The study assessed the level of adequacy and level of satisfaction of the PDLs on the rehabilitation programs and services of the Ilocos Sur Provincial Jail during the Calendar Year 2018. The study used the descriptive-correlational research method and involved 186 PDLs in the Ilocos Sur Provincial Jail. Data were gathered through a questionnaire checklist and were analyzed using statistical tools such as frequency and percentage, mean and simple linear correlation analysis. Results showed that the rehabilitation programs and services of the facility were very adequate ( $\bar{x}=2.96$ ), and the respondents' level of satisfaction with these programs and activities was very high ( $\bar{x}=3.80$ ). The age of the respondents ( $r=.142$ ) and the level of adequacy of the institution's rehabilitation program and services ( $r=.450$ ) are significantly related to their level of satisfaction with these programs and services. The researchers then recommend the following: 1) the facility should innovate in its delivery or implementation of rehabilitation programs and services to elicit consistent satisfaction from beneficiaries regardless of their personal characteristics; 2) the institution should conduct needs assessments regularly to be able to obtain information on the activities the beneficiaries are interested in; 3) the institution should continue its partnerships with academic institutions and other non-government organizations in its implementation of the rehabilitation programs and services, and 3) A similar study can be conducted the inclusion of the BJMPs in Ilocos Sur as the locale of the study and the ISPJ and BJMPs' Personnel as respondents.*

**Keywords:** rehabilitation programs and services; jail; persons deprived of liberty;

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Imprisonment is a state by which one is held in captivity by due process of law. Individuals under the custody of the law, either as detainees, inmates, prisoners, or persons under confinement in correctional facilities, are currently called in a more neutral term as Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) instead of prisoners, which the latter can have derogatory implications on them [1].

The negative consequences of imprisonment do include not only loss of physical liberty but also other aspects of an individual's optimal functioning. The real suffering comes from the frustrations or privations that resulted in the loss of freedom, such as the absence of heterosexual relationships, segregation from the free community, withholding commodities and services, etc. [2]. Therefore, no matter how terrible these disappointments or deprivations may be in the short term—in terms of missed opportunities, discomfort, boredom, and loneliness—they carry additional anguish in the form of threats made against the offender's own identity. The person's perception of himself as a valuable person starts to wane and become dimmer. Offenders also lost the respect of society, their standing as citizens, and their worldly goods, which played a significant role in how they perceived themselves [3]. With these negative instances affecting PDLs, researchers and practitioners in the criminal justice system are nonetheless concerned about how PDLs handle life in jail.

Although jail facilities serve as a place of punishment due to restricted freedoms imposed by the State, they offer rehabilitation programs and services to transform and prepare PDLs for possible reintegration into society. By Republic Act No. 6975, the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) in the Philippines is required to assume operational and administrative authority over every City, District, and Municipal Jail. Livelihood Projects, Educational and

Vocational Training, Recreation and Sports, and Religious/Spiritual Activities are the four main components of the Bureau's rehabilitation program. These were consistently put into practice to break the criminal behavior patterns of the offenders and to rehabilitate them into law-abiding, productive citizens [4].

Numerous benefits accrue to society as a whole when offenders are turned into law-abiding citizens. Not only is the offender's life improved forever, but also individuals who reside in the neighborhood become more knowledgeable of rehabilitation programs and their initiatives to assist offenders after their release. Facilities also experience a significant win in addition to the benefit to the offenders. A decrease in societal crime can boost the state's finances directly and indirectly. Indirect financial benefits include lower public assistance costs when offenders use the educational tools, they were given in the rehabilitation programs, which offset the direct financial benefits of reduced incarceration costs as offenders would not return to prison. The state may profit from these cost reductions by realizing net budgetary gains. The situation benefits everyone [5].

Since offenders commit crimes for various reasons, the characteristics or types of offenders vary. To address the unique needs of individuals, appropriate treatment programs should be implemented for the different types of offenders. Treatment programs in some countries are typically referred to as programs promoting offenders' socioeconomic ability, such as prison work, vocational training, and education. In some countries, these types of treatment programs are available to almost all offenders [6].

To determine which programs are most likely to reduce recidivism, several authors used meta-analysis to conduct extensive reviews of the program outcome literature. The results of these reviews suggest a set of characteristics that

can be used to judge the quality of a program. On the other hand, while research has shown that treatment has a positive effect on offender behavior, there is still a need for high-quality research to support and guide program developers [7].

Over the last 30 years or so, research on offender rehabilitation has revealed that some programs are more effective than others. For some time, the effectiveness of prison-based rehabilitation programs for any offender category has been a contentious issue among penologists and correctional practitioners [8]. Given this instance, this study assessed the level of adequacy and level of satisfaction of the PDLs on the rehabilitation programs and services of the Ilocos Sur Provincial Jail during the Calendar Year 2018. It also determined the relationship between the level of satisfaction of the respondents on the rehabilitation programs and services and their personal-related factors and support mechanisms; and the relationship between the level of adequacy of the rehabilitation programs and the level of satisfaction of the respondents.

## 2. METHODS

This study utilized a descriptive-correlational research design. Respondents in this study were the 186 Persons Deprived of Liberty in the Ilocos Sur Provincial Jail, Bantay Ilocos Sur, during the Calendar Year 2018. Data were gathered using a questionnaire -checklist and were analyzed and interpreted using frequency and percentage, mean and simple linear correlation analysis. Informed consent was obtained from the respondents before data collection and ethical principles were upheld during the entire conduct of the study.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The profile of the respondents. Most of the respondents are male (90.32%) and are non-professionals (95.70%). A great majority of them have their families (76.3%) as their support system. The majority of them are married (58.05%) and have stayed in the jail facility for one (1) year or less (59.68%). A great percentage of them are aged 31 – 40 years (32.26%) and are high school graduates (40.32%).

**Table 1: Mean Ratings Showing the Level of Adequacy of the Rehabilitation Programs and Services of the Ilocos Sur Provincial Jail as Perceived by the Respondents**

Programs and Service	Mean	Descriptive Rating
Basic Needs	2.74	VA
Health Services	2.95	VA
Educational and Skills Services	2.44	MA
Religious Services	3.34	VMA
Guidance and Counseling	2.90	VA
Recreational Services	3.06	VA
Work Programs	2.86	VA
Visitation Services	3.24	VA
Mail Services	2.89	VA
Paralegal Services	3.17	VA
<b>As a whole</b>	<b>2.96</b>	<b>Very Adequate</b>

Legend:

3.26 - 4.00 - Very Much Adequate (VMA)  
 2.51 – 3.25 - Very Adequate (VA)  
 1.76 – 2.50 - Moderately Adequate (MA)  
 1.00 – 1.75 - Not Adequate (NA)

Generally, the level of adequacy of the rehabilitation programs and services of the provincial jail is evaluated as very adequate. The facility sufficiently provides various services for the PDLs that meet their needs along with essential necessities, health, education, and skills, religion, guidance and counseling, recreation, work, visitation, mail, and paralegal needs.

This implies that the facility is providing reasonable and enough programs and services for the good and welfare of the PDLs. These programs conform with the rehabilitation programs that the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology must implement under their legal mandate. These programs play a vital role in the government's efforts to transform offenders into law-abiding citizens and prepare them for possible reintegration into society. Criminal rehabilitation has received widespread support because it allows criminals to separate themselves from the environmental factors that led to their offending. Rehabilitation and treatment programs focus on providing services that will encourage and enhance the PDLs' self-respect, self-confidence, personal dignity, and sense of responsibility [9]. These rehabilitation programs are more likely to reduce recidivism and improve community safety than simply locking people up without assistance or intervention [10].

**Table 2: Mean Ratings Showing the Level of Satisfaction of the Respondents on the Rehabilitation Programs and Services of the Ilocos Sur Provincial Jail**

Aspect	Mean	Descriptive Rating
Social	3.74	Very High
Economic	3.63	Very High
Moral	4.00	Very High
<b>As a whole</b>	<b>3.80</b>	<b>Very High</b>

Legend:

3.26 - 4.00 - Very High  
 2.51 – 3.25 - High  
 1.76 – 2.50 - Low  
 1.00 – 1.75 - Very Low

Taken as a whole, the respondents have a very high level of satisfaction with the rehabilitation programs and services of the jail facility. These activities were assessed to have a high impact along the social, economic, and moral aspects of the PDLs. This result goes to say that the institution's programs, projects, and activities are very well implemented and relevant to the needs of the PDLs. Every person desires satisfaction, whether it is for oneself, one's job/work, the environment, life, or others. This satisfaction may result in a more productive and healthier environment, as well as improved performance [11]. Rehabilitation is also more likely to be effective if the type of treatment matches an offender's specific needs and cultural differences and is delivered in a style and mode that is consistent with the offender's ability and learning style [7]. The result of this study is different from that of the study conducted by Guadamor and Martinez where their respondents' satisfaction with the services of BJMP ranges from fairly satisfied to satisfied [12].

**Table 3: Correlation Coefficients between the Level of Satisfaction of the Respondents in the Rehabilitation Programs and Services of the Ilocos Sur Provincial Jail and some Variables**

Factors	Social	Economic	Moral	As a Whole
<b>Personal Factors</b>				
Age	.074	-.072	.055	.066
Civil Status	.098	.100	<b>.168*</b>	<b>.142*</b>
Gender	.124	.018	<b>.196**</b>	.125
Educ. Attainment	-.077	.025	-.112	-.051
Prev. Occupation	<b>.141*</b>	-.029	-.005	.038
Length of Stay in Jail	.104	-	-	-
<b>Support System</b>				
Family	.055	-.089	.048	-.025
Relatives	-.103	-.114	-.099	-.101
Friends	-.057	<b>.137*</b>	.047	-.044
Churchmates	.022	.016	.025	.038
Gov't Organization	.049	-.055	.055	.024
Non-gov't Org.	.038	-.102	-.102	-.053

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

As a whole, there is a significant relationship between the respondents' level of satisfaction with the rehabilitation programs and services of the facility and their civil status. This means that those who are married tend to have a higher level of satisfaction with the institution's rehabilitation programs and services than their counterparts.

When taken singly, a significant relationship existed between the level of satisfaction of the respondents along moral aspect and their civil status and gender implying that those who are married and male tend to have higher moral satisfaction. Also, a significant relationship existed between their level of satisfaction along the social aspect and their previous occupation which means to say that those who were working as professionals prior to incarceration tend to have higher social satisfaction with these rehabilitation programs and services than their counterparts.

Romantic relationships have far-reaching consequences for health and adaptation [13]. Marital status has been linked to subjective well-being. It has been found to be a major determinant of individual well-being. The finding that married people report higher levels of well-being than divorced, single, widowed, or cohabiting people is well-established [14]. According to Stutzer and Frey, marriage is positively associated with individual well-being because it provides an additional source of self-esteem. Married people are less likely to be lonely and benefit from a supportive relationship [15]. This assertion has been corroborated by the claim of Botha and Booysen, upon their investigation of the relationship of marriage and life satisfaction in general, that when compared to other marital status groups, married people reported the highest overall mean level of life satisfaction, while cohabiters and widowed people reported the lowest overall mean satisfaction.

Generally, the level of adequacy of the rehabilitation programs and services of the provincial jail is significantly related to the level of satisfaction of the respondents on these programs. Going to the specifics, the level of adequacy of the rehabilitative programs and services is significantly related to all aspects of satisfaction such as the Social Aspect, Moral

Aspect, and Economic Aspect.

**Table 4: Correlation Coefficient between the Level of Satisfaction of the PDLs and the Level of Adequacy of the Rehabilitation Programs and Services of Ilocos Sur Provincial Jail**

Variables	Social	Economic	Moral	As a Whole
Basic Needs	.213	.140	.151*	<b>.188*</b>
Health Services	.328*	.138	.096	<b>.209**</b>
Educational & Skills Services	.156*	.114	.000	.065
Religious Services	.375**	.220**	.343**	<b>.334**</b>
Guidance & Counseling	.312**	.249**	.243**	<b>.302**</b>
Recreational Services	.375**	.276**	.285**	<b>.382**</b>
Work Programs	.406**	.206**	.220**	<b>.328**</b>
Visitation Services	.351**	.132	.349**	<b>.319**</b>
Mail Services	.421**	.229**	.274**	<b>.351**</b>
Paralegal Services	.387**	.364**	.364**	<b>.378**</b>
<b>As a whole</b>	<b>.519**</b>	<b>.283**</b>	<b>.373**</b>	<b>.450**</b>

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

This result conveys that the satisfaction of the respondents with these programs and services tends to be affected by the adequacy of the same programs and services in the facility. The more adequate the programs and services are implemented, the higher the satisfaction the respondents acquire with them. This instance is particularly true since when the needs are met through adequate and responsive programs and services, the more likely that the recipients of these services feel more satisfied.

Beyond the prison walls, there are differences between the prison atmosphere and normal society. Additionally, this is the setting in which the newly imprisoned individual learns how to exist. They gain survival skills by interacting with fellow offenders and strict adherence to the rules of the institution. Therefore, rehabilitation and restorative programs should equip offenders with the necessary skills and information to assist them to integrate back into society once they are released from prison. Individuals who have participated in multiple rehabilitation programs were found to commit fewer offenses than individuals who have experienced once [16]. Auty and Liebling claimed that the prison's culture determines the outcome of the freed inmates. If the offender is not in excellent shape when they are released, they have a higher likelihood of resuming their previous behavior, which could result in them being sent back to prison [17].

### 3. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The rehabilitation program is essential for lowering the rate of recidivism and for reintegrating criminals into society. Hence, it is important that criminal and corrective institutions incorporate rehabilitation programs for PDLs. Like previous research investigations, this study found that these rehabilitative programs and services are adequately offered in prison jails. Their adequacy in these corrective institutions has led to increased satisfaction in their implementation. However, this satisfaction tends to be affected by the individual characteristics of PDLs. Therefore, facilities catering to the needs of these individuals must design, develop, and implement innovative rehabilitation programs based on the present needs, conditions, and demographics of their population through a regular needs assessment survey. This can be achieved by adopting evidence-based

rehabilitation programs in partnership with well-trained professionals and experts from other government and non-government organizations. A similar study can be conducted the inclusion of the BJMPs in Ilocos Sur as the locale of the study and the ISPJ and BJMPs' Personnel as respondents.

## Acknowledgments

The researchers are profoundly grateful to the University of Northern Philippines headed by Dr. Erwin F. Cadorna and the University Research Development Office in the helm of Dr. Edelyn A. Cadorna for the assistance they have extended to the researchers from the beginning up to the completion of this study.

## REFERENCES

- [1] "Revised IRR of Republic Act No. 10575." Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines, [https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2016/05/23/revised-irr-of-republic-act-no-10575/#:~:text=Person%20Deprived%20of%20Liberty%20\(PDL\)%20E2%80%93%20refers%20to%20a%20detainee,custody%20in%20any%20other%20manner](https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2016/05/23/revised-irr-of-republic-act-no-10575/#:~:text=Person%20Deprived%20of%20Liberty%20(PDL)%20E2%80%93%20refers%20to%20a%20detainee,custody%20in%20any%20other%20manner.). (2016).
- [2] Bersamina, Dolores, Loida Rilvera, and Wilson Tolio. "Grasp Behind Bars: The Persons Deprived of Liberty Lived Experineces." *Asian Journal of Education and Human Development* 2 (2021).
- [3] Flores-Barolo, Mary Grace, and Jezreel Binwag Vicente. "Challenges and coping mechanisms of persons deprived of liberty of Sablayan prison and penal farm in the Philippines." *International Journal of Advanced Research in Management and Social Sciences* 8, no. 11 (2019): 49–97. <https://garph.co.uk/IJARMSS/Nov2019/G-2759.pdf>.
- [4] "BJMP Profile." BJMP Profile. Accessed December 4, 2022. [https://www.bjmp.gov.ph/index.php/about-us/bjmp-profile#:~:text=No.,%2C%20and%20Religious%2F%20Spiritual%20Activities](https://www.bjmp.gov.ph/index.php/about-us/bjmp-profile#:~:text=No.,%2C%20and%20Religious%2F%20Spiritual%20Activities.).
- [5] Peterson, Jonathan, and Anita Lee. "Improving In-Prison Rehabilitation Programs." Improving in-prison rehabilitation programs. <https://lao.ca.gov/Publications/Report/3720>. (2017)
- [6] Chung, Wai Man, Osman bin Ahmad, Yossawan Boriboonthana, Michael Naplau Waipo, Mokhammad Frandono, Junko Fujioka, Hisashi Ishizuna, et al. "Rehabilitation programmes in the prison to prevent prisoners' recidivism: the actual situation, problems and countermeasures." United Nations Asia and Far East Institute For the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders, Accessed December 4, 2022. [https://www.unafei.or.jp/publications/pdf/RS\\_No54/N\\_o54\\_28RC\\_Group1.pdf](https://www.unafei.or.jp/publications/pdf/RS_No54/N_o54_28RC_Group1.pdf).
- [7] Grant, Brian A. "Effective Correctional Programmes." United Nations Asia and Far East Institute For the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders. Accessed December 4, 2022. [https://unafei.or.jp/publications/pdf/RS\\_No74/No74\\_09VE\\_Grant.pdf](https://unafei.or.jp/publications/pdf/RS_No74/No74_09VE_Grant.pdf).
- [8] Jones, Clarke, and Jill Guthrie. *Efficacy, Accessibility and Adequacy of Prison Rehabilitation Programs for Indigenous Offenders in Australia*. Melbourne Victoria, Australia: The Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration Incorporated. [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/307168570\\_Efficacy\\_accessibility\\_and\\_adequacy\\_of\\_prison\\_rehabilitation\\_programs\\_for\\_Indigenous\\_offenders\\_in\\_Australia](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/307168570_Efficacy_accessibility_and_adequacy_of_prison_rehabilitation_programs_for_Indigenous_offenders_in_Australia). (2016).
- [9] Doquilla, Daniel V. "Services of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP): An Assessment." *International Journal of Advanced Research in Management and Social Sciences* 2, no. 10 (2018): 24–34.
- [10] Heseltine, Karen, Andrew Day, and Rick Sarre. *Prison-Based Correctional Offender Rehabilitation Programs: The 2009 National Picture in Australia*. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology (2011).
- [11] Vaquilar-Romo, Necy Cesaria. "Job satisfaction and performance of the faculty in the college of teacher education." *International Journal of Scientific & Engineering Research* 9, no. 9 (2018).
- [12] Guadamor, Maita LP., and Victor V. Martinez. "Level of satisfaction of the detainees of the bureau of jail management and penology (bjmp)." *International Journal of Advanced Research in Management and Social Sciences* 7, no. 5 (2018).
- [13] Navarro, Remedios T., Ashim Abhilash Kumar Mohanty, Edelyn A. Cadorna, and Sushama Pattnaik. "attitude towards romantic relationships: a cross-cultural study among indians and filipinos." *Journal of Critical Reviews* 7, no. 4: 3929–35. <https://doi.org/DOI:10.31838/jcr.07.14.431>. (2020)
- [14] Botha, Ferdi, and Frikkie Booysen. "The Relationship between Marital status and Life Satisfaction Among South African Adults." *Acta Academica* 45, no. 2: 150–78. (2013).
- [15] Stutzer, Alois, and Bruno S. Frey. "Does Marriage Make People Happy, or Do Happy People Get Married?" *The Journal of Socio-Economics* 35, no. 2: 326–47. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socec.2005.11.043>. (2006).
- [16] Lebbie, Kumba Hannah. "An Examination of the Relationship between Rehabilitation and Recidivism." *The Repository @ St. Cloud State*. Thesis, St. Cloud State University. [https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1021&context=cjs\\_etds](https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1021&context=cjs_etds). (2021).
- [17] Auty, Katherine M., and Alison Liebling. "Exploring the Relationship between Prison Social Climate and Reoffending\*." *Justice Quarterly* 37, no. 2 x: 358–81. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07418825.2018.1538421>. (2019).