

2.35 An Evaluation on Welfare Process for Female Inmates (With Reference to Female Ward - Walikada)

H.A. Kumudu Sumedha
Department of Sociology, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

ABSTRACT

Prisons today are more civilized in regime and conditions. Welfare facilities at prisoners' have been up graded due to the human right discourse in the society. Since Women are considered as a vulnerable group in any community, I selected female prisoners to my research.

This study focuses on welfare process of prison with special emphasis on females. This is a qualitative research. The researcher uses Case Study Method and Functional Method. Both primary and secondary data are used in this research. To collect primary data researcher uses interviews and observations. The sample is consists of 25 prisoners in female ward attach to the Welikada Prison. Secondary data are obtained from the books and magazines.

Prisoner's welfare branch organizes welfare activities such as Educational, Spiritual and Vocational training with the collaboration of external institutions. And there are special welfare programs such as Home Leave Scheme, Consultancy Services, and Residential Medical Facilities. Despite these, there are welfare problems such as lack of welfare officers, Less space for prisoners, less motivation to join welfare programs, lack of sanitary facilities etc. Although these problems cannot be solved immediately a few of them can be settle to a fair extent. Once that can be settled in this manner are issues related to motivation, leadership and supervision.

According to data gathered improving relationship between inmates and staff, exercising more supervision, explaining the benefit of the existing programmes of work to inmates are a few steps that can be taken to solve this problem.

Key Words: female inmates, welfare system