Prisoner Re-Entry and Parole

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# Purpose of Reentering Plan

Returning home from prison can be a very tough transition for the inmates. Generally, the reentry planning starts at the time when inmates are brought to the prison until they got released (EH Goldstein, 2009). The purpose of reentry planning is to prepare the prisoners for success after his/her release. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, approximately 66 % of inmates got rearrested within three years of release (K Knight, 1999). To address the issue of rearrests and re-incarceration, reentry planning is needed. Moreover, these numbers have also forced the policymaker and criminal justice practitioners to make a proper policy that will help the reentering process of the inmates.

# Challenges

When returning to the community, the inmates face difficulties in securing a decent job, securing housing, and acceptance by the community (Abrams, 2006). Getting a job after being released from a prisoner is not an easy task as most employers are reluctant to hire people who have a criminal record. If someone is able to secure a decent job he would not be paid fairly, the employer will pay less wage to an ex-convict. Most employers pay fewer wages to ex-convicts; so if someone who got released by the prison secured a decent job, he will not be paid/ rewarded equally. Inmates like Anderson generally find work in low skilled jobs in manufacturing industry, maintenance, wholesale, and food services. This difficulty in finding a good job also affects the livelihood of an ex-convict. Furthermore, there is a high risk of homelessness due to low finances. A community does not accept the person who got released by the prison.

## Solutions

States law and company policies should be changed to address the mentioned challenges of inmates upon coming back to the community. There are many states which prohibit the employer to hire an ex-convict. This should be changed; no employment can be a backbone for many other issues which will later turn a person again towards crime. Policymakers, criminal justice practitioners and active community members are the key players who can design policy and program which can help inmate's reentering the community. Communities should also be aware about the rights of criminals using different programs. Furthermore, there should be a relief and care packages for ex-inmates which subsidies their finances.

# Expectations of inmate on release

An inmate has to be strong when he got released from the custody as there are many difficulties and problems which are waiting for his reentering to the community. In some cases, the inmate should be ready to face the reality that no one is coming to get him on his release due to many reasons. Inmates should understand that with freedom, comes the responsibilities. And because of difficulty in getting employment, he would not be able to fulfill his necessities.

## Measures to counter

To increase one's chances of success after reentering the community, he has to start preparing within the prison. As mentioned in the first question, the planning of reentering the community begins when the inmate brought to the prison (EH Goldstein, 2009). The main purpose of imprisoning the criminal is to correct their behaviors. There is a reason why the prisons are called correction facility. The very first reason the criminal got arrested is that he was not following the law. This failure to follow the law makes an inmate unfit for society. Keeping that in mind, the inmate should prepare themselves before their release. They should first work on the behavior or attitude which became the cause of their arrest.

# References

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