Promoting Social Reintegration Through Social Partnership

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Women’s experience: Foundation for prison-based rehabilitation and post-release support

- Successful reintegration requires knowledge of women’s pathways to prison (poverty, substance abuse, victimization, addiction, mental health, care taking, etc.)

- Incarceration experience: many female prisoners lack rehabilitation opportunities (due to overcrowding, prison location, over classification, gender neutral programme, short sentence, etc.)

- Post-release barriers (low self-esteem, gender-based stigmatization, employment, family breakdown, housing, etc.)
COVID-19 and its implications on rehabilitation and reintegration

• Limited contact with family and children
• High level of mental distress
• Suspension of education, vocational training and work programme
• Released with limited knowledge and support
• Returning to home and housing
• Other post-release barriers
Thailand and women’s incarceration

- National prison population **378,732** (as of 22 June)
- Women prisoners **47,905 (12.6%)**
- National recidivism rates are 14.5%, 26% and 33.6% within 1, 2, 3 years after release respectively.

- General profiles of women prisoners
  - Offences: Drug (83%), property crime (10.3%), life and bodily harm (1.4%)
  - Length of sentence: less than 2 years (8.7%), 2-5 years (44%), 5-10 years (17.7%), 10-20 years (8.1%), 20-50 years (9.8%), life (1.3%), death (0.1%)
  - Age: between 33.8 years old
  - Education: 2/3 didn’t complete high school
  - More than 80% are mothers with 1-2 children
Recent efforts in Thailand

• Rehabilitation and pre-release programme
• CARE: Center for Assistance to Reintegration and Employment
• Social enterprise and business’ involvement
• Tax incentives
• Social partnership model
Pilot Pre-Release Programme

AYUUTAYA Provincial Prison

34 PARTICIPANTS
250 HR IN 3 MONTHS

A pilot pre-release programme with a collaborative effort from nine different groups of external expert, therapists, and facilitators. The programme targets the following social reintegration necessities: mental empowerment, money management, career guidance, business planning, family reintegration and after-release support.

TRAINERS: OVER 50 EXPERTS FROM 9 DIFFERENT GROUPS

- Community leaders from districts in Ayuttaya
- Debtor Help Center, Ministry of Justice
- SME Trade Association
- Noburo Social Enterprise
- House of Blessing Foundation
- Jakrapong “The Money Coach”
- A team of activity therapists named “Voice of Women Behind Bars”
- Adecco: Human Resource Service
- “Nang Fah Salon” and the team
PROMOTING SOCIAL REINTEGRATION THROUGH SOCIAL PARTNERSHIP MODEL

PRE-RELEASE

- MIND
- MONEY
- BUSINESS
- FAMILY

PARTNERS
- ACTIVITY THERAPISTS
- COMPANIES
- ASSOCIATIONS
- COMMUNITY MEMBERS

- 20 – 63 YRS OLD
- 74% VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

POST-RELEASE

- SHELTER
- EDUCATION
- BASIC NECESSITIES
- BUSINESS FUNDING
- INFORMAL COUNSELLING

PARTNERS
- NGO
- ACTIVITY THERAPIST

- 46% 6TH GRADE & BELOW
- 34 WOMEN
- 55% DRUG OFFENCES

- 3 MONTHS
- 1 YEAR

74% VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

6TH GRADE & BELOW
10 Key principles for gender-sensitive rehabilitation programmes

1. Part of a broader strategy
2. Community and prisoner-driven
3. Supported by staff and managers
4. Gender responsive
5. Individualised
6. Holistic
7. Based on market needs
8. Sustainable and consistent
9. Good quality
10. Evidence-based
Thank you!

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