

Negligence of government in establishing borstal institutions and its impact on the juvenile inmates

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ABSTRACT

This study is related to the absence of the borstal institutions mainly due to the lack of interest by both the federal and provincial governments. The study further analyses the impact of the lack of borstal institutions on the well-being of juvenile prisoners in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. The study was conducted using concurrent triangulation design of mixed methods in research under pragmatism philosophy. Simple random sampling was used as a sampling technique. Quantitative data were collected from 132 juvenile inmates out of 199 through interview schedule using a standard sample size table. The interview guide was used as a tool for qualitative data collection using the in-depth interview as a method for data collection from 20 juvenile prisoners, 10 jail staffs, 10 probation officers and 10 legal counsels. Quantitative data was analysed through chi-square to find the association between the dependent variables (well-being of juveniles) and independent variables (borstal institutions). Qualitative data was analysed through thematic analysis in the critical discussion section. Both the quantitative and qualitative data were compared for finding the similarities and differences in the data. It was observed that there were no recreational, medical and skill development facilities to provide a healthy environment to juvenile inmates at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa jails. Juveniles were living in an over-crowded jail environment where they were mentally disturbed and felt marginalized among the adult prisoners. This was mainly because of the adult jail environment that disturbed the smooth functioning of their healthy life and mental condition. It has been recommended that the federal and provincial governments must collaborate to establish borstal institutions in every district as mentioned in the Juvenile Justice System Ordinance (JJSO, 2000). The political leaders at the district, provincial and national level must address this major issue. They should take up in their respective legislatures to allocate special funding for ensuring the fundamental rights of the juvenile prisoners. Progress on the establishment of borstal institutions must be monitored by standing committees of parliamentarians so that juvenile inmates are not kept in an unhealthy environment of adult jails.

Keywords:

Role of government, Borstal institutions, Juvenile inmates, Impact on juveniles.