ABSTRACT

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Title: The Concept of Motherhood as Constructed by the Children of the Woman Inmates of Muntinlupa City Jail
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Objectives

A. General

The objective of the study is to find out how the children of jailed mothers define motherhood based on the symbols of their interaction with three major factors: the family members, media, particularly television, and everyday experiences.

Moreover, the study also determined how media helps in the construction of the image of motherhood.
B. Specific

The following are the specific problem statements that the researchers determined:

1. How do the child with an imprisoned mother picture the latter as a parent based on their interaction with their family members?

2. What is the impact of media in the construction of an image of a mother in jail?

3. How do the everyday experiences of the children contribute to the construction of the concept of a mother and set ideals of motherhood?

Scope and Coverage

The researchers conducted the study at Muntinlupa City Jail, Brgy. Tunasan, Muntinlupa City, Metro Manila. The researchers interviewed mother inmates of the said penitentiary and from there chose the mother-respondents who fit in the given criteria. The criteria are as follows:

The criteria for inmate-respondents are:

- cases are still on-going and they are not yet convicted; and
- the length of stay of the woman-inmate inside the jail is not more than 4 years.
The criteria for the children-respondents are:

- the children must be staying with their immediate family members like siblings, father, other close relatives; and
- the children-respondent must be visiting their mothers in jail;
- the development stage bracket of the children-respondents are from pre-school to adolescents.

The study focused on the children of women prisoners to know how the children constructed the image of motherhood through basic interaction and communication, and what factors affect them to come up with such concepts.

Moreover, the researchers used the Theory of Symbolic Interactionism by Herbert Blumer to formulate conclusions for this study. The theory is applied to further discuss how the children of a mother-inmate construct the image of motherhood and how this theory helps the structure of the study.

**Major Findings**

From the evaluation of the data gathered data, it is found out that media cannot be blamed on how the children construct the image of a mother in jail. Though media have been labeled as a powerful tool in shaping the attitude of an individual, it still depends on how the
respondents interact with other factors like interaction with family members and their everyday experiences.

Conclusion

The researchers conclude that the impact of the children's interaction with family members and their everyday experiences contribute to how the children of an inmate perceive the image of their mother. This image depends on the level of the relationship of the children to other family members who are the guardians, and the guardians' relationship to the mother who is in jail. Second, media do not have much influence on how the children conceive the image of a mother in jail.

Recommendation

- A case study that will focus on a specific situation of the respondents to which the criteria will be more particular and should be done. A study will be more comprehensive like seeing the lives of the inmates and their family, and the impact of such set-up must be investigated.
- There is a need to further prove that media is no longer a key factor in constructing the image of motherhood.
• Research tools must be identified and developed to know why the influence of media is weakened.

• The researchers recommend that future media practitioners should strengthen the study by comparing the contradicting connotation of the effects of traditional media against today's media.