

Women's Lived Experiences in Prison: A Study Conducted in Haramaya Correctional Facilities, Ethiopia. March 2023

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Abstract : Aim: This study attempts to investigate the causes and difficulties with women's incarceration as well as threat for their reintegration after release from prison with emphasis on the correctional facility of Haramaya city. Method and Methodology: Both quantitative and qualitative research methods were employed in this study; key informant interviews and participant observation were utilized to gather qualitative data, while crosssectional and descriptive research designs were used to gather quantitative data. Findings: This study shows that the women's incarceration was caused by their family histories, genderbased violence, illiteracy, and socioeconomic issues. The principal charges made against the female culprits were theft, vandalism, murder, and moral perversion. A poor quality of life in prison, concerns about family dissolution, emotional instability, financial difficulties, and a lack of spirituality were the main causes of unhappiness for the women behind bars, while social stigma, mistrust, and retaliation fears were the main obstacles to the women's ability to reintegrate into their families and communities. Theoretical Importance: This study involves incarcerated women at correctional center of Haramaya who committed various types of crimes. The local government sectors and non-governmental organization will gain from the study in order to create workable plans to reduce women's criminality and the growing number of female lawbreakers. Local communities and other governmental and nongovernmental partners will be able to support gender equality initiatives that seek to eradicate gender-based violence and discrimination, which worsen the criminality of women. Data Collection and Analysis Procedures: The quantitative and qualitative data were collected prospectively from a sample of 100 women prisoners. Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, whereas, thematic analysis, were used for qualitative data. Question Answered: 1. What are the main causes women's imprisonment in Haramaya city correctional facility. 2. What are the main obstacles of the women's ability to reintegrate into their families and communities after released from incarceration. Conclusion: The study concludes that incarcerated women experience a tremendous impact on their daily life. It highlights the importance of addressing factors such as family backgrounds, gender-based violence, illiteracy and socio-economic problem to decrease the number of women imprisonment. Detention environment, fear for family breakup, financial hardship and deprivation of spiritual life are the major sources of distress among the incarcerated women.

Keywords : Ethiopia, women prisoner, incarceration, reintegration

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