CHAPTER IX

CONCLUSION
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In conclusion we may first focus on the jail inmates. The study shows that a little more than three fifth of the inmates are undertrials and the remaining are convicts.

Persons between 25 to 40, it is studied, are most prone to crime. One-fourth of prisoners come from the lower caste group and except a few, most inmates are married persons. Similarly except a handful of women prisoners, all prisoner are male members. Also the enquiry shows that baring two or three, almost all prisoners are Hindu.

Poverty is learnt to be a major cause of crime in our State. The findings shows that nearly half of the prisoners are landless poor people and only a handful of them are having rich background with more than 10 acres of landed property in their possession.

Literacy rate in our state is very disappointing. So also in the jail, illiterate prisoners constitute the highest percentage. However, among the literate few, at least one percent are master degree holders and a few are degree holders and matriculates. Since the jail is situated in the capital city, most inmates i.e. three-fourth of them come from the urban areas.
From our probe into the causes of crime, the findings shows that poverty and the absence of basic needs of life are major causes of crime in our society though broken home, industrialisation and urbanisation also play their role in commission of crime.

On the nature of offences or crime, our study shows 'murder' to be a crime committed by nearly one-third of the inmates. Other offences committed by inmates are theft, dacoity, robbery, rioting, sex-crime and also dowry and drug crime.

A little more than one-third of the inmates, according to our study, admit of police torture during the period of their confinement.

The family members of the prisoners face a lot of problems in the absence of the male member, who sometimes supposed to be the head of the family. Such problems include shortage of fund without the main earning member, loneliness of the wife in the absence of her husband (the prisoner), difficulty in the management of children and aging parents and worries relating to uncertain future of the family.

Most prisoners complain about the poor living condition due to over crowding in jails. Also on bathing and washing facilities, one-third of the prisoners expressed their dissatisfaction on shortage of water supply.

Nearly two-third of the inmates complained of the severe unhygienic condition of the old lavatory system, which causes severe skin disease among the inmates.
Similarly, nearly one-half of the prisoners did not like the system of early confinement in their cells and wards.

Most of the inmates felt that overcrowding in the jail led to a lot of difficulties for them like lack of provision for mosquito net and insufficient bedding.

During our conversation, majority of the inmates expressed their ignorance of jail rules and regulations.

Answering on the question about their relationship with their co-prisoners, a microscopic minority very hesitatingly said about the harassments inflicted on them by some notorious convicts (Dadas) inside the jail.

Also, from the study, a handful of prisoners were found to be used for the personal work of the jail officials.

A majority of the inmates were happy with the jail provision for interacting with their relatives and friends. However, some prisoners regret that due to poverty, their relatives including their wives could not come to visit them with high bus fare from the distant native places. Prisoners, whose family members usually met them, complained about the lack of privacy during their conversation and wished they should have a visitor's room for this purpose.
Almost one-third of the inmates spoke of getting opportunity to write letters to their near and dear ones in short intervals with the postal materials supplied to them by the authorities. Some of the inmates however, said that they did not write letters to their family members since they (family members) were ignorant of their whereabouts and criminal activities.

In the field of health care, fourth-fifth of the prison inmates were found satisfied with it.

Our study shows that almost one-third of the prisoners expressed satisfaction over the reading materials they get like newspapers and magazines.

On the question of provision for psychiatrist consultation, our findings shows that the only inmate suffering from mental disease was getting proper treatment from the psychiatrist in the jail.

Nearly three-fourth of the prisoners said about getting permission to consult their lawyers. Also the poor inmates said that they got help from the legal-aid-cell of the government to fight their cases.

On religious preaching and spiritual guide, almost all prisoners were found satisfied and said about religious freedom inside the jail.

Almost all inmates said about getting canteen facilities inside from where they buy their required articles.
Since only the convicts were given work, the undertrial inmates idle away their time during their stay. The convicts on the other hand, complained of traditional routine work which was quite monotonous.

Nearly half of the inmates told about their fear psychosis on the issue of solitary confinement, early entry to the cells and the mechanical routine work like counting, checking and locking. This, they said keep most of them under constant mental pressure and guilty feelings.

Nearly three-fourth of the prisoners said of the feeling of suffocation due to the loss of liberty in the jail.

Also majority of the inmates expressed their painful feeling as a result of deprivation of heterosexual relationship.

Similarly our findings shows that three-fourth of the prisoners did not feel secure inside the prison.

In respect of provision of entertainment in the jail for inmates, one half of them spoke of getting chances of seeing movies of educative and spiritual values arranged by Public Relation Department of the Government.

Inside the jail, four to five television sets are provided to the inmates but women prisoners complained of not having any television set for them in their ward.
In the field of games and sports, it is learnt that only convicts are given the chance of playing Volley ball inside the jail premises. No provision for other games was found there.

However, provision for indoor games like Ludu, Chess and Carrom was found to be satisfactory. Some of the prisoners too confessed about playing cards secretly without the knowledge of the authorities since it is prohibited inside the jail.

Our study on the closeness of inmates to various jail authorities, shows that nearly three-fourth of them always speak about their difficulties and problems to the prison welfare Officer, who they said always listen to them patiently.

The study on the nature of function of the guarding staff, reveals that nearly two-third of them find in the guards or warders a friends to whom they may speak out their mind. But one-tenth of them said that for them the warders resemble the policemen due to their attitude towards them.

Prison is not only a custodial but also a correctional institution. Therefore, the "Khaki Uniform" of the jail officials, since resembles the police dress may be replaced. Our question on this issue to the inmates showed that only one-fifth of them wanted the jail official's dress to be white in colour and a few wanted it to be of light blue colour.
In the open society, till today we find class and caste distinction among the people. But it is good that inside the prison, majority inmates expressed of no such class or caste distinction among them.

Our study reveals that gambling in some form or other exists in the jail which was told to the researcher very secretly by a handful of inmates. Also they spoke of some jail vices like violence and infighting between group of prisoners occasionally in the jail.

However, not a single inmate opened his mouth on the vice like homosexuality in the jail and only a handful of them complained of hooliganism.

One-third of the prisoners were found to be "Pan-chewers" (in the habit of chewing betel leaf) and a little less than that confessed about their smoking (of bidi) habit. A very small number secretly said about their bad habit of taking opium sometime if they get the opportunity.

To majority of the prisoners, in spite of the modern trend of providing much facilities to them, jail is never a good place to live in. But most of the convicts are found to reconcile with the jail life.

The impact of prisonisation is very bad. It is learnt that due to the loss of their liberty, family life and feeling of insecurity, the prisoners behave in a peculiar way.
Majority of the prison inmates viewed their conviction as unjust and a few felt their conviction as just.

An overwhelming majority of the prisoners were very much sure about their acceptance by their family and society after their release. Majority of them had expressed their faith in mankind and only a handful were found pessimistic about their future life.

II

In this part, our findings reveal that a little more than half of the prison officials and staff had rural background and the rest had urban background.

It is learnt that only one-tenth of them were Muslims and the remaining majority were Hindu.

From among the Hindu, nearly three-fourths were from the upper caste like Brahmin, Karan, Khandayat and the rest were from the schedule caste group.

The study shows that except a few, majority of the staff were married persons.

Their educational qualification ranged between middle school learning to Master Degree studies. Only one Officer was a Master Degree holder, where as one sixth were Graduates and nearly one-third had
Another one-sixth were matriculates and the rest were having education below matriculation level.

Our study reveals that nearly two-third of staff, due to unemployment problem and non-availability of other jobs joined the prison service. They do not have any special interest in prison service.

On promotion prospect in the job, a substantial majority of them felt, hard work and efficiency should be regarded as an important factor for it and a little more than half said about good conduct and educational qualification to be regarded as the basis of promotion.

Majority of them opined that poverty leading to absence of basic needs of life and corruption in public life are the main cause of crime in society.

Almost all prison personnel complained of their low salary in comparison to the police staff, long working hours without any extra allowances for over-duty, and inadequate quarters facilities. A handful of them too, complained of lack of proper help from the headquarters and one-third of them spoke of problems like prison violence and use of intoxicants by some notorious inmates.

Again a few talked about the extra burden they were taking due to preoccupation of officials with clerical works and one-half expressed
helplessness over their frequent transfer leading to problems for school and college going children in the mid-term. One-third also were found concerned about the feeling of insecurity outside the jail campus.

Officials also felt that occasional violence inside the jail and use of intoxicants by some inmates should be strongly dealt with by sever punishment.

Two-third of the prison personnel complained of the negligence of the higher authorities in the maintenance and repair of the old and dilapidated building. Most of them also spoke about over crowding as a major problem in jail.

Almost half of the staff were dissatisfied over the poor medical facilities for inmates and one-fifth of them felt the entertainment provision of prisoners to be inadequate.

Nearly one-third of the persons felt work programme for inmates was essential for maintaining discipline in the jail and also would help them in getting gainful occupation after their release.

A substantial majority of the staff emphatically said of 'custody as the most important objective of imprisonment and only a handful of them felt,' it was also to prevent crime along with custody. However, a little more than one-third, believed 'correction' to be the next objective
of prisonisation apart from custody. None of them felt coercion to be an objective of imprisonment.

On the issue of introducing up-to-date industry in jail against the traditional ones, four-fifth of the staff suggested electronics training for the prisoners since in the present world, it would help them a lot after their release. Half of them suggested typing and shorthand training as useful and a little more than that wanted sewing and cutting training both for male and female inmates. A few too, suggested carpentry training for them.

However, a handful of the prison personnel suggested for training to inmates in industry like iron work (fabrication), cane work, applique work, spice making, ply-board and cardboard box (carton) making etc. This is not doubt a very positive and practical suggestion and it should get active consideration of the government.

On prison labour a microscopic minority of the prison staff wanted the provision of prison labour for the under trial inmates also.

A substantial majority of them felt present system of the prison education to be adequate.

Similarly most of the personnel felt the sentencing court to be the most suitable body for classification of prisoners and only a few felt the need of classification committee for the purpose.
On the issue of separate jail for undertrial, juveniles, women and political prisoners, nearly three-fourth of them answered in the affirmative and remaining suggested for separate jail only for the undertrials.

A great majority of the respondents were unhappy about the existing wage for labouring prisoners and suggested for its enhancement.

Our findings on the cadre from which the Inspector General of prisons should come shows, majority were in favour of the system of Inspector General to be deputed from Indian Police Service Cadre.

All the personnel favoured the system of classification of prisoners to be based on the crime they committed.

For better and efficient jail administration, almost all baring a few of them felt the necessity of a common cadre for both custodial and correctional staff.

It is noteworthy to mention some valuable suggestion given by the jail officials and staff for improvement in jail administration. Firstly they felt it necessary that government should provide more facilities to jail staff and secondly there should be some change in jail management.

For the first category it is suggested that (i) there must be enhancement of jail staff, both custodial and correctional in jails in the state and (ii) salary of the jail personnel be raised.
Also due to the nature of their job, they do not enjoy holidays (including national holidays). So they must be paid extra allowances to compensate it. To facilitate them with some leisure, roster duty system may also be introduced to carry on routine jail work.

Majority of the jail officials complain of their frequent transfer from place to place causing great difficulties in the management of their families. So it is urged that frequent transfer be avoided as far as practicable.

The existing jail manual of our state is very old and of the pre-independent area. So changes may be made to make it up-to-date.

Most of the jail personnel spoke of the promotion scheme in this service to be very limited and suggested for a similar promotion scheme like police department.

Also they felt, it would have been better if medical allowances be given on monthly basis instead of annual payment.

On the whole, some worthy suggestions were given by the officials for improvement of jail administration in the state which is discussed below.

Firstly, from the security point of view, arms and ammunition be provided to all jails to meet emergency situations.
Secondly, good lighting facilities be arranged inside the jail premises and to meet situations during powercut or failure, generators must be supplied to the jails.

Lastly, during day time, two gate warders be posted at a time in every phase in district and circle jail. Also there must be proper cooperation and coordination of prison officials and staff in discharge of their duties for better and efficient jail management.

III

Crime and punishment, reformation and rehabilitation are some of the burning issues facing the society today. With the advancement of science and technology, people surely are leading a better life than before, yet with the modern technique, crime rates are increasing day by day. Therefore, it is high time that both the authorities and general public of the state should think over a suitable means through which crime rates can be reduced. Today when we are marching towards the twenty first century, more and more emphasis is given on social defence policy and reformation technique in prison administration. However, some people do not agree with the strategy to be fruitful in reducing crime rates. They are strongly in favour of 'tit-for-tat' policy for curbing crime in our society.

In Orissa too, crime rates are increasing at a very fast pace as also in other parts of India as well as the world. Yet it is a pity that in spite
of the growing burden on it, jail administration in Orissa has not yet got an independent and separate status. It is true that few improvements are done here and there but there is no remarkable change in this field for better jail administration.

In most of the district in Orissa, jail buildings are in a dilapidated condition. Neither the maintenance nor the repair of these buildings is done over a period of time. It is essential to look into this problem since prison population is increasing at a faster rate.

The Inspector General of Prisons, head of the organisation comes from the cadre of Indian Police Service and is a non-professional. For better and efficient jail administration he should come from the prison department. He must have adequate experience in jail administration. Similarly, the Deputy Inspector General, who is now recruited from the cadre of Orissa Administrative Service should come from jail service.

Shortage of jail staff is another major problem in this field. So more and more staff be employed to solve this problem.

Now, much emphasis is given on the correctional and reformatory side of jail administration. So a Regional Training Institute for jail officials and staff be instituted for the Eastern region under which the jails of Orissa be included. Along with it a research unit namely 'Prison Research Bureau' attached to the jail directorate be created in our state to carry on research work on various field relating to correctional administration.
An important goal may be achieved by having a classification committee for classifying prison inmates like other countries of the world. The Committee should consist of persons like psychiatrists, psychologists, sociologists and such other persons for preliminary classification.

The first offenders should be segregated from the habituals so that guidance may be given to them for reformation.

Also it is essential that the probation system and after care programme be made more effective.

Provisions should be made also to keep the undertrial inmates totally segregated from the convicts.

In our state, though an open jail and a separate jail for women are constructed, yet much is to be done in this direction.

The juvenile offenders should be given better treatment. A very good suggestion in this respect is to institute a 'Juvenile Aid Society' in district headquarters. The task of this society would be to give more attention to the juvenile delinquents and guide them for a better life in future.

The traditional education imparted in the jail be replaced by technical and scientific training so that after their release, these skilled workers can do something meaningful for their livelihood.
Along with the convicts, the undertrial inmates also be given certain type of work so that they will not sit idle.

Provision for police escorts and vehicle to take prisoners to the court is found to be insufficient at present. This causes delay in producing the prisoners before the Magistrate. So more police escorts and vehicles should be provided to solve this problem.

This is true that the jail personnel are discharging a tedious and risky job. Their present salary and conditions of service are not satisfactory. For better utilisation of these staff, they should be given incentive in the form of good salary, good promotion prospect, leave facilities, overtime allowance etc. apart from facilities like supply of daily used articles for them in a subsidised rate from the governmental store.

It is learnt that, now more and more visitors like research scholars, teachers, sociologists, social workers and members of different voluntary organisations are visiting the jail inmates for various purpose. In this respect, it is expected that more liberal approach be adopted by the jail officials in their attitude towards the jail inmates. Thus through their meeting and conversation with people of various walks of life from the outside world and good rapport with the jail officials, a humanising effect surely will be there on these offenders and we may hope for lesser crime in society in future.