

Implementation and Challenges of Jail Services in District Jails in Western Visayas, Philippines

Ermee Joy F. Painaga¹ and Jasmin L. Parreño²

^{1,2}*University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos, Bacolod City, Philippines*

Introduction: Jail services are globally essential for persons deprived of liberty (PDL), ensuring they receive necessary assistance while preserving their inherent human dignity. This study assessed the implementation of these services—including basic needs, health, livelihood, education, recreation, visitation, paralegal, and religious support—in district jails in Antique, Philippines. Evaluated against factors such as population, location, budget, and personnel, the research also identified additional services offered and the challenges encountered in their delivery.

Methodology: Utilizing a quantitative descriptive-comparative design (Creswell & Creswell, 2023), this study assessed the extent of jail service implementation, associated challenges, and demographic differences in the district jails of Antique, Philippines. The respondents comprised 153 Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) selected via stratified random sampling during the 2023–2024 fiscal year.

Results: Overall, the program achieved a very great extent of implementation, with voting assistance for eligible PDLs rated highest, while insufficient cell ventilation remained the primary challenge. Implementation levels varied significantly according to location, personnel, budget, and population. These findings support Scheirer's (1987) Program and Implementation Theory, confirming that situational factors are critical; specifically, population size dictates budget allocation, directly enabling the funding necessary to provide effective jail services.

Conclusion: The varying implementation of jail services driven by disparate population size, budget, location and number of personnel show that there are still areas that needs to be improved specifically addressing small jails. For jail services to be consistently implemented at full extent, continuous improvement is required perhaps, giving attention to the challenges encountered.

Practical Value: The findings offer actionable recommendations for the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, urging regional directors and wardens to ensure consistent service implementation. To address funding needs, particularly in district jails, the study advocates for stronger partnerships with non-government organizations. Furthermore, this evidence guides stakeholders and local government units in strategic financial planning, while directing policymakers to prioritize targeted resource allocation and staff development for under-resourced facilities.

Direction for Future Research: Future research can delve deeper into the whys of implementation and challenges in district jails. Qualitative studies, such as interviews and focus groups, can uncover the reasons behind the extent of implementation. Comparative analyses with other provinces in the region can highlight the unique factors influencing the extent of implementation of jail services. Additionally, exploring the impact of the level of implementation of jail services on the reformation and rehabilitation of PDLs can demonstrate the long-range value of investing in PDL reformation programs.

Keywords: jail services, implementation, challenges, persons deprived of liberty, descriptive-comparative, district jails, Philippines

CORRESPONDENCE: ejfpainaga@gmail.com

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8245-1742>¹