

Bureau of Jail Management and Penology Implementation of the Therapeutic Community Modality Program in the Province of Nueva Ecija: An Assessment

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Abstract: *The study sought to assess the implementation of Therapeutic Community Modality Program (TCMP) by the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) in the province of Nueva Ecija. It used the Descriptive Survey Method. The study was conducted in selected municipalities, cities, and district jails situated in the Province of Nueva Ecija within Academic Year 2018-2019. Jail personnel and inmate respondents were identified through simple random sampling with the consent of their respective Jail Wardens. Self-prepared and validated questionnaire-checklist was the main gathering supported by interview. Data were statistically treated through weighted mean. The study revealed that Jails in the Province of Nueva Ecija strictly put into practice TCMP activities for the benefit of the inmates; BJMP personnel are fully aware on the activities concerning TCMP and inmates are quite involved in the implementation of TCMP activities; also Jail Personnel-respondents viewed their problems as Slightly Serious only.*

Keywords: BJMP, TCMP, Therapeutic Community, Jail, Penology

1. Introduction

The criminal justice in the Philippines recognizes the significance of rehabilitation and reintegration of convicted felons in the community. Evidently, Correction, being one of the pillars of Philippine Criminal Justice System (PCJS) adopted various rehabilitation programs such as the following: (a) Moral and Spiritual Program; (b) Education and Training Program; (c) Work and Livelihood Program; (d) Sports and Recreation Program; (e) Health and Welfare Program; and (f) Behavior Modification Program, to include Therapeutic Community (TC).

Philippine Correctional pillar is composed of various institutions. The Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) is one among the correctional bodies which exercises supervision and control over all district, city and municipal jails. The Bureau envisions itself as a dynamic institution highly regarded for its sustained humane safekeeping and development of inmates (Section 2, BJMP Manual 2015). Of this, it incorporated Therapeutic Community and Modality Program (TCMP) as a model in the implementation of Inmates Welfare and Development. Therapeutic Community within the realm of BJMP, of which this study is focused, is defined by the Philippine Department of Justice as an environment that helps people get help while helping others. It is a treatment environment: the interactions of its members are designed to be therapeutic within the context of the norms that require for each to play the dual role of client-therapist. TC helps promote change specifically on relational or behavior management; affective, emotional, or psychological; cognitive, intellectual, or spiritual and psychomotor or vocational-survival skills. The correction-based therapeutic community (TC) is a widely described treatment modality for (originally on substance abusing) offenders (Hiller, Knight & Simpson, 1999; Lurigio, 2000). Its origins can be

traced back to two major independent traditions: the American drug-free hierarchical concept-based TC and the British democratic Maxwell Jones-type TC (De Leon, 2000; Kennard, 1998). De Leon (2010) and Sacks, Chaple, Sacks, McKendrick, & Cleland (2012) said that TC focuses on changing negative patterns of thought and behavior and on building self-efficacy so participants learn to think of themselves as the primary drivers of their own change process. TC participants are encouraged to be accountable for their behaviors and to set goals for their own personal well-being, positive participation in the broader community, and life after leaving treatment. An important therapeutic goal is to help people identify, express, and manage their feelings in appropriate and positive ways. In group activities, participants focus on behaving in ways that are acceptable in the TC community rather than how they behaved in the past. TC is a tool that the Parole and Probation Administration uses to prepare the client for reintegration to the community as a reformed, rehabilitated, productive, drug-free and law abiding person.

Some prisons have incorporated therapeutic communities modified for the special needs of offenders, and a growing number of community TC programs are providing aftercare for people released from prison (Wexler & Prendergast, 2010). TCs for offenders differ from other TCs in several ways (Wexler & Williams, 1986). As with all offenders, inmates participating in a TC must work during their incarceration. However, they also spend 4 to 5 hours each weekday in treatment (Sacks, Sacks, McKendrick, Banks, & Stommel, 2004), with an emphasis placed on living honestly, developing self-reliance, learning to manage their strong emotions (e.g., anger), and accepting responsibility for their actions (Wexler & Prendergast, 2010). Hence, in-prison TCs emphasize role models to show "right living" and use peer influence to reinforce changes in attitudes and behavior.

The use of TC in correctional facility for treatment of convicted offenders has proven to be capable of producing positive changes for inmates. A study of 715 male inmates in California randomly assigned either to a TC or to no treatment found generally high rates of re-incarceration within 5 years after prison release, but re-incarceration rates were lower among those who received TC treatment (76 percent) compared with no in-prison therapy (83 percent) (Prendergast, Hall, Wexler, Melnick, & Yan, 2004). The study found no differences in heavy drug use or employment rates. Further analysis indicated that men who completed an aftercare TC program after release from prison showed lower rates of re-incarceration (42 percent) and higher rates of past-year employment (72 percent) compared with those who completed in-prison treatment but did not participate in aftercare (86 percent re-incarcerated and 56 percent past-year employment, respectively). In a Colorado study, male inmates randomly assigned to a 12-month TC designed for inmates with co-occurring disorders (some of whom chose to continue community-based TC treatment upon release) had lower rates of re-incarceration (9 percent) compared with those who received mental health treatment while in prison (33 percent), as well as greater declines in alcohol and drug use (Sacks et al., 2004). Offenders who participated in both in-prison TC and aftercare demonstrated lower rates of re-incarceration, any criminal activity, and substance-related criminal activity than those who received mental health treatment. Men who relapsed during the year after prison release were four times more likely to re-offend compared with those who maintained abstinence from alcohol and drugs, 49 percent versus 19 percent, respectively (Sullivan, McKendrick, Sacks, & Banks, 2007). Delaware's correctional system has a work-release program in which offenders receive a paying job in the community about 6 months prior to their release dates but must return to a work-release facility (or prison) when not at work; compared with ex-offenders who received standard supervision during work-release, those who participated in a transitional TC for 3 months prior to 3 months in the work-release program showed higher rates of abstinence from drugs and employment (Butzin, Martin, & Inciardi, 2005). During the 5-year period after prison release, offenders who participated in the transitional TC relapsed in an average of 28.8 months compared with 13.2 months among those who received standard supervision. The Delaware study has now extended the follow-up to 18 years after prison release, finding a persistent and strong reduction in new arrests among TC participants (Martin, O'Connell, Paternoster, & Bachman, 2011). Research indicates that TC-based aftercare can improve the outcomes of offenders who have re-entered the community (Burdon, Dang, Prendergast, Messina, & Farabee, 2007), even when they have not participated in an in-prison TC (Sacks et al., 2012). TCs can provide aftercare for ex-offenders in residential or outpatient modalities, and both have been shown to be equally beneficial (Burdon et al., 2007). Lower rates of re-incarceration are linked with longer duration (more than 90 days) of TC treatment (Sacks et al., 2012).

TC could be functional if all constructive programs for inmate rehabilitation and reintegration are deeply considered. All activities and interpersonal and social interactions are considered important opportunities to facilitate personal change. Positive peer communications in a mutual-help environment also may be an important part of the therapeutic process (Warren, Doogan, De Leon, Phillips, Moody, & Hodge, 2013). A key element of living in a TC and the mutual-help process is the development of social networks through positive social interactions and bonding that can offer support during treatment and after an individual leaves the formal treatment environment. Because TCs emphasize social learning, participants form a hierarchy within the group. Those who have made progress in changing their attitudes and behaviors serve as role models for "right living" and help others who are in earlier stages of recovery (Perfas & Spross, 2007).

The Philippines is responsive to development especially to inmates or prisoners. In fact, the BJMP issued a memorandum/policy in 2010, regarding the implementation of the Therapeutic Community Modality Training Program (TCMP) and established the National TC Center and its regional counterparts, with a goal that TC projects or activities are well-planned, feasible and supervised towards the rehabilitation and eventual reintegration of inmates to the society. Hence, the researcher believes that there is a need to evaluate the TCMP implementation in order to visualize how the BJMP in the Province of Nueva Ecija complied or conform to the concept and mandate of TCMP enforced 9 years ago. Further, the researcher agrees that holistic realization of TCMP model of rehabilitation would result to positive and progressive reformation of convicts. Otherwise, it would result to recidivism or habitual acts of criminality.

The research, thus, provided the following problems, to wit:

- What is the level of implementation of TCMP programs by City/Municipal Jails in the Province of Nueva Ecija?
- What is the level of involvement of inmates in the implementation of TCMP programs by City/Municipal Jails in the Province of Nueva Ecija?
- What is the degree of seriousness of the problems encountered by City/Municipal Jails in the Province of Nueva Ecija in the implementation of TCMP programs?

2. Conceptual Framework

The research is anchored on the concept Therapeutic Community model of rehabilitation. It has a recovery orientation, focusing on the whole person and overall lifestyle changes, not simply abstinence.... (De Leon, 2012). TC encourages participants to examine their personal behavior to help them become more pro-social and to engage in "right living"—considered to be based on honesty, taking responsibility, hard work, and willingness to learn (De Leon, 2000 & De Leon, 2015). Hence, the research paradigm is provided below.

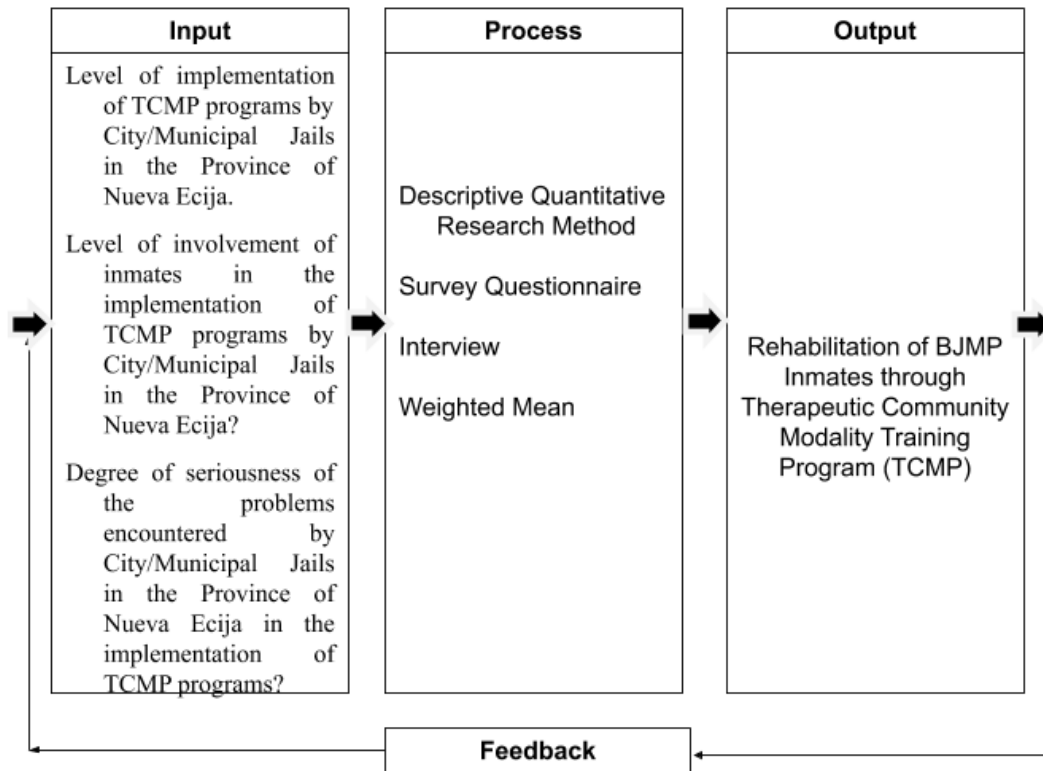


Figure 1: Research Paradigm

3. Methodology

The study used the Descriptive Survey Method. This method involves the collection of data in order to answer questions. According to Kumar (2014) as cited by Eduardo & Gabriel (2017) and Pagandian & Eduardo (2019), this method can systematically describe a situation, problem, phenomenon, service or programs, or provides information or describes the attitude towards an issue. Also, Calderon (1993) as mentioned by Eduardo (2018) said that descriptive method is a purposive process of gathering, analyzing, classifying, and tabulating data about prevailing conditions, practices, beliefs, processes, trends and cause effect relationships and

then making adequate and accurate interpretation about such data with or without the aid of the statistical methods. Hence, this method of study could help the researcher describe the levels of implementation, involvement and seriousness of problems relating to TCMP. The study was conducted in selected municipalities, cities, and district jails situated in the Province of Nueva Ecija within Academic Year 2018-2019. The 50 jail personnel and 100 inmate respondents were identified through simple random sampling with the consent of their respective Jail Wardens. Self-prepared and validated questionnaire-checklist was the main gathering supported by interview. Data were statistically treated through weighted mean.

Table 1: Table of Descriptors

Scale	Description	Allocation
4	Much Implemented/Involved/Serious (MIm/MIn/MS)	3.26 - 4.00
3	Implemented/Involved/Serious (Im/In/S)	2.51 - 3.25
2	Slightly Implemented/Involved/Serious (SIm/SIn/SS)	1.76 - 2.5
1	Not Implemented/Involved/Serious (NIm/NIn/NS)	1.00 - 1.75

4. Results and Discussion

This chapter presents the data gathered, interpretation, and analysis of data.

Level of Implementation of TCMP Programs

Table 2 presents that BJMP in the Province of Nueva Ecija mostly implements the TCMP programs or activities in the

extraordinary level with an overall mean of 3.42 described as Much Implemented. It is worth to note that *Sharing of bible verses among the inmates to uplift spiritual well-being* got the highest mean of 3.76 followed by *Taking a regular bath during mornings to facilitate hygienic environment* with a mean of 3.73, and *Fixing of beddings by the inmates before performing their daily routine* and *Initiating livelihood programs by the inmates* both got a mean of 3.69.

Table 2: Level of Implementation of TCMP Programs

Activities	Mean	Description
1) Sharing of bible verses among the inmates to uplift spiritual well-being.	3.76	MIm
2) Conduct of the Criticism-Self-Criticism (CSC) session.	3.24	Im
3) Sponsoring Holy Masses.	3.42	MIm
4) Conducting lectures workshops by the inmates themselves.	3.44	MIm
5) Celebrating family day with the family of the inmates inside the jail.	3.4	MIm
6) Fixing of beddings by the inmates before performing their daily routine.	3.69	MIm
7) Initiating livelihood programs by the inmates.	3.69	MIm
8) Taking a regular bath during mornings to facilitate hygienic environment.	3.73	MIm
9) Providing of physical enhancement activities for inmates.	3.53	MIm
10) Holding of sports competition.	3.22	Im
11) Sponsoring legal counseling services by the PAO for the inmates.	3.56	MIm
12) Holding a medical/ dental mission for the inmates.	3.53	MIm
13) Holding a talent search for the inmates to showcase their talents.	3.29	MIm
14) Initiating a Tree planting activity.	2.56	Im
15) Holding of Group Formation.	3.24	Im
16) Overall Mean	3.42	MIm

However, *Initiating of a Tree planting activity* got the lowest mean of 2.56 described as Implemented. Notably, *Holding of sports competition* seems implemented at a limited degree with a mean of 3.22 despite of its capability to build unity among the inmates.

Based on the data, it implies that Jails in the Province of Nueva Ecija strictly put into practice TCMP activities for the benefit of the inmates. This further implies that BJMP personnel are fully aware on the activities concerning TCMP. Interview with Jail Personnel which was confirmed by the inmates revealed that sports is conducted only at specific date and time but sometimes controlled since it creates squabble among the inmates particularly during basketball game. Also, some inmates do not participate and prefer to stay in their respective cells due to laziness. In reiteration, Sacks, Sacks, McKendrick, Banks, & Stommel (2004) mentioned that as with all offenders, inmates participating in a TC (TCMP) must work during their incarceration. However, they also spend 4 to 5 hours each weekday in treatment.

Level of Involvement of Inmates in the Implementation of TCMP Programs

Table 3 shows that the overall mean in terms of inmate involvement in the implementation of TCMP activities is 3.18 described as Involved. It implies that inmates are quite involved in the implementation of TCMP activities in the Jails located in the cities and municipalities of Nueva Ecija. *Sharing of bible verses among the inmates to uplift spiritual well-being* ranked 1st with mean of 3.8, 8; *Taking a regular bath during mornings to facilitate hygienic environment* ranked 2nd with a mean of 3.78; and *Providing of enhancement activities for inmates* ranked 3rd with a mean of 3.58 all described as Much Involved. *Sponsoring Holy*

Masses had the lowest mean of 2.71 described as Involved only which implies that few respondents participate in the activity.

Table 3: Level of Involvement of Inmates in the Implementation of TCMP Programs

Activities	Mean	Descriptors
1) Sharing of bible verses among the inmates to uplift spiritual well-being.	3.8	MIn
2) Conduct of the Criticism-Self-Criticism (CSC) session.	2.76	In
3) Sponsoring Holy Masses.	2.71	In
4) Conducting lectures workshops by the inmates themselves.	2.82	In
5) Celebrating family day with the family of the inmates inside the jail.	2.73	In
6) Fixing of beddings by the inmates before performing their daily routine.	2.82	In
7) Initiating livelihood programs by the inmates.	3	In
8) Taking a regular bath during mornings to facilitate hygienic environment.	3.78	MIn
9) Providing of enhancement activities for inmates.	3.58	MIn
10) Holding of sports competition.	3.22	In
11) Sponsoring legal counseling services by the PAO for the inmates.	3.56	MIn
12) Holding a medical/ dental mission for the inmates.	3.4	MIn
13) Holding a talent search for the inmates to showcase their talents.	3.29	MIn
14) Initiating of tree planting activity.	2.87	In
15) Holding of Group Formation.	3.38	MIn
Overall Mean	3.18	In

Interview with respondents revealed that a small number of inmates are involved during the conduct of Holy Masses

considering that each inmate has their respective religion. Hence, inmates are not forced to join the Holy Mass conducted by a religion of which they don't belong. Further, it implies that jails in the Province of Nueva Ecija respect the inmate's respective religious denomination.

Degree of Seriousness of the Problems Encountered

Table 4 shows that all items were considered by Jail Personnel-respondents as Slightly Serious with an Overall Mean of 1.97. Both *Non-cooperation of the inmates* and *Lack of budget to support the different activities* got a highest mean of 2.07; 2nd in rank is *Lack of mastery on the part of facilitators in implementing the program* with a mean of 2.04; and 3rd in rank is *Lack of understanding regarding the program's objective* and *Absence or lack of materials for livelihood programs* both got a mean of 2.02. However, both *Lack of confidence of inmates towards their fellow inmates' ability* and *Absence of competent individuals to facilitate a group formation, bible sharing or lectures* got a lowest mean of 1.89.

Table 4: Degree of seriousness of the problems encountered in the implementation of TCMP Programs

Problems Encountered	Mean	Descriptors
1) Non-cooperation of the inmates.	2.07	SS
2) Lack of Familiarity of the Personnel on the Program.	2	SS
3) Negative Perception of the inmates to the Program.	1.93	SS
4) Lack of confidence of inmates to the personnel's ability to implement the program.	1.91	SS
5) Lack of understanding regarding the program's objective.	2.02	SS
6) Lack of mastery on the part of facilitators in implementing the program.	2.04	SS
7) Presence of personal grudges among inmates that makes them uncooperative.	1.98	SS
8) Lack of confidence of inmates towards their fellow inmates' ability.	1.89	SS
9) Loss of self-confidence of inmates towards their ability to be reformed.	1.93	SS
10) Absence or lack of support of inmate's family/ relatives during family day celebration.	1.98	SS
11) Absence or lack of materials for livelihood programs.	2.02	SS
12) Absence of competent individuals to facilitate a group formation, bible sharing or lectures.	1.89	SS
13) Lack of budget to support the different activities.	2.07	SS
14) Lack of continuity in the implementation of the activities.	1.93	SS
15) Lack/absence of motivation on the part of the inmates to continue the program.	1.91	SS
Overall Mean	1.97	SS

The result implies that jail personnel know the substance TCMP Programs or Activities in the rehabilitation of inmates. Interview with inmate-respondents even exposed that they also agree on the importance of TCMP programs being implemented to them. Further, inmates believe that if TCMP activities are holistically employed to every jail facility then every inmate released would truly become

reformed and responsible citizens upon entering or joining the community. In reiteration, Prendergast, Hall, Wexler, Melnick, & Yan (2004) mentioned that re-incarceration rates were lower among those who received TC treatment (76 percent) compared with no in-prison therapy (83 percent). Also, positive peer communications in a mutual-help environment also may be an important part of the therapeutic process (Warren, Doogan, De Leon, Phillips, Moody, & Hodge, 2013).

5. Conclusions

Based on the results of the study, it can be concluded that city or municipal jails in the Province of Nueva Ecija actively follow the Directives of the BJMP National Office particularly in the realization of TCMP. However, BJMP Personnel in the Province cannot effectively and efficiently achieve the very objective of TCMP due to limited participation or involvement of inmates which is much needed. Hence, the inadequate involvement of inmates to TCMP activities would certainly lead to half-done or partial rehabilitation of released inmates which would result to possible re-incarceration. Lastly, the occurrence of various problems in the implementation of TCMP programs or activities show that absolute reformation of inmates in the BJMP in the Province of Nueva Ecija is not viable unless identified problems are properly addressed. Consequently, the purpose of TC (TCMP) which is to help promote change inmates specifically on relational or behavior management, affective, emotional or psychological, cognitive, intellectual, spiritual, and psycho-motor or vocational-survival skills would not become achievable.

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