

## **ABSTRACT**

**Name of Institution:** De La Salle University-Dasmaringas

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**Title:** Behind Bars: The Lived Experiences of Female Inmates at Correctional Institution for Women

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### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

#### **A. GENERAL**

The study aimed to describe the Female Inmates' Lived Experiences at CIW (Correctional Institution for Women).

#### **B. SPECIFIC**

- 1.) What is the Demographic Profile of the participants according to:
  - b. Age.
  - c. Civil Status.
  - d. Criminal Case.
  - e. Educational Background.
- 2.) What are Lived Experiences of Female Inmates?

3.) What are the implications of the Lived Experiences to the field of Psychology?

### **SCOPE AND DELIMITATION**

The study focused on the Lived Experiences of Female Inmates at Correctional Institution for Women (CIW). There were nine participants, all female inmates of CIW who were chosen by the prison administration. The choices of participants were based on their convenience and the willingness of the inmate to submit their selves in the interview. The researchers conducted interviews to be able to perceive and trace the female inmates' "lived experiences".

Since the phenomenological research does not assume anything, it does not need conceptual nor does theoretical framework for it reveal the essence of the phenomena.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The researchers use Convenience Sampling in this study wherein the researchers an approximation of the truth is taken from the informants' experiences. The choices of the informants are based on the convenience and willingness of the inmate to submit their selves to the interview. The researchers conducted an in-depth interview concerning the informant's

demographic profile such as age, civil status, economic status, criminal case and educational background and their lived experiences.

## **RESPONDENTS OF THE STUDY**

The initial plan was to have nine participants; however the prison administrators can only provide four female inmates for this study, due to security reasons both the researchers and the offenders. Since this study was a phenomenological research, it focuses more on the holistic view of individual's experiences. The researchers spent more time knowing the existing phenomena of the co-researchers. All of the informants were female inmates of CIW who were chosen by the prison administration.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based from the findings, researchers concluded that:

1. Being in prison gave the female inmates a lot of realizations and takes them to view life in a different perspective. It was not as easy or as hard as most thinks.
2. No one can really measure the quality of life inside the confinement but them – who are paying for their debt whether they actually violated the law or not. The fact that you they have to sacrifice their freedom and family is a great loss in their lives.

3. They eventually lose contact with the outside world until such time that they would free from their charges. It somehow makes them feel behind from most of the recent happenings outside.
4. The inmates view their stay in the confinement positively. They have accepted their fate and made changes to improve their selves as a better individual.
5. Prisoners should not be typecast and judged just because they are convicted and is spending their lives inside the prison cell, because sometimes they are more sensitive and rational in the way they live their lives than those outside prison bars.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

In this study, the data that were gathered shows that female inmates view their lived experiences in a positive Way. Upon entering the prison, the difficulties they encountered, their ways of coping up, and the way they evaluate their selves.

1. It is interesting to study about the way they face and cope with all the difficulties they have encountered.
2. This study will serve as an eye opener to the general public to know that those people behind bars should not be typecasted and should be respected. This will also help in obtaining a perspective on women

in the criminal justice system- as offenders, as victims of crime and as working member of the system.

3. This study will help the respondents' voice out their grievances and sufferings.
4. Give what is due to the female inmates like a more appropriate directive to the country's house of detention and equal treatment to the country's prisoner especially the female offenders.
5. Understanding those people who commit crimes and guide them to cope up with the struggles they've encountered.

