

## **Unhygienic Conditions and Insufficient Medical Care**

- Prisoners had limited access to potable water.
- Water shortages caused unhygienic conditions.
- Most prisoners lacked appropriate sanitary facilities.
- Bathrooms were dilapidated.
- Rules for hygiene were not followed.

Government budget was 9 birr (\$0.32) per prisoner per day – for food, water, and health care. The amount varied nationwide.

In federal prisons, medical care was unreliable. In regional prisons, it was non-existent. Many prisons had serious health problems, but received little or no treatment. (ARC Foundation / Garden Court Chambers, February 2021)

## **Female Detainees**

Imprisoned women were not just locked up. They were often locked up with children. Others had stranded children over 5 years with no relatives to care for them. Those children lived on the streets.

5 pregnant women lived in cramped conditions. They received only 1 piece of bread and a cup of tea each day. (ARC Foundation / Garden Court Chambers, February 2021)

Incarcerated mothers perceived themselves as victims of societal discrimination, abuse, and structural abuse – before and after imprisonment. Correctional institution facilities were insufficient for them to be able to provide for the physical, emotional and educational needs of their children.

### *Recommendation*

Correctional institutions need to adapt their rehabilitation programs to cater to the needs of mothers and children. They need to acknowledge their child-care responsibilities. Conditions must foster the strengths and competencies of imprisoned mothers. (Gobana et al. University of Stavanger Norway. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.31265/jcsw.v14.i2.247>)

## **Detained Children and Adolescents**

Detained children and adolescents had depression. This was significantly associated with lack of participation in income generating activities while in prison. (Bedaso et al. *BMC Res Notes* (2018) 11:637. DOI: 10.1186/s12888-016-1179-9)

Depression in detainees was significantly associated with their level of satisfaction during life before imprisonment. It was also associated with their beliefs about life after imprisonment and plans to commit suicide.

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Type of prison and amount of social support were other factors influencing depression in child detainees.

*Recommendation*

Provide training to prisoners in coping with environments that they are returning to. Do so just before release. Treat them for depression. (Beyen et al. *BMC Psychiatry* (2017) 17:31. DOI: 10.1186/s12888-016-1179-9)

Anxiety was found to be extremely high among this group of prisoners. It was associated with current smoking habits and having had a dissatisfying life. (Dadi et al. *BMC Psychiatry* (2016) 16:83. DOI: 10.1186/s12888-016-0792-y) <http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/>

**Contact Us**

To ask questions or make comments, please call or email Sharing Love Charitable Organization.

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