

Factors Affecting Recidivism of Persons Deprived of Liberty at Tabaco City District Jail

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ABSTRACT

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Recidivism is a term used to describe the tendency of a person who has been released from prison or other Detention facilities to re-offend and return to incarceration. The study aimed to identify the factors that affect the recidivism of persons deprived of liberty at Tabaco City District Jail using a descriptive-quantitative research design. The data were collected through a survey questionnaire administered to 100 selected PLD detained or had been released and returned to the jail. The study found several factors contributing to recidivism, including lack of employment opportunities, substance abuse problems, lack of education and skills, and



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poor social support. The findings suggest the need for more comprehensive rehabilitation and reintegration programs that address these underlying factors to reduce the likelihood of repeated offenses and promote successful re-entry into society. These programs should focus on providing educational and vocational training, substance abuse treatment, and social support to help PDL successfully reintegrate into their communities. This is useful for policymakers and practitioners in the criminal justice system to develop and implement more effective interventions to reduce recidivism rates among persons deprived of liberty at Tabaco City District Jail.

INTRODUCTION

Recidivism, or the tendency for a person to re-offend after being released from prison, is a major challenge many countries face worldwide. This problem is not only costly for the government, but it also significantly impacts the lives of individuals and their families. According to the World Prison Brief, as of 2021, the global average recidivism rate was around 33.3% (Fair & Walmsley, 2021).

According to Yukhnenko et al. (2019), recidivism has become a growing concern worldwide, with governments struggling to address the root causes of criminal behavior and reduce the number of repeat offenders. There are several reasons why recidivism rates remain high, including inadequate rehabilitation and reentry programs, social stigma and discrimination, lack of access to education and employment opportunities, and substance abuse issues.

The consequences of high recidivism rates are significant, both for individuals and society as a whole. For individuals, repeated incarceration can result in lost educational opportunities, employment, personal growth, and strained relationships with family and friends. It can also exacerbate mental health issues as individuals struggle with the stress and trauma of being repeatedly incarcerated. For society, recidivism is costly, as the government must bear the financial costs of incarceration, rehabilitation programs, and other support services (Spohn & Holleran, 2002).

As suggested in the study of Latessa and Lowenkamp (2005), to address the issue of recidivism, governments and organizations worldwide have been implementing a range of interventions, including improved access to education and employment opportunities, mental health and substance abuse treatment programs, and community-based reentry programs. The success of these interventions depends on a range of factors, including the specific needs of the individual, the availability of support services, and the broader social and economic context in which they are implemented.

In the study of Minoura (2017) in Southeast Asia, the issue of recidivism has gained attention from regional organizations such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). ASEAN is a regional intergovernmental organization comprising ten countries in Southeast Asia, including Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. ASEAN has recognized the need to address recidivism by developing regional policies and programs to reduce it. For example, the ASEAN Plan of Action on Drug-Free ASEAN 2016-2025 includes reducing recidivism as one of its goals. The plan aims to strengthen rehabilitation programs and services for drug users and promote their successful reintegration into society. Also launched various initiatives to improve access to education and vocational training for persons deprived of liberty, which can help reduce recidivism rates. In 2019, ASEAN launched the Regional Training Program on Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Persons Deprived of Liberty, which aimed to enhance the capacity of ASEAN member states to implement effective rehabilitation and reintegration programs.

Furthermore, Suratman (2017) states that ASEAN has recognized the importance of promoting regional cooperation and sharing best practices in addressing recidivism. The ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) is a platform for ASEAN member states to discuss and coordinate efforts to combat transnational crime, including recidivism. ASEAN's efforts to address recidivism reflect the region's commitment to promoting effective rehabilitation and reintegration programs and reducing the social and economic costs of repeat criminal behavior. By working together and sharing best practices, ASEAN member states can develop more comprehensive and effective strategies to reduce recidivism and promote successful reentry into society.

As cited in the study of Narag and Jones (2017) in the Philippines, recidivism is a pressing issue, particularly due to the high incarceration rates and overcrowding in jails. The country has one of the highest incarceration rates in Southeast Asia, with a prison population of over 215,000 and a prison occupancy rate of 534% as of 2021, according to the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP). The Department of Justice (DOJ) has recognized the need to address recidivism by implementing various rehabilitation and reintegration programs. In 2013, the DOJ launched the Community Service Sentencing Program, allowing offenders to serve their sentences through community service instead of incarceration. This program aims to reduce the number of persons deprived of liberty and promote community participation in the justice system.

As cited in Nario-Lopez's (2020) study, the government launched various vocational training and education programs to improve the employment

of persons deprived of liberty and reduce recidivism rates. The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) provides vocational training programs in various skills, including carpentry, masonry, and welding, to help persons deprived of liberty gain more skills and knowledge to help them find employment upon release. Despite these efforts, the Philippines still faces challenges in addressing recidivism, including limited resources, inadequate infrastructure, and lack of political will. The country also faces social and economic factors contributing to criminal behavior, including poverty, inequality, and unemployment.

The study conducted at Tabaco City District Jail contributes to our understanding of the factors contributing to recidivism in the Philippines. It highlights the need for more comprehensive and effective rehabilitation and reintegration programs. By addressing the underlying factors that lead to criminal behavior and providing access to education, training, and employment opportunities, the government can help reduce recidivism rates and promote successful reentry into society.

FRAMEWORK

The conceptual framework for this study revolves around the factors contributing to the recidivism of persons deprived of liberty at Tabaco City District Jail. The framework identifies several factors, including lack of employment opportunities, substance abuse problems, lack of education and skills, and poor social support, which are hypothesized to influence recidivism. The study uses a descriptive quantitative research design, collecting data through a survey questionnaire administered to 100 selected PDL who were incarcerated or had been released and returned to jail. The findings of the study suggest that more comprehensive rehabilitation and reintegration programs are needed to address these underlying factors to reduce the likelihood of repeated offenses and promote successful reentry into society.

The theoretical framework for this study is based on social learning theory, which suggests that individuals learn by observing others and modeling their behavior. Social learning theory also proposes that the environment and social interactions influence behavior. In the context of this study, the theory suggests that the behavior of persons deprived of liberty is influenced by their environment, which includes the lack of employment opportunities, substance abuse problems, lack of education and skills, and poor social support, among other factors. The theory further proposes that these factors may lead to criminal behavior and recidivism (Pratt et al., 2010).

Another theory that explains recidivism is the theory of Differential association by Edwin Sutherland. In this theory, the cause of such behavior is only seen in the conditions and social interactions of the individual in their environment. With the interaction, knowledge is acquired, including criminality and disorder (Maloku, 2020). This theory supports the study because it explains the environment of the participants. Thus, according to this theory, whenever individuals interact, an exchange of ideas occurs; thereby, knowledge is shared. In a neighborhood, interaction is inevitable. This will lead to learning criminal behavior from a person who committed a crime to an innocent neighbor. The learned behavior of the innocent neighbor thru time can be modified to improve the operation and later passed it to his family, relative, or fellow neighbor.

Strain theory by Robert Merton, as cited by Agnew, (2020), explains deviant behavior as an inevitable outcome of the distress individuals experience when they're deprived of ways to achieve culturally valued goals. The lack of means to achieve culturally valued goals leads individuals to feel strain and possibly engage in deviant behavior. The said theory also explains the situation of former Persons Deprived of Liberty. After being released from jail, individuals are expected to be law-abiding citizen. However, as per data from Tabaco City District jail, recidivism is prevalent. This theory supports that individuals in the community after incarceration are denied the opportunity to work or return to their former careers. Though there are job vacancies in business establishments and in Government agencies, with the influx of applicants, former Persons Deprived of Liberty are denied the opportunity, especially since it is in their record that they were incarcerated prior to application. This situation will trigger individuals to resort to the commission of crimes.

One notable theory associated with recidivism is the Theory of Abraham Maslow. The Theory explains the needs of every individual. People will always find ways and means to acquire basic survival needs. After incarceration, a former PDL will find means to provide food and clothing for his family, especially if he/she is the breadwinner. However, his means are limited as a result of incarceration.

The concept of readiness and acceptance of the PDL was explained by the theory of self-determination (SDT) by Edward Deci and Richard Ryan. Motivation is the key in order for PDL to be truly rehabilitated. Dedication and acceptance are vital for the PDL to be truly reformed (Cherry, 2022). With the lack of self-determination to resist criminal activities, it will only resort to the recommitment of criminal activity.

These combined theories explain several factors affecting recidivism. These factors must be addressed for the PDL to be truly reformed. Providing the PDL with skills and education but not securing a job for him or her after

release is an incomplete tasks. Similarly, providing the PDL with the job but not emotionally and mentally ready for the changes is premature. The Jail may not address this, but it can be addressed by the stakeholders with the coordination of Tabaco City District Jail jail personnel. Therefore, recidivism is not only the job of personnel of the correctional pillar but a collaborative effort of the Criminal Justice system.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study aimed to identify the factors that affect the recidivism of persons deprived of liberty at Tabaco City District Jail. The study sought to identify the factors that contributed to recidivism and aimed to provide a better understanding of the factors that influence recidivism at Tabaco City District Jail. The findings of the study could be used to develop more effective rehabilitation and reintegration programs to address these underlying factors and reduce the likelihood of repeated offenses.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The study was conducted using the descriptive quantitative research design. A survey questionnaire was administered to 100 incarcerated PDL who had been released and returned to jail. The questionnaire collected data on factors contributing to recidivism, including demographic information, employment history, educational background, substance abuse history, and social support network.

Research Site

The research was conducted at Tabaco City District Jail, the biggest District Jail in the province of Albay regarding PDL Population as of May 2022. The researcher got interested with the Tabaco City District Jail as a place of implementation because the said jail was awarded the Best District Jail together with the warden as the Best District Jail Warden in that same year. The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) also awarded the jail approximately 1 million pesos which were utilized in buying equipment for the livelihood of the PDL up to the present.

Despite those awards and achievements of Tabaco City District Jail, recidivism still exists. This prompted the researcher to choose Tabaco City District Jail as a study site.

Research Respondents

The study was conducted with 100 Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL), all Tabaco City District Jail detainees in Albay, Philippines. A random sampling process was conducted to ensure that the sample represented of the whole population being studied.

The participants were chosen for their relevance to the research topic and ability to provide rich and detailed information about their experiences. In this case, the researcher likely chose respondents who were presently incarcerated at Tabaco City District Jail.

Instrumentation

Before distributing the research tool, the researcher conducted reliability testing of the survey questionnaire. This involves administering the questionnaire to a sample of participants and testing if the results are consistent with the questionnaire. Specifically, to do this, the researcher calculated Cronbach's alpha coefficient, which measures the internal consistency of the survey items. The result was that the validators correlated and approved the survey questionnaire.

The next step that was taken was the validity of the survey questionnaire. This involves checking if the questionnaire measures what it intends to measure. The proponent used content validity, where the administrators of the BJMP reviewed the survey questions to ensure that they were relevant and appropriate for the study.

The sampling process ensured that the sample represented the population being studied. In this case, the sample of 100 PDL was chosen randomly to ensure that each participant had an equal chance of being selected, and the sample was large enough to provide reliable results. The data collected from the survey questionnaire were analyzed using descriptive statistics.

Finally, the results obtained from the study were interpreted and reported accurately. This involves presenting the findings clearly and concisely, discussing the study's limitations, and making recommendations for future research.

Research Ethics Protocol

The respondents were also presented with a written waiver of consent in the language they understood with English and Bicolano translations to ensure that they understood the contents of the said questionnaire. The waiver is in accordance with the Data Privacy Act of 2012, which they signed before the interview.

Data Collection

The researchers formulated a questionnaire and evaluated by an expert to ensure the validity of the content. The researcher obtained written approval from the officer-in-charge of the Tobacco City District Jail and scheduled the study on a date with no scheduled activities to avoid interfering with the normal jail operation.

The jail provided the researcher with data which the warden signed. Before the interview, the PDLs were informed of the purpose and mechanics of the research in a language they could understand.

The researcher consulted with the Welfare and Development Officer of Tobacco City District Jail to validate the information gathered. The information was also cross-checked with data provided by the jail. The validation process helped to ensure that the information gathered was reliable and accurate.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The table presents the frequency and percentage of the different factors that may contribute to recidivism among PDL in Tobacco City District Jail.

Table 1

Frequency and Percentage of the Different Factors That Contribute To Recidivism among PDL in Tobacco City District Jail

| Factors | Frequency | Percentage |
|--------------|-----------|------------|
| Gender | | |
| Male | 85 | 85% |
| Female | 15 | 15% |
| Age | | |
| 18-25 | 30 | 30% |
| 26-35 | 40 | 40% |
| 36-45 | 20 | 20% |
| 46 and above | 10 | 10% |
| Education | | |
| No education | 10 | 10% |
| Elementary | 25 | 25% |
| High School | 45 | 45% |
| College | 20 | 20% |

| | | |
|-------------------|----|-----|
| Employment Status | | |
| Employed | 15 | 15% |
| Unemployed | 85 | 85% |
| Substance Abuse | | |
| Yes | 60 | 60% |
| No | 40 | 40% |
| Social Support | | |
| Strong | 20 | 20% |
| Moderate | 50 | 50% |
| Weak | 30 | 30% |

The majority of the PDL (85%) are male, with only 15% being female. In terms of age, the highest percentage falls within the 26-35 age range (40%), followed by the 18-25 age range (30%). The 36-45 and 46 and above age ranges make up the remaining 30% of the sample.

Demographic information regarding the majority of PDL being male (85%) and the age distribution being concentrated within the 18-35 age range (70%) has several potential implications. Supported by the study of Suratman (2017), the gender imbalance in the inmate population suggests a need to address systemic or cultural barriers that contribute to a higher incarceration rate among men compared to women. Research has shown that women may be subject to different sentencing practices and less likely to be incarcerated for certain offenses. Therefore, addressing these disparities may be important in reducing the overall incarceration rate.

The age distribution highlights the need for prevention and intervention programs targeted at younger age groups to reduce the likelihood of criminal behavior and recidivism. This could include initiatives focused on education, job training, and mentoring, which could provide alternatives to criminal activity and support individuals in making positive life choices. The fact that a significant proportion of PDL includes addressing sentencing practices that disproportionately affect those over 35 suggests a need for tailored programs to support their rehabilitation and re-entry into society. Supported by the study of Spohn and Holleran (2002), older PDL may require additional support in transitioning back into the workforce and reconnecting with their families and communities.

Understanding the demographics of the inmate population can provide insights into potential areas for improvement in the criminal justice system. As

cited in the study of Fair and Walmsley (2021), this includes addressing sentencing practices disproportionately affect certain groups or improving PDL access to education and job training programs. This information can help policymakers and criminal justice professionals make more informed decisions about strategies to reduce the overall incarceration rate, support rehabilitation and re-entry, and promote a more equitable criminal justice system.

Regarding education, the majority of the PDL have at least completed high school (45%), with 20% having some college education. 25% of the PDL have only completed elementary education, while 10% have no formal education.

The educational attainment levels of PDL are important for understanding the potential impact on rehabilitation and successful re-entry into society. The fact that 45% of PDL have completed high school and 20% have some college education suggests that education may be important in reducing recidivism rates and supporting successful re-entry. However, the fact that 25% of PDL have only completed elementary education and 10% have no formal education highlights the need for targeted education and vocational training programs to improve their employment prospects upon release. These programs can provide PDL with the necessary skills and credentials to secure stable employment and reduce their likelihood of returning to criminal activity. Educational attainment plays a vital role in recidivism because those PDL who graduated High School had a bigger opportunity to land a job after incarceration. Most employers prefer people with higher educational attainment for easier communication when dealing with clients from all walks of life. In these cases, PDL resorts to the re-commitment of crimes to sustain a living, as explained in Maslow's theory.

Moreover, research has shown that education and training programs can also positively impact behavior, attitudes, and self-esteem, all of which are important factors in successful re-entry. Thus, investing in education and training programs for PDL can lead to significant social and economic benefits, including reduced incarceration rates, lower crime rates, and improved public safety. Similar to the study of Mohammed and Mohammed (2015), educational attainment levels of PDL underscore the importance of providing targeted education and vocational training programs to support their rehabilitation and successful re-entry into society. By investing in these programs, policymakers and criminal justice professionals can help reduce recidivism rates, improve public safety, and support PDLs and their communities' long-term well-being.

Regarding employment status, most of the PDL are unemployed (85%). This could suggest a need for more employment opportunities for those who have been incarcerated to help reduce recidivism rates.

The high unemployment rate among PDL (85%) has significant

implications for their successful re-entry into society and for reducing recidivism rates. Studies have shown that employment is a key factor in reducing the likelihood of re-offending. It provides financial stability, a sense of purpose, and a pathway to social integration. Therefore, the fact that the vast majority of PDL are unemployed highlights the need for policies and programs that focus on increasing employment opportunities for those who have been incarcerated. This could include initiatives that provide vocational training, job placement services, and incentives for employers to hire individuals with criminal records.

Moreover, it is important to recognize that employment opportunities may be particularly limited for certain groups of PDL, such as those with prior convictions or limited education or work experience. The majority group of PDL is unemployed because they are being denied the opportunity to earn a decent living by business establishment owners and employers. Nowadays, applicants for job vacancies are required to submit clearances. By doing this, the PDLs were already rejected for their criminal records. Most employers prefer those people who do not have any criminal records. Although, it is the right of the employers to choose whom they want to hire, they are blocking the PDLs opportunity to earn a living by legitimate means. And this can lead to stealing or committing crimes again for survival.

Substance abuse is also a significant factor in recidivism, with 60% of the PDL surveyed reporting a history of substance abuse. This highlights the need for comprehensive substance abuse treatment programs for PDL to prevent future offenses.

The result highlights that substance abuse plays a significant role in recidivism. It implies that many offenders with a history of substance abuse are likely to repeat their criminal behavior after release from prison. Therefore, implementing comprehensive substance abuse treatment programs for PDL is vital to prevent future offenses.

Substance abuse can lead to criminal behavior, which can result in incarceration. However, imprisonment alone may not deter offenders from repeating their crimes. Many PDL struggle with addiction and require substance abuse treatment to overcome their addiction and break the cycle of recidivism. Substance abuse treatment programs can help PDL address the root causes of their addiction and develop the skills necessary to maintain sobriety.

The result implies that the criminal justice system must recognize the role of substance abuse in recidivism and prioritize implementing effective treatment programs. These programs should not only address the immediate needs of PDL but also provide ongoing support after release. Providing substance abuse treatment to PDL can lead to a reduction in recidivism rates and, in turn,

benefit society as a whole. Substance abuse is a significant factor in recidivism, and PDL with a history of addiction require comprehensive treatment programs to prevent future offenses. The implementation of such programs can have a positive impact on reducing recidivism rates and creating safer communities.

Finally, the social support network of PDL is also a significant factor in recidivism. Only 20% of the PDL reported having a strong support network, while 50% had moderate support, and 30% had weak support. This suggests the need for more extensive social support programs to help PDL transition successfully back into society.

The statement highlights the importance of social support networks for individuals previously incarcerated or currently serving their sentences (PDL). The statistics provided reveal that only a small percentage of PDL have a strong support network, while a significant proportion have either moderate or weak support. This indicates that PDL may lack the necessary support systems to facilitate their successful reintegration into society after their release. Social support is important in terms of resistance to temptation. As explained by the theory of self-determination (SDT) by Edward Deci and Richard Ryan, a person sometimes cannot control strong desires or emotions at some point that must be resisted to prevent the commission of a crime. With strong social support, the PDL can divert himself into more productive work or activities rather than engaging in criminality.

The lack of social support networks can make it challenging for PDL to find employment, housing, and access to healthcare and other essential services, leading to recidivism. Therefore, it is imperative to establish and expand social support programs to help PDL make a smooth transition back into their communities. Such programs can provide a range of services, including job training, counseling, and substance abuse treatment.

CONCLUSION

The study revealed that most of the PDL are male, within the 26-35 age range, have at least completed high school, are unemployed, have a history of substance abuse, and have a weak social support network.

The findings suggest that socioeconomic factors play a significant role in recidivism rates. The theory of social disorganization can be applied to explain PDL's weak social support networks. The strain theory can be used to understand the impact of unemployment on recidivism rates.

The study highlights the need for comprehensive substance abuse treatment programs for PDL and the importance of providing employment

opportunities to reduce recidivism rates. Social support programs can also be developed to help PDL transition back into society. The findings also emphasize the need for gender-specific interventions to address the needs of male and female PDL.

TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH

This action plan aims to reduce recidivism rates among PDL by addressing the underlying factors contributing to re-offending. Through the implementation of targeted interventions and programs, including gender-specific interventions, expanded substance abuse treatment programs, increased employment opportunities, and social support programs, this action plan aims to provide PDL with the support they need for the successful transition back into society. The expected outcomes of this action plan are decreased recidivism rates, increased social support networks, and improved opportunities for employment and substance abuse treatment for PDL.

This action plan aims to reduce recidivism rates among PDL by implementing targeted interventions and programs. Specifically, this action plan aims to develop and implement gender-specific interventions, expand substance abuse treatment programs, increase employment opportunities, and develop and implement social support programs. The expected outcomes of this action plan are decreased recidivism rates for both male and female PDL, decreased recidivism rates for PDL with a history of substance abuse, decreased recidivism rates for PDL who gain employment after release, and increased social support networks for PDL. The action plan will be implemented within 24 months, with responsibility assigned to relevant staff members and funding provided for program development and implementation.

| Priority | Action | Responsible | Timeline | Resources | Outcome |
|----------|---|--|-----------|--|--|
| 1 | Develop and implement gender-specific interventions | Rehabilitation program staff | 6 months | Funding for program development and implementation | Decreased recidivism rates for male and female PDL |
| 2 | Expand substance abuse treatment programs | Medical staff and rehabilitation program staff | 12 months | Funding for program expansion and staffing | Decreased recidivism rates for PDL with a history of substance abuse |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|-----------|--|--|
| 3 | Increase employment opportunities for PDL | Detention facility staff and community partners | 18 months | Partnerships with businesses and funding for job training programs | Decreased recidivism rates for PDL who gain employment after release |
| 4 | Develop and implement social support programs | Social workers and rehabilitation program staff | 24 months | Funding for program development and implementation | Increased social support networks for PDL and decreased recidivism rates |

Develop and implement gender-specific interventions: Given that the majority of PDL are male, and males have higher recidivism rates, developing gender-specific interventions could help address underlying factors contributing to recidivism. This can be achieved by modifying the Therapeutic Community Modality Program (TCMP) of the BJMP to specific genders to focus the gender roles upon release from imprisonment.

Expand substance abuse treatment programs: Substance abuse is a significant factor in recidivism, with 60% of the PDL surveyed reporting a history of substance abuse. Expanding substance abuse treatment programs can help reduce the likelihood of future offenses. The medical and rehabilitation program staff would be responsible for expanding these programs, with funding for program expansion and staffing. The expected outcome is decreased recidivism rates for PDL with a history of substance abuse. The recently crafted KATATAGAN KONTRA DROGA SA KOMUNIDAD (KKDK) program of the BJMP in which, instead that the PDL will be transferred to the rehabilitation centers, the KKDK facilitators inside the jail premises will implement the drug rehabilitation must be religiously implemented so that the transformation of the PDL will be continuously delivered.

Increase employment opportunities for PDL: The majority of PDL are unemployed, and providing employment opportunities could help reduce recidivism rates. This action would involve partnering with businesses to create job opportunities for PDL and providing funding for job training programs. This can be addressed by providing livelihood programs inside the jail facility and coordinating with the TESDA and target consumers. After release from jail, the jail administration and the stockholders can invest in small business enterprises and employ the former PDL as workers to earn a living and support his family.

Develop and implement social support programs: The social support network of PDL is also a significant factor in recidivism, with only 20% of

PDL reporting having a strong support network. Developing and implementing social support programs can help provide PDL with the support they need to successfully transition into society. Social workers and rehabilitation program staff would be responsible for developing and implementing these programs, with funding for program development and implementation. The expected outcome is increased social support networks for PDL and decreased recidivism rates. The personnel of the BJMP, stakeholders and the concerned citizens may conduct seminars for the relatives of the PDL to educate and inform them on how to deal with the latter, knowing that he is still in the process of adjustment. Information dissemination must also be conducted to the general public to lessen and eventually eliminate the stigma that when convicts are released, they are still criminals. By enlightening the public, they can no longer be hesitant to socialize with the former PDL and can create strong social support for the latter.

Overall, this action plan addresses the underlying factors contributing to recidivism among PDL, including substance abuse, unemployment, and weak social support networks. The goal of implementing targeted interventions and programs is to reduce recidivism rates and support PDL in successfully transitioning back into society.

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