CHAPTER - 4

RESEARCH SETTING

Prisons in the shape of dungeons had existed from time immemorial in all the old countries of the world. Prison sentence or imprisonment, as a specific punishment, is of relatively recent origin. The prison which now came into existence, largely as an interim house of detention of an offender pending his trial and punishment. The prison sentence also satisfied the then twin purposes i.e. of inflicting pain on the offender in fair measure and protecting society by incarcerating him and deterring him from criminality. It was believed that rigorous isolation and custodial measures would reform the offenders, but with changes in the society over period of time, the functions of prisons have also changed from custodial, to coercive, to corrective.

In early India, jails functioned on the principle of custodial care. With the assertion that a jail is for confinement and not for punishment, prisons were concerned simply with holding prisoners while they waited for trial. During the medieval and early British periods, emphasis came to be laid on retributive and deterrent aspects of punishment. Physical torture, social degradation and restrictions on freedom were among the programmes used for inflicting pain on criminals. Prisons were primarily used as penal institutions. No attention was paid to differences in age, sex, nature of crime, criminal background or mental status of the offenders. It was only after the recommendations of the Jail Reforms Committee of 1919 were accepted that conditions in prisons gradually improved and prisons came to be used for corrective.
purposes, i.e., for bringing offenders round to becoming good citizens through discipline of work, education and moral instructions

The basic functions of prisons today are as follows -

(1) Social isolation and confinement
(2) Repentance
(3) Punishment and deterrence
(4) Protection
(5) Reformation

PRISONISATION

This concept was developed by Donald Clemmer in 1940. According to Clemmer, prisonisation is a process of assimilating prison culture or a process of taking on in a greater or a lesser degree the folkways, mores, customs and general culture of a prison in integrative steps. The main elements of prisonisation are -

(a) Every prisoner is prisoned
(b) Prisonisation takes place in stages
(c) Degree of prisonisation may be low, medium or high
(d) Prisonisation depends upon several factors like age, cell-inmates, nature of crime, term of imprisonment, type of relationships before punishment and relations with the outside world
(e) There could be deprivatisation and reprivisation also

The integrative steps in prisonisation are

- Acceptance of an inferior role by wearing jail clothes and becoming an anonymous figure
- Accumulation of facts concerning the structure, organisation and the norms of prison, i.e., learning about ranks, titles and authority of various officials
- Development of somewhat new habits of eating, dressing, working and sleeping
• Learning and adopting local language and nicknames, i.e., jail argot
• Recognition that he is not obliged to anybody for the food, clothes, etc., he gets in jail.
• Demands more facilities and desires a good job

Supreme Court of India has recommended from time to time for improving prison conditions. These suggestions have been given since last 15 years or so in different cases from states like Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Delhi, Kerala and Bihar (National Expert Committee Report on Women Prisoners, 1989)

1. Assigning congenial work

A prisoner should be assigned congenial work which gives job satisfaction. Supreme Court judges directed the state Government to see that within the framework of the jail rules, the prisoner is assigned work not of a monotonous, mechanical, degrading type but of a mental, intellectual or like type mixed with a little manual labour.

2. Remuneration

A prisoner must be paid a reasonable fraction of remuneration by way of wages for the work done, since unpaid work is bonded labour and humiliating.

3. Meditation, Sports and games

Self-expression and self-realisation have a curative effect. Therefore, any sports and games, artistic activity or meditational course will stimulate prisoner’s creativity and sensitivity.

4. Parole release

The Supreme Court judges gave thought to another humanizing strategy, namely, a guarded parole release every three months for at least a week, punctuating the total prison term. The jail authorities should periodically check whether the prisoner is making progress.
5. **Therapeutic outlook**

The Supreme Court judges considered a therapeutic rather than a punitive outlook should prevail in the prisons since brutal incarceration of the person merely produces laceration of criminal's mind. The direction of prison reform is not towards dehumanisation but humanisation. These are designed to restore the dignity of the individual and the worth of the human person.

6. **Legal Assistance**

Legal assistance to a poor accused is a constitutional imperative. Thus it is made available to prisoners in jails, whether they be undertrials or convicted prisoners.

7. **Human treatment and protection of fundamental rights**

If a person is incarcerated, it does not mean that inhuman treatment may be meted out to him and he be deprived of his fundamental rights. The term "life" means something more than mere animal existence and the inhibition against its deprivation extends to all those limits and faculties by which life is enjoyed.

8. **Handcuffs**

A prisoner in transit between prison and court should not be handcuffed, except under special conditions which have to be justified before or after. Handcuffs are prima facie inhuman and repugnant. It is brutalising to handcuff a person in public.

9. **Grievance boxes**

Grievance deposit boxes shall be maintained in the prisons which will be opened as is deemed fit, and suitable action taken on complaints made. Access to such boxes shall be accorded to all prisoners.

10. **Visits by magistrates**

District magistrates and session judges shall personally or through substitute, visit prisons in their jurisdiction and afford effective opportunities...
Amnesty International Rules


1. No discrimination:
   There shall be no discrimination among prisoners on grounds of sex, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin and birth or other status. Prison authorities are supposed to respect the religious beliefs and moral precepts of the community to which a prisoner belongs.

2. Separation:
   Different categories of prisoners shall be kept in separate institutions or part of the institutions on the basis of their age, sex, criminal record and other circumstances.

3. Corporal Punishment:
   Corporal punishment by placing in dark cell and all cruel, inhuman, degrading punishments shall be completely prohibited.

4. Hygienic Conditions:
   Due consideration to hygienic conditions for living should be made. The food served must be of nutritional value. Services of qualified medical officers having some knowledge of psychiatry should also be made available.

5. Under trials:
   Undertrials should be separated from the convicts. Young untried prisoners should also be kept separate from untried adults.

6. Social Relations and Aftercare:
   Before the completion of the sentence, it is desirable that necessary steps should be taken to ensure for the prisoner a gradual return to normal life.
in society. He should be permitted to correspond with and meet relatives from time to time.

CONSTITUTIONAL/STATUTORY RIGHTS OF PRISONERS

The Constitution of India incorporates certain rights to prisoners. Besides, statutes like Prisons Act 1894, Prisoners Act 1900 and prisoners’ attendance in Courts Act 1955 also confer some rights on prisoners. Some of these constitutional/statutory rights are:

1. **Double Jeopardy**
   
   No person shall be punished/prosecuted for the same offence more than once.

2. **Testimony**
   
   Jail authorities cannot compel prisoners to give testimony which is likely to expose them to criminal consequences.

3. **Physical Protection**
   
   It is the duty of prison authorities to protect the person physically. The prisoners cannot be kept in prison in the open, exposed to sun, rain or cold. The authorities will provide accommodation in prisons. In case of overcrowding or outbreak of an epidemic, the authorities shall provide temporary accommodation. The medical officer shall be responsible for sanitary conditions. The medical officer is also required to examine the new inmates and shall advise the jailer regarding the nature of work to be carried out by the prisoner.

4. **Separation**
   
   Male and female prisoners shall be kept in separate prisons or separate parts of the same building.

5. **Solitary Confinement**
   
   Solitary confinement is used to ensure the safe custody of other prisoners or is inflicted as a punishment. Prisoners in solitary cells must be
examined by medical officer at least once a day if confined for a period of more than twenty four hours

6. Under trials:

Under trials may be permitted to have their own clothing, food and other accessories from their own sources and are entitled to be permitted to contact these sources at reasonable hours

7. Civil Prisoners:

Civil prisoners are also to be treated like the under trials. They are allowed to work in jail according to their will

8. Work

A criminal who is sentenced to labour shall not be allowed to work for more than nine hours a day. The medical officer shall examine such prisoners every fortnight to record the effect of work on their health.

The issues relating to the condition of prisoners and jail reforms have been considered by a number committees from time to time and their reports have included special recommendations on women prisoners. The National Committee on women prisoners headed by Justice Krishna Iyer (1986-87) has made exhaustive recommendations exclusively for women prisoners covering various facets and even formulating a draft "Legislative-Cum-Administrative Code" for consideration of the Government. Similarly, 135th Report of The Law Commission (1989) was devoted entirely to the problems of women prisoners and it came up with a completely new draft Chapter XXXIII – A to be added to Criminal Procedure Code.

The major recommendations made by the National Expert Committee on women prisoners 1986-87 were...
a. Provisions of a National Policy relating to the women prisoners in India.
b. Formation of new rules and regulations relating to their punishment and conduct
c. Maintenance of proper co-ordination among the Police, Law and Prison for providing due justice to women prisoners
d. Provision of legal aid for them.
e. Construction of separate prisons for women prisoners
f. Proper care of the baby born in jail to a woman prisoner and provision of nutrition diet for the mother and the child

Until recently, female offenders did not receive enough attention since their number is small. They have been neglected and discriminated at all stages of the criminal correctional process. Most of the undertrial female prisoners are lodged in separate enclosures of common jails. The All India Committee on Jail Reforms 1980-1983 headed by Justice A.N. Mulla expressed concern over the conditions of female prisoners. The committee said, "In view of the status of women in the family and the society, their special needs and problems and their vulnerability while in the prison, special consideration has to be given to the segregation, protection, care, treatment, training and rehabilitation of women offenders."

The committee made several recommendations and suggestions on various aspects of female prisoners:

1. Revision of legislation relating to women prisoners
2. Establishment of homes for released women prisoners
3. Action against atrocities committed against women in prisons
4. Re-integration of ex-women prisoners into the family and community
5. Free legal aid to women prisoners
6. Welfare of women prisoner's family

All India Committee on Jail Reforms (1980-1983) highlighted in its report that, "Segregation of offenders on the basis of sex, age, criminal record, social
background and sequence of criminal behaviour is an essential system of modern prison system."

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

One of the functions specifically assigned to the Commission under the provisions of the National Commission for women Act, 1990, is to inspect jails or other places of custody where women are kept as prisoners or otherwise and make appropriate recommendations for improvement of their condition. The subject of custodial justice for women has been one of the thrust areas of Commission's activities. During the tenure of the first Commission between February, 1992 and January, 1995 some good work was done by the Commission.

The Commission has visited many jails all over the country to study first hand condition of the women inmates. The report of the National Commission for women on "Custodial Justice for Women" (1993) needs attention. The following are some of the important aspects, many of which do not cast any financial burden for their implementation:

1. Women prisoners -- like men -- should be informed of their rights under the law.
2. Searches should be conducted by women constables.
3. Medical check ups of women prisoners or undertrials, should be done by women doctors as soon as they come to prison.
4. Women prisoners should be allowed to contact their families and communicate with their lawyers, women social workers and voluntary organisations.
5. Women prisoners should be allowed to keep their children with them.
6. Voluntary organisations of women should be encouraged to be associated with women prisoners.
7. Separate jails should be provided for women.
8. Special prosecution officers should be available to present the case of women prisoners.
Prison Institutions and Correctional Administration is one of the three main constituents of the Criminal Justice System. The most common and standard Jail Institutions which are in existence in the States/UTS are better known as Central Jails, District Jails, and Sub Jails. The other types of Jail establishments are Women Jails, Children or Borstal Jails, Open Jails, and Special Jails. Among the 30 States/UTS, only 12 States reported existence of women Jails, that functioned exclusively for women inmates.

GUJARAT

Gujarat is a leading State in India so far as its socio-economic performance and the level of development are concerned. It ranks above the average pertaining to all India on the basis of industrialization, per capita income, level of literacy, urbanization, and infrastructural facilities are concerned.

Though the socio-economic profile of Gujarat reveals that it is a highly industrialized, urbanized and developed State of the country, but the district wise development pattern shows low level of development i.e., in terms of low level of literacy, low level of density of population, low level of per capita income, low level of daily employment, high level of rural population, and high level of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe population are predominant in backward district of Gujarat namely Kutch, Banaskantha, Panchmahals, Dangs, and Sabarkantha. Thus it implies that a higher degree of backwardness is a main cause of a higher degree of crimes in a backward region. The state even being a highly developed one in the country, it emerges with increasing number of crimes. Major crimes noticed in Gujarat are riot, house breaking, thefts, and murder.

With the number of convicts and undertrials increasing over the years, most of the jails are finding it difficult to provide good living conditions and proper accommodation. The condition of even the Central Jails of Ahmedabad and Baroda, as far as living space is concerned, needs to be looked into. There are about 8579 prisoners in 22 jails of the State, including the two Central Jails, against the capacity of
## WOMEN PRISON POPULATION IN GUJARAT STATE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of Jail</th>
<th>Convicted</th>
<th>Undertrial</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Ahmedabad C Prison</td>
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<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Baroda C Prison</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Rajkot Dist Prison</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Bhavnagar Dist Prison</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Jamnagar Dist Prison</td>
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<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Junagadh Dist. Jail</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Surat Dist. Prison</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Nadiad Dist. Prison</td>
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<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Bhuj Special Prison</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Porbandar Special Prison</td>
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<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Amreli Open Jail</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Ahmedabad Open Jail</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Navsari Sub Jail</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Bharuch Sub Jail</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Chhotaudepur Sub Jail</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Godhra Sub Jail</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Rajpipla Sub Jail</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Mehsana Sub Jail</td>
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<td>19.</td>
<td>Himatnagar Sub Jail</td>
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<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>Palanpur Sub Jail</td>
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<td>21.</td>
<td>Amreli Sub Jail</td>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td>Surendranagar Sub Jail</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>55</strong></td>
<td><strong>81</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</table>

Total Female Population as on 1/12/99 = 136

Source: I.G.P (Prison) office (Jan 2000)
## WOMEN ARRESTED UNDER DIFFERENT IPC CRIMES
### DURING 1995 AND 1997

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
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<td>Murder</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Attempt to Commit Murder</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Dacoity</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Theft</td>
<td>362</td>
<td>427</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Breach of Trust</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Cheating</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Dowry Deaths</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Narcotic Drugs &amp; Psycho-Substances Act</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Crime in India – 1997
5266, shows inadequate facilities to provide proper accommodation to the prisoners. According to the survey made by the Jail officials of I. G. Prison, Gujarat State (Dec, 1999), it was found that there are 2413 convicts and 4478 undertrials, 14 TADA convicted and 55 TADA undertrials, 273 NDPS convicted and 314 NDPS undertrials. Thus there are total 2700 convicted criminals, 4847 undertrials and 723 detenus in 2 Central Jails, 6 District Jails, 2 Special Jails, 2 Open Jails and 10 Sub Jails of Gujarat State. The figures thus give an understanding that, the accommodation facilities, in 2 Central Jails, 20 district and sub - Jails and 116 taluka jails used for temporary lock-ups have prisoners more than their actual capacity. Total capacity of female prisoners in Gujarat is 227, while at the end of 1998 it was found to be 236, i.e. 68 convicts, 148 undertrials and 20 detenus in 22 jails.

Ahmedabad Central Jail

The Ahmedabad Central Jail was constructed in 1891 - 94 in Ahmedabad and was a historic prison like the Yerawada Jail of Pune, where Gandhiji and other veteran freedom fighters were kept during the British rule.

Very close to the entrance of the Jail, there is a separate Cell for the women prisoners, which is used for only undertrials and detenus. The convicted women criminals are not imprisoned here. The strength of the cell is of 50 prisoners. The cell is under the care of a male Jailor and having a lady Hawaldar and a lady Matron.

Recently in a move to provide privacy and protection to women prisoners in the historic Sabarmati Jail of Ahmedabad, the State Government has decided to create separate jails for them.

Baroda Central Jail

The Baroda Central Jail was constructed in 1881 by the then Gackwad ruler of Baroda State, Sir Sayajirao Gackwad. In the Central Jail special arrangements of having separate cells were made for undertrial prisoners and civil prisoners. Separate cells away from the other cells were constructed for notorious prisoners.
from the male section a separate section of cells were constructed for the female prisoners. Thus arrangements were made to accommodate 639 male prisoners and 49 female prisoners. It also has the facilities of quarters for all the staff members and jail Superintendent within the prison premise. In Gujarat, Baroda Central Jail is the only Jail, where convicted women criminals are kept. In all other jails including Ahmedabad only undertrials and detenus are kept. The Female Section of Baroda Central Jail has separate provision for convicted, undertrials, detenus and for offenders of simple imprisonment under the supervision of a lady Jailor, 3 female Hawaldars and Matrons. Here female prisoners come from various District jails of Gujarat.

Women in Indian prisons constitute a small segment of the convict population and their problems do not receive the same priorities as available to male prisoners. Women in Indian jails live under pathetic condition. Female wards in prisons are mostly over crowded with various types of offenders housed together. Facilities for education, vocational training and social uplift are greatly restricted. The rationale for sending people to prison tends to be rehabilitation but, what is found is that, the society tends to separate and isolate the deviant person from the community, which largely hinders the rehabilitative process.

Prison Administration

Executive head who is known as "Inspector general of Police (Prison)" is the head of the Jail Department and is entrusted with carrying out the policy framed by the Jail Minister. He has control over all the Jails of the state and holds the charge of several thousand prisoners. He supervises and controls the work of the superintendents, Jailors, Jail Cader staff and medical staff.

Administrative set up consists of one Superintendent, one deputy Superintendent, one deputy Senior Jailor, male Jailors and female Jailor. Under them are guarding staff, Subedars, Hawaldars, Warders, Matron and Sepoys.
FIGURE – 2

ADMINISTRATIVE SETUP OF CENTRAL JAIL

Inspector General of Prison

Deputy Inspector General of Prison

Prison Superintendent

Deputy Superintendent

Medical Officer

Factory Manager

Senior Jailor

Administrative Staff

Technical Staff

Office Head Sr. Jr.
Supdt Clerk Clerk Clerk

Industrial Jailor

5 Male Jailors 1 Female Jailor

Guarding Staff Female Guarding Staff

Subedar Hawaldar Sepoy

Carpentry Instructor Tailoring Instructor Machinery Instructor Chemical Instructor Textile Instructor Bakery Instructor
FIGURE - 3

Women's Section in Central Jails

Prison Superintendent (Baroda)
  \arrow{v}
  Senior Jailor
    \arrow{v}
    1 Female Jailor
  \arrow{v}
  3 Female Hawalder and Matron
  \arrow{v}
  1 Warder (Female Prisoner)
  \arrow{v}
  4 Watchmen (Female Prisoners)
  \arrow{v}
  1 Sevak (Female Prisoner)

Prison Superintendent (Ahmedabad)
  \arrow{v}
  Senior Jailor
    \arrow{v}
    1 Male Jailor
  \arrow{v}
  1 Female Hawalder
  \arrow{v}
  1 Female Matron
  \arrow{v}
  1 Warder (Female Prisoner)
Medical officer provides medical care to the prisoners. He is assisted by a pharmacist. There is also a factory manager working under the Superintendent, who supervises the jail factory and the various departments such as Carpentry, Tailoring, Machinery, Textile, Bakery etc.

Superintendent is the head of the institution and manages the prison in all the matter relating to discipline, labour, expenditure, punishment and control. With the change in the administrative structure of the prison, the policy of the prison towards the prisoners gradually changed. The basic objective is not retribution or revenge any more but reformative and rehabilitation of both men and women who are imprisoned. While imprisoned, they are trained in such a way, so that after they are released from jail, they can settle down as honest, descent and useful citizens of the society.

Admission Procedure

When a female criminal is brought to the Central Jail, her name is recorded in the Register of the prison and then she is allowed to enter the prison with the security of a female guard, who taken her to the female yard. Here, her name is again recorded in the register of the female yard. The female warder of the female yard make a search of the offender, and if the offender has some expensive commodity, it is deposited with the Jailor, which will be handed over to her after the termination of her punishment. A convicted female offender is given the jail uniform.

Daily Routine

This was observed during data collection.

Morning 7:00 am to 10:00 am

In the morning the female criminals are engaged in brooming and sweeping the rooms and the surrounding of the women cells. Some of them take care of the garden during the morning hours. Then they go for their wash and bath. After which a light breakfast of gur, sing, chana and tea is served to them. After this they settle down for cleaning of grains and cutting negotables for the entire jail inmates as cooking is done.
by the male inmates for both the sections. In between at about 10.00 am lunch is served to the inmates.

**Afternoon ** 12.00 noon – 4.00 pm

In the afternoon the inmates carry on with their regular routine work. Lunch from outside is brought for the undertrials and detenus, which is checked by the Hawaldar in the presence of lady Jailor. Some of them retire to their cells for rest in the afternoon. The grains and the vegetables after cleaning are sent to the Kitchen for evening dinner.

**Evening ** 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm

At this time freedom is given for half an hour to interact with visitors who came to meet them in the presence of lady Jailor and other male and female jail staffs, who keep vigilance on the visitors. After they leave, the gifts and food brought by them are first checked and then given to the inmates to keep. After this dinner is served to them at 5.00 p.m. Before 6.00 p.m. the women prisoners are gathered for taking attendance and then locked up in their cells throughout the night. During night no jail staff is present in the female yard and they are locked from outside.

**Letters**

Letters play an important role in maintaining continuity of contact between the prisoners and her family and the outside community. Two postcards are given free to all the inmates monthly. When the prisoners receive letters from the family, they are first read by the lady Jailor or jail official and then it is handed over to the respective person. The same procedure is followed, that is the lady Jailor reads the letter before it is to be despatched by the prisoners.
Visits

An effective aspect of the rehabilitative process is maintaining relationship and contact with the family of the prisoners. So visits from relations and friends and exchange of letters are permitted under certain rules and restrictions. Relatives, friends are permitted to visit on specified time and place in the presence of a guard or official, for a limited time.

Canteen

Canteen have been organised in the prison with the objective of making available of small amenities and food articles to the prisoners, which are given to them at government cost and at the same time, they are not prohibited by law. Canteen provides the facilities of day to day requirements like, biscuits, snacks, bidis, matchbox, toothpaste, soaps etc. Female prisoners are not allowed to visit canteen and so once in a week, a trolley from canteen visits the female yards, where the inmates purchase all the required commodity for a week.

Medical Facility

Medical treatment as well medicines are given free to the inmates. There is no provision of lady Medical Officer and so if the problem arises Medical Officer is called to the female yard for check up. Hospital inside the jail provides 24 hours of service and consists of medical officers, two male nurses and two pharmacists. If required female prisoners are allowed to go to the govt. hospital with security staff.

Wages

In order to provide some motivation to the prisoners and considering that some monetary reward would develop interest in work and can use the earnings on herself or on her family, payment of wages are given to prisoners. From 1st Nov 1998, the payment of wages were increased in Gujarat jails, such as for unskilled job they get Rs 12/- per day, for semiskilled job they get Rs 13/- per day, and for skilled job they...
get Rs 14/- per day. Thus for cleaning grains and cutting vegetables, the women prisoners earn Rs 12/- per day. Besides, those convicted prisoners who have good character are given administrative work and other work in prison. Those female prisoners who work as Warden and Sevak earn Rs 14/- per day, while watchman receives Rs 13/- per day.

Other Facilities

Children of the female prisoners are allowed to stay with their mothers up to the age of five years. Nursing mothers and children are provided with proper food under the advice of the Jail Medical officer.

Observance of religious practices of individual is allowed.

Few voluntary organisations are working for the rehabilitation of the women criminals, such as Sahayog of Himatnagar, which gives shelter to women, who are not accepted by their families. Another organisation like Vikas Jyot is helping in cases, especially for the process of release work.

It has been observed that there is absence of any kind of vocational training being given to the women criminals for preparing their rehabilitative goals. Instead they are occupied with activities like cleaning grains and gardening, which is not of much value in employment market. So most of the women inmates pass their leisure time without any constructive work or get mixed up with hardened criminals and get corrupted by the insidious influence of jail.

It can be understood that the government’s and communities’ participation in correctional programmes and offender’s self-improvement is needed for the reformation of offenders.

Thus, in this chapter a total picture of the prison condition and reformative system has been highlighted. The physical layout of the setting has been presented in this chapter.