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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

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

| Balassagyarmat | Vác | Győr | All |
|----------------|------|------|-------|
| N=47 | N=48 | N=42 | N=137 |

Sample by age



Sample by education

Persons



Learning forms in prison



Learning aims of prisoners



Learning aims of prisoners



Learning aims of prisoners



Orientation about learning



Orientation about learning



Orientation about learning



Prisoners' self-reflexion on learning

Not really 12,8%

Balassagyarmat

Greatly 59.6%

Moderately 27,6%

Prisoners' self-reflexion on learning



Prisoners' self-reflexion on learning



Learning resources for prisoners



Learning resources for prisoners



Learning resources for prisoners



Results and hypotheses testing

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

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