

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON GURUGRAM PRISON INMATES



India Vision[™]
Foundation

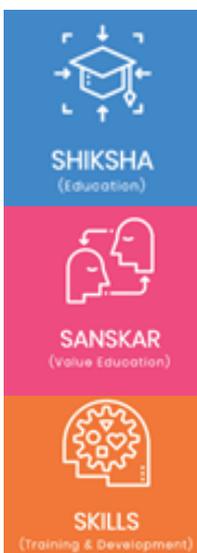
#SaveTheNextVictim[™]

A SITUATIONAL AND NEED ANALYSIS

ABOUT US

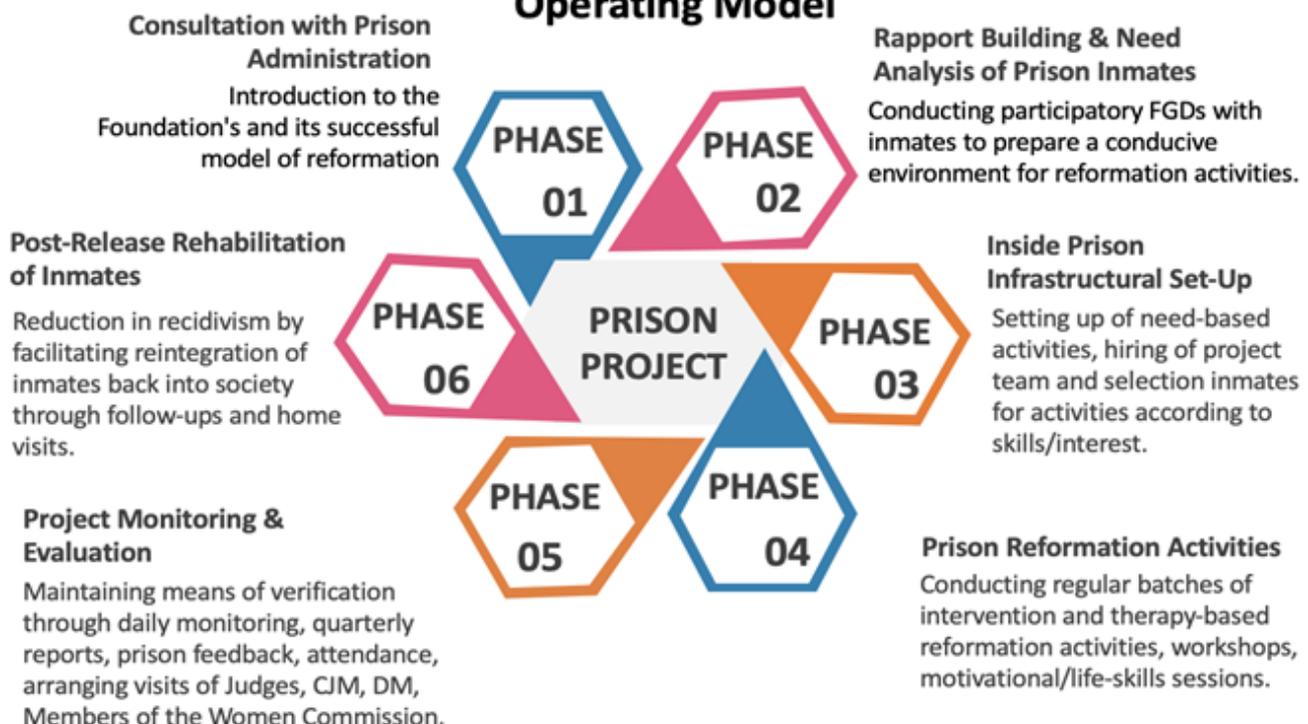
Founded in 1994, India Vision Foundation is a voluntary non-profit, non government organization registered as a Trust in India vide No. 4595, dated August 1, 1994. The foundation was born out of Ramon Magsaysay award (Equivalent to Asia's Nobel Peace Prize) conferred to Dr. Kiran Bedi, the first lady IPS (Indian Police Services) of India, for forging 'positive relationships' between people and police through creative leadership during her tenure as Inspector General of Tihar Prison, Asia's largest prison.

The Foundation works on a "3S Model of Reformation" in the prisons of 5 States namely Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh , Punjab and Maharashtra.. The 3S model of reformation encompasses the components:



Through its Reformation to Rehabilitation Prison Operating Model, India Vision Foundation is touching more than **3000** lives every day through projects both inside as well as outside prison. The Foundation is striving hard to give a new hope to the prison inmates and their families, especially children through positive reinforcement, education and values that not only help them to become responsible and conscientious citizens of the society. The Foundation has successfully reached out to more than **2,50,000** beneficiaries under its Prison Reforms and Rural Development project.

Reformation to Rehabilitation Operating Model



Protiviti is a global consulting firm that helps companies solve problems in finance, technology, operations, data, analytics, governance, social impact, risk & internal audit. We function across 75 countries serving clients in different industry segments such as Auto, Banking, Insurance, Investment Companies, Telco, Manufacturing, Logistics, Healthcare, Pharma, Hospitality, Real Estate & Construction.

“Our three-flagship social sector global initiatives are:”



i on Hunger Programme
Through our global effort we have delivered more than 5 million meals to hungry people around the world through our initiative.

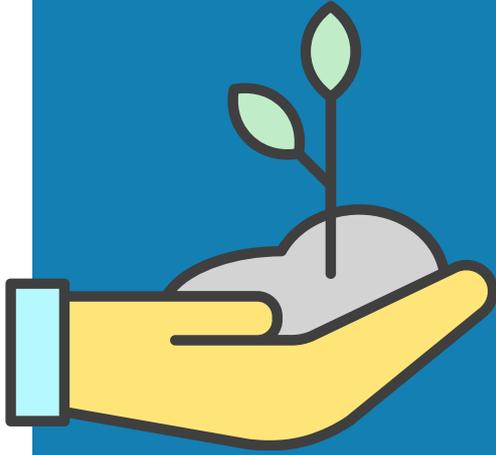


iCare
We are proud to support employees & their charities of choice through programmes.



The Protiviti Green Team
As we grow, we always have environmental impact as a priority in our decision making.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The Coronavirus outbreak was declared as a 'public health emergency of international concern' by the World Health Organization (WHO) in January, 2020. In an attempt to combat the virus transmission, nations have adopted precautionary measures such as social distancing and lockdowns, which poses a serious threat to the global economy and by effect, the very subsistence of vulnerable communities. The Supreme Court in March had directed states to release prisoners in an attempt to decongest prisons and curb the spread of the virus in them. Protiviti India was contracted by the India Vision Foundation to design and conduct an impact assessment of the Covid-19 pandemic on these released prison inmates. The scope was later extended to include prisoners who were released pre-Covid as well, either on bail, parole or after completing their term.

The genesis lay in an effort to understand the manifold repercussions the pandemic and the concomitant lockdown measures have had on this vulnerable community with an aim to streamline strategies and re-align programs to the beneficiaries' current needs.



EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

The overall objective of the impact study is to generate actionable information and draw insights to inform program design and improvement. We used a mixed methods approach where we performed a qualitative and quantitative analysis on the data collected from different stakeholders. We divided our stakeholders into two sets - primary and secondary. The primary stakeholders are the released prisoners and the secondary stakeholders are the experts and members of the community working on prisoner reformation and rehabilitation.

Various socio-psycho-economic factors were kept in mind while designing the survey questionnaires.

SAMPLING



- **Quantitative Analysis** - The quantitative analysis was performed on the data collected from the primary stakeholders i.e. prison inmates. To ensure the sample size was large enough, we adopted a modified convenience sampling approach for the survey keeping the timelines and resource/stakeholder availability in consideration. The Gurugram prison has a total population of 2139 prisoners. We stratified our population based on age (18-25 years, 25-50 years and 50 years & above) and then performed proportional to size sampling. We went by the 10% rule of thumb and a total of 227 prisoners were interviewed, of which 202 were male and 25 were female prisoners.
- **Qualitative Analysis** - This included exploratory interviews with prominent secondary stakeholders/experts who are deeply involved in the domain of prisoner reformation and rehabilitation. While interviews with the primary stakeholders are critical to understand the situation on the ground, the secondary stakeholders help us to gain a policy and operational understanding of the impact which is imperative to acquire a more holistic perspective of the situation in order to design effective programs going forward. The qualitative data analysis complement and aid the interpretation of the quantitative findings. A total of 19 secondary stakeholders were interviewed as part of the qualitative data collection efforts, and they include academicians, policy makers, NGO heads, social workers, legal experts, psychologists and the prison officials.

DATA COLLECTION



In depth survey questionnaires were prepared which were tailored to the different stakeholders identified in the previous sub-section.

For quantitative data collection, a survey questionnaire (google forms) was shared with Protiviti and India Vision Foundation field staff who administered the interviews in person with the inmates. A total of 200 interviews was conducted in the Gurugram prison with male inmates. Due to the pandemic, all the female prisoners in the Gurugram Jail were moved to the Jhajjar prison. A team of India Vision Foundation field staff went to Jhajjar to conduct interviews with them and a total of 25 female prisoners were covered as part of the study

All the qualitative interview conversations were transcribed and translated by the Protiviti team. All the transcripts were analyzed to draw inferences which helped provide a bird-eye view on the impact of the pandemic. Due to the restrictions imposed from the lockdown, all the interviews with the secondary stakeholders were conducted telephonically except with the prison authorities which took place in person. Qualitative data collection took place concurrently with the quantitative data collection.

IMPACT OF COVID19

SAMPLE
CHARACTERISTICS OF
PRISON INMATES



EMOTIONAL
WELL-
BEING OF
RELEASED
INMATES



INMATES
PERSPECTI
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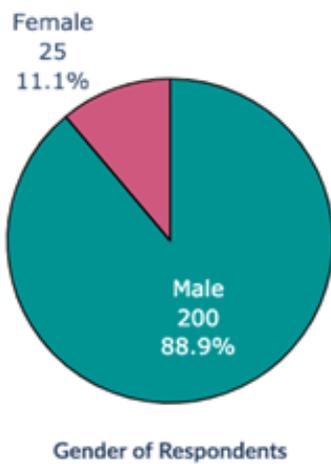


HEALTH,
HYGIENE

SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS OF PRISON INMATES

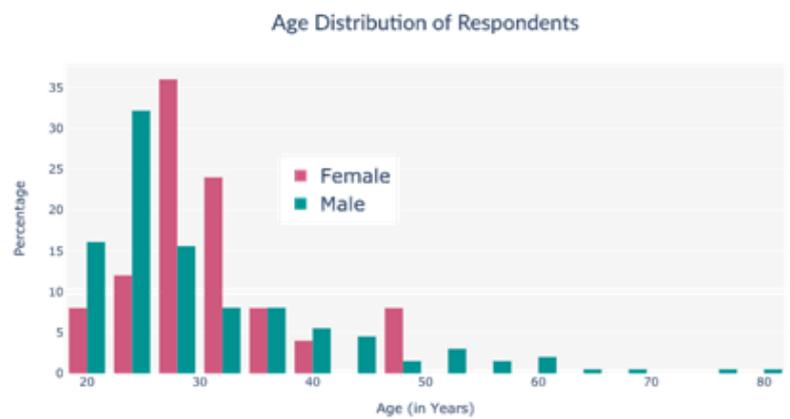
GENDER

The pool of inmates that were surveyed using the extensive quantitative questionnaire consisted of 200 male inmates, and 25 female inmates.



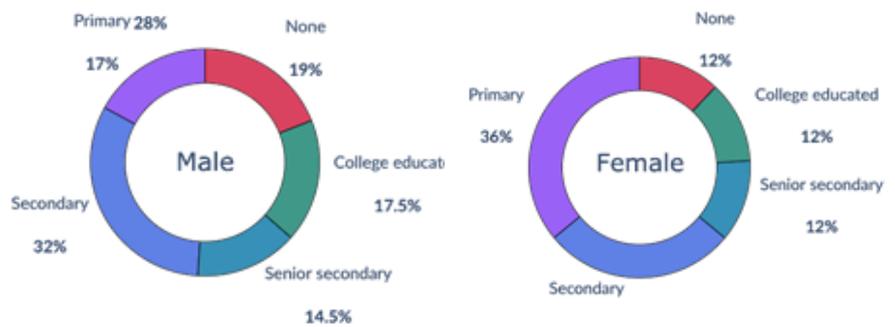
AGE

The average inmate, regardless of gender, is around 30 years old, however, at both extremes, the proportion of male inmates is higher, both in our sample, as well as in the population. The distribution of ages for female inmates is much more concentrated than that of male inmates.



EDUCATION LEVEL

Almost one-fifth of male inmates have not received any education at all. However, almost the same percentage (17.5%) of men have also received college-education. The most common educational level among male inmates is that of secondary education and among female inmates is 36%.



CRIME

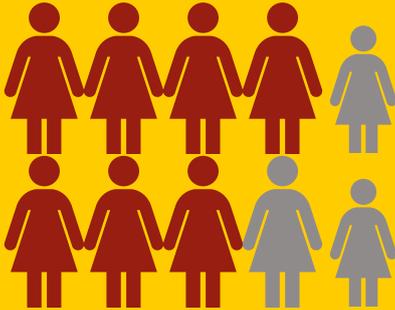
Most men in our sample were accused/convicted of either a murder charge, or a sexual offence. Most women were accused or convicted of murder related charges (Murder/Attempt to murder).

Crime	Male Inmates
Murder	36.5%
Sexual Crimes	34%
Theft/ Robbery	12%
Violence	8.5%
Fraud	3.5%
Drugs	1.5%
Other Crimes	4%

Crime	Female Inmates
Murder	68%
Sexual Crimes	8%
Fraud	16%

EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

FEELINGS OF STRESS, SADNESS, AND IRRITABILITY



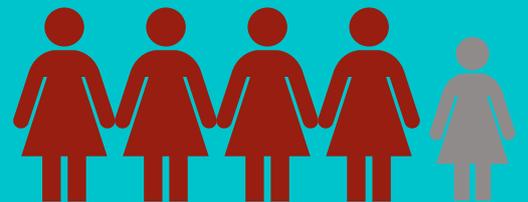
90% (23 out of 25) of female inmates report feeling sad, and 80% (20 out of 25) report feeling stressed.

56% female inmates reported that their fellow inmates have been more irritable than before.

INSECURITY ABOUT PHYSICAL SAFETY



92% of the female inmates reported that they feel more concerned for their physical safety. Over 53% of the inmates reported a reduced sense of physical safety and security.



LITTLE TO NO CONTACT WITH FAMILY



96% of all inmates have not met their families since the lockdown. 44% of all inmates reported not being able to contact their family at all, even telephonically.

INCREASE TIME SPENT INSIDE PRISON



About 9% of inmates were spending much of their day inside the barracks. At the time of the survey, this figure almost doubled to approximately 16%.



“

All the services of the court are suspended, many prisoners, who were about to get their bail after court hearing, are still in the prison. Since March, their trials are pending, evidence is not being recorded and there is uncertainty regarding the date the court will resume. Most of these people have lawyers who are not really well paid and can't expend too much time on their cases. They are dependent on whatever legal aid, either government or private, they can arrange. Now due to suspension of court proceedings and the virtual set-up being reserved for only emergency cases, a lot of these under trial prisoners are extremely worried about their cases. ”

DR GAURI SHARMA
SOCIAL WORKER WITH TURN YOUR
CONCERN INTO ACTION (TYCIA)

“

It is common knowledge that incarceration often results in anxiety, depression or other adverse health effects for prisoners. Various recreational prison activities play a prominent role in mitigating these effects, contributing to learning, improving mental health and increasing their ability to cope with prison environment. These programs need consistency to showcase any real impact and any suspension in program activities can wash away months of hard work put in by our team and the beneficiaries. It can have a very damaging effect on the inmate's emotional state and dampen overall morale. ”

AJAY VERMA
LAWYER WITH INTERNATIONAL
BRIDGES OF JUSTICE

“

Given the social distancing norms, the government has adjourned 'mulaqat' in the wake of the pandemic. The inability of prisoners to meet their family members has had a devastating effect on their mental well-being as they are confronted with a heightened sense of isolation. Not all prisons have a well-equipped communication systems to facilitate regular phone calls with their families. A lack of social support during this pandemic can make these prisoners even more susceptible to anxiety and depression ”

REENA JAISWAL
SOCIAL WORKER WITH NGO PRAYAS

INMATES PERSPECTIVE

COVID-19 TRAINING



Almost 30% of all inmates have not received even basic training about COVID-19 transmission and prevention.

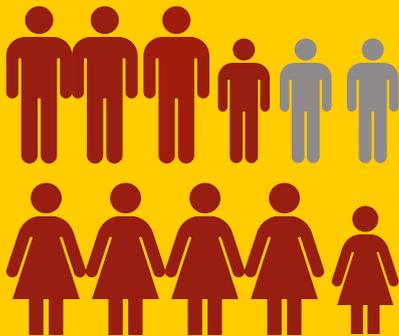
AWARENESS



Low levels of COVID-19 awareness among less educated inmates.



FEARS OF INFECTION



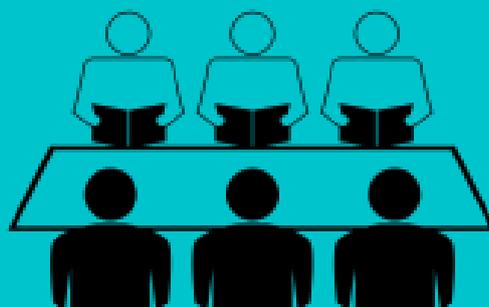
155 out of 200 men are somewhat anxious about the possibility of infection in their prison.

All 25 women reported being anxious about the possibility of infection in their prison.

OPINION ABOUT THE PRISON ADMINISTRATION



Almost 70% of all inmates felt that the Gurugram prison was doing everything in its capacity to prevent an outbreak



“

3 out of 10 prison officials have asked for India Vision Foundation to conduct Covid-19 training for inmates. “Pandemic awareness sessions should be conducted for inmates on hygiene practices like hand washing techniques, use of masks, how to detect popular symptoms etc.. This will help assuage a lot of the concerns prisoner’s have about the pandemic and dispel the misconceptions and misinformation that inmates believe about this novel virus.”

PRADEEP KUMAR
HEAD CONSTABLE AT DISTRICT
JAIL GURUGRAM

“

Authorities are taking crucial steps to impede the transmission of the virus in prisons. If there are more cases then it would create problems for them, besides they are at risk as well because officials have to work in close proximity to the inmates. However they are under-supplied with essential products as we have received many requests from prison authorities with regard to hand sanitizers, hand wash and masks. In addition to this, we have been asked to supply lemons as well as it's a form of vitamin C and can help build immunity in inmates. This is an indication that the authorities worried but do not have all the supplies at their disposal necessary to combat the virus.”

MR. VIJAY RAGHVAN
PROFESSOR OF CRIMINAL
PSYCHOLOGY AT TISS

HEALTH AND HYGIENE

EXERCISE, SLEEP, AND EATING PATTERNS IN MALE AND FEMALE INMATES



14 out of 25 female inmates (56%) eat less than they used to. 19 out of 25 female inmates (76%) get less exercise than they used to. 11 out of 25 female inmates (44%) sleep more than they used to.



36% of male inmates eat less than they used to. 38% of male inmates get less physical exercise than they used to and 33% sleep less than they used to.

INSECURITY ABOUT PHYSICAL SAFETY



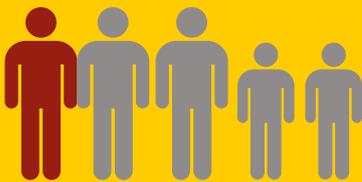
92% of the female inmates reported that they feel more concerned for their physical safety. Over 53% of the inmates reported a reduced sense of physical safety and security.

LITTLE TO NO CONTACT WITH FAMILY



96% of all inmates have not met their families since the lockdown. 44% of all inmates reported not being able to contact their family at all, even telephonically.

INCREASE TIME SPENT INSIDE PRISON



About 9% of inmates were spending much of their day inside the barracks. At the time of the survey, this figure almost doubled to approximately 16%.



“

Prisoners are spending more time in the barracks these days. We allow them limited time outside the barracks in an attempt to restrict assemblage and gatherings. ”

SANJAY KUMAR
ASP, GURUGRAM PRISON

Recommendations

Based on our analysis, findings and research of best practices, please find below a list of recommendations for India Vision Foundation and Policymakers on what can further be done for reformation and rehabilitation of these prisoners during the pandemic crises.

LEGAL SERVICES



Most prisoners are from a poor socio-economic strata and have a weak educational background, they have little awareness about their legal rights and proceedings of a court. India Vision Foundation can connect these prisoners with lawyers willing to work with them on pro bono basis to help them seek a fair representation and justice.

EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL SESSIONS



It is important to acknowledge the diverse intellectual faculties of inmates and design programs which are more suited to each group's calibre and needs. A customized curriculum should be designed and lessons can be imparted using technology such as television sets (available in every barrack) where video/audio files can be shared with authorities. Additionally, workshops on gender sensitizations, anger management, prevention of drug use and trafficking should be organized. Peer and support groups should be created and they can be instrumental for the purpose of both learning and therapy.

VOCATIONAL AND SKILL TRAINING



Skill Development is an integral step in the process of prisoner rehabilitation. Skilling will equip them with the right skill set which will then be instrumental in enhancing their employment prospects post release. India Vision Foundation should conduct training in barracks which would involve little to no machinery.

ONLINE /PHONE COUNSELLING



80% female and 75% male inmates reported feeling stressed. Since prisoners undergo varying degrees of stress and anxiety which has been accentuated during the lockdown, there is a need for regular e-counselling sessions via a psychologist/therapist either telephonically or by online platforms. Peer therapy models are a sustainable way to address this issue as well.

ALLOWING PHONE AND VIDEO CALLS TO FAMILY MEMBERS AND LAWYERS



96% of inmates have not met their families since the lockdown and 44% have had no contact with their families, even telephonically. Due to the interruption of the mulaqaat facilities, there is a requirement to connect the family members and relatives of the prisoners via telephonic facilities or VC.

PANDEMIC AWARENESS



96% of inmates have not met their families since the lockdown and 44% have had no contact with their families, even telephonically. Due to the interruption of the mulaqaat facilities, there is a requirement to connect the family members and relatives of the prisoners via telephonic facilities or VC.

Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge the contributions of several organizations and stakeholders that helped to bring this impact assessment report to a successful completion.

This study could not have been brought to fruition without the unwavering support and consistent guidance from the members of India Vision Foundation throughout the process and we are thankful to them. The Inside Prison Project team and the Children of Vulnerable Families team have been instrumental in the data collection efforts and the Learning and Development Department for their coordination and reviews.

We would also like to extend our gratitude to every stakeholder interviewed during the data collection. Their inputs have proven to be insightful to assess the impact of Covid-19. Most importantly, we are thankful to all the released prisoners and children of prisoners for answering our survey questions with solemnity and patience. Their inputs and views were critical and laid the foundation for a rigorous quantitative and qualitative analysis.

Last but not the least, we are thankful to every team member from Protiviti who worked painstakingly on the impact assessment report, from project designing, data collection, analysis to the final report writing and presentation.

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