



## **Background Paper**

**Committee:** Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian Committee. (SOCHUM)

**Topic:** B Addressing Criminal Rehabilitation and its effects on society.

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Criminals are one of the biggest consequences of a broken society. The factors of people committing a crime are mainly economic issues, mental illness, drug consumption, bad or absent parenting, among others. Inmates are being punished for a certain amount of years in prison but the issue starts when they get out of it.

Ex-convicts have lived for years in prison so that it has become their home, they have gotten used to a routine in which they have all commodities to survive. This sense has made the inmates forget how to function in society. Many of them continue breaking the law to go back to jail where they know how to live and feel comfortable.

This makes society's integrity vulnerable to criminal acts that these individuals may commit. To decrease the dangers to society. The Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian Committee (SOCHUM) must face this issue in the criminal justice system and create a structured alternative that will be part of the solution to complement the already existent criminal rehabilitation.

Criminal rehabilitation is a relatively new process in the justice system for inmates. It seeks to help convicts to prevent long-term recidivism. The process focuses on changing the inmate's ideas of living in prison into ways to retake a role in society and live a crime-free life after getting out of jail. While Criminal Justice institutions are said to rehabilitate criminals, they often show no actual intent on completing these actions.

*"Rehabilitation has taken a back seat to a "get tough on crime" approach that seeks punishment as prison's main function." -Hailey "The Punitive Turn."*

Society should be able to accept the rehabilitated individual as a changed person and provide them with opportunities to get a real second chance, but this is not the case. Instead, the persona behind the inmate is known as “ex-convict” or “criminal” and fails to get a stable job. Which ends on low income and significantly decreases the chances of success.

In 2002, the Bureau of Justice Statistics published an article showing an increase in the numbers of apprehended ex-convicts. From 635,000 inmates released, about 279,000 returned to prison after committing a crime. Between these numbers, about 70% were robbers, 74% were burglars and 78% were car thieves.

The US criminal justice institutions report that the majority of inmates let free after the implementation of these rehabilitative programs are currently in jail; while the percentage of ex-convicts after rehabilitation has decreased by over 42%.

Through the years, scientists have developed rehabilitation methods that are constantly studied. The programs that have shown better results are educational and academic and community-based programs. Between the community-based programs, the treatments that stand out are the moral recognition therapy and behavioral treatment programs.

Many rehabilitation methods have been banned from countries. These methods were effective; however, they trespassed the legal and moral limits. Best results came from treatments focused on inmates' criminal behaviors, their contributing factor. The rehabilitation programs also include principles of effective interventions having a successful result on high-risk inmates.

Another type of rehabilitation program is criminal counseling. The program seeks to empathize with the inmate building a relationship in which he can open up sharing his emotions and feelings. This is one of the most important rehabilitation because counselors can ascertain whether there are any physical or mental disabilities that led him to commit the crime.

This program is effective but expensive. Many countries have implemented these programs such as Norway, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Iceland showing positive results over other types of rehabilitation. The program needs a well-trained employee system, training them to be sensitive and later on provide care to inmates after they are set free.

Scientists have discovered a way to decrease crime rates and recidivism. Rehabilitation programs post recidivism offers different results after inmates are set free compared to pre-rehabilitation introduction.

As said in *Rehabilitation and Social Behavior*, 2020 “Crime is not only detrimental in terms of more insecurity and a lowering of a country’s social capital, but it also represents a high direct monetary cost to society”. This conflict not only inflicts affected individuals but all societies around the world.

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