

REPORT ON VISIT TO CENTRAL PRISON, RAJKOT, MAHARASHTRA

ON 21- 05-18

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Profile of the district

Rajkot district is situated in the central part of the Saurashtra Peninsula. It is the third-most advanced district in Gujarat and the fourth most populous. According to 2011 Census total population of Rajkot district was about 38 lakhs.

Crime profile of the district

As per report of the National Crimes Record Bureau of (NCRB), 2013, with a record of 8255 crimes Rajkot district stood 63 rd in all crime records in the country in 2013. The district reported a crime rate of 216.98 compared to National crime rate of 218.67 in 2013.

Jail Profile and history

Central Jail, Rajkot one of the four Central Prisons in Gujarat. Originally set up as District Prison in 1894-5, during the British period with a capacity of 300, it was upgraded as central prison after construction of a new building in 2012. The jail presently accommodates convicted and under trial prisoners from Saurashtra region as well as PASA detainees and prisoners transferred from districts of Saurashtra.

Land and infrastructure

The prison is spread over an area of 20.93 acres with a built up area of 5.76 acres.

The jail has a sprawling campus with a large infrastructure comprising of office buildings, 52 barracks and 21 High Security Cells, the female ward, court, hospital, library, industry zone, prison canteen, stores etc. The original building are very old; only maintenance has been carried out from time to time. New buildings have been added. 17 barracks are in the old building and 44 in the new building.

Manpower

According to approved staffing pattern for the prison, the jail has a sanctioned strength of 289 personnel, but the actual strength reported was only 203, with 86 vacancies. The post of Superintendent is vacant. Other critical posts of Medical

Officer, Welfare Officer, female security staff, Sepoys are also reported to be vacant. Being a Central Prison, the jail ought to be provided full complement of staff. Unnecessary posts ought to be abolished and in their place more important posts could be created. Some of the unimportant posts also could be merged to form useful posts.

Jail capacity and occupancy Against a sanctioned capacity of 1232 prisoners (M-1145; F-85) , 1466 (M-1387; F-79)) prisoners are lodged in this prison. 04 children (02 infants; 02 boys) are residing with their mothers.

Category-wise details of prisoners

Out of 1466 prisoners, 964 are convicts (M-428; F-18) . 446 (428 male; 18 female) are under trials. 56 prisoners (52 male; 04 female) are detained under PASA (Prevention of Anti-Social Activities Act, 1985). 725 prisoners (685 male; 40 female) are sentenced to Life Imprisonment (LI); 111 prisoners (102 male; 09 female) are awarded short sentences and 128 (120 male; 08 female) are undergoing Simple Imprisonment. Convicted and under trial/remand prisoners are segregated, lodged in separate wards. There are two extremist prisoners lodged in this jail.

As far as elderly prisoners are concerned 08 male and 02 female prisoners are staying here.

Under-trial Prisoners Unlike in other jails visited, under trial prisoners constitute only about 30 % of the prison's population, as convicted prisoners from other jails have been transferred to this jail for purpose of safe custody. According to data provided by prison administration regarding length of stay of under trial prisoners, 214 UTs have spent 06 months; 67 up to one year; 31 UTs two years, 47 UTs 03 years and 1 05 years or above.

From the data provided (in Gujarati) it is seen that Mahesh Bhai Bijabhai Sangadia, booked u/s 302 is an under trial since 25-08-2009. Shatibai Bijabhai Sangadia with a case against him under 302-4 is admitted on 25-8-2009. Uttambhai Gaddubhai also allegedly involved in a case u/s 302 and other sections of IPC was admitted on 28-11-2009. Dhirubhai Radhabhai (302 IPC) is in jail since 12-7-2011. It is seen from the list that 03 cases of under trials relate to 2009; 05 cases to 2011; 05 cases to 2012; 17 cases to 2013 and 03 cases to 2014.

It was stated that UTs are produced before courts physically or through video-conferencing. But only 50-60 UTs are produced before courts on daily basis through video-conferencing.. The facility needs to be connected to all relevant courts and it needs to be ensured that it is in working condition. It was reported that regular meetings of the Under Trial Review Committee, chaired by the District and Sessions Judge are conducted to review the legal issues concerning under trials and their condition.

As per reports physical production of under trials in court is not generally affected due to non availability of police escort on time.

Condition of prisoners.

I went around the different blocks and had interactions with some of the inmates. There is lot of space around each barrack. The barracks inside too had adequate space. It was pointed that each prisoner is provided a living space of 40 sq. ft. All barracks had sufficient number of windows and were well ventilated. The maintenance of wards was good. Lights and fans were in working condition. Each barrack has 03 bath rooms and 05 toilets. Toilets inside were kept clean. Water was available in the toilets. Prisoners were seen provided necessities as well as articles of daily use. A TV set is installed in each barrack.

I spoke to some of the prisoners. None of them came forward to make any complaints.

Mentally ill prisoners

Prisoners generally suffer from a variety of mental illnesses like Schizophrenia, depression, anxiety disorders, bipolar disorder, dementia etc. Only one male prisoner reported as mentally ill. He is said to be under treatment of a psychiatrist from the Civil Hospital who visits the jail once a week. *It is indeed surprising that out of nearly 1500 prisoners lodged here only one prisoner is identified as mentally ill.* Periodic screening of both male and female prisoners ought to be conducted with the help of *reputed mental health institutions.* Prisoners who are seriously ill ought to be shifted to regular mental care institutions for proper care, as per NHRC Guidelines.

Women Prisoners

As mentioned 80 female prisoners (20 UT's, 57 convicted and 03 detainees) are lodged in this jail. 04 children are staying with their mothers.

The women's enclosure is large and spacious. Each barrack has a sanctioned capacity of 20, against which 20 women were staying. Long serving convicts are kept in a different barrack. The floor of the buildings is tiled. The place is kept clean and neat. The women's ward has barred doors and windows. Adequate light and ventilation is available. All lights and fans were in working condition. A RO system is seen installed. Points for taking out drinking water are available in the yard. There were 02 toilets inside and 03 toilets outside which were maintained well. A Sanitary pad winding machine is seen installed. For entertainment carom boards are seen provided. A TV set has been installed. For filing complaints 02 complaint boxes have been provided.

A dispensary for female prisoners is set up within the female enclosure. OPD attendance reported was around 20-30. Medicines are stated to be available. No isolation room is seen set apart for female prisoners suffering from communicable diseases. It was stated that no pregnant woman is lodged here,

An Anganwadi is functioning within the premises for the benefit of children. The room is well ventilated. Teaching materials and toys were available. It was confirmed that all children have been vaccinated. Only one child is reported to be under weight. Special care is taken in its case. Special diets which include milk and fruits are given to children. Directions of the Supreme Court in RD Upadhyay Vs the State of Andhra Pradesh ought to be *fully* implemented.

One meeting hall is available for women prisoners to conduct various activities. Some of the women are seen engaged in toy-making. It is taken up under the Prime Ministers Kaushalya Vikas Yojana. A tailoring unit is also set up, run by female prisoners. 08 women are working in this unit. 08 machines are available. The women stitch their own clothes and also uniforms for male prisoners.

I spoke to some of the prisoners. Maya Kashubai 25 is facing **death penalty** for killing her own mother and sister. She is unmarried. It is understood that she has filed an appeal. Julakha Osman 60 is convicted in a murder case (bride burning). She is convicted and has been sentenced to LI. She has 03 daughters who are married and 02 unmarried. Amruta Ben 64 was a former Health Supervisor in

government. She was booked in an ACB case and has spent one year in jail. Vimla Ben 80 has a case under 302 IPC against her. She said that she was booked in a case involving quarrel between two groups. Laxmi Bai 80 had a case against her u/s 302 IPC. She was sentenced with LI. She said she has completed her term and is waiting for remission. It was mentioned by prison officials that no remission is allowed in cases involving section 498 IPC.

Meena Harsu Bai has a murder case against her. She has already spent 03 years in jail. She has a 3 1/2 years girl with her. A boy of 13 years is back at home. Jalpa Gopal Bai 22 also has a murder case against her. She too has spent 03 years in jail. A boy of 11/2 years is with her. Geetha Ben 35 is booked u/s 376 IPC. She has an infant of 1y 04 months with her. She has three other children (girls) at home. Rekha Naresh Bai Gohil 30 was convicted in a murder case. She has spent 20 years in jail. She stated that her husband was absconding. Madhu Ben 45 ST was a laborer. She is married. She has a murder case against her. She denied that she had committed any murder. Laxmi Asmet 50 and her daughter Suneeta 24 are undergoing Life Imprisonment in a murder case. They denied that her husband was killed by them. According to her he fell from a tree.

Rekha Lalji stated that her whole family is in jail for murder of the local *Sarpanch*. Asha Ben 48 is undergoing LI for murder. She stated that the victim had kidnapped and raped her daughter. She therefore beat him up. He died in police custody.

None of the women made any complaint. They only wanted only to go home. They also wanted their cases to be expedited.

Video-conferencing

Video-conferencing facility is available in the jail. As per report 60-75 prisoners are produced before the courts through this facility on a daily basis. However, there is need to improve the number and quality of production through VC facility.

Legal Aid The video conferencing room and Legal Aid Clinic are in the same block. It was stated that legal aid is being provided to all needy prisoners. District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) is stated to be active. Advocates from DLSA /Para Legal Volunteers visit the jail and provide counseling and legal aid. 4-5 Para

Legal Volunteers aid the prisoners in legal matters. Legal-aid /awareness camps are also reportedly organized periodically.

Lok Adalat

It was stated that CJM regularly visits the jail. Court set up for dealing with petty offences are available. But adequate institutional arrangements for conducting Lok Adalat are not available in the jail, whereas in state of Tamil Nadu it is being efficiently being used to reduce under trial population.

Sanction of bail

No case of prisoners languishing in jail after getting bail, for want of sureties was reported. However, if there are any cases they should be taken up with the courts concerned/ or Lok Adalat, to explore the possibility of releasing them on personal bonds.

Parole/ Furlough/ Remission

All prisoners are allowed parole and furlough as per rules. Parole is sanctioned by the District Magistrate. It was mentioned that getting parole for marriage etc is difficult.

No remission is given in 498 cases, NDPS cases as well as IPC offences u/s 392-402.

Custodial Deaths /violence

It is reported by jail authorities that no unnatural custodial deaths were reported in the jail in the last three years. Only 08 deaths (04 convicts; 04 UT's) due to natural causes were reported. All deaths took place in Civil Hospital.

No custodial violence was reported .

Escape of prisoners/jail break

It was stated that no jail break incident has taken place in the jail in recent times.

Basic amenities

Water supply and Sanitation

It was mentioned that water is being supplied to the jail by Rajkot Municipal Corporation in the morning. Jail pump house supplies water in the evening. Water quality is ensured by suitable treatment. 16 nos. of RO system have been installed in different barracks, including one in the female ward.

As far as sanitation facilities are concerned every barrack has cage toilets for night use and adequate number of toilets for daily use. Water was available in the toilets. Toilets were generally clean and well maintained. Bathing space is also adequate.

Power Supply

24 hour power supply is available in the jail. A generator of 160 KV capacity, in addition to two others of lower capacities, are installed as back up. Halogen Flood lights provide adequate lighting in the jail campus.

Food supply

Food is provided to prisoners as per scale prescribed in the jail manual. A barrack converted as kitchen is used for cooking jail food. The kitchen was kept in a disorderly fashion. LPG facility is available. The kitchen has sufficient lighting and ventilation. Exhaust fans are fitted on the walls. RO system is seen installed.

40 prisoners work in the kitchen in two shifts. They are paid Rs. 70/- for unskilled, Rs.80 for semi-skilled and Rs.100/- for skilled workers.

Materials for cooking are procured through tenders. Dal, Vegetable, Kichdi, Roti, salad and halwa were being served for dinner. The quality of food appeared to be satisfactory. Special diet is provided to pregnant women and children as well as to patients as prescribed by the Medical Officer. Cooked food is checked and tasted by the Medical Officer.

Education

A separate Education Wing is set up for co-ordination of literacy campaign among the prisoners, English speaking course, Computer programs, Board exams, Open University education, Diploma, UG and PG courses.

Health care

A mini jail hospital (dispensary) with 08 beds (01 for emergency) is available in the jail campus which reportedly has 24x 7 facility. 03 medical Officers (01 LMO), 01 Gynecologist, 01 male and female Nurses are posted here.

The hospital is located in an old building. It was stated that there is a proposal to renovate it. Grants have been received for that purpose. The hospital is well lighted and ventilated, with lights and fans functional. An isolation room is set up for keeping patients who had TB and other communicable diseases. 02 prisoners are suffering from TB. Rs. 16/- lakhs were sanctioned for treating MDR (Multi drug Resistant TB). A jail lab, dispensary and medical store are also available. The hospital appeared to be clean and well maintained.

Only one patient was seen admitted at the time of visit. Nitish Gyanchand 28 was suffering from infection in the foot. He is stated to be involved in a murder case. He stated that he has been wrongly implicated in the case. It was stated that he was to be shifted to jail in Morby district shortly.

OPD attendance in the hospital reported was around 176 per day. In emergency, patients are referred to Civil Hospital for treatment. An ambulance is available for transporting patients to hospitals outside the jail.

Common health issues among the prisoners reported were skin problems, hypertension, diabetes heart problems etc. Special diet is Provided to the patients. Eggs and milk are also supplied to TB patients. Specialized medical camps on TB and HIV/AIDs are also reportedly being organized. A Surgeon, Chest and Skin specialists, Dentist and ENT specialist, attend these camps. Detailed medical examination of the prisoners is carried out at the time of their admission. It was confirmed that there was no shortage of medicines.

Lab facilities are available. A lab technician visits the jail every Monday and Thursday. X-ray facilities are available but are not operational due to non availability of a technician. No AYUSH facilities are seen provided.

PCOs/Telephone facility/waiting room/visitors

It is seen that telephone facilities/PCOs are available in the prison. However, the facilities are available twice a week for only for 05 minutes to prisoners (except

to prisoners accused/convicted u/s 392-42 IPC related offences, under supervision of jail officials.

A separate visitor's room is set up for prisoners' meeting with visitors (04 meetings allowed for UTPs and 02 meetings to convicted prisoners each in a month).. All inmates are allowed to meet their family members and interact with them for 20 minutes. Altogether 10 separate windows are available for interaction.

Board of visitors

It was learned that Visitor's Board, has been constituted for the jail, but the Members do not visit the jail regularly.

Complaints management

It was stated that the District and Sessions Judge and the CJM visit the jail once a month and listen to complaints from the inmates. The Superintendent of the prison also listens to their grievances while taking rounds. Complaint boxes are also installed . However, there is every need to have Prisoner's Durbar in which the District Collector and SP participate. They ought to have periodic interaction with the prisoners.

Library

Two libraries one with a collection of around 9185 books and the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Library with 1815 books are available in the jail for use of prisoners. The stock has Gujarati, Hindi, Urdu and English books.

Recreation

TV facilities are available in the prison for entertainment of the inmates. News papers are also supplied.

Cultural programs

It was learned that cultural programs are being regularly organized in the jail.

Sports

Outdoor games like volley ball and badminton are played by the prisoners. Indoor facilities for playing chess and carom are available. Regular competitions and tournaments are organized and prizes and awards are distributed to the winners..

Religious activities

It was stated that prisoners are allowed to follow their own religious practices. Facilities for worship including a Hanuman temple /Shiva temples (in every yard) are available in the prison. Major festivals are celebrated with zest by all prisoners together. Religious programs are reportedly organized with the help of NGOs.

Yoga/Gym

Facilities for practicing Yoga are available. Yoga is practiced daily by prisoners with the help of a Yoga teacher from Art of Living, Voluntary Organization.. Women trainers and train women prisoners.

Jail Canteen

Canteen facilities are being provided to the inmates in the jail on no-loss-no-profit basis. Articles of daily use, food items, stationery etc are available in the canteen.

Vocational Training

It was reported that vocational training is being provided to prisoners-in a number of trades including, Tailoring, Carpentry, Weaving, Bakery and Laundry under the supervision of the factory manager. A *Goshala* is also maintained. For female prisoners training in beauty treatment, making household items, pickle making, tailoring have been taken up. Young men/women are being given computer training.

The turnover reported last year was Rs.83/- lakhs. Those who are employed are paid Rs 70/-(unskilled), Rs.80/- (semi-skilled) and Rs.100/- (skilled) on daily basis.

Drug De-addiction program Although no Drug De-addiction program is being organized in the jail, it was mentioned that a psychiatrist visits the jail and counsels the prisoners.

Role of NGOs

It was stated that services of Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) like Bramhakumaris and Art of Living are being utilized in various activities.

Inspections It was stated that regular inspections are conducted by District and Sessions Judge as well as by the CJM. Inspections are also stated to be conducted by senior prison officials. Last inspections conducted by the DIG (P) were on 18-10-16 and 21-10-16.

Security

It was stated that structural and procedural aspects of security have been taken into consideration while planning for prison security. While Special Reserve Police is in charge of outside security, internal security is managed by the jail staff. Four watch towers are available in the prison. 246 CCTVs have been reportedly installed. Some of the were not working as repairing work was going on in the jail. Security equipments like Hand Held Metal Detector, DFMD, baggage scanner, mobile jammer, emergency lights, fire extinguishers etc are seen provided.

Solar Lighting/water harvesting

Many jails in the country have shifted to the use of alternate energy for a variety of purposes. Solar lighting and heating also ought to be introduced in the jail for use in the hospital, kitchen and also for generally improving the quality of life of prisoners.

Training

It is learned that apart from refresher courses regular training programs are being organized for prison officials and staff by Prison administration of the state. Officials are also deputed for various training programs organized at the national level.

Budget

It was confirmed that sufficient funds are available for jail activities. Expenditure on diet of prisoners was reported as Rs.4.9 crore in 2017-18.

Regular auditing of funds received ought to be carried out. Civil construction works ought to be closely monitored.

Modernization

It was pointed out that data entry of all prisoners is taken up. As a part of e-governance integration of data maintained by prison authorities and the police is also taken up.

Jail Manual

It is seen that jail administration in Gujarat is still based on provisions of the Bombay Jail Manual. It is understood that the state government is yet to enact the Model Prison Manual based on the Model Manual circulated by the Home Ministry.

Observations & Recommendations

Established as District Prison by the British, in 1894-5, Central Prison, Rajkot is one of the oldest prisons in India. Although upgraded as Central Jail after expanding the infrastructure and increasing the intake, much remains to be done to transform it into a modern prison in the true sense.

1. Jail Infrastructure

A comprehensive plan ought to be put in place for modernization of the jail and new buildings constructed in phases *as a part of the plan*. Care should be taken to build *eco-friendly* structures to provide natural cooling and lighting.

2. Jail capacity

Against a sanctioned capacity of 1232 (male 1145; F-85) occupancy reported was 1466 (1387 male and 79 female). The prisoners are seen distributed across different barracks. Hence no overcrowding is noted, including in the Women's Section.

3. Shortage of Manpower

Vacant posts *include that of Superintendent of the prison*. Without sufficient staff for maintaining internal security and discipline, prisoners would be left to manage for themselves, which creates an unhealthy convention of having a hierarchy among the prisoners, often leading to corruption and abuse of younger/weaker prisoners.

4. Living conditions

In this prison barracks were found clean and well maintained. Basic facilities like drinking water, regular power supply, bathing and toilet facilities are available to

inmates. Articles of daily use have also been provided. Food supply appeared to be generally satisfactory.

5. Under trial prisoners

Under trials constitute roughly 30% of the prison population in the jail. According to data furnished by jail administration, 31 UT's have spent 02 years or more in jail; 47 UT's 03 years and 18 prisoners 05 years. This needs to be monitored on a regular and continuous basis.

6. Access to justice

Easy access to justice is one of the most important rights of prisoners. Prisoners in various prisons often complain about lack of legal support, difficulty in getting police escort, non-production before courts, cases not being taken up and undue delay in receiving judgments etc.

- Non-sanctioning of legal aid is a violation of the orders of the Supreme Court which held that legal aid to a poor is a constitutional mandate not only by virtue of Article 39A, but also Articles 14, 19, 21, which cannot be denied by the government.
- Although legal aid is sanctioned to prisoners, it is generally seen taken up in a routine fashion. Women, especially with children, prisoners belonging to SC/ST communities and other vulnerable sections, which include BPL /elderly prisoners ought to get priority.
- The impact of providing legal aid should be assessed.
- Many of the prisoners, especially women, have no knowledge of the stage at which their cases were pending. A system for tracking/**monitoring** of cases should be put in place quickly.
- It is learned that video-conferencing facility is being utilized in the prison. Attention needs to be paid on efficiency of daily production and the quality of time spent by each prisoner before the courts.
- Cases relating to elderly prisoners, female prisoners with children need to be scrutinized quickly, to find out the extent of their involvement and for taking remedial measures.
- Legal Services Authority/Legal Aid Clinics ought to be made more active.
- Data on appeals filed by prisoners ought to be maintained properly.

Jail authorities ought to make a sustained effort to reduce U/T population, by increased production of UT's through video-conferencing, proper tracking of cases, providing legal aid to UT's, regular organization of *Lok Adalat* and getting petty cases disposed of etc. States like Tamil Nadu and Telangana have considerably reduced their under trial population and minimized their length of stay by strictly enforcing the use of Sec.141 Crpc and efficient utilization of *Lok Adalats*.

There are no reports that any prisoner is languishing in jail for want of sureties in the prisons. However, this needs to be monitored regularly.

7. Overstay

I have submitted a separate note for consideration of the Commission on the implication of the directions of the Apex Court regarding the time to be spent by LI prisoners in jail. If they are uniformly applied to all prisoners, including women, the aged and the disabled they could cause them considerable hardship. The State Government could sanction remissions in deserving cases liberally to overcome the problem, but only to a limited extent. Commission may like to take up the matter with the Apex court

8. Custodial deaths/jail break/custodial violence

No custodial deaths due to unnatural causes were reported in the prison, in last three years. However, jail officials need to be sensitized and be advised to be vigilant on this issue.

9. Incarceration of women

In my previous report it was pointed out that women are often incarcerated in jail without adequate thought or justification. In most cases they are only co-accused. Some are pregnant at the time of arrest. Some have small children with them; often they are separated from their small children and sometimes they are the only bread winners of their families. *Detention of women, therefore, should be an exception rather than rule.* If they are detained, they ought to be provided assistance to secure bail. Many of them are illiterate. They ought to be supported with legal aid and legal counseling, on priority. Their cases ought to be monitored individually. They also need to be helped to file appeals, if convicted.

10. Status of women prisoners

It is seen that efforts have been made by the State Government to provide better infrastructure and facilities for women prisoners. Despite better living conditions in jail traditional, discrimination against women prisoners persist.

Women are generally handicapped by limited educational /health care /cooking /sports/ library facilities. Their access to law is difficult.

Adequate attention ought to be paid to the health of women and their children. It is good to see a Gynecologist posted in the jail. While the focus is on offering facilities for higher education, literacy and basic education of women (mostly from poorer sections) more needs to be done.

Their participation in religious/cultural/ sports activities need to be encouraged.

Four children are presently staying with their mothers. Facilities are seen provided. Guidelines issued by the Apex Court in RD Upadyay Vs the State of Andhra Pradesh need to be *fully* complied with.

11. Mentally ill prisoners

In this jail only 01 prisoner has been identified as mentally ill. It is necessary to have periodic screening of prisoners by a team from nearest Mental Hospital.

12. Right to education

The jails has set up a separate unit for coordinating educational activities for imparting basic education , both male and female prisoners.

Jail authorities ought to pay more attention to basic education/literacy among the prisoners. It appears that adequate number of regular teachers are not available for teaching prisoners, especially female prisoners

13. Right to Health

The Central Prison, has only rudimentary hospital facilities for health care of its inmates; emergency cases are referred to the local Civil Hospital. Every time a patient falls ill he or she has to be taken out for which police escort is not ordinarily available. Besides, it is difficult to get timely and satisfactory treatment in over- crowded government hospitals. It was stated that medical camps are being organized in these jails regularly. But medical camps are no substitute for medical care on day to day basis. The x-ray unit is not functional, as operator is not available. The lab functions only on two days a week. One vacant Post of medical officer needs to be filled up, so also those of supporting staff, wherever vacancy exists. Posts need to be created where none exists.

- Women's wing also ought to have an isolation room.
- Lab ought to function on all days of the week. X-ray Operator needs to be engaged.
- A system needs to be put in place whereby each prisoner could be tracked on the basis of his/her health profile.
- Health cards of convicted prisoners should be maintained; they need to be computerized and updated from time to time. Some of the convicted prisoners could be trained in this item of work.
- **AYUSH medical facilities** should be provided in the jail, especially to older patients.

14. Vocational training

Up-scaling and diversification of trades ought to be taken up. In Central jails of Telangana and Tamil Nadu convicted prisoners who are to be released within a few years are being provided training and allowed to work outside the jail or run petrol pumps/ food courts/ etc which helps them in their final rehabilitation.

Skilled workers are paid low wages when compared to rates notified by states like Bihar, and HP. The rates ought to be revised, especially in the case of prisoners engaged in industrial activity. In Bihar and Jharkhand prisoners are allowed to keep 1/3 of their remuneration, 1/3 of the wages goes to the victim's family and the balance 1/3 for prisoner welfare activities. 1/10 share is used for their rehabilitation, which is a good initiative. This practice could be followed in the jails of Gujarat too.

15. Prisoner's Welfare

Welfare measures, including liberal sanction of parole, telephone facility, facilities for meeting with family members and canteen facilities help in improving the quality of prisoners' lives.

Communication with family members is very important for prisoners. *A modern telephone management system ought to be introduced without any further delay.*

Facilities for visitors are available in both central and district prisons. But they are very inadequate to facilitate prisoners to spend one to one quality time with their family members.

Entry by visitors ought to be regulated by token systems, as in the case in banks. *E-Mulakat System ought to be introduced, starting with Central prisons.*

Board of Visitors system should be made more efficient. Only limited sports facilities are available in this prison. It is, however, seen that no outdoor sports facilities are available for female prisoners.

16. Complaints Management

There appears to be a need for having an efficient and open complaints management system put in place in all five jails. *The current system of having complaint boxes does not serve any purpose.*

17. Rehabilitation

Preparing prisoners for their eventual release from jail, equipping them with necessary life skills to enable their rehabilitation, giving emotional support for facing the outside world are onerous tasks for the jail administration. *Each central Jail ought to draw up a rehabilitation plan for prisoners and organize vocational trainings..*

18. Services of NGOs

It is seen that services of NGOs have been put to use in this prison . Since NGOs have the flexibility and prisoner- friendly approach, their services could be enlarged and effectively utilized in counseling/teaching/training/vocational training and in a variety of other activities.

19. Staff Welfare

It is very important to maintain high morale of prison officials and staff by devising suitable incentives. It is not clear whether any staff incentive system exists in Gujarat similar to that in Tamil Nadu and other states. Providing timely promotion to senior officials and staff ought to be taken up every year.

20. Use of Solar energy /water harvesting

Use of solar energy for heating and lighting is a boon for prisons, as they can improve the quality of their lives. Many jails in the country have switched over to the use of solar energy. It is high time all jails in the state adopt the technology.

Many of the prisons are located in water scarcity areas. Water harvesting and recycling ought to be made mandatory in all jails.

21. Prison reforms

A new Jail Manual needs to be put in place by incorporating human rights principles and humane treatment of prisoners based on the Model Jail Manual circulated by Govt. of India. Moreover, salient provisions of the new Manual ought

to be shared with the prisoners. Jail staff should be properly trained in implementing the provisions of the Manual.

Prison reforms need to be undertaken to ensure that all prisoners are not treated as criminals. Correctional administration ought to be an integral part of prisoner management. In Tamil Nadu in Central Prison, Palayamkottai in Tirunelveli district an entire block is dedicated for correctional activities. A Psychologist, is in charge of this unit, assisted by two Counselors. Correctional administration unit inter-alia takes up Individual and group counseling, induction level counseling and pre-release training. For remand prisoners it provides orientation, screening as well as individual counseling and also group counseling. It also attends to alcohol dependence, behavioral problems, Preventive Detention cases etc. The unit ought to have a De-addiction Center, Research Department, Individual Treatment Centers and educational institutions for inmates.
