



**THE CONDITION OF CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED MOTHERS:
THE CASE OF ADAMA PRISON ADMINISTRATION, OROMIA REGIONAL
STATE, ETHIOPIA**

MSWP-001

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DECLARATION

I, Mentwab Geday Gebreegziabher, hereby declare THE CONDITION OF CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED MOTHERS; THE CASE OF ADAMA PRISON ADMINISTRATION, OROMIA REGIONAL STATE, ETHIOPIA. Submitted by me for the partial fulfillment of the MSW to Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) New Delhi is my own original work and has not been submitted earlier, either to IGNOU or to any other institution for the fulfillment of the requirement for any other program of study. I also declare that no chapter of this manuscript in whole or in part is lifted and incorporated in this report from any earlier work done by me or others.

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Abstract

This study was based on Assessment on the Condition of Children of Incarcerated Mothers; in the case of Adama Prison Administration, Oromia Regional state, Ethiopia.

Despite the increasing number of women in prison who have children, little is known about their children's situation during their imprisonment. This study attempts to assess the condition of children of incarcerated mothers. Survey method, In-depth interview, Focus Group Discussion and Observation tools were mainly used for the purpose of data collection. Accordingly, 32 incarcerated mothers in Adama Prison Administration were asked about the general condition of their 28 children. In addition, five children were interviewed about their condition in the prison. The findings indicated that children of incarcerated mothers live in a very difficult condition deprived of their basic needs and rights. The findings have led to some recommendations that will help to change the conditions of the children who are living imprisoned.

CHAPTER ONE

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the study

Crime is a social problem, which threatens the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities as a whole. In all criminal justice systems, the number of offenders fined at the court, or sentenced to prison, men outnumber women by high proportion. The percentage of women in any prison system throughout the world varies between 2% and 8% (Coyle, 2002).

In many countries, tough anti- drug legislation has brought about a significance effect on the number of women in prison, as a result, the number of women in prison grew at a faster rate than the number of incarcerated men. Unlike men, women prisoners are often single parents with dependent children (Coyle, 2002). Therefore, many children are incarnated with their mother to get the care of their mothers. These children are at increased risk of coming in conflict with the law. Increased the risk of drug use, alcohol abuse, developed deviant behaviors and other problems are more likely to happen among incarcerated mothers' children (Anderson, 2005).

In most societies, women have primary responsibility to take care of their family particularly for children. Imprisonment of a mother will affect the whole family negatively. If a father is sent to prison, the mother will frequently take the family responsibility as a whole. However, if a mother is sent to prison, the father will not fully take the responsibility of bearing the, especially if there is no extended family support (Coyle, 2002). This directly linked with the socialization process that make women to stay in home and to be care giver and that encourage men to work at the public sphere. As a result, even with the existence of extended family support, the situation always puts emotional and economic stress on the family and it will have unpleasant effects for the children as well (McClain, 2002).

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics 1999 report, in 1999 more than 1.5 million children in the US had a parent in prison. Among these only 25 percent of the children stay with their mothers, when their fathers are imprisoned (Anderson, 2005). Hence, imprisoning the women break up the family than imprisoned the father. The community also feels the effect of the family disruption while the adult caretakers are unavailable for parenting and contributing as a citizen to their community (O'Brien, 2001).

1.2. Statement of the Problem

The children of prisoners face difficulties, which stem from situations they themselves have not caused. Even if there are many children, who are affected by the incarceration of their fathers; mothers' incarceration has more impact on children since it destabilizes and affects them disproportionately (Baker and Cunningham, 2003). Unfortunately, there seems to be glaring lack of awareness and concern for these unseen victims. The punishment that these children suffer may not be intentional, but the effect is the same. These children have unique problems and special needs. They are often traumatized by the arrest and imprisonment of their mothers. In addition, in many cases forced separation from their mothers by itself is a cause of trauma to the children (Cited in Bloom, 1993).

In Ethiopia, the number of women incarcerated in prisons and police stations has grown very rapidly. The majority of these women are single mothers who were the sole caregivers of their minor children before being incarcerated (Mentwab, 2001). Although there is few research available in relation to incarcerated mothers and their children in prison. Similarly, there is no organized central data that shows the significance number of children who are living in the prison with their mothers. As a result, it is difficult to get information about how many women prisoners have children with them, how the children of imprisoned mothers survive outside the prison, how they are affected by their mothers' incarceration, and what kind of services and attention they need to receive from the government, family and community. Considering this,

the present study tries to assess the condition of children of imprisoned mothers in general and to identify the effects of mother's incarceration on children, the services given to the children of imprisoned mothers, recommend the alternatives options for children of incarcerated mother's, and to identify the major gaps on the services given to children of imprisoned mothers.

1.3. Objectives of the Study

1.3.1. General Objective

The general objective of the study is to assess the general conditions of children of incarcerated mothers in Adama Prison Administration and to generate alternative options to their problems.

1.3.2. Specific Objectives

The study is particularly aimed:

- To identify the services given to the children of incarcerated mothers
- To identify the effects of mother's incarceration on children
- To recommend alternatives options for children of incarcerated mother's

1.4. Research Questions

Parallel with the above mentioned general and specific objectives, the study has also intended to answer the following research questions:

1. What are the services given to the children of incarcerated mothers' in the prison?
2. Are there any alternatives for children of incarcerated mothers?
3. Why did mothers prefer to bring their children to prison to live with them?
4. What are the effects of mother's incarceration on children?
5. What should be done to support children of incarcerated mothers?

1.5 Significance of the Study

Children of imprisoned mothers are least researched topic. This study explores the situation of the children who are living in prison. The research will contribute in bringing the issues of children who are living in imprisonment to be considered by the implementers as well as policy makers. Additionally, it creates awareness for the society and other implementing stakeholders to focus on the children healthy development. Furthermore, the research is expected to fill the knowledge gap.

1.6 Scope of the research

The research focuses on exploring the reason why the children are living with their mother in prison and to examine what services are provided to the children and how they prison are working for healthy development of the children. The research population is those who are inmate of Adama prison administration.

1.7 Limitation of the research

Children who are living in prison are the least emphasized research topic. As a result of that it's difficult to access relevant literature reviews. This research area is limited to Adam prison administration because of lack of resources. Considering that all the respondents are from one prison inmate it's difficult to generalize the overall children situation that are living with imprisoned mothers in Ethiopia. However, the data and research highlights what intervention should be done to prevent the challenges.

1.8 Ethical Consideration of the Study

Informed consent was obtained from the study participants after explaining the purpose of the study. Participation of all respondents in the survey is based on their willingness. Measures were taken to assure the respect, dignity and freedom of each participating individual in the study. All the information collected is strictly confidential.

1.9 Chapterization

The research is broken down into five chapters. Chapter one deals with introduction part of the paper which is mainly focuses on the components of the proposal for the study. Chapter Two contains review of different literatures from different academicians and practitioners. The Third chapter deals with the methodology applied in the study. Chapter Four presents major findings of the study and detail discussions. Chapter Five is devoted to conclusions made from the study findings and recommendations made by the researcher.

CHAPTER TWO

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Legal Instruments Concerning Human Rights of Detainees

2.1.1. Ethiopian Laws

In Ethiopia, the government has been drafted and ratified to different national and international laws including protocols to ensure human rights and freedoms of citizens. Efforts are also made to promote detainees' human rights. Nevertheless, the human rights of inmates are still need to be improved. Article 18, of the FDRE Constitution, prohibits any inhuman treatment of peoples. It provides that these are inalienable rights that cannot be denied even under emergency conditions. Though the the constitution has assured to respect human rights including during impressment there are different human right reports that showed the situation need to improve a lot. The Constitution also provides for the protection of people against cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment. Article 21 of the Constitution provides that persons held in custody and imprisoned upon conviction and sentencing have the right to treatments respecting their human dignity. The same Article provides that all persons shall have the opportunity to communicate with, and to be visited by, their spouses and partners, close relatives, friends, religious counselors, medical doctors and their legal counsel. Various regional State constitutions also carry similar provisions. Besides, the Federal Constitutional Article 9(4) accepts all international and African agreements ratified by Ethiopia as an integral part of the law of the land.

Ethiopia is well known in ratifying many international and continental laws and protocols. Looking into the implementations are not moving forward to respect the rights of their citizens let alone the impressed people.

According to the Constitution, other implementation laws have also been enacted while existing laws have been revised, Besides the Constitution, and FDRE's Criminal Law bearing rele-

vance to detainees' human rights has been issued after being harmonized with the Constitution and other human rights laws. In Article 110, the Law provides that detainees (including those arrested as debtors) of civil offenses shall have prison premises entirely separate from one another based on differences as to sex, age, nature of punishment and other criteria. It further provides that detainees be engaged in some work and be remunerated reasonably for their toil. Furthermore, the Criminal Law provides elaborately in Articles 157-167 about the justice administration of youth offenders.

With regard to treatment of detainees, the federal and regional prison establishing proclamations, regulations or directives, as an integral part of the law of the land, serve as reference legal documents. These regulations and directives carry elaborate provisions on issues especially pertaining to separate accommodation of detainees, provision of food, water, bedding, medical, family visits, right to work, parole and other services. Those legal provisions, when it comes to the ground they lack implementation. In most prison administration there is no separate room for inmates. The law lacks how to protect children during their mothers' imprisonment and with no other family member to take care of the children. What kind of services should be provided for children, pregnant mothers as well as breast feeders?

2.1.2. African Laws

The main African human rights laws are the Charter of African Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. In Article 5, the Charter of African Human and Peoples' Rights provides that every individual shall have the right to the respect of the dignity inherent in a human being and to the recognition of his legal status. It also provides that all forms of exploitation and degradation of persons, particularly slavery, torture, cruel and degrading punishment and treatment be prohibited.

In Article 17(2), the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child provides that children held in custody or sentenced to imprisonment shall not be subjected to beating and degrading punishment. The Charter requires all signatory countries to observe these rights and freedoms.

Article 30 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child regarding Imprisoned Mothers States Parties to the present Charter shall undertake to provide special treatment to expectant mothers and to mothers of infants and young children who have been accused or found guilty of infringing the penal law and shall in particular: (a) ensure that a non-custodial sentence will always be first considered when sentencing such mothers; (b) establish and promote measures alternative to institutional confinement for the treatment of such mothers; (c) establish special alternative institutions for holding such mothers; (d) ensure that a mother shall not be imprisoned with her child; (e) ensure that a death sentence shall not be imposed on such mothers; (f) the essential aim of the penitentiary system will be the reformation, the integration of the mother to the family and social rehabilitation.

2.1.3. International Laws

Member countries of the United Nations have individually or corporately prepared and are preparing binding legal instruments for ensuring respect of human rights of detainees they hold in custody. The United Nations is the main source of various human rights conventions or declarations, has prepared and issued various legal instruments related with detainees' human rights. Articles 9 and 10 of the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights, lists the rights of convicted or sentenced detainees. The Convention provides that care and good treatment be given for persons whose freedoms have been denied. The Convention also provides that, where conditions permit, juvenile offenders shall be held separately from adults or other convicted persons. Article 7 of this Convention prohibits any torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading acts from being carried out against persons. It also prohibits inflicting any physical or mental pun-

ishment and prolonged imprisonment as well as detaining a prisoner in isolation from others. The right to life and the right to obtain legal protection are considered the basic rights of detainees.

Article 37(A) of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) prohibits any action that tortures or abuses children's human dignity. It is also therein provided that children shall be subjected to imprisonment only as a last resort and be held only for a brief period. A child subjected to imprisonment shall be entitled to any care and compassionate treatment required on account of his/her age.

The Convention on torture prohibits any form of inhuman and cruel acts against any person including detainees. This Convention is an international legal document that is prepared in accordance with Article 55 of the UN Founding Charter, Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 7 of the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights.

Article 11 of the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Convention provides that any person shall have the right to adequate food, clothes and shelter and sound living conditions. Besides, the Convention in Article 12 provides that any person shall have the right to live in good physical and mental health conditions. Generally, the convention provides that detainees shall have the right to obtain essential services including health services without any discrimination. Governments are urged to provide the above services within the resources available to them.

The Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Detainees which was approved by the first UN congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders held in Geneva in 1955 and also issued by the UN Economic and Social Council in 1975 and 1976. These rules contain basic principles and good practices followed in the treatment of detainees and prison administrations. Article 6 of the Standard Rules provides that detainees' rights are upheld and respected for all persons without any discrimination on grounds of race, religion, language, po-

litical outlook, wealth status, or any other. The Minimum Rules focus on issues such as maintenance of detainee information, warding facilities, personal hygiene, clothes and bedding, food, sports, health services, disciplinary or other measures that need to be taken in connection with detainee treatment. This suggests that countries should treat their detainees in a better way in line with the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Detainees. Ethiopian (Human Rights commission, 2012, Addis Ababa).

The Committee on the Rights of the Child is the body that monitors the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In 2005 the Committee began to regularly raise the impact of women's imprisonment on the fulfillment of the rights of their children. The Committee has taken this up both in respect of children who live in prison with their mothers and those who are separated from their mothers as a result of maternal imprisonment (Laurel, 2006).

2.1.3.1. The Committee on the Rights of the Child: considering the best interests of the child in sentencing and custody decisions

The recommendation of the Committee on the Rights of the Child arising from its Day of General Discussion on "Children without Parental Care" calls for an expert meeting to produce Guidelines on Children without Parental Care. The adoption of these guidelines could provide a useful tool in ensuring that the best interests of the child are considered in custody and sentencing decisions that could deprive the child of parental care. In a number of its Concluding Observations the Committee on the Rights of the Child has stated clearly that the best interests of the child must be taken into consideration in sentencing and custody decisions concerning their primary or sole care givers (Laurel, 2006).

Where the defendant has child caring responsibilities, the Committee recommends that the principle of the best interests of the child (article 3). That recommends looking the children issues carefully and independently. All decisions related to detention, including pre-trial detention and

sentencing, and decisions concerning the placement of the child should be observed and decided by competent professionals.

a. Children living in prison with their mothers

In its Concluding Observations the Committee on the Rights of the Child has expressed concern. On the fact that children are living in prison and at the conditions in where the children are living with prisoners without special treatment. Later on this lead the children to become deviant and in different situation with their counterparts. The Committee recommends to the State party that it review the current practice of children living with their parents in prison, with a view to limiting the stay to instances in which it is in his/her best interest, and to ensuring that the living conditions are suitable for his/her needs of harmonious development. As regards children residing in prison with their mothers, the Committee recommends that the State party ensure that living conditions in prisons are adequate for the child's early development in accordance with article 27 of the Convention. The Committee encourages the State party to seek assistance from, UNICEF and other United Nations bodies in this regard (Laurel, 2006).

b. Children deprived of parental care through parental imprisonment

A study in the United Kingdom has shown that the negative impact on the behavior of children deprived of parental care through parental imprisonment is greater than the impact on children who lose or are separated from their parent in other ways. The study only considered the impact of paternal imprisonment; however, other studies have indicated that maternal imprisonment is even more disruptive for children than paternal imprisonment. The Committee on the Rights of the Child has also addressed the impact of separation through parental imprisonment on the realization of the rights of the child: The Committee recommends that alternative care for those children who are separated from their mothers in prison be regularly reviewed ensuring that the physical and mental needs of children are appropriately met. Furthermore, it rec-

ommends that the State party continue to ensure that alternative care allows the child to maintain personal relations and direct contact with the mother who remains in prison (Laurel, 2006).

2.1.4. Children of Incarcerated Parents

In order to discern the degree to which parental incarceration affects children, researchers have utilized comparative studies to examine the potential differences between children of non incarcerated parents and children of incarcerated parents. Literature on the effects of incarceration has made numerous claims as to the negative outcomes of parental incarceration on children's psychological and developmental health and well-being. Many of these broad claims; however, have not been supported by specific evidence which properly distinguishes the children of incarcerated parents from their backgrounds and other potential risk factors which could potentially account for some of these differences (Reed, 2008).

Effects on behavior: Much of the original research on this topic was pioneered in an ongoing Cambridge study of children and the development of delinquent behaviors. Researchers in the study compared children of non-incarcerated parents from a variety of backgrounds with those of incarcerated parents and studied their behavior over a 40-year time span. The research showed that there was a very strong correlation between parents' incarceration and the development of delinquent behaviors in the children (Farrington, 2002).

While research regarding contact with parents during incarceration is mixed, studies have shown that children who have contact with parents during incarceration, without the addition of intervention techniques, also experience more behavioral problems than children who do not visit their incarcerated parents (Jennifer, 2011).

Early delinquent behaviors may lead to the establishment of delinquent behavioral patterns in the children of incarcerated parents. Children with incarcerated parents are more likely to be incarcerated themselves. Furthermore, specific maternal crimes have been linked with increases

in incarceration rates for children Dallaire (2007) found that regular maternal drug use was linked to future incarceration rates for children.

School Dropout: Children of incarcerated parents are also more likely to drop out of school as compared to peers whose parents are not incarcerated. High school dropout often leads to long-term employment struggles for these individuals, as children with incarcerated parents are more likely to be unemployed as compared to peers (Farrington, 2002). Therefore, parental incarceration can have a lasting effect on long-term outcomes for children.

Substance Abuse: Children of incarcerated parents are significantly more susceptible to drug abuse than children whose parents were not incarcerated (Farrington, 2002). While increases in substance abuse among children of incarcerated parents may be linked with a multitude of factors, including deficiencies in effective coping strategies to deal with the added pressures and stresses related to incarceration, children with incarcerated parents may be more likely to experience problems with substance abuse due to parental use. Mumola (2000) found that the majority of incarcerated parents were sentenced due to either drug-related charges or violent crimes. Therefore, these children are likely to have a greater exposure to drugs and alcohol than other peers, which may de-stigmatize the criminality of drug use.

Mental Health: According to one study, children of incarcerated parents' exhibited greater levels of depression and anxiety than their peers (Farrington, 2002). In a separate study, researchers concluded that there may be an association between maternal incarceration and young girls' perceptions of themselves (Grant, 2006). Although researchers were not able to decisively conclude how strong of an association there was between the variables, this research may help explain the prevalence of other mental health issues among children of incarcerated parents, which may be linked with the child's feelings of guilt or shame. Children whose parents commit crimes of theft, prostitution or selling drugs are more likely to perceive their parents' criminal actions as a means of trying to support the family (Miller, 2006). Therefore, the-

se children are more likely to feel a sense of guilt and responsibility for their incarcerated parent's actions. Left untreated, these feelings may lead to long-term mental health issues for these children (Miller, 2006).

Compounding Factors: Research show that the effects of parental incarceration indicate that children of the incarcerated individuals are experienced a substantially increased risk for negative outcomes and at-risk behaviors in comparison to children of non-incarcerated parents in real life. Reed (2008) cautions that it is impossible to draw causal conclusions from these findings due to the researcher's inability to distinguish the effects of exposure to various other risk factors prevalent in incarcerated populations, which may also have had significant implications on the children of the offenders. For instance, incarcerated individuals often deal with substance abuse and mental health issues which could also result in negative outcomes for their children (Katz, 1998).Haapasalo (2001) found a strong correlation between paternal incarceration and alcohol abuse in both mothers and fathers. These findings often complicate the work of researchers who must distinguish the various risk factors which these children are exposed to from the effects of incarceration (cited in Jennifer, 2011).

One of the other emergent themes from research on risk factors experienced by children of incarcerated parents is patterns of violence and exposure to violent experiences. Dehart &Altshuler (2009) conducted open-ended interviews with incarcerated mothers which revealed that children of incarcerated parents experienced a variety of negative consequences as a result of exposure to violence prior to their parent's incarceration. Themes included abuse, neglect, witnessing violence and prenatal complications as the result of exposure to violence.

2.1.5. Children of incarcerated mothers

The nation's growing prison and jail population has raised serious questions about the collateral effects of incarceration on children, families and communities. Whatever one's views about the appropriate role of incarceration in the criminal justice system, it is clear that imprisonment disrupts positive nurturing relationships between many parents particularly mothers and their children. In addition, many families with children suffer economic strain and instability when a parent is imprisoned. Research suggests that intervening in the lives of incarcerated parents and their children to preserve and strengthen positive family connections can yield positive societal benefits in the form of reduced reoffending, less intergenerational criminal justice system involvement, and promotion of healthy child development. In the words of one prominent researcher, studies indicate that families are important to prisoners and to the achievement of major social goals, including the prevention of recidivism and delinquency (Steve, 2009).

Because this area is fraught with major data gaps, it is recommended that policymakers begin their exploration of the subject by posing a series of questions to their staffs and the heads of agencies with jurisdiction over law enforcement, corrections, child welfare, education and welfare, as well as child advocates, the university community and others who have an interest in ensuring the well-being of children whose parents are in custody. This report proposes a list of such questions, each followed by a discussion that is intended, not so much as a definitive answer, but as general background information. The information identifies only general trends, since specific answers to the questions posed will differ by state, depending on factors such as the existing policy context and service array, demographic trends and available data (Steve, 2009).

2.1.6. Traumatic Impact on Children of Incarcerated Mothers

The escalation in maternal incarceration over the past three decades poses significant risk for incarcerated women's children, who arguably suffer more long term effects of the incarceration than their mothers do (Myrna, 2006). As previously noted, 75% of women were the primary caregiver of at least one child before their incarceration (Margolies & Kraft Stolar, 2006). There are numerous mitigating and facilitating factors that influence the degree of the traumatic effect on children, such as a child's age at the time of maternal incarceration. However, it is clear that mass incarceration places the children of incarcerated parents, especially children with incarcerated mothers, as one of the largest at risk populations in the U.S. (Mumola, 2000).

Attachment theory provides a deeper understanding of the profound impact that caregiver separation has on both the immediate and lifetime behavior of infants and young children, including children's ability to develop future healthy relationships (Bowl by, 1980) explains that young children who are deprived of maternal care and affection not only experience temporary trauma, but also may suffer long term effects. Externalized negative behavior, which results from insecure caregiver attachment, can negatively affect peer relationships, lower self-esteem, and even hinder children's ability to exhibit empathy toward others.

Traumatic loss experienced by children separated from a parent due to incarceration is marked with feelings of social stigma and shame that surround the parent's incarceration, distinguishing it from other forms of parental loss (personal communication). The internalization of this stigma and shame heightens children's risk of insecure attachment, which increases the possibility of long term negative outcomes. The social stigma and shame associated with parental incarceration can have a profound impact on a child's sense of self and can ultimately cause lasting emotional hardship such as "elevated levels of anxiety, fear, loneliness, anger, and depression" (Margolies&KraftStolar,2006, p. 9).

Children whose primary caregiver becomes incarcerated are also at an increased risk of anti-social and delinquent behaviors a result of the sudden change in caregiver and overall home environment (Graham, Harris, & Carpenter, 2010). Kampfner (1995) conducted an assessment of children with incarcerated parents to examine the impact of the separation on a child's acute stress reactions. Approximately 75% of the children with an incarcerated parent were identified to have trauma related distress (Kampfner, 1995; Miller, 2006). Similarly, Krupat observed that the removal of or change in the primary caregiver makes children particularly infants and young children vulnerable to insecure attachment and ultimately the inability to attach if no stable caretaker steps into the role of consistent and responsive primary caregiver.

2.1.7. Babies Born from Imprisoned Mothers

Women who are pregnant while in prison have particular health and nutrition needs. In some countries, women prisoners are shackled during childbirth, and/or are guarded by male prison guards. The rights of both mothers and babies need to be considered in relation to pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding and post-natal care in prison. The presumption should be that babies should remain with their mothers unless there are compelling reasons for separating them. The inextricable link between anxiety and stress in the mother and the physical and emotional well-being of the baby needs to be recognized and addressed (Laurel, 2006).

What rights does a child have if their mother is detained or imprisoned? Little attention has been given to this subject, despite the profound and permanent impact such an event has on the child. Applying the Convention on the Rights of the Child to such situations would lead to some clear conclusions about children's rights to be considered when decisions are made about their parents; to be consulted about separation from their parent and alternative care; to maintain contact with their imprisoned parent, including by visiting; to be specially protected and assisted by the state when deprived of parental care (Laurel, 2006).

Lack of contact by detainees with their children for example, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (E/CN.4/2005/6/Add.2, Para. 63), reports the situation of pre-trial detainees in Latvia: “most are not allowed to telephone their families or receive visits. One detainee told the Group he had not been allowed to see his small daughter for over eight months. ...the Group finds it hard to comprehend why a detainee, even one accused of serious crimes, should be prevented from seeing his children” (Laurel, 2006).

The Working Group also expressed concerns about the severe restrictions on contact (telephone or visits) by family to those in pre-trial detention in Belarus (E/CN.4/2005/6/Add.3, paras. 22-24, 48), where pre-trial detention is the norm for alleged offenders, men, women and minors, rather than a measure of last resort in relation to serious crimes, and can last up to 18 months. The Working Group also raised concerns about the too restrictive nature of communications with the outside world in the female prison colonies (post-conviction detention), including with detainees’ children when these are too old to stay in the colonies with their mothers (Laurel, 2006).

The Committee on the Rights of the Child has proposed the development of Guidelines for Children Deprived of Parental Care, and the Quaker UN Office has requested that these guidelines should take account of the specific situation and problems faced by, children who are deprived of parental care because their parent is in detention or imprisonment (Laurel, 2006).

CHAPTER THREE

3. RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

3.1. Research design

The research used mixed approach by applying both quantitative and qualitative methods to assess the general conditions of children of incarcerated mothers. The study populations are women who are imprisoned and their children who are living with them and the key informants are the prison administration women and children section in Adama prison administration.

3.2. Universe of the study

The study was undertaken in *Adama* prison administration, Eastern Shewa Zone of Oromia Regional State. The universe of the study was consisting of all the children of incarcerated mothers in Adama prison administration. The reason that the research selects all the women who have children in the prison and expected mothers are to increase the data credibility and to minimize error rate.

There are around 28 children of imprisoned mothers in the prison administration. The participants of the study are 28 imprisoned women who have children in the prison, 5 children's and 4 pregnant imprisoned women, a total of 37 respondents are selected.

Therefore, it was appropriate to conduct the study on assessing the services given to the children, to identify the effects of mother's incarceration on children, to assess alternatives options for children of incarcerated mother's.

3.3. Sampling Technique

The sample prison administration, one of the 119 prison administrations in the country was selected purposively due to the convenience that allows the researcher to do the study. The participants of the study were 28 incarcerated women who have children in the prison, 4 pregnant incarcerated women and 5 children aged 6-15 years old.

3.4. Data Sources and Collection Procedures

For this study, data were gathered from primary and secondary sources because both data sources are very important for detail investigation and understanding.

3.4.1. Primary Data

To generate primary data different research tools were employed like questionnaire, focus group discussions, in-depth interview and observation.

a. Interview Schedule /Questionnaire

To generate quantitative information structured questionnaire was undertaken by developing structured questionnaire. The survey conducted on the selected 28 incarcerated mothers and 4 incarcerated pregnant women in the prison.

b. Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) Guide

Focus group discussants were selected purposively. One focus group discussion was held in the prison with ten participants with different age group, different religion, and different educational level. To minimize dominance and biasness equal chances were provided to each participant and their opinions, ideas and understandings were documented manually by the researcher to support the investigation with evidence.

c. Interviews Guide

A total of four interviews were conducted with (one woman and children care and support division director, one woman and children care and support officer, one psychosocial officer of the prison and one federal prison administration official). The in-depth interviews were selected purposively because of their knowledge, experience and exposure on prison and related practices.

d. Observation Guide

Observation gives deep insight about the study area and contributes to strengthen some of the findings of the study. The researcher tried to engender vivid data by observing the real setup of the environment and the treatment given the children of incarcerated mothers to formulate questions for better understanding of the issue. This helped the researcher not only as a means of data collection tool, but it also used to formulate questions for better understanding of the situation being studied.

3.4.2. Document Analysis

Secondary data was employed in organizing and identifying gaps on similar topics conducted by other researchers and as a frame for the whole process of the study. Secondary data were collected from different written documents to generate ideas relevant to the research and enrich the findings.

3.5. Interpretation and Data Analysis

The quantitative data was analyzed using descriptive techniques (frequency and percentage) and results were presented in tables. On the other hand, qualitative information is required to bring up detailed and specific issues that would complete the quantitative information. Thus, qualitative data were interpreted, analyzed by quoting and paraphrasing.

CHAPTER FOUR

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

This chapter deals with the main findings of the study in relation to the outlined statement of the problem, objectives and research questions. Descriptive analysis and interpretation of data of the study area are presented as follows.

4.1. Demographic Characteristics of Sample Respondents

4.1.1. Age and Sex of Sample Incarcerated Mothers

Table 1. Percentage Distribution of Mothers by Demographic Factors

Age	Frequency	Percent
20-24	2	6.25
25-29	6	18.75
30-34	10	32.25
35-39	7	21.9
40-44	4	12.5
>45	3	9.4
Total	32	100
Marital Status		
Married	9	28.13
Separated	1	3.13
Widowed	2	6.25
Divorced	7	21.9
Single	13	40.63
Total	32	100

Education Level		
Illiterate	2	6.25
Basic Education	9	28.13
Primary Education	15	46.9
Secondary Education	4	12.5
College and above	2	6.25
Total	32	100
Types of Work Engaged in Before		
Retailer	16	50
Daily laborer	8	25
House wife	5	15.63
Others	3	9.4
Total	32	100

Source: Survey Data, 2016

As the above Table -1 indicates, 32 women were incarcerated in Adama prison administration. The minimum and maximum age of the sampled respondents was found between 20 and 49 years respectively with mean values of 34.5 years. The age group for the majority (54.4%) of the respondents is found between the age group of 30-39. This indicates most of them are productive and can be engaged in different activities to generate income and strengthen their purchasing power.

Marital status of respondents is an important demographic characteristic. The majority (40.63%) of the respondents are not married. 28.13% of the respondents are married, 3.13% are separated, 21.9% are divorced and 6.3% are widowed.

The majorities (47%) of the respondents have primary education, 6.25% of the respondents are illiterate, 28.13% have basic education, and 12.5% have secondary education. The remaining

6.25% have some college education and above. Most of the respondents (81.3%) are below secondary education level. Therefore, as the focus group discussants and interview results revealed that educated women are better in giving better treatment for their children in the prison administration.

Regarding the occupation of the respondents prior to incarceration, 50% of the respondents reported they were retail traders, followed by daily laborers (25%), housewives (15.63%) and others constitute 9.4% such as employed in government and private organization. This indicates that most of the respondents were engaged in laborious activities which bring income to support their family. Thus, the incarceration of mothers may worsen the general condition of children of incarcerated mothers.

4.1.2. Demographic characteristics of children of Incarcerated Mothers

Table 2. Percentage Distribution of Children of Imprisoned Mothers by Age, Sex and Place of Residence.

Age	Frequency	Percent
< 1 year	7	25
1-5years	16	57.1
6-10 years	4	14.3
11-15 years	1	3.6
16-18 years	0	0
Total	28	100
Sex		
Male	17	60.7
Female	11	39.3
Total	28	100

Place of Residence		
In prison	22	78.6
Outside prison	6	21.4
Others	0	0
Total	28	100

Source: Survey Data, 2016

The questionnaires completed by the incarcerated mothers provided data represent 28 children. 82.1% of the children of incarcerated mothers were under 5 years old, about 14.3% were aged 6-10 years and the rest 3.6% were aged 11-15 years. The average age of these children was 6 years old. Male children have greater number than female children. The number of male children was 60.7% while the number of female children was 39.3%. Among the children of the interviewed mothers, the majority (78.6%) of the children were living with their mothers inside the prison while 21.4% of the children were living outside the prison such as in nearby institutional care, foster care and domestic adoption.

4.2. Pregnant Women and Child birth in the Prison Administration

The women prisoners were asked about pregnancy and child birth in the prison. Though most of the respondents who (71.9%) reported that they did not deliver a child in the prison administration. However, 5 incarcerated women delivered their babies while they are in the prison. At the time of survey 4 women were found pregnant. The pregnant women were asked whether there was any special place and treatment and services for incarcerated women during their pregnancy. The incarcerated women reported negatively and one answered positively. In addition, the incarcerated women were asked whether they are happy with the medical service that they received while they were pregnant. Three incarcerated women were happy and one was unhappy.

Concerning their pregnancy and child birth in the prison administration, the pregnant women stated that during their pregnancy they did not receive special food different from other prisoners even though nutritious food is important for the health of the fetus and the pregnant women. They usually eat the same type of food for their lunch and dinner. Similarly, they eat bread with tea for their breakfast. In addition, there was no additional food for the mothers while breast feeding. Furthermore, there was no psychosocial support that helps the women to deal with stress and other psychosocial issues during their pregnancy. There is lack of special treatment in prison during pregnancy. This indicates that the prison administration does not give much attention for the needs of pregnant women and for those who give birth in the prison. (In-depth interview and FGD results)

4.3. Reasons for Children living with their mothers in prison

Table 3. Why mothers preferred to care for their children together with them inside the prison

Reasons why mothers bring their children inside prison with them	Frequency	Percent
Nobody outside to care for child	16	57.1
Pregnant women admitted	3	10.7
Child needed breast feeding	5	17.9
Others	4	14.3
Total	28	100

Source: Survey data, 2016

Twenty-eight mothers, who have children inside prison, were asked to give information about the general condition of their children. As it is reported in the above table, the major reason for 57.1% of the women that influences them to have their children with them is lack of relatives who will take care of them outside the prison. This indicates that the mothers bring their children to prison because of lack of any other alternatives. In this regard one mother on the focus

group discussion stated that “if I had family or relatives who will take care of my kids it would have been different for my child, fortunately he ended up locked with me”. In addition, 10.7% and 17.9% of the respondents mentioned their reason of having their children with them was as a result of breast feeding and pregnancy during imprisoned. On the other hand, 14.3% of the respondents reported for the reason as others mentioned that because fear of revenge. The focus group discussants and key informants in the in-depth interview also strengthen this as the main reason for mother’s preferences to bring their children to prison with them.

Mothers who had children in prison were also asked about whether there is special area for mothers and their children in the prison administration or not. In response all the respondents indicated the presence of special area which is prepared for mothers with their children. With this regard, as the women explained about the characteristics of the special area, there is one room serving for pregnant women and women with children together. The room is found in the same compound with other prisoners and it is overcrowded accommodating 20-30 women and children in one room. Thus, it is difficult for the mothers to stay in the special area it like another prison cell.

The respondents said that the total budgeted for a child per day is 8 birr until the child reaches the age of 18 years unless the child got another means of survival. The budget allocated is insufficient to address the needs of children such as balanced food and other necessary materials. Most of the children living in the prison administration with their mothers are above 18 months. Nevertheless, these children are obliged to share food with their mothers. The interview made with one of the prison administration official explains that the prison administration allowed children to stay with their mothers after 18 months due to absence of other alternatives. The administration has been suffering with budget issues to address the children’s felt needs. The mother inmates do not have relatives or others who can take care of their children when they reach 18 months old. Though there are some alternatives like institutional care, foster care

and domestic adoption there is no well strengthened and structured system established to care and support the children of incarcerated mother's as a result there is no single child benefited from the designed programs. If the prison administration forced these children to live outside the prison without any support, the children might be in a more vulnerable situation than in the prison administration.

In general, mothers reported that there are no minimal facilities for educational development of children, nutrition, health care, recreation/play and accommodation in the prison administration for children living with their mothers.

From this presentation one can understand that the prison administration attempted to give special services for children in prison with their mothers. However, the type of service provided in terms of room/place assigned to children and their mothers and the budget allocated for a single child is too minimal. Furthermore, the services given to the children of incarcerated mothers are limited especially to those children who are above 18 months.

Table 4. Mothers Level of Happiness on the Medical Treatment of Their Children Received in Prison.

Level of Happiness	Frequency	Percent
Very Happy	2	6.25
Happy	3	9.4
Fairly Happy	9	28.13
Unhappy	13	40.63
Very unhappy	5	15.63
Total	32	100

Source: Survey data, 2016

The incarcerated mothers were asked to rate the level of their happiness over the medical treatment of their children received in the prison administration. As indicated in table 4 above, the majority of the respondents (40.63%) were unhappy about the medical treatment of their children received in the prison administration. In addition, (28.13%) of the respondents also stated that they feel fairly happy regarding the medical treatment offered to their children. Therefore, it is possible to say that the medical treatment children receive is not satisfactory.

The respondents were also asked about whether their children are attending school or not. Most of the respondents stated that their children in the prison administration did not attend school. The main reason is there is no well-organized educational system for those children who are at school attending age. In addition, there is no educational facility for those children who are of school age. This indicates that there are neither programs nor systems designed to send children to school or to prepare a kindergarten facility in the prison or the nearby compound.

The respondents were also asked whether prison has bad effect on their children or not. Accordingly, all the mothers stated that being in prison has had bad effect on their children. Respondents in the in-depth interview and focus group discussions have revealed how their children and the feeling of their children's are affected badly while in prison. The facilities in prison, according to the respondents, affect the physical and mental well-being of children. The children in prison lack proper nutrition, accommodation, proper clothing, proper hygiene, proper medical treatment in time of sickness, and facilities to play and recreate. As the incarcerated mothers further explained lack of these basic facilities affect the children's physical and mental development.

Besides, the prison environment is also one factor that affects healthier development of children. The focus group discussants and key informants pointed out that, children learn from their environment, but the nature of the prison would not provide suitable environment to chil-

dren take lesson out of it. They also pointed out, some women in prison are violent, addicted and use harassing language. These affect the children development negatively and imitate those behaviors from the inmates. These children are born and raised in confined place and this affects their capacity to explore and learn. All these things affect the psychological development of children. In addition, as the mothers indicated, when the children go out, it is difficult for them to adjust themselves with the community since they the children practice what they saw in the prison.

In dealing with this, mothers stated some of the behaviors that their children develop while reared up at prison are the following;

- Fear of strangers especially male,
- Develop delinquent behavior
- Consider themselves as prisoner
- Speak in their daily play predominantly about those individuals who are coming in and went out of the prison
- Talk taboo words and show bad behaviors and
- Children in prison are daily playing and talking about things related to arrest, crime and punishment.

Table 5. Number of children who are aware of their mother’s incarceration

Children know about mother imprisonment	Frequency	Percent
Yes	18	64.3%
No	10	35.7%
Total	28	100

Source: Survey data, 2016

As the above table 5 shows, majority of the children (64.3%) knew about their mothers' incarceration. Those incarcerated mothers who said their children knew about their incarceration asked about the reaction of their children. Mothers respond their children's feelings on their incarceration are as follows

- Hopelessness
- Worried about how to live without mother
- Deeply disrupted about what happened and what will be happening to their mothers
- Negative attitude towards the police who put their mother under arrest
- Nagging for their mothers
- Fear
- Lack of concentration in school and forgetting what they learned in class

Thus, the information from the mothers indicates these children are psychologically and emotionally hurt by their mothers' incarceration.

On the other hand, the respondents whose children did not know about the reason of their mothers' incarceration were asked the reasons that hinder their children to know about their incarceration revealed the following;

- There are children who are not mature enough to understand
- To save the children from being worried
- Not to harm the feeling of their children, and
- To prevail children 's healthy socialization

This indicates that, mothers of some children are trying to take some measures in order to not to hurt their children. However, this cannot be a solution because lack of information about mother's incarceration undermines children's ability to cope. It is also stated that children who

are not informed about their parent’s incarceration are more anxious and fearful (Johnson, 1995, cited in Hagan and Dinovitzer, 1999).

Table 6. Parent –Child Relationship

Item	Frequency	Percent
Child has communication with parents/relatives outside the prison		
Yes	13	40.62
No	19	59.37
Total	32	100
Child frequency of visit by parents/relatives outside the prison		
Daily	0	0
At least once a week	3	9.37
At least once a month	8	25
Less than once a month	2	6.25
No visit	15	46.9
Others	3	9.37
Total	32	100

Source: Survey data, 2016

The above table shows parent-child relationship during the time of incarceration. As can be seen from the above table, the majority (59.37%) of children have no communication with the rest of their family members/relatives outside the prison.

Regarding the children who are not visited by their parents/relatives outside the prison incarcerated mothers were asked to indicate the main reason. Accordingly, the mothers mentioned distance of the prison, economic problem, and unwillingness of parents /relatives, neighbors and friends to visit children in the prison, physical weakness of parents /relatives and death of father or close relatives.

4.4. Imprisoned mothers concern about the futurity of their children

Respondents were asked about their biggest worries and problems they have while they are in prison. As the respondents stated their main concerns are families particularly their children, their trial, health and their future.

The greatest concern of the incarcerated mothers in prison is that what is happening to their children. The incarcerated mothers in the prison administration stated their concern about their children as follows;

- The government gives me food, shelter and medical treatment but my concern is about my child
- I am worry about my child more than myself: whether he got food, good treatment, attend school etc.
- My child is not in school even though he reached school age
- I am worried about my daughter... she is only six years old but she spent most of her time alone. Am feeling bad on what's happening to her.
- It is the responsibility of my fourteen years old daughter to take care of herself as well as her aunt who has a mental challenge.
- I am worried about my child since my child's caretaker told me that she is no longer keeps my daughter.

4.5. Children's Interview Summary

In this study, five children whom their mothers are incarcerated were involved in interview. All of the children's age is ranged from 6 to 15. These children were mainly asked about their feelings of their mother's incarceration, availability of communication with the rest of their parents, close relatives, friends and basic problems faced because of their mother's incarceration.

The children were emotional and psychologically affected by their mothers' imprisonment. The major feelings expressed by these children were sadness, hopelessness, grievance, crying, hearted feeling, anger, guilt, fear, and problem in attending school. In addition, the children were extremely worried about their situation as well as their mother's condition in the prison administration.

The children mentioned a range of problems they faced due to their mothers' imprisonment. The major problems mentioned by these children were lack of basic needs, economic constraints and lack of recreation materials, lack of emotional and psychological support. They recommended economic, emotional, psycho-social support and other alternatives to improve their living situation

CHAPTER FIVE

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE STUDY

5.1. Conclusions

The imprisoned mothers living in Adama Prison Administration are destitute and found in unstable living condition. Most of them are single parents with one or more dependent children. Many of them are young and gave birth in their adolescence. They have low level of education and were engaged in minor trade that does not pay much.

Most of the respondents who are living in prison with their children indicated that they are forced to bring their children due to lack of alternatives. Children in prison are living under difficult situations and are deprived of their basic needs and rights. They lack proper nutrition, accommodation, proper clothing, proper hygiene, proper medical treatment in time of sickness, and recreational facilities. Lack of these basic facilities affects the children's physical and mental development. Besides, the prison environment in which the children live is hostile to their healthy psychological development. Thus, these children are more likely to suffer from psychological problems, which may manifest in some forms of antisocial behavior in later life and they may develop deviant behavior.

There is a trial made by the prison administration to give special service for children in prison with their mothers. However, the type of service provided in terms of room assigned to children and mothers and the budget allocated for a single child is too minimal. Furthermore, the prison service is limited to those children who are above the age of 18 months. Therefore, children who are above 18 months are forced to share their mothers' meal and other resources. As a result, children who are under 18 month lack appropriate nutrition. Along the side, since both of them shared one meal, it's not enough to them to get the appropriate nutritional value as a result the children development and growth are affected.

Parental incarceration can affect negatively the emotional, behavioral and psychological development of children. As stated by the mothers their children exhibit sadness, hopelessness, grievance, crying a lot, anger, guilt feelings, fear, concentration problem, and low self-esteem. In addition, children extremely worry about their situation as well as their mothers' condition in prison. Furthermore, children show negative attitude towards the police.

Even though it is important to maintain family contact, a significant proportion of the children did not have contact with their parents, close relatives, friends and neighbors. Distance from the prison, economic problems and unwillingness of parents or close relatives to visit incarcerated mothers and their children in the prison are the main causes that limit the relationship between incarcerated mothers and their children with parents, close relatives, friends and neighbors etc.

Children experienced a range of problems during their mother's incarceration. Accordingly, most of the children left outside were found to have problem in meeting the basic needs; health problems, school related problems, emotional and psychological problems. Besides, they lack the opportunity to play, recreate and they have problem in social relationship and socialization. Furthermore, they found to suffer from lack of parental care and support.

Considering that the fact that children of imprisoned mothers live in difficult situations and face many problems, social and economic support is important for the children to cope with the situation. However the research indicates that that there is lack of attention from policy makers, service providers, researchers as well as the larger society. Lack of support not only affects their current wellbeing and development but also their future. Therefore, these children are highly vulnerable and seek attention from the government and different sectors.

5.2. Recommendations

Based on the findings the following recommendations are made:

- The prison administration should draft and ratify policy about how to manage children's whose mothers are incarcerated. Including education opportunity. The program implementation can be in collaboration with the adult education which is regularly held in the prison or in collaboration with the nearby schools.
- Prison administration has to be made more sensitive and responsive to the problems of the children of incarcerated mothers. The prison administration should be provided with sufficient resources to ensure that physical and emotional development of the children living with their mothers in prison.
- Working in collaboration with international and local NGOs: focus on financing the programs to support the children and to fulfill necessary facilities inside the prison
- The prison administration staff should be provided training and orientation on how to deal with children during visit as well as how to care for children living in prison with their mothers by carefully looking which affects the children psychosocial development.
- Providing alternative arrangements and institutions for children of imprisoned mothers is necessary to ensure the safety of children. When women are arrested, it is important to ensure mothers can plan for alternative caregivers such as fathers, relatives, neighbors and friends.
- Female inmates who have children should be provided with appropriate training, skills, education and other psychological support in prison for their proper rehabilitation and better reintegration with the community. Encouraging voluntary individuals, associations and organizations to participate in helping mothers in prison can contribute a lot.

- Promoting family protection and support service is needed. The condition of children of imprisoned mothers becomes more challenging when their mother is imprisoned. The new care givers and the remaining partner might be overwhelmed or lack resources to meet the needs of the children. This condition might have an adverse effect on the psychological and emotional well-being of children. Empowering the family members to cope with the problem by using their strength and other external sources is important. It is necessary to maintain meaningful contact between the incarcerated mothers and other family members including children. Having a family to return is one of the most important factors to an offender's successful reentry into society and for their successful rehabilitation in prison.
- Counseling service should be provided for children. These children need counseling service since the criminal behavior exhibited by their parents prior to imprisonment, the trauma of parent-child separation, and the significant stigma associated with incarceration. In addition, counseling is important for children to release their anxiety; to alleviate their uncertainty; to build their self-esteem and confidence and deal with other psychological issues arises due to their mother's incarceration. Counseling is also important for the mother to deal with her concern about the children.
- Create awareness among the community members: children of incarcerated mothers faced stigma and humiliation in the community they live. The children are judged by their parent's act and treated badly. Therefore, awareness creation on the situation of children of imprisoned mothers to the community is needed by using conferences, community conversation and workshops. Here, religious leaders, teachers, politicians, law enforcement bodies, social workers have a considerable role.

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Annex

Questionnaire for Imprisoned Mothers

Only imprisoned mothers with children less than 18 years old will be asked to complete the questionnaire. The purpose of this research is to assess the condition of children of incarcerated mothers in general and to identify the problem of children of imprisoned mothers in particular. Any information you give will be kept confidential and get rid of after use. If you do not want to answer some of the questions, you do not have to.

Thank you very much for your willingness to be interviewed

I. Personal Information of Incarcerated Mothers and Their Children

1. Age _____
2. Marital Status: A. Married B. Single C. Divorced D. Separated E. Widowed
3. Educational Status:
 - A. Illiterate (can't read and write)
 - B. Basic education (read and writes only)
 - C. Primary Education
 - D. Secondary Education
 - E. College and above
 - F. Others (please specify): _____
4. Types of work before imprisonment
 - A. House wife
 - B. Domestic Servant
 - C. _____
 - D. Student
 - E. No Work

C. Civil Servant

F. Others (please speci-

fy):_____

Children of Incarcerated Mothers

5. Age:_____

6. Sex:_____

7. Temporary place of residence A. In prison B. In alternative care outside prison C. Others

II. Questions about Offence and Sentence

8. What is your correctional status?

A. Detained/ Suspect

B. Sentenced/ convicted

C. Others (please specify):_____

9. If your answer for question 5 is suspect how long have you been here?_____

10. If your answer for question 5 is sentenced how long is your sentence?_____

III. Questions for Imprisoned Pregnant Women

11. Have you been pregnant while you are in prison? A. Yes B. No
12. Did you give birth during your sentence in the prison? A. Yes B. No
13. Was there any special place and treatment for pregnant women? A. Yes B. No
14. Were you happy with the medical attention that you received while you were pregnant?
- A. Yes B. No

15. Would you please comment on anything else regarding your pregnancy or child birth which you think is important or which bothered you?

16. Did you live with your children before imprisonment? A. Yes B. No
17. Did you make any child care alternatives for your children before imprisonment?

A. Yes B. No

18. If "Yes" what kind of alternative?

19. If "No" why? _____

IV. Questions for Imprisoned Mothers who have Children in the Prison administration

20. Why do you preferred to bring your child with you?

21. Did you live in a place separated from other prisoners together with your child?

A. Yes

B. No

22. If “Yes” please comment on the facilities of your separate place?About cell met, health care, sleeping materials, access to schooling, food and other requirements ect. _____

23. Are you happy with the medical treatment, education access, food and other services in the prison?

A. Very happy

C. Unhappy

B. Happy

D. Very unhappy

C. Fairly happy

E. Others: _____

24. Does your children have the opportunity to leave the prison?A. Yes B. No

25. Does your child attend school? A. Yes B. No

26. If “Yes” where? A. Inside the prison B. Outside the prison C. Other: _____

27. If it is inside the prison is it formal/government or non formal?

28. If “No” why?

29. Do you thing that being in prison is having a bad effect on your child?

A. Yes B. No

30. If “Yes” why do you think this?

V. Questions for the prison administration officials

31. What are the main problems in the prison regarding the children of imprisoned mothers?

32. What should be done to improve the situation of children of imprisoned mothers?

33. Please tell me anything else about your experience in prison that you think is important

Thank you very much for your cooperation!

Observation guide

1. What kind of facilities available for the children and pregnant mothers?
2. Observing how the mothers and children interact?
3. Observing how the children treated by the prison administration?
4. Observing the children condition; while they are playing, eating and the relationship with the mothers.
5. Observe their development focus on their behavior and languages.

Focus Group discussion interview guide

1. Background information
 - Religion
 - Education level
 - Age
2. How do you describe the services and programs available for children and pregnant women?
3. Can you explain about psychological support offered by the prison administration?
4. How did you describe the management of children situation in general?
5. Will you describe your observation on children before and after they start living in the prison?
6. What can you tell me the general facilities that should improved for children, for breast feeding mothers and pregnant mothers?

Thank you very much for your cooperation!

PROFORMA FOR SUBMISSION OF MSW PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR APPROVAL FROM ACADAMIC CONSELLOR AT STUDY CENTER

Enrolment No: 109100781

Date of Submission: August 2015

Name of the Study Center: St. Mary's Open University

Name of the Guide: Mosisa Kejela (Mr.)

Title of the Project: THE CONDITION OF CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED MOTHERS; THE CASE OF ADAMA PRISON ADMINISTRATION, OROMIA REGIONAL STATE, ETHIOPIA.

Signature of the student:



Date: September 2015

Enrolment No: 109100781

Name: Mentwab Geday

Approved/ Not Approved

Address: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Date: Nov, 2016

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St. Mary's University

Address of the Advisor: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Signature:

**THE CONDITION OF CHILDREN OF IMPRISONED MOTHERS: THE CASE OF
ADAMA PRISON ADMINISTRATION, OROMIYA REGIONAL STATE, ETHIOPIA**

MSW DISSERTATION RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSAL (MSW)

BY:

MENTWAB GEDAY

ENROLMENT No: 109100781

PROJECT WORK ADVISOR

MOSISA KEJELA (Mr.)

INDIRA GHANDI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

September, 2015

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

1. Introduction

1.1. Background of the Study

Crime is a social problem, which threatens the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities as a whole. In all criminal justice systems, the number of offenders fined at the court, or sentenced to prison, men outnumber women by high proportion. The percentage of women in any prison system throughout the world varies between 2% and 8% (Coyle, 2002).

In many countries, tough anti- drug legislation has brought about a significance effect on the number of women in prison, as a result, the number of women in prison grew at a faster rate than the number of incarcerated men. Unlike men, women prisoners are often single parents with dependent children (Coyle, 2002). Therefore, many children are incarnated with their mother to get the care of their mothers. These children are at increased risk of coming in conflict with the law. Increased the risk of drug use, alcohol abuse, developed deviant behaviors and other problems are more likely to happen among incarcerated mothers' children (Anderson, 2005).

In most societies, women have primary responsibility to take care of their family particularly for children. Imprisonment of a mother will affect the whole family negatively. If a father is sent to prison, the mother will frequently take the family responsibility as a whole. However, if a mother is sent to prison, the father will not fully take the responsibility of bearing the, especially if there is no extended family support (Coyle, 2002). This directly linked with the socialization process that make women to stay in home and to be care giver and that encourage men to work at the public sphere. As a result, even with the existence of extended family support, the situation always puts emotional and economic stress on the family and it will have unpleasant effects for the children as well (McClain, 2002).

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics 1999 report, in 1999 more than 1.5 million children in the US had a parent in prison. Among these only 25 percent of the children stay with their mothers, when their fathers are imprisoned (Anderson, 2005). Hence, imprisoning the women break up the family than imprisoned the father. The community also feels the effect of the family disruption while the adult caretakers are unavailable for parenting and contributing as a citizen to their community (O'Brien, 2001).

1.2. Statement of the Problem

The children of prisoners are facing big challenges, which do not have direct relationship with what they did. They are the victims of their parent's fault doings. Even if there are many children who are affected by the incarceration of their parent's; incarceration of their mothers has more negative impact on children. The result is highly disproportional. (Baker and Cunningham, 2003). Unfortunately, there seems to be glaring lack of awareness and concern for these unseen victims. The punishment that these children suffer may not be intentional, but the effect is the same. These children have unique problems and special needs. They are often traumatized by the arrest and imprisonment of their mothers. In addition, in many cases forced separation from their mothers by itself is a cause of trauma to the children (Cited in Bloom, 1993).

In Ethiopia, the number of women incarcerated in prisons and police stations has grown very rapidly. The majority of these women are single mothers who were the sole caregivers of their minor children before being incarcerated (Mentwab, 2001). Although there are some research literatures available in relation to incarcerated mothers, there are no detail assessments that show the situation of children of imprisoned mothers in prison administration in the country. Thus, the situation of children of imprisoned mothers received little attention by researchers at all levels. This indicates that the situation of children of imprisoned mothers has not yet been investigated in detail.

Therefore, this study is initiated with the objective to assess the situation of children of imprisoned mothers and particularly aimed on how the children of imprisoned mothers survive in the time of their mothers' incarceration, identifying the services given to the children of imprisoned mothers, assessing the physical and psychological situation of children of imprisoned mothers in the prison and identify the major gaps on the services given to children of imprisoned mothers in *Adama* prison administration and what services and attention they need to improve their situation. Thus, identifying, analyzing, and understanding the situation of children of imprisoned mothers in prison administrations like *Adama* prison administration are needed to generate better knowledge on the issue, apply the alternative child care and support programs in the prison administration and others, make policy decisions, appropriate interventions and integrated efforts to reduce the number of orphan and vulnerable children (OVC) at all levels.

1.3. Objectives of the Study

1.3.1 General Objective

The general objective of the study is to assess the general condition of children of incarcerated mothers in Adama Prison Administration.

1.3.2. Specific Objectives

The study is particularly aimed:

- To identify the services given to the children of incarcerated mothers
- To identify the effects of mother's incarceration on children
- To recommend alternatives options for children of incarcerated mother's

1.4. Research Questions

Parallel with the above mentioned general and specific objectives, the study has also intended to answer the following research questions;

1. What are the services given to the children of incarcerated mothers' in the prison?
2. is there any alternatives for children of incarcerated mothers'?
3. Why did mothers prefer to bring their children to prison to live with them?
4. What are the effects of mother's incarceration on children?
5. What should be done to support children of incarcerated mothers?

1.5. Significance of the Study

Children of imprisoned mothers are least researched topic. This study will explore the situation of the children who are living in prison. The research will contribute in bringing the issues of children who are living in imprison to be considered by the implementers as well as policy makers. Additionally, it will create awareness for the society and other implementing stakeholders to focus on the children healthy development. Furthermore, the research is expected to fill the knowledge gap.

1.6. Universe of the study

The study will be undertaken in *Adama* prison administration, Eastern Shewa Zone of Oromia Regional State. The universe of the study will be consisting of all the children of incarcerated mothers in Adama prison administration. The reason that the research will selects all the women who have children in the prison and expected mothers are to increase the data credibility and to minimize error rate.

There are around 28 children of imprisoned mothers in the prison administration. The participants of the study will be 28 imprisoned women who have children in the prison, 5 children's and 4 pregnant imprisoned women, a total of 37 respondents will be selected.

Therefore, it will be appropriate to conduct the study on assessing the services given to the children, to identify the effects of mother's incarceration on children, to assess alternatives options for children of incarcerated mother's.

1.7. Scope of the research

The research focuses on exploring the reason why the children are living with their mother in prison and to examine to what services are provided to the children and how the prison are working for healthy development of the children. The research populations are those who are inmate of Adama prison administration.

1.8. Limitation of the research

Children who are living imprisonment are the least emphasized research topic. As a result of that its difficult to access relevant literature reviews. This research area is limited to Adam prison administration because of lack of resource and approval to be researched. Considering that all the respondents will be from one prison inmate it's difficult to generalize the overall children situation that are living with imprisoned mothers in Ethiopia.

1.9. Sampling Technique

The sample prison administration, one of the 119 prison administrations in the country will be selected purposively due to the convenience that will allow the researcher to do the study. The participants of the study will be 28 incarcerated women who have children in the prison, 4 pregnant incarcerated women and 5 children aged 6-15 years old.

1.10. Data Collection: Tools and Procedures

For this study, different studies tools will be used to collect the data so as to develop an accurate understanding of the topic of the research. Thus, different primary data gathering tools will be employed like questionnaire, focus group discussions, in-depth interview and observation.

The questionnaire and in-depth interview data gathering tools will be pre-tested and will be standardized and finalized.

a. Interview Schedule

To generate quantitative information structured questionnaire or interview guide will be undertaken on imprisoned mothers.

b. Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) Guide

Focus group discussants will be selected purposively. One focus group discussion will be held in the prison with six to ten participants with different age group, different religion, and different educational level. To minimize dominance and bias equal chances will be provided to each participant and their opinions, ideas and understandings will be documented manually by the researcher.

c. Interview Guide

A total of 4 interviews will be conducted with (one woman and children care and support division supervisor, one woman and children care and support officer, one psychosocial officer of the prison and one federal prison administration official).

d. Observation Guide

This helps to engender vivid data by observing the real setup of the environment, the treatment given and to formulate questions for better understanding of the situation being studied.

1.11. Interpretation and Data Analysis

The quantitative data will be analyzed using descriptive statistical techniques and results will be presented in tables and graphs. On the other hand, qualitative information is required to bring up detailed and specific issues that would complete the quantitative information. Thus, qualitative data will be analyzed by quoting, paraphrasing and photography.

1.12. Chapterization

The paper will have five chapters. Chapter one shall be an introduction part of the paper and an attempt shall be made mainly on the components of the proposal for the study. Chapter Two shall deal with literature review part of different materials from different academicians and practitioners. The third chapter shall be on the methodology applied in the study. Chapter four will present major findings of the study and detail discussions. Chapter five will be devoted to conclusions made from the study findings and recommendations.

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