



A critical analysis of prison reforms: Role of forensics in protecting prisoners' rights

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Abstract

The modern prison system is oriented towards reformation and rehabilitation. The prison system has significance in terms of transforming the life of Prisoners and rehabilitating them once again with society. Despite this objective, India's prison system faces numerous systematic challenges in the protection of prisoner's rights.

Forensics is a scientific branch which plays a crucial role in bringing reforms in the legal system. Prisoners' rights can be protected by proper forensic investigations of different cases. In present times, there is an increase in time taken for completing legal procedure, which causes many prisoners to suffer from mental trauma. Forensics can play a significant role in preserving these reforms.

This research mainly aims to analyse the challenges faced by prisoners in the prisons and explore measures to ensure the protection of Prisoners rights. Various aspects of the prisoner rights have been studied through doctrinal methods by analysing different national and international laws, jail manuals, reports of prison reform committee, precedents, NCRB reports, Supreme Court reports and also many more. Personal visit and group discussion have been done with prisoners to understand the challenges faced by them in prisons. After analysing it has been found that overcrowding, lack of basic amenities and many other challenges are faced by them and through proper implementation of the recommendations of various committees, forensic investigations of different cases and bringing other necessary prison reforms the situation in prisons can be improved. This will help in rehabilitation and reformation of the prisoners.

Keywords: Prisoner rights, prison reform, forensic science, autopsy reports, prison manuals

Introduction

Crime is the result of a troubled mind and prisons should provide an environment for treatment and care.

Mahatma Gandhi

The above lines of Mahatma Gandhi mention the importance of proper treatment of prisoners in prisons to bring reformation in their life. Prisons symbolizes a system of placement of undertrials and suspects during the period of trial. Earlier in 1000 BC prisons originated in ancient civilizations like Mesopotamia and Egypt. These early detention centers were primarily used for holding offenders before sentencing to death or slavery.

Modern prisons originated in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Initially, prisons were used to detain under-trials, who were guilty of some political offence or war crime or who failed to pay their debts or fines were lodged in prison cells to extract confession from them or secure the payment of fines. Penology in the present era considers imprisonment as a measure of rehabilitation of offenders, now prisons are not considered just as detention houses rather prisons presently seek to reform inmates for their future life.

Earlier the prison administration has been kept in the Provincial Legislative List which has also continued in the Constitution of India, as Prisons are included as State subject in Entry 4, List II of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. So, every State and Union Territory has its own legislative framework governing the prison administration. The Central Government also provides support and guidance for prison reforms so that prisoners' rights can be protected. Earlier the Prison Act, 1894 and Prisoners Act, 1900 provide a streamlined framework for prison management and discipline in India. The Prisons Act,

1895 prescribed a uniform system of prison management and the Prisoners Act, 1900 consolidated the law relating to prisoners confined by order of the Court. After independence numerous committees were formed in India to bring prison reforms and protect prisoners' rights.

Even though there are numerous legislations to safeguard prisoner rights, the situation in prisons is pathetic and even juvenile homes also suffer various challenges in reforming the children. Lack of basic amenities and unhygienic conditions in prisons had changed the situation to more challenging. So, it's time to take drastic steps by implementing the recommendations of various committees so that prisons can in real sense reform the Prisoners. Forensic science can help in ensuring the prisoner's rights. On the one side it presents the brief process of gathering forensic evidence to identify the real culprits. This can help innocent undertrials and at the same time various other branches of forensic science can play a crucial role in protecting prisoner rights.

Objectives of the Research

Objectives of the Research includes

- To study the condition of Prisoners and rights granted to them.
- To analyse the implementation of laws to protect the rights of prisoners.
- To understand the condition of prisons in India.
- To analyse the implementation of Prison reforms in India.
- To find out challenges faced by prisoners in India.
- To explore and detail forensic methods by which prisoner rights can be protected.

Research Questions

As the crime rate increases across the world where India is not an exception to it. In such a situation there is a need to analyse the condition of Prisoners and their rights as safeguarding them is important for bringing reforms in them. This research aims to find answers of following questions

1. Whether prisoners' rights are protected in prisons?
2. Whether basic needs such as food, water and proper sanitation facilities are ensured to prisoners?
3. Whether prison authorities take enough measures to ensure the health and hygiene of Prisoners?
4. Whether jail manuals are properly implemented in prisons?
5. How can prisoner rights be ensured by using forensic techniques?

Research Methodology

This research employs mixed research methodology, combining both qualitative and quantitative methods. Qualitative methods such as analysis of the prison manuals, case studies and interviews have been used to understand the challenges faced by prisoners by the existing system. Further to identify the barriers in effective implementation of existing legal framework in India literature review of existing research, reports and other legal documents related to prison reforms in India. An analysis of relevant legislations, Court precedents and policy documents have been done to assess the legal framework governing prisons. The group discussions with prisoners have been done to understand the types of problems faced by them. The interviews of prison officials have been done to assess their views of prison officials on the implementation of prison reforms.

The quantitative component involves statistical analysis of data sourced primarily from National Crime Record Bureau reports and Supreme Court reports (2024) ^[4] concerning overcrowding, rehabilitation services, prison conditions and the role of Judiciary in safeguarding prisoners' rights. Furthermore, insights have been derived from group discussions and direct interactions with prisoners and interviews with prisoners' officials have provided qualitative insights on implementation challenges.

Legal Framework for Prisoners Rights

▪ International Law

The Nelson Mandela Rules is considered officially the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the treatment of Prisoners. It is the main convention outlining the rights of Prisoners. These rules had been adopted by the UN General Assembly emphasizing humane treatment and recognition of basic human rights of prisoners. They provide a framework for the treatment of prisoners, including guidelines on health, hygiene, nutrition and discipline. It contends that Prisoners must be treated with respect for their inherent dignity and there should be no discrimination based on race, religion or other status, providing basic needs to Prisoners, protecting them from cruel treatment, separation of inmates to ensure safety and appropriate government, prisoners have the right to know about their custody, whereabouts and have access to legal counsel. Further, making proper arrangements of rehabilitating the Prisoners. There are various rights to Prisoners in international law such as right against cruel or inhuman treatment or

punishment which is granted in Universal Declaration of Human Rights and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment also provides protection of Prisoners.

Contacts with the Outside World is also a major right which has been provided to Prisoners in Standard Minimum Rules. Right to work and wages has been provided to prisoners for providing financial assistance to prisoners in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Standard Minimum Rules. The next prisoner right guaranteed in International law is providing required accommodations to prisoners which is provided in Standard Minimum Rules. Further, Standard Minimum Rules also provides personal hygiene, food, health and medical services to prisoners.

Right to make complaints is granted to Prisoners is International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The third Geneva Convention provides rights to Prisoners of War and it is considered as very important protection granted to Prisoners.

▪ National Laws

The Constitution of India in Article 14, 19 and 21 ensures that every person is treated equally under the law and provided with equal legal protection in India. The prisoners have also been guaranteed with certain equal rights. The Supreme Court in various public interest litigation stressed on the equal treatment of prisoners and protection of their human rights which includes Right to live in good condition, Free legal aid, speedy trial, right against custodial death and deaths in Police lock-ups or encounters, right against solitary confinement, handcuffing and bar fetters, right to meet his Advocate, friends or nominated persons, right to personal wages in prison, right to communication, right against double Jeopardy, right against self-incrimination etc.

The Prisons Act, 1894 is a very important Act as it provides a number of rights to the Prisoners so that they can be properly treated in the prisons. The first among all such rights is: right to adequate accommodation to prisoners so that they can properly live in these prisons. Whereas Section 7 provides right to shelter and safe custody for excess prisoners, Examination of prisoners by qualified medical examiners has been provided in Sections 24 and 26 of the Act, Next separation of prisoners according to the gravity of their crime has been guaranteed in Section 27 of the Act, after that Solitary confinement as a punishment and what are the ways to be followed while granting solitary confinement as a punishment to a prisoner has been granted in Section 29. Moreover, supply of clothing, bedding to civil prisoners and undertrial prisoners has been granted in Section 33(1). After that provisions of employment to the criminal prisoners so that they can be financially assisted has been provided in Section 35 of the Prisoners Act, 1894. Care of ill prisoners (section 37), Provisions of hospitals (section 39), Visits of civil and undertrial prisoners (section 40). Criminal Procedure Code provides: right to the prisoner to be informed of arrest and bail in section 50, right of the prisoner to be defended by an Advocate of his choice (Sections 303 and 304), right to speedy trial (section 309

(1)), right to medical examination (section 54), right to be present before the Magistrate without delay (section 57 and 76), right to be present during trial (section 273), right to be released on the probation of good conduct on or after admonition (section 360), right to be released on the bail even if prisoner does not have means (section 436).

In *Bhartiya Nagarika Suraksha Sanhita* section 47 mentions about informing the arrested person ground of arrest, further section 53 mentions about medical examination of arrested person, section 58 person arrested should not be detained for more than twenty-four hours, evidence to be taken in the presence of the accused in section 308, whereas section 340 mentions about right of person against whom proceedings instituted are to be defended, according to section 376 mental health care should be provided to the prisoner of unsound mind, section 479 specifies about the maximum period for which undertrial prisoner can be detained and there are many safeguards are provided to Prisoners in this new criminal laws.

Judicial Intervention and the Evolution of Prisoner's Rights

There are a number of public interest litigation filed to safeguard the human rights of prisoners. The first reported case of public interest litigation in India was *Hussainara Khatoon & Ors. v Home Secretary, State of Bihar* which had been reported in 1979. This case mainly focused on the inhuman treatment of prisoners and the condition of under trial prisoners. In this case the Supreme Court ordered the release of more than 40,000 under trial prisoners. The right to speedy justice emerged as a basic fundamental right which had been denied to these prisoners. The Supreme Court has held that "right to speedy trial", a fundamental right, is implicit in the guarantee of life and personal liberty enshrined in Article 21 of the Constitution. Speedy trial is the essence of criminal justice.

In the case of *State of A.P. v Challa Rama Krishna Reddy & Ors.*, The Supreme Court ruled that prisoners retain all their fundamental rights unless their liberty has been constitutionally restricted. The High Court of M.P. in *S.P. Anand v State of Madhya Pradesh*, has extensively dealt with basic rights which were available to Prisoners despite their curtailment of their right to liberty.

In a significant judgment in *A.R. Antulay v R.S. Nayak*, The Supreme Court has laid down detailed guidelines for speedy trial of an accused in a criminal case but it declined to fix any time limit for trial of offenses. The Court held that the right to speedy trial flowing from Article 21 is available to accused at all stages namely stage of investigation, inquiry, trial, appeal, revision and retrial. The accused cannot be denied the right of speedy trial merely on the ground that he had failed to demand a speedy trial. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has emphasized on application of fundamental rights guaranteed in Article 14, 19 and 21 of the Constitution of India to both prisoners and who are not incarcerated in the same sense in the case of *T.V. Vatheeswaran v State of Tamil Nadu*.

In *Moses Wilson v Kasturba*, The Supreme Court expressed concern in the delay in disposal of cases and directed the concerned authorities to do needful in the matters urgently before the situation goes totally out of control. This case was filed in 1947 for a sum of Rs. 7000/- and continued for 60 years and had not been disposed of. The Supreme Court expressed deep concern that the delay in the disposing of cases violates the fundamental rights of prisoners.

In the case of *D.S. Nakara v Union of India*,^[1] It has been held that a registered society, non-profit making and voluntary organization is entitled to file a writ petition under Article 32 for espousing the cause for a large number of old infirm prisoners who are unable to approach the Court individually. The right to live in humane and good conditions for prisoners has been emphasized in the case of *Upendra Baxi v. State of U.P.*

Shakila Abdul Gafar v Vasanth Raghunath Dhokle, the case was a landmark judgement given against the police atrocities and custodial death of prisoners. In this case the Supreme Court expressed great concern for the defect in the present criminal law due to which police atrocities and custodial crimes go unpunished and suggested amendments to the Evidence Act as recommended by the Law commission. The court directed the government to pay compensation of Rs. 1,00,000/- to the mother and children of the deceased prisoner.

In *Rudal Shah v State of Bihar*, The Supreme Court held that the Court has power to award monetary compensation in appropriate cases where there has been violation of the Constitutional rights of citizens. In the present case the Supreme Court directed Bihar Government to pay compensation of Rs. 30,000/- to Rudal Shah who has to remain in jail for 14 years because of the irresponsible behavior of the State Government Officers even after his acquittal on June 30, 1968 but was released only after Court intervention on October 16, 1982.

In *Joginder Kumar v State of U.P.*, The Supreme Court has laid down guidelines governing arrest of a person during investigation. This has been done to strike a balance between the needs of police and protection of human rights of citizens from oppression and injustice at the hands of law enforcing agencies. The Court has held that a person cannot be arrested merely on suspicion of complicity in an offense. The arrest should be necessary and justified.

In *Nilabati Behera v State of Orissa*, The Supreme Court awarded compensation of Rs.1,50,000 to the mother of the deceased who died in police custody due to beating. In the case of *D.K. Basu v State of W.B.* The Supreme Court has laid down guidelines to be followed by Central and State investigating and security agencies in all cases of arrest detention. D.K. Basu addressed a letter to the Chief Justice drawing his attention to the increase of custodial deaths. This letter was treated as a writ petition by the Supreme Court. *People's Union of Civil Liberties v Union of India* was filed as a writ petition under Article 32 of the Constitution, to issue directions on fake encounters. This is one of the important public interest litigations. The Supreme Court held that the Government is liable to pay compensation to family members of deceased who have been killed in fake encounters by the police officials.

In the case of *Sunil Batra v Delhi Administration*, The Supreme Court has held that writ of habeas corpus can be filed to protect the prisoners from the inhuman and barbarous treatment in the Jail. The Court has introduced a humanitarian version into the penitentiary system by introducing the exceptional circumstances and adequate precautions in solitary confinement while delivering its judgment in this landmark case. The Court gave certain directions to the Government and jail authorities to be compiled with the rights of a prisoner.

In *Veena Sethi v State of Bihar*, through a letter petition by the Free Legal Aid Committee, Hazaribagh brought the

notice that some prisoners, who were insane at the time of trial but subsequently declared sane were not released due to inaction of State authorities and had to remain in jail for more than 20 to 37 years. The Court directed the release of such prisoners. In another case of *Munna v State of U.P.* which was a public interest litigation filed in the Court on the basis of a news report about sexual exploitation of children by hardened criminals in Kanpur Jail. The Court directed the District Court Judge, Kanpur to visit the Jail and report. The committee confirmed the crime of sodomy committed against the children. The Court directed the release of child prisoners and shifted them to children's homes.

From the above cases we can say that various rights have been entitled to prisoners by the Constitution and other Acts in the country and the Supreme Court in its various decisions ensured that the prisoner's rights are not violated in our Country.

Role of Forensics in Strengthening Prison Reforms and Protection of Prisoners Rights

Forensic Science is a branch of science that plays a crucial role in the investigation of various cases. Through forensic investigations fair trials can be ensured. This will help in protecting prisoner rights. This can further safeguard the abuse and humiliation faced by undertrials in prisons and society. The DNA analysis on the one side identifies the criminals and also establishes whether the suspected person has truly committed the particular crime. This will prevent wrongful conviction of innocents and preserve their right of fair trial. Moreover, forensic autopsies can help in solving the mysterious custodial deaths. Autopsy reports can identify the sign of torture, excessive force or any other form of abuse inflicted on prisoners. These tests in custodial deaths can help in controlling the future abuses which might happen in prison. The reports submitted in court can identify those police officials who are accountable for these deaths. Forensic investigations can also be done to identify misconduct in prisons. Especially in juvenile detention centers and women prisons where on wide range misconduct is done with juveniles and women prisoners.

While above mentioned forensic techniques are useful in exposing the violation of prisoner rights in prisons and to safeguard them from the abuses. Forensic techniques, specifically forensic psychology, can also be useful in promoting rehabilitation of prisoners and helping them to reintegrate in society. Forensic psychology can assess the psychological state of prisoners. It can be useful in understanding the main reason for commission of a particular crime. This information can help in determining the rehabilitation programs which can help prisoners in reintegrating with the society.

Lack of forensic standards with special reference to its implementation in custodial death cases can create challenges in it being used in investigating these cases can create challenges. Apart from these insufficient number of forensic laboratories, delays in getting forensic reports, lack of trained officials create challenges in using forensic science in various cases. So, if forensic techniques are used in an effective manner then prisoner rights can be ensured which will help in rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners in the society.

The Crisis of the Indian Prison System: Challenges and Data

There are numerous challenges faced around the world in protecting prisoner rights. Despite robust legal and judicial safeguards, lack of effective implementation imprisons laws and lacunae in prison administration had led to humanitarian crisis and following challenges

- **Crisis of Overcrowding:** As of Supreme Court Reports released in 2024, presently India has 1330 prisons with a total capacity of 4,36,266 prisoners. However, 5,73,220 prisoners have been kept in these prisons, resulting in 131.4% occupancy rate. Nearly 75.8% were reported as undertrial prisoners, 23.3 as convicts and 1% as detainees and other prisoners. In India 3 out of 4 prisoners are undertrials. The statistical analysis done reveals that conditions of prisons are very pathetic and there is an urgent need for better safeguards for the rehabilitation of prisoners. Prisons are overcrowded due to an increase in the crime rate across the globe. Due to which facilities provided to Prisoners is insufficient. Even in many Prisons due to overcrowding Prisoners are forced to live in inhuman conditions. Even medical facilities could not be made available to them on time. There are sub-standard treatments that result in failure of treating proper infections and other diseases properly. Overcrowded and unfunded prisons with a lack of proper training to Prison officials further affects the prisoner rights. The prisoners instead of getting reformed in prisons generally continue their criminal activities after getting released from prisons.
- **Inadequate basic amenities:** The major challenges also include an increase in the number of prisoner's day by day across India and the world due to which a lot of money is spent in providing required health services, food, water, sanitation facilities so that prisoners can be punished without violating their rights. There is also the challenge of ineffective management in prisons with inadequate security arrangements due to which Prisons are not found to be safe for the Prisoners. This is due to lack of enough prison officials, until more trained officers are employed we cannot expect proper prison administration.
- **Undertrial prisoners:** Nearly the majority of prisoners are in pre-trial stage and a lot of money is also spent, due to which countries have to suffer the consequences of extensive costs. Not only this, as the judicial process takes time, undertrial prisoners suffer from various mental trauma due to delay in decisions. There is also a problem of Prisoners discipline due to which the main goals of reforming prisoners cannot be achieved. Generally, this is a major problem as it will cause difficulties in rehabilitation of prisoners. Lack of infrastructure facilities and no scientific classification of Prisoners causes difficulties in the rehabilitation process of offenders.
- **Indiscipline in Prison:** Prison indiscipline increases the criminal activities in prisons with inadequate security arrangements. As in prisons family members are allowed to meet for very less time, there is no emotional connection as well as feeling to reform. Due to which the main aim of modern prisons to rejoin these prisoners in society cannot be achieved.

- **Discrimination in Prisons:** Prisons have also become mirrors of the existing inequalities and discrimination in the society. As numerous prisoners from marginalized communities, women, juveniles face numerous inequalities and discrimination in the prisons. The lack of faith and increase in distrust among inmates on prison authorities has also posed major challenges in prison administration and also affected prison rights. Increase in custodial deaths also creates doubts on prison authorities.
- **Health Problems in Prisons:** The research on various aspects of Prisoners rights by studying various laws and conventions on prisoner rights shows that a wide number of rights have been provided to Prisoners both at national and international level. After interacting with prisoners, we have realised that they are facing health problems due to overcrowding and unhygienic conditions in prisons. There is also unavailability of basic amenities of good quality due to which they are suffering a lot. Due to no efforts on separately keeping prisoners of different crimes due to which rehabilitation and reformation of prisoners faces a lot of problems. Delays in legal procedures have increased the number of undertrials in prisons. As a result, prison reforms are to be properly implemented so that prisoner rights can be protected. The NCRB report has mentioned that there is a lack of prison officials as well as health staff with only 25 psychiatrists for the entire nation's prison population, leading to untreated mental trauma and stress which is a major barrier to reformation.

The Pivotal Role of Forensics in Strengthening Prison Reforms

Forensic Science is a branch of science that plays a crucial role in the investigation of various cases. Through forensic investigations fair trials can be ensured. This will help in protecting prisoner rights. This can further safeguard the abuse and humiliation faced by undertrials in prisons and society. The DNA analysis on the one side identifies the criminals and also establishes whether the suspected person has truly committed the particular crime. This will prevent wrongful conviction of innocents and preserve their right of fair trial. Moreover, forensic autopsies can help in solving the mysterious custodial deaths. Autopsy reports can identify the sign of torture, excessive force or any other form of abuse inflicted on prisoners. These tests in custodial deaths can help in controlling the future abuses which might happen in prison. The reports submitted in court can identify those police officials who are accountable for these deaths. Forensic investigations can also be done to identify misconduct in prisons. Especially in juvenile detention centers and women prisons where on wide range misconduct is done with juveniles and women prisoners.

While above mentioned forensic techniques are useful in exposing the violation of prisoner rights in prisons and to safeguard them from the abuses. Forensic techniques, specifically forensic psychology, can also be useful in promoting rehabilitation of prisoners and helping them to reintegrate in society. Forensic psychology can assess the psychological state of prisoners. It can be useful in understanding the main reason for commission of a particular crime. This information can help in determining the rehabilitation programs which can help prisoners in reintegrating with the society.

Lack of forensic standards with special reference to its implementation in custodial death cases can create challenges in it being used in investigating these cases can create challenges. Apart from these insufficient number of forensic laboratories, delays in getting forensic reports, lack of trained officials create challenges in using forensic science in various cases. So, if forensic techniques are used in an effective manner then prisoner rights can be ensured which will help in rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners in the society.

Conclusion and Recommendations

From the above analysis we can conclude that even though various laws have been made but lack proper implementation, delay in legal procedures due to which overcrowding has increased in prisons has affected prisoner rights. As prisoners are living in very inhuman conditions in the prisons with lack of proper food, water, hygiene, sanitation and other amenities they suffer a lot and could not reform themselves. The overcrowding of prisons, as very few of them getting convicted, proper basic amenities such as proper quality of food, water and sanitation facilities, lack of health checkups and many other problems have led to the formation of different Committees such as the All India Jail Manual Committee (1957-59), the Mulla Committee (1980-83), the National Committee on Women Prisoners and Justice Amitava Roy Committee (2018). These committees have made recommendations on various aspects of prison administration including prison conditions, treatment of prisoners and rehabilitation programs. This shows that there is a need to reflect upon the efficiency of the criminal justice system so that the right to speedy trial can be secured to prisoners. Thus, prisoners who are not involved in hard crimes should be provided with bails so that overcrowding can be reduced. The research also shows that recommendations of various committees to reform prisons have not been strictly implemented due to which prisoner rights are violated so we can also conclude that until these recommendations are not strictly implemented prisoner rights cannot be protected.

Witnessing the challenges faced in the protection of Prisoners rights I would like to suggest following recommendations

Establishing a strict, mandatory protocol for unbiased and timely investigation in all cases of custodial death and alleged abuse. Autopsy reports must be conducted by independent medical boards and submitted to the court within stipulated timeframe to ensure accountability and deter future abuse.

Adequate arrangements should be improved for food, clothing, sanitation, ventilation, and water in the prisons. Further, the prison staff should be trained and organised so that prisoners management can be properly maintained.

After-care, rehabilitation and probation facilities should be made by implementing probation laws properly in the country. The media and public should be allowed to visit prisons so that transparency can be ensured in prisons.

Timeframe should be properly followed while investigating cases so that undertrials can get justice on time. For these investigations forensic techniques should be used so that potential evidence can be identified and the legal process can be completed in stipulated time.

In custodial deaths, encounters and other cases in the forensic investigation process should be used in an unbiased

manner to identify the responsible authorities in these cases and can be strictly punished.

In prisons they should be given moral and value-based education so that they don't repeat their crimes once they are released from prisons. This will help in rehabilitation of prisoners.

More open prisons should be developed so that overcrowding in prisons can be controlled, prisoners will have opportunities for self-improvement and resocialization which will help in reforming and rehabilitating them.

The Government should provide adequate funds and resources for prison reforms and also regularly monitor how these funds are utilised by responsible authorities.

The undertrials should be kept separately and not in prisons where already convicted prisoners are staying so that overcrowding in prisons can be controlled.

Proper health checkups should be done in prisons so that the right to health which is basic human rights of Prisoners can be safeguarded. This will also help in controlling the spread of contagious diseases. It is also highly recommended that mental health of prisoners should be taken care of in prisons as it is very important for their reformation in prisons.

More women police officials should be employed so that matters of women and children offenders can be properly handled by these women police officials. There should be sincerity, devotion and tactfulness in prison officials so that it can help in the rehabilitation process of offenders.

Any type of discrimination in the prisons should be controlled along with classification of prisoners based on their social status should be stopped as it grants special rights to some prisoners over the others.

Various prison manuals which treat scavenging as an essential institutional maintenance service should be removed so that forceful scavenging can be controlled.

Moreover, Supreme Court reports on prison have also highlighted huge disparities in daily wages, so payment of fair and equitable wages should be paid to the prisoners without any discrimination.

More E-courts should be promoted so that trial procedures can be completed in less time and the number of under trial prisoners can be reduced. This will promote speedy trials and help many people.

If there are possibilities, then such prisoners whose offence is not much serious should be granted conditional bail. This will reduce overcrowding in prisons.

There should be monitoring of prisons so that prisoner's conditions can be properly improved. More legal aid should be provided to poor prisoners so that they can present their case in Court.

Hence, studying in depth the laws, jail manuals, different reports of committees on prison reforms, Supreme Court's report on prisons in India and precedents on prisoner rights along with personally interacting with prisoners we can say that still a lot is needed to be done so that prisons can become a useful place for reforming prisoners and their rehabilitation in the society. This can help in achieving the goal of reforming prisoners in prisons so that they can live criminal activities and totally live a proper life. The forensic investigations of different cases should be done specifically in the cases of mysterious custodial deaths so that prisoner rights can be protected. Various forensic branches can strengthen prison reforms in India. Only these techniques can help in strengthening the prison reforms in India.

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