

Reintegration of convicts

Class 12

Treatment of addicts in penitentiary units



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KATEDRA PRAWA KARNEGO WYKONAWCZEGO

Introduction

- ▶ A lot of people going into prison already have a mental illness.
- ▶ People's mental health can also get worse in prison.
- ▶ A lot of people have a mental illness and use drugs or other substances.

Introduction

Currently in the prison system there is a crisis of unmet mental health needs. It's been estimated that:

- ▶ Over half of prisoners have poor mental health including depression, posttraumatic stress disorder and anxiety
- ▶ Around 15% of prisoners have specialist mental health needs
- ▶ Around 2% are thought to have acute and serious mental health problems
- ▶ Self-harm incidents also rose by 73% between 2012 and 2016

Therapeutic treatment

The reintegration aims of the execution of penalty of deprivation of liberty (moral improvement or judicial improvement) shall also be achieved with respect to persons with health disorders.

- ▶ Positive social reintegration in this group of convicts shall be achieved due to therapeutic treatment which facilitates, among others, suppression of personality disorders, regaining psychological balance, shaping prosocial attitudes, and achieving personal goals in accordance with abiding social norms.
- ▶ Therapeutic and rehabilitation activities are focused also on social readaptation.
- ▶ Other important aspects include preventing addictions, promotion of healthy lifestyle, ergotherapy, art therapy, sports activity, and cultural activity.
- ▶ In many addiction treatment centres and corrective centres there are also special programmes of social re-adaptation by means of charity work or support for social initiatives.

What happens when inmates go into prison for the first time?

Medical examination

- ▶ At the admission the prisoner is subjected to an appropriate medical examination and sanitary.
- ▶ Immediately after admission to the prison, but no later than within 3 working days from the day of admission, a doctor shall examine the prisoner. Within 14 days from the date of admission he should be examined with an X-Ray.
- ▶ An examination of his teeth should also be conducted.

What happens when inmates go into prison for the first time?

Medical examination

- ▶ Prisoners have to speak to a healthcare professional at the admission process. They are being asked questions, including questions about their health, including:
 - mental health,
 - physical health,
 - whether they have issues with substance misuse,
 - whether they self-harm, or have done in the past, and
 - whether they are experiencing suicidal thoughts, or have done in the past.

- ▶ The assessment should be carried out before they are shown to their cell.

Treatment of addicts in penitentiary units

Alcohol and crime, especially violent crime, are linked. Many prisoners are incarcerated because of alcohol related crime.

- ▶ Addiction is a chronic disease similar to other chronic diseases such as type II diabetes, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Human studies of addictive behaviors have clearly implicated both environmental and genetic influences, as well as interactions between the two.
- ▶ Substance abuse is common among individuals suffering from antisocial personality disorder
- ▶ Substance abuse has a negative influence on [the rehabilitation process](#).
- ▶ It is common for prisoners who have alcohol problems also to have drug problems.
- ▶ Alcohol and drug increases aggression.

[Forced abstinence during jail or prison may also deprive offenders of their primary means of coping with negative emotions related to past abuse and trauma \(i.e., use of drugs and alcohol\).](#)

- ▶ When this coping mechanism is no longer available, many offenders are left vulnerable and may begin to exhibit symptoms of depression and other mental disorders that can interfere with treatment.
- ▶ If unaddressed, past trauma can also trigger substance abuse relapse (during or after treatment), through emotional, physical, or situational cues associated with prior abuse experiences.

Treatment of addicts in penitentiary units

Substance abuse treatment has become integral to the criminal justice

- ▶ The majority of drug-involved offenders show a dramatically reduced pattern of criminal activity while they are abstinent and involved in treatment, as compared with periods of active substance abuse
- ▶ There is a strong relationship between alcohol consumption, the commission of crimes, and criminal victimization.
- ▶ Alcohol consumption plays an important role in road accidents. Some of the most common alcohol-related crimes involve cases of drinking and driving.
- ▶ However, there are a variety of other offenses that can result from alcohol abuse like: homicide, sexual assault, child assault, robbery
- ▶ Alcohol not only alters the ability to drive and react to traffic, but it also increases the driver's risk of injuries and death, the risk of injuries to other passengers and pedestrians, increases damages to other vehicles and properties, quality of life, losses of labor hours.

Treatment of addicts in penitentiary units

If a doctor determines that prisoner has alcohol poisoning, the patient is being sent to a detoxification unit

- ▶ Then a prison psychologist diagnoses the addiction.
- ▶ If addiction is diagnosed, the prison psychologist informs the inmate about the possibility of seeking treatment in the prison.

Prison Systems

- Prisoners are sorted into one of three systems (art. 81 Executive Penal Code):
 - 1) the programme system (or so- called the program ward)
 - 2) therapeutic system (or so- called therapeutic ward)
 - 3) regular system (or so- called regular ward)

Therapeutic system

- Therapeutic system- In some prisons, there are therapeutic units/ wards for prisoners with non-psychotic mental disorders or sexual disorders, mentally ill or disabled and prisoners addicted to drugs or alcohol. Such prisoners are detained in a closed penitentiary institution with conditions adjusted to their needs.
- Convicts are sent to such units after previous diagnosis and stay there only for the duration of the therapy. The medical staff in such units includes psychologists, a therapists and educators. Inmates can enjoy a large range of activities and individual therapies.
- Prisoners are provided range of therapies including: pharmacotherapy, psychotherapy, addiction therapy, therapy meetings and even art therapy (including drama therapy).
- The therapeutic system is mainly carried out in the therapeutic wards, but not only, it can also be carried out outside these wards (if there is a need)

Therapy treatment in penitentiary units



Awaiting list

There are not enough places for every prisoner in such units.

- * After the admission process and making the decision of sending to the therapeutic ward prisoners are entered onto a waiting list.
- * Therapeutic wards have a limited capacity.
- * Many of prisoners who need help for alcohol problems are not receiving it.
- * 1022 convicted inmates were waiting for therapy (24% increase in comparison with the previous year)
- * Average period of awaiting therapy - 11 months

Treatment of addicts in penitentiary units

After placement in prison, a treatment plan is developed that specifies which services the inmate needs, at what level of intensity, and which of the available resources

- ▶ The treatment plan takes into consideration the severity of substance abuse related problems and the presence of co-occurring mental disorders because these influence the treatment approach.
- ▶ The therapy is carried out in places designated for this purpose (these are selected prisons) under the supervision of specialists (psychologists, educators, therapists, doctors, of course after appropriate training) and can take various forms.

Addiction therapy includes:

1. addiction education;
2. group therapy participation, i.e., personal development groups, self-help support groups;
3. contacts, talks with a psychologist or an addiction educator;
4. prevention and encouraging to start therapy (by specialists and psychologist)

End of therapy

- * The therapeutic system is a transitional system:
- * Prisoners who have successfully completed treatment can be transferred to the regular system or the program system

Recent research has found that programmes for offenders with drinking problems can reduce the likelihood of re-offending

Factors That Hinder Inmates Therapy Success

Barriers to Effective Treatment

- * Treatment participants should be isolated from the general correctional population as mixing participants and non-participants undermines the treatment environment and limits impact as inmate ideation is redirected from recovery to security.
- * Facilities mixing treatment and general population inmates due to inadequate space or too few eligible participants are poorly suited for therapeutic community based modalities due to support limitations Programs should be housed in settings not hindered by these issues

Challenges

- * An insufficient number of places
- * The need to refine existing drug-free programs
- * Problems with continuation of therapy (when prisoners who are getting treatment are released, it's very important that their treatment continues properly in the community)
- * The need to extend the scope of offer (develop programs besides therapeutic wards)

Factors That Hinder Inmates Therapy Success

A number of aspects of prison life has significant implications for treatment

- * These includes the following: the prison regime and culture; the attitudes of staff towards drug use and drug users; and the relationship between officers and prisoners.
- * So, there is a need to expand those treatments that contain the flexibility and range of skills required to address the complexity of prisoners' needs.
- * Interventions to increase prisoners' motivation to give up drugs and to encourage more positive attitudes towards drug users on the part of mainstream prison officers are also recommended.
- * Training on mental health issues should be provided to all people involved in prisons including prison administrators, prison guards and health workers
- * Access to assessment, treatment, and (when necessary) referral of people with mental disorders, including substance abuse, should be an integral part of general health services available to all prisoners.