

THE IMPACT STUDY OF COMMUNITY REHABILITATION PROGRAMME

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ABSTRACT

This study aims at investigating the perception and opinion of inmates towards Community Rehabilitation Programme (CRP) that was implemented by the Malaysia Prisons Department at five army camps. A total of 1,013 inmates participated as respondents in the study. The data were analyzed using SPSS for Windows by performing descriptive analysis and Pearson correlation. The results of the study showed that the majority of the respondents are youths (76.1%), Malay and Muslim (71.5%), single (53.9%), SPM educated (32.6%), self-employed (66.4%) and were involved in crimes for the first time (55.1%). The majority of the inmates evaluated the skills programme as moderate (65%) and high (34.7%). Only 0.3% of the respondents gave a low evaluation towards the skills programme that they had undergone. For the domain of non-repeating criminal offences, the majority of the respondents provided a high evaluation (57.4%) to non-repeating crimes. Only 0.3% of the respondents showed a tendency to repeat their criminal activities. The findings of the CRP impact revealed that the respondents provided a high evaluation (78%) to the CRP impact. Only 0.4% of the respondents shows a low evaluation of the CRP impact. For overall evaluation of the CRP, the majority of the respondents gave it a moderate (70.3%) and high (24.7%) evaluation. Only 5% of the respondents involved in this study had a low evaluation of the CRP. The findings discovered several important implications in terms of the Malaysia Prisons Department facing the challenges to ensure that the CRP implemented for the inmates is successful in rehabilitating them to become individuals with good behavior according to the norms of social life.

Keywords: *Community Rehabilitation Programme (CRP); Malaysia Prisons Department; non-repeating criminal, inmates, recidivist.*

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INTRODUCTION

The Malaysia Prisons Department plays a very prominent role in ensuring that inmates undergoing imprisonment will join back the community as people who have fully recovered. Being inspired by the mission to remould the people who conducted wrongdoings, prison rehabilitation programme has been undergoing a process of transformation where rehabilitation is not only held in prisons, but it is also implemented outside the prison walls. This is due to generating a process of assimilation and adjustment between the inmates and the community in order for them to fully accept the inmates when they are no longer prisoners so that they can adopt good behavior in accordance with the norms of acceptable social life. Therefore, the Malaysia Prisons Department introduced a Community Rehabilitation Programme (CRP) or *Program Pemulihan Pemasarakatan* (PPP) in 2011 as a response to the government's aspiration to lower the number of crime rates by reducing the readmission of former prisoners (recidivists) to prisons after they were released. The programme also aims to solve the problem of overcrowding of inmates in the prisons across Malaysia via the placement of the inmates in five military camps throughout the country.

RESEARCH BACKGROUND

Community Rehabilitation Programme (CRP) or *Program Pemulihan Pemasarakatan* (PPP)

CRP stands for "Community Rehabilitation Programme" which is an additional programme to the Parole System that is implemented outside the prison walls. It is a programme under the National Blue Ocean Strategy (NBOS), which was introduced by the Malaysia Prisons Department in 2011 as an initiative to achieve the vision of the National Key Results Areas (NKRA) or *Bidang Keberhasilan Utama Negara* to decrease crime rates by reducing the number of recidivists. This programme is a collaboration between the Malaysia Prisons Department (MPD) and the Malaysian Armed Forces (MAF) as a continuation of the rehabilitation programme in prisons for inmates who are also known as the Supervised Persons or *Orang Diselia* (ODS) to prepare them for their new adjustment and integration into the society before they are released. Among the activities included in the programme are the inmates to be employed for some jobs and at the same time participate in the rehabilitation programmes prepared for them and they will be placed at military camps with the cooperation and assistance contributed by the MAF. The six military camps that have commenced the implementation of CRP are as follows:

- a. Mahkota Camp, Kluang, Johor
- b. Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah Camp, Jitra, Kedah

- c. Desa Pahlawan Camp, Kelantan
- d. Batu 10 Camp, Kuantan
- e. Syed Sirajuddin Camp, Gemas
- f. Paradise Camp, Kota Belud, Sabah (not included in the scope of the study because this camp only started to operate in October 2015)

Among the activities involving the inmates with respect to the CRP are the ones related to agriculture; fishery; area maintenance such as mowing the lawn, cleaning the surroundings and buildings, beautifying the area and landscaping; carpentry; and minor repairs. The members of the CRP programme will be provided with some training apart from incentives as a preparation for their new lives after being released. Besides, they are still required to continue the rehabilitation programmes run by the Malaysia Prisons Department. Among the benefits received by the ODS selected in this programme are monthly incentive of RM200.00, more frequent and face-to-face family visits, and the ODS's involvement in projects associated with modern agriculture and fishery. They also will be given the opportunity to take some short-term courses for skill development provided by the Malaysian Prisons Department in collaboration with government agencies such as Malaysian Agriculture Research and Development Institute (MARDI), MUDA Agriculture Development Authority (MADA), Malaysia Pineapple Industry Board (*Lembaga Nenas*), Community College (*Kolej Komuniti*) and *Pusat Giat MARA*. Apart from this, they also need to attend the religious classes and counselling sessions organized by the Malaysia Prisons Department, *Kor Agama Angkatan Tentera* (KAGAT) MAF, the Social Welfare Department (*Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat*), the National Population and Family Development Board (*Lembaga Penduduk dan Pembangunan Keluarga Negara*) and religious institutions.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

CRP is one of the initiatives involving rehabilitation programmes outside the prisons besides the execution of the Compulsory Attendance Order and Half Way House (*Perintah Kehadiran Wajib dan Rumah Perantaraan*). However, until today, there has been no research conducted on such initiatives implemented in order to identify the impact of the CRP on the inmates involved. Such a study is imperative to be carried out for the purpose of evaluating the rehabilitation programmes which are conducted by the Malaysia Prisons Department with the assistance supplied by the MAF. The study on the evaluation of the CRP under the NBOS collaboration needs to be done to investigate if it meets the principles of NBOS which are low cost, high impact and rapid execution.

In addition to resolving the problem of congestion of inmates in prisons, the CRP also focuses on skill training, religious knowledge improvement and motivation for

the ODS. Therefore, it is important to assess whether the programmes conducted pertaining to skill development can fulfill the needs of the ODS and whether they can generate confidence in the ODS to apply their knowledge and skills after being released. Through the CRP, the Malaysia Prisons Department is required to examine and identify the factors that can prevent the ODS from repeating their criminal offenses.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

In general, this study was conducted to determine the perceptions and views of the ODS regarding the impact of the CRP. Specifically, this study intends to:

- a. Identify the profiles of the ODS involved in the CRP in relation to demographic factors.
- b. Determine the level of the implementation of the skill programmes, perception on non-repetition of crimes, programmes implementation assessment and the impact of the CRP.
- c. Identify the relationship between the implementation of the skill programmes; perception on non-repetition of crimes; as well as programmes implementation assessment; and the impact of the CRP.

SIGNIFICANCE OF RESEARCH

This study aims to provide some insights on the impact of the implementation of the CRP by the Malaysia Prisons Department and the MAF through the NBOS programme. The study also is expected to be able to supply information to the public about the role of the Malaysia Prisons Department in designing and planning effective rehabilitation programmes for inmates during their prison sentence. The impact of the CRP indirectly presents a positive outlook to the society in relation to the government's efforts through the Malaysia Prisons Department in rehabilitating prisoners in order for them to return to the society positively after being released from prisons. Indirectly, this study can assist to evaluate and improve the rehabilitation programmes that are conducted for the objective of meeting the core mission of the establishment of the community rehabilitation centers whether they can offer positive outcome for the deviants or the opposite.

SCOPE OF RESEARCH

The study focuses on individuals' views through the research design of cross-sectional data collection or current research where the respondents were selected during the period of the study. The respondents chosen were limited to the ODS

who were involved in the CRP conducted at the military camps and not the ODS who had been freed. Therefore, this study is restricted to only the ODS who were part of the CRP carried out at the military camps and thus this study does not represent the whole prisoners. The ODS were selected from among those who had participated in the CRP for at least three months. The prisoners chosen for the CRP in the military camps are required to undergo Phase 1 Human Development Programme or *Fasa 1 Program Pembangunan Insan* (PPI) at their original prisons. This study also concentrated on the impact of the CRP on the ODS involved in only the five camps. The study does not revolve around other areas of study such as cost saving, community and other agencies' involvement, or infrastructure development.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employed a mixed method which is a combination of cross-sectional study and survey method. The design of the study involved questionnaires being distributed to the ODS in the community rehabilitation centers or *Pusat Pemulihan Masyarakat*. This survey study is a quantitative research with a data collection conducted using the survey method through the administration of questionnaires. Such a research method that involves questionnaire in this study is actually a well-known method in social studies (Vaus, 1990) and is also an efficient technique to collect data besides the data being easier to analyze. It is also cost saving and suitable for gathering sensitive data that has a problem in terms of response rates (Patten, 2001).

SURVEY RESPONDENTS

In this research, the respondents of this survey study comprised of the entire population of the ODS in the five CRP camps. Nevertheless, the main criteria of the respondents decided involved those who had undergone the CRP for at least three months. This was due to the fact that only those who had experienced the skill programmes conducted in each CRP camp could answer the questionnaire pertaining to the implementation and impact of the CRP. Overall, the number of respondents were 1,013 as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Number of Respondents of the Community Rehabilitation Programme (CRP)

No.	Community Rehabilitation Centers	Number of respondents
1	Mahkota Camp, Kluang, Johor	182
2	Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah Camp, Alor Setar, Kedah	209
3	Kem Desa Pahlawan Camp, Kota Bharu, Kelantan	162
4	Batu 10 Camp, Kuantan, Pahang	167
5	Syed Sirajuddin Camp, Gemas, Negeri Sembilan	293
TOTAL		1,013

Source: Authors, 2016.

DATA ANALYSIS

The data was analyzed using SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) version 22. Descriptive information such as frequency, percentage and mean were generated. The calculation of mean values was done for each of the variables which were the implementation of the skill programmes, perception on non-repetition of crimes, the assessment of the CRP and the impact of the CRP. The mean scores would determine whether they could be classified into low, medium or high. Pearson correlation analysis was employed to examine the relationships, while the t-test analysis was executed to see the differences.

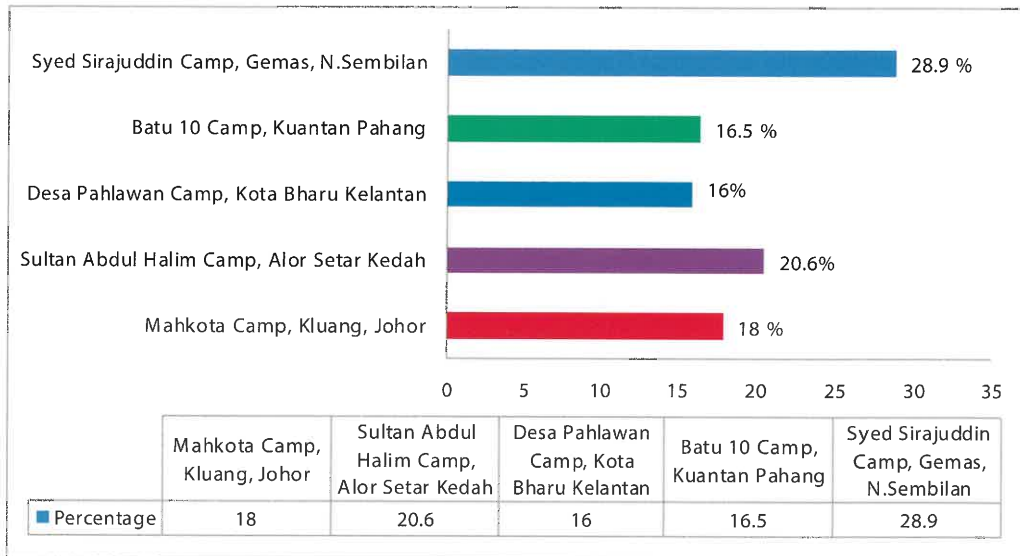
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Demographic Profiles of the Respondents

a) The number of respondents in the community rehabilitation centers

The investigation related to the impact of the CRP consisted of 1,013 ODS. Table 1 and Table 2 showed that the majority of them were the ODS placed in Syed Sirajuddin Camp in Gemas, Negeri Sembilan (28.9% was equivalent to 293 people), Sultan Abdul Halim Camp in Alor Setar, Kedah (20.6% was equivalent to 209 people), Mahkota Camp in Kluang, Johor (18% was equivalent to 182 people), Batu 10 Camp in Kuantan, Pahang (16.5% was equivalent to 167 people) and Desa Pahlawan Camp in Kota Bharu, Kelantan (16% was equivalent to 162 people).

Table 2: The Number of the Respondents in Community Rehabilitation Centers

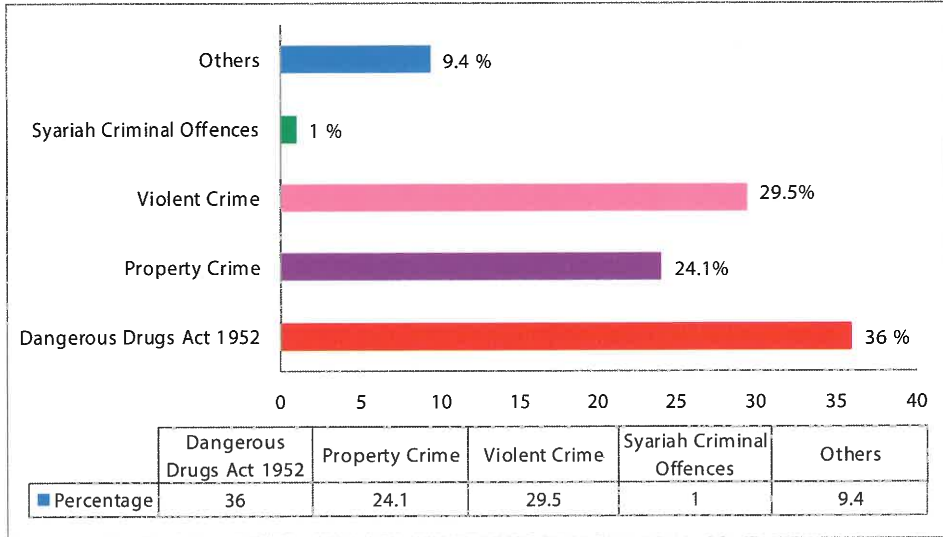


Source: Authors, 2016.

b) The Categories of the Criminal Offences of the ODS

Based on the categories of the criminal offences of the ODS, the results in Table 3 showed that the majority of the respondents who participated in this study consisted of those convicted of offences under the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952 (36% was equivalent to 351 people), violent crime (29.5% was equivalent to 258 people), property crime (24.1% was equivalent to 258 people) and syariah criminal offences (1% was equal to 10 people). On the other hand, the rest of the participants were comprised of those committing other types of offences (9.4% was equivalent to 95 people) such as offences pertaining to the Poisons Act, the Corrosive and Explosive Substances Act, the Crimes Prevention Act, the Criminal Code of Syariah Offences, the National Registration Act and the Road Transport Act.

Table 3: The Categories of the Criminal Offences of the ODS

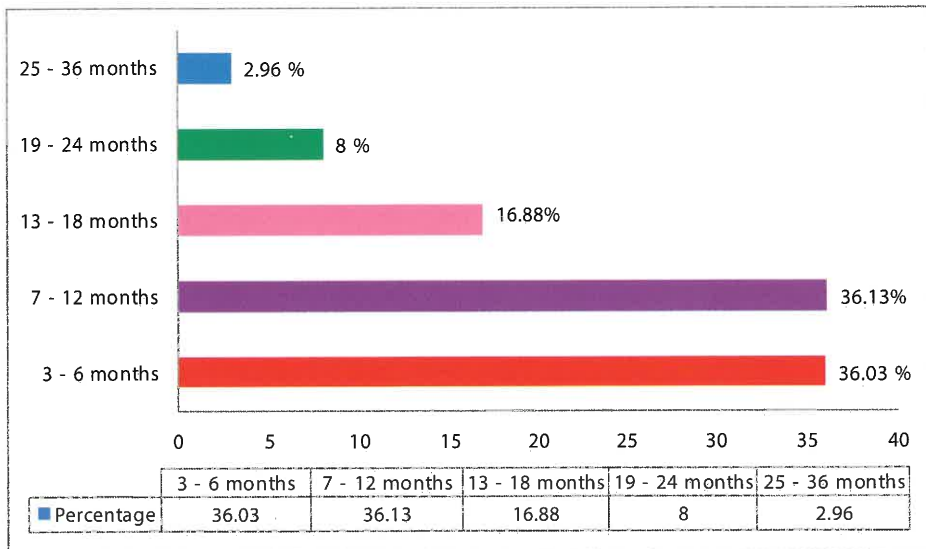


Source: Authors, 2016.

c) The Duration of Being in the Community Rehabilitation Centers

With respect to the period of the ODS being involved in the CRP, the results in Table 4 showed that the majority of the ODS who participated in the study were those undergoing the CRP within 3 - 6 months (36.03%). On the other hand, the rest of the respondents made up of those who had gone through the CRP for 7 - 12 months (36.13%), 13 - 18 months (16.88%), 19 - 24 months (8%) and 25 - 36 months (2.96%).

Table 4: The Duration of Being Involved in the CRP

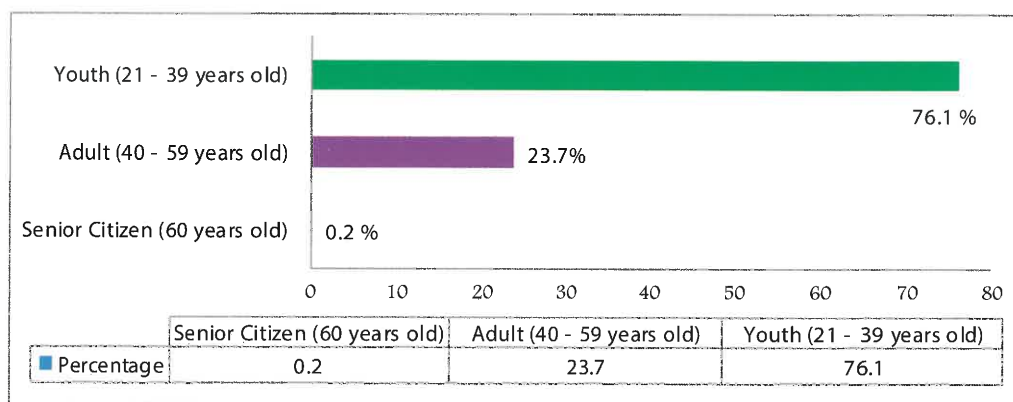


Source: Authors, 2016.

d) Age

The study conducted on the ODS undergoing the Community Rehabilitation Programme (CRP) discovered that the minimum age of those involved in the study was 21, while the maximum age was 60. Once the analysis was completed, the results in Table 5 revealed that there were three age groups identified in this study where the respondents were categorized as ‘youth’, namely those aged between 21 - 39 years old, ‘adults’ referred to those aged between 40 - 59 years old and ‘seniors citizens’, who represented those who were of 60 years old. The results showed that the majority of the respondents who participated in this study consisted of those who belong to the youth group, which made up of a total of 750 participants (76.1%), while there was a total of 233 adult respondents (23.7%) and as for the senior citizen group, there were only two respondents (0.2%).

Table 5: The Ages of the Respondents

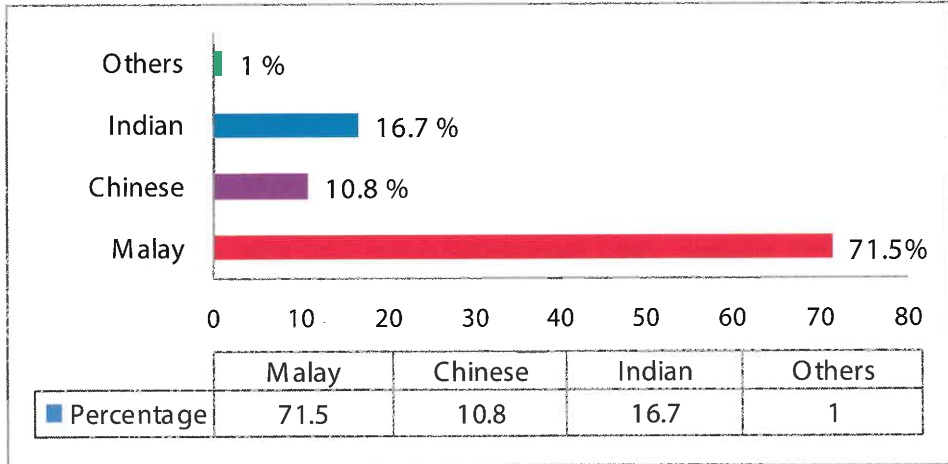


Source: Authors, 2016.

e) Race

The results of the analysis as presented in Table 6 depicts that most of the ODS involved in this study are Malays who are Muslims with a total of 718 participants (71.5%). On the other hand, the rest of the respondents are Indians who are believers of Hinduism that comprised of 170 respondents (16.7%), the Chinese who are known as Buddhists that consisted of a total of 110 respondents (10.8%) and the remaining participants making up of other ethnicities, namely Sikh, Bajau, Dusun, Iban and Murut with a total of 10 (1%).

Table 6: The Ethnicities or Races of the Respondents

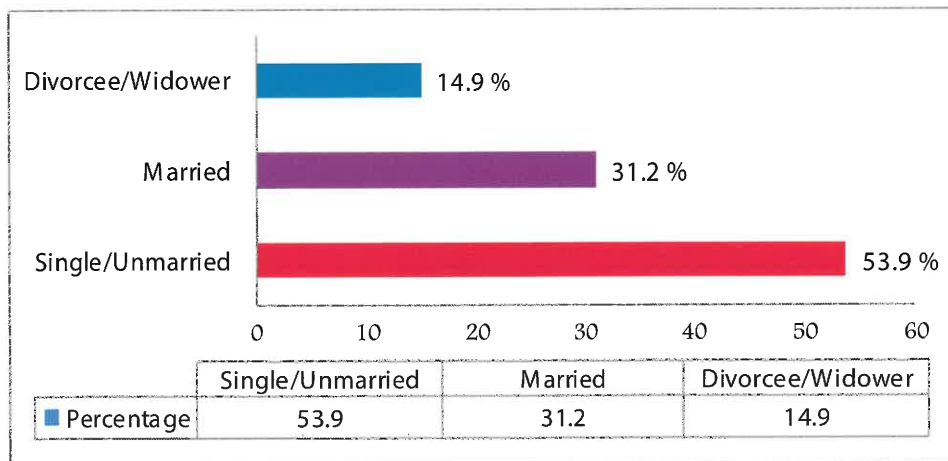


Source: Authors, 2016.

f) Marital Status

For the data regarding marital status as in Table 7, most of the ODS that were represented by a total of 542 people (53.9%) involved in this study were single or of unmarried status. In contrast, a total of 317 respondents (31.2%) comprised of those who were married and have families. The data further revealed that a total of 151 respondents (14.9%) who participated in this study were divorcees and widowers.

Table 7: Marital Status of the Respondents

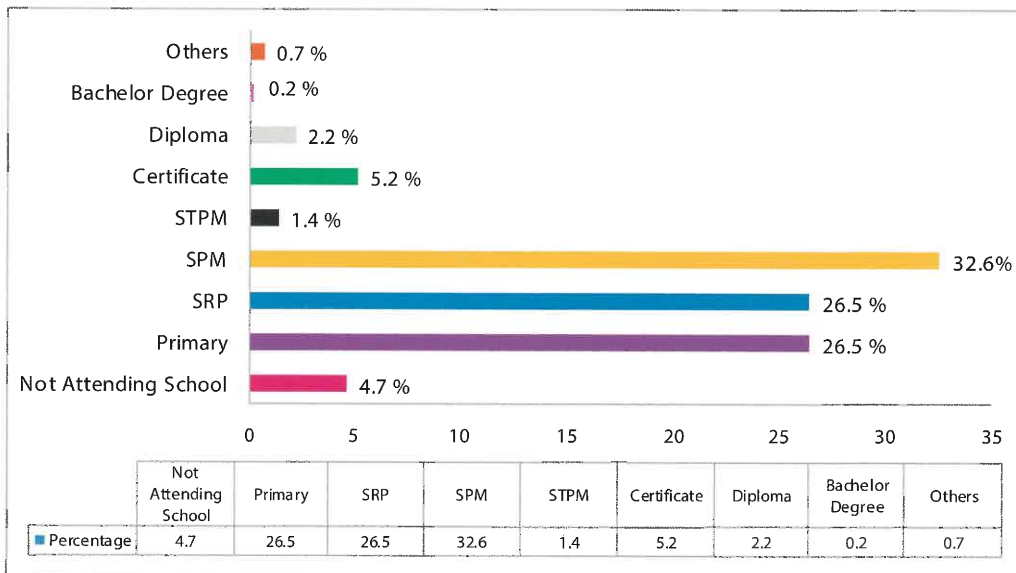


Source: Authors, 2016.

g) Education Level

As for educational level as shown in Table 8, a total of 323 respondents (32.6%) who were involved in this study have academic qualifications of SPM level. The remaining respondents have SRP and they comprise of 269 persons (26.5%), while another 269 persons (26.5%) only finished primary school as their highest educational level, 48 respondents (4.7%) did not attend school, and finally 14 participants (1.4%) possess STPM as their highest academic qualification. Although the results of this study discovered that the majority of the respondents are those who only have the academic qualification of secondary school level, there are also respondents who have academic qualifications of a higher level such as Diploma that is represented by 22 participants (2.2%), while two respondents (0.2%) have a Bachelor Degree, 53 participants (5.2%) possess certificates of certain skills, and the remaining respondents comprising of seven people (0.7%) are those who completed Form Two and those who attended Transitional School (0.7%). Overall, the study found that the majority of the ODS involved in this study consisted of those who have a low level of education and only a small fraction of them have higher level academic qualifications. The low level of education that represented the majority of the ODS confirmed that the findings and views of the literature containing a number of western studies linked low level education to criminal activities (Harlow, 2003; Buonanno & Leonida, 2006; Meghir et. al, 2011).

Table 8: The Respondents' Educational Levels

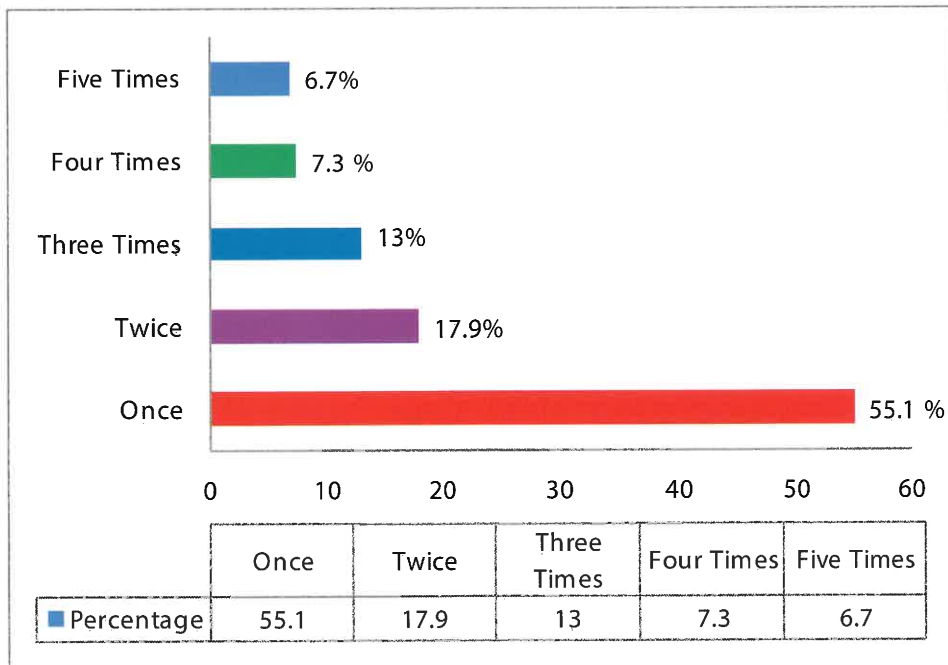


Source: Authors, 2016.

i) The Frequency of Being Sent to Prisons

The data obtained in Table 9 revealed that the majority of the respondents (55.1%) are those who have only been sent to prison once. The percentages of the respondents who were repeatedly sent to prison are as follows: 182 respondents (17.9%) used to be sent to prison twice, three respondents (13%) have been sent to prison three times, 74 participants (7.3%) have been sent to prison four times and the remaining respondents composing of 6.7% stated that they are used to be sent to prison for five times.

Table 9: The Frequency of Being Sent to Prisons

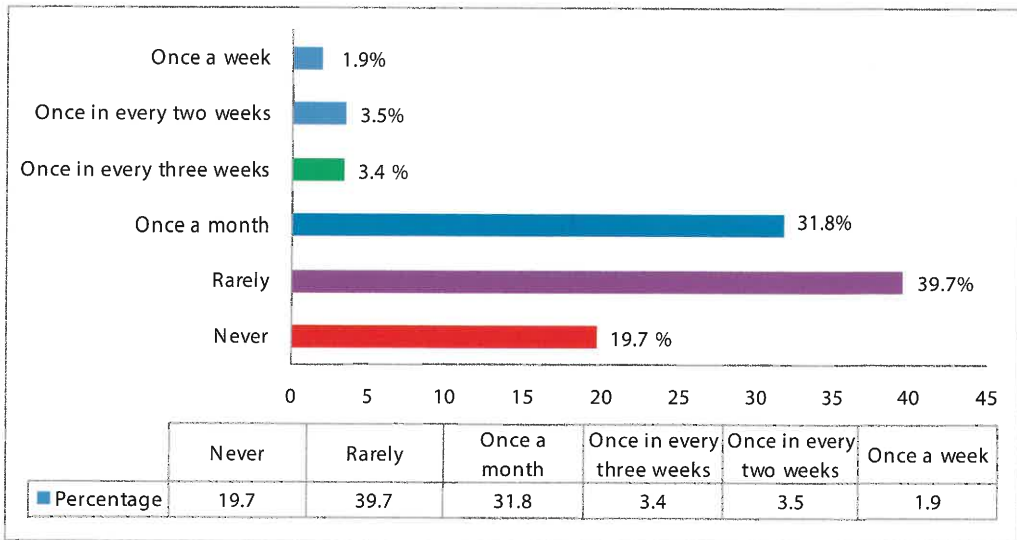


Source: Authors, 2016.

j) The Frequency of Family Visits

The study as shown in Table 10, discovered that the majority (39.7%) of the respondents admitted that their family rarely visited them while they were undergoing the community rehabilitation programme. The other respondents revealed that their family only visited them with a frequency of once a month (31.8%), never came to visit them (19.7%), came to visit them once in every two weeks (3.5%), came to visit them once in every three weeks (3.4%) and finally came to visit them once a week (1.9 %).

Table 10: Frequency of Family Visits

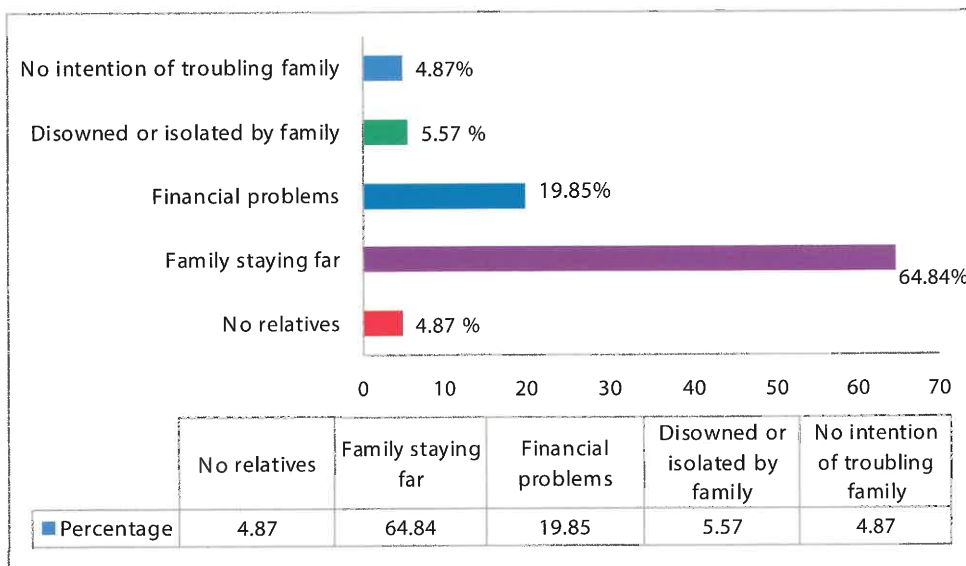


Source: Authors, 2016.

k) The Factors Influencing the Non-visiting of Respondents by Their Family

The study as shown in Table 11 found that the majority (64.84%) of the respondents stated that the factors leading to their family not coming to visit them was due to their family living far away from where they were placed for the community rehabilitation programme, financial problems (19.85%), having no relatives (4.87%), being disowned or isolated by their family (5.57%) and having intention of not troubling their family to visit them (4.87%).

Table 11: The Factors Influencing the Non-visiting of Respondents by Their Family

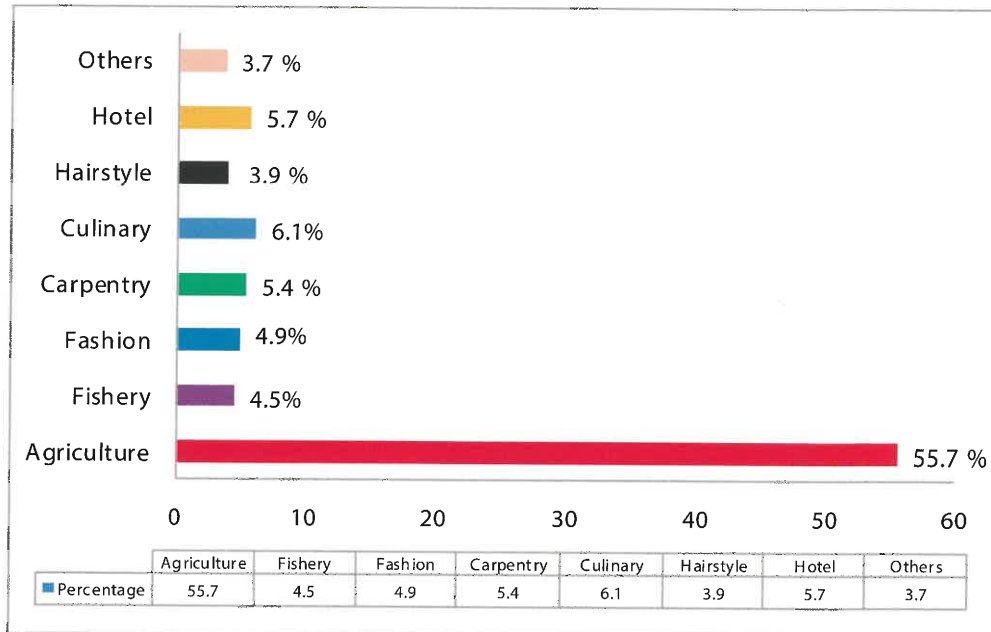


Source: Authors, 2016.

I) The ODS’s Interests for Career Options

Based on the data identifying the ODS’s interests for career, the study as shown in Table 12 found that the majority of the respondents involved in this study were interested in careers related to agriculture (55.7%), culinary (6.1%) and hotel (5.7%). The remaining respondents were interested in careers associated to carpentry (5.4%), fashion (4.9%), fishery (4.5%), hairstyling (3.9%) and other fields such as business, mechanic work, wiring and automotive engineering which were represented by 3.7% of the participants. The input regarding the classification of the career interests of the ODS is important due to the fact that it can function as a useful source of information to the Malaysian Prisons Department for the purpose of long-term planning as well as career and skill programme designing specifically for catering to the ODS’s interests in the future. Providing skill programmes based on the career interests of the ODS is able to generate their interest to work and subsequently to transform them into independent individuals after their completion of the community rehabilitation programme.

Table 12: The ODS's Interests for Career Options



Source: Authors, 2016.

The Implementation of Skill Programmes

The study that was conducted on the ODS who were completing the vocational or skill programmes incorporated in the CRP, discovered that the majority of them rated the programmes that they were involved in as of moderate level (65%) as compared to only 34.7% of them who rated the programmes as of high level. Only 0.3% of the respondents rated the vocational programmes they participated in as of low level. Such results of this study indicated an overall good evaluation by the majority of the respondents regarding the implementation of the skill programmes by the Malaysia Prisons Department (Table 13).

Table 13: The percentages regarding the Evaluation of the Implementation of the Skill Programmes in Community Rehabilitation Centers

Level	Number	Percentage	Min
Low	3	0.3	
Medium	656	65	43.647
High	352	34.7	
Total	1011*	100.0	

Notes: Low (15 - 29), Medium (30 - 44), High (45 - 60)

*No response: 2

Source: Authors, 2016.

Respondents' Evaluation

As presented in Table 14, the results of the study revealed that the majority of the ODS (95%) admitted that they were optimistic that the programmes designed by the Malaysia Prisons Department (MPD) for them were able to help them improve their skills after their release from prison (item 1). The skill programmes prepared by the MPD also assisted them to recognize their capabilities (96.3% - item 2), make them feel more confident to start working (70% - item 3), help to cultivate their interest in working (95.2% - item 4), improve their knowledge of work discipline (96.9% - item 5) and make them realize the importance of work in life (97.1% - item 6). The ODS in majority who were represented by 87.8% also expressed their opinion that the timetable prepared for the skill programmes in the CRP was sufficient and appropriate (item 7) apart from it being perceived as not a burden (77.7% - item 8), offering time for recreational activities (78.7% - item 9) and giving respondents sufficient time for leisure activities (86.6% - item 10).

The research also discovered that most of the ODS involved in the study admitted that by joining the CRP, they had the opportunity to learn all the skills available in the CRP (84% - item 11), they managed to improve their skills related to the fields of their studies while completing the CRP (89.4% - item 13), and they believed that the skills acquired through this programme would assist them in getting a job (85.7% - item 14). A total of 60.7% of the ODS on the other hand disagreed as well as strongly disagreed with the statement mentioning that the skill programmes held at the community rehabilitation centers were not designed based on their interests (item 12). The study further discovered that the majority of the ODS agreed and strongly agreed with the statement that mentioned the skills learned from the programmes they were involved in could be applied to help them support their family financially after their release in the future (83.6% - item 15).

Table 14: The Details and the Percentages regarding the Respondents' Evaluation of the Implementation of the Skill Programmes involved in the CRP

No.	Statement	Strongly Disagreed	Disagreed	Agreed	Strongly Agreed	Strongly Disagreed	Disagreed	Agreed	Strongly Agreed
		Percentage (%)				Number (n=1013)			
1.	Able to enhance the acquired skills after release.	1.8	2.4	67.4	27.6	18	24	683	280
2.	Making me aware of my own advantages.	0.9	2.4	67.2	29.1	9	24	681	295
3.	I still feel inferior to work.	15.6	54.4	19.7	8.3	158	551	200	84
4.	Nurturing interest to work.	1.8	2.1	57.4	37.8	18	21	581	383
5.	Improving knowledge on work discipline.	0.6	1.6	59.3	37.6	6	16	601	381
6.	Making me aware the importance of working in live.	3	1.4	44	53.1	3	14	446	538
7.	The schedule prepared was sufficient and compatible.	1.4	10.3	68.8	19	14	104	697	192
8.	The schedule prepared was burdensome.	15.4	62.3	16	5.8	156	631	162	59
9.	I have no space for exercise activities.	17.4	61.3	13.1	7.4	176	621	133	75
10.	I have enough time to relax and for exercise activities.	2.4	10.3	64.2	22.4	24	104	650	227
11.	I have the opportunity to learn all of the skills prepared in CRP.	2.7	12.8	58.7	25.3	27	130	595	256
12.	Skills programme that was prepared in CRP did not fulfill my interest.	9.3	51.4	30.6	8.1	94	521	310	82
13.	The programme that was undertaken has improved my skills in the related field.	2.3	7.9	69	20.4	23	80	699	207
14.	I feel more confident with the skills learnt to apply for jobs.	2.1	11.7	61.4	24.3	21	119	622	246
15.	I am capable of supporting my family using the skills acquired.	2.9	13.2	57.1	26.5	29	134	578	268

Source: Authors, 2016.

Even though in general, the majority of the ODS involved in this study provided a positive and satisfying overview regarding the skill programmes that they were completing, the Malaysia Prisons Department should still pay attention to several things related to the skill programmes implemented for the ODS. This is due to the fact that the data of the study revealed that more than 20% which was equivalent to more than 200 people out of all the ODS participated in this study had given negative feedback with respect to some aspects. Among the negative responses were the fact that there were some ODS who felt unconfident to work (28% was equivalent to 284 people), who considered the timetable prepared for the skill programmes was burdensome (21.8% was equivalent to 221 people) and the programmes offered were not based on their career interests (38.7% was equivalent to 394 people).

Factors for Non-repetition of Criminal Offences

Based on the results of the investigation conducted on the ODS who were undergoing the CRP, Table 5 revealed that the majority of those involved in this study presented a high level of evaluation (57.4%) besides moderate level (42.3%) in terms of repeating criminal activities. Only 0.3% of the respondents participated in this study revealed a tendency to repeat committing crimes. This study reflects a positive result where the majority of the ODS in this study indicated a low inclination towards repeating criminal offences.

Table 15: The Percentages and Levels Pertaining to Non-Repetition of Criminal Offences

Level	Number	Percentage	Min
Low	3	0.3	57.525
Medium	427	42.3	
High	580	57.4	
Total	1,010*	100.0	

Notes: Low (7 - 13), Medium (14 - 21), High (22 - 28)

*No response: 3

Source: Authors, 2016.

Based on Table 16, the results exposed that most of the ODS involved in the study admitted that they were determined not to repeat the criminal offences that they had committed in the past (95.6% - item 1). A large number of the respondents (88.2%) stated that they would not get involved with their friends who could lead them back to prison (88.2% - item 2). The study further discovered that the majority of the ODS in the study believed that they could refrain themselves from committing the same criminal activities (95.5%-item 3) and they also realized

that the crimes they did were offenses (90.5% - item 4). Most of them also acknowledged that hardship in life (51.7% - item 5) and drugs (59.6% - item 6) were the factors that could influence them to re-engage in criminal activities. Nevertheless, most of the respondents perceived that continuous support from their family could help them to abstain themselves from committing criminal offences again (91.6% - item 7).

Table 16: The Percentages regarding evaluation of the Implementation of the CRP by the ODS

No.	Statement	Strongly Disagreed	Disagreed	Agreed	Strongly Agreed	Strongly Disagreed	Disagreed	Agreed	Strongly Agreed
		Percentage (%)							
1.	I am determined not to repeat my criminal behavior.	1.3	2.8	41.0	54.6	13	28	415	553
2.	I will not mix with friends that will lead me back to prison.	2.1	8.8	43.8	44.4	21	89	444	450
3.	I am confident I can stop committing past offences.	0.7	3.5	49.2	46.3	7	35	498	469
4.	The crime that I committed was an offence.	5.1	3.7	51.5	39	52	37	522	395
5.	Financial problems was the cause I became involved with crimes.	12.4	35.4	40.9	10.8	126	359	414	109
6.	Drug caused me to repeatedly commit criminal behavior.	16.1	22.8	42.3	17.3	163	231	429	175
7	Family support helped me prevent myself from committing crimes again.	4.6	3.2	27.5	64.1	47	32	279	649

Source: Authors, 2016.

The Impact of the CRP

Based on the results of the study related to the impact of the CRP conducted on the ODS as shown in Table 17 it was discovered that the majority of those who participated in this study presented a moderate level (21.6%) and a high level (78%) with respect to impact assessment. Only 0.4% of the respondents who participated in this study showed a low level of impact assessment of the CRP. Overall, such results of the study reflected that the majority of the ODS in this study viewed that the community rehabilitation programme they were undergoing had given a positive impact on their recovery.

Table 17: Percentage regarding the Levels of the Impact of the CRP

Level	Number	Percentage	Min
Low	4	0.4	57.525
Medium	219	21.6	
High	787	78	
Total	1010*	100.0	

Nota: Low (17 - 33), Medium (34 - 51), High (52 - 68)

*No response: 3

Source: Authors, 2016.

As presented in Table 18, the study managed to disclose that the majority of the ODS involved in the study agreed and strongly agreed with the idea that the CRP had assisted the respondents to diminish their negative attitude (93.1% - item 1), to become more disciplined (96.7% - item 2), to increase their self-confidence (93.7% - item 3), to develop their comprehension of their religion (95.1% - item 4) and to improve their physical health (95.9% - item 5).

The results of this study further discovered that 93.1% (item 6) of the ODS agreed and strongly agreed with the statement that mentioned; after their completion of the CRP, most of them confidently found it was easier for them to mingle with the people around them and they perceived that the CRP they had joined in was extremely useful as a preparation for their lives after being released (90.6% - item 7). Most of the respondents (86.7% - item 8) also agreed and strongly agreed that the programme they were participating in to be expanded outside the community rehabilitation centers. Besides, they in majority believed that after attending the programmes involved in the CRP, they could think more positively (93.9% - item 9) apart from being convinced that their future would be better after participating in the CRP (90.8% - item 10).

In addition, the study also managed to reveal that the majority of the ODS involved in the study admitted that the programme handled by the MPD had given them many benefits (91% - item 11) and helped them to prepare themselves

for their release (85.8% - item 12). They also mostly claimed that they enjoyed participating in the CRP (88% - item 13) and considered this programme to have assisted them to improve their perseverance (94.1% - item 14). Besides, the majority of those who participated in the study agreed and strongly agreed that there should be more religious programmes (94.5% - item 15) and counseling programmes (87.9% - item 17) in the CRP. On the other hand, most of them agreed and strongly agreed that the module related to helping them to deal with the negative perception of them by the society to be incorporated in the CRP (94.4% - item 16).

Table 18: The Percentages regarding the Impact of the CRP

No.	Statement	Strongly Disagreed	Disagreed	Agreed	Strongly Agreed	Strongly Disagreed	Disagreed	Agreed	Strongly Agreed
		Percentage (%)				Number (n=1013)			
1.	CRP helped to normalize my bad behavior.	1.9	4.4	58.5	34.6	19	45	593	351
2.	CRP made me more disciplined.	0.1	4.1	57.7	37.8	1	42	584	383
3.	CRP helped to improve my self-confidence.	0.5	4.2	61.5	32.2	5	43	623	326
4.	CRP was able to improve my understanding in religion/belief.	0.6	3.6	52.5	42.6	6	36	532	432
5.	CRP was able to improve my physical fitness.	0.4	3.5	65.1	30.8	4	35	659	312
6.	After undergoing CRP, it was easier for me to socialize with other people.	0.9	5.4	66.7	26.4	9	55	676	267
7.	The programme that I joined in CRP was very useful for me after my release.	0.9	8.2	57.3	33.3	9	83	580	337
8.	This programme needs to be continued outside CRP.	2.7	10.3	60.3	26.4	27	104	611	267
9.	I can think more positive after undergoing CRP.	1.4	4.3	68.8	25.1	14	44	697	254

No.	Statement	Strongly Disagreed	Disagreed	Agreed	Strongly Agreed	Strongly Disagreed	Disagreed	Agreed	Strongly Agreed
		Percentage (%)				Number (n=1013)			
10.	I feel my future is much better after undergoing CRP.	0.7	7.8	61.3	29.5	7	79	621	299
11.	The programme that I joined in CRP was very beneficial for me.	0.9	7.2	64	27	9	73	648	274
12.	CRP was more than enough for me as a preparation before release.	2.0	11.9	63.9	21.9	20	121	647	222
13.	I enjoyed undergoing the CRP.	2.1	9.8	61.5	26.5	21	99	623	268
14.	CRP helped to improve my resiliency.	0.5	5.1	72.9	21.2	5	52	738	215
15.	Religious programmes need to be increased at CRP.	1.2	4.0	51.5	43.0	12	41	522	436
16.	CRP needs to prepare a programme to help me overcome society's negative perceptions.	0.8	4.5	58	36.4	8	46	588	369
17.	Guidance and counseling programme needs to be increased in CRP.	3.6	8.3	53.2	34.7	36	84	539	352

Source: Authors, 2016.

The Overall Evaluation of the CRP

Based on the study conducted on the evaluation of the CRP as shown in Table 19, overall, it was found that the majority of those who participated in the study provided a moderate level for the assessment (70.3%) as well as a high level of the assessment (24.7%) of the CRP that the respondents participated in. Only 5.0% of the respondents in this study expressed a low level of evaluation of the CRP generally. The results of this study illustrated that the CRP as a whole was good and it received positive feedback from the majority of the ODS who were involved in the CRP.

Table 19: Percentages regarding the Evaluation Levels of the CRP

Level	Number	Percentage	Min
Low	50	5.0	19.351
Medium	705	70.3	
High	250	24.7	
Total	1005*	100.0	

Notes: Low (7 - 13), Medium (14 - 21), High (22 - 28)

*No response: 8

Source: Authors, 2016.

As depicted in Table 20, the study revealed that 86.3% of the ODS involved in this study considered the CRP a satisfactory and very satisfactory programme (item 1). The respondents mostly viewed the treatment given by the Prison Officers (74.5% - item 2) and Military Officers (95.7% - item 3) to be satisfactory and very satisfactory. In terms of the environmental perspective of the camps chosen for the CRP, the majority of the ODS had the idea that the existing environment in the camps (90.3% - item 4) and the purchases of their daily necessities (57.5% - item 5) were satisfactory and very satisfactory respectively. Although the majority of the ODS provided a positive view towards the overall execution of the CRP, there are a few aspects that need to be given special attention by the Malaysian Prisons Department with regards to the implementation of the CRP. This is due to the fact that the results of the study conducted exposed that most of the ODS felt dissatisfied with the management of the Malaysian Prisons Department in dealing with the matters related to the supply of uniforms (53.4% - item 6) as well as the preparation and supply of food for them (53.7% - item 7). The study also found that 41.4% (equivalent to 420 people) of the ODS were not satisfied with the management style of the CRP personnel in handling matters related to their daily needs. The issues discovered from the analysis of the results of this study need to be given attention to in order to improve the management system associated with the ODS involved in the CRP for the purpose of ensuring that the basic things do not affect the main objective of the Malaysia Prisons Department which is to inculcate a positive attitude among the ODS, so that they will not repeat committing crimes and they can be independent as well as can adapt to the society after their release.

Table 20: The Percentages with Regard to the Overall Evaluation of the CRP by the ODS

No.	Statement	Very Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Very satisfactory	Very unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Very satisfactory
		Percentage (%)				Number (n=1013)			
1.	CRP programme/module and rehabilitation	3.2	9.3	67.2	19.1	32	94	681	193
2.	Prison Officers' treatment	8.2	16.3	54.2	20.3	83	165	549	206
3.	Army Officers' treatment	0.9	2.7	64.8	30.9	9	27	656	313
4.	CRP camp environment	2.5	6.2	64.8	25.5	25	63	656	258
5.	The management of buying daily needs in CRP	14.1	27.3	45.5	12	143	277	461	122
6.	ODS's uniform supply	16.3	37.1	38.2	7.7	165	376	387	78
7.	ODS's food preparation and supply	25.6	28.1	34.4	10.9	259	285	348	110

Source: Authors, 2016.

The Relationship between Skill Programmes, Perception on Non-repetition of Crimes, Evaluation of the CRP and Impact of the CRP

The findings showed that there was a significant relationship between the skill programmes and the impact of the CRP, $r = 0.445$, $p < .0001$. This implies that the higher the score of the perception towards the skill programmes, the higher the score of assessment of the CRP impact. The results also revealed that there was a significant relationship between the perception on non-repetition of criminal offences and the impact of the CRP, $r = 0.2820$, $p < 0.0001$. Besides, the study discovered that the ODS that provided a high score to the perception on non-repetition of crimes, contributed a high score as well to the impact of the CRP. Finally, the study managed to disclose that there was a significant relationship between the evaluation of the CRP and the impact of the CRP, $r = 0.375$, $p < .0001$. The findings of this study showed that the higher the score of the evaluation of the CRP, the higher the score of the impact of the CRP given. These results are presented in Table 21.

Table 21: The Relationship between Skill Programmes, Perception on Non-repetition of Crimes, Evaluation of the CRP and Impact of the CRP

Subject	Impact of the CRP
Skills Programme	0.445*
Perception on Non-repetition of Crimes	0.280*
Programme evaluation	0.375*

Source: Authors, 2016.

RESEARCH SUMMARY

The findings showed that most of the respondents are Malay youths and almost half of them are single. The majority of them possess SPM qualification as their highest educational qualification and most of them were sent to prison for the first time. Based on the data regarding the frequency of family visits, nearly half of the respondents claimed that their family rarely or never visited them in the CRP camps. The main factors for this situation were due to some difficulties such as their family living so far away and this required a substantially high cost for visiting them in the community rehabilitation centers.

The data from the descriptive analysis indicated that the assessment of the implementation of the skill programmes in the CRP was at a moderate level. The majority of those involved in the study provided a high level to the assessment of the perception on non-repetition of crimes. Based on the data of the evaluation of the programme as a whole, the majority of those who participated in this study provided a moderate rate to this assessment. However, most of the respondents in the study gave a high score with respect to the evaluation of the impact of the CRP. The majority of the ODS involved in this study perceived that the community rehabilitation programme they were involved in managed to contribute to a positive impact on their recovery.

The results of the study were analyzed by employing correlation analysis. The finding showed that there was a significant relationship between the skill programmes and the impact of the CRP that this reflected a condition where a high score was given to the skill programmes that influenced a high score given to the impact of the CRP in rating it. The results also showed that there was a significant relationship between the perception on non-repetition of crimes and the impact of the CRP. The findings implied that the implementation of the CRP could help the ODS to refrain themselves from committing crimes again. On the other hand, the results showed a significant relationship between the programme evaluation and the impact of the CRP where the higher the score given to the assessment of the programme, the higher the score given to the impact of the CRP as well.

The findings of this study can lead to some implications. Firstly, based on the results from the survey conducted, the Malaysian Prisons Department can place the ODS near their family so that their family can frequently visit them. This is due to the fact that family visit and social support are the major factors that can prevent a prisoner from recidivism. A strong family support can assist them in refraining themselves from committing criminal activities again in future.

The Malaysian Prisons Department also is recommended to give attention to several things related to the skill programmes implemented for the ODS. One of the things that the Malaysian Prisons Department should do is to identify the skills that the ODS are interested in as individuals. This can be done with the help of psychologists and counselors at the Malaysian Prisons Department that can administer standard tests pertaining to career interests based on Holland Career Interest. By involving the ODS in the skill programmes that meet individual's interests, the skill programmes they participated in are not merely an obligation but also an activity that will be continued outside the CRP and prisons. This can ensure that they can plan for their future jobs based on their interests that can be supported by many government agencies in order for them to generate stable income in living their lives after their imprisonment.

Therefore, the programme joined by the ODS can be continued outside the community rehabilitation centers by taking into consideration the fields other than agriculture, fishery, hotel, hairstyling and landscaping. The areas of career such as machinery, fashion, catering and machine repairing can be introduced and expanded in all community rehabilitation centers. The existing skill programmes in the CRP now are quite limited and are only available at certain community rehabilitation centers. Besides, government agencies such as AIM and TEKUN can be invited to give lectures and training to the ODS regarding the opportunities and funds that can be applied after their completion of the CRP and imprisonment. Even though the prisoners possess the skills that they learned while being in prison, if they are not supported financially, they will probably not be able to transform the skills that they have into a career because there are no financial resources. The Malaysian Prisons Department can create more collaborations and strategic linkages with various government agencies that have continuous programmes for prisoners after they are released from prison.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Among the recommendations that may be suggested to the department are:

a) Increasing the number of CRP in all regions in Malaysia

To realize the NBOS's initiative, it is proposed that the CRP is extended nationwide in Malaysia. It is intended to facilitate the visits of family members for the

ODS who have never been visited. This is evident since the results of the study discovered that the majority (39.7%) of the respondents admitted that their family rarely visited them while they were undergoing the community rehabilitation programme. This is because the study found that the majority (64.84%) of the respondents revealed that the factors leading to their family not being able to visit them was due to their family living so far away from the community rehabilitation center where they were placed at. Besides, the existence of the CRP can help solve the problem of overcrowding of prisoners in prisons and subsequently can accommodate 2/3 of the population of prisoners who are serving their prison sentence by placing them outside the prisons.

b) Increasing the Number of Counselling Officers

Apart from being in need of help from job agencies for employment, the ODS also need counseling to improve their self-confidence to face future challenges after their release. This is because there are ODS who are lack of confidence in being employed (28%) after their release even though they managed to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills in the CRP while serving their prison sentence. Therefore, it is proposed that the prison authorities increase the number of the officers in the CRP and to give counseling and guidance to the existing counseling officers from time to time.

c) Maintaining and Improving the Existing Programmes

Among the improvements proposed are religious and skill programmes. With regard to religious programmes, the survey results showed that only 23.3% of the respondents did not receive formal religious education when they were in school. Therefore, there should be more religious programmes at the community rehabilitation centers to enable them to learn more about religion. Cooperation with agencies such as JAKIM, KAGAT and others should be amplified. Such idea about religious programmes are in line with a study conducted by Clear, Stout, Dammer, Kelley, Hardyman and Shapiro (1992) that proposes that religious programmes are one of the programmes that can result in a positive impact on prisoners. In fact, they claim that being exposed to religious elements is related to a decrease in the number of recidivists (Clear et. Al., 1992).

In terms of skill courses, the results of this study shows that the majority (55.7%) of respondents favours training in agriculture while a total (38.7%) of respondents have interest in other fields such as cooking, craftsmanship, fashion designing, hairstyling, sewing, hotel, mechanics, wiring and automotive engineering. Thus, the existing programmes and activities should be continued as most of the ODS revealed that they enjoyed being part of the CRP (88%) and believed the programmes helped improve their perseverance (94.1%). The implementation of skill programmes could contribute to a positive impact on the prisoners as discovered in the study by Davis (2013) that found that the inmates who received

vocational education and training showed a significant relationship with respect to not returning to prison after being released. Brunton-Smith and Hopkins (2013) suggested that by improving the skills of prison inmates before they are freed will help the inmates in finding jobs, strengthening their patience and supporting their family financially. Similarly, Western and Becky Petit (2010) argue that the skill trainings that are participated by the prisoners while serving their parole term can assist them in getting jobs after they join the community.

d) Disseminating Information Related to the CRP

In order to help the ODS gain confidence when dealing with social stigma after their release, the Malaysia Prisons Department has to double its efforts in disseminating information related to the CRP to the public. Among the things that the department should do are to continue 'Message From Prison' programme whether by organizing exhibitions and public talks outside the prison or through a series of talks on social media involving interviews with the prison officers or the ODS. Besides, the Malaysia Prisons Department can also promote the products of the CRP to the public through carnivals organized by the government such as MAHA programme, FAMA Carnival and so on.

e) Improving Daily Affairs Management

The Malaysia Prisons Department should pay attention to the daily affairs management at the community rehabilitation centers, such as the supply of uniforms, food and the purchase of daily necessities. This is due to the results of the study that discovered that although the majority of the ODS provided a positive view of the CRP in general, there are some things that need to be given special attention by the Malaysia Prisons Department in the implementation of the CRP. The study revealed that the majority of ODS felt dissatisfied with the management of the Malaysia Prisons Department in dealing with matters related to the supply of uniforms (53.4%) and the preparation and supply of food for them (53.7%). The study also managed to obtain the data that showed as many as 41.4% of the ODS felt dissatisfied with the management style of the CRP in dealing with the matters pertaining to their daily needs.

f) Introducing Relapse Prevention Module

The study discovered that the majority of the respondents, 59.6% of them admitted the main factor that can influence them to reinvolve in criminal activities is drugs. Therefore, it is recommended that the Malaysia Prisons Department create a special module called Relapse Prevention Module. This module aims to provide education to ODS on how to deal with situations that can lure them back into taking drugs in order for them not to repeat committing crimes. Cooperation from

the National Anti-Drugs Agency or *Agensi Antidadah Kebangsaan* (AADK) is required in the implementation of the module.

In addition, there should be modules that are tailored specifically for ODS before they are released to give some confidence to the public that after being involved in the CRP, the ODS are now been fully recovered. This is because the majority of the ODS agreed and strongly agreed that the module related to assisting them in facing the negative views of the society be introduced in the CRP (94.4%).

g) Building More Intelligent Collaborations with Various Government Agencies and Private Organizations.

To diversify the skill programmes for the ODS undergoing rehabilitation in the community rehabilitation centers, the prisons department should establish intelligent collaborations with various government and private-sector agencies including universities so that all kinds of skill training can be incorporated in the programme. Among the areas that can be explored other than agriculture and fishery are mechanical engineering, fashion designing, catering, culinary and machine repairing. Government agencies such as AIM, TEKUN and community colleges can be invited to give training and talks to the ODS on the opportunities and funds that can be applied when they are released from the CRP and prison. The Malaysia Prisons Department can also create more collaborations and strategic linkages with various government agencies that have continuity for the prisoners after their imprisonment.

h) Maintaining and Enhancing Cooperation with ATM

Overall, the results of this study revealed that the majority of the ODS involved in this study felt that the community rehabilitation programme they participated in managed to contribute to a positive impact on their recovery. Therefore, this study suggests that the CRP is to be continued by enhancing the cooperation with the ATM in the years to come. It is necessary for both parties to resolve the issue of lack of infrastructure in the military camps apart from the issue of handling the purchases of daily necessities in the CRP.

CONCLUSION

The results of this study illustrates the CRP handled by the Malaysia Prisons Department (MPD) as a whole is good and it receives positive feedback from the majority of the ODS participating in the CRP. The findings suggest several implications for the MPD that is faced with the challenges in its attempt to ensure that the community rehabilitation programme available for the ODS can

help them to recover towards transforming themselves into individuals who can behave accordingly to the norms of social life. The skill programmes implemented in each community rehabilitation center should be continued with more strategic future plans such as the ones that meet the ODS's career interests. The modules emphasizes on improving the relationship between the ODS and their family as well as counseling and spiritual guidance programmes that should also be introduced as part of the efforts made for the purpose of improvement. The continuous guidance and motivation for the ODS are to ensure good behavior of the ODS and reduce crime rates. Collaboration between the Malaysia Prisons Department and the Malaysian Armed Forces in carrying out the community rehabilitation programme should also be improved for both parties' benefits.

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