

Smart Technology To Transform Women Prisoners

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ABSTRACT

There are several different problems and issues prisoners face today. This research paper addresses major prison matters in connection with the challenges faced by women prisoners and the attempts made to ascertain the possibilities of using Smart Technology to teach, train and transform them from being victims of bad habits to a worthy citizen of India contributing to the national growth and Nation building.

Keywords: Smart technology, Woman prisoners, Transform, Issue, Possibility

INTRODUCTION

The News, "Smart Technology Coming for Prisons Too", would be a justification for a great initiative taken in the interest of both the prisoners and the humankind, provided the smart technology makes prisons better, safer and a learning space for life. We relate prisons to high walls, locked doors, darkness, bars but we hardly do realise that it takes more than just physical barriers to create an environment friendly, safe, secure and get back to the world they initially belong to. Technology on its own, would fail to stop a prisoner from reoffending but it can certainly help with rehabilitation. Potential technology aids and the acceptance of the application in jails could address the problems faced by prisoners to a great extent.

This research paper focuses on the women prisoners in India and their transformation in smart prisons.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The primary goal of this study is to examine the possibilities of using the smart technology like videos, role plays and practical session through video tutors to transform woman jail prisoners to the skilled work force.

The secondary objectives are

To study the need of nurturing the skill initiative and extend the same to the jail prisoners

To study in detail the barriers faced by the jail staff to mould the prisoners in to a worthy human being

To create awareness amongst various stakeholders about the benefits of such model initiative for human transformation

LIMITATIONS

This is a conceptual study. It is a study comprising of more of facts than by numerical data. The study is limited to the discussion and understanding of the skill based training to women prisoners.

HYPOTHESIS

The Smart Technology if used in right spirit for training woman prisoners will help in transforming the woman prisoners into a skilled workforce.

METHODOLOGY

This study is based on secondary data. The information has been collected from books, journals, magazines, newspaper and websites.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TITLE & IMPORTANCE OF THE THEME

Prisoners across the globe house a hoard of criminals with several criminal cases, robbery murder, butchery, petty thefts and all sorts of wrong doings that goes against the societal norms leading to a disrespectful life.

The notorious ones are imprisoned in the jail such that they can never see the light of the day nor smell the fragrance of the soil.

Amidst tight security, walls as tall as hills and mountains spiked with nails and broken glass pieces, dark and scary, the prisoners dwell and settle for life in case of life time imprisonment. Such prisoners are housed in high security prisons that are impossible to break out of. But in this era of information technology and tech savvy life, prison facilities that are accountable for imprisoning criminals are now equipped with smart technology that in turn has made smart prisons. A prison with bars, rods and guards is a history in itself. Today the prison security measure needs to be well advanced and progressive.

Artificial intelligence with coupled sensors, tracking wristbands, data analytics and all sorts of networked systems show up in smart prisons. A smart prison could use the data it collects on guards to provide a similar service of great caliber as well.

Thus this paper will elaborate on the findings of the smart jails that keep vigil, the existence of women prisoners to transform their life while in prison itself.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Prisoners face punishment in jail by means of local law enforcement or local government agencies. Jails are designed in such a way so as to hold inmates until trial or serving a short sentence. The trial, punishment, the policies, strictness, in short the everyday life of the prisoners could be very difficult.

Prisons are often seen functioning in the interest of the prisoners well being and in the process organizes programs , events , functions , workshops , exhibitions and seminars offering educational and value based lessons for life . Films, skit and plays on substance abuse, violence and social evils are screened such that some experts on the subjects do curation of the subject and highlight the good things that could be learnt out of it.

Vocational programs, training camps etc are designed in such a way so to help the prisoners come out of their dark life , embrace the change , develop , improve , grow and avoid getting into tiffs and fights with each other in the prison causing problems to others. .

Local jurisdiction faces challenges when it comes to jails, infrastructure and planning of new jails. Good decision making, planning, construction, function and operation in jail sums up for peace and harmony in jail. If the prisoners, inmates and jailers coordinate in the interest of judiciary with duties and responsibilities intact, peace prevails.

Prisoners have their own problems and challenges relating to their physical and mental health. Female prisoners are said to have an upper hand when it comes to issues and problems they face in prisons. The demand for special attention and care for women prisoners calls for a special training and technical assistance that could also include a jail with all the smart equipments, new facilities , new artificial intelligence technology that helps monitor prisoners , jailers and almost every individual in prisons . Some smart technology that detects the ill feelings against each other, the mis doings in the prison, the wrong doers and their intention would really curb all the problems and issues faced by prisoners including the women prisoners.

The thorough back ground of the women prisoners is to be studied. Crimes by women, statistics of women in prison and the rules governing women in prison are to be understood. Entitlements & problems of women prisoners like the prison staff , their accommodation, sanitation & hygiene, health & nutrition , education , skilling and vocational training ,legal aid , violence , contact with the outside world ,children, re-integration in society after release etc are to be understood.

Methods for resolution should be possible and applicable. Adoption and implementation of National Model Prison Manual by States and also the establishment of a National Commission for Prisons could be a few methods for solution in the prisons. Regular and thorough inspection of prisons and Robust Grievance Redressal System also goes a long way if implemented in prisons. Special procedure for arrest of women and the cases of pregnancy and child birth in prison is taken care about.

Better living arrangements, health and nutrition, education facilities provided both to the prisoners and their children would bring in the needed change in women prisoners. Vocational training , providing skilling facilities , giving legal aid awareness , above all our quality time given will rehabilitate the

women prisoners .Recruitment of adequate and well trained staff , updated and upgraded with smart technology skills will help women prisoners to transform to good and sensible humans .

THE UTILITY OF STUDY

Reducing mortality in correctional services, expediting pretrial release hearings, identifying corrections could be made. Technology needs like facilitating positive behavioral change, protecting the rights of victims / restitution, holding offenders accountable, protecting the public, saving money and time, improving correctional competencies, improving officer and detainee health reducing officer and detainee injuries are at its best.

As per the survey in 2016, the crimes by women are as high as 3 lakhs under the Penal Code, Special & Local Laws (SLL).The statistics of 2015 about the prisoners in India shows a total of 4, 19,623 persons in jail & women prisoners make up to 4.3% of this figure Out of 1,401 prisons in our country, only 18 are solely for women sheltering 2,985 prisoners. Thus, a majority of women prisoners are housed in women's enclosures of general prisons. Hence the number of prisons exclusively for women in India should be made available. Secondly emphasis on computerization, training, special provisions, prison inspections, rights of prisoners, after-care services and prison correctional staff should be taken care of. Special care for arresting women is to be taken.

TRAINING MODULES

Training Policy and Curriculum, Prison and Probation Interventions, Training for first line practitioners is a must in Prisons. Training Manual of Basic Course for Prison Warders and Training Modules for Indoor Purpose like Basics of Criminology, Victimology and Penology, Basics of Psychology, Basics of Sociology and Social Work, Criminal Laws and Minor Acts, Knowledge of Constitution of India and Human Rights, Technology in Prison Administration are an aid used in prisons. Training Modules for Outdoor like Physical Efficiency Training , Drill without Arms , Drill with Arms , Guards and Sentries , Crowd Control Drills and Techniques ,Training Manual of Basic Course for Prison Warders , the Think Tank for Indian Police Promoting Good Practices and Standards Weapon Training , Firing Practice,. Unarmed Combat and Self-defence Techniques, Additional Skills and Fitness Training are made available. Training Module for Field Visits, Training Modules for Specialized Short-term Programmes, Personality Development, Prison Emergencies and their Management, First Aid and CPR, Building Maintenance and Electrical Safety are available.

INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS IN JAIL

Building better jails through Smart Technology and Training is a task in itself. A smart corrections facility is required to perimeter lighting and fencing or the ability to intercept illegal calls and drone activity, deterring criminal activities within a facility. Radio frequency identification (RFID) technology for inmate movements and alerts the staff needs a good smart work. Connected building systems with a single interface to monitor systems and equipment throughout the facility and Connected systems generating data and continually make complex decisions that contribute to improved building efficiency, comfort, and safety is required for smart prisons. Creating smart jails begins with the identification of challenges specific to a facility.

TRAINING SCHEDULES FOR TRANSFORMATION

Identifying the needs of women prisoners and addressing discrimination is one of basic and most important factor that should be taken care in prisons. Their health, safety, security, rehabilitation asks for quick and planned training schedules for transformation.

The caretakers and the trainers should be well trained and suitable to look after and train the prisoners. Trainers require a profound understanding of the curriculum. . Co-facilitation of training sessions is suggested. Team experts with their experience, knowledge and skills could handle the cases of concern. Instructive speaking should be kept to a minimum. Experiential activities should be maximized. Training curriculum need such as television, video, flip chart, posters, pens and so on. Planning, scheduling time works wonders. Although one could be flexible with time for active participation, having a broad time plan in accordance with the day's agenda is important. Sticking to it even if it means cutting off a vibrant discussion that is running overtime could make wonders. Participants

having the whole week to continue thinking and talking about the issues referring back to the group rules that the group agreed to in order to keep them on track is also seen.

PRACTICAL TRAINING APPROACH

The trainers need to be sensible inspite of being well trained and skillful. Encouraging mutual respect among participants and facilitators, allowing space for experience in the discussion, encouraging broad and active participation, constructive debate, taking time to remind the group about important points like emphasizing and summarizing main ideas throughout the module is needed. Use open-ended questioning techniques in discussion and build an honest relationship with participants. Be positive but realistic.

TRANSFORMATION EXPECTED AS OUTCOME

Women's identity development in prisons is observed after a certain period of time.

When narrative identity theory and cognitive transformation theory is applied and literature on pains of imprisonment is seen a drastic change in women prisoners is witnessed. Identity change in prisons, jails, and substance abuse treatment is observed in prisons. Qualitative analysis revealed noteworthy situational differences in the occurrence and nature of identity transformations. Women typically associated substance abuse treatment experiences with positive development, whereas prisons and jails were generally associated with harm to identity the same. Implications for correctional policy and practice are also discussed.

CONCLUSION

Prisons are to be updated and upgraded to make lives in prison meaningful with proper care and training. Smart technology could be a boon especially with the smart prisons constructed both for the benefit of the jailors and the prisoners. Smart prisons are of a great help in transformation of the prisoners. Transformed prisoners will in turn set an example to other prisoners to transform and lead a meaningful life.

SUGGESTIONS

In view of the above study, following suggestions are offered

Government shall take immediate steps to upgrade the infrastructure of jail.

The Jailers shall be trained to be skilled enough to change their behavior towards woman prisoners.

The authorities shall have tie-ups or enter in to MOU with the local industries for the labor job outsourcing which will provide hands on training to the women prisoners. .

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