

Abstract

The study entitled “Process of policy implementation of Correction Department to reintegrate inmates back to society: the Pre-release Program have four objectives. These are (1) to study the process of policy implementation to reintegrate inmates back to society, the pre-release program (2) to study about managing of reducing stigma labeling and empowerment process in the pre-release program for the inmates (3) to study supporting factors and obstacles which going to occur during policy implementation of the pre-release program and (4) to discover the appropriated approach for developing the process of policy implementation to reintegrate inmates back to society: the Pre-release Program. This study uses qualitative methodology, based on symbolic interaction theory which emphasizing on the stripping process together with stigma labeling. The research collected the data by using an in-depth interview with twenty five participants whom were divided into three groups. The first group is a policy maker. The second group is the operational staff. The third group is people who were effected from the policy operation. All groups including in the case study were from Khae Noi Prison Camp in Petchaboon Province, Khao Gling Prison Camp in Petchaburi Porvince, and the Correction Department. The results of this study are:

The process of policy implementation to reintegrate inmates back to society: the pre-release program dynamically based on paradigms, values and social trends in order to formulate and implement the policy according to human rights and human dignity aspect. The process of policy implementation has two stages. The first stage is to implement policy in the Correction Department level and the second one is in the prison or correctional institution level. This process declines the role of the Correction Department and the prisons or correctional institution in an aspect of caring the inmates. On the other hand, the process emphasizes on adding role of inmates' family and other related agencies in the society. The prisons and correctional institution have to adapt it operation that is appropriate with the policy, its identity and community coherently which

lead to development of prisons and correctional institution identity on operation and treatment of inmates in a diverse way.

Managing of reducing stigma labeling and empowerment process in the pre-release program for the inmates represents the three outcomes of being opened prisons and correctional institution. (1) Opened prisons have the relaxant atmosphere because they are created like the real society outside of the prisons. In addition, opened prisons have more flexible rules than that of closed prisons and correctional institution. Therefore, the outcomes of being opened prisons are erasion of being symbolic prisons, and declining the identity of the being inmate. (2) Inmates and operational staff have the better relationship that is based on the learning process. (3) The pre-release program has useful activities that the inmates can do in their daily life. These activities are designed for the inmates to develop their job related skills and life skills. Such three outcomes are from the process that requires the collaboration of inmates, their family, operational staff, and community. The process includes two minor process which are the former identity stripping process and the new identity recovery process. These two minor process influence the inmate's ways of thinking and the inmate's behaviors in the aspect of building inmate's self-esteem.

Supporting factors for process of policy implementation to reintegrate inmates back to society: the pre-release program can be summarized i.e. (1) Policy is clearly stated (2) Characteristics of management team and staff are dedicated, devoted and integrated with implementation of the policy (3) Ability to integrate policy with identity of social capital of Prison or Correctional Institution (4) Practical participation from communities. Obstacles of implementing policy are policy itself remain unclear for treatment with female inmates, lack of understanding between administrative level from the department and operational level from prison or correctional institution, lack of participation and integration from collaboration with other agencies, lack of activities details and lack of extended follow-up activities with ex-inmates and their families.

Recommendations for sustainable and suitable policy implementation to reintegrate of inmates back to society and the pre-release program are suggested as following. Policy should formulate clearly on both conceptual stage and operational

stage. Pre-release centers and learning centers for sustainability of economy should be established across the country. Principles and rules for treatment of female inmate should be reviewed. Capacity building trainings should provide to operational staff. Regarding of formulating a common policy, practices must response with its ideological and community lifestyle. Development of systematic activities and collaboration, implementation of knowledge management and development of follow-up system for ex-prisoners should be implemented. Utilize public relation medias and social trends to encourage public-minded and positive value for general public to recognize human rights and human dignity, and to reduce alienation and the gap of social differences in society.