

VOCATIONAL TRAINING IN WOMEN'S PRISONS

by

DEBORAH KAY FRENCH

B. S., Kansas State University, 1974

---

A MASTER'S REPORT

submitted in partial fulfillment of the

requirements for the degree

MASTER OF ARTS

Department of Sociology and Anthropology

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY  
Manhattan, Kansas

1976

Approved by:

  
Major Professor

LD  
2668  
R4  
1976  
F74  
C.2  
Document

113

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Several people have aided in the completion of this report. First of all, the author thanks her major professor, Dr. Alfred Schnur, who allowed her to do what she wanted to. She also thanks Dr. Harris for guidance and discussion over problems of this report and Dr. Flora for her contributions. Next I wish to thank Dr. Miley for serving on the committee at such a short notice.

The assistance given to the writer in getting started, explaining what a report was, and what I was to do is appreciated and thanks is given to Dennis Gatlin and Vicki Weeks.

Last, I wish to thank several other people who provided assistance by way of typing, discussion, and encouragement; my sister, Marilyn, William Cummings, and Robert Riordan.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter	Page
I. INTRODUCTION. . . . .	1
Problem Statement and Theoretical Basis. . . . .	3
Significance of the Study. . . . .	11
Rationale for Vocational Training. . . . .	12
II. OBSTACLES TO VOCATIONAL TRAINING. . . . .	16
Lack of Distinction Between Vocational Training and Maintenance . . . . .	16
Unsatisfactory programs . . . . .	21
Satisfactory Programs . . . . .	22
Lack of Coordination Between Vocational Training and Length of Sentence. . . . .	25
Small Number of Women in Prison. . . . .	26
Remoteness of Women's Institutions . . . . .	27
III. THE VALUE OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING. . . . .	29
Jobs Available in Vocationally Trained Areas . . . . .	29
Post Release Use of Vocational Training. . . . .	33
Vocational Training and Recidivism . . . . .	36
IV. CONCLUSIONS . . . . .	42
BIBLIOGRAPHY. . . . .	45
APPENDICES	
I. Vocational Training Programs in Women's Prisons . . . . .	48
II. Vocational Training Programs in Men's Prisons . . . . .	52

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

The topic of this report will be occupational preparation intended to provide criminal offenders with skills which will aid their reentry and reintegration into the community. This report will examine only one type of occupational preparation: vocational training programs in women's correctional institutions. This report will explain the rationale of vocational training programs, describe vocational training programs in context, and evaluate their effectiveness.

A concern of correctionalists has always been the high number of persons returned to prisons for committing additional crimes after release. Because in the history of corrections, punishment has been found to do little good in combatting this recidivism rate, modern correctionalists have turned to the concepts of rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders for the general benefit of society. The concept of the offender's being one who could be rehabilitated developed out of the later eighteenth century reformatory period (Beto, 1970:23). Chandler (1973:5) defines rehabilitation as "changing in a positive way, or rebuilding the offender toward becoming a useful member of society." At this time reformers and others viewed the offenders as an individual with emotional and moral deficiencies. The individual's behavior was seen as something he could no longer control. In this period, several biological, psychological, and sociological theories were advanced to explain criminal behavior. These theories helped to shape modern correctional emphasis on treatment rather than punishment and to advance the "view of the offender as a person with social, intellectual, or emotional deficiencies that should

be corrected to a point that would permit him to resume his place in the community" (Presidents Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice, 1967:4).

At present, Beto (1970:32) believes we are in a period of reintegration. He argues, "The avowed and not always attained goal is the reintegration of the offender into society, whether it be by probation, by the rehabilitation program of the prison, or by parole" (Beto, 1970:32). Further, the Joint Commission on Correctional Manpower in Training states three purposes of a correctional institution:

1. To seek to limit confinement to persons actually requiring it, and under conditions that are lawful and humane.
2. To make the confinement experience constructive and relevant to the ultimate goal of reintegrating the offender into the community and of preventing recidivism.
3. To educate the community and its agencies about the problems of reintegrating offenders in order to elicit their collaboration in carrying out specific rehabilitative efforts and in improving conditions which militate such efforts (Galvin and Karocki, 1969:34).

Thus the goal of corrections becomes:

1. To seek diversion from corrections, parole, or other release of offenders for whom confinement or further confinement is not indicated.
2. To control offenders in order to prevent escapes, injuries, and disorders. . . .
3. To enhance the motivation, competency, and personal resources of offenders in order to facilitate eventual reintegration into the community (Galvin and Karocki, 1969:30).

The task of corrections is twofold: first is the protection of the community through imprisonment and rehabilitation of individuals considered socially harmful; second is rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders-- in other words, correcting defective social functioning of individuals and preparing them for adjustment in the outside world of employment.