

FACTORS AFFECTING RECIDIVISM AMONG PERSONS DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY AT SAN JOSE DEL MONTE CITY JAIL FEMALE DORMITORY

ABSTRACT

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KEYWORDS

*persons deprived of liberty;
female inmates; recidivism;
stigma; reintegration;
livelihood program*

ARTICLE ID

AASGBCPJMR-B83412

Recidivism, or the tendency of formerly incarcerated individuals to return to jail after release, remains a pressing concern in the Philippine penal system. This study focuses on understanding the factors influencing recidivism among Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) at the San Jose Del Monte City Jail Female Dormitory. The study investigates variables such as lack of education, poverty, unemployment, and social stigma, which often hinder reintegration into society. By identifying these contributing factors, the research aims to support the development of programs that promote successful reintegration and reduce repeat offenses among female PDLs. This study employs a mixed-method research design, integrating both quantitative and qualitative approaches. A total of twenty-five (25) female PDLs with previous cases of recidivism were selected through purposive sampling. Data were gathered using a validated researcher-made questionnaire, which collected information on respondents' backgrounds and personal experiences. Additionally, in-depth interviews were conducted with the approval of jail authorities and the informed consent of the participants. Quantitative data were analyzed using percentages, weighted means, and rankings based on a 4-point Likert scale. Ethical protocols were strictly observed to ensure confidentiality and protect participant rights. All respondents were female, with 36% having been incarcerated for over three years. A significant majority (76%) belonged to low-income households. Respondents generally disagreed that they had access to sufficient education (mean = 2.49), family support (2.24), or post-release social support (2.20). However, they acknowledged financial instability and family conflict as contributing factors to reoffending. High levels of agreement were observed regarding the impact of stigma and labeling (3.40), particularly related to discrimination and societal judgment. Personal traits such as self-control and responsibility (3.38) were perceived positively, while motivation to change (3.82) emerged as the strongest factor in preventing recidivism. The findings indicate that many Graduates of Penal Institutions (GOPI) face significant challenges in reintegration, including limited employment opportunities, persistent stigma, and lack of practical skills. In response, the researchers propose the "Pagsibol Program: Livelihood Introduction for Future GOPI," a reintegration initiative focused on business literacy and entrepreneurial training. While the program does not provide direct financial aid, it equips PDLs with the knowledge and confidence to pursue small-scale business ventures using available resources. By fostering self-sufficiency and economic resilience, the Pagsibol Program aims to reduce recidivism and support long-term reintegration into society.

RECOMMENDED CITATION

Dungca, G., Gener, A. D., Gulla, J., Obani, P. M., & Oxima, A. M. (2025). Factors Affecting Recidivism Among Persons Deprived Of Liberty At San Jose Del Monte City Jail Female Dormitory. *Ascendens Asia Singapore – Bestlink College of the Philippines Journal of Multidisciplinary Research Abstracts*, 7(1), 87.