CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION
INTRODUCTION

"It is impossible in the existing state of criminological knowledge to say just what are the causes of crime. Any one who attempts to do this is for transcending the bounds of definite knowledge. A presentation of a list of causes, no matter how logical, could not indicate the degree of acceptance or the importance and the weight of any given causative factor, since no general agreement on such matters has taken place between scholars and researchers in the field of criminology". However efforts were made earlier, and even now at present to unearth the various causative factors responsible for the criminal tendency prevailing in the society.

Various theories have been evolved describing the crime by different criminologists. They made an attempt to their best possible to explore a "WAY" in treating the criminal.

In earlier times punishment was based on the rule: tooth for a tooth and eye for an eye. This system of punishment exhibits the severity in the form of physical torture. "In Greek civilization protogaras protested emphatically against brutal retaliation as the basis of theory of punishment". As the time passes, thinkers evolved a new ideology in the system of punishing the offender. Human values and moral ethics had been the prime spirit behind this sort of ideology. "Man is a social being: apart from society it would not be possible for him to live". By virtue of his knowledge he will act according to the norms and practices of the society. With a rigid frame work of ethical values, Society has its every

control upon its members. In the process of providing opportunities to its members, Society will observe the 'conduct' or behaviour of an individual.

If a man is well cultured and educated there is no need to him to violate the accepted norms of the society. Any breach or violation of the rules of the society will certainly lead to the criminal tendency. In human beings, the criminal tendency may be the outcome of mental dearrangement associated with the environmental disabilities. Hence the relative punishment should be in the process of reforming or correcting the offender. The offender should be given a chance to realise to his criminal deeds.

From the orthodox system of punishing the criminal, society is gradually changing its idea. A new outlook has been taking place in the present penology. Practical and pragmatic view is taken into consideration to correct the criminal.

"Reformation which is the modern concept of punishment developed in the era of widespread use of prison sentences". Reformation is taking the place of victimization. Jails have been converted into correctional institutes. Society gradually noticed that "the punishment cannot work through repressive methods for, repression does not root off the criminal desire, but it should involve a re educating process". Basing on this noble idea a new era had been evolved in early 20's of this century with an idea of treating the criminal in an atmosphere of openness.

The containment of the offender in open atmosphere is taking the offender's mind off the situations and conditions in which they were forced to commit crime. And it will enable them to adjust themselves without stress to outside conditions when released. This system of punishment truly reflects the words

of Mahathma Gandhiji. "Jails must be converted into Hospitals for their treatment and cure. The staff of the jails should be transformed into physicians. The prisoner should be made feel that they are his friends". Though the open prison is under constant pressure from its minimum security establishment, it is providing a chance to the criminal to get himself socialized. Generally, the criminals are deployed from closed prisons, taking their 'willingness' into consideration. With the acceptance of the prisoner, to work in the open prisons, the behavioral aspects of the criminal will be enquired into by a selection committee constituted for the purpose. At this point, taking into consideration of the 'security' established in the open prisons, the high escape risk prisoners will be eliminated. Further even if any deployed prisoner shows a sign of escaping, he will soon be removed from the open prison. Once, the prisoner accepted to work in the open prisons, clearly it is an approach towards the realization to his deeds. Because of the criteria, that the open prison is providing a better opportunity to an offender to lead a good life after release, this type of imprisonment is certainly reducing the age old punishment methods of Institutionalization. This reformatory system of punishment shows the moral quality of our social life in treating our fellow citizens who became criminals under various circumstances.

In pursuance of the above noble sentiments and correction measures Open prison system has come into vogue for the first time in India by 1952. Based on this novel experiment in later years open prisons were established in several states in the Union of India. While there is considerable literature on crime and punishment in general, there is a paucity of literature on Open Prison System in particular. A Brief review of literature brings this fact to the fore.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

1. With the problems of crime and its prevention as also its cure through proper treatment of the criminal was presented by J.M.J Sethna in his book SOCIETY AND THE CRIMINAL. The book deals with the entire field of criminology. Prison reform; morality and justification of punishment, reformation, re-education, etc find exhaustive critical discussions in this book.

2. The present day psychologic view points on criminology through the medium of a comprehensive historical review of the development of this subject was dealt by DAVID ABRAHAM SEN in CRIME AND THE HUMAN MIND. In this work the author tried to evaluate the peculiarities of human mind as a factor of crime.

In the preface of this book, the author expressed that crime is many headed monster. Its tentacles reach for and embrace all walks of life of the human being. It presents a problem not only to the public, the judge, and the lawyer but also to the psychiatrist, the psychologist, the sociologist, last but not least to the criminal itself.

3. The view that the criminal is certainly a product of social irregularities, and the duty to reform the criminal tendency was presented by B.K. BHATTACHARYA in his work on VIOLENCE, DELINQUENCY, REHABILITATION.

4. S. VENUGOPAL’S work on CRIME IN OUR SOCIETY - A POLITICAL PERSPECTIVE unfolds the socio-political implications of crime, violence and morality which are rationalized with no guilty feelings by a progressive increasing number of people.

5. Implementing the criminal justice policies have been thoroughly discussed in the edited volume of IMPLEMENTING CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICIES.

6. The system of prison in England and the people who go there was described in PRISON by MICHAEL WOLFF, LONDON, EYRE & SPOTTIS WOODE. The types of prisons to which they may be sent and the kind of life they will lead.
7. VIOLENCE AND CRIME IN INDIA - A QUALITATIVE STUDY by Balder Raj Nayer deals with detailed and comprehensive empirical study of violence and crime in India.

8. The entire gamut of social disorganization was presented in INDIAN SOCIAL PROBLEMS by G.R. MADAN.

The above brief review of a few of major works in Criminology reveal that very scant attention is being paid to the scenario of Open Prisons in India. Thus there is a need to study the Open Prison System to understand the Open Prison inmate's socio-economic background, the causative causes for their crime and their perceptions as inmates of Open Prison. The present study therefore has taken up to fill this gap in the literature.

AREA OF STUDY

The prisoners agricultural colony-cum-central prison (Open Air Jail) was established in the year 1965. It is situated 8 Kms away from Anantapur and is in between Anantapur-Tadpatri towns. Total area of this colony is 1,427 acres, of which some portion is being irrigated by High Level canal 7th distributory. The total land of this jail is in the revenue villages of Bukkaraya Samudram, Janthalur, Reddipalli and Siddarampuram.

AIM: The main objective of this open air prison is to create an atmosphere of freeness for the prisoners which in turn gives confidence in their ability to reform themselves to become responsible citizens of the country.

This open Air Jail is having a status of central Jail. The authorised accommodation of the Jail is 235 prisoners. Prisoners are being deployed from the Central closed prisons. In this jail, prisoners are being taught and trained in the modern agricultural techniques, so that they make good of these in their day-to-day life after their release.
The present study reflects the treatment of the criminals in the open air prison, Reddipalli, Anantapur.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To examine the socio-economic background of the criminals.
2. To investigate the causes responsible for crimes among the prisoners.
3. To assess the perceptions of the prisoners on the process of socialization in the open Air Jail.

TOOLS OF DATA COLLECTION:

On the basis of the objectives of the study data was collected by administering interview schedule on the nature of open air prison Reddipalli, the social-Economic background factors of the inmates of the jail and their perceptions on the Open Air Prison. Most of the questions covered the socio-economic conditions in committing the crime, the crime factors which deviated the prisoners towards criminal tendency, and the perceptions, their well being in the prison.

ANALYSIS:

The results were drawn on single averages. To get the correct relationships the method of co-efficient of co-relation was applied to the data collected. The data was then tabulated, and a careful analysis of the information is made, frequency distributions obtained on all factors and tables constructed to provide a descriptive picture the prisoners.

RAPPORT: In the initial stages of research attempts were made to contact the concerned Jail authorities to get the information of the inmates of the agricultural open Air Jail prison, Reddipalli.

A written permission was accorded from the Inspector General of Prisons and correctional services, Andhra Pradesh Hyderabad (Vide their Letter No. SAS\170\91 dt. 2-3-1991.)
Superintendent and the other Staff of Open Air Jail, Reddipalli, were fully informed about the nature of the research. Helpful information had been provided by the Staff of the jail who were intersected much in the research. They were requested not to tell the inmates of the Open Air Prison, the purpose of the research, for it would be an useful instrument to prevent the prisoners from hiding the facts before making arrangements for interviews.

CHAPTERIZATION:

The present study is organized and presented in three chapters.

The details are as under.

The first chapter deals with the introduction of various ways of punishing the criminals from orthodox system of punishment to the latest reformatory punishment.

The second chapter deals with OPEN PRISON, AIMS, ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT.

The third chapter deals with the study of AGRICULTURAL OPEN AIR JAIL, Reddipalli, Anantapur (Dist.), It's physical conditions, amenities provided, Socio-economic background of the prisoners, and their perceptions, conclusion of the study.