CHAPTER VII

PERCEPTION OF PRISON AUTHORITIES
ABOUT LIBRARY SERVICES TO THE PRISONERS

7.1 Organisational Set up of Prisons in Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh Prison Department is headed by an Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the rank of Additional Director General of Police (ADGP). He is the executive head of the Jail department, entrusted with carrying out all rules and policies framed by the Government of Himachal Pradesh. The organisational chart of head quarter staff and field staff, showing various positions in order of hierarchy, in the Prison Department of Himachal Pradesh, is given at Table 36 and Table 37 respectively.

Additional Director General of Police, Prisons is assisted in his work by Deputy Inspector General, Prisons who belong to the cadre of prison officers. The Model Central Jail, Kanda in Shimla District, Model Central Jail at Nahan in Sirmour District, Open Air

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<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Name of category</th>
<th>No. of Posts</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Additional Director General of Police, Prisons</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Deputy Inspector General of Prisons</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Chief Welfare Officer, Prisons</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Superintendent, Grade II</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Welfare Officer, Prisons</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Legal Assistant</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Personal Assistant</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Senior Assistant</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Senior Assistant, Accounts</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Steno Typist</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Clerk/Typist</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Driver</td>
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<td>Peon</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Sweeper</td>
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<td>Table 37 Field Staff of Various Prisons of Himachal Pradesh</td>
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<td>Kinnour</td>
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<td>Dalhousie</td>
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<td>Oilaspur</td>
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**Columns:**
- **Total:**
- **Sub Jail:**
- **Not yet started:**
- **Su Jail:**
- **District Jail:**
- **Sub Jail:**
- **Botstal Jail and sub Jail:**
- **Sub Jail:**
- **Model Central Jail:**
- **Sub Jail:**
- **Model Central Jail:**
- **Juvenile Jail:**
- **Sub Jail:**
- **District Jail:**

**Rows:**
- **Kinnour:**
- **Shimla:**
- **Chamba:**
- **Dalhousie:**
- **Oilaspur:**

**Cells:**
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- 4:
- 5:
- 6:
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- 9:
- 10:
- 11:
- 12:
- 13:
- 14:
- 15:
- 219

**Footnote:**
- No yet started

**Note:**
- The table details the field staff of various prisons in Himachal Pradesh, with columns for different types of jails and rows for different districts.
Jail in Bilaspur District and District Jail at Dharamshala in Kangra District are headed by Superintendents of Jails and the remaining district Jails, sub Jails and Borstal Jail are headed by the officials of the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Jail or Assistant Superintendent of Jail. The immediate supervisory staff of the prisoners in the jails consists of Jail Warders and Head Warders who manage and look after the daily routine of the prisoners. Sometimes the police guards are also requisitioned from the district police, if the prisoners are to be escorted to the hospital for treatment, if required, and to attend the courts as and when they are summoned by the counts for trials.

7.1 Prison Authorities

7.2 Additional Director General of Police, Prisons

The Additional Director General of Police, Prisons (ADGP, Prisons) is head of the Prison Department. He works under the Secretary of the Home Department as far as jails are concerned. He has to manage postings of the subordinate staff, approves the amount allotted for jail buildings, examine and pass the plans and check the amounts spent. He is responsible for jail manufacturing and prison industries. He has to carry on considerable correspondence on the subject of reformation and rehabilitation of
prisoners with the government and supply answers to various assembly questions raised regarding prisons.

The present incumbent I.N.S. Sandhu, I.P.S., has been heading this department for the last three years. He has the sound knowledge of prison affairs and activities. He takes keen interest in the correctional services to the prisoners. He frequently visits jails and holds meetings with the jail official and prisoners. The investigator of the present study interviewed him and he talked about the needs, grievances and expectations of the prisoners in the state. According to him, the main purpose of prison reform and rehabilitation programme is:

1. To engage prisoners during leisure time
2. To ensure productive work.
3. To socialize them for future rehabilitation.
4. To condition them for social norms.
5. To preserve the discipline of the prison.

The specific aim of providing library services to the prisoners, according to him, is that the prisoner should make optimum use of the leisure time. If the prisoners are left idle and unengaged, they involve themselves in mischievous and criminal activities like gambling, drinking, drugs and homosexualism.

Second important aim is to impart knowledge of the fundamentals of history, government, geography and civics to the
prisoners which would help them in developing a positive attitude towards society.

According to the ADGP, there is a provision of library services in every prison of the state. The books and newspapers are being supplied to the prisoners. He admitted that there is no full fledged library in any jail so far. In some of the prisons there are two rooms and in some there is only one room earmarked to be used as library for keeping books and newspapers and to be used by prisoners as reading room.

He informed that in some of the districts, the local public libraries are providing their services to the prisoners by supplying books on any subject if same are not available in the prison library.

He also revealed that the library in Model Central Jail, Kanda (in Shimla District) is proposed to be the model library for the prisoners in the whole of the state. This library will be established on the pattern of public library with adequate number of books on all the subjects. The books will be systematically placed in almirahs and it will also have seating arrangement in the form of benches chairs and tables for the prisoners. The books shall be made available on all subjects like law, history, civics, geography, culture and famous personalities of the country.
7.2.1 Deputy Inspector General of Prison

Deputy Inspector General of Prisons is next to Additional Director General of police, Prisons in hierarchy. He is posted to assist him in his work. The principal duty of DIG of Prison is to ensure an efficient working of the jail in the state and to ensure that order and instructions issued by the Additional Director General of Police, Prisons are followed correctly by the Jail Superintendents. He is required to do extensive touring of the state for inspection of the jail. He has to frame proposals to carry out modern reforms in his department and to attain this objective, he has to keep himself abreast of modern thought on the subject.

According to R.K. Sharma, Deputy Inspector General of Prisons, the library services to the prisoners are not given as much importance as required. The prisoners are mostly engaged in labour activities like construction and maintenance of the jail buildings and working in small scale and cottage industries operating in the prisons. The prisoners are weaving blankets, shawls, carpets and even quilt covers. Some prisoners are engaged in growing vegetables and crops on the vacant land belonging to the prison department in the district. Such prisoners who are engaged for various labour works are paid daily wages. So these prisoners get
very little time for reading books on different subjects. But the prisoners are primarily interested in reading newspaper and periodicals only. Very few prisoners are keen to pursue their studies further to improve their educational qualifications. He agreed that if the prisoners are kept engaged in reading activity, they are less likely to resort to bad habits of gambling, smoking and drinking inside the jail. There will be little time left for them to involve themselves in criminal thinking, leading sometimes to fighting among themselves and abnormal behavior.

The DIG, Prisons disclosed that the library services to the prisoners are existing in all jails in the state of Himachal Pradesh. The books and newspapers are being supplied to the prisoners, either from the stock available in the jail or from the public library of the district concerned. He admitted that sufficient finances are not granted by the State Government to establish proper library system in jails in the state. So one or two rooms in each jail are designated as Library-cum-Reading Room where books on various subjects like history, philosophy, religion and fiction are kept.

The Deputy Inspector General, Prisons agreed that there should be a proper library in each jail with adequate number of books, periodicals and newspapers. He also opined that the
education of the prisoners should be made compulsory in the state on the pattern prevailing in the states of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal. There should be one or two trained teachers in every jail to teach the prisoners the basic knowledge of mathematics, history, hygiene and environment. This teaching can be logistically supported by the prison library services. So education programme of the prison should run in close coordination with the library.

7.2.2 Chief Welfare Officer

The Chief Welfare Officer is in charge of all welfare activities planned for the rehabilitation and reformation of the prisoners. The welfare activities for the prisoners are organised with the objective of their future rehabilitation after release from the prisons. The prisoners are engaged to work in many small and cottage industries being run in the prisons. The principal small scale industries which are functioning in the prisons of Himachal Pradesh are those which undertake, manufacturing of carpets, durries, blankets and shawls. The hand looms, weaving and knitting industrial units have been established in the Central Jails at Nahan and Shimla. The prisoners are paid for the labour done according to the number of work hours in each day. Sometimes
workshops on training of prisoners for working in agricultural and industrial fields, Yoga and meditation classes; lectures and discourses by reputed persons and cultural programmes are organised in the prison premises.

According to P.C. Sharma, who is presently posted as Chief Welfare Officer in the Prison Department of Himachal Pradesh, the reading facility is available in each prison, whether small or big, in the state. He emphasized on the need for allocation of more funds for purchase of books for the prison libraries. At present, only need based books and periodicals are purchased from contingency fund. No separate budget allocation is made by the government for this purpose. He disclosed that under the scheme of modernization of prisons, the funds are granted by the Govt. of India but same are mostly utilised for construction of buildings to accommodate more number of prisoners whose number is increasing day by day. Another problem in the way of establishing prison libraries is lack of trained library staff in the prisons. The Govt. of Himachal Pradesh has not deputed any trained or professional librarian, restorer or attendant in any of the jails. The job of librarian is performed either by an untrained jail warder or an educated but untrained convict.
The Chief Welfare Officer revealed that sending the prisoners on parole for taking up examination and attending to domestic chores is a part of their rehabilitation programme. The prisoners are sent home on short periods ranging from ten days to one month on the grounds of harvesting of crops, appearing for examination and in the event of marriage or death of a close relative.

He also informed the investigator of the present study that the prison department has already demanded separate budget allocation for the library services to the prisoners while sending their plan to the 10th Finance Commission.

He also regretted that due to shortage of staff, they are unable to provide proper library services. But they have high hopes from the 10th Finance Commission. If the separate budget allocation is made for the library services then, they can provide not only more books but also send the existing staff for training in library services to ensue better library services to prisoners.

Presently, they have involved a non governmental organisation named 'Kala Karm' headed by Saroj Vashisht who has gifted books in Tihar Jail also. She has donated books to jails situated in Shimla and now, she is intending to provide books and
periodicals to other jails of the state. The prisoners may also get 
motivated to make full use of these services if they are provided 
with more variety of reading material.

7.2.3 The Jail Superintendent

The post of Jail Superintendent is very important post in the 
prison organisation as he is responsible for hundreds of prisoners 
and on his initiative, personal attention and zeal, the fate of 
hundreds of prisoners depends. Jail superintendent is the head of 
the institution and subject to the orders of the ADGP, Prisons and 
DIG, Prisons, manages the prisons in all matters relating to 
discipline, punishment, control, labour and expenditure. The duties 
performed by superintendents according to Punjab Jail manual as 
applicable to prison in Himachal Pradesh area:

1. Provide for the support, care and custody of and control 
over, all prisoners at any time confined in the jail.

2. Maintain order and discipline amongst the prisoners 
confined and the subordinate officers employed in the 
jail.

3. Control all expenditure relating to the jail.

4. Inquire into and adjudicate upon all alleged prison-
offence and breaches of discipline; and to punish all 
those who are found guilty of having committed any 
such prison offence or breach of discipline in due course 
of law.

5. Generally to take all such measures as may be 
necessary or expedient for the proper protection and
management of the jail and of all prisoners at any time confined there in and for the purpose of giving effect to and enforce the provisions of the Prisons Act 1894, and all rules, regulations orders and directions made or issued there under as may be applicable there to or to any prisoner confined there in or any office there of.

7.2.4.1. Jail Superintendent, Model Central Jail, Sirmour

The library services to the prisoners have not been given a due weightage and priority in the state. The building of Central Jail at Nahan in Sirmour district was constructed during the British rule. There is a no provision for separate library building. However, one of the rooms of the size of a barrack has been converted into a library. It has few almirahs with books on different subjects like religion, mythology, philosophy, history, fiction and biographies of famous personalities. In addition to books, five newspapers are subscribed for the use of prisoners. Books in English, Hindi, Punjabi including some by foreign authors are also available in the book stock, which are used by all categories of prisoners including the prisoners belonging to foreign nationality, who are undergoing imprisonment on various charges mainly drug trafficking.

According to the Jail Superintendent, Model Central Jail, Sirmour, the library facilities should be provided in prisons as it is the medium by which the prisoners have latest information about the outside world. The leisure time of the prisoners can be utilised
usefully by them by reading literature of their interest. Thus it not only solves the problem of boredom inside the prison but also serves the purpose of education and knowledge about the world outside the prison.

Presently, library services are being provided through books, newspapers, and periodicals. If the requirement of books arises which are not available in the existing stock of prison library then a request is sent to District Public Library, and they provide the demanded books on loan for a fixed period. According to him, the biggest problem in the way of providing better library service are finances. The state government makes very little financial allocation for the purchase of books and the periodicals as well as for almirahs and other furniture articles.

He informed that the matter regarding the establishment of a library with adequate number of books and periodicals in the Central Jail shall be taken up with the higher authorities in due course of time.

7.2.4.2. Jail Superintendent, Model Central Jail, Shimla

The Superintendent of Model Central Jail, Kanda (in Shimla District) informed the investigator of this study that his jail is the highest located jail in Asia. It is planned and established on the
modern concept of jail reforms. This jail consists of huge complex which is the biggest in the area and accommodation in the whole state of Himachal Pradesh. The prisoner’s mess and the canteens are designed in such a manner so that inmates get meals and tea etc. in most hygienic conditions. The cleanliness is maintained at all costs. The prisoner are engaged in labour work in the prison industries, dairy farming, and growing vegetables within the prison premises.

The Jail Superintendent took the investigator to the prison library which is being maintained in one of the rooms of administrative block of this jail. He informed that there is a proposal to establish a model library for the prisoners in this jail. He stated that education of the prisoners and provision of library services to them is an important part of the concept of reformation and rehabilitation of the prisoners. The investigator found that only one reading room is existing which is being used as a library. It has few almirahs with about 657 books on various subjects like religion, civics, philosophy, history, culture and fiction. Four newspapers including one in english, and a weekly magazine are also provided. The prisoner are allowed to purchase newspaper.
periodicals and books at their own cost with prior permission from the jail superintendent.

The Superintendent also revealed that no separate financial allocation is made in the budget of the jail for providing library services. The periodicals and newspaper are purchased from contingency funds which is earmarked for office expenses. If some particular book is demanded by the prisoner then demand is sent to higher authorities. If sanctioned, it is purchased for the library. There are some non-government organization like ‘Kala Karam’ headed by Saroj Vashisht who has donated some books to the prison library.

In the year 2000, His Excellency, the Governor of Himachal Pradesh sanctioned a grant of Rs. 50,000 to the Kanda (Shimla) Central Jail for the purchase of books for the prison library. The amount has been utilised for the purchase of books and furniture for the library in the jail.

He also disclosed that, in addition to reading, other recreational facility given to the prisoners is provision of coloured television sets in each barrack. The satellite connection is also provided to the T.V. sets so that prisoners can watch educational, news and entertaining programmes on T.V. In addition to that
Cinema shows of patriotic and documentary films based on educational programmes are also occasionally arranged by the Department of Public Relations of Himachal Pradesh.

7.2.4.3. Jail Superintendent, Open Air Jail, Bilaspur

The Open Air Jail at Bilaspur is headed by Superintendent of Jail who informed that reading facilities are available to the prisoners in the jail. During her visit to Open Air Jail, Bilaspur, the present investigator found one room inside the jail designated as “Library-cum-Reading-Room.” The prisoners of both Open Air Jail as well as Sub Jail utilize the services of this library. The Superintendent disclosed that the prison Officials are keen to provide better library service and reading facilities to the prisoners in the jail but due to financial constraints they are unable to do so. The books are mostly donated by private individuals, non-governmental organizations, art and culture department of Himachal Pradesh and only some of these are contributed by the Prison Department.

However some books are also purchased on demand of prisoners. He informed that local public library also assist the prison library service by supplying the books required by the
prisoners. He admitted that the education of the prisoners is of great importance for their reformation and further rehabilitation.

The Jail Superintendent informed the present investigator that prisoners who are interested in reading are issued books according to their liking from the library. Even stationary items (like copies, papers, pens & ink) are also provided on government expenses. Prisoners are provided reading/writing material with the help of District Administration under the literacy programme. There is a need of establishing a big library within the jail premises but due to financial constraints, it is not possible. This department, according to him, is given raw deal by the state government in allocation of funds.

7.2.4.4. Jail Superintendent, District Jail, Kangra

The District Jail, Kangra at Dharmashala is headed by prison official of the rank of Superintendent of Jails. While showing the place, the Jail Superintendent disclosed that one of the cells inside the jail has been converted into a “Reading Room”. The books are available on varied subjects like culture, freedom movement, biographies of famous personalities, religion, geography and social science. Three newspapers one in English and two in regional languages and one periodical are subscribed for the use of prisoners. He admitted that
library services to prisoners is an important aspect of prison administration. There should be a proper library in each prison with adequate number of books and periodicals. He disclosed that only small part of the contingency fund is used for the purchase of reading material. In fact only newspapers and periodicals purchased regularly from this fund. The books are mostly donated by Government/Non Government organization or by private individuals.

He also informed that television sets with satellite connection have been provided for entertainment, information and education of the prisoners. The prisoners in this jail are both under trials as well as convicts. The under trials on conviction are transferred to the Central Jails in Himachal Pradesh. Some of these inmates are graduates and even postgraduates and they spend maximum of their leisure time by reading books and newspapers.

7.2.5 Deputy and Assistant Superintendent of Jail

Some of the District Jails and Sub Jails are headed by Deputy Superintendent of Jail and Assistant Superintendent of Jail. They are the executive officers of the jail and discharge their duties under the immediate direction and orders of the superintendent or
higher prison authorities. Assistant Superintendents of Jails are sub-ordinate to the Deputy Superintendents.

The duty of these officers is mainly to enforce laws, rules, regulations, directions and orders relating to the management of jails and for the welfare of prisoners.

7.2.5.1. Deputy Superintendent of Jail, District Jail, Chamba

District jail Chamba is headed by Deputy superintendent of jail. He informed that more than half of the prison population comes under the category of literates. Only few are illiterates with no formal education.

The literate prisoners prefer to read news papers and periodicals which are supplied to them by the jail authorities. Sometimes, they, at their own expenses arrange to buy the same from outside. Some of them are interested in reading books on religion, history and fiction. One of rooms of the Chamba District Jail is functioning as Reading Room cum Library. About two hundred books on varied subjects like history, geography, religion and biographies are available in the library. Two newspapers in English and one in Hindi language and one periodical are subscribed in the library for the use of prisoners.
The books are mostly provided by Govt./Non Govt. organizations. The books are under the charge of an educated convict, who issues the books to the inmates. No separate financial allocation is made for the purchase of books and provision of library services to the prisoners. The public library in the district is helping the inmates by supplying books to the prisoners. He agreed that there should be more number of books and periodicals for the jail inmates as the prisoners have enough leisure time for reading.

7.2.5.2 The Deputy Superintendent of Jail, Mandi

The Borstal Jail and Sub Jail, Mandi are functioning from the same prison building and are headed by an officer of the jail department of the rank of Deputy superintendent of Jail. The Deputy Superintendent while answering the queries in the questionnaire submitted by the investigator of the present study, disclosed that there are two sanctioned posts of teachers to teach the inmates of Borstal Jail. One is a Trained Graduate Teacher (T.G.T.) and another is Junior Basic Training (JBT) teacher. But, presently only one T.G.T. is posted in this jail. He takes the classes of prisoners falling in the age group of eighteen to twenty one years. Twelve inmates were preparing for different examinations.
There is one 'Library cum Reading Room' situated in the jail which is utilised by prisoners who are confined to the Sub Jail, Mandi as well as inmates of Borstal Jail. In addition to the academic books on the subjects like Hindi, English, Mathematics and Sciences, the books on varied subjects like geography, religion, civics and history are also available. The library is also subscribing to two newspapers and one periodical.

The Deputy Superintendent Jail informed that prisoners have enough leisure time, which can be best utilised by prisoners by reading books and newspapers. Books not only enlighten their minds but also help them to think positively and develop healthy attitude towards their fellow prisoners as well as the society at large.

7.2.5.3. Deputy Superintendent of Jail, Sub. Jail Shimla

The Sub Jail, Shimla is situated in Shimla city. This is headed by Deputy Superintendent of Jail. He stated that presently library services are being provided to the prisoners in the form of books and newspapers. But in the absence of separate financial allocation for books and insufficient space it makes difficult for the jail authorities to provide a proper library.
He disclosed that some of the inmates are also not keen to spend their time in reading. They simply waste their time by gossiping, chatting, gambling and watching T.V. In order to encourage this category of inmates to reading, their counselling is required so that they can be motivated to use the library services. Since majority of prisoners are under trials and literate in this jail, they have lot of free time with them. The women prisoners pass their leisure time by knitting. Even they can also be encouraged to use library services in leisure time.

Prisoners in this jail are provided books from the existing stock. They are permitted to take books to their barracks and return whenever they like. Library services can play an important part in the rehabilitation of prisoners. He admitted that it is only through books and newspapers, the prisoners can refresh their knowledge about the world outside the prison. It will not only help the prisoners to pass their free time but also help the jail authorities to keep discipline inside the prison.

7.2.5.4. Assistant Superintendent of Jail, Sub Jail, Hamirpur

The Sub Jail of Hamirpur district is headed by Assistant Superintendent of Jail. According to him, prison education is of prime importance for rehabilitation, reformation and socialization.
of the prisoners. Their education would change their whole some attitude towards society and make them good citizens of the country. He stated that almost half of the prisoners have formal education in the schools or colleges. The remaining half are either illiterate or dropouts from the school.

The library service in this prison are provided in one room having three almirahas containing around one hundred and seventy three books on different subjects like philosophy, religion, freedom movement, culture and government publication etc. kept in the reading room. Three newspapers are subscribed to the prisoners. Books are issued to the prisoners from time to time.

He also informed that no finances are given by the department for the purchase of books and periodicals. The newspapers are purchased out of contingency funds which is also a very meagre amount. According to him, library is very important for social rehabilitation of the prisoners. It would encourage the prisoners to inculcate moral and spiritual values and help them to return to normal life and to adjust in the society after release from the prison.
7.2.5.5. Assistant Superintendent of Jail, Sub Jail, Kullu

Sub Jail in Kullu district is headed by the Assistant Superintendent of Jail. According to him he is receiving undertrials from Kullu, Mandi and Lahaul-Spiti district. He stated that education of the prisoners is an important pre requisite for making them better citizens. The prison library in this jail is housed in one corner room. There are around three hundred books which are kept unsystematically in an almirah. This jail is subscribing to two newspapers. He stated that the prison libraries are poorly financed and inadequately staffed. The teachers are provided only in Juvenile and Borstal prisons. There is no provision of formal education and prison school in any jail.

According to the above mentioned officer, the aim of the prisons should be to reform and rehabilitate. Illiterate prisoners should be taught to make them able to read & write and rest of prisoners should be provided with fundamental knowledge of history, geography and government policies. This primary objective of education can be fulfilled only by having library with adequate number of books on different subject. But the government has not provided any budget for the purchase of books and periodicals. Most of the books are donated books. He disclosed that sincere
efforts have been made to provide adequate library service to prisoners within available resources.

7.2.5.6 Assistant Superintendent of Jail, Sub Jail, Solan

Sub Jail Solan is headed by Assistant Superintendent of Jail. According to him, provision of library services to prisoners in the jail is an important aspect of the jail reforms. The aim of the prison reforms is to provide opportunities to the illiterate prisoners to achieve a minimum level of education. It would develop in prisoners a better understanding of duties and obligations of a citizen and make prisoners aware of the advantages of law abiding life. He said that aim of the prison reform program should be not only to educate the illiterates but also to provide diversified knowledge inmates. That is possible only through a good library service in the prisons.

In this Sub Jail one of the rooms of the prison building is being is used as a library. The present investigator, on visit to the Reading Room, found that one old wooden almirah of books was kept there in the name of "Library". Around two hundred books on different subjects are kept there. The inmates who are mostly under trials rarely sit in the room. Those interested in reading, get the books issued and read in their barracks. Two
newspaper are supplied to the prisoners. The inmates can buy their own reading material with the permission of Jail Superintendent. He also informed the investigator of the present study that if prisoners demand more books or any specific book then the same are made available to them through local district public library.

7.2.5.7. Assistant Superintendent of Jail, Sub Jail, Una

The Sub, Jail, Una is also headed by Assistant Superintendent of Jail. He pointed out that inmates of the prison have lot of free time with them. This time can be utilised fruitfully by providing them with better library service. All of the prisoners, except three, were educated enough to read and write. These educated prisoners are least interested in doing labour work. Since they are free most of the time, so in order to keep them busy and disciplined, a good library is required in the prison. Presently, due to lack of space, there is only one room which is termed as ‘Library’ where about three hundred books are kept on different subjects. In addition to that, two newspapers are subscribed i.e. one in English and other in Hindi language.

He informed the investigator of the present study, during her visit to the jail., that due to lack of funds, space and trained staff, it
is not possible to have full-fledged library. But books and newspapers are provided as and when demanded by inmates. Newspapers are taken back from the inmates in the evening and books are normally returned by the inmates after reading. There are no fixed days for issued of books to the prisoners. He emphasized on the need of a good library in the prison. It can be provided either through government’s initiative or by any non governmental organization which can provide funds or books to set up a proper library.

7.2.6. Warden, Juvenile Jail, Una

The Juvenile Jail, Una is headed by the Warden. The jail functions under Welfare Department of the Government of Himachal Pradesh. According to the Warden, there are three posts of teachers i.e. one J.B.T. Teacher, one T.G.T. and one craft master. The J.B.T. and T.G.T. teachers posted in Juvenile Jail are responsible for providing education to Juveniles admitted to this jail. Boys up to sixteen year of age and girls up to eighteen years of age are kept in the Juvenile homes. Basic education is provided to these children.

JBT teacher is in charge of the library. There are about six hundred books including textbooks. Books are mainly on the
subjects of religion, biographies of eminent personalities, children fiction, general knowledge, moral education, sports, drawing books and text books of classes from I to X, according to the Himachal Pradesh School Education syllabus. Textbooks are issued to the students for full term and other books they can read in the library and can get issued any time. Books are arranged in serial number order. Two newspapers are also subscribed. Although the funds are not much but a separate budget is provided to purchase books.

The problems being faced mainly are that there is inadequate space for the library, the budget provision is insufficient and non existence of professional staff for the library.

The Warden stressed that there is a need of conselling to the children to read books and carry on further studies which play significant role for their reformation and further rehabilitation.

At the time of the present investigator's visit to this jail, there were six children in the Juvenile Jail. The children are taught every day and classes are held for about four hours i.e. from 10AM to 3 PM with lunch break of one hour.
6.3. Department of Home

6.3.1. Special Secretary, Home

The investigator also interviewed Special Secretary, Home, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, who is In Charge of the affairs of the Jail Department. K.S. Narang, I.A.S., about the provision of library services to prisoners in the state of Himachal Pradesh, who stated that there is no loud thinking by the state government on this particular subject. The prisoners are provided books on the basis of their demands received from the concerned jail authorities. If some prisoner is interested to improve his educational qualification or pursue higher education he is supplied with required books and is assisted in procuring books from the public libraries existing in each district.

He disclosed that there is a proposal to establish a good library in Central Jail, Kanda (Shimla). We have already demanded separate budget allocation for library services to be provided in the prisons. It is most effective rehabilitation programme of the prisoners. In the year 2000, Hon'ble Governor of Himachal Pradesh sanctioned Rs. 50,000 to Kanda Central Jail for the purchase of books and library furniture. There is no proposal as yet to establish a separate library building in each jail to provide adequate and
organised system of library service to the prisoners. However, the “Reading Rooms” are being maintained in each jail of the state where the books, according to the interests of the prisoners, especially on religion, meditation, history and civics, are available for their use.

He admitted that prisoners can make the best use of their leisure time by reading books, periodicals and newspapers. He stated that Government of Himachal Pradesh does not make any separate budget allocation for providing library services to the prisoners. Only a part of office expenses fund is utilised for this purpose. He was convinced about the merits of provision of adequate library services to the inmates in the jails of Himachal Pradesh. But according to him due to financial constraints, it is difficult to provide full fledged library in each sub jail. However, effort would be made to establish organised libraries in the model Central Jail, Kanda (Shimla) and Model Central Jail, Nahan (Sirmour).

Hypothesis No. 5

“The prison authorities and the state government are not very serious about the provision of library services to the prisoners for various reasons such as paucity of funds,
shortage of space, in sufficient staff, security reasons etc."

Most of the prison buildings came into existence during the British rule and there has been no serious effort by the government to provide library accommodation in the prison in Himachal Pradesh. Due to paucity of space, the prisons libraries are functioning from either one or two rooms only. The investigator while talking to the prison and government officials found that financial constraints is a major factor for poor states of prison libraries in state of Himachal Pradesh. Even nothing concrete in this field is being undertaken by the state government. Hence, hypothesis No- 5 has been tested and confirmed.

7.3 An Overview

All prison officials from the top rank of Additional Director General of police, Prisons down to the rank of Assistant Superintendents of Prison are of the view that library services to prisoners is a very effective measure for correctional process of a prisoners. It brings about change in his mental attitude by slowly moulding his knowledge, character and behaviour. The libraries play an important role in making the prisoners aware of the advantage of law abiding life and creating better understanding of the duties and obligation of a citizen.
The prison officials informed the investigator of the present study about the existing library facilities for the prisoners in various jails of Himachal Pradesh. It was revealed that each and every prison has some sort of reading facilities available for the prisoners. Some prisons have more organised set up of library facilities while the others are just providing a few books, newspapers and periodical to the prisoners in the name of a prison library services.

The table 38 indicates the type of libraries presently available in different jails of Himachal Pradesh. It shows that most of the prisons (64.28%) have a library in the prison premises but the facilities provided are very little. Some of these libraries are very small but the library infrastructure is there, though on a very small scale. Shortage of space and trained staff in the prison premises is the reason for not having good libraries in the jails.

Almost half of the prison libraries are being assisted by local District Public Libraries in providing books to the prisoners, although here are no instructions issued by government regarding library services to be provided by the public library to the prisoners. Mobile library service was available earlier to the prisoners but due to lack of funds, the same has been discontinued. A few sub Jails (35.7%) do not have proper seating
Table 38: Type of Libraries Available for the Prisoners in Himachal Pradesh
(Percentages given with in brackets)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Name of the prison</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Prison Library/Reading Room</th>
<th>Through Public Library</th>
<th>Mobile Library Service</th>
<th>Only a few Almirahs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Open Air Prison</td>
<td>Bilaspur</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sub Jail</td>
<td>Bilaspur</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>District Jail</td>
<td>Chamba</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sub Jail</td>
<td>Hamirpur</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>District Jail</td>
<td>Kangra</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sub Jail</td>
<td>Kullu</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Borstal Jail</td>
<td>Mandi</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Sub Jail</td>
<td>Mandi</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Model Central Jail</td>
<td>Shimla</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Sub Jail</td>
<td>Shimla</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Model Central Jail</td>
<td>Sirmour</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Sub Jail</td>
<td>Solan</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Juvenile Jail</td>
<td>Una</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Sub Jail</td>
<td>Una</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(64.28) (50) (0) (35.7)
arrangement in the prison for the readers due to lack of space. The investigator of the present study found only few almirahs in the name of prison library during her visit to these sub jails.

Table 39 indicates the total number of books, newspapers, and periodicals being provided by the jail authorities in various prisons of Himachal Pradesh. Only about one third of the prisons have comparatively adequate number of books in their stock. These prisons are two Model Central Jails situated in Shimla and Sirmour districts, Borstal and Juvenile Jail at Mandi and Una districts. The District jail of Kangra has also comparatively better position of library collection.

The reason behind more number of books in the above mentioned prisons is that the population of prisoners is comparatively more in these prisons. Moreover teachers in Borstal and Juvenile Jail are preparing the prisoners for the various examinations, so these two prisoners have significant number of text books. The remaining prisons have smaller collection of books due to lesser prison population and also shortage of space.

7.4.1. Problems Faced by Prison Authorities

The problems faced by the prison officials in extending more library service to prisoners in Himachal Pradesh are:
## Table 39: Reading Material in the Prison Libraries in Himachal Pradesh

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Name of the Prison</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>No. of Books</th>
<th>No. of Daily Newspapers</th>
<th>No. of Popular Magazines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Open Air Jail</td>
<td>Bilaspur</td>
<td>576</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sub Jail</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>District Jail</td>
<td>Chamba</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sub Jail</td>
<td>Hamirpur</td>
<td>173</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>District Jail</td>
<td>Kangra</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sub Jail</td>
<td>Kullu</td>
<td>327</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Borstal Jail</td>
<td>Mandi</td>
<td>723</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Sub Jail</td>
<td>Mandi</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Model Central Jail</td>
<td>Shimla</td>
<td>657</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Sub Jail</td>
<td>Shimla</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Model Central Jail</td>
<td>Sirmour</td>
<td>773</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Sub Jail</td>
<td>Solan</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Juvenile Jail</td>
<td>Una</td>
<td>656</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Sub Jail</td>
<td>Una</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Lack of space and accommodation is a major problem to establish a prison library as most of the prisons buildings came into existence during the British rule when there was less emphasis on the reformation programmes. There was no planning to construct separate accommodation to establish prison libraries.

2. No regular and earmarked budget is allocated for providing library services to the prisoners. The books and newspapers are purchased, if required, from the contingency funds which is allotted to every jail for incurring office expenses. Only a fraction of this fund is used to purchase books, newspapers, and periodicals for the prisoners. Paucity of funds is a big bottle neck in the direction of library service programme to the prisoners.

3. None of the prisons in Himachal Pradesh has any kind of trained and professional staff to manage the prison libraries. Government of Himachal Pradesh has imposed a ban on the fresh recruitment of class III and IV employees. So there is little chance in the immediate future to create the posts of librarians, Restores or Attendants in the prison libraries.

4. Lack of motivation among the Non Governmental organization and prison officials is another factor for not giving due importance to provide adequate library facilities to the prisoners. The NGOs occasionally donate books to the prison libraries but they seldom visit the prisons to conduct work shops and motivational programmes for the prisoners as well as prison officials. They take little interest in education and library facilities to the prisoners.

5. Sometimes, it is observed that the prisoners hesitate to present their need of library facilities due to various reasons such as fear, depression, illiteracy, preoccupation with nefarious activities like gossiping, gambling, clandestine drinking and taking drugs.
6. The response of prisons officials is also lukewarm to the needs of library service to the prisoners. The officials engage the prisoners in other activities like working in the cottage industries, dairy farming and raising of vegetables & crops due to vested interests of some jail officials and to fulfill their own needs.

Most of the problems enumerated above are of trivial nature and can be solved with little more interest, enthusiasm and motivation on the part of the officials of Government of Himachal Pradesh and prison department. The library services can be strengthened if some of the issues which are of minor nature and are not related in any manner with the financial affairs are taken care of properly. Under the modernization scheme of the prisoners, the Government of India is committed to treat the prison as the Correctional Institution. So the suitable steps are required to be taken by the state Govt. for the purpose of establishing library infrastructure in the prisons of Himachal Pradesh so that the prisoners in the state are not deprived of adequate library services which are indispensable for their reformation and rehabilitation.