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Classification of Inmates in Batangas Provincial Jail, Philippines

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Abstract[6]

This study aimed to determine the classification of inmates in Batangas Provincial Jail. It specifically sought to assess the extent of implementation of the classification of inmates; and to identify the problems encountered in the implementation of classification of inmates. The level of implementation in classification of inmates focused on sickness and diseases followed by diversification by age and then lastly by gender. The respondents disagreed that they encountered problems about the implementation of classification system. It is recommended that the Batangas Provincial Jail management must provide Christian activities which are related to the religious beliefs of the inmates; inmates who have record of escape will be encourage not running away again and acknowledge the compliance of inmates through monetary or gifts. A future study is recommended to have a thorough understanding of the classification system of inmates in Batangas Provincial Jail.

Keywords: Inmates, Provincial Jail,

1. Introduction

Many existing correctional systems include among its objectives not only the punishment of the offender, but also his/her rehabilitation. One of the most powerful instruments that correctional systems can use towards this objective is the concession of classification of inmates and their segregation.

Bureau of Prison was renamed Bureau of Corrections under Executive Order 292 passed during the Aquino Administration. It states that the head of the bureau of corrections is the Director of Prisons who is appointed by the President of the Philippines with the confirmation of the Commission of Appointments. The Bureau of Corrections has general supervision and control of all national prisons or penitentiaries. It is charged with the safekeeping of all Insular Prisoners confined therein or committed to the custody of the Bureau (Robles, 2006).

But during the past decade, prison systems have experienced increased pressure to improve their system of classifying inmates according to custody, work, and programming needs. Fueled by litigation and overcrowding, classification systems are viewed as the principal management tool for allocating scarce prison resources efficiently and minimizing the potential for violence or escape. These systems are also expected to provide greater accountability and forecast future prison bed-space needs. In other words, a

properly functioning classification system is seen as the —brain‖ of prison management, which governs many important decisions, including those that heavily influence such fiscal matters as staffing levels, bed space, and programming.

This decision process is almost invariably made from a qualitative perspective, and usually must take into consideration a set of legal guidelines that generally focus on variables such as type of crime, remaining time in prison, behavior during internment, etc. There is also a long tradition of research that has tried to show that psychological variables are causally related to performing criminal acts. Consequently, individual differences on certain psychological variables (e.g., social skills, psychopathy) have also been used to support the granting or denial of outside permits to correctional inmates (Martin, 2008).

Although objective prison classification systems were adopted by many states in 1980s, the late 1990s witnessed significant improvements in classification practices. The level of over classification has been reduced, custody decisions are made more consistently, criteria for custody decisions have been validated, inmate program needs are assessed systematically, and institutional safety for both staff and inmates has been enhanced.

Despite these improvements, additional issues remain unresolved within prison classification systems. In particular, decisions at the institutional or internal level that guide housing, program, and work assignments need to be as structured and organized as those made at the system or external level. As correctional facilities become more crowded, internal classification decisions play a more significant role. The widespread use of double-ceiling in high-security units and the expanding use of dormitories for low- and medium-custody inmates have triggered the need for a systematic process for assigning inmates to beds or cells. An inmate population continues to increase, decisions governing housing and programs, especially for inmates with extremely long sentences, will become increasingly difficult. For correctional officials to make more informed decisions, a second layer of prison classification – internal classification – is now required (Hardyman, 2002).

The needs of the prisoner groups covered in this study are extensive and the responses to these needs can vary significantly among different problems, depending on the availability of resources, the level of development of the criminal justice system, culture and traditions. Therefore, the study is only able to provide an overview of main needs and possible responses in line with standards, rather than offering detailed guidance for use in a myriad of different economic and social contexts. By doing so, it aims to generate a deeper understanding of the situation of vulnerable prisoners, to encourage new thinking and the development of appropriate strategies to address their care and supervision requirements, within the framework of available resources and possibilities.

The benefits of this study to criminology students were to give knowledge for the additional resources of information to the classification system of inmates. This study would help the criminology students to improve their learning's in jail institutions; it would be very useful when they are in the field of the jail institution. The researchers, as future professionals would like to have deeper understanding on the basis of classifying inmates in prison management. As they understand the situation of the inmates in prison, then they can come up with measure to improve the situation of inmates in Batangas Provincial Jail.

Objectives of the Study

This study aimed to determine the classification of inmates in Batangas Provincial Jail. It specifically assessed the extent of implementation of the classification of inmates and to identify the problems encountered in the implementation of classification of inmates.

2. Materials and Method

The study used descriptive method of research. This method describes and integrates what exist. Descriptive research provides systematic description that is factual and accurate as possible (Shuttleworth, 2008). The researchers utilized 100 percent population of inmates and jail personnel which got the total of

142 respondents. According to the management, as of 2012, there are 96 males and female detainees and 46 jail personnel.

The main instrument of this study was a self-made questionnaire based on the related literature. It consist 2 major parts; the first part include the extent of implementation of classification of inmates while the second part includes the problems encountered in implementing classification of inmates. This study was conceptualized by the researchers through the help of their adviser where books, journal, manuals and unpublished materials and internet were used as their reference. After the modifications and approval of the adviser, panelists and concerned individuals, the researchers then distributed the questionnaire for validation.

The data were tallied, interpreted and analyzed using descriptive statistics such as weighted mean. This will be supported using SPSS version 18 to further analyze the results.

3. Result and Discussion

The extent of implementation of the classification of inmates obtained the overall composite mean of 2.35 which is verbally interpreted as partially implemented. With regards to the age, it shows that young adult got the highest weighted mean of 2.80 followed by senior with weighted mean of 2.79 and adult obtained the weighted mean of 2.78. The least is Juvenile offender or those below 18 years of age separated according to their crime offense which got the weighted mean of 2.68 and verbal interpreted as implemented. It got the composite mean of 2.68 and verbal interpreted as implemented.

With regards to their gender, the item Males are separated from female got the highest weighted mean of 3.17 followed by homosexuals (gay and lesbian) have their own cells from male and female with weighted mean of 2.11. It got the composite mean of 2.64 and verbal interpreted as implemented.

With the crime committed, it shows that those who have committed heinous crime are separated from minor offenses which got the highest weighted mean of 2.59 followed by juvenile offender or those below 18 years of age separated according to their crime offense which got the weighted mean of 2.40 and verbal interpreted as implemented. It obtained the composite mean of 2.50 and verbal interpretation of implemented.

Length of sentence shows that inmates whose penalty of longer periods are segregated from those of shorter ones got the weighted mean of 1.87 with verbal interpretation of partially implemented. The ethnic, culture and religious belief shows that those inmates who have different affiliation and belief can perform activities independently got the weighted mean of 1.97 and verbal interpreted as partially implemented.

The current conviction and escape history shows that those inmates who have many records of escape history obtained the weighted mean of 1.97 and verbal interpretation of partially implemented. The compulsive behavior shows that those inmates who have psychological behavior are separated which got the weighted mean of 2.39 and verbal interpreted partially implemented. With the degree of educational attainment, it shows that inmates who have higher educational attainment separated from lower educational attainment with weighted mean of 2.26 and verbal interpreted as partially implemented.

The status and money shows that those inmates who have money are separated from those who have not which got the weighted mean of 2.15 and verbal interpreted as partially implemented. Lastly, the sickness and disease shows that segregation of sick inmates got the weighted mean of 3.01 and verbal interpretation of partially implemented. This shows that the inmates are classified and the inmates are segregated in order to make an appropriate housing area assignment. But it is necessary to use a formal classification system just to make housing assignment.

Furthermore, the so-called ―typical‖ female inmate masks the high level of variation that exists. Significant numbers of women (and men) admitted to jail each year do not have a prior record, are well educated, and have stable job histories. An important requirement of any classification system is to identify individual characteristics and properly classify and house inmates. Thus, the uniqueness of females from

males as well as differences among the female inmate population itself must be addressed by the jail's classification system.

They are also classified with the crime committed because there are a variety of crimes that can be committed by individuals. Some crimes, such as murder or kidnapping, are considered serious crimes by society. Other crimes, such as speeding or trespassing, are not considered serious. Although all crimes mean a violation of the law, there's a wide range of punishments that can be imposed on a criminal.

The classification of a crime is based on the extent of punishment that can be given for committing it. The punishment is usually based on the seriousness of the crime. States may differ as to the classification of any particular crime. A crime committed in one state may be classified differently than if it was committed in another state.

Offenders who show in prison that they are capable of good behavior are often released on parole. They are to return to society but are subject to a certain restrictions. This is done to protect the public, staff and inmates through the centralized classification of inmates that establishes custody, placements and program needs which safely affords inmates the opportunity to address their successful reentry into the community and reduce their risk of re-offending. All inmates are assigned a facility social worker that is familiar with the inmates on their caseload and is able to answer most questions about an inmate's case. Technical questions regarding specific classification procedures should be addressed.

Inmates are classified to ensure they are placed in the correctional setting that most appropriately meets their programming and custodial needs. The goal of classification is to give inmates opportunities for successful personal and social adjustment while ensuring the security and safety of correctional institutions. Inmate classification is a continuous process that starts on admission and concludes when the inmate's sentence has been legally satisfied.

The respondents disagreed that there are problems in implementing the classification system which obtained the composite mean of 2.01. It shows that having fraternity or gang inside the cell obtained the highest weighted mean of 2.44 and verbal interpreted as disagree, followed by complaining of threats by a gang to other inmates which got the weighted mean of 2.32 and physical conflict among male and female inmates with weighted mean of 2.25. Prisoners within the system are either marked as "predator" or "prey. This is when a prisoner enters the prison system they are challenged to a fight. This is to determine whether or not the inmate can be extorted or used for a "servant to other prisoners. This is the prison setting equivalent to the schoolyard bully system. Gangs are sometimes compared to "fraternities" (The Gangs Behind Bars, 2008). This is because the gangs recruit members for their gang for power. While it is a short lived commitment in some gangs is for life.

Among the low value items, it shows that the respondents disagreed that they encounter problems with regard to prevalence of weapons in penal institution which got the weighted mean of 1.64, occurrence of multitude of self-injurious behavior which got the weighted mean of 1.57 and they strongly disagreed that giving importance to those who have money is the least with weighted mean of 1.36. Contact with violent inmates creates hazards in the correction officer's workplace that are rare for other professions.

Items that appear innocuous have been converted into weapons that maimed and killed correction officers. Examples include padlocks, toothbrushes, disposable razors, metal from ventilators, batteries, and even paper hardened with toothpaste and sharpened. These items come from the prison store, prison industries, and visitors, or have been salvaged from prison facilities and modified into daggers, shanks (homemade knives), darts, and saps (Austin, 2003).

4. Conclusion and Recommendation

Classification of inmates in terms of sickness and diseases followed by diversification by age and then lastly by gender are implemented in Batangas Provincial Jail. The respondents disagreed that they encounter

problems about the implementation of classification system. No frat or gang war occurs during their stay in the prison.

Inmates with longer period of penalty must attend a personality development program that will enhance and strengthen their behavior to avoid future behavioral problems which leads to crime. Batangas Provincial Jail management must provide Christian activities which are related to the religious beliefs of the inmates. Inmates with record of escape will be encouraged not to run away again and acknowledge the compliance of inmates through monetary or gifts. A probationary program wherein inmates may be permitted to study in a formal education is also recommended to reduce their engagement in gang and fraternity. A future study is recommended to have a thoroughly understanding of the classification system of inmates in Batangas Provincial Jail.

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