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How Prisoners Learn: Andragogical Tools in the Hungarian Penitentiary
‘Socialisation is the process whereby one becomes a fully competent member of society – where one acquires the knowledge and abilities required to function as a member of society.’

Eriksen, 2001. 60.
The goal of prison

Reintegration – resocialization

- preparing prisoners for release
- guiding prisoners back into the society
- using humane tools

*Foucault (1990), Lazarus (2004)*
The place of education in prison

Legal background

- The social integration of convicted persons is ensured by the employment of prisoners in the penitentiary, employment of occupational therapy, primary and secondary school education, higher education, vocational training, acquisition of professional practice and other reintegration programs.

Penal Act CCXL, 2013
Focus on reintegration and learning

3 prisons

Balassagyarmat
Vác
Győr

137 prisoners
Hypotheses

1. Prisoners exercise their right to learn in prison.

2. Most prisoners are motivated to learn.

3. The number of vocational training courses in the prisons is limited.
Methodology

Questionnaire test

- What kind of adult learning toolkit do prisoners have?
- How do prisoners use the opportunities for learning?
Sample by place

Number of the access-based sample

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balassagyarmat</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vác</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Győr</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sample by age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Persons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20 to 29</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 to 39</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 to 49</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 to 59</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 to 69</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sample by education

- No education: 9%
- Elementary: 28%
- Vocational: 28%
- Secondary: 20%
- Higher: 6%
- N/A: 9%
- Age: 0 %
Learning forms in prison

Balassagyarmat
- Elementary and secondary school
- Higher education
- Vocational education
- Internal course
- Individual learning

Vác
- Elementary and secondary school
- Higher education
- Vocational education
- Internal course
- Individual learning

Győr
- Elementary and secondary school
- Higher education
- Vocational education
- Internal course
- Individual learning
Learning aims of prisoners

- Get money: 4.9%
- Educational attainment: 4.9%
- Get out of the groove: 2.4%
- Curiosity: 4.9%
- Time well spent: 4.9%
- Get profession: 24.4%
- Self-development: 41.4%
- Resocialization: 12.2%
Learning aims of prisoners

- Get money: 5.6%
- Educational attainment: 19.4%
- Get profession: 11.1%
- Resocialization: 16.7%
- Time well spent: 5.6%
- Self-development: 41.6%
Learning aims of prisoners

- Get out of the groove: 38.1%
- Time well spent: 23.8%
- Self-development: 9.5%
- Resocialization: 4.8%
- Get profession: 23.8%
Orientation about learning

- From EFOP 6.8%
- From video channel 2.3%
- From bulletin 2.3%
- From cultural educator 11.4%
- From fellow-inmates 9.1%
- From reintegration officers 65.8%
- From TÁMOP 2.3%
Orientation about learning

- From video channel: 4.7%
- From the prison radio: 9.3%
- From bulletin: 41.9%
- From reintegration officers: 23.3%
- From fellow-inmates: 9.3%
- From cultural educator: 9.2%
- From school: 2.3%
Orientation about learning

- From EFOP 8.0%
- From the librarians 4.0%
- From video channel 16.0%
- From bulletin 20.0%
- From reintegration officers 48.0%
- From fellow-inmates 4.0%
Prisoners’ self-reflexion on learning

- Greatly 59.6%
- Not really 12.8%
- Moderately 27.6%
Prisoners’ self-reflexion on learning

- Greatly 64.4%
- Moderately 20.0%
- Not really 15.6%
Prisoners’ self-reflexion on learning

Győr

Greatly 52.0%

Not really 24.4%

Moderately 23.6%
Learning resources for prisoners

- Read individually: 2 (N/A), 16 (Regularity), 19 (Occasionally), 10 (Never)
- Learn individually: 2 (N/A), 20 (Regularity), 12 (Occasionally), 13 (Never)
- Take part on cultural events: 2 (N/A), 16 (Regularity), 19 (Occasionally), 10 (Never)
- Watch TV Listen to radio: 2 (N/A), 13 (Regularity), 15 (Occasionally), 17 (Never)
Learning resources for prisoners

Győr

- Read individually:
  - N/A: 15
  - Regularly: 19
  - Occasionally: 7
  - Never: 1

- Learn individually:
  - N/A: 19
  - Regularly: 12
  - Occasionally: 9
  - Never: 2

- Take part on cultural events:
  - N/A: 12
  - Regularly: 14
  - Occasionally: 13
  - Never: 3

- Watch TV:
  - N/A: 10
  - Regularly: 22
  - Occasionally: 10
  - Never: 0
Results and hypotheses testing

1. Prisoners exercise their right to learn in prison
   Mainly the formal learning opportunities are used.
   34% of prisoners take part in some kind of learning.

2. Most prisoners are motivated to learn
   Learning motivation is usually provided by self-development, the intention of getting out of the groove and getting profession.

3. The number of vocational training courses in the prisons is low
   Of a total of 137 prisoners interviewed in three prisons, 26 participated in vocational training, accounting for 19% of respondents.
In summary

Successful social integration after release from prison can be achieved through learning.

The prison provides formal and non-formal ways of learning for prisoners.

Although more than one third of the prisoners take this opportunity, the 19% of participation in vocational training suggests that more vocational trainings should be implemented within the prison.
References


Penal Act CCXL, 2013 about the enforcement of penalties, measures, certain coercive measures and the closure of prisoners. URL: https://net.jogtar.hu/jr/gen/hjegy_doc.cgi?docid=A1300240.TV (downloaded: 30.01.2018. 1:50 PM)