

Voices Behind Bars: Rehabilitation Processes Among Broadcasters in Prison Radio

Irit Adamchuk¹² and Tomer Einat²

¹ Ashkelon Academic College, Israel

² Bar Ilan University, Israel

Introduction

- * Prison life is extremely stressful for inmates.
- * Prisoners' stress and distress effect their maladaptive and criminal behaviors.
- * Many western correctional services have proposed various measures to combat the high levels of stress and distress in prison.
- * One measure that has been found effective in improving inmates' wellbeing is prison radio.
- * Radio Focus a radio station located inside a prison, operated by prisoners and broadcasts to the incarcerated population only.

*Until now there have been no studies that focused on the population of broadcasting prisoners.

Objective of the study: To qualitatively examine the impact of working in prison radio on the well-being and the rehabilitation processes of prisoners working in prison radio in Israel called 'Radio Focus'.

Sample of 28 prisoners working at prison radio.

Data Collection

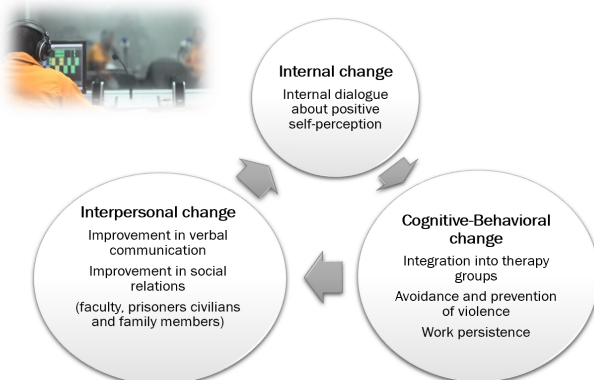
Semi-structured interviews completed at two points in time:

- The first month of their entry into the project.
- After around 10 months of working within the radio station.



Findings

A three-step change



Conclusions

Personal empowerment - improving verbal communication and expressiveness, doing "good" for the sake of others.

Intendent selection of program contents- serving the needs of the broadcasting prisoners.

An encounter with a civilian population is a bridge to the outside world - breaking the stigmas and negative labeling.

An informal meeting with the prison staff - helps to improved relationships.

Helps coping with prison pains.

Acquiring a profession and technical skills—gaining work experience after release period.

Prison radio is an empowering tool through which discipline and obedience can be induced informally, thus reducing the pain of imprisonment.

