



FACTORS INFLUENCING THE SOCIAL REINTEGRATION OF RELEASED PRISONERS IN TAMILNADU

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Abstract

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Social re-entry in the criminal justice system cannot be avoided since virtually all prisoners are released sooner or later. These initiatives are the outcome of a restorative justice approach which aims to reduce future offences by bringing back offenders to normal life by rehabilitation and restoration. Prisoners' lives in prisons were very difficult in the Indian context till the last decade. Different rehabilitative approaches have been introduced inside prisons but, after release, the number of social reentry initiatives is much less. The released face many psycho-social and economic issues which may destroy a person's ability to adjust with the services provided. The idea of reintegration means working with the offenders , changing their behavioural pattern and bringing them back to the community. Reintegration aims to integrate the offenders back to the society and to provide them with all faculties as of a normal person. Ex- offenders shall integrate with their family , friends , society , employment and be capable of managing the circumstances in a manner which doesn't risk or create additional conflict to law. The national prison policy of India recommends aftercare services for the rehabilitation of released prisoners. The labelling and social stigma due to the crime hinders prisoners' ability to re-enter society after release. In this context, the present paper explored the issues and challenges faced by the released prisoners during their social re-entry and came up with rehabilitative initiatives for a better restoration process.

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The researcher has done empirical methods method research and methods of sampling used are convenient sampling. Total response of 200 responses were collected.

Keywords : Prisoners, re integration, society, rehabilitation and social behaviour.

Introduction

The main principle of the reformative theory is to ensure that punishment ultimately reforms the guilty and makes them return to the society a better person. The object of punishment is to reform the criminal through a method of individualisation. It is a humanitarian concept where if an offender commits a crime it doesn't mean he ceases to be a human. The idea of reintegration means working with the offenders , changing their behavioural pattern and bringing them back to the community. Reintegration aims to integrate the offenders back to the society and to provide them with all faculties as of a normal person. Ex- offenders shall integrate with their family,friends,society,employment and be capable of managing the circumstances in a manner which doesn't risk or create additional conflict to law.

Reintegration is the support and assistance provided to prisoners upon their release from jail. Reintegration often starts when the offender is arrested by preparing them to deal with life and society following imprisonment. In order to achieve reintegration, programs and processes aim to keep prisoners away from the criminal justice system following their release. The administration of Prisons falls in the hands of the state Governments, and is governed by the Prisons Act, 1894 and the Prison Manual of the respective State Governments. The reintegration model involves social rehabilitation and is recommended to last from the start of prison until post-release. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) states that it is mandatory for prisoners to be treated in order to re-enter society. Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (SMR) sheds light on the importance of reintegration in protecting society against crimes and requires that prisoners be able to live normally after prison.

Factors affecting the topic are : The main issue with prison is that it is a separate society that is totally different from the outside world. There are numerous cultures, mental illnesses, and other issues in the prison environment, which is why the reintegration process must protect prisoners from being affected by the negativity around them. This is not an easy task for inmates as they may forget how they lived before prison and, as a result, be unable to deal with their old lives once released. Former prisoners' inability to re-adapt to society may cause them to return to prison. Therefore, the main goal of reintegration is to prepare people to re-enter society upon their release and prevent recidivism.

When prisoners in the United States are released, they face an environment that is challenging and actively deters them from becoming productive members of society. Within three years of release, 67.8 percent of ex-offenders are rearrested, and within five years, 76.6 percent are rearrested. In India people acceptance towards

ex prisoners is too low and they're always discriminated. The United States has the world's largest prison population, with nearly 2.3 million people currently living behind bars. We have half a million more incarcerated people than China, even though China has more than four times our overall population. For example, California inmates filed multiple lawsuits and staged a lengthy hunger strike to protest overcrowding. California's prison population had grown to nearly twice its designed capacity. In 2011, the United States Supreme Court ruled that California was violating incarcerated people's constitutional rights by endangering their health and safety. California was ordered to reduce its prison population by tens of thousands within two years but was later given a two-year extension. The **main aim** of the paper is to understand the difficulties faced by the prisoners after their term period and how society treats them and how self is a reformatory process while they are put in rehabilitation programs.

Objectives

- To examine the mental conditions of inmates and their integration into the society.
- To examine prison condition and to rehabilitative programs set up by government.
- To understand prisoners' social life after their release period.

Review of literature

R Santhosh, E Mathew (2021) has analysed the paper and presents an empirical study conducted among 100 released prisoners from India, namely Tamil Nadu (TN) and Kerala, to understand various factors influencing their social well being .

EG Lambert, H Qureshi, J Frank (2022) has analysed the study using the job demands–resources model to examine the effects of workplace variables in terms of job demands.

A Kela - 2003 (2003) The author has investigated Vipassana meditation, as taught by S.N. Goenka facilitates prison reform and the reintegration of prisoners into the society.

J Varghese, V Raghavan (2019) have explored the issues and challenges faced by the released prisoners during their social re-entry and came up with rehabilitative initiatives for a better restoration process in the Indian context.

S Sanyal (2010) has explained that Behaviour modification therapy helps further in guiding an offender to reform himself according to the norms of the free world.

Sunil, Santosh A, Jayashree, Shrinivas, Murali Dhar, Kumar, JV Pattanka (2013) have analysed on objectives: To assess the health status of convicted inmates of prison and to study their socio demographic profile. reintegration of prisoners into mainstream of society following their discharge from prison. society, who were condemned by law and are behind the high wall.

R Gul(2018) This paper identifies the gap between theory and practice in terms of prisoners' reintegration/ in Indian jails. Roy explains custodial deaths, nonsegregation of male.

Christopher, Jeff, Melissa (2006) have analysed in place such restrictions in comparative context and consider their effects on civil liberties, democratic institutions, and civic life more generally. Based on demographic life tables, the authors estimate that approximately 4 million former prisoners and 11.7 million former felons live and work among us every day.

K. S. Rekh Raj Jain (2020) has analysed the paper takes the stock of the current context and aims to bring greater clarity pertinent to the thematic area of concerns regarding effective and humane restoration of prisoners with special reference to India.

Mahuya Bandyopadhyay (2007) discussed in this article, I explore the idea and practice of reform by drawing on key government documents and reports on reform and ethnographic fieldwork in a central prison in Kolkata, India. First, I critically examine the idea of reform and explore its colonial underpinnings and its implications in actual prison management.

Dominique Moran (2012) have analysed article which presents empirical evidence that explores the embodied experiences of release and reintegration, identifying specific examples of prison time being 'inscribed' on the body which prove problematic for former prisoners, and demonstrating the ways.

(International Journal of Enhanced Research in Educational Development (IJERED)) discusses that The prison system in our country has now been much improved. In general effects of imprisonment are the nature of the progressive weakening of mental powers and of a deterioration of the character in a way which renders the prisoners' life fit for useful social life and in consequence more liable to reconviction.

(DJ Rothman 1991) have analysed Prison Conditions in India The Prison Project has investigated conditions for sentenced prisoners, pre and post. It examines prison conditions for all prisoners, not just political.

(PK Tarapore - 1936) have analysed Prison reform in India. That these warnings and explanations are 'necessary' is obvious from one fact, and one fact alone, about our prison system in India.

(A Kaushik, K Sharma 2009) have analysed that Prisoners in one of the most traditional states in India, Rajasthan. The Jaipur Central Prison of Rajasthan and till recently it was the only prison for convicted women in Rajasthan.

(Mahuya Bandyopadhyay) have analysed relevant document and subsequent reports on colonial prisons refer to the first prison reform committee in India as established by Macaulay in 1836.

(LP Raju 2014) has analysed that In the past, prisons were believed to be places of Captives, where inmates were held for vengeance and discipline. Initially, it was assumed that separate cells and imprisonment would improve the guilty person, but that belief is progressively being replaced as the administration and experts have recognized from time to time that prisons have certain limitations.

(N Gupta, RK Gupta 2018) have analysed in present paper, authors have conducted a comprehensive study on the prison work program in Model Jail Buraill in Union Territory Chandigarh and lessons drawn from the study may act as a stimulus for more such initiatives in Indian prisons.

(KI Vibhute - 2004) has analysed The Prison Laws in India and stated that we have to keep in mind that the Prison Laws formulated at the Therefore, the paper is discussing the scope of reformation of prisoners under existing Prison Laws.

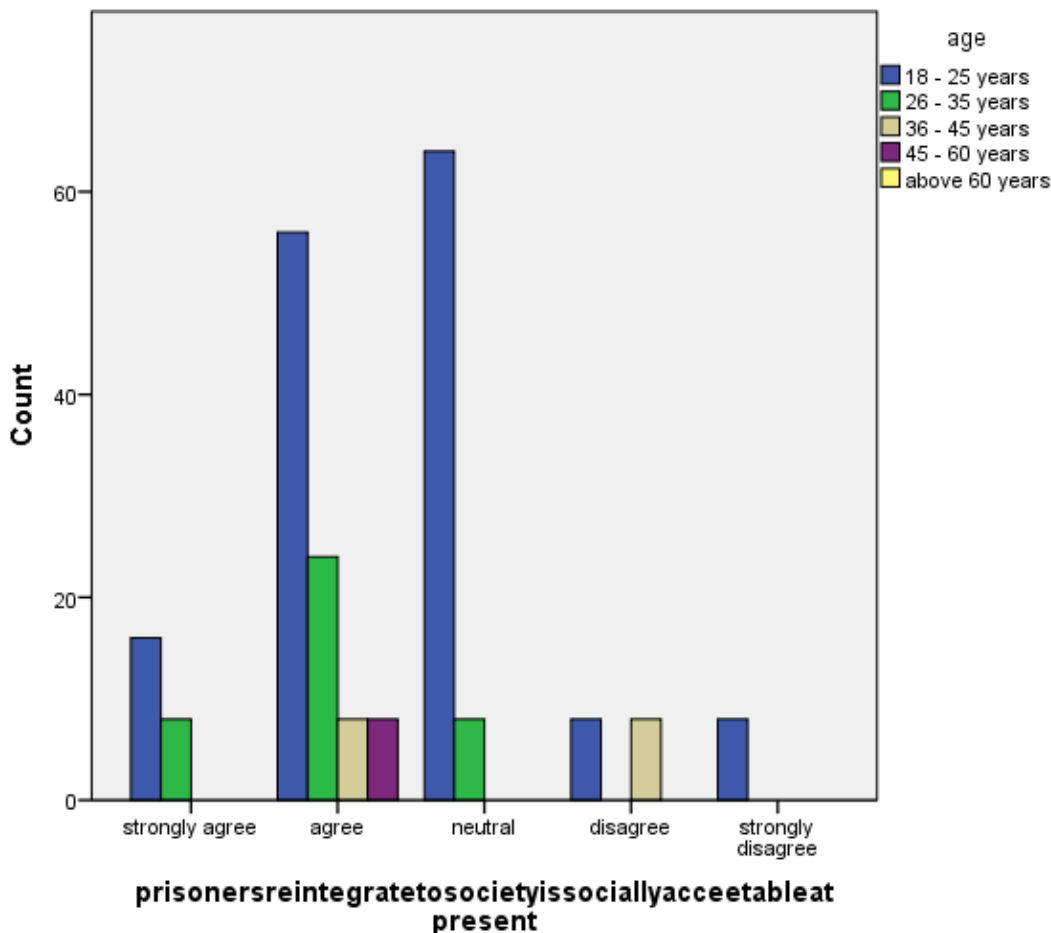
(UK Singh - 2007) discussed how the politics of exception unfolds in India and how it has been used by states to keep uncomfortable political opponents in prison interminably.

Methodology

The study used both primary and secondary dairy data. Primary data has been collected from 200 respondents using convenience sampling with structured questionnaires. Information such as age, gender, qualification, occupation and opinion on social reintegration of prisoners. Secondary information is also collected from various sources like books, articles, research papers, etc. Primary data was collected through questionnaires. Simple percentage and graphs were used. The primary data which has been analysed using Frequencies, Chi-Square test and Crosstab method, Anova. The secondary data is collected from books, journals, articles and e-sources. The researcher has also utilized books, articles, notes, comments and other writings to incorporate the various views of the multitude of jurists, with the intention of presenting a holistic view. The information was collected such as age, gender, educational qualification and occupation and opinion on related prisoners and social re integration. A software SPSS is used to interpret the data into graphical representation.

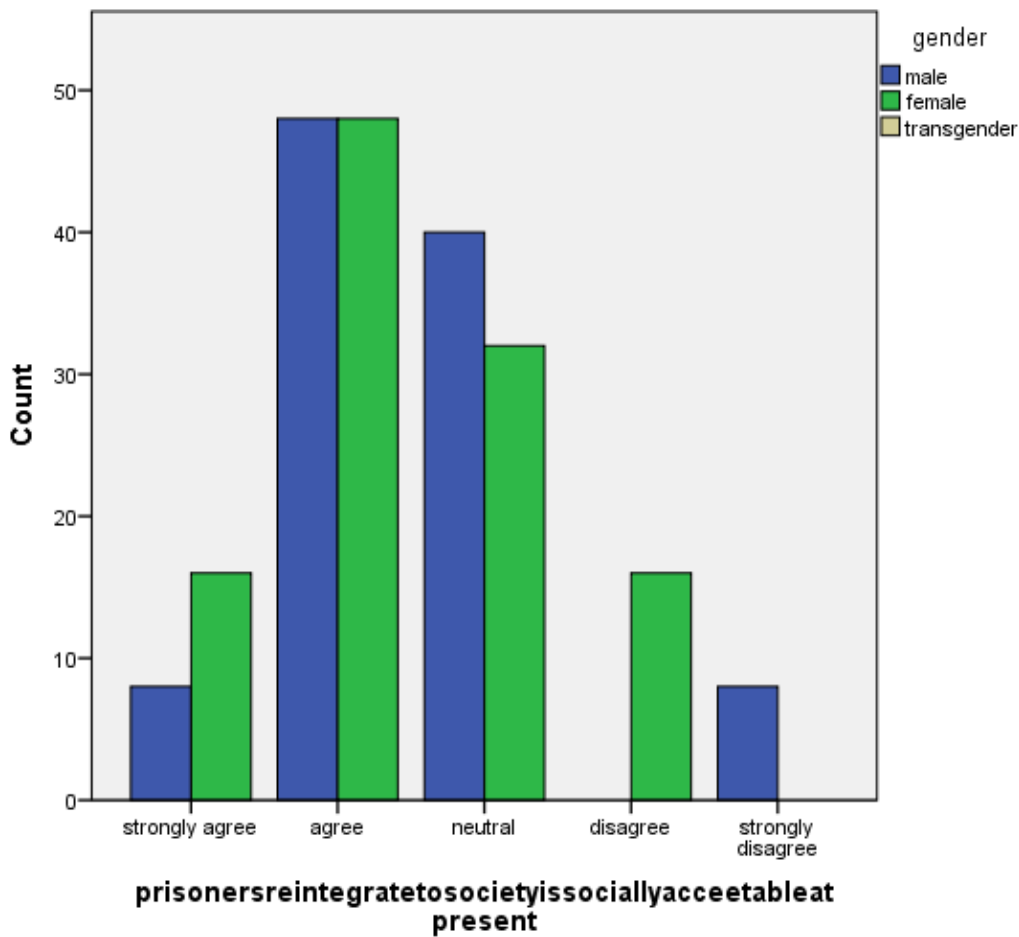
Analysis

Table 1



Legend : The fig. 1 graph depicts the age distribution of the respondents with respect to prisoners integration to society is socially acceptable at present.

Table 2



Legend : The fig. 2 graph depicts the gender distribution of the respondents with respect to prisoners integration to society is socially acceptable at present.

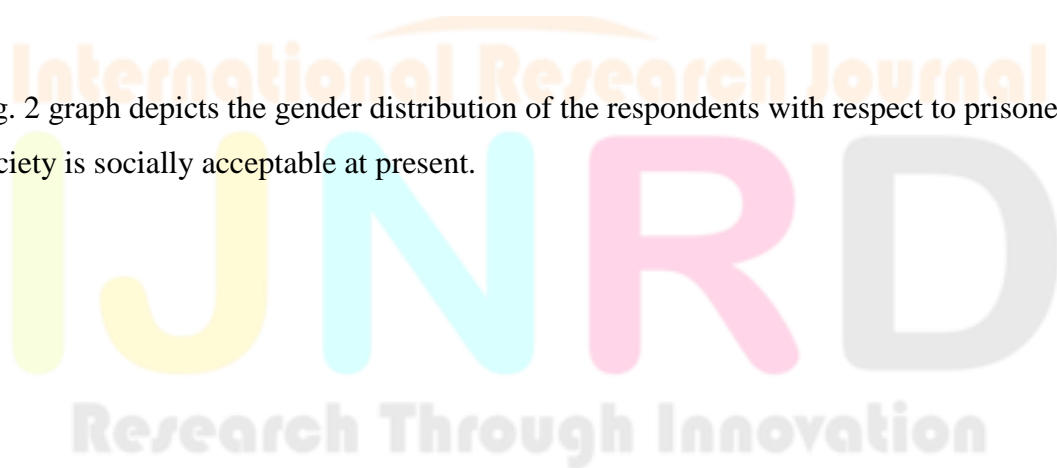
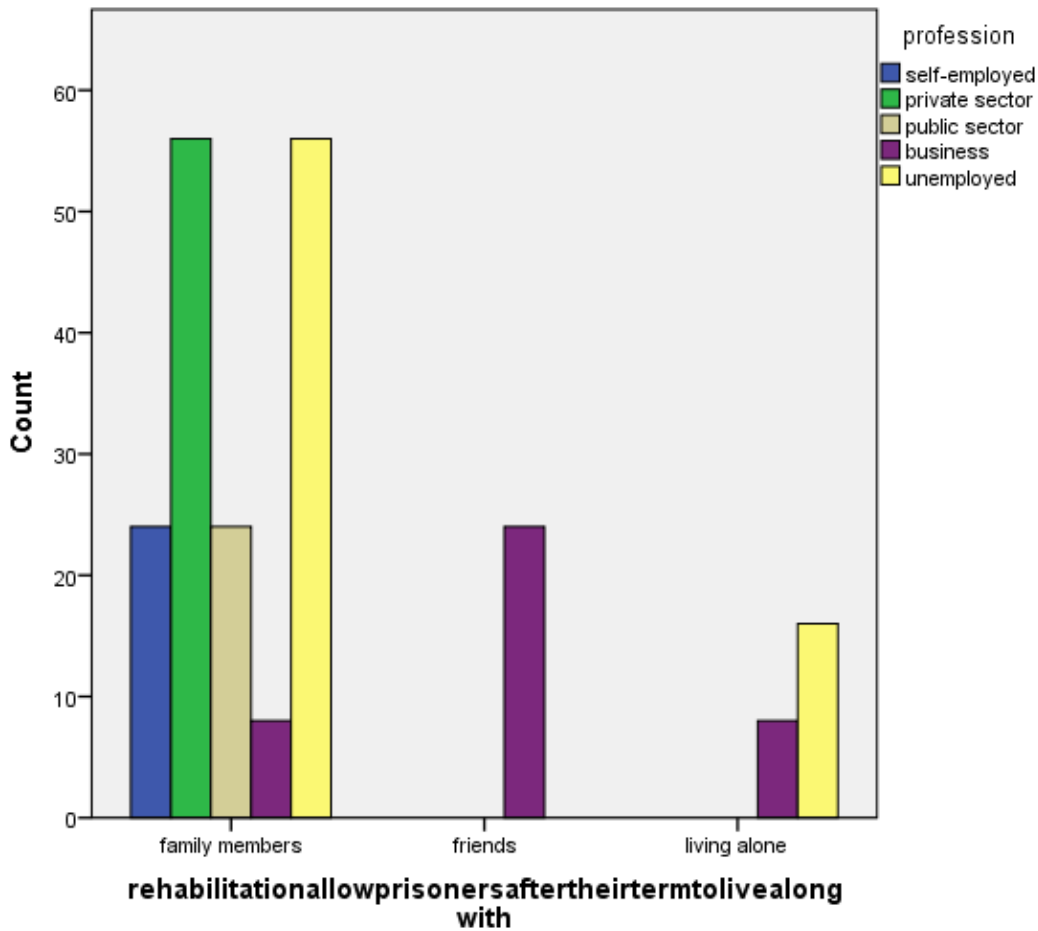


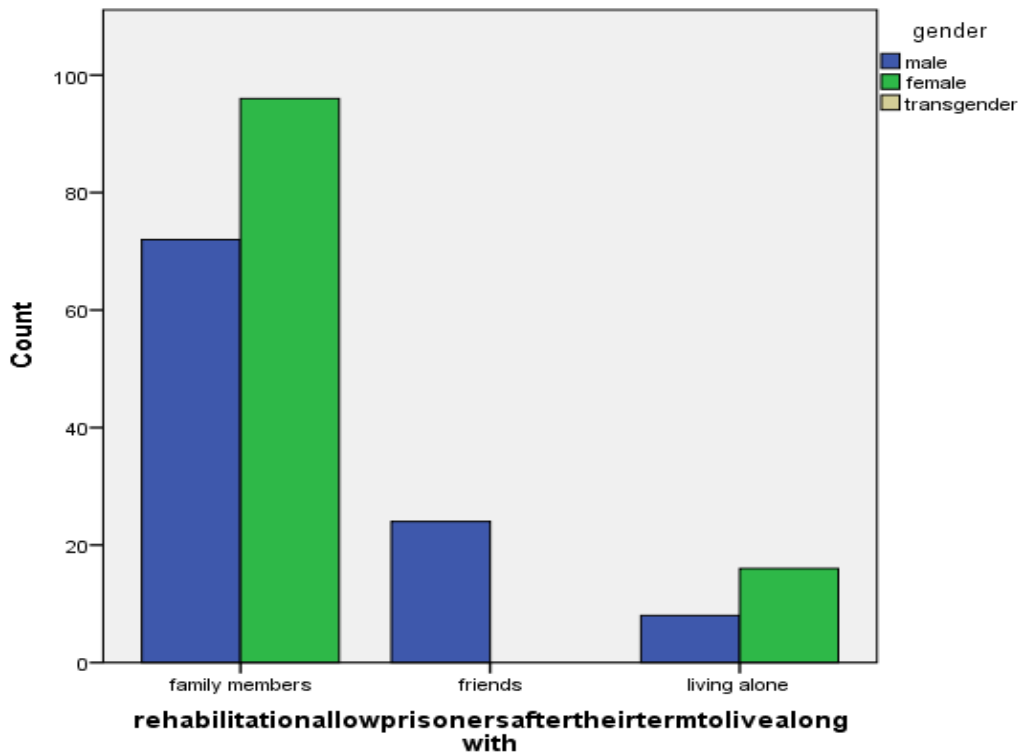
Table 3



Legend : The figure 3 represents the profession of the respondents with respect to rehabilitation allowing prisoners after their term to live along with.



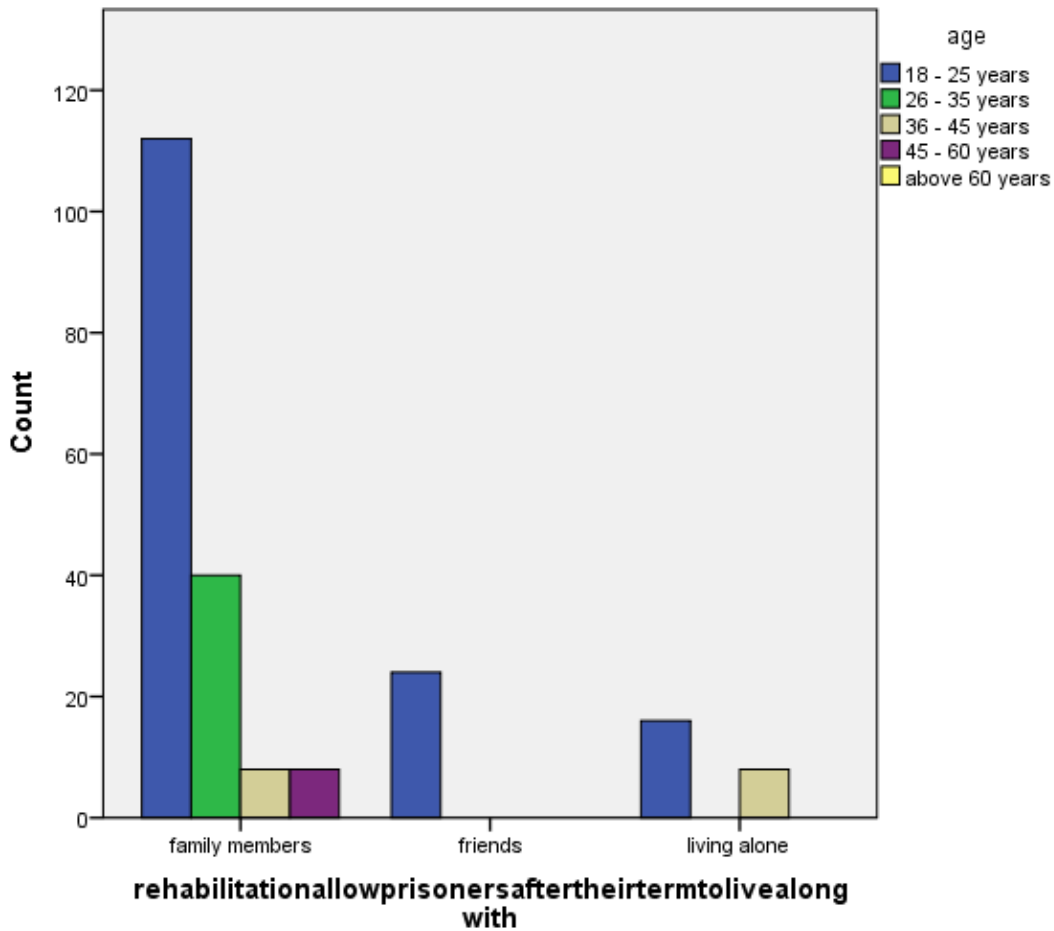
Table 4



Legend : The figure 4 represents the gender of the respondents with respect to rehabilitation allowing prisoners after their term to live along with.



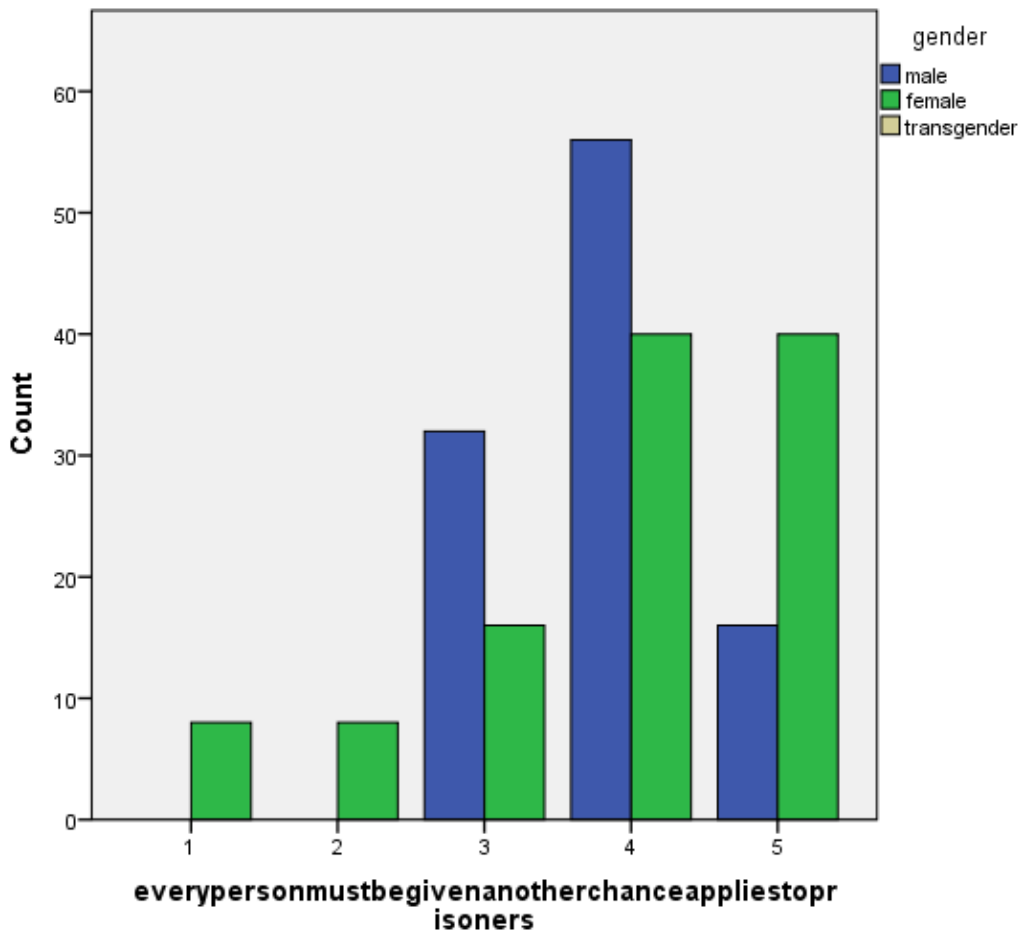
Table 5



Legend : The figure 5 represents the age of the respondents with respect to rehabilitation allowing prisoners after their term to live along with.



Table 6



Legend : The fig. 6 is a graphical representation of the gender distribution of the respondents in relation to which every person must be given another chance applies to prisoners as well.

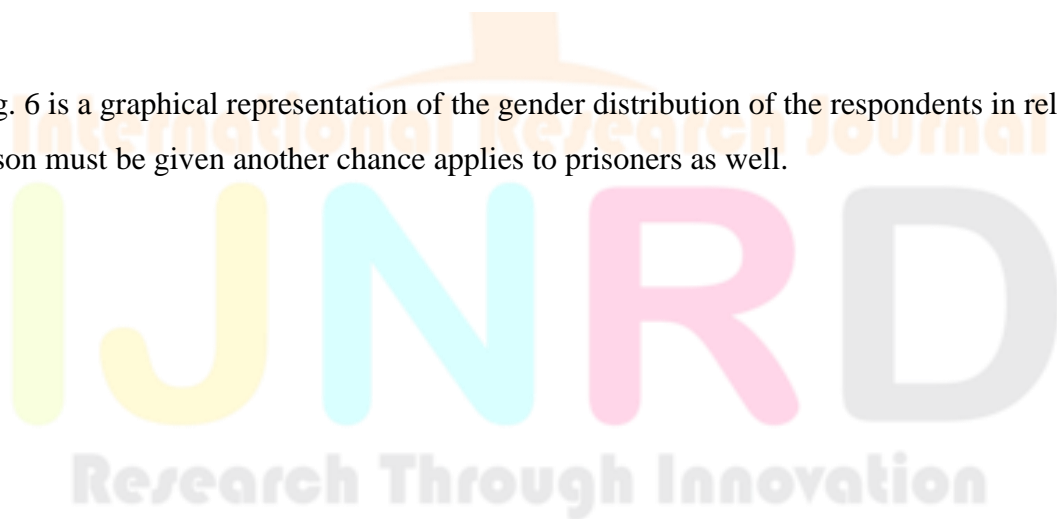
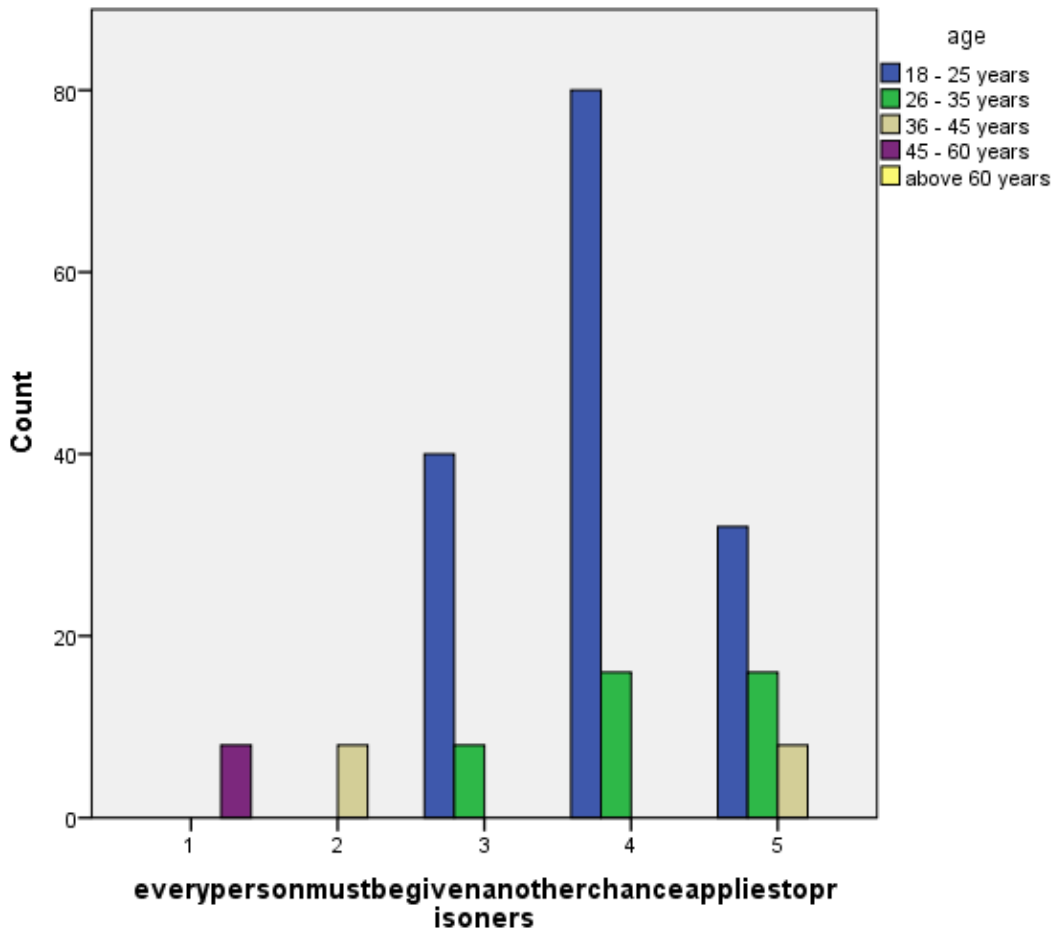


Table 7



Legend : The fig. 7 is a graphical representation of the age distribution of the respondents in relation to which every person must be given another chance applies to prisoners as well.

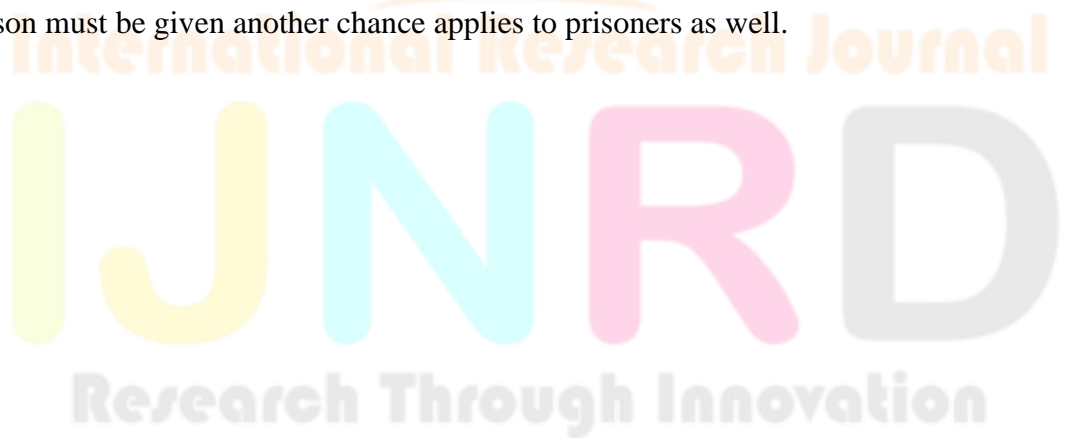
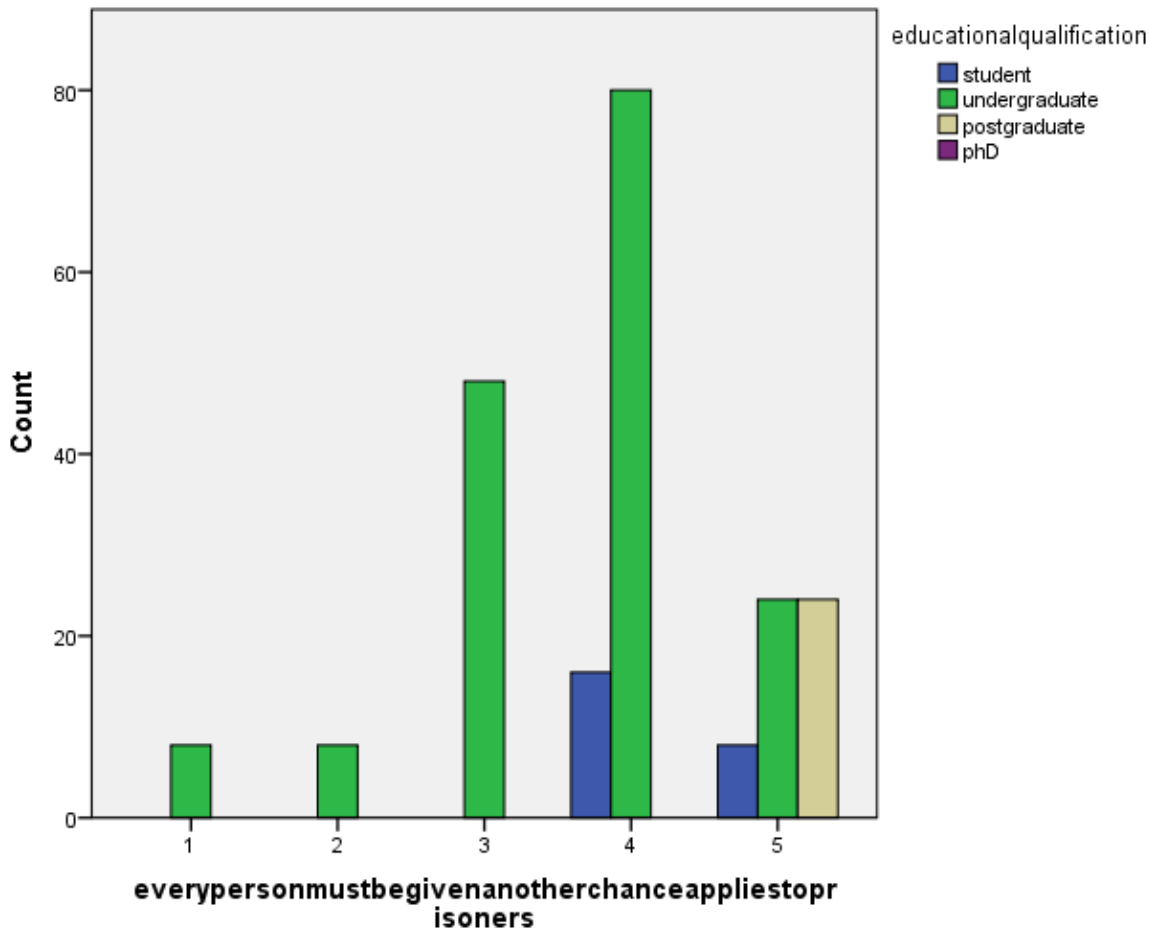


Table 8



Legend : The fig. 8 is a graphical representation of the education qualification of the respondents in relation to which every person must be given another chance applies to prisoners as well.

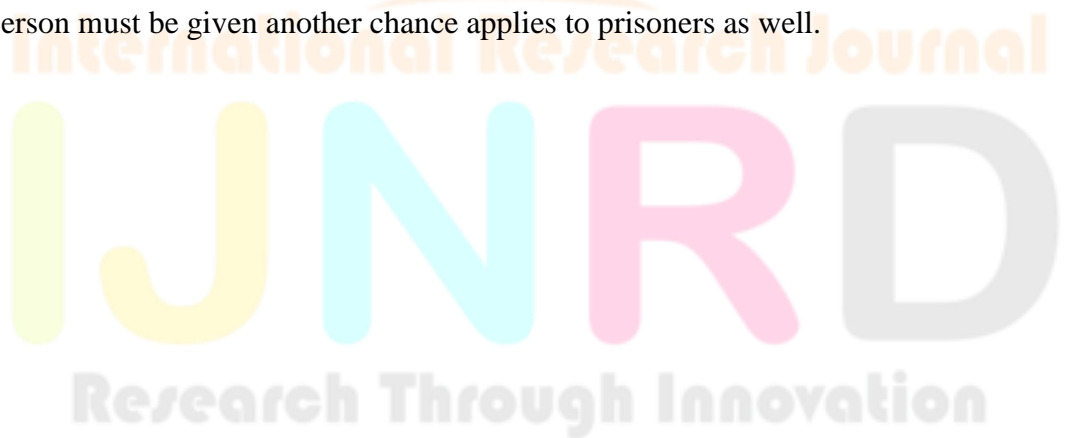
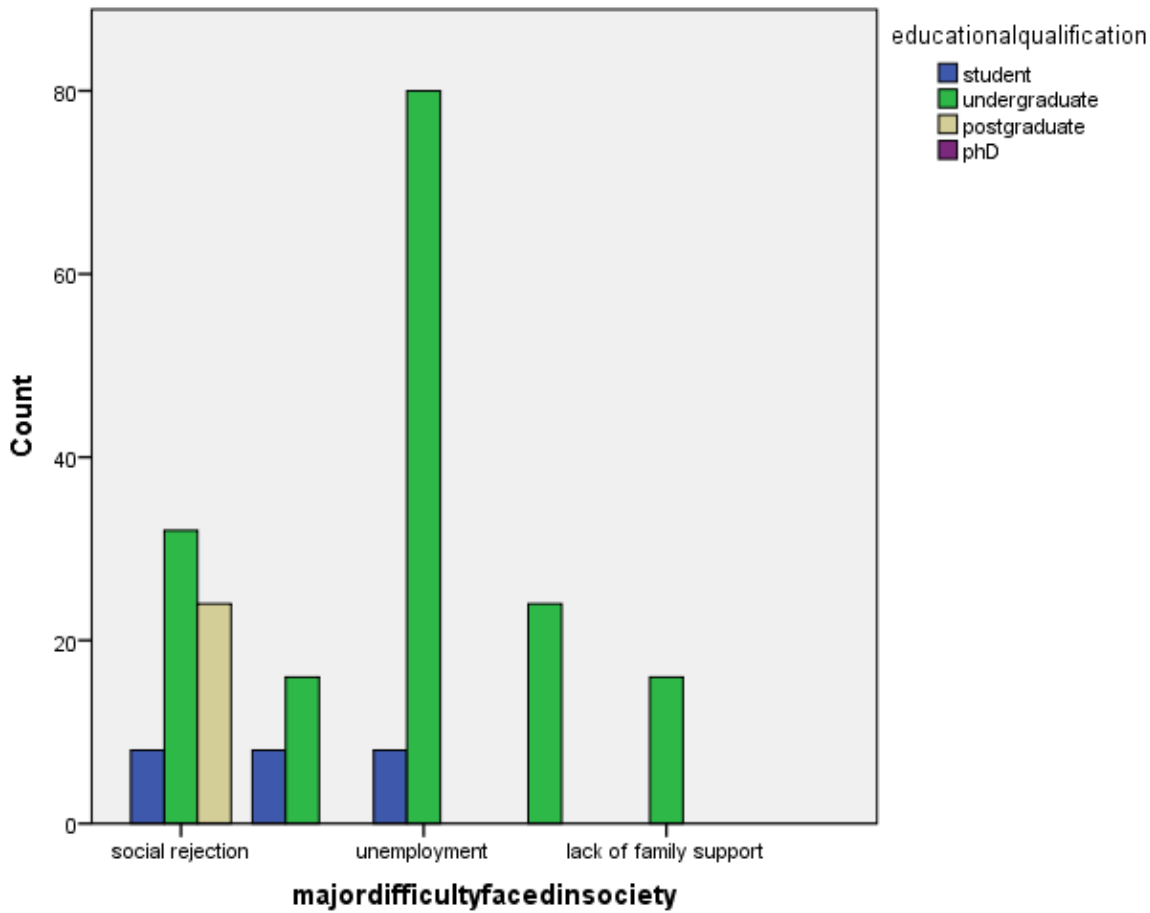


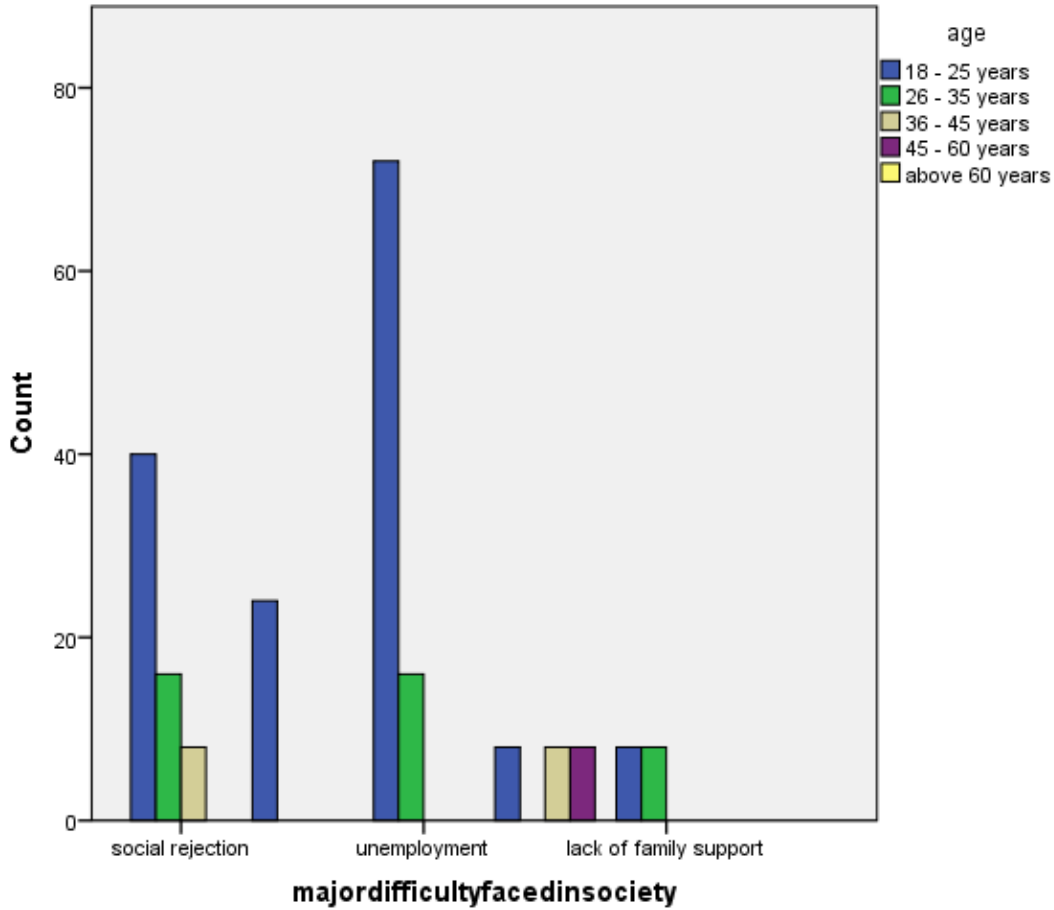
Table 9



Legend : The fig. 9 respects the major difficulty faced in society by the prisoners compared with the education qualification of the respondents.



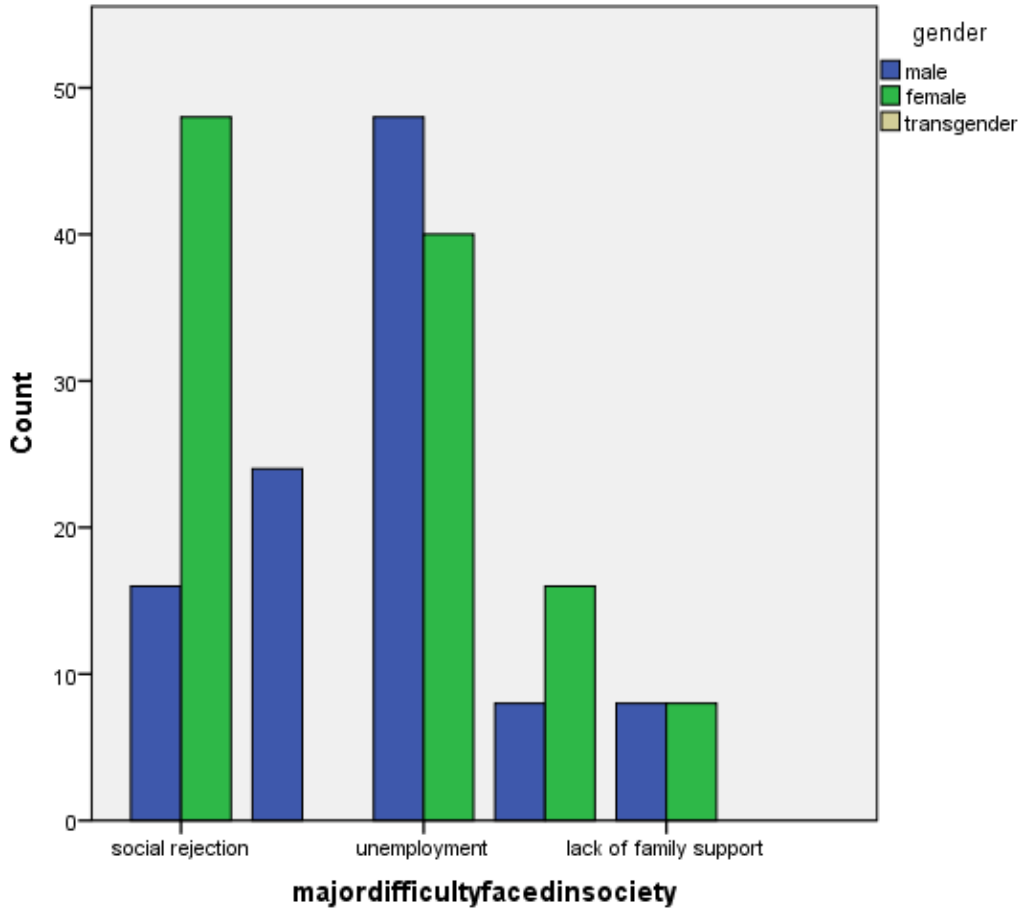
Table 10



Legend : The fig. 10 respects the major difficulty faced in society by the prisoners compared with the age distribution of the respondents.



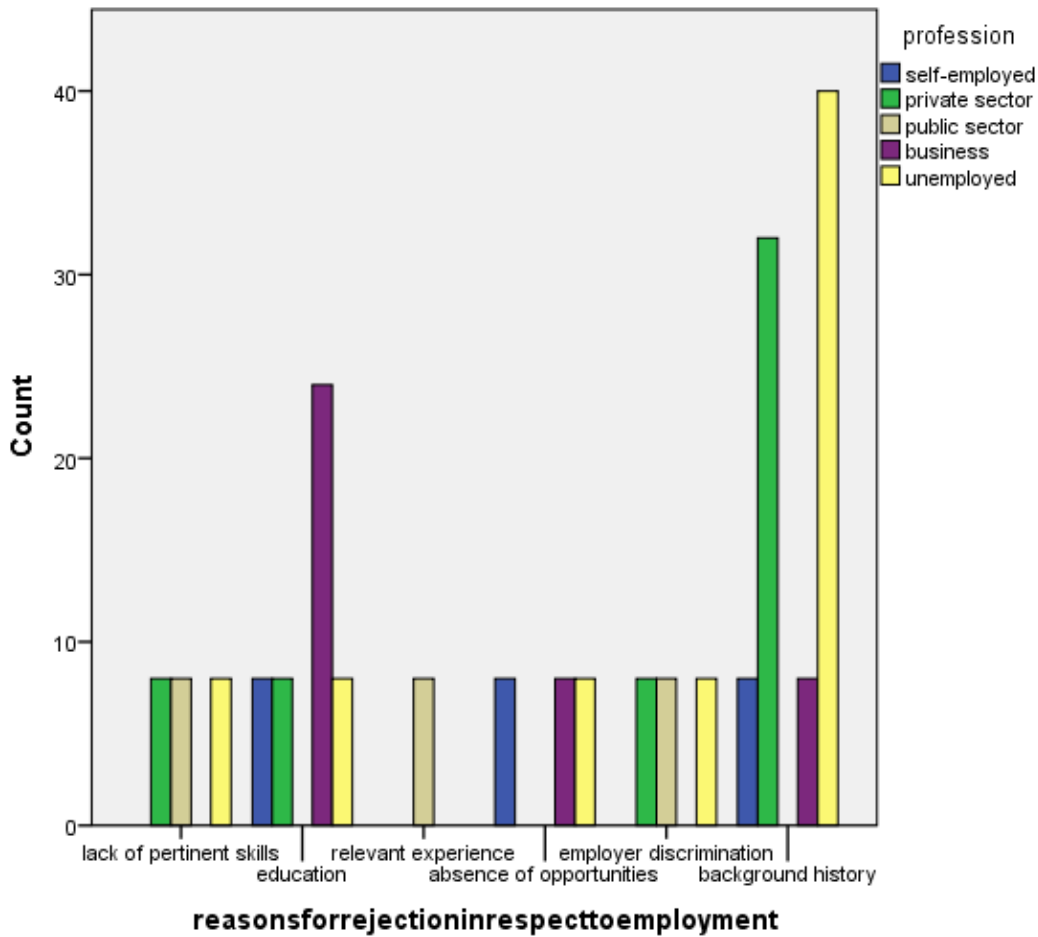
Table 11



Legend : The fig. 11 respects the major difficulty faced in society by the prisoners compared with the gender of the respondents.



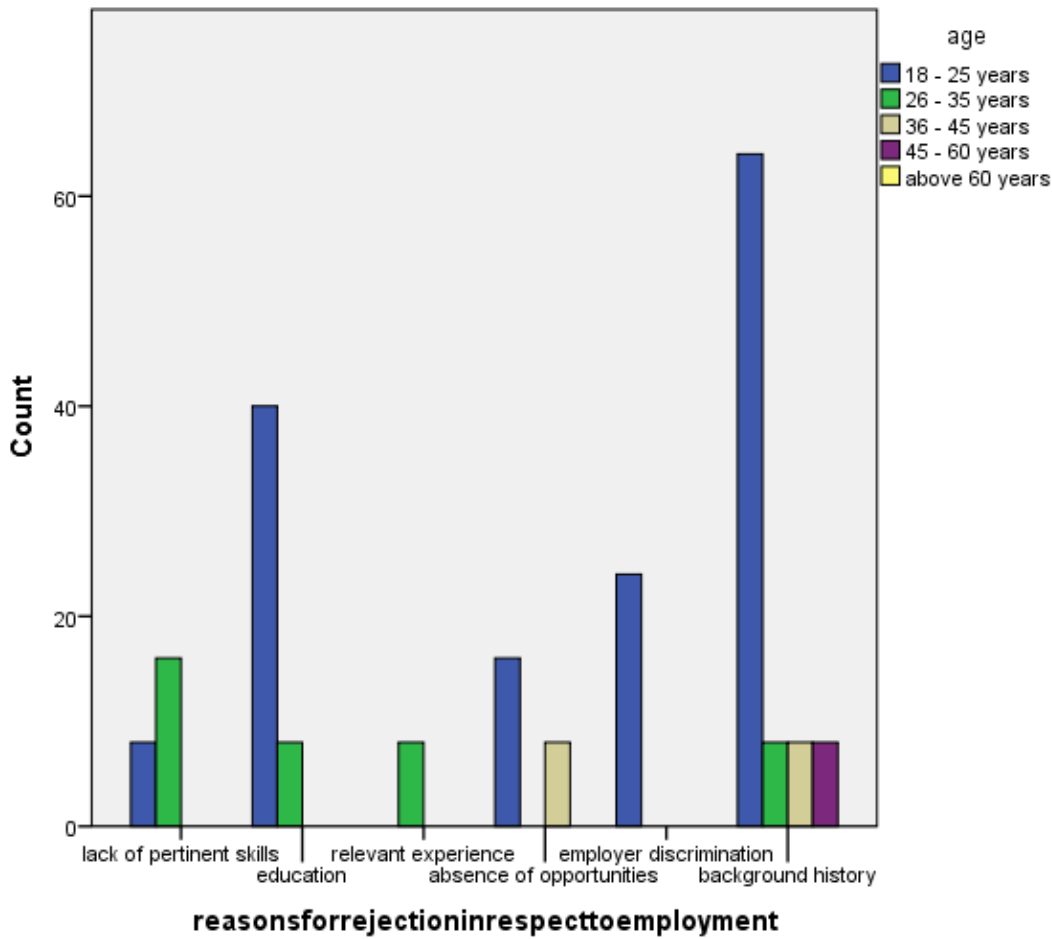
Table 12



Legend : Figure 12 depicts the profession of the respondents along with the reasons for rejection in respect to employment opportunities.



Table 13



Legend : Figure 13 depicts the age distribution of the respondents along with the reasons for rejection in respect to employment opportunities.

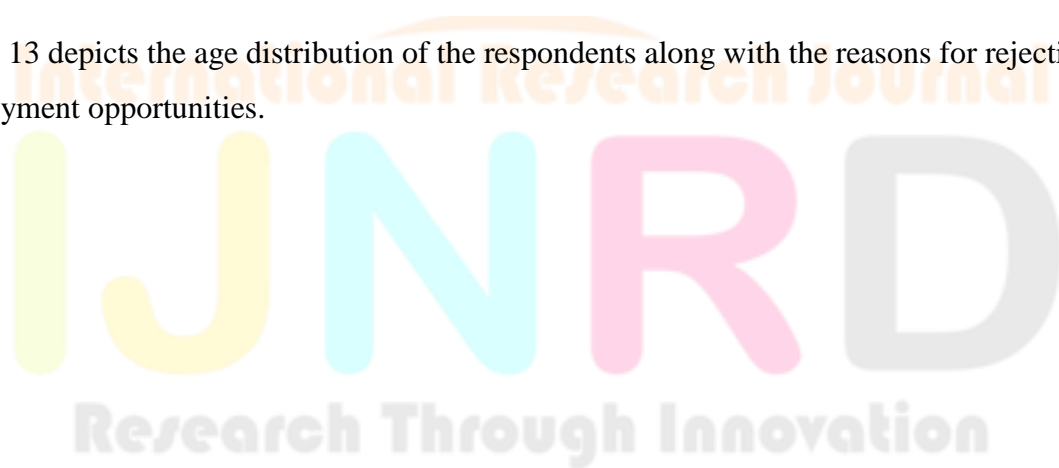
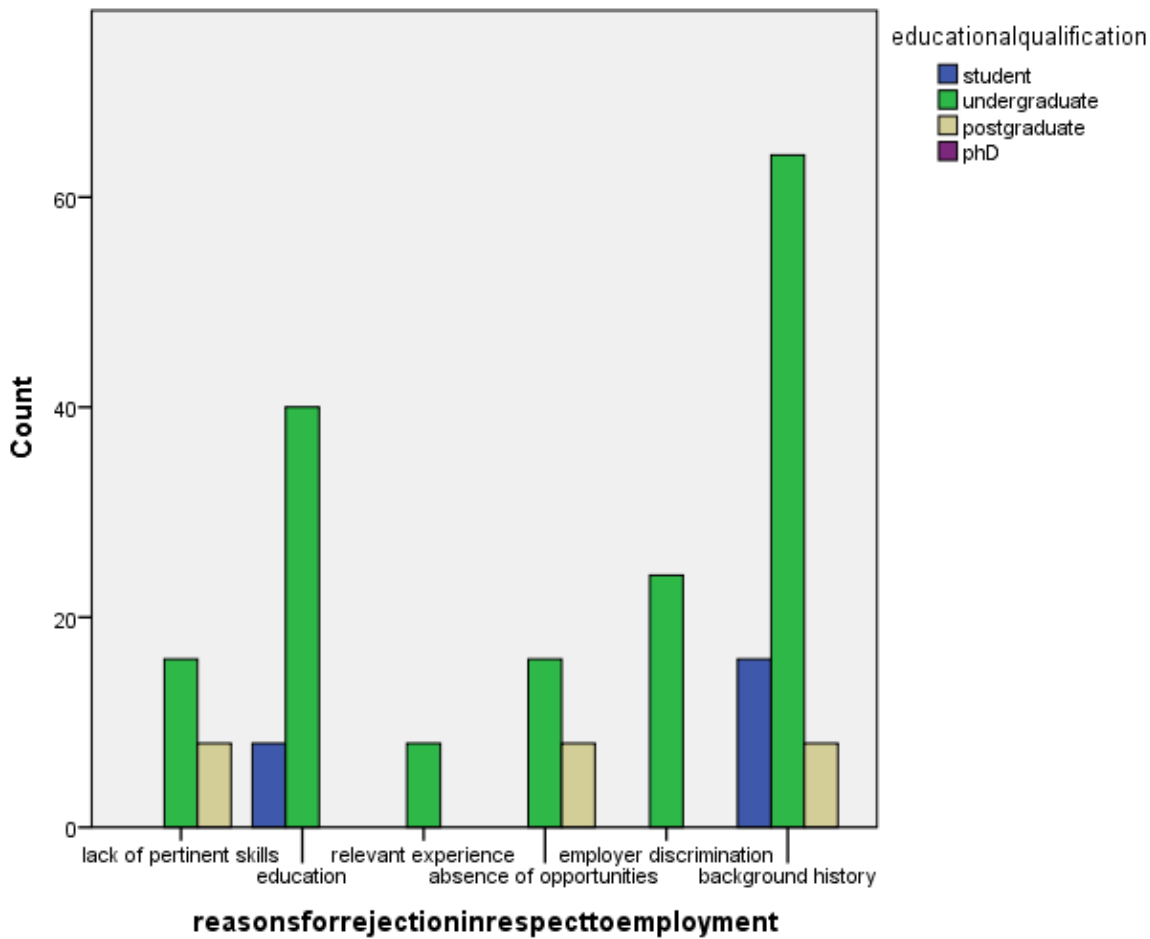


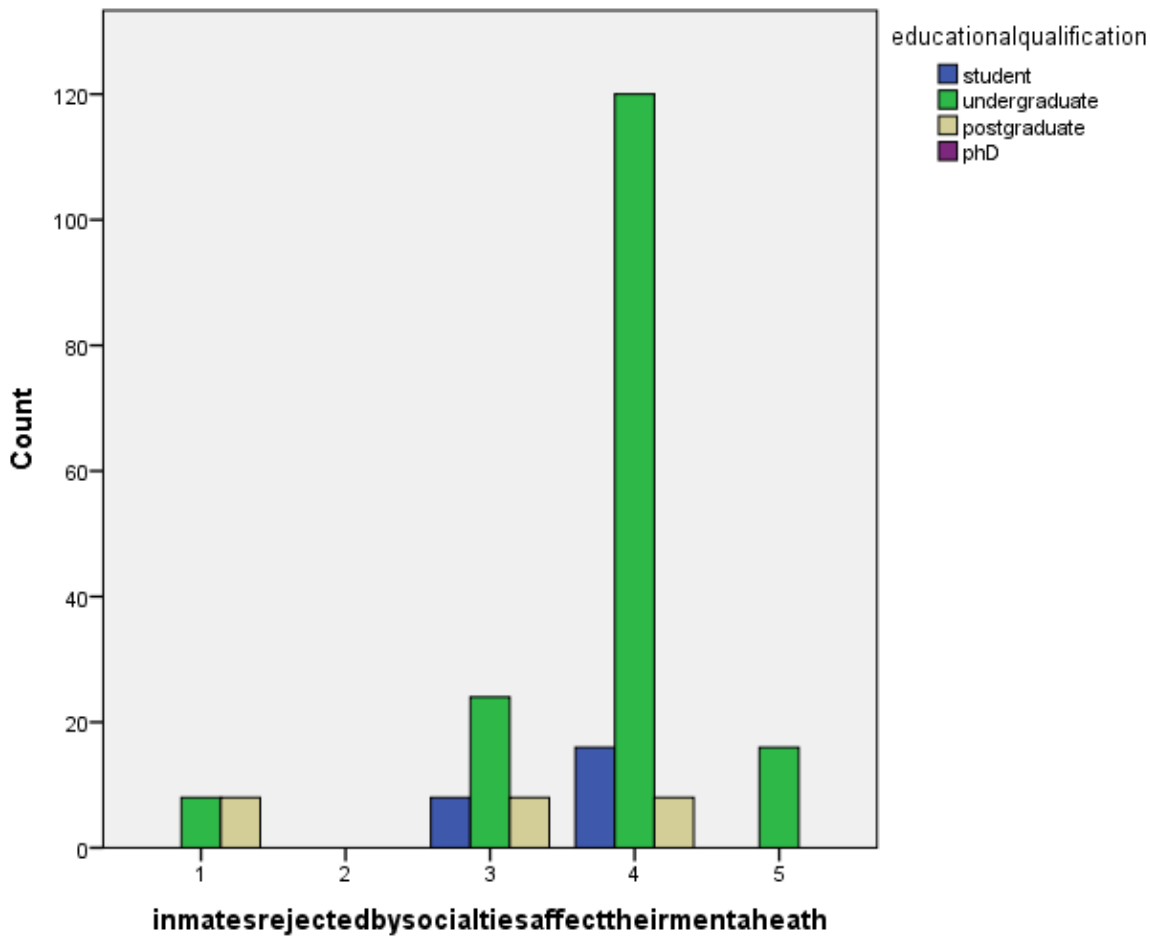
Table 14



Legend : Figure 14 depicts the educational qualification of the respondents along with the reasons for rejection in respect to employment opportunities.



Table 15



Legend : The fig. 15 graph explains the educational qualification of the respondents in relation to inmates rejected by social ties affecting their mental well being.

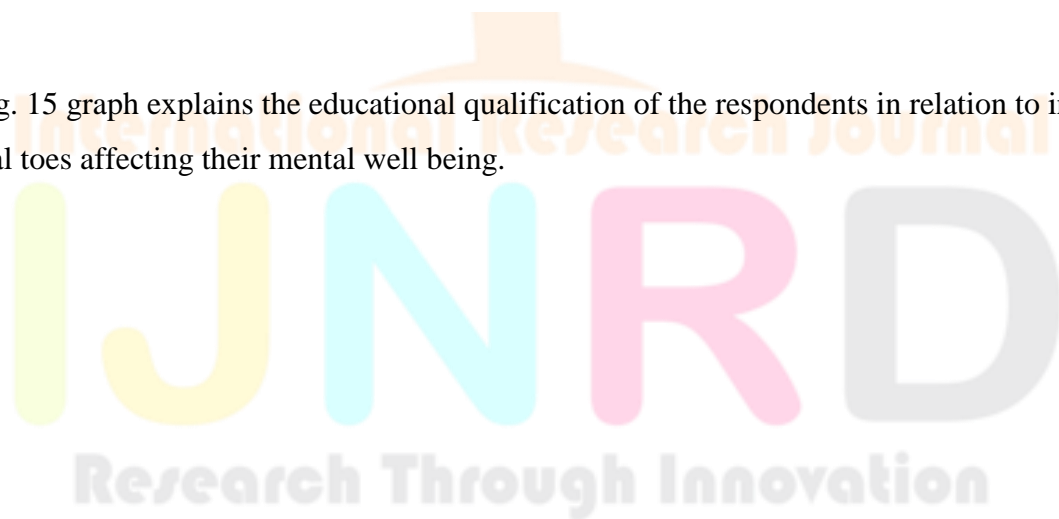
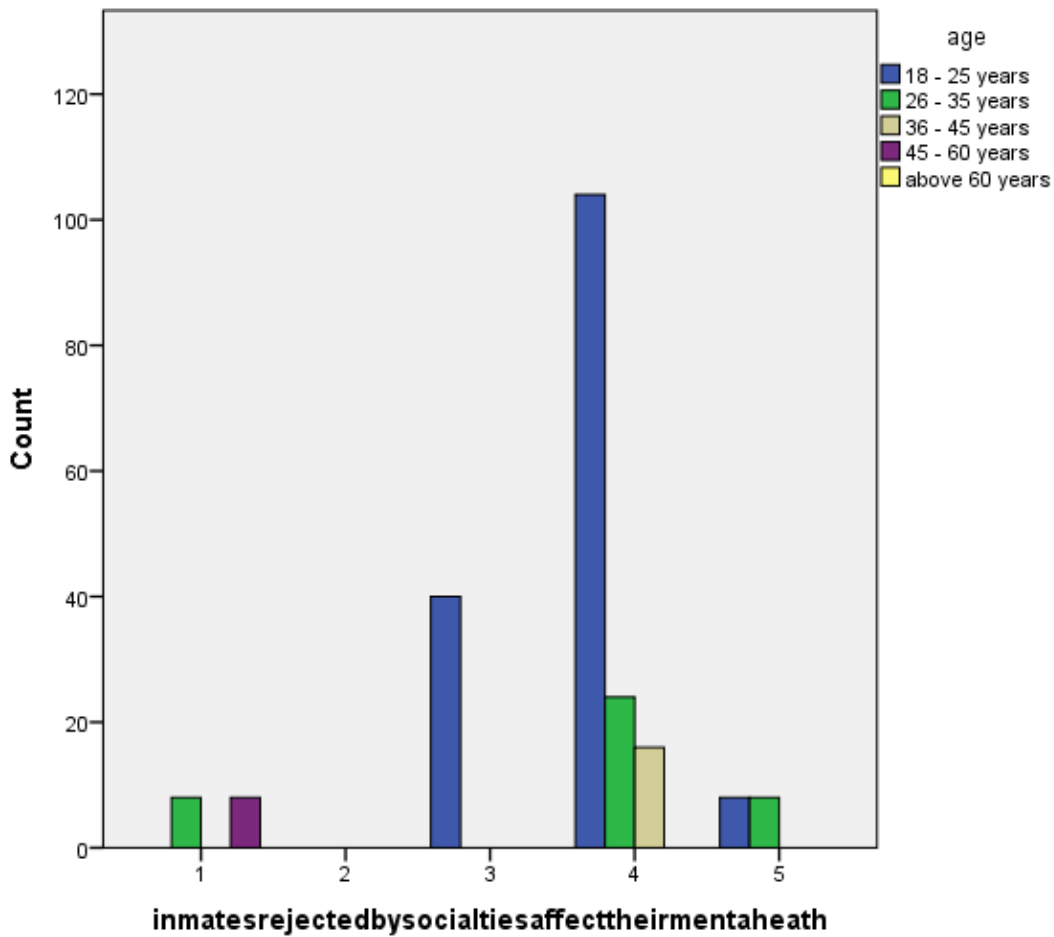


Table 16



Legend : The fig. 16 graph explains the age distribution of the respondents in relation to inmates rejected by social ties affecting their mental well being.

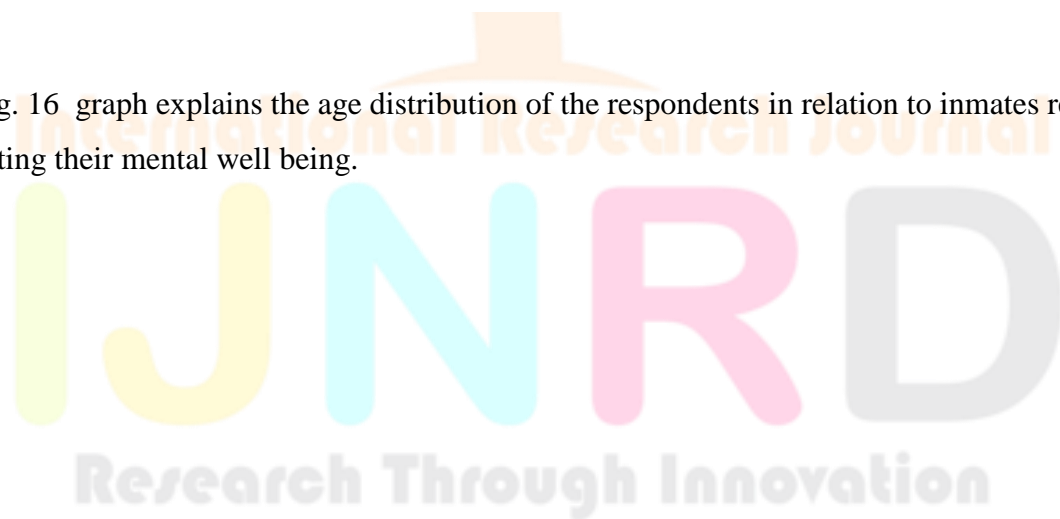
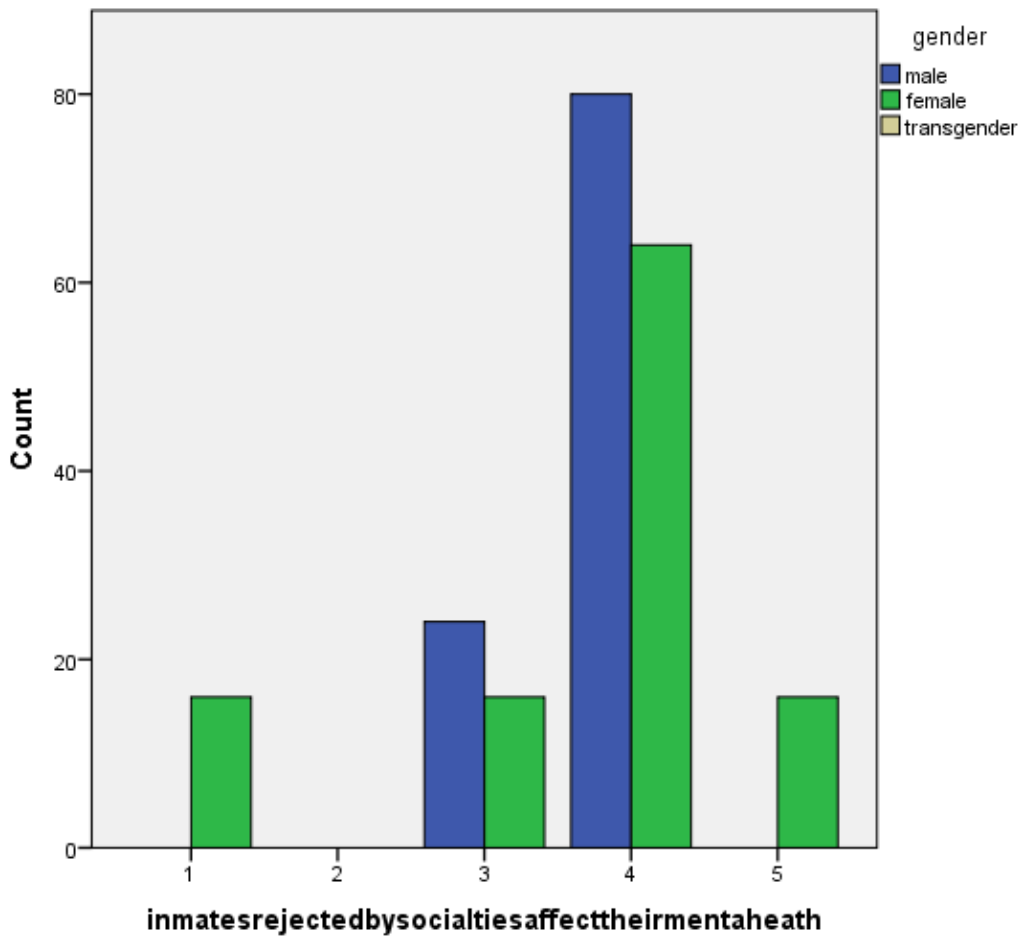


Table 17



Legend : The fig. 17 graph explains the gender distribution of the respondents in relation to inmates rejected by social ties affecting their mental well being.

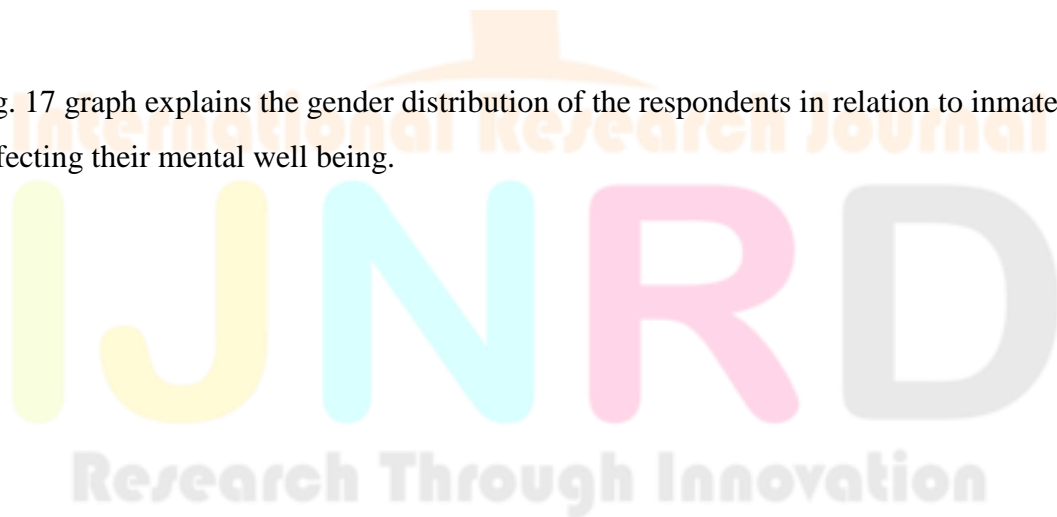
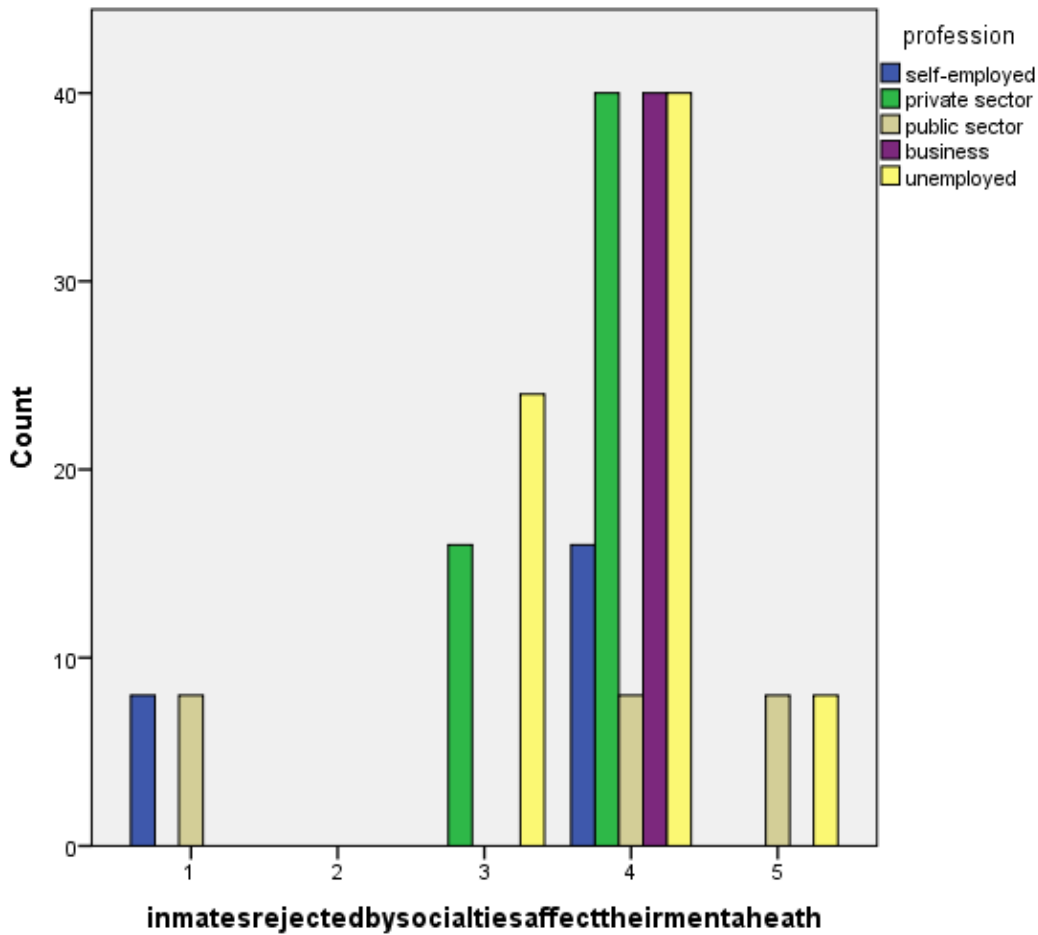


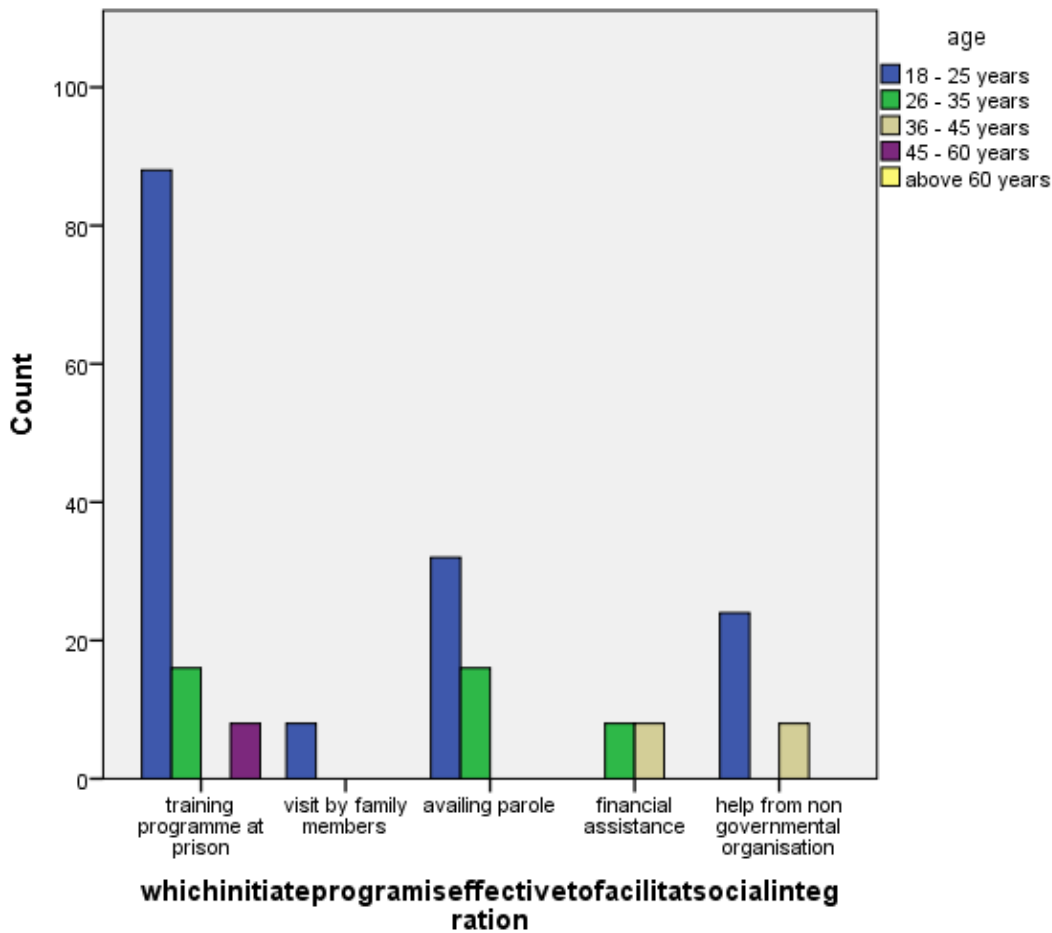
Table 18



Legend : The fig. 18 graph explains the profession of the respondents in relation to inmates rejected by social ties affecting their mental well being.



Table 19



Legend : In figure 19 the graph represents the age of the respondents with relation to which initiative program is effective to facilitate social integration.

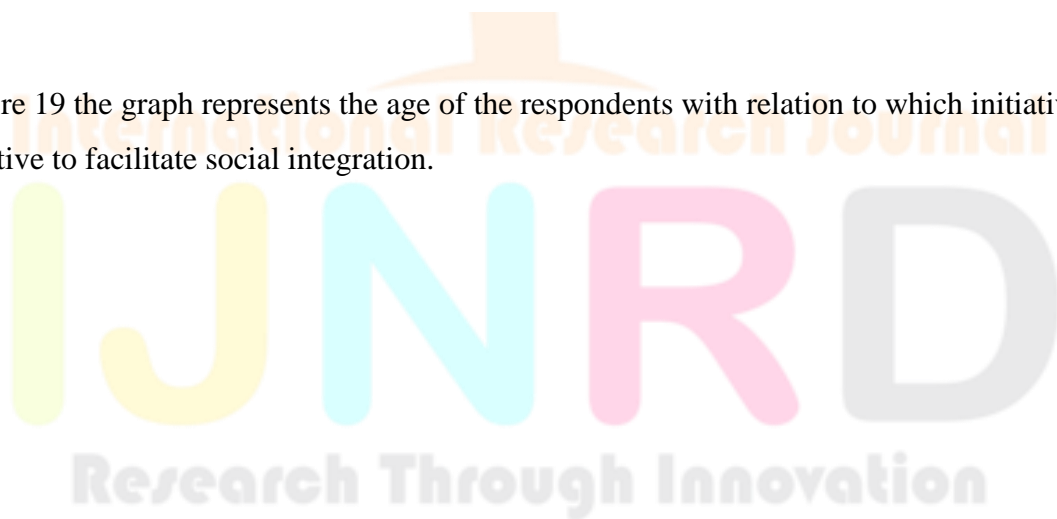
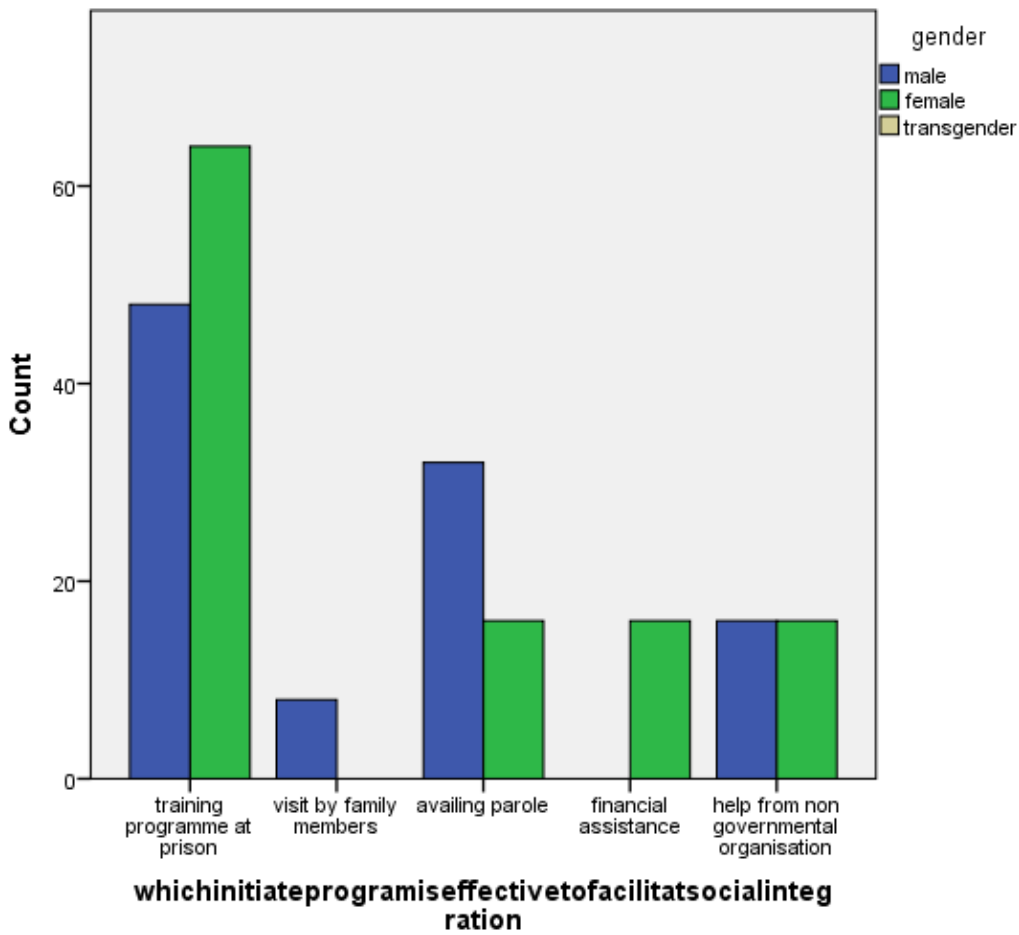


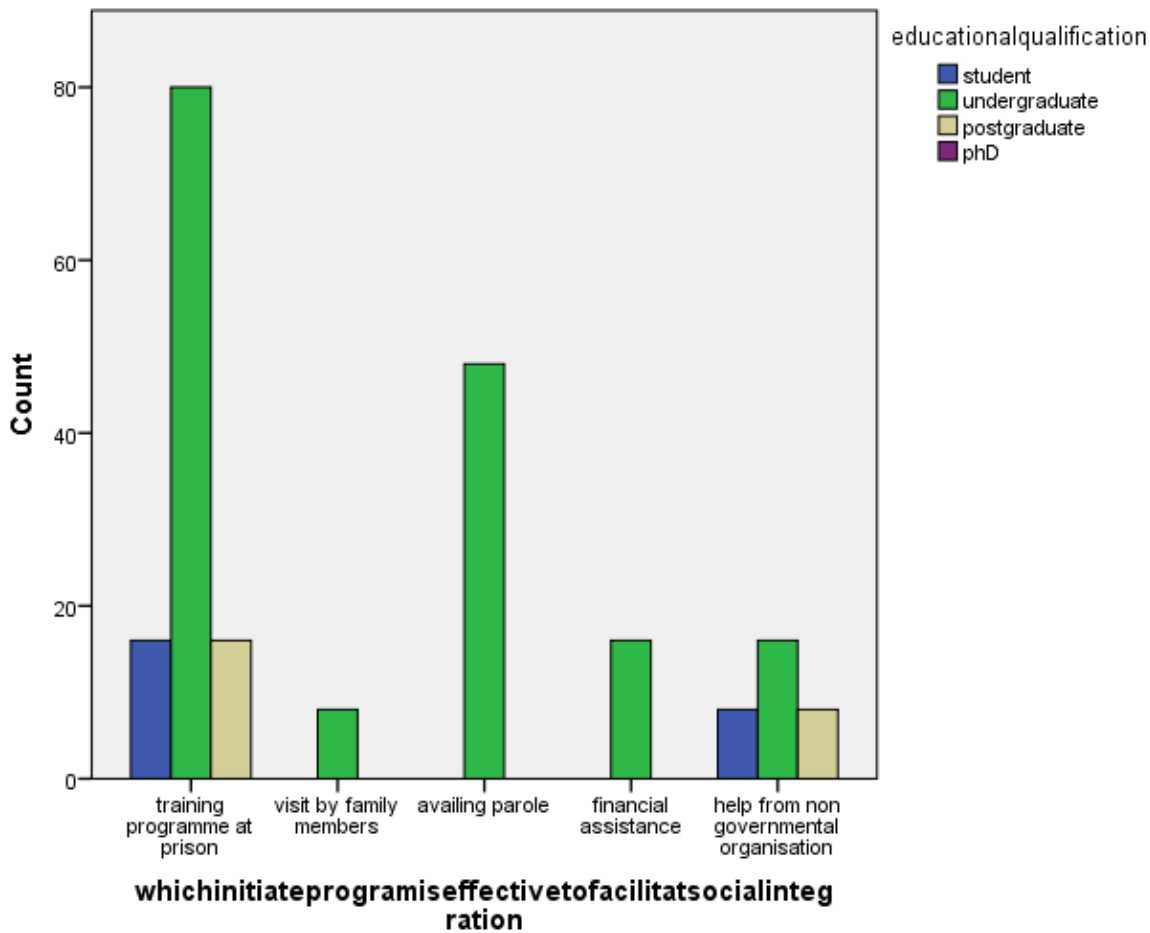
Table 20



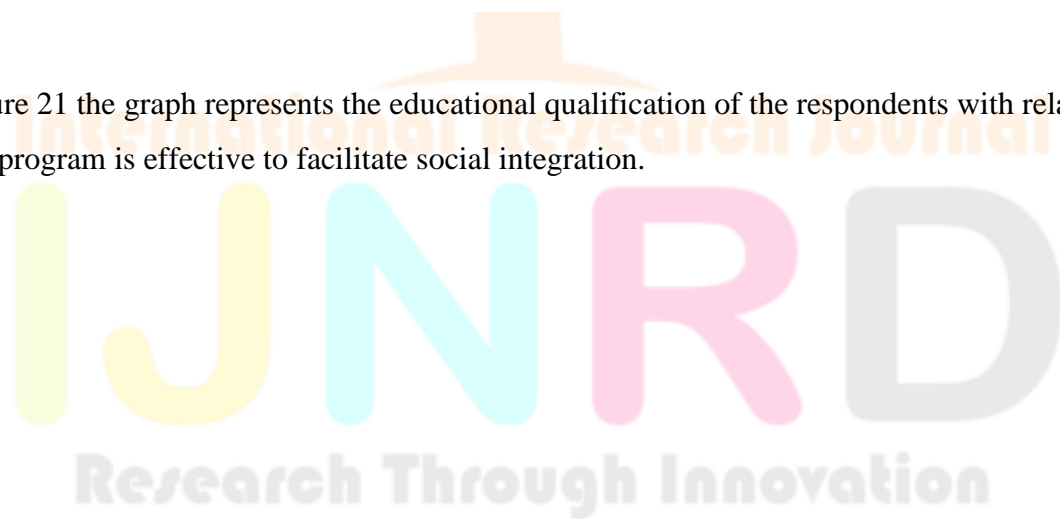
Legend : In figure 20 the graph represents the gender of the respondents with relation to which initiative program is effective to facilitate social integration.



Table 21



Legend : In figure 21 the graph represents the educational qualification of the respondents with relation to which initiative program is effective to facilitate social integration.



Result

In fig. 1 the graph shows that people belonging to the age group of 18 - 25 years agree that prisoner reintegration to society is socially acceptable at present. People at the age group of 26 - 35 years strongly agree, agree and are neutral. In fig 2 the above graph, a higher percentage of females have participated and have stated that they agree that prisoner integration to society is acceptable at present even the male respondents have strongly agreed and agreed. Huge proportion have stated neutrality. In fig. 3 the graph shows rehabilitation allows prisoners their term to live along with, respondents being in the private sector, self employed and public sector have stated family members. Unemployed have stated family members and the option of living alone. Business class people have started family, friends and living alone. In fig.4 gender distribution the majority of them have stated family members, male respondents have stated friends and very less male and female respondents have stated living alone.

The figure 5 represents the age of the respondents with respect to rehabilitation allowing prisoners after their term to live along with. In fig.6 from the graph age group 18 - 25 years have stated family members that after rehabilitation process prisoners are let free to live. Age groups 26 - 35 years have stated the same family members whereas 36-45 years have stated family members at a lower percent also have stated living alone. In fig.7 the graph indicates the psychological effects faced by the prisoners after release, post graduates diplomats say that it's due to lack of employment opportunities and social rejection as a main root whereas undergraduates say it's due to humiliation that they face in the real world and they are too scared. In fig.8 indicates the mental condition faced by the prisoners during their course in prison life. Age groups between 26- 35 years have stated that substance abuse has increased and also prisoners are affected with psychotic disorder. Above 45 years have stated they have suicidal thoughts. In fig.9 graph represents the occupation of the respondents in relation to the mental condition faced by the prisoners during their course in prison life and government sector people largely believe that prisoners are affected due to substance abuse, public sector people believe in psychotic sector and suicidal thoughts, others have stated sleeping disorder and anxiety. In fig.10 reprints the mental condition and unmarried responders have stated its due to substance abuse and psychotic disorder and suicidal thoughts whereas married people think it's substance abuse. The fig.11 graph shows whether untreated mental illness causes failure in rehabilitation and many responses have stated that they strongly agree to the statement. It is to be noted there is zero percent strongly disagreeing. In fig.12 graphs depict the gender of the respondents and untreated mental illness that prisoners face and people have disagreed stating that mental illness causes failure in rehabilitation programs. In fig.13 depicts the graph age of respondents and mental conditions representing different levels of need and 26 to 35 age groups have agreed to the statement. In fig.14 represents the educational qualification of the respondent with respect to mental conditions and most of the individuals scale 2. In fig.15 represents the educational qualification of the respondents and they also gave scale 2 stating the mental condition reprints different levels of need. In fig. 16 The graph represents the age distribution and majority of the age group belonging to 18-25 years have stated and scaled 4. In fig.17 The graph depicts the respondents' relation to inmates rejected by social ties affecting their mental well being and the majority of the male scaled 4 whereas females have scaled 3 and 4 respectively. In fig.18 the graph explains the profession of

the respondents with respect to social ties and the majority of the private sector employees have scaled 4, Self employed have scaled 3, business class people have scaled 5. In fig.19 The graph states the relation between age of the respondents and the initiation program. The majority of the 18-25 age group have started a training program at prison whereas 26-35 years old have stated availing parole and 36-45 years old have stated financial assistance and help from NGO. In fig.20 the graph indicates the relationship of gender of the respondents along with the programs in which females have stated training programs at prison, availing parole, financial assistance, help from NGO whereas male state visit by family members. In fig.21 the graph shows the relation of the responses of educational qualification where students have stated help from NGO, training program at prison whereas undergraduates stated all options.

Discussion

In the first graph people strongly agree, agree and neutral when it comes to accepting prisoners and to reintegrate them in society and are accepting them as persons whereas very few percentage of people have disagreed that is people belonging to the age group of 35 and above have strongly disagreed that they are not socially acceptable. In . 2 A larger group of respondents still have stated a neutral option and this is because they may not have clear and definite knowledge. Higher percentage depicts that they are ready to welcome prisoners to society after their term period. Various responders from different backgrounds have stated to family members that rehabilitation allows prisoners to rejoin their home along with family members. Rehabilitation allows prisoners to stay or move along with according to the respondents they are allowed to stay with family members. It is believed that after serving their term prisoners are let free to meet and stay along with their family. psychological effects faced by prisoners after release with relation to educational qualification and the main factor is unemployment and social rejection. Major responders have also stated feeling humiliated this is also one important factor to cause mental problems. mental conditions faced by the prisoners during their course are higher percentage have stated substance abuse followed by psychotic disorder and suicidal thoughts. Most of the individuals belonging to the government sector have stated the mental conditions are due to the substance abuse and self employed people believe it's due to psychotic disorder. Most of the unmarried responders have a firm belief that mental conditions develop and raise to suicidal thoughts and anxiety & depression whereas married persons think it leads to psychotic disorder. Most of the individuals have strongly agreed to the statement that untreated mental illness causes failure in rehabilitation whereas post graduate diplomats have only disagreed with the statement. Most of the individuals stated that unthreatening mental health doesn't cause any failure to rehabilitation programs. states whether mental conditions represent different level of need where respondents have scaled 2 that is they do seek help from outside and need someone to cure them ie. Medical practitioners. The graph explains mental conditions and represents different levels of need and the majority of them have scaled 3 that they require some need. The graph shows the marital status of responders in relation to that of mental conditions and its level of need where majority of them said yes and have scaled 3.

Suggestions

Overall orientation of prison administration system must give enhanced importance to the correctional aspect. The correctional branch of prison must be strengthened with additional personnel and resources. While more social workers and counsellors are required as professionals, existing operational staff who take care of the retention/custody must be given sufficient training and awareness in these matters so that their support also can be harnessed. Welfare Officers must be encouraged to develop better ties with NGOs and other agencies outside the prison and explore various avenues available in the society to help rehabilitation and reintegration of released prisoners. Skill enhancement programmes and vocational programmes introduced in the prison must be sensitive to the changes taking place outside the society. Probation system must be strengthened with more manpower and additional resources. Half-way homes must be set up to accommodate released prisoners for a specific time who face difficulty in adjusting with their release after prolonged years of incarceration. Such homes must function as active spaces that facilitate the transition of the prisoners life from the prison to the society.. One of the most effective measures to ensure effective social reintegration of released prisoners is to ensure periodic and timely paroles. The more frequent paroles would facilitate strengthening of family ties and would make this process of reintegration easier.

Limitations

The biggest challenge facing correctional institution is prison over crowding. There are limited high-security facilities that can safely house the most dangerous inmates. This problem is worsened by the fact that new high-security facilities, which are needed to disperse overcrowding, are rarely built because they are expensive. Prisons are expensive to build and, once operational, expensive to maintain. This is especially true for facilities designed to house the most dangerous inmate population. The perception of being a deviant in society takes over the individual's true self. When a convict is released from prison, society still sees her/him as a person who committed a crime. It becomes a “deviant label” for her/him. Every act that s/he does is seen as an act which is done by an “Ex-Convict”.

Conclusion

An effective penal system must aim for the reintegration of prisoners into society. In the last resort this is because there is a moral argument for after-care. It is simply that no man is so guilty, nor is society so blameless, that it is justified in condemning anyone to a lifetime of punishment, legal or social. Society must be protected but this is not done by refusing help to those who need it far more than most of their fellow citizens.

The released face many psycho-social and economic issues which may destroy a person’s ability to adjust with the services provided. The idea of reintegration means working with the offenders , changing their behavioural

pattern and bringing them back to the community. Reintegration aims to integrate the offenders back to the society and to provide them with all faculties as of a normal person.

After-care programmes and services need to be streamlined to assist pre/post released prisoners including proper counseling, adequate financial assistance, campus placement, follow-up units ready to accept, avoid the unnecessary harassments in local police and society accepted without social 'stigma'. Therefore, after-care programmes and services should be an integral part of correctional work in the prison system and in the field

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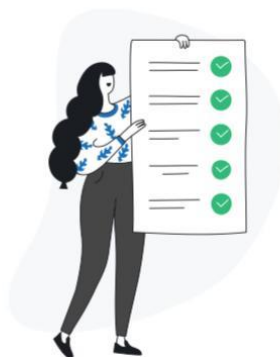
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The main principle of the reformatory theory is to ensure that punishment ultimately reforms the guilty and makes them return to the society a better person. The thing of punishment is to reform the criminal through a method of individualisation. It's a humanitarian concept where if an offender commits a crime it doesn't mean he ceases to be a human. The thought of reintegration means working with the offenders, changing their behavioural pattern and bringing them back to the community. Reintegration aims to integrate the offenders back to the society and to supply them with all faculties as of a normal person. Ex-offenders shall integrate with their family, friends, society, employment and be capable of managing the circumstances during a manner which doesn't risk or create additional conflict to law.

Reintegration is that the support and assistance provided to prisoners upon their release from jail. Reintegration often starts when the offender is arrested by preparing them to cater to life and society following imprisonment. So as to achieve reintegration, programs and processes aim to stay prisoners away from the criminal justice system following their release. The administration of Prisons falls within the hands of the state Governments, and is governed by the Prisons Act, 1894 and therefore the Prison Manual of the respective State Governments. The reintegration model involves social rehabilitation and is suggested to last from the start of prison until post-release. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) states that it's mandatory for prisoners to be treated in order to re-enter society. Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (SMR) sheds light on the importance of reintegration in protecting society against crimes and requires that prisoners be ready to live normally after prison.



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