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Thusitha Abeysekera

RESTORATION AND REINTEGRATION OF THE CRIMINALS UNDER THE PRISON SYSTEM: A CRITICAL REVIEW OF THE PRESENT PRACTICES IN SRI LANKA

A Dissertation by

W. Dharshika Wimalasiri



Supervised by

Dr. Thusitha Abeysekara.

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ABSTRACT

Beginning from the post classical era, focus shifted from retaliation and retribution to restoration and rehabilitation as the thinking capacity of the human kinds evolved. As a mechanism of restoring and reintegrating prisoners, the prison as an institution of criminal justice has a significant role to play since imprisoning of a person found guilty of a crime could be punished as a deterrence for others, however they should be restored or reintegrated into the society after serving time in a prison.

In considering the role of a prison in both restoring and reintegrating persons convicted of crimes, the contemporary discourse has changed the term 'prisons' to 'correctional centers' in some countries such as United States and Singapore where the name itself exemplifies the main objective of the correctional facility. Conditions within the prisons and outside are not conducive for either restoring or rehabilitating those who are convicted and released into the society once again upon completion of the imprisonment period.

Therefore, this research is intended to investigate upon the relevant laws and practices within the prison system in restoring and rehabilitating prisoners under the existing institutional dynamics of the prison system with the objects of finding the existing practices, their shortcomings and ways in which to improve and enhance the restoring and rehabilitating prisoners in Sri Lanka. This work is an attempt to critically evaluate the existing criminal justice system in restoring and reintegrating the criminals under the existing legal framework.

Key words: Rehabilitation, Prisoners, Reintegration, Criminal Justice