

THE SOCIAL REINTEGRATION OF PERSONS DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY. RESEARCH CONDUCTED IN ORADEA AND ARAD PRISONS

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Abstract. *The reintegration of persons deprived of liberty is an important step in the society reintegration. This kind of persons need support thought reinstatement programs, religious programs in liberty and prison. This paper captures the characteristics of the studied group - prisoners, a foray into the theoretical part and also the study results of men and women prisoners in Oradea and Arad Prison. There are certain specifications of the two studied groups that are revealed through the interview's answers made in the two prisons. The research has seated off the need of family support both for men and women, especially for the last ones, the women being more emotional. The society members may edge out any stereotypes and they can contribute together to a real reintegration of the prisoners into society. These persons must have real chances of reintegration into society because a lot of them have "great" plans for the future; to have a "peaceful" life, to find a job so they can maintain their family. This vulnerable group needs to be incorporated into the work field, not only to accomplish a work activity but to learn the responsibility and the value of himself as a person, and these can even improve the good name of the person in the community life.*

Keywords: reintegration, persons deprived of liberty, vulnerable group.

Characteristics of persons deprived of liberty

The human societies are ranked, a difference of status distinguishes the population from the groups. Social stratification, inequality, is forcing the

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population groups to occupy the last rungs on social hierarchy, to be familiar with the existence conditions that estrange them from the common modes of life. Precisely the implementation of this part is regarded as the primary cause of deviation (Ogien, 2002, p.70).

Deviance means non-conformism versus the set of rules accepted by a significant number of people within a community or a society. All social rules are followed by sanctions which promote the conformism. The sanction represents any reaction from someone towards an individual or a group's behavior, which is meant to provide certainty that the person or the group complies with a specific rule (Giddens, 2000, pp.189-190).

“The phenomenon of crime comprises the totality of conduits and behaviors with a high degree of social danger, because these behaviors violate or transgress the rules of criminal law, namely those rules in which the most important values of the society are protected” (Chipea, 1996, p. 35).

Criminal behaviors shows chronic and systematic trends until the creation of some specific forms of manifestation, in which fixing are involved some specific traits of personality, character, stability, which is formed during criminal career under the influence of factors related to “internal component” of the personality. This is structured, hierarchical and adapts specifically, originally, to the environment. The factors that contribute to the formation of these kinds of behaviors are (Idem, 1996, pp.49-50):

- Social inadequacy
- Deviant and anti-social manifestations
- Application of deficient methods of re-education and rehabilitation
- Improper attitude of social communities in the process of reintegration of the prisoner.

What does social reintegration mean?

The prison's purposes are isolation, general prevention of committing crimes and prisoners resocialization (Durnescu, 2009, p.43).

Resocialization is a reorientation and reintegration process in the social life for individuals who deviate from social norms and values, adopting a marginal or deviant behaviour. The complete process of resocialization consists in the recovery and reintegration of offenders into society, the assimilation of some socially accepted behavioral patterns (Dejeu, 2007, pp. 223-224). Resocialization consists in learning and social control orientation to assimilation and manifestation of the individual behaviours that are

compatible with the values and attitudes of the new integrated system (Zamfir & Vlăsceanu, 1998, p. 512).

How do prisoners look at freedom? Will they cherish freedom again once they are back in contact with the “outside world” and all that it entails? Gheorghe Florian (1996) mentions in his book that this freedom is misunderstood by the prisoners as a “freedom of movement or arrangement itself arbitrarily”.

In social reintegration, succeeding is not particularly interested in punishment, but the formation of the provision for the reward, which has a double role: positive support of the person in the life of disorganized from prison and the return of swift and without resentment to the normal life (Ciuchi, 2005, p. 1074).

The integration of prisoners is generally an issue that is regarded with skepticism by the society, this being due to the degree of risk of recidivism among inmates. In the article of Daniela Feraru and Daniela Acatanoaei (2005, pp. 1423-1424), are set out some possible solutions to obtain favorable results in the integration of prisoners into society: from incarceration time is carried out numerous programs to educate civic spirit, psychosocial guidance (debates in which the prisoner must not be tagged, but seen as a free man, revealing problems adapting and making him realize these deviations).

Religious activities in Prison

The purposes of moral and religious activities are: the possibility of religious manifestation, awakening and preserving religious sentiments, introspection of Christian values, encouraging inmates to an active religious life both in prison and after. The content of religious activities is made up: organizing the celebration of religious services and worship, carrying out specific activities, spiritual moral and religious education, ethics and civic collaboration with the environment support - family, non-governmental organizations (Țica, 2010, p. 68).

Religious programs held in prison by various organizations, foundations, churches, are the mental and emotional support that the inmates need to conduct their behaviour, straightening some lessons and especially their implementation, which would result in improving their own lives, relationships with others, with the whole prison environment but also after release.

The support offered through such activities and even benefits may not be immediately noticeable by the inmates, however, those who can rehabilitate

the much deeper human being because God's intervention is the one that can “pick up” a man of the most filthy sins and He can make a worthy and responsibly man in society.

Obstacles to a successful reintegration

Ioan Durnescu along with other authors (Durnescu et al., 2009, pp. 9-10), points out very well a great truth, but unfortunately highlights also a harsh reality: “after the release of the prisoner, punishment must end. The penalty cannot be extended outside of the legal provisions. And yet we know that, in the case of many prisoners, the truth is that the effects of punishment are felt long after release—at least in the sense that they are facing difficulties related to reintegration in conventional society, including all the risks and obligations”.

Communities are reticent and not infrequently members of society have a discriminatory attitude towards the problems of ex-convicts. An existent problem in this sense is precisely this discriminatory attitude of the society which is decisive for the fate of those involved. Due to the existence of stereotypes and bad image of detainees, which are aggressively promoted by the mass media, a large part of society will hardly accept cohabitation with a former inmate in the same block, and much less to help or to sustain them from certain points of view (Ardeleanu, 2009, p. 9).

Most of the people manifested abstention and fear towards a former inmate, all of them being convinced that they can't trust him and that it is better to abstain, by avoiding contact with a person who can cause you various unpleasantnesses (Leaua, 2006, p. 95).

The degree in which people accept and live in harmony with basic principles such as honesty, fairness, justice, integrity, honesty and trust, determines their evolution for survival and stability or disintegration and destruction (Boncu, Ilin & Sulea, 2007, p. 113).

Studies on prisoners profiles indicates that once released from prison, without any society reintegration programs carefully designed, over 70% of them will relapse, and will attract other innocents on their side and they usually do more violent acts than those from the first sentence.

There is a stereotype towards persons who have executed a sentence in prison and the attitudes expressed towards this category of the population affect the process of reintegration into society after releasing them from prison. The negative image of the person who was in prison, affects social reintegration, in particular on the workplace (Leaua, 2006, p. 120).

According to the data provided by the Prosecutor's Office of the High Court of Cassation and Justice, if in the year 1997, taken as the base year, the percent of recidivist convicts and those with other criminal records in the assembly of those concerning courts for theft was only 27 %, in 2007, appropriate weighting of the latter has increased to 40% (Dâmboeanu, 2009, p. 1).

According to statistics of the General Directorate of Romanian Prisons, the rate of recidivism among inmates is 68%, and the most important factor that influences this rate is their reintegration into work (Borșet al., 2005, p. 254).

Practical aspects. Research conducted in Oradea and Arad prisons

Research Objectives

- Understanding the reintegration needs of inmates that are in Oradea and Arad Prisons, mainly having their residence in Oradea/Bihor County
- Establish the main obstacles to the social reintegration of prisoners
- The evaluation of the reintegration programmes and religious programmes carried out in Prison, an evaluation from the prisoners' point of view
- Identification of occupations and qualifications of prisoners in Oradea and Arad Prison
- Recommendations/Proposals. Clear directions for action.

Assumptions/Hypothesis

- If the prisoner is recidivist, then the reintegration chances are low. The relapse is influenced by the pessimism and subjectivism reintegration chances.
- The ones who value in a good way the participation in social and educative reintegration programs, will know what they have to do after liberatio, they will have goals for improving their life.
- The chances for finding a job are real for those who have a qualification and skills.
- The participation in the religious programs from prison, are valued as a positive thing and considered as a good provider.

Methodology

The research carried out is of a qualitative one. The method used is the sociological investigation and the technique used is the interview.

Interviews were carried out individual, both by the administration and self-administration, because, those who know to write, answered their own questions of investigation tool, but those who didn't know to write, the instrument was administered, and their responses were recorded by the researcher.

The research was carried out in two prisons, the Oradea Prison (in men) and Arad Prison (in women). The interviews were carried out during the months of May and June 2012, 68 inmates in total, 38 men and 30 women who will liberate themselves in 2012. The purpose of this research was to facilitate social reintegration.

As a result of the school practice in the 2011-2012 year in Oradea Prison, I had participated in several activities for the reintegration of prisoners into society, especially of those that were supposed to be recently released. I could notice their behavior and I took a closer look to the prison environment and the activities that they carried out even inside the prison.

Results

The chances of reintegration, viewed from the perspective of persons deprived of liberty

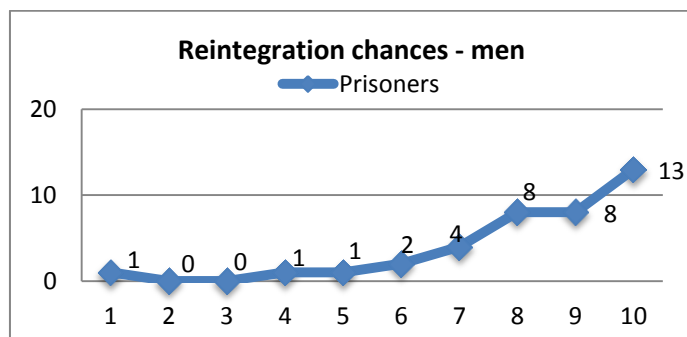


Figure 1. *The scale of the chances of reintegration from the perspective of men in Oradea Prison*

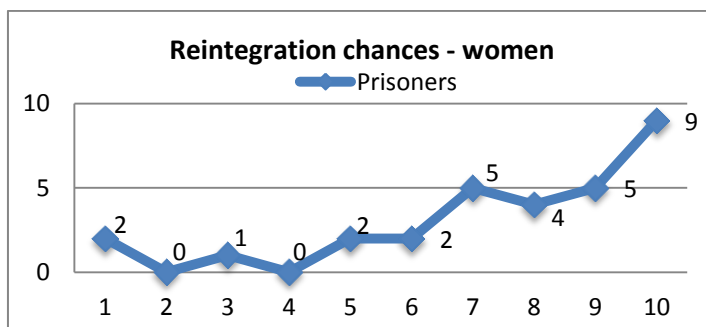


Figure 2. *The scale of the chances of reintegration from the perspectives of women in Arad Prison*

Even if there were interviewed a large number of men and women in the two Prisons and who will release this year, 38 women and 30 men, I have achieved a scale of reintegration opportunities, with the help of which we can see differences in terms of reintegration opportunities which some or others consider that will have after release.

The chances provided by women for their subsequent reintegration into society, are in an upward curve as in the men's case, but with larger fluctuations. The differences can be observed best between 7 and 10 where the men ascend, and at 9 face stagnating women where the curve is downward, then returns to where it started, after which it increases. Assessing the chances of men, reintegration is more homogeneous than that of women.

Table 1. *Assessing the chances of reintegration in terms of relapse - men*

MEN	Evaluation of reintegration opportunities over 8	Evaluation of reintegration opportunities under 8
recidivist	16	3
the first conviction	13	6

Table 2. *Assessing the chances of reintegration in terms of relapse - women*

WOMEN	Evaluation of reintegration opportunities over 8	Evaluation of reintegration opportunities under 8
recidivist	6	7
the first conviction	13	4

To test the first hypothesis, I tried to capture how the people who reoffend or those which gave rise to the first conviction, view their reintegration chances, whether the pessimism and subjectivity is influenced by the reintegration chances. Therefore, as it can be seen from the table above, on the contrary, the people who reoffend are very optimistic in assessing the chances of reintegration, 16 of them by assessing them over 8.

Instead, in the case of women, however, the number of those who reoffend is lower than in case of men and those who are within the first conviction, in a fairly large number, assess the chances of reintegration more optimistically.

As a result of these findings, the first assumption confirms that the recidivism results in much higher assessment of the chances of reintegration for men, but only in the case of women we would be able to confirm the assumption that the relapse affects in a pessimistic way the chances of reintegration.

On which were they based when they looked at their chances of reintegration?

Both women and men, when they think about their chances of reintegration, are relying on the fact that the family is next to them, it's the fact that they will be able to find a job and they will be able to maintain or contribute to the family income brought into the family. Some rely on their own person, the qualification which they know that they will have the best chance of integration into work, or on the contrary, some are thinking that they have poor chances of reintegration because they were in jail, have criminal records because they are even recidivists and they are not well regarded by society.

Obstacles / Impediments to social reintegration of detainees

MEN

- criminal record – 7
- do not believe that there will be obstacles in regard to reintegration- 9
- finding a job – 6
- shame for acquaintances – 2

WOMEN

- criminal record - 3
- do not believe that there will be obstacles in regard to reintegration - 3
- finding a job - 5

No inmate shall consider that they wouldn't be able to find a job, but on the contrary, they are very optimistic about the chances for getting a job and very few of them are more perplexed and do not know if they will be able to find a job. However, women detainees are more reserved, 4 of them are thinking about the fact that you might not find a job and do not know the owned 9 what to expect after release, therefore they cannot give a certain answer regarding finding a job after release. However, there are things that they have been based since the detainees have provided these answers?

Table 3. *Argumentation of finding a job - men*

He is ambitious, and has a family for whom he must fight
It could be a problem because he was in jail
Will do everything possible not to end up in jail anymore
Because he works on its own
Is convinced that he would find a job if he really want this
He will find a job as a contributor to the firms who already worked, but as a legal employee it would be harder to find
Will do what he did already, has a small business
I was never without work
He's very determined to work honestly
He is known by many people for the work that he performed
Always has found a job, it takes only "little Will"
Because it has a criminal record and is 55 years (he doesn't know)
He knows because, to find a job nowadays is very hard

Table 4. *Argumentation of finding a job - women*

She doesn't know if she will be hired because she has criminal record
She has friends, acquaintances who know her for years and they have not lost confidence
Because she will again receive the previous job
Because of a criminal record (does not consider that she will have great chances of reintegration)
"If indeed we devote ourselves, we manage what we propose"
she will work where she worked before entering the prison. For that she was competent enough, therefore she is confident that she will have a stable job
She has no school (she believes she will find a job)
She has in Germany a cousin and a sister-in-law and will go to work there
Because she is young and hopes that God will help her to find a job
She wants to work, it would be hard to find a job because she has no school

Overall, the subjects interviewed, both in Oradea and Arad, don't have much school, but still have some qualifications such as in construction, carpentry, auto, tailor, bartender-waiter and women qualifications such as: bartender-waiter, confectioner-cook, tailor. Some of them have worked before entry into prison, others were dealing only with "theft", but most want to work after release, whether it will be in the field in which they qualified or not, or have never worked. They want to work first and foremost, to be given a chance to work, no matter what field they were in.

Consider the prisoners that their reintegration after release will be influenced by the fact that people will find out that they have been in jail?

24 of the men confirmed that their reintegration after release will be influenced by the fact that people will find out that they were in prison, and 14 of them haven't the same opinion.

In the case of women, things are more trenchant because 23 of the 30 women answered affirmatively, agreeing with the fact that people will be influenced by previous antecedents.

A few explanations might come off of the differences between men's and women's responses, which include the following: the women interviewed are more insecure and reserved about the chances of reintegrating or finding a job, finding the support, though they consider that a large number of people will reject them and will be influenced by the fact that they were in prison.

What OBJECTIVES, future perspectives have prisoners?

Research has highlighted the intentions of women and men regarding their life post-liberation, the objectives, the plans that they have. They have big plans after release but not unusual. They want to rebuild their life, to work, to hang out more with their family, they appreciate a lot more now after having been away from its members. The family plays a very important role for the interviewees.

In discussions with women in order to complete the interviews, a few of them were so touched when it came to some questions in which they had to respond. They thought about their families and even had tears in his eyes. They feel the absence of family, of children, of which she is very homesick. Some are able to see them more often, others only on the phone can get in touch more often with family members, but nothing can refill their presence within the family. Men have not bypassed the answers concerning the family, the objectives of the future that they have. They will work after release, they can entertain family or even to base their own family.

The most common actions for which the detainees interviewed were jailed, were the law of circulation, robbery and theft, in contrast to women, facts for theft run detached with the highest frequency, almost half of the detainees interviewed were jailed for theft.

Therefore, the resulting data, the incidence of theft is more prevalent among women, while for men, driving without license is the deed for which they are frequently jailed.

Recidivism

With regard to the recidivists persons interviewed, in Arad more than half of the women interviewed are committing the first sentence and the number of recidivists in Oradea is equal to that of prisoners in the first sentence.

The family is the support that everyone needs, even more so when you can't have loved ones standing next to you, you feel the need to keep even if only occasionally in touch with them. Incarcerated persons kept quite often in touch with loved ones just that this often, for some it means frequent, weekly visits, and for others it just means daily telephone talks and visits. However, women are the ones who keep in touch with family less often, even though they should be the ones that support this more, and due to the much greater sensitivity but also because of the remoteness, though this is more often the impediment to keep in touch with the family.

Generally social reinsertion programmes are seen as good, welcome and that they will have more chances of reintegration. A small part of the interviewed have not participated in such programs, or considered them to be ineffective.

There are a variety of programs that are included in the reintegration of prisoners. Throughout the report those in need are recommended, have the opportunity to participate in numerous actions.

Of the 36 detainees who said they had attended a religious programs, only 2 were of the opinion that these helped them, the other 2 have not offered any response, and most of the 32 that responded that these helped them, they even listed the benefits of attendance programmes, of course, but some “took advantage” to some extent, to receive credits for parole or to exit from the room. The 30 women interviewed believed that participation is bringing many benefits.

Evaluation of the experience in prison

The prison remains a bitter taste for some, but most of them understand that you no longer wish to return to this place, not so much because of the conditions offered as possible to the strains which were hit and realized the importance of family and loved ones.

Conclusions

The investigation carried out in the carceral environment has highlighted several important issues both in terms of the current situation of the prisoners in the prison environment and the subsequent implications, plans on releasing and reintegrating them into society.

In terms of reintegration opportunities, there are differences between women and men. The chances of women are evaluated with multiple ascents and descents in an

upward curve towards the highest possibility of reintegration opportunities. The evaluation of males revealed a slightly upward curve to a point in which it stagnates and then grows.

In relation to the state of relapse, the first hypothesis is confirmed only in part because the State of relapse that influences reintegration opportunities, pessimism can be found only among the prisoners, men being very optimistic about the chances of reintegration.

Both women and men are based on various things when assessing the chances of reintegration, such as finding a job, family support, some even have the ambition to succeed, some on the contrary consider that people's conception of the world with respect to ex-convicts will affect them.

Criminal history, shame to acquaintances, finding a job, represent obstacles that both women and men believe that they will encounter and some consider that there will be obstacles in terms of reintegration (into a pretty big number, especially among men inmates).

The men are pretty optimistic about finding a job after release, compared with women who are more insecure and reserved in the answers given to this question. Both women and men will argue the responses from several perspectives: their potential both to work and opportunities that others will be given in finding a job. As a result, hypothesis 3 is confirmed only partly because the chances of finding a job are more depending on the sex and not so much on the fact that they have or not a skill, a craft.

The deed for which women are predominantly imprisoned is theft and traffic law among males (driving without a license) and robbery/theft. Among the difficulties listed by recidivists after the previous release, there are financial problems, hence the lack of money and a job.

Keeping in touch with family is an important aspect of life in prison, a large number of inmates being very often in touch with the family, meaning both visits but especially daily phone calls.

Evaluation of reintegration programmes is pretty good, they are considered useful and rewarding, even though some do not know how to take advantage of this opportunity to participate in programs or just want to get out of the cell. The need for qualifying courses required by some interviewees is a concern in prison, but especially as future leverage in finding a job. Those who have evaluated in a way good participation in reintegration programmes, they said, and they would know better what has to be done after the liberation, believe that they will be able to improve their lives after release. Therefore the assumption 2 is confirmed.

The society's involvement in reintegration activities is extremely beneficial. Religious programmes, for example, are a huge benefit in rehabilitation in correcting criminal behaviour, closeness to God, and the implementation of actions, not only desirable in society but also awareness of the prisoner in question first and then done with dedication, according to their abilities and aspirations.

Participation in religious programmes organized within the penitentiary, are valued positively and generating multiple benefits, therefore, hypothesis 4 is confirmed.

The integration of former prisoners into society should be less affected by the stigma of the detentions, although the reality is not like that, quite the contrary, they felt the rejection of others and the shame with which they must deal once released. Even though the process of reinsertion in the community of persons with criminal records is hampered by various obstacles, the need for reintegration is decisive in preventing relapse.

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