



Research Seminar on Criminology and Criminal Sanctions in Finland

The Impact of the Prison Environment on Behavioral Changes of Inmates: A Study of Inmates in Kosovo and Finland

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Overview

- Short Introduction of researchers
- Purpose of the study
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About Authors

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Purpose of the Research

The primary purpose of this research was to:

- Understand the impact of prison environment that has on the behavior and conduct of inmates in Kosovo and Finland, and in turn, compare the resulting data with one another.



In a photo, President Obama visiting Federal Prison El Reno in 2015, Getto Image.

Review of Literature

Irland et al. (2016), in a study in Canada using sample of 423 male adult inmates, and also using sample of 195 correctional officers to measure the degree of bullying inside prisons found that there was an association between characteristics of prison environment that promote bullying, and weak communication between correctional officers and inmates was the main cause.

Lipsey dhe Wilson (1993) using 302 meta-analysis about the variety of educative programs, found that inmates had behavior changes due to these programs at higher level than those who did not taker programs at level of 24%

Methodology

- Qualitative Methodolgy though face to in-depth interview design.
- Purposeful Sample Selection in Suommelina and Vanaja Prisons.
- Vourlentarly Participation .
- Semi-Structured Questionary.
- Working Inmates in Finland 13 Male and 11 Female.
- Working Inmates in Kosovo 12 Male and 10 Female.
- Informed Consent Form Signed by Each Participant.



Methodology

- Interviews Through Voice-recording
- 29.08.2017 Began the Study on Kosovo Prisons, and Completed in December 2018 in both countries Finland and Kosovo.
- In Finland the Study Began in May upon Approval of CSA of the Research Permit #7/332/2018
- Average Time of Interivew was 30 Minutes to 1 hrs.
- From Every Trascript Coding Process was the Initial Phase Where Themes Derived.
- Two Databases were Created in MS Excel for Data Analysis.

Demographics of Inmates

Education		
Kosovo Inmates	#	Finland Inmates
Elementary School	4	2
High School	12	9
Associate Degree	1	0
Bachelor	5	10
Master	0	2
Ph.D	0	1
Total	22	24

Crime Comitted		
	#	Finland Inmates
Kosovo Inmates		
Homicide /Manslaughter	5	8
Attempted Homicide	2	1
Fraud	4	3
Tax Fraud	0	1
Sexual Offences	0	1
Nacotics	3	5
Violence/Assult	0	3
Trafficking	1	0
Contaband with Immigrants	1	0
Money Laundry	2	1
Robbery/Property thefts	2	1
Racless Driving	2	0
Total	22	24

Findings Kosovo

Part I the impact of environment and regrets of past criminal behaviors

1. How do you see the prison life?

17 out of 22 inmates (9 males and eight females) think that life in prison is not good (Classification, freedom of movement etc).

2. Do you think that living under prison rules and regulations had an impact on your behaviors positively or negatively?

12 out of 22 (5 male and seven female) participants answered that the prison environment had a positive impact, while 6 participants (4 males and two females) answered that it had a negative impact, while 5 answered (3 males and one female) that it did not have a positive or negative impact.

3. If you would have imagined all this process of imprisonment, punishment, would you have done what you did knowing that would lead you to prison?

20 out of 22 (9 females and 11 males) answered that they would have never done what they did if they knew they would be imprisoned.

4. Do you regret the previous behaviors why you are here?

21 out of 22 answered that they feel very regretful for their behaviors that led them to prison

5. What have you learned from your experiences good or bad that in future will impact your decision-making?

17 out of 22 (among them five females and 12 males) declared that they have learned from negative experiences.

6. Which is the worst (the dissatisfaction point) feeling from the arrest up to the moment of the interview?

11 out of 22 (6 males and five females), declared that the most unhappy moment from the arrest to the moment of the interview was court processes.

8 (6 males and two females) declared that the abolition of benefits within prison system was the most dissatisfied point.

Part II Staff behaviors with inmates and inmate behaviors with each other

7. How correctional officers behave with inmates?

17 out of 22 (10 males and seven females) declared that staff behaviors are good or somehow good, while two male participants declared that staff behaviors are very good, and three female inmates declared that staff behaviors are bad.

8. How is your physical security inside the prison?

17 out of 22 (9 females and 8 males), declared that they feel that their physical security from officers is good.

9 out of 10 female participants declared that there are groups of female inmates that can be violent.

Part III Programs

1. Have you ever offered therapeutic such as group therapy, psychological therapeutic programs during your stay in prison?

22 out of 22 participants declared that they have never been offered a program such as a group therapy or other psychological therapy and rehabilitation.

Inmates in Finland

Part I the impact of environment and regrets of past criminal behaviors

1. How do you see the prison life?

All 24 participants see prison in a positive light, and think that prison life was good for them.

2. Do you think that living under prison rules and regulations had an impact on your behaviors positively or negatively?

All participants answered that prison life offered them new opportunities and had positively impacted their lives.

3. If you would have imagined all this process of imprisonment, punishment, would you have done what you did knowing that would lead you to prison?

23 out of 24 indicated that they would have never done what they did not because of punishment but because they felt bad about their past behaviors.

4. Do you regret the previous behaviors why you are here? ?

23 out of 24 answered that they feel very regretful for their behaviors not because such Behaviors led them to prison but also to have caused victims pain.

5. What have you learned from your experiences good or bad that in future will impact your decision-making?

20 out of 24 declared that they have learned from good experiences.

6. Which is the worst (the dissatisfaction point) feeling from the arrest up to the moment of the interview?

22 out of 24 , declared that the most unhappy moment from the arrest to the moment of the interview was being away from family.
2 declared that courts were disappointing.

7. How correctional officers behave with inmates?

All participants declared that officers behaved correctly

8. How is your physical security inside the prison?

All participants declared that physical security inside prisons was good.

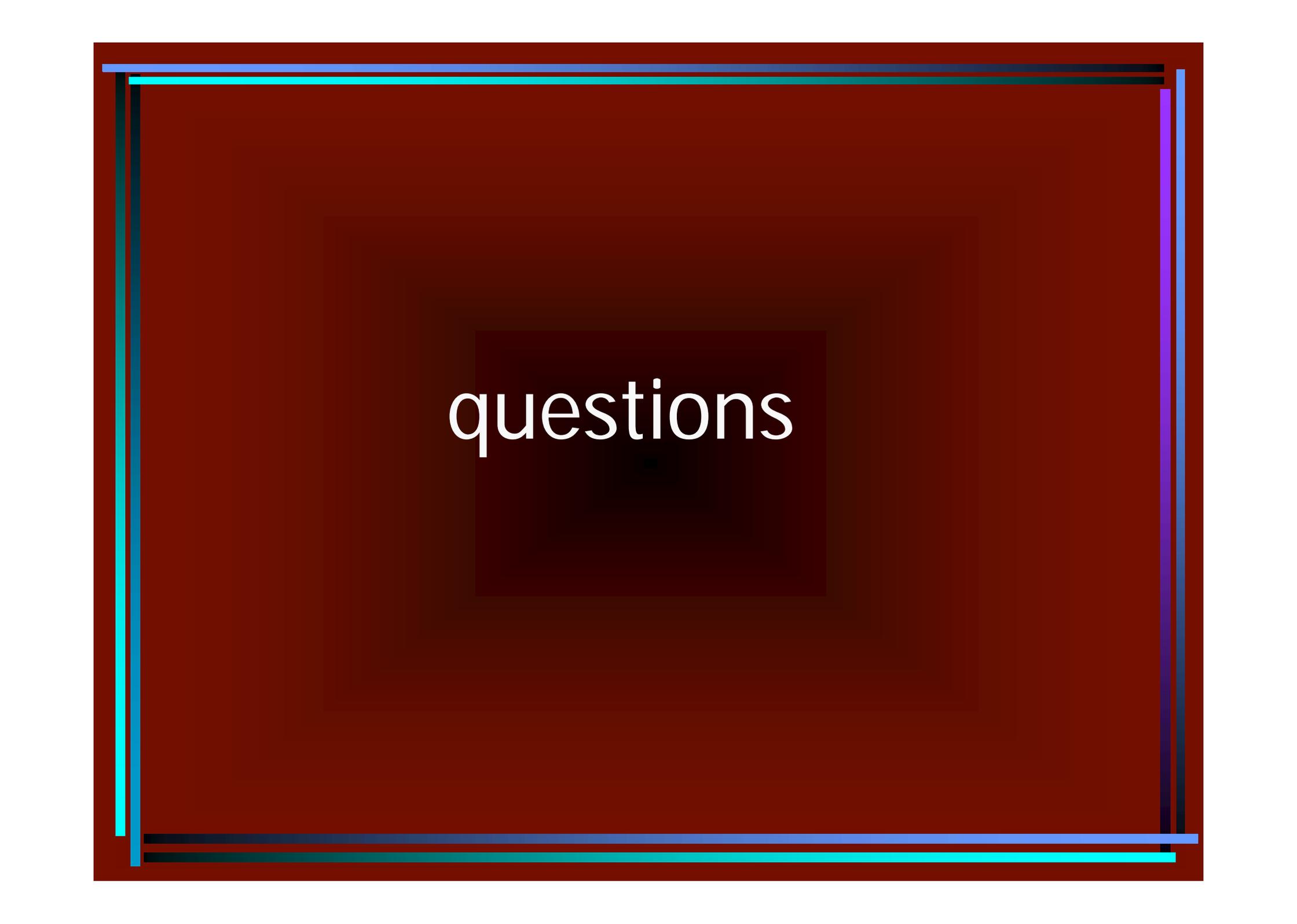
Conclusion

To respond the question of how the prison environment changed the behavior of the inmates has influenced positively or negatively, by the analysis, the prison environment almost did not affect the repentance of the acts committed, but more in repentance for the situation in which the prisoners are located. In general, we can conclude that inmates in Kosovo see the prison in a negative light, so negative that they feel sorry for their actions, not being aware that the offense they have committed has been wrong and they feel sorry, but acts of which they have committed, has put them in a closed environment, in prison.

Inmates in Finland on the other hand, feel that prison environment has given them many opportunities and even improved their behaviors.

Recommendations

- Implementation and investment in rehabilitative programs in future for inmates in Kosovo.
- Better inmate classification system
- Addressing issues of subcultures inside prisons in Kosovo.
- Continuous training for correctional officers
- Investment in increasing awareness of inmates and offering opportunities for inmates after their release in Kosovo.



questions