

“Freedom” Teaching and Learning Program for Prisoner: A Case Study of Prison of Songkhla Province.

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Abstract

This teaching and learning program for prisoner of Songkhla prison was conducted by the cooperation of Songkhla prison, Faculty of Political Science at Hatyai University, Hatyai Baptist Church, Songkhla Christian Organization and Songkhla hospital. This class was designed to provide knowledge of philosophy of freedom and Christianity teaching. According to a mission of Department of Corrections, Ministry of Justice of Thailand, the purpose of this program was to develop prisoner's behavior both thinking and mind before prisoners were released. The activities included lecture, group discussion, singing and gesture. The result showed that the attention of the prisoners were as follows: the need of freedom, education including professional skills and spiritual learning.

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The prison of Songkhla province is divided in 5 territories depending on the prisoner lawsuit. Each territory is named by the character of lawsuit. There is a hallway connecting each area together with steel cage and net along the way. While being inside, we could see prisoner activities. They were not shackled by the ankle fetter chains as people always thinks. There were many activities organized for prisoners such as sports, futsal, Thai boxing and so on. It is considered that although under the detention in the prison, the prisoner has no freedom to go outside, they still have some freedom inside the prison but under the restriction.

Among 140 male prisoners of target group, 70% of this amount were penalized by drug lawsuit. It is showed that drug problem is a serious problem in Thai society. Besides the poverty and starvation, the government should pay attention and solve this problem immediately. According to the statistics in 2001 there were approximately 3 million drug addicts in Thailand, precisely 300,000 addicts of amphetamine. (Reunkaew, 2001, Faculty of Humanity University of Thai Chamber of Commerce)

Social and national impact due to drug addicts are as follows:

1. Causing social problem such as crimes, domestic violence or controversy
2. Causing disorder in community such as burglary
3. Wasting big amount of government budget in preventing and resolving drug addicts.
4. Getting bad reputation of country as a land of drug and crime

There were many attempts to find the resolution of drug in Thailand, for example law amendment of drug lawsuit by Primister Taksin Shinnawatra government considering drug addicts as patients who needed to be treated. Due to the Narcotics Addict Rehabilitation Act,. 2002 the drug addictive prisoners was considered as patients if they processed exceedingly to 5 tablets of drug if not more than 5 tablets they were not considered as patients. Even though the government provided a chance for drug addictive prisoners to reform and rehabilitate themselves, many of them still return backward to the drug again.

The yearning for freedom of male prisoner in Prison of Songkhla Province

Hiding behind a tall, thick wall with 10,000 voltage of electric fence and four layer barrier, the prison of Songkhla province is used to detente the freedom of prisoner. When you enter there, hearing the noise of steer door of the cell, chain lock and handcuffs could make you feel pressure, awkward , nervous together with the fear of losing freedom. However for people who work there, they are familiar with this atmosphere.

Prison of Songkhla province follows the policy of Ministry of Corrections to train and develop prisoner behavior. The researcher has got an opportunity to join the Teaching and Learning Program of prison of Songkhla province cooperating with Hatyai Baptist church minister together with department of Politics and Government of Hatyai university and Songkhla hospital. Initially, the Prison of Songkhla would like to focus on Christian prisoner because there are quite a number of them in the prison. Thus, the target group of this activity is about 140 Christian prisoners.

Mission of Ministry of Corrections

1. Supervise professionally prisoner in custody
2. Rehabilitation and Correction prisoner efficiently

The mission of Ministry of Correction is considered as an important task and process involving in laws, accuracy, prudence and continuity without any faulty.

Firstly, it is hard to change the prisoner attitude and correct prisoner behavior as they are seen as criminal by nature. Since most of prisoners have wrongly behaved and absorbed continuously incorrect thinking and mind for so long, consequently, mental

disorders, unbridled and deviation. In this regard, the rehabilitation process is considered as the extremely difficult task.

Secondly, it concerns with national security and social welfare. Regarding to its responsibility, if there is any mistakes or defects in work, for example fugitive escape, captured prisoner mistake or inefficiency collection system, the prisoners return to commit the crime again. As a result, this situation affects and ruins people life and property, including security and order of society as well as justice system. Therefore, the responsibility of rehabilitation of prisoner is not only a task of Ministry of Correction but also a task of all sectors in society in order to make it better change.

The issue of this study is divided as follows:

1. Prisoner living condition in the prison
2. Prisoner perspective of freedom
3. Adapting Bible teaching to prisoner

The reason that we have to teach this program because we have found most of prisoners probably return to jail or repeat the crime or Recidivism . According to the survey of Mission of Correct Ministry 31 August 2006, it showed that from the total number of 121,320 prisoners of Thailand, 16,541 prisoners returned into a jail approximately 13.63%, divided by gender as follow: male 14,988 (12.3%) and female 1,533 (1.2%) While the survey of Center of Development, Department of Corrections showed that in 2016 the number of prisoners returning to jail increased to 261,687 prisoners.

Table 1: Statistics of Convicted Prisoner Divided by Number of Time in Prison

Surveyed on 1 April 2014

Number of Time in Prison	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
1 Time	168,916	30,654	199,570	76.26
2 Times	43,135	5,004	48,139	18.40
3 Times	8,661	979	9,640	3.68
4 Times	2,295	345	2,640	1.01
For 5 times up	1,483	215	1,698	0.65
Between 2-5 times up	55,574	6,543	62,117	23.74
Total	224,490	37,197	261,687	100

Source: Plan Division, Department of Correction

When comparing this kind of problem to the Netherlands, the number of prisoners in the Netherlands decreased from 14,468 in 2005 to 8,245 prisoner in 2016 (BBC News Thailand, 13 November 2016) Concerning the increasing number of prisoner in Thailand as shown on the table, it is clear that this problem needs to find a solution. Moreover Thailand was ranked on the 6th of world's largest number of prisoners and on the 3rd in Asia (Bangkok Biz News ,11 May 2018) Therefore, this teaching program is designed to be one of the solution to decrease number of prisoner returning to jail as well as the ranking of the world 's largest number of prisoner.

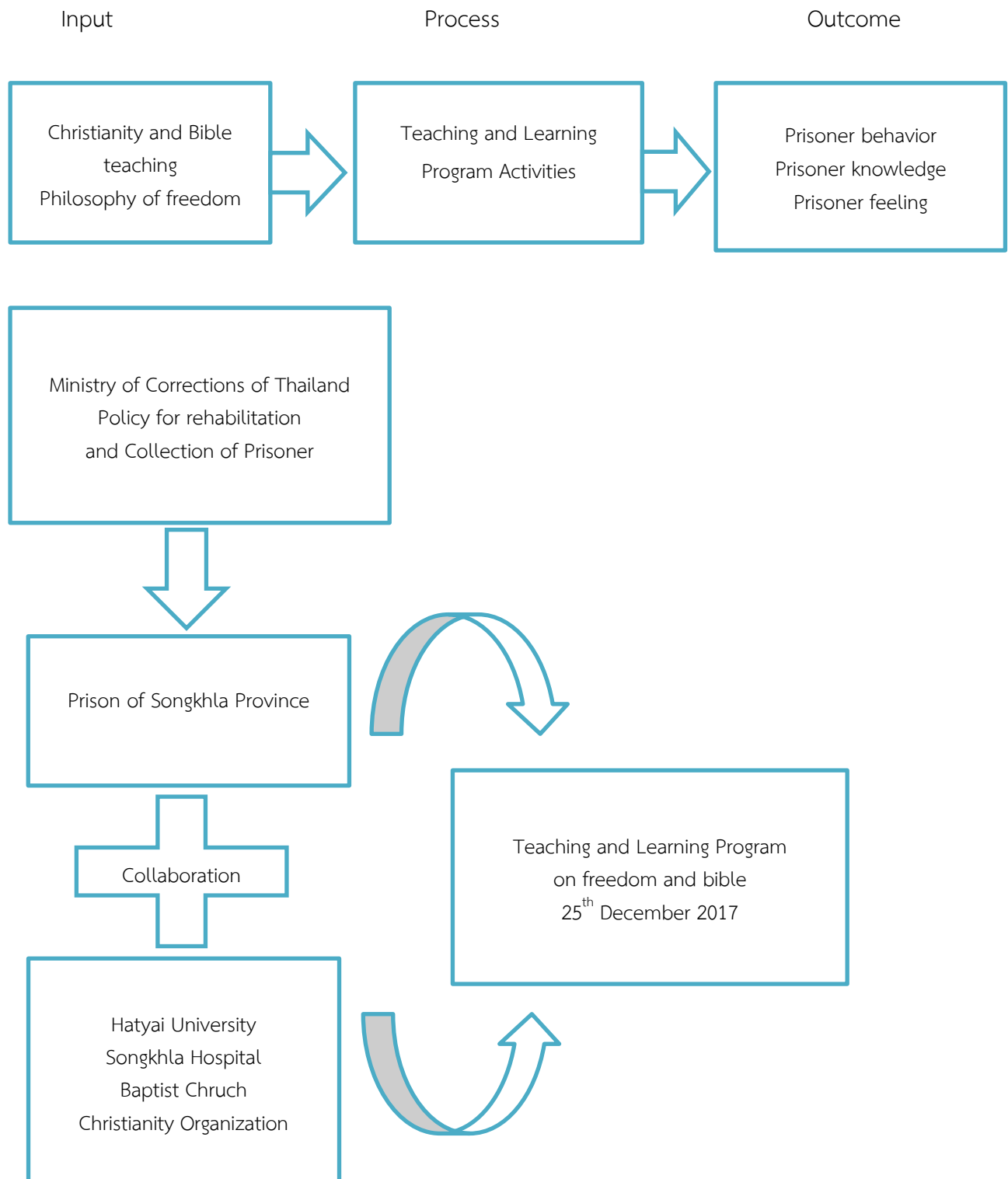
Teaching and learning Activities

25th December 2017 was set for Christmas activity day of teaching and learning in the prison by the collaboration of Prison of Songkhla province, Faculty of Political Sciences at Hatyai University Hatyai Baptist Church and Songkhla Christian Organization and a psychiatrist from Songkhla hospital . The purpose of this teaching and learning was to develop prisoner's behavior both thinking and mind before prisoners were released . The activities were organized in one day as follows:

- 1.Christianity and Bible teaching
- 2.Group discussion to exchange experience and opinion
3. Singing and Dancing for fun
4. Interview some prisoners as sample of the group



Conceptual framework



Related literature review

1. BIBLE TEACHING, THOUGHT

“He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry The Lord sets prisoners free” Psalm 146:7 Bible

“So if the Son set you free, you will be free indeed” John 8 :36 Bible

“No one can force a man to repent but Repentance is from inside” Vivian stern

2. Behavioral Sciences

2.1 General Capacity, Ability and Performance (Bloom. 1977 อ้างใน Wiggins. 1987 : 128-133) (Coopersmith. 1981 :123 - 125)

2.2 Affective States (Coopersmith. 1981 : 130-131)

2.3 Problems and Pathology (Psychosomatic Symptoms) (Jacobson, and others. 1984 : 489-507)

2.4 Self-Values (Coopersmith. 1981 : 138-142)

2.5 Aspiration (Coopersmith. 1981: 142-148)

2.6 Self Esteem (Maslow. 1970 : 45)

3. Education Theory

(The four Pillars of Education) Learning : The Treasure Within UNESCO 1995

3.1 Learning to Know

3.2 Learning to Do

3.3 Learning to Live Together

3.4 Learning to Be

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During A Trip to Richmond 1865 Once the party set foot on land, they were mobbed by jubilant crowds of African-American slaves, some of whom knelt down to kiss Lincoln’s feet and the hem of his trousers. “Don’t kneel to me,” Lincoln rebuked them. “That is not right. You must kneel to God only, and thank Him for the liberty you will afterward enjoy.”

“God set us to be free from every sins God set you free”

Freedom is a very important words and status of a people who caged in a Prison. If man did wrong by the rules of law they will have no freedom.

Freedom: Noun: The power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants without hindrance or restraint.

Liberty: Noun: The state of being free within society from oppressive restrictions imposed by authority on one's way of life, behavior, or political views or the power or scope to act as one pleases.

Human, by nature, meant to live in freedom and our government will grant such liberty to its citizens.

Liberty can be described as a right to do whatever pleases. Freedom is often described in context to any type of constraints; it means not constrained by any external obligation or pressure. Liberty deals with the state of being free to do something, whereas freedom is the state of being free from something. However, today they both are also used interchangeably many times.

Freedom and liberty are often used interchangeably in English and many other languages. However, they tends to be a little difference between the two. Liberty is most often used in context of being free but under a legal framework. However, freedom is more commonly used word which describes one's ability to act according to his or her own wish without any type of external pressure.

The word “freedom” comes from the Old English word “freodum” which means “state of free will, charter, or deliverance.” It in turn came from the Indo-European word “priyos” which means “dear” or “one's own.” The word “freedom” is more concrete than the word “liberty” which is more associated with the notion of liberty in connection with the state. Freedom usually pertains to a person's choices in everything that he does.

To understand the meaning, one must understand that how these words have originated. The word liberty is evolved from the Latin word ‘libertas’, which means ‘the status of a descendent’. It refers to the fact that descendants enjoy the same social position enjoyed by their predecessors. This definition is generally used in context to full rights and obligations according to which one becomes a member of a particular group. It indicates a membership and status.

The word “liberty” comes from the Latin word “libertatem” which means “freedom” or “condition of a freeman.” It came into the English language through the Old French word “liberte” which means “freedom.”

“Freedom,” on the other hand, is defined as “the state of being free to enjoy political, social, and civil liberties. It is the power to decide one's actions, and the state of being free from restraints or confinement. It is synonymous to the words liberty, privilege, deliverance, and independence.”

FREEDOM is the condition to be free with the ability to do whatever you wish and whatever you have the power and capability of doing without any restraints or limitations. LIBERTY is the freedom of choice or action where restraints are absent but limited by the rights of others. INDEPENDENCE means there is no higher authority with the power to restrain or limit your rights. For example, democracy requires a FREE and INDEPENDENT news media in order to defend the LIBERTIES of the population.

According to the agreement of coexistence of state cited in social contract theory, the authority of state legitimately is to secure mutual protection and welfare of their people.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778) and Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679), both are the best known proponents of this enormously influential social contract theory. Hobbes held the dark will of human nature, indiscipline, cruel, nasty, brutish, evil and selfish. Everyone would have unlimited freedoms including rights to all thing and do whatever necessary to survive. In order to avoid this, free men contract with each other to establish strong political community through social contract could help to secure people benefits. While Rousseau saw man as a noble savage and favored a constitutional, social democracy in an elected republic where the “general will” of the sovereign people could never diverge from the will of the leader and became legitimately mutual benefit. As a basic principles of democracy, freedom and liberty are the great importance to ensure diversity, security and harmony of people in the society. In Thailand during Sukhothai period, it was said that “Anyone can trade elephant or horse as he wishes”, according to King Ramkamhaeng historical record. These words explicitly show the freedom and liberty of working and living of people at that time. However, these freedom and liberty should not affect others. In other words, “ you can freely swing your arms as long as it will not expose to other people nose” said John Stuart Mill

Liberty means freedom to live your life in the way that you want, without any interference from other people or authorities. Likewise self -determination is that people can choose the way to live their lives as they want.

The scope of determination of rights and liberty

1. Do not violate the freedom of others
2. Do not against to a constitutions
3. Not contrary to peace and morality of people

The basic of liberty in humanlife is comprised of a freedom to live independently as they want and freedom from violation of life, political freedom and rights of participation in governance.

John Lock says people have rights since they were born, such as the right to life, liberty, and property, that have a foundation independent of the laws of any particular society. Locke used the claim that men are naturally free and equal as part of their justification and no one and no power can break their rights

Montesquieu, in his point of view, freedom is the right to do whatever the laws permit and not do what we want. Montesquieu describe liberty as a freedom to do as much as possible while abiding the laws which are implemented to ensure society.

However, freedom does not depend on a nature of power but on the acts of power itself that should be flexible.

John Stuart Mill viewed that freedom is a the rights of an individual . The liberty of individual must be thus far limited; he must not make himself a nuisance to other people.

Outcome: Prisoner Point of View

Based on the activities, interview and group discussion divined in 5 groups (25-30 people per group), the result concluded as follows:

1. The need of freedom : all prisoners mentioned about their freedom and showed strongly intention to be free and live in the society as soon as possible. Some prisoner tried to collect and improve their behavior in order to get promoted in a good class of excellent class . In this good class or excellent class, they worn different uniform and could work for the supervisor of the prison. The most important thing is that there will be more possibility to be released from prison faster.

2. The need of education: regarding to skill, most of prisoners need to be trained for professional skills such as craft work, or a kind of knowledge of local wisdom so that they could use those skills to earn for their life after being released from prison.

Concerning spiritual education: basically, the group of these prisoners knew about bible since they were Christian. However, most of them were overwhelmingly eager to learn more about bible teaching, philosophy, belief, meaning of life, especially life after death. This positive response showed the initial succeed of this program and led to encouragement of similar program development supported by Ministry of Corrections of Thailand.

3. the need of mentality: most of prisoner felt guilty and were regret for all what they have done in their mind. They not only cared but also thought of their family and people whom they loved. They seemed to be willing to correct their mistakes or change their bad behavior. By the way, the prisoners were really interested in God, Heaven, Death and meaning of life as they felt insecure and guilty from what they have done.

4. While imprisoned, the prisoners are lack of freedom in their life. However, they still have a choice to choose what they really want to be and how they really want to do. Some choose to accumulate their knowledge, some revise about their life and their behavior and some decide to change their habits. While some don't realize their value of life and even aren't interested to change their habit or behavior as we can see that they add more tattoo on their body even all their face, set up gang of mafia in the prison or have sexual deviation on purpose, for example.

Conclusion

Freedom and Liberty are the main idea of legitimate state to secure harmony, well-being and mutual benefit of its people in democracy. No one wants to be suppressed from freedom and liberty. Life with full of freedom given by God, as human being, it is our duty to keep this freedom in life and peaceful society. Nevertheless, human being can use their freedom constructively as long as it is permitted by law. Prison is needed to detain the one who harm other person's freedom

According to this study, drug is a severe problem in Thailand. All sectors including government and civil society should collaborate to find resolution together since many social and economic problems originate from drug. The policy of rehabilitation and correction for drug prisoner by the Department of Corrections is considered as one of solution to prevent the augmentation number of drug addicts. This teaching and learning program of philosophy of freedom and bible teaching is a part of rehabilitation activities which hopefully could help prisoners to change their habits and mind after released as well as decrease their probability to return back to the prison again.

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