

# Effects of BJMP Livelihood Program to the Lives of Released Inmates

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**Abstract:-** The issue on the effects of the BJMP livelihood programs to the lives of the released inmates is one of the areas of concern that must be provided with data and information. Hence, this study titled “Effects of the BJMP Livelihood Programs to the Lives of the Released Inmates”. Specifically this study aims to determine the livelihood programs provided by the BJMP 1<sup>st</sup> District of Quirino Province to the participants during their incarceration, and determined the effects of BJMP livelihood programs to the life of released inmates. Among the highlights of the study are as follows: The influenced or effects of the livelihood programs among the released inmates while inside the prison were the development and application of skills, diverting of their feelings, gaining trust to one’s self and lastly they gained bonding with their fellow inmates. Multiple livelihood programs are offered by the BJMP to the released inmates. Most of the respondents’ availed BJMP livelihood program such as electronics; bread and pastry; massage therapy; and carpentry; The livelihood programs offered by the BJMP yielded an effect on the lives of the released inmates along the different aspects of their life. Also the livelihood programs experienced by the released inmates contributed to their socioeconomic status and the released inmates still experienced challenges on the availed Livelihood programs however, the degree of seriousness is not so much evident. The influenced or effects of the livelihood programs among the released inmates while inside the prison were the development and application of skills, diverting of their feelings, gaining trust to one’s self and lastly they gained bonding with their fellow inmates. Furthermore, the socio economic influences of the BJMP livelihood programs in the life of the released inmates were self-confidence, acceptance of the people, work/job opportunity and additional source of income. Lastly, when it comes to the challenges that the released inmates encountered in applying the skills learned through the livelihood programs of BJMP were programs is difficult to apply, lack of income to apply and establish their learned skills from the livelihood programs, not easily/immediately employed, and discrimination

**Keywords:-** BJMP, Effects, Livelihood Programs, Released Inmates, Socioeconomic Status.

## I. THE PROBLEM

### ➤ *Background of the Study*

Correction is one of the imperatives of the pillars of criminal justice administration. According to Law Dictionary (2015), correction is a form of discipline and chastisement administered by a master or other person in authority to one who has committed an offense for the purpose of curing his faults or bringing him into proper subjection. Hence, it is tasked to safe keep and to rehabilitate those convicted by the courts. Moreover, it is in corrections where the better part, which is the greater duration, of a sentenced person as he/she spends the judicially prescribed penalty (Bouvier, 1856).

Paramount to these concordances, the four different goals of corrections are commonly espoused to retribution, deterrence, incapacitation, and rehabilitation and each of these goals has received varied levels of public and professional support over time (Kifer, 2003).

Henceforward, criminal rehabilitation is gaining popularity among many who are forward thinking. Such forms of rehabilitation can help to reduce the number of repeat offenders who return to jail after being unable to adapt to life outside of jail. Moreover, this can also help to solve some of the more serious cases, such as sexual offenders who may continue in their ways after being released, preying on women or children (Wright, 2015).

Rehabilitation services include religious guidance, psychotherapy, socialization, health and sanitation, vocational training, mental, physical and sports development, and value information and education. Occupation and vocational training programs are based on the needs of the inmates, general labor force needs.

Additionally, there are different rehabilitation programs offered by different jails and prison like, educational programs, recreational activities and livelihood programs. Inmates can also often have access to another form of education: life skill training. These programs, which are sometimes seen as counseling interventions, are predicated on the notion that upon released to society, many offenders may not have the kind of basic understanding that are integral to functioning in American society. Thus, this courses will teach such varied skills as how to apply and interview for a job, how to manage one’s money and household, how to live a healthy life, how to be a parent and

spouse, and how to secure a driver's license (Silverman and Vega, 2015).

Generally, jail and prison do not rehabilitate while most prisons and jails have one or more programs designed to assist inmates to develop new vocational skills and to counsel them. Also, if inmates earn an educational certificate, it often bears the name of the prison/ jail facility where the degree or accomplishment was acknowledged, thus, employers are deterred from hiring them because of prison records (Goodale, 2007).

In reality, one of the factors that plays a significant role in the potential success of a rehabilitation program is that the offender must comply with the guidelines of the program and be open to make a change in their life. Most offenders' feel that the rules do not apply to them otherwise they might not be incarcerated (Welch, 2011).

Henceforward, the correction pillar continuously implements programs to eliminate the offenders' pattern of criminal behavior and to reform them to become a law abiding and productive citizen. And as such the agency has four major areas of rehabilitation program, namely: livelihood projects, educational and vocational training, recreation and sports, and religious or spiritual activities.

Anent, rehabilitation of prisoners after they complete their sentence is always a big issue for both government and society. However, this could only be ensured by providing them respectful opportunity to earn their livelihood. Livelihood programs aim at the changes that can develop attitudes, knowledge and skills through a program of education and service. Livelihood programs can be implemented in an institution like jail. The objective is to train the inmate's livelihood skills, provide services and improve the moral spiritual aspects of their life. This can be attained by providing them seminars and trainings regarding livelihood skills (Raj, 2010).

An increase in positive inmates programming has proven to minimize institutional violence because of decreased idleness. Inmates are involved in purposeful activities, giving them a sense of being part of a larger community. Programs such as these have the potential for successful transitioning inmates from prison to the world of work. Through this program, inmates may learn valuable employability skills that translate the opportunities for employment upon release (Dunhill, 2016).

In the advent of time, livelihood programs help inmates to develop new skills and to be used for gaining money while inside and outside prison as well (Patil, 2010).

But despite the premise of the livelihood programs, there are still questions on how this program affects the life of inmates or what is the effect of the program to the life of the inmates.

In a 2009 study of McNeill to more than 200 employers, found out that formerly incarcerated candidates with nearly identical professional experience as non-offenders were less than half as likely to receive job offers. According to the Bureau of Justice, employers said they would accept an application from an released inmate. Ironically, getting back to work decreases recidivism, but there are barriers for released inmates in finding work.

Fortunately for many former inmates, employer interest in an ex-offender rises when they find out that the crime was nonviolent or drug-related. So long as the individual remains drug-free and has gained relevant work experience either inside or outside of prison, there is more employer interest in hiring (Miller, 2010).

According to the Urban Institute, many employers worry about being sued for damages resulting from "negligent hiring." An employer can be held liable for exposing the public to a potentially dangerous individual, so many balk at the idea of hiring someone with a criminal record.

Another challenge for released inmates according to Useem and Piehl (2008), prisoners who maintain consistent contact and connection with their families during their sentences have a lower recidivism rate than those who do not. Over half of incarcerated adults are parents of minor children, which means they may miss out on many of their children's critical and formative years. Unfortunately, there are obstacles to maintaining consistent contact with family, and challenges for ex-offenders once released. Once released inmates return home, they are dependent on family members and must overcome years of limited contact, potential resentment, and a change in the household dynamic.

According to the Urban Institute Justice Policy Center (2013), just before release, 82 percent of ex-offenders thought it would be easy to renew family relationships, after returning home, over half reported it was more difficult than expected. Family members often assume a new financial and emotional burden when released inmates return home, having to support a dependent adult.

Furthermore, when Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL) are released from prison, they tend to find that their expectations for returning to normal life are not always realistic. This is especially true for prisoners who serve lengthy incarcerations because they are likely to face advances in technologies that are essential in new job markets and lack training that makes them viable candidates (Ward & Maruna 2007).

Hence, according to an Urban Institute study of Baltimore release inmates face massive obstacles when searching for employment anywhere, so to return with this disadvantage to an area that likely has low job prospects increases the likelihood of unemployment.

According to Yeager (2014), a social worker who works with older inmates who have served long sentences and have been out of society for an extended period, that the two biggest adjustment challenges are living with less structure and having fewer social contacts. Prison life is extremely structured, and prisoners with long sentences become accustomed to it, resulting in feelings of shock and deep distress by its absence in the outside world. While they may return to their home communities or families, their social networks may no longer exist or have changed. This means released inmates must rebuild or create new social networks.

On the other side, reintegration is not an option but rather the consequence of imprisonment given that in most cases almost everyone imprisoned will one day be released (Travis and Visher, 2005). Reintegration is a resource intensive endeavour intersecting as it does with issues of housing, family, health, education, employment and community wellbeing because prison populations typically constitute such a multitude of deficits in this regard.

However, when reintegration fails, social and economic costs are high thus the skilled of the released inmates needs to embody their skills from livelihood programs they learned or availed. The collateral consequences of imprisonment include family poverty and community instability. From a fiscal perspective imprisonment is also an expensive sanction (Irish Prison Service Annual Report, March 3, 2014).

Furthermore, Owers (2011) argues that “everyone who wants to live in a safer and more peaceful society has a stake in reintegrating ex-prisoners”. Failure of the individual to live up to society’s expectations – or failure of society to provide for the individual; a consequent failure of the individual to stay out of trouble; failure of the individual, as an offender, to escape arrest and conviction; failure of the individual as an inmate of a correctional institution to take advantage of correctional programs – or failure of the institution to provide programs that rehabilitate; and additional failures by the individual in continuing in a criminal career after release.

Successful reintegration generally necessitates some form of change on the part of the offender. It also requires structured supports and resources. The path of change however is seldom straightforward but rather cyclical in nature and relapse is part of that process (Procheska et al., 1992). However, Hood argues that former prisoners are setup for failure “simply by labelling their relapse as ‘failure’ rather than a stumbling block that may have consequences on the path towards a ‘normalized’ life”.

Although desistance and reintegration can be understood as part of the same process (Maruna et al., 2004) less is known about how people experience the transition from prison to the community where they are expected to reintegrate (Garland and Wodahl, 2014).

In connection to the components of the Philippine Criminal Justice System (CJS) is the correction pillar, to which its goal is to rehabilitate criminal offenders aside from punishing and deterring the criminals from doing the same crime. Many arrested and convicted criminals seemed not rehabilitated for they always return to the penal institution they once came. Criminals once they have been released from prison have the tendency to become a recidivist for some independent reason such as the lack of jobs, and they are branded as graduates (Vicente, 2007).

Although the Bureau of Correction (BuCor) has undertaken rehabilitation programs in helping an inmate this should lead a responsible, law abiding and productive life upon release. Efforts shall be made to ensure an optimum balance between the security of the prison and the effectiveness of treatment programs. Inmate and public safety, and the requirements for effective custody, shall, however, take precedence over all other activities at all times and shall not be compromised. Rehabilitation and treatment programs focused on providing services that will encourage and enhance the inmates’ self-respect, self-confidence, personal dignity and sense of responsibility (BuCor 2017).

On the other hand, the BuCor offers a variety of inmates work programs, from agricultural to industrial. The purpose of the inmates work program is to keep the inmates busy, and to provide them money for their personal expenses and their families as well as help them to acquire livelihood skills; in order that they may become productive citizens once they are released and assimilated back into the mainstream of the society (Bureau of Jail Management and Penology Manual Revised, 2007).

Aside from the BuCor there were services provided by the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) to the inmates includes the provision of basic needs such as food, clothing, hygienic supplies and others, health services that aids in maintaining the inmates physical and mental well-being, livelihood services or activities which entails the development of work values, individual worth and dignity, emotional catharsis and enhancement of individual’s creativity, educational services and activities in order to minimize the inmates stress as well as giving them opportunities for socialization, visitation services in order to provide emotional and social support to the inmates through their significant others and love ones, paralegal services to provide them with speed disposition of cases and religious services to uplift their spiritual and moral values.

Since most inmates are eventually released from prison, rehabilitative programs and treatment services can prepare inmates for their successful return to society. Given the high economic and social costs of incarceration, strategic investment in prison-based, rehabilitative programs can protect public interest by helping reduce the risk that former inmates will commit new crimes. National studies have shown that in prison programs that teach marketable skills and change inmate's criminal behavior can help offenders prepare for a law-abiding life after release (Opagga, 2007).

Support services should be readily available for inmates while they are in jail and immediately after they are released. Inmates would benefit from placement support groups and follow-up services that would help them stay employed. By helping inmates we can protect their children from falling into the same cycle. According to Pew (2013), a proven model shows that inmates will have a shortened prison stay if they complete educational, vocational or rehabilitation programs. This increases their chances of successfully reentering the labor market.

Moreover, studies revealed that some of the problems encountered by jail in implementing livelihood programs are lack of space for livelihood projects, small market and the lack of promoter for their products and the lack of support from the management. Narag (2009) stated that with smaller space, the project decreased its output as well and therefore, needed only a few members. The market at present, is composed of the inmates themselves, the inmate visitors, and few Non-Government Organization (NGO) volunteers. To be sure, there have been attempts to sell their products outside jail but these efforts unfortunately were not sustained, for one reason or another. Workers also threatened by the growing member of recreational facilities, which have been eating space allocated for them by the management. Workers also feel that the management is not giving them any importance (Narag, 2009).

As for the effect of livelihood program, the inmates become more responsible and productive individuals. They are able to help their families who are outside the jail. Their income also gives them source for financial needs for their personal supplies like soap, shampoo and the like (Maximo, 2010).

Another evidence from the provincial government of Cavite that these offers have opportunities to earn money while in jail. Engineer Ruperto T. Arca, the senior provincial environmental management specialist, mentioned that all it takes is for inmates of the Cavite Provincial Jail to enlist for a two day seminar workshop that will teach them on how to make a handicrafts from recycled waste materials. Through the Provincial Government-Environment and Natural Resources Office (PG-ENRO) program, inmates can learn how to make bags and other fashion accessories with the used of trash. The livelihood program aims to broaden environment consciousness and provide job opportunities for the inmates and reduce waste materials in the province (Giron, 2010).

As Pedreset et al., (2011) concluded, livelihood programs of the San Jose City Jail were very much attained. The Administration provides the needs of detainees regarding the livelihood programs, to help their family on their financial needs.

Despite of their rehabilitation inside the jail and skills learned through the livelihood program from the BJMP these released inmates do not apply their skills outside the prison because the community do not trust them too much, not knowing that they are already rehabilitated and they are not giving them chance to apply the skills they've learned.

Sagadal (2014) also emphasized that the livelihood programs for inmates intends to give them hope, contrary to the belief that there is no future for individuals like them.

Meanwhile, one of the effects of livelihood programs as believed by Montejo is that this program can provide new trainings and skills to inmates that they could use to provide income from their families. Moreover, through the livelihood programs inmates can develop skills to become more productive and it can also help them to ease their boredom and avoid acquiring vices inside jail (Saludar, 2014).

These concordances would tell us that there are good effects of the livelihood programs among the inmates specially that their skills are harness and develop. Hence, an additional income can be added into their families after their release. Among the salient findings and readings, it also manifest that the livelihood programs experienced by the inmates also diverted their attention.

In a study conducted by Punaduan (2017), unemployment is one serious problem that was experienced by most participants, despite their having the necessary skills and qualifications. Many participants indicated that a history of criminal conviction and serving a sentence has a negative impact on their employment prospects. All interviewed released inmates, except those who were residing at the New Beginnings Care Centre, were unemployed. One participant reported having secured three different jobs, but eventually got fired from all those jobs once employers got to know of the criminal record (Punaduan, 2017).

Due to this study, the proponent became interested to the conduct of the effects of the livelihood programs to the inmates, in order to know what is really the impact of this program to the life of the inmates and to know the problems encountered by the jail and the inmates in implementing these programs. Moreover, this endeavor will serve as a realization on the part of jail management and penology and Correctional Institution that the Livelihood programs has positive or negative effects in the life of the prisoners.



Furthermore, this study will be beneficial to the BJMP Cabarroguis District Jail. Through this study, they will be informed on what livelihood programs is effective and that is very much needed by the inmates and in their released. Secondly, it is beneficial to the released inmates in a way that they will know what livelihood program will be useful that they will be used in their daily lives. Also, it is beneficial in a way that it will help the released inmates to voice out their problems and be able to express their part regarding the skills learned during their incarceration. Lastly, to future employer, they will be informed about the life of released inmates regarding on their rehabilitation program most especially on the livelihood training availed, with that this study serves as a basis whether or not to employ a released inmates.

Hence, this study puts forward a significant impact along the lives of the released inmates as they will be guided on their paths towards a noble life. The researcher embodies care and affection regarding the life of the released inmates and thus, this study will give unwavering benefit among the BJMP personnel and other concerned agencies as it provides data on the effects of the livelihood programs they are offering to release inmates.

In this study, however, the researcher is accounted for the socio-economic influence of BJMP livelihood programs and the social lives of released inmates. The researcher is optimistic in engaging with the ex-prisoners themselves, investigating their daily lives, it will be possible to explore their pressing needs, socioeconomic influences of BJMP livelihood programs to their lives and be able to know various difficulties they face in the processes of adjustment into society. Thereafter, the researcher would be in a better position to suggest viable alternative solutions which would benefit released inmates themselves and the entirely society.

## II. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This study is anchored on the theory that failure of individual or released inmates to have a smooth transitioning in the main stream society will lead him re-committals of crime. Even the released inmates were already rehabilitated and undergone a livelihood program, if the society failed to accept them and do not give them chances to live better there are tendencies that they will choose to commit crime again and again and it will affect their social and economic life.

Futhermore, in light with the study, the following theories will serve as a foundation of the possible outcomes of the status of the released inmates. Nevertheless, responses or answers of the participants may vary, the researcher will validate and further implicate the themes to support such claims of experts as a matter of either supporting or negating theories or ideas of experts.

### ➤ *Social Control Theory*

Hirschi's (1969) theory of social control is based on the theory people engaged in delinquent behaviour when their bond to society is weakened. Hirschi's theory was based on four elements:

**Attachment.** This is the link between the individual and society if someone has attachment they wish to preserved this, they are less likely to go against the social norms or put the attachment at risk. Attachment can be to family, friends, Religion anything outside of themselves which might be detached if the individual deviates from the norm. In an individual has weak attachment, then they are less likely to be concern about the outcomes of going against social norms, offending family, friends or wider society.

**Commitment.** It refers to the level of investment, time and energy place into an institution, for example, someone who has invested time and energy into school or career, would be less willing to risk their place with the establishment by acting defiantly conversely, someone who had less investment within an institution would not feel the same level of laws if they were excluded.

**Involvement.** This pertains to the level of interaction and investment if individual, for example in school, employment any behavior that is considered socially acceptable then they are simply to busy doing conventional things to find time to engaged in deviant behaviour (Hirschi 1969)

**Belief.** Being the final element of the social bonding theory, relates to the common value system, individual belief in the values and moral of the wider society which they are attached to respecting other's rights (Germain and Gitterman, 1996).

The Paradigm in Figure 1 discusses the flow of this study. On the first box the released inmates were be the participant of the study. The Researcher was conducted an interview to the released inmates in regards with the BJMP livelihood programs offered to them and determined their social; and economic status to ascertain the effects of BJMP livelihood programs to the life of the released inmates.

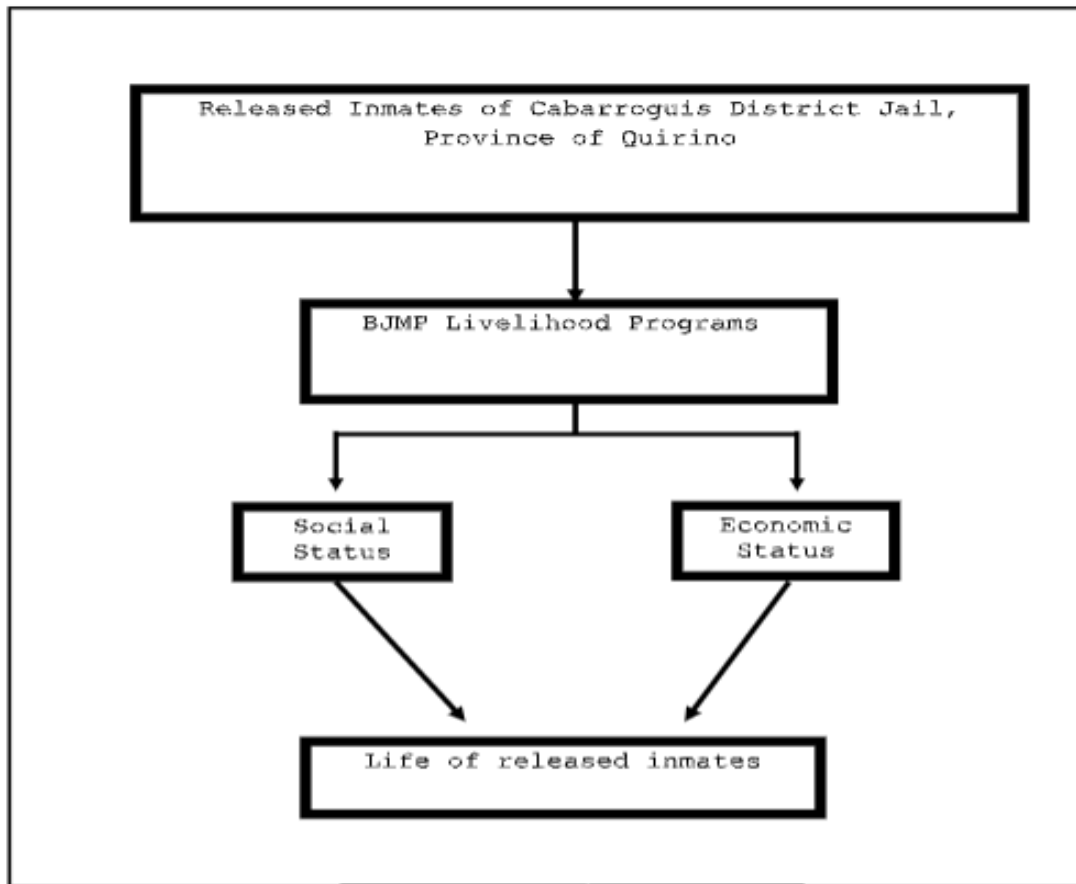


Figure 1. Paradigm of the study

#### ➤ *Statement of the Problem*

This study ascertained the effects of BJMP livelihood program to the life of released inmates. Specifically, it answers the following questions:

1. What are the livelihood programs provided by the 1<sup>st</sup> District of Quirino Province to the participants during their incarceration?
2. What are the effects of BJMP livelihood programs to the life of released inmates?
3. What are the challenges encountered by the released inmates in applying the skills learned through the livelihood programs of BJMP in 1<sup>st</sup> District of Quirino?

### III. DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

This chapter presents the research design, population and locale of the study, data gathering procedures, Ethical considerations and treatment of data.

#### ➤ *Research Design and Methodology*

This research is a qualitative type that employed a case study method. Qualitative research is a type of social science research that collects and works with non-numerical data and that seeks to interpret meaning from the data that help to understand the social life through the study of targeted person, population or places. In relation thereto, this study used qualitative research because it sought to understand the effects of BJMP livelihood programs to the life of released inmates. Hence, the term case study refers to both a method of analysis and a specific research design for examining a

problem, both of which are used in most circumstances to generalize across populations. Moreover, a case study research paper examines a person, place, event, phenomenon, or other type of subject of analysis in order to extrapolate key themes and results that help predict future trends, illuminate previously hidden issues that can be applied to practice, or provide a means for understanding an important research problem with greater clarity. Additionally, it examines a single subject of analysis and designed as a comparative investigation that shows relationships between two or among more than two subjects (Mills et al., 2014)

#### ➤ *Population and Locale of Study*

This study was conducted among the released inmates of Cabarroquis District Jail located at the 1<sup>st</sup>District of Quirino Province specifically those who are employed. This research used a purposive sampling. A purposive sampling is a non-probability sampling that is based from selected characteristics of a population and the objective of the study. Purposive sampling is also known as judgmental, selective, or subjective sampling. In the pursuit of the study, there were three(3) participants and all were males, with an age of 59, 40 and 32 years old. Moreover, one of them was a College Graduate of BS Criminology, College Level and High School Level. Furthermore, one of the participants was filed with multiple cases such as robbery, kidnapping with Murder, Illegal Possession of firearms and violation of RA 9165 and the other two participants was filed only with one case which is the Violation to RA 9165.

The researcher chose Quirino Province particularly the 1<sup>st</sup> district as the locale of the study for convenience and thus the researchers explored the effects of BJMP livelihood programs to the life of released inmates.

#### ➤ *Data Gathering Procedure*

Before the conduct of the interview, the researcher gave a letter that was approved and signed by the College Dean and the Research Adviser to the BJMP Cabarroguis to get the necessary data to the participants in this study. In gathering the needed data, the researcher's seek permission from the participants by signing the consent form. The first questions asked from the participants are the demographic profiles like name which is an optional, age, sex and educational attainment. While initial questions are employed, build-up questions were asked to establish rapport from the participant and eventually make him/her comfortable with the researcher. After gathering the information on the demographic profile of the participants, the researcher personally ask the questions related to the study following the sequence of the interview guide and at the same time recording the statements using a recorder. Moreover, the researcher's take down notes to the answers of the participants for reference.

#### ➤ *Data Gathering Instrument*

This research paper used an interview guide which is adopted and modified from the research entitled "BJMP livelihood program: it's effect to the life of inmates" by Bucasan, 2016. The questionnaire is composed of two parts namely: the first part is the demographic profile which includes the name, sex, age and highest educational attainment of the participants and the second part are the guide questions on the effects of BJMP livelihood programs to the social and economic status of released inmates. Other supporting questions were asked to the participants for verification and elaboration.

#### ➤ *Treatment of Data*

In light with the study, thematic analysis was employed. Thematic analysis involves the collating of data or responses from the participants. Moreover, it is theoretically flexible and can be used within different frameworks to answer quite different types of research questions. Furthermore, it suits questions related to the people's views and perception.

Additionally, the released inmates responses or answer in the interview was clustered and organized by theme. The purpose of this analysis is to identify patterns of meaning of data set, thus addressing the research question. Additionally, the answers was recorded, transcribed, and translated into English medium since all the expected responses were in the mother tongue dialect. Also, some parts of the proceedings was documented using a video or sound recording capacity of cell phones.

#### ➤ *Ethical Considerations*

The participants participation in this study was voluntary with or without remuneration given to them.

Additionally, in order to ensure confidentiality, the background and profiles of the participants were not exposed and it was treated with utmost confidentiality. Moreover, a consent form that was translated with a dialect that they understand were filled up by the participants that was crafted as evidence or proof that the participants agreed and be informed that they were subjected into this study. However, if the participants wish to withdraw the researcher do not obliged them to take part of the study since it is their right. Also, the participants have the right to decline from audio/video recordings.

In order to ensure the rigor and trustworthiness of this study, the researcher sets aside personal feelings and opinions for the better result of the study. The Participants statements were analyzed and it was treated, supported by different theories. The researcher was optimistic in engaging with the released inmates themselves, investigates their daily lives, explored their pressing needs, determined the effects of BJMP livelihood programs to their lives and determined the difficulties they faced in the processes of adjustment into society.

This chapter presents the Presentation, Analysis and Interpretation of the study titled "Effects of BJMP Livelihood Program to the Socioeconomic Life Of Released Inmates"

The following themes were elucidated from the participants which were given the hidden names such as participant 1, 2, and 3.

#### ➤ *Livelihood programs provided by the 1<sup>st</sup> district of Quirino province to the participants during their incarceration*

The policy guidelines for BJMP Livelihood projects stipulates that the inmates are entitled to receive livelihood programs. The in-charge specifically the Inmates Welfare Development Officer (IWDO) of jail is responsible to assess the needs for livelihood and look into other opportunities to fulfill the inmates welfare objectives (Standard Operating Procedures Number 2011-2).

There are different livelihood trainings and skills program that are offered by the BJMP to Persons Deprived of Liberty, the different programs were: Electrical Installation/Basic Electronics, Massage Therapy, Bread and Pastry, Masonry and Carpentry, which was availed by the participant as it is evidenced by the responses of the participants. Participant 1 that: "*Maraming Livelihood program ang ibinibigayng BJMP Cabarroguis, meron silang offer na electronics, carpentry, masonry and may bagoyung bread and pastry*" (There are multiple livelihood programs offered by the BJMP like: electronics, carpentry, masonry and bread and pastry).

Also According to Participant 3: *“Natutunan kong mag karpentero, mag bake ng tinapay at basic electronics”*(I learned on how to become a carpenter, to bake bread and I learned also basic electronics)

The different livelihood skills contributed a lot to the participants, as discussed by them they learn new skills and able to apply it in their daily lives.

This vocational courses contributed to their improved socio-economic status because they gained knowledge, experience and skills which they can use outside the penal institution to start their new life. As supported by the statement of Barretto, livelihood programs are critical component of rehabilitation among PDL prior to their reintegration back to their respective communities.

Livelihood programs are critical component of rehabilitation among inmates prior to their reintegration back to their respective communities. *“Lack of sustainable livelihood causes inmates to return in their usual criminal activities. While they are under our care, the BJMP and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) are equipping them with necessary skills training and livelihood support”*, Barretto emphasized.

#### ➤ *Electrical Installation*

This theme refers to the installing and maintaining of electrical wiring, lighting and related equipment and systems where the voltage does not exceed 600 volts in residential houses / buildings. As Mentioned by Participant 2: *“Natuto akong basic electronics, mag ayos ng linyang kuryente, ayusinang switch at mag lagay ng socket, natutunanko ding mag ayos ng electric fan and t.v. Minsan may nag papaayossakin at isaitosaaking pinagkukunan”*(I learned basic electronics, I learned how to fix electrical line, to fixed switches and sockets and also I learned to fix T.V and Electric fan. Sometimes there are some people who came to me to ask for my service and it is considered as one of our source of income).

Indeed, the released inmate receives training on basic electrical installation which geared towards in their skills development and additional source of income in their daily lives. Also, the electrical installation they availed during their incarceration is very useful, because in some point it is easy to apply in which they do not need an employer and a high source of income to start it.

Hence, according to JSINSP Angelito G. De Laza, Jail Warden of BJMP Cabarroguis, the inmates undergone a training on electrical installation that is provided in partnership with TESDA Quirino Province. The primary aim of the said training is to develop more skills towards the inmates that can be used outside the prison and inside the prison if needed. The said training is done every Wednesday and Friday of the week at 9 o'clock in the morning in six months.

#### ➤ *Carpentry*

This is a skilled trade and a craft in which the primary work performed is the cutting, shaping and installation of building materials during the construction of buildings,

ships, timber bridges, concrete formwork and many more. There are different types of carpentry one of these is Rough Carpentry, it focuses on framing, formwork, roofing and other structural work. Also it implied that there are many work opportunities for a carpenter and able to earn a good income. Hence, Participant 3 stated that: *“saloob ng kulungannatutunannamin mag karpentero, kami namismo nag karpentero at gumawasabagong building parasaselda”*(During our incarceration, we learned carpentry and we help in constructing the new building for additional cell in BJMP Cabarroguis). Furthermore Participant 3 stated that *“Sa ngayonako ay nag trarabahosa Gepilano bilang construction worker kasialamkonamanna kung paano, minsanakotagabuhosngsementotaga halo at tagalagay ng hollow block”*(I am currently working at Gepilano as Carpenter).

In this case, through the livelihood training provided by the Cabarroguis District Jail the released inmates learned carpentry which is also useful in their lives, it is because one of the released inmates is employed in one of the construction companies in Quirino Province. With this, somehow it helps the released inmates to have a better employability and better source of income that, they are able to provide their daily needs in everyday living.

Hence, according also to JINSP De Laza, the inmates undergo training in carpentry for one (1) month including hollow blocks making. After the said training, the PDL were utilized in making the new BJMP building in Cabarroguis District Jail. With this, the skills learned by the PDL were more enhanced in the field of carpentry. Also the said activity also develops the camaraderie among inmates and it will help them to keep busy, one thing more it helps them to have an added source of income inside the prison and it helps the organization to save money because instead of hiring workers outside prison why not utilize them. Program like this is good, not only for them but also with the organization and the new building is a good result of the program.

#### IV. **Effect of the BJMP livelihood programs to the life of released inmates**

##### ➤ *Acceptance of the People*

Social support is one of the greatest needs by the released inmates most especially the acceptance of people towards them. As cited by participant 1: *“ok din palapag mainformang tao about samin, masayayunkasi accept nilanakulong man ako”*(they accept me despite of the reason that I am a released inmate and I am very happy about that). Also, Participant 2 mentioned that: *“Paglabaskoe ok ako, tanggap pa rin akong family ko at patimgakabitbahaynamin”*(my family and friends were still there and accept me after my release).

Acceptance of people towards the released inmates has a great help for them, further the released inmates have self-confidence to face the people because they know that they have been changed and they something to do or offer



like their skills learned through the BJMP livelihood programs. Also, informing the public about the life of released inmates during their incarceration will help them to further understand the life of released inmates and it will help them to easily accept the released inmates upon their release. With this, the released inmates may easily adjust outside prison and it may give them chance to have a better live socially and economically.

According to Yeager (2014), the two biggest adjustment challenges are living with less structure and having fewer social contacts. Prison life is extremely structured, and prisoners with long sentences become accustomed to it, resulting in feelings of shock and deep distress by its absence in the outside world. While they may return to their home communities or families, their social networks may no longer exist or have changed. This means released inmates must rebuild or create new social networks. However, based on the participants statement it is evident that through the livelihood program, they are able boost their self-confidence and they are accepted by the people upon their release it is because the people were informed on what they experienced inside the prison.

Also the Social Control Theory further explains that attachment is the link between the individual and society if someone has attachment they wish to preserve this, they are less likely to go against the social norms or put the attachment at risk. Attachment can be to family, friends, Religion anything outside of themselves which might be detached if the individual deviates from the norm. In an individual has weak attachment, then they are less likely to be concerned about the outcomes of going against social norms, offending family, friends or wider society.

#### ➤ *Work Job Opportunity*

Through the livelihood program of the BJMP the participants are able to have a better work job opportunity during their stay outside the prison. As explored in the study Participant 1 showed that: “*Dahil may trabahoako my income ako regularly*”(I have a good income regularly because I have a job). Also participant 3 stated that: “*At dahilsa livelihood programs nangayon may work naako*”(because of the livelihood program I got a job).

Through the livelihood programs offered by the BJMP the participants availed a better work job opportunity, they are able to apply the skills learned through the said program which contributed on their economic life and they are able to support their family by providing their needs.

This is supported by Montejo, that one of the effects of livelihood programs can be used to provide income in their families. Moreover, through the livelihood programs, they develop skills to become more productive individuals. They are able to help their family and even themselves. Also Patil (2010) discussed that inmates may also learn valuable employability skills that translate the opportunities for employment upon release.

Also one of the effects of livelihood program, the inmates become more responsible and productive individuals. They are able to help their families who are outside the jail. Their income also gives them source for financial needs for their personal supplies like soap, shampoo and the like (Maximo, 2010). However, when reintegration fails, social and economic costs are high thus the skills of the released inmates need to embody their skills from livelihood programs they learned or availed. The collateral consequences of imprisonment include family poverty and community instability. From a fiscal perspective imprisonment is also an expensive sanction (Irish Prison Service Annual Report, 3 2014).

#### ➤ *New Beginning*

Despite of their situation or they went through, the participants started a new beginning. As mentioned by Participant 1: “*Malakingtulongng BJMP livelihood program sabuhaykobukodsa nag bagoakoparangnabigyanakong chance paramabuhayulit*”(The BJMP livelihood program has great influence in my life, it gives me a chance to live again)

The livelihood program contributed a lot to the life of released inmates to the extent that, they become more responsible person not only in their family but also to the community, this was attained by helping the released inmates to acquire skills that is useful in their economic status and for them this is a chance for them to live better.

This implies that there is still a chance to the released inmates to start a new beginning contrary to the belief that there are no chance for them.

According to Maximo, one of the effects of livelihood programs, the inmates become more responsible and productive individuals they are able to help their families and even themselves.

#### ➤ *Development and Application of Skills*

Livelihood programs aim at the changes that can develop attitudes, knowledge and skills through a program of education and service (Raj, 2010). As discussed by the respondents of the study, they felt that the livelihood developed their skills. Participant 1 mentioned that: “*they are giving us the chance to change and to develop also skills to be used to live*”; Also according to Participant 2: “*dahilsa livelihood programs nabinibigaynila we know that we are able to support our family paglabasnaminkasimeronkaming skills napwedengipasokngtrabaho*”(because of the livelihood programs offered by the BJMP, we are able to support and provide the needs of our family once we are free); Lastly, according to Participant 3: “*dahilsa livelihood programs alamkonapaglabaskoe may mapupuntahanako*”(Through the livelihood programs I learned new skills that's why I'm confident that once I am free I am able to look for a nice job).

Based from the responses of the participants, they mentioned that the livelihood programs offered to them contributed in the improvement of their skills and that they were able to apply their own skills while in prison. Paramount to these concordances, it can be said that the participants are grateful and overwhelmed with these kinds of programs. Through these programs, the participants were given the chance to live harmoniously as well as lessen the sadness.

The objective of livelihood programs is to train the inmate's livelihood skills, provide services and improve the moral spiritual aspects of their life. This can be attained by providing them seminars and trainings regarding livelihood skills (Raj, 2010).

Support services should be readily available for inmates while they are in jail and immediately after they are released. Inmates would benefit from placement support groups and follow-up services that would help them stay employed. By helping inmates we can protect their children from falling into the same cycle. According to Pew (2010), a proven model shows that inmates will have a shortened prison stay if they complete educational, vocational or rehabilitation programs. This increases their chances of successfully reentering in the society.

Moreover, through the livelihood programs inmates can develop skills to become more productive and it can also help them to ease their boredom and avoid acquiring vices inside jail (Saludar, 2014).

#### ➤ *Diverting of Feelings*

Under the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology Manual Revised (2007) discoursed that the purpose of the inmates work program is to keep the inmates busy inside the prison. Participant 1 mentioned that: "*di konaramdamannapresoako dun kasipagdatingngumaganasalabasna kami ngseldamaraming activities at yun excited kamingmatutusamga livelihood programs naibinibigaynila*" (Through the BJMP livelihood programs, I diverted the loneliness I feel and we are very excited to learn new skills also I learn not to consider myself as prisoner); As mentioned also by Participant 2: "*at dun saloobnaisannitoyunglungkotnanararamdaman naming dahilsa livelihood programs kasinaidadivertduonsamgaginagawa naming yunglungkotnanadaramanamin*" (The livelihood programs helps us to cope up and divert our boredom and sadness); and according to Participant 3: "*dahilsa livelihood programs alamkonapaglabaskoe may mapupuntahanako kaya gumagaanyungpakiramdamkoisa pa naiibsanyunglungkotsaloobparang di nga kami bilanggoe*" (The livelihood program helps to forget the loneliness I feel, and I am confident that I am able to apply for a job once I am free).

Through the livelihood program the released inmates were able to forget the sadness they feel inside the prison, they are able to divert their feelings it is because they are busy learning with livelihood skills, they have their training

regularly and able to apply it inside the prison. It also helps them to establish a good relationship and camaraderie on their co-inmates. Further, the released inmates are ascertain and confident that they will apply the skills learned during their stay in the mainstream society.

To support with, the purpose of the inmates work program is to keep the inmates busy, and to provide them money for their personal expenses and their families as well as help them to acquire livelihood skills; in order that they may become productive citizens once they are released and assimilated back into the mainstream of the society (Bureau of Jail Management and Penology manual revised, 2007).

#### ➤ *Gaining Self-trust*

Livelihood services or activities which entails the development of individual worth and dignity, emotional catharsis and enhancement of individual's creativity in order to provide emotional and social support to the inmates (BJMP MANUAL). Participant 2 and 3 revealed that: "*perodahilsa livelihood programs eebumalikuntiyungtiwalakosasariliko*" (but because of the livelihood programs offered by the BJMP, I learn to trust myself again).

Learning a new skill will help a person to have a confidence in their selves, most likely in the part of released inmates they gain self-trust it is because they know that when they go out the prison they have the skills to be used or applied in their daily lives as one of their source of income to support their needs as well as for their family.

According to Sagadal (2014) he also emphasized that the livelihood programs for inmates intends to give them hope, contrary to the belief that there is no future for individuals like them.

#### ➤ *Challenges Encountered by the Released Inmates in Applying the Skills Learned through the Livelihood Programs of BJMP in 1<sup>st</sup> District of Quirino Province.*

As implied on the participants statements, there are still challenges that these released inmates encountered in applying their learned livelihood programs. The following concerns or challenges were faced by the participants: the livelihood skills learned is difficult to apply in the real world due to lack of lack of income, not easily/ immediately employed due to the fact that they are not automatically hired since they are still adjusting in the mainstream society, and discrimination.

#### ➤ *Lack of Capital to Start*

Rehabilitation of prisoners after they complete their sentence is always a big issue for both government and society. However, this could only be ensured by providing them respectful opportunity to earn their livelihood (Raj, 2010).

However one of the problems of the released inmates is that they do not have the money to start a business and to apply the skills learned it is because it is true that they do not have a good income while inside the prison. Participant

1 revealed that: *“sakinnunguna di koalam kung anunggagawinkokasilumabasakongkulungannawalangwala, sananga may income na din saloobngkulunganparamaganda”* (At first I do not know what to do after my release, I don't have any income to be used after my released while I am inside the prison, there should be an Income inside the prison); also participant 2 said that: *“peroyungsa livelihood programs yung pastry eekailangangmalaking income dun although magandasana”* (the food and pastry livelihood programs is good but it needs a high income to start ); and participant 3 revealed: *“minsannaisipkonga nag business ng bakery ee may taonamannanukwanakoyungmgaikaibigankonamababaitang probelemaalangeeyung kapital alamnonamandatiakongbilangwalaakongiponwalaakoper akasiwalanaman kami source of income saloob, magandasana kung may source of income kami dun”* (Sometimes I plan to have a bakery business however it needs a high capital to start it, it is better if we have a source of income during our stay inside the prison).

Learning new skills like livelihood skills is a very good thing to happen in life most especially if this livelihood skills is in demand or they may able to start a business, however the livelihood skills that is offered by BJMP Cabarroguis needs a high income to start a business.

Moreover, studies revealed that some of the problems encountered by jail in implementing livelihood programs are lack of space for livelihood projects, small market and the lack of promoter for their products and the lack of support from the management.

Narag stated that with smaller space, the project decreased its output as well and therefore, needed only a few members. The market at present, is composed of the inmates themselves, the inmate visitors, and few Non-Government Organization (NGO) volunteers.

To be sure, there have been attempts to sell their products outside jail but these efforts unfortunately were not sustained, for one reason or another. Workers also threatened by the growing member of recreational facilities, which have been eating space allocated for them by the management. Workers also feel that the management is not giving them any importance (Narag, 2009).

On the other hand, the BuCor offers a variety of inmates work programs, from agricultural to industrial. The purpose is to provide them money for their personal expenses and their families as well as help them to acquire livelihood skills; in order that they may become productive citizens once they are released and assimilated back into the mainstream of the society (Bureau of Jail Management and Penology manual revised, 2007).

#### ➤ *Not Easily/ Immediately Employed*

Unemployment is one serious problem that was experienced by most participants, despite their having the necessary skills and qualifications. Participant 1 said that: *“sakin di akoagadagad nag katrabaho nun”* (After my released It is very hard to look for a job, I am not easily

employed); also participant 3 mentioned that: *“eedahilsa limited langyung offered sa BJMP syempremahirap din maghanapngtrabaho although malakingtulonyung livelihood program”* (But because the livelihood programs offered is not enough although it is good in our part, still it is very hard to look for a job).

The released inmates were not easily or immediately employed it is because the skills learned are not sufficient it is evidence by the participants response. Some of the offered livelihood program are not offered in most of the mainstream agencies available in the province that is why prisoners still considered it at some point as not enough like what participant 1 believed: *“Gaya ngsabikokanina, yunngakahit may livelihood programs kulangparin, sanadagdagannilangibangprogramanamadalingiaaply like welding ganun”* (Like what I said a while back, the livelihood programs is not enough, there should be more livelihood programs. Programs that is easy to apply like welding); participant 2 also indicated that: *“isa pa even na may livelihood programs kami limited langkasi, we are now living in a modern world kaya sana mas madagdagan pa yun”* (One thing more even they have a livelihood program it is limited, we are now living with a modern world so they may offer more programs).

Unemployment is one of the serious problem of the released inmates, it is because even they have skills learned for them it is not enough and it is limited. As stated also by the inmates, they desire to have livelihood programs that are practical and easy to apply like trainings in welding.

Hence, according to an Urban Institute study of Baltimore release inmates face massive obstacles when searching for employment anywhere, so to return with this disadvantage to an area that likely has low job prospects increases the likelihood of unemployment.

Fortunately for many former inmates, employer interest in an ex-offender rises when they find out that the crime was nonviolent or drug-related. So long as the individual remains drug-free and has gained relevant work experiences either inside or outside of prison, there is more employer interest in hiring (Miller, 2010).

As a result of incarceration and involvement in the criminal justice system, many former prisoners are viewed negatively by former employers or by individuals within their former professional networks, if they previously had one. The combination of a limited professional network and a conspicuous résumé gap can make it very difficult for released inmates to get an interview with a prospective employer (Hunt 2014).

While data on post-incarceration employment in relation to recidivism is it seems clear that it is much less likely for released inmates to find employment than a member of the general population.

Support services should be readily available for inmates while they are in jail and immediately after they are released. Inmates would benefit from placement support groups and follow-up services that would help them stay employed. By helping inmates we can protect their children from falling into the same cycle. According to Pew, a proven model shows that inmates will have a shortened prison stay if they complete educational, vocational or rehabilitation programs. This increases their chances of successfully reentering the labor market.

Also, Samuel Dash stated that Prejudices and legal barriers combine to deny employment opportunities to released inmates. Prisoners are told that rehabilitation is a major goal of the correctional system, and that upon release they should seek employment and become contributing members of society.' However, when ex-prisoners attempt to find jobs they are met with almost insurmountable barriers from both the public and private sector.

#### ➤ *Discrimination*

When ex-offenders are released from prison, they tend to find that their expectations for returning to normal life are not always realistic. This is especially true for prisoners who serve lengthy incarcerations because they are likely to face advances in technologies that are essential in new job markets and lack training that makes them viable candidates (Ward & Maruna 2007). In this, participant 2 mentioned: *“kasi may mgataoparinnamapanghusga di natinmaalisnyunkasingadatikamingbilanggo”* (there are still some people that is judgmental about us since we are released inmates ); and participant 3 stated that: *“Dinatinmaalisnyung discrimination masakitsa part naming yunperotoonamannadatikamingpreso”* (there are still discrimination in our part despite the fact that we really change).

The released inmates indeed receives a livelihood programs, however it is connected in their name that once they are inmates despite the fact that they have already change and have a better improvement in their lives and this results to a widespread discrimination from the private employer. One factor that the released inmates experiences discrimination in employment is that there are people who are more capable than them in doing the job and one thing more they are not Graduates of prison.

National studies indicate the reluctance to employ ex-prisoners, and note that most of the employers willing to hire ex-prisoners would consider them only for relatively unskilled work. Bonding requirements provide an additional barrier, since employers are often obligated by arrangements with bonding companies to avoid hiring ex-prisoners.

A criminal record may also preclude membership in labor unions or apprenticeship programs. In addition, many labor contracts expressly permit the employer to discriminate against ex-prisoners in hiring and discharge policies; discrimination against released inmates keeps thousands of persons out of the job market (Fernandez, 2016).

The livelihood programs offered by the BJMP Cabarroguis District Jail yield an effect to the lives of released inmates although there are still challenges that they encounter but the degree of seriousness is not much very evident. Thus, this program helps the inmates to learn and develop new skills that can be used not only in their economic status but also in their social status. Economically speaking, the released inmates were able to look for a job and they support their family financially. In their social status, they boost their self-confidence, they build camaraderie and become a more productive and better citizen. With that, the BJMP livelihood program is much effective in the lives of released inmates.

## V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter presents the conclusions and recommendations of this research titled “Effects of BJMP Livelihood Programs to the Lives of Released Inmates”

#### ➤ *Conclusions*

Basing from the findings of the study, the following conclusions were derived:

The livelihood programs offered by the BJMP Cabarroguis is more on skill-based programs in which the inmates learned and developed new skills, that were very essential in their reintegration in the mainstream society.

The livelihood programs offered by the BJMP yielded a positive effect on the lives of the released inmates. Also, the livelihood programs experienced by the released inmates contributed to their socioeconomic status.

Despite the fact that the released inmates availed livelihood trainings they still experienced challenges however, the degree of seriousness is not so much evident.

#### ➤ *Recommendations*

Based from the result of the study, the following recommendations were made for the betterment and improvement of the study:

1. The BJMP Cabarroguis may continue to implement the livelihood programs, since it contributed meaningfully to the lives of released inmates. Futhermore, the BJMP may offer more livelihood trainings like welding, this will be attain if the BJMP may strengthen its partnership with TESDA in providing livelihood programs.
2. The BJMP Cabarroguis may enhance and strengthen connections and partnerships to other government and non-government agencies to aid them in the implementation of an efficient livelihood programs for the rehabilitation of PDL.
3. The Government may establish partnership with the private and public business sectors in catering the released inmates for their employment with the proper recommendation of the jail warden.



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