



RESEARCH PAPER

The Criminon Model: A New paradigm for Offender Rehabilitation in Pakistan

¹ Hyder Ali Memon* ² Muhammad Akhter Arain ³ Sarjeet Singh Oad

1. Lecturer, Department of Criminology, University of Sindh, Jamshoro, Sindh, Pakistan
2. MPhil Scholar, Department of Criminology, University of Sindh, Jamshoro, Sindh, Pakistan
3. MPhil Scholar, Department of Criminology, University of Sindh, Jamshoro, Sindh, Pakistan

*Corresponding Author hyder.memon@usindh.edu.pk

ABSTRACT

This secondary research based article examines the rationale, and significance of Criminon, a program offered in prisons worldwide, including Karachi Central Prison. Information was gathered from newspaper reports, articles, and websites to investigate Criminon program, its mission, objectives, courses, and services. It also examines Criminon success rate globally and in Karachi Central Prison. The findings revealed that Criminon is modernizing the archaic prison system in Karachi by rehabilitating offenders. Criminon education can rehabilitate and ultimately reintegrate even violent and habitual offenders, and many offenders are motivated to change in prison. In Karachi Central Prison, the Criminon is demonstrating positive results in altering the mentality of offenders, which can aid in reducing criminality, recidivism, and prison overcrowding. The research concluded that implementing Criminon to rehabilitate inmates would be beneficial for Pakistan and therefore recommends that it be implemented in all Pakistani prison administrations.

KEYWORDS Criminal Conduct, Criminon, Offender Rehabilitation, Recidivism, Vocational Training

Introduction

In the past, prisons were viewed as sites for carrying out punishment and retribution; however, this attitude has been fading for many years, especially since the advent of humanistic trends, which have imposed themselves on many facilities of people's lives. The treatment of prisoners, the aims of punishment, and the placement and classification of prisons are, without a doubt, subject to debate. Respecting the dignity of prison inmates, providing a proper environment for their habitation and modifying their behavior so that they can return to their communities with positive behaviors are recurring challenges (Althoneibat, 2022). Offender rehabilitation in prisons is thought to be very crucial for the successful reintegration of inmates into society. The word "Rehabilitation," derived from the Latin word "Rehabilitare," is "to render fit, following disablement, illness, or incarceration, for earning a living or participating in the world" (Rooney, 2001). Rehabilitation has been recognized as a 'criminal's right' in modern times. This right is acknowledged to guarantee that the offender receives guidance and rehabilitation programs during his term to assist him in getting his life back on track and preventing a relapse into criminal conduct (Hart et al., 2020). Offender rehabilitation is defined as; it is a scientific and systematic process of assessment, intervention, and feedback with the aim of bringing the offender back to society with the least potential for future offending. It is the process of assisting someone in returning to a regular life through education, training, and therapy (Gunaratna, 2012). During their prison sentences, the vast majority of inmates incurred recidivism risk. In view of historically high rates of incarceration, harsher punishments, and a revolving door of recidivism, prisoner rehabilitation is the morally and fiscally rational thing to do.

In accordance with international law, the concept of rehabilitating a criminal through treatment is highly valued. It is emphasized that treatment should be prolonged,

preferably through non-custodial measures of punishment, such as community sentencing; in the event of incarceration, the offender should be engaged in diversified, healthful, and result-oriented activities. Article 10(2) of the 1966 United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights is one example (ICCPR hereinafter). On June 23, 2010, Pakistan ratified this international law document emphasizing the necessity for rehabilitating convicts as a fundamental requirement of imprisonment. Various institutional and non-institutional programs have been designed and offered for various categories of offenders worldwide within and outside their correctional institutions to achieve this uphill challenge of the criminal justice system. With the support of society, non-governmental agencies, and volunteers, lawmakers and judiciary authorities in developed countries are implementing fresh approaches and strategies for the reformation and rehabilitation of offenders (Tariq et al., 2022).

However, in Pakistan, where recidivism rates are on the rise, the legislative and judicial response is in no way proportional to the imperative of reducing crime through the reformation of offenders. Moreover, there is a significant dearth of sober studies on various aspects of the rehabilitation process, which is caused by the fact that the majority of the research that has been carried out on Pakistan's prisons has only concentrated on the problems that are associated with the prisons. Consequently, the following research paper is based on the secondary research methodology that will investigate the institutional program known as Criminon that is available in the prisons of various countries and also in capital of province of Sindh, Karachi central prison. Hence the following program has the potential to be utilized inside the boundaries of every prison in Pakistan in order to rehabilitate and reform criminals. The data has been collected from various resources such as newspapers, articles, and websites. The purpose of the following research paper is to investigate, in-depth, the rationale behind the Criminon, as well as its mission and objectives, the courses and services that are provided by this program, the success rate of Criminon around the world, and it, will also explore the effectiveness of Criminon in Karachi central prison. Furthermore, it will also discuss why it is necessary to implement Criminon into Pakistan's prisons.

Literature Review

The phenomenon of rehabilitation has been extensively covered in academic works. In the domains of Penology, criminology, and criminal justice, "rehabilitation" refers to the process through which an aberrant person is returned to a normal state. This phenomenon arises when a natural or social event disrupts the normal functioning of an individual. Assume that a criminal act is followed by the perpetrator's detection, apprehension, conviction, and incarceration. During his incarceration, he is unable to contribute to society and gets isolated; he is forced to adapt to a totally different environment (the prison) than the one he left. This is when he could benefit from assistance from an external group in order to re-acclimate to daily life. Consequently, he will be able to integrate into society. This process may be referred to as rehabilitation (Bhutta, 2010). The process of rehabilitating the offender incorporates a variety of intervention modalities. The primary objective is to actively engage prisoners and equip them with life and employment skills (Sharma, 2013).

The topic of criminal rehabilitation is still emerging, with the theoretical and empirical work of a few Canadian psychologists dominating the field. The "what works" research literature and the RNR model of criminal rehabilitation are among their contributions. The Risk, Need, and Responsivity Principles, which were disseminated for the first time in 1990, formed the basis of the theoretical framework used by correctional systems around the world that use science as the basis for offender rehabilitation over the subsequent two decades (Polaschek, 2012). In addition to the Good Lives Model (Ward & Maruna, 2007), Enhanced Thinking Skills (Ministry of Justice, 2010), and Reasoning and Rehabilitation (R&R), contemporary rehabilitation strategies include the Good Lives Model (Ward & Maruna, 2007), Enhanced Thinking Skills (Ross et al., 1988; Ministry of Justice,

2010). While some Offender Behavior Programs (OBP) has been condemned for seeking to revive the rehabilitative treatment paradigm, others have been applauded for their success in doing so.

Moreover, other administrative measures for reforming convicts are adopted. In accordance with this strategy, the prison administration is obligated to provide offenders with future-oriented programs that can assist in rehabilitating their criminal nature. Chapter 33, Rule 810 of the Pakistan Prison Rule (PPR) mandates that the relevant prison superintendent provide locally accessible labor (industrial/non-industrial) to all classes of convicts condemned to hard imprisonment so that they may earn a dignified living upon their release. As a general rule, prison management has the right to continue these programs within the confines of the prison (PPR, Rule 829 (i)). There are a number of benefits associated with inmates working within prisons, including reduced recidivism, reduced depression and violence in prisons, ease of assimilation for the inmate as a productive citizen upon release, increased availability of trained manpower for industrial growth, and most importantly, decreased costs for the public exchequer. Researchers concur that employment in correctional facilities resulted in numerous good outcomes. First, it minimizes tensions within jails by keeping the convicts engaged in useful labor. Second, it equips offenders to learn new work habits and routines and earn more pay. Lastly, research indicates that the recidivism rate is lower among offenders with some skill exposure advantages (Wang, 2010).

Correctional educational programs have a wide-ranging impact on the lives of convicted offenders both during and after their incarceration. According to research conducted by Anders & Noblit (2011) stated that, due to the significant increase in the prison population across the United States, educational programs established within correctional facilities can be viewed as a means of regulating convicts' lives and minimizing recidivism. Correctional education initiatives, according to Nally et al. (2012), can potentially increase the life-altering prospects of former offenders. The RAND Corporation published a survey in 2016 that indicated that people who take part in any form of educational program while incarcerated are 43% less likely to return to prison (Steurer, 2019). However, in Pakistan, the rehabilitation program is administered in an archaic manner, with limited program and instructor possibilities. According to Achakzai et al. (2015), there is no correctional education or training facility provided in Pakistani prisons. The Sindh Prison Department offers programs in carpet manufacturing, textiles, carpentry, smithy, tailoring, laundry, power looms, and sewing instruction (Ahmed et al., 2022). However, Sindh Prison department rarely concentrates on educating the offenders through rehabilitation programs. The implementation of the necessity of repairing the character of hardened criminals is in no manner possible by just honing the hand skills of inmates. It is understandable that various basic elements which should have been considered for the training of a prisoner while he is incarcerated are ignored or omitted in nearly all prisons of Pakistan. To achieve these objectives, an effective way of involving the right convict at the right time in the right program such as Criminon model for offender rehabilitation must be implemented. These measures are necessary to improve public safety and reduce costs by ensuring that more ex-offenders are able, willing, and motivated to behave as good citizens upon release (Riley, 2022).

Criminon Model for Offender Rehabilitation

Criminon is a significant and influential model for inmate corrections and ultimate reintegration within institutional programs. Criminon ("no crime") is an international non-profit-based program dedicated to rehabilitating criminals by addressing why a person turns to a life of crime, primarily when the criminal-to-be loses his self-respect. Criminon is based on the study of writer and humanitarian L. Ron Hubbard served as a Special Officer with the Los Angeles Police Department in the 1940s. Mr. Hubbard discovered that every criminal career begins with a loss of self-respect; only when a person can no longer rely on

himself do they pose a significant threat to society. Mr. Hubbard initiated a program for rehabilitating juvenile offenders in London, England, in 1952. After two decades of research, the Criminon was created (Naser et al., 2006). Today Criminon operates in more than 2,000 prisons, assisting some 100,000 inmates through correspondence courses or delivering on-site seminars, with remarkable results. Criminon equips prisoners with the information and abilities they need to transform their lives and contribute positively to society. After completing the Criminon, inmates significantly increase their compliance with probationary requirements, such as making restitution, paying fines, and performing community service. Criminon is also reported to completely eliminate cellblock violence and reduce recidivism rates by 80% to zero. The initiative is so effective that it is frequently mandated nationally across whole jail systems. According to Alison Daniels, Executive Director of the Criminon, this program teaches inmates how to make moral decisions and provides them with the necessary life skills to stay straight and narrow and avoid future criminal activity. The curriculum aids individuals in attaining the integrity necessary to conduct honest and fulfilling lives (Criminon, UK, 2020).

In contrast, the Society for the Advancement of Health, Education, and Environment (SAHEE) Pakistan conducted many sessions of the Criminon in the Karachi central prison. The philosophy behind the course is to promote prisoners' self-respect and self-esteem (Dawn, 2021). There have been close to 1,500 inmates that have taken part in the program. Currently, NGO is also teaching volunteers at the Sindh Prison Staff Program Institute, located in Nara, Hyderabad. So far, about 400 people have successfully completed the training. Other correctional facilities in Karachi, including the Women's Jail, the Children's Remand Home, and the Youthful Offenders Industrial School, have also begun offering Criminon classes.

Criminon's Mission and Objectives

Criminon's mission is to address the causes and triggers of criminal conduct, to prevent recidivism, and to provide educational tools and life skills, including adequate literacy, to people in need so they can rejoin society as responsible and productive members. Criminon empowers individuals to rediscover their sense of self-worth and integrity and restore common-sense principles so that they may continue to study and grow. Criminon intends to achieve these objectives by supporting criminal justice officials in instituting reforms to achieve these goals (Criminon International, 2022). Criminon objectives are as follows:

- Educate and empower persons within the criminal justice system to halt the cycle of incarceration and recidivism as active collaborators with community organizations and penal officials.
- Develop the individual's capacity and competency so that he or she has a feeling of their own dignity, value, and integrity, as well as the necessary life skills, to continue learning, developing, and recovering independence.
- Provide programs that offer viable alternatives to jail and steer at-risk youth toward more productive pursuits.
- Contribute to the development of a more productive society comprised of accountable individuals, better families, and healthier communities.

Criminon Courses and Services

Criminon assists inmates, ex-offenders, and at-risk individuals in a wide range of settings, including on-site programs offered in juvenile halls and correctional facilities, correspondence courses that reach even into the new super-maximum security prisons, on-

the-ground workshops for at-risk youth, and training for gang interventionists. Volunteers get a practical understanding of right and wrong and the gratification of ethical and social conduct through these courses and on-site programs that teach basic life skills—sometimes for the first time in their lives (Criminon International, 2022). The Criminon achieves its objectives through meticulously planned courses and services.

There are a total of four stages, or levels, to the Criminon rehabilitation program. As explained by a senior program trainer who works at Karachi Central prison, the first phase is to work on one's communication abilities (Dawn, 2021). The first phase is teaching inmates how to improve their communication skills. Their frustrations about not being understood very well and not being able to convey their message well are alleviated due to this, which proves helpful. They are instructed on how to communicate effectively in order to resolve the issues that they have. Learning how to learn effectively is the second phase in the process. It investigates the reasons why some people stop their education in the middle of it. After this, move on to step three, which involves reviewing 21 different legal rules. The fact that the prisoner is currently incarcerated suggests that he violated or broke one of these rules in the past. As he reads about it, he experiences feelings of regret while also accepting responsibility for his actions. It is possible that he was in denial earlier, blaming his situation on someone else, something else, or the system itself. After that, it is time to move on to the fourth and last step, which involves recognizing the harmful components of our society and learning how to avoid them in order to avoid getting into problems. These courses provide an offender with the knowledge and skills needed to positively start a new life and deal with obstacles and negative influences. The Criminon materials, including *The Way to Happiness*, a common sense guide to better living, assist an offender in developing a new set of personal and social guidelines that lead away from criminal behavior and toward a life in harmony with one's fellows. The individual can then replace his criminal code with a common sense code.

Furthermore, as a portion of the curriculum, the three Cs, confront, control, and communicate, are emphasized, which is a comfort for many offenders with communication difficulties (The Express Tribune, 2015). The length of time it takes the inmates to complete the task is directly proportional to their personal level of competence. It is not possible for a student to be considered to have finished a course until he or she has achieved the necessary level of learning skills. When they do, however, not only do they receive a certificate of achievement for successfully finishing the course, but they also gain a more mature perspective on life.

Success Rate of Criminon around the World

According to the official data published by Indonesian prison officials in 2020, the recidivism rate for those who finished the Criminon and were subsequently released was 1.25%, meaning that 98.75% did not return to prison. In part owing to their involvement in Criminon, about one-third of the 1,118 offenders who successfully completed the program were granted early release for good behavior (Gandul et al., 2020). Meanwhile, Criminon in the UK has conducted a survey of its beneficiaries over the past few years to determine the impact the organization has had on inmate lives and how they rate the assistance provided by Criminon (Criminon International, 2022). The tables below illustrate some of the results of this survey based on the 488 responses received.

Table 01, given below, demonstrates that inmates participating in the Criminon have seen beneficial improvements within themselves. Most participants claimed that the Criminon increased their confidence in their abilities. In contrast, others claimed that the program increased their ability to stay away from people who negatively influence them. Some participants also claimed that the program helped them remain motivated and are willing to engage in other positive activities.



Fig 1 Impact of Criminon upon Inmates

There is abundant evidence that points to a connection between illiteracy and criminal behavior (Rivera et al., 2022). The inability to succeed academically or educationally can immediately lead to criminal activity and violent behavior. Hence with its Learning Skills for Life Course, the Criminon effectively addresses this shortcoming head-on. The participants will learn how to study effectively, how to overcome obstacles to comprehension, and how to recall better what they learn. It allows one to study anything and learn the content thoroughly, preparing them to implement what they have learned in real-life situations successfully. Table 02, given below, demonstrates that the majority of convicts stated that the Criminon helped them significantly in terms of education and also assisted them in the ability they could accomplish well.

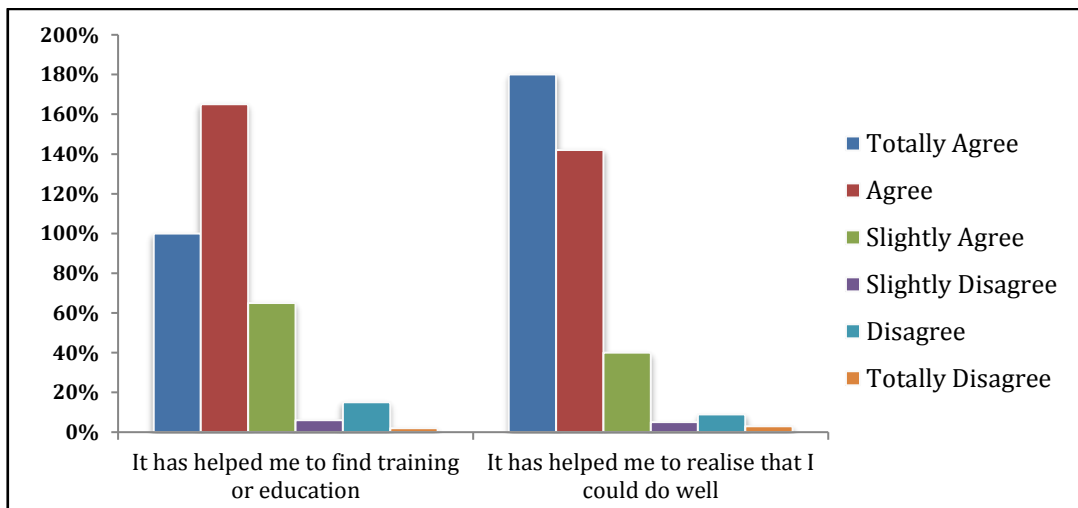


Fig 2 Impact of Criminon upon Education

Drug and Alcohol addiction, which is now universally acknowledged as a unique neuropsychiatric disorder, is both a pressing global concern and one that is increasing rapidly. It damages the addict's physical and mental health and places a significant load on society because of the increase in crime rates. As one of the most complex problems affecting contemporary civilization, drug and alcohol abuse is difficult to overstate (Ahmed et al., 2022). However, according to a poll conducted by the UK's Criminon, drug and alcohol addiction among prisoners who received Criminon education reduced. Criminon educates the inmate on the nature of drugs and their effects on the body and psyche. It describes how

and why a person becomes addicted to drugs in the first place and then outlines an exact regimen involving the use of vitamins and exercise to liberate a person from addiction without the use of pharmaceuticals (Criminon International, 2022). The inmates' responses addressing their dependence on alcohol and drugs are provided in Table 03 below. The result indicated that many of the inmates believed that with the assistance of the Criminon, they are able to control their addiction to drugs and alcohol, and the majority of the inmates also believed that there is always the chance that the individual can transform themselves.

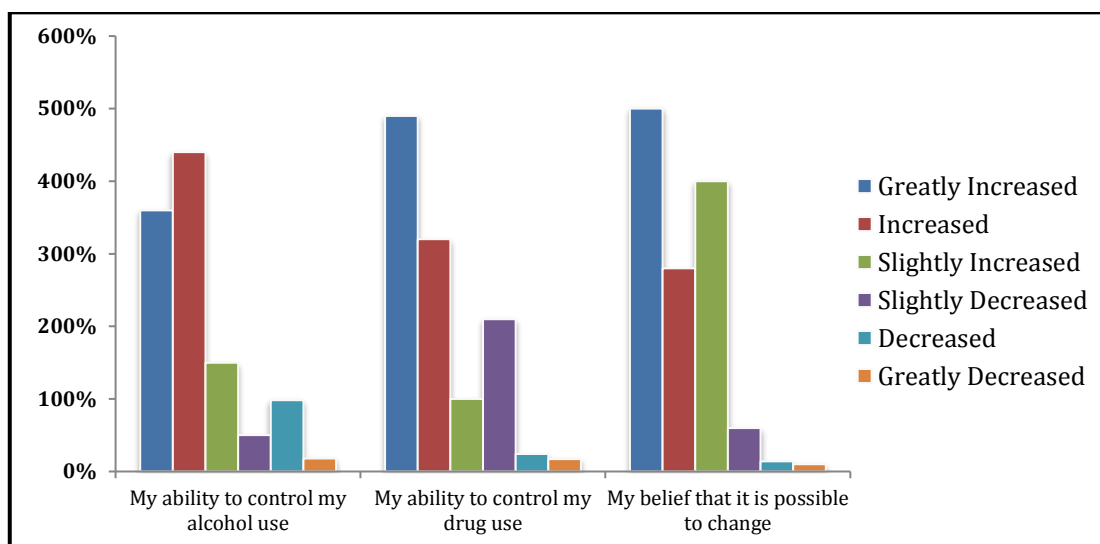


Table 3 Impact of Criminon upon Drug and Alcohol Addiction

Effectiveness of Criminon within Karachi Central Prison

Pakistan's jail system, along with the rest of the criminal justice sector, is unable to keep up with mounting crime and other significant security issues, such as the expansion of violent extremism throughout the nation (International Crisis Group, 2011). Although the government and its international partners have taken significant steps to bolster the capability of civilian law enforcement agencies throughout the present democratic transition, prisons – and their vast population – are sometimes overlooked in justice-related reforms. Modern prisons are intended to rehabilitate, correct, recover, and reintegrate criminals. As a more humane, just, and consistent with international standards method of managing prisons, the rehabilitation model is advocated worldwide. Theoretically, Pakistani jails also serve confinement, control, care, and correction goals. Nonetheless, prisons worldwide and in Pakistan are severely overcrowded, rendering reintegration nearly tricky. Spread of chronic diseases, lack of a hygienic environment, lack of effective programmatic (educational, vocational, religious, psychological, Etc.) interventions, lack of a proper check and balance mechanism for the prisoners, prison riots, and lack of categorization of the prisoners (based on age, sex, nature of the crime, Etc.) are just a few of the problems caused by overcrowding in prisons (Gul, 2018).

Recently the Sindh government has adopted the Sindh Prisons and Correction Act, 2019, to replace the antiquated Prison Act of 1894 (Dawn, 2019). In contrast to the previous law, which was regarded as retributive or punitive in nature, the new law is reformative, focusing on inmates' safety and rights while rehabilitating them so they can rejoin society as law-abiding members. This action by the provincial administration is commendable. In addition, IG Prisons Sindh initiated an education program and art therapy in Karachi Central Jail. The new prison law includes numerous humane provisions, such as a minimum of one visit per month for at least one hour, education, and vocational training, health facilities, and social and psychological services, visits by oversight committees, inspections, food testing, and complaints investigations (Dawn, 2019). The Criminon was implemented in Karachi

central prison as another initiative for rehabilitating offenders. These reforms have been quite effective in updating Karachi Central Prison's antiquated prison system and have already shown promising outcomes.

The following are statements made by convicted prisoners confined in Karachi Central prison; they demonstrate how they and their lives have changed due to obtaining skillful training and education through the Criminon. These statements had been taken from various reports to analyze the effectiveness of Criminon.

Peer Bakhsh, serving a life sentence for murder, is the first inmate to graduate from the prison's Criminon program. He was interested in taking the communication skills course since it aroused his curiosity. He stated, *"The course encouraged me so much that I completed my master's degree here and am now preparing for my LLB exams."*

Another prisoner, Naveed, a bank loan officer until being convicted of abduction three years ago, was learning the third step of the Criminon course in class. He stated, *"The course is assisting me in forgiving myself and moving on. I want to start over by putting everything I am learning into practice"*.

In 2010, death row inmate Ghaffar Alvi completed the Criminon program. According to him, he underwent a profound personal transformation. *"The course gave me a purpose, a desire to serve people; I am now a trainer who assists others with the program."*

Another inmate named Jalal stated, *"I used to be angry all the time and bang my head against the wall, but after taking the course, I am now in control, and I do not get angry anymore. I feel blessed, and I will use what I have learned here to open a school in my community so that no child ever follows a criminal path as I did"*.

One inmate serving life imprisonment for murder who went through said program later turned to be Criminon volunteer, Abdul Latif, stated, *"The course on life's ups and downs helps you comprehend what you are doing in jail; it somehow makes you feel optimistic."*

All of these statements from inmates who have received and continue to receive Criminon education demonstrate that the program seems to have a great capacity to transform even the violent offenders and that offenders are themselves motivated to change if they are provided with a supportive and encouraging environment in prison. It provides them with motivation to have hope and new purposes in their lives and the ability to do good things not only inside the prison but also outside the prison when they are eventually released. The goals of offender rehabilitation and reducing the rate of recidivism in the country are not achievable until and unless the prison administration and the government are not prepared to educate the perpetrators through these rehabilitative measures. Everyone has the inherent right to endure their time behind bars with pride and optimism. Because no one is born a criminal, anybody may outgrow their illegal behavior. It unlearns it, provided that they are given a chance to be rehabilitated and reintegrated into society to improve it (Murhula et al., 2019).

However, prisons in Pakistan do not function as 'correctional facilities' and place minimal emphasis on structured programming for pre-trial inmates (Kamal et al., 2020). A large number of inmates leave Pakistani prisons and return to their families and communities each year. While a small number are able to reintegrate into their communities successfully, the vast majority will commit new crimes and be re-incarcerated. According to Anwar (2015), the inadequacy of rehabilitation programs in Pakistani correctional institutions is cited as one of the biggest causes of recidivism. Furthermore, due to a lack of emphasis on vocational training programs for juvenile and adult inmates, a lack of skills hinders post-release career chances.

Consequently, most ex-offenders from lower-class backgrounds re-offend to make ends meet. That is why Pakistan ranks fifth on the list of nations with the highest recidivism rates in 2020, according to a survey published by World Population Review (Shuja, 2022). This unfortunate sequence of events is solely attributable to the fact that emerging nations invest more in prisons than in inmates. The development of prisons should place a greater emphasis on rehabilitation and reintegration so that the number of inmates may be reduced annually, hence reducing the rate of recidivism. However, prison overpopulation has become a problem in 120 nations, including Pakistan, due to a lack of emphasis on convicts (Nabi et al., 2021). The high crime rate in Pakistan has resulted in a "rush to incarcerate." However, diminutive attention has been devoted to the rehabilitation programs that can be offered within the country's prisons. When prisoners re-offend, they are typically held accountable, but ineffective or damaging jail treatment and environment are rarely held accountable (Levine et al., 2020). Criminon aims to rehabilitate, reform, and reintegrate criminals into their respective communities. The primary responsibility of the Criminon is to repair criminal behavior with the eventual objective of decreasing recidivism. It focuses on the community's safety with the objective of minimizing recidivism in mind rather than on the punishment of criminals. Only by implementing the Criminon rehabilitation program in all Pakistani prisons, criminal behavior can be minimized, ultimately leading to a decrease in criminal activity and recidivism across the country. In light of this, it is strongly recommended that all correctional facility administrations must adopt such an initiative in order to help incarcerated prisoners as much as possible in the process of rehabilitation. Because the inmates have the right to basic necessities and appropriate facilities for their own well-being, as well as the right to treatments, educational programs, and behavioral and cognitive enhancement activities, and thus prison institutions are responsible for providing these appropriate training, rehabilitative therapies, and education. Criminon is like a breath of fresh air that prisoners breathe to recapture their sense of self-worth and integrity and to restore common-sense values so they can continue to learn, grow, and become better people.

Recommendations

1. Qualified and experienced Criminologists specialists who are experts in the area of offender rehabilitation must be employed for the diverse programs such as Criminon in prisons.
2. In addition to programs like Criminon, the effective programmatic intervention based on individual therapy including psychotherapy, behavioral therapy, vocational and education training programs must be available in all prisons. Moreover, the government must place prisoners at the top of its list of priorities and ensure that they are handled in accordance with minimum international standards for treatment of the inmates.
3. As prisons are a provincial duty, provincial governments are primarily responsible for reforming both offenders and prisons. Committees at the provincial level could be more effective at implementing improvements. The role of prisons in the rehabilitation of offenders should be reinterpreted in light of this study and relevant international measures.
4. In view of these findings, offenders enrolled in the Criminon model reported that their behavior toward other prisoners and prison officials improves. These changes in the attitudes and actions of offenders show how important Criminon education is. Hence the longer a prisoner participates in a Criminon model, the greater the likelihood that he may undergo positive behavioral changes, such as enrolling in further education and vocational programs and pursuing multidisciplinary studies.

Conclusion

Criminon model is one of the very effective correctional strategy for prison inmates by addressing why a person turns to a life of crime, namely the loss of self-respect. It is a crucial and effective approach for prisoner corrections and eventual rehabilitation. It provides convicts with the knowledge and skills they need to transform their lives and constructively contribute to society. Today, Criminon operates in over 2,000 jails across the globe, serving approximately 100,000 offenders through correspondence courses and on-site seminars with astounding outcomes. This research paper is based on secondary research methods, examined the Criminon widely available in the penitentiaries of several countries and in Pakistan. In order to rehabilitate and reform convicts, the following program has the potential to be implemented behind the walls of every prison in Pakistan. According to the findings of this study, the Criminon considerably aided convicts in their education and enhanced their capacity to perform effectively.

Moreover, it was discovered that with the use of Criminon, inmates could control their drug and alcohol addiction. It was also revealed that the Criminon enhanced inmates' confidence in their abilities, capacity to avoid bad influences, motivation, and willingness to participate in other constructive activities. In Pakistan, where the rate of crime and recidivism is high, a proper rehabilitation strategy is required. Adopting the Criminon rehabilitation program in all Pakistani prisons will reduce criminal conduct, resulting in a countrywide decrease in criminal activity and recidivism. As a result, it is strongly recommended that all correctional facility administrations implement such a program in order to assist incarcerated offenders as much as feasible in the rehabilitation process.

References

- Achakzai, J. K., Bukhari, S., & Azam Tahir, M. (2015). Women Prisoners' Access to Education & Training: A Report from Balochistan. *Bulletin of Education and Research*, 37(2), 27-42.
- Ahmed, T., Wassan, R., Qadri, N. A., & Ahmed, S. (2022). Prevalence and Determinants of Drugs Abuse Among Youth in Hyderabad, Sindh, Pakistan. *Journal of Management Practices, Humanities and Social Sciences*, 6(5), 1-9.
- Ali, R. (2015, April 05). Serving a sentence: Helping Karachi's prisoners, the Criminon way. *The Express Tribune*
- Anders, A. D., & Noblit, G. W. (2011). Understanding effective higher education programs in prisons: Considerations from the incarcerated individuals program in North Carolina. *Journal of Correctional Education*, 62 (2), 77-93.
- Anwar, S., Khan, S. E., Chaudhry, A. G., Khan, K. E., & Sultana, S. (2015). Exploring socio-cultural factors of recidivism in juvenile delinquents: An anthropological perspective. *Science International*, 27(1), 817-819.
- Bhutta, M. H., & Siddiqui, M. (2020). Situation of prisons in India and Pakistan: shared legacy, same challenges. *South Asian Studies*, 27(1), 171-181.
- Biafri, V. S., No, J. R. G., & Gandul, C. D. J. B. (2020). Implementation Of The Therapeutic Community Rehabilitation For Narcotic Prisoners At Narcotics Special Prison Class II A Jakarta. *Berumpun, Int. J. Soc. Polit. Humanit*, 3(1), 23-38.
- Criminon International. (2022). *About Criminon*. <https://www.criminon.org/who-we-are/>.
- Criminon UK. (2020). *Changes Life Through Knowledge*. <https://www.criminon.org.uk/about-us/>
- Gleditsch, K. S., Rivera, M., & Zárate-Tenorio, B. (2022). Can Education Reduce Violent Crime? Evidence from Mexico before and after the Drug War Onset. *The Journal of Development Studies*, 58(2), 292-309.
- Gul, R. (2018). Overcrowding and its Impacts on the Reintegration of Prisoners in Selected Jails of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. *Dialogue (Pakistan)*, 13(1), 41-52.
- Gunaratna, R. (2012). Terrorist Rehabilitation: An Introduction to Concepts and Practices. *Pakistan Journal of Criminology*, 3(4), 143-157.
- Hasan, S. (2021, April 26). Rehabilitation programme in Karachi's Central Jail proving game-changer for prisoners. *Dawn*
- Ishfaq, N., & Kamal, A. (2020). Explaining the Predictive Relationship Between Early Life Trauma and Comorbid Psychiatric Symptoms Among Convicts in Pakistan. *Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology*, 37, 1-10.
- La Vigne, N. G., Naser, R. L., & Owens, C. (2006). *The Criminon Evaluation: Phase I*. Urban Institute Justice Policy Center
- Levine, J., & Meiners, E. R. (2020). *The feminist and the sex offender: Confronting sexual harm, ending state violence*. Verso Books.
- Ministry of Justice (2010). *Do Cognitive Skills Programmes work with Offenders*. London: Ministry of Justice.

- Murhula, P. B. B., Singh, S. B., & Nunlall, R. (2019). A critical analysis on offenders rehabilitation approach in South Africa: A review of the literature. *African Journal of Criminology and Justice Studies: AJCJS*, 12(1), 21-43.
- Nabi, M., Hussain, S., & Kamran, M. (2021). Overcrowded Prisons In Pakistan: Understanding The Critical Role Of Probation, Parole Officers And Courts. *Pakistan Journal of Social Research*, 3(01), 40-47.
- Nally, J., Lockwood, S., Knutson, K., & Ho, T. (2012). An evaluation of the effect of correctional education programs on post-release recidivism and employment: An empirical study in Indiana. *Journal of Correctional Education (1974)*, 63(1), 69-89.
- O'Sullivan, R., Hart, W., & Healy, D. (2020). Transformative rehabilitation: Exploring prisoners' experiences of the Community Based Health and First Aid programme in Ireland. *European Journal on Criminal Policy and Research*, 26(1), 63-81.
- Polaschek, D. L. (2012). An appraisal of the risk-need-responsivity (RNR) model of offender rehabilitation and its application in correctional treatment. *Legal and criminological Psychology*, 17(1), 1-17.
- Prison reform.* (2019, January 23). Dawn. <https://www.dawn.com/news/1459272>.
- Reforming Pakistan's Prison System.* (2011, October 12). International Crisis Group Asia Report N°212. <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/4e968f382.pdf>
- Riley, T. (2022). *Yeah, but Would You Hire Them? An Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis of How Employers Make Sense of Hiring Ex-offenders* (Doctoral dissertation, Northeastern University).
- Rooney, K. (Ed.). (2001). *Encarta concise English dictionary*. Pan Macmillan Australia.
- Ross, R. R., Fabiano, E. A., & Ewles, C. D. (1988). Reasoning and rehabilitation. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 32(1), 29-35.
- Sharma, P. (2013). *State Jail Industry Board and Sustainable Economic Rehabilitation of Prison Inmates*. Editorial Board Contents, 79-91.
- Shuja, K. H. (2022). Criminal Recidivism in Pakistan: A Grounded Theory of Social & Environmental Causes and Psychological Consequences. *Nature-Nurture Journal of Psychology*, 2(2), 41-53.
- Steurer, S. (2019). *Why Aren't We Spending More On Prisoner Education?*. *essentiaeducation*, 122.
- Tariq, A., Khan, M. M. A., & Ullah, I. (2022). Reformation of Prisoners Through Rehabilitation; The Analysis of The Pakistani System in the Light of International Standards. *Review of Education, Administration & Law*, 5(3), 257-266.
- Wang, Z. (2010). Prison Enterprise Financial Management Innovation in the Context of China's Prison System Reform. *International Business Research*, 3(2), 100.
- Ward, T., & Maruna, S. (2007). *Rehabilitation: Beyond the risk paradigm*. Routledge
- YGAK Althoneibat. (2022). "The Effectiveness of Vocational Training Programs for Inmates in Rehabilitation and Reform Centers and Its Impact on Their Future Adaptation." *Clinical Schizophrenia and Related Psychoses*, 16(4), 1-8.