



## CHARACTERIZATION OF PERSONS DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY (PDLs) AT TUAO DISTRICT JAIL, TUAO, CAGAYAN

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**ABSTRACT:** *Tuao as a first class municipality in the Province of Cagayan has a district jail that caters to male and female Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) by virtue of Republic Act 6975 of 1990. PDLs are detainees who are incarcerated pending trial and/or final judgment. It includes all persons who are arrested, detained, imprisoned or otherwise under custody of government authorities. PDLs may be held in jails, prisons, detention centers, "lock-ups", hospitals, rehabilitation centers or elsewhere. This study was limited on the characterization of PDLs committed at the Tuao District Jail. A total of sixty four (64) PDLs were used as respondents of the study representing 100 percent of its total population. The researcher made use of a questionnaire to gather the needed data from the respondents. Interview was also conducted in order to verify some vague answers on the questionnaire. Findings of the study on age, most of the respondents are young with an age bracket of 37-48 years old, majority are males, married, and are members of the Roman Catholic, most reached and finished high school and during the commission of the crimes, many were self-employed. Most have committed crimes against persons, majority have been arraigned by the court, have attended 1-5 hearings, most have stayed in jail for three years one day and more. Furthermore, the circumstances identified were being an "alleged suspect". It can be concluded that the profile of respondents, the classification of crimes charged against them, the circumstances that led to its commission must be given attention by the concerned agencies especially the five pillars of our criminal justice system in order to lessen the commission of crimes and to decongest jail population so that those who are found to be innocent can go back immediately to the community.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Classification of Crimes, Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs), Court, Safekeeping, Rehabilitation, Arraignment, District Jail, Characterization. Penalty, Court Hearing, Trial*

## INTRODUCTION

Tuao is a first class municipality in the Province of Cagayan and has thirty two (32) barangays. By virtue of Republic Act 6975 of 1990, a district jail was established in this town called as the Tuao District Jail that caters to male and female Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs). PDLs are detainees who are incarcerated pending trial and/or final judgment. It includes all persons who are arrested, detained, imprisoned or otherwise under custody of government authorities. PDLs may be held in jails, prisons, detention centers, "lock-ups", hospitals, rehabilitation centers or elsewhere.



The ICRC has a set of terms and conditions that are based on our long-standing experience of monitoring detainees' living conditions and treatment. Before the visits, they need to know that the detaining authorities understand and accept the terms. In particular, they insist on the following: 1). The right to access all the detainees at all stages of their detention, whatever status has been conferred on them by the authorities and wherever they are held, 2) The right to have access to all the premises used by and for the detainees, 3). The right to speak freely and in private (i.e. without witnesses) with individual detainees of the ICRC's choice, 4). The right to register detainees of the ICRC's choice. The registration of detainees allows the ICRC to follow up on the specific needs of selected individuals. For example, this might concern minors detained among adults, sick detainees, security detainees or individuals who fear or report abuses, 5). The right to repeat visits. The repetition of visits enables the ICRC to monitor the results of its action, to follow up individual cases and ensure that its visits do not have undesirable consequences for detainees. The frequency of ICRC visits to a given place of detention depends on the needs identified by the ICRC.

The terms and conditions are enshrined in the Geneva Conventions of 1949 (Art. 126, GC III and Art. 143, GC IV) and are the basis for all agreements concluded between the ICRC and detaining authorities worldwide. It is worth noting that a number of national, regional and international monitoring mechanisms have taken their inspiration from them, as have the United Nations' revised Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

As mandated, the Commission on Human Rights' roles over PDLs shall 1). Investigate on its own or on complaint by any party all forms of human rights violations; 2) Exercise visitorial powers over jails, prisons or detention facilities and 3) Monitor government's compliance with international treaty obligations on human rights.

Resolution A-2009 152 of the commission issued on November 23, 2009, on PDL situation. As to the treatment of PDL to date, the CHR continues to receive complaints on the inhumane situation of prisoners; the most recent one was the "Bataan City Jail" incident where tortures and other human rights violations were allegedly committed by some BJMP



personnel. As to the conditions of facilities, prisons and jails in the country are generally in subhuman conditions, they have lost their functionality, utility and habitability. The national penitentiaries and most of the municipal, city and provincial jails are simply out-dated and dilapidated.

The jail has five (5) female active officers and fourteen (14) male active officers. The jail is manned by a commissioned officer as district warden assisted by a deputy warden. At present, the jail has sixty four (64) PDLs committed by the different courts nearby. These PDLs are confined in this jail as they wait for the schedule of trial, court appearances and final judgment by the court for the crimes charged against them.

## **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

This study focused on the characterization of Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) at Tuao District Jail, Tuao, Cagayan. Specifically, it sought to answer the following questions:

1. What is the profile of the respondents in terms of:
  - 1.1 Age
  - 1.2 Sex
  - 1.3 Civil Status
  - 1.4 Religion
  - 1.5 Highest Educational Attainment
  - 1.6 Occupation before Detention
2. What was the crime committed by the PDLs?
3. What is the status of the case of the PDLs as to:
  - 3.1 Arraignment Status
  - 3.2 Number of hearings
  - 3.3 Number of years in jail
4. What circumstance that has led to the commission of the crime?



5. Is there a relationship on the crimes committed when grouped according to select profile variables?

## METHODOLOGY

This study employed the descriptive-correlational research design. It was used particularly to describe the profile of the Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) at Tuao District Jail, Tuao, Cagayan to determine relationship among variables, the status of the case and the circumstance that has led to the commission of the crime.

The primary tool in gathering the needed data was the questionnaire. The questionnaire was constructed by the researcher and pre-tested to determine the validity of the questions. Results of the pre-test were the basis of revising some questions not properly understood during the pre-test.

The data were tabulated, analyzed and interpreted by the researcher using descriptive statistics such as frequency counts, percentages and Pearson  $r'$ .

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### Profile of the Respondents

**Table 1. Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Respondents' Profile as to Age**

Age	Frequency	Percentage
Below 18 years	-	-
18-27 years old	7	10.93
28-37 years old	16	25
38-47 years old	22	34.37
48-57 years old	16	25
58 or more	3	4.68
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>100</b>



Table 1 shows the frequency and percentage distribution of the respondents' profile as to age. As shown in the table, majority are in the age bracket of 38-47 or 34.37 are relatively young and are more vulnerable in the commission of crimes.

**Table 2. Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Respondents' Profile as to Sex**

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	61	95.31
Female	3	4.68
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>100</b>

The frequency and percentage distribution of the respondents' profile as to sex is shown in Table 2. The table shows that the jail has 61 or 95.31 percent male and 3 or 4.68 percent female PDLs which implies that males are more prone to commit crimes compared to female.

**Table 3. Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Respondents' Profile as to Civil Status**

Civil Status	Frequency	Percentage
Single	28	43.75
Married	34	53.12
Separated	-	-
Widow/er	2	3.12
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>100</b>

As gleaned in Table 3, the data show that a frequency of 34 or 53.12 percent are married, 28 or 43.75 percent are single, and 2 or 3.12 percent are widower. The data imply that married people are prone in committing crimes despite the responsibilities of having a family to support compared to unmarried individuals.

**Table 4. Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Respondents' Profile as to Religion**

Religion	Frequency	Percentage
Roman Catholic	55	85.93
Iglesia Ni Cristo	2	3.12
United Methodist Church	1	1.56
Born Again	-	-
Others ()	3	4.68
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>100</b>



Table 4 presents the frequency and percentage distribution of the respondents' profile as to religion. Majority of the respondents are Roman Catholics with a frequency of 55 or 85.93 percent. The data imply that Roman Catholic is the most dominated religion in this area.

**Table 5. Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Respondents' Profile as to Highest Educational Attainment.**

Highest Educational Attainment	Frequency	Percentage
Elementary Level / graduate	23	35.93
HS Level / graduate	28	43.75
College Level / graduate	7	10.93
Post Studies Level / graduate	6	9.37
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 5 presents the frequency and percentage distribution of the respondents' profile as to highest educational attainment. As presented, majority or a frequency of 28 or 43.75 percent reached or finished high school and the lowest frequency of 6 or 9.37 percent reached or finished post graduate studies which imply that most of the PDLs have only finished the basic education.

**Table 6. Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Respondents' Profile as to Occupation before Detention.**

Occupation before Detention	Frequency	Percentage
Farmer	31	48.43
Government Employee	2	3.12
Self-Employed	30	46.87
OFW	-	-
Others (studying)	1	1.56
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>100</b>

As gleaned from Table 6, the frequency and percentage distribution of the respondents' profile as to occupation before detention is presented. Most of the respondents 48.43 percent are farmers, followed by a frequency of 30 or 46.87 percent are self-employed whereas 1 or 1.56 percent is a student. The data imply that majority of the PDLs do not have permanent jobs before they committed the crime charged against them.



**Table 7. Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Crime Committed by the Respondents**

Crime committed	Frequency	Percentage
Crimes against persons	39	60.93
Crimes against property	4	6.25
Crimes against Special Laws	20	31.25
Others (kidnapping)	1	1.56
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 7 presents the frequency and percentage distribution of the crime committed by the respondents. As presented, majority of the respondents at Tuao District Jail posted a frequency of 39 or 60.93 percent committed crimes against persons while the lowest frequency of 1 or 1.56 percent committed the crime of kidnapping. The data imply that most of the respondents got involved on crimes against persons like murder, homicide, physical injuries and the like which are penalized under the Revised Penal Code.

**Table 8. Frequency and Percentage Distribution on the Status of the Case of the Respondents as to Arraignment**

Arraignment Status	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	60	93.75
Not Yet	4	6.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>100</b>

The frequency and percentage distribution on the status of the case of the respondents as to arraignment is presented in Table 8. Majority or 93.75 percent of the respondents were already arraigned by the court on the cases filed against them. The data imply that the respondents have already their days in court for the cases filed against them.



**Table 9. Frequency and Percentage Distribution on the Status of the Case of the Respondents as to Number of Court Hearings**

Number of Court Hearings	Frequency	Percentage
0	8	12.5
1-5	22	34.37
6-10	16	25
11-15	3	4.68
16-20	2	3.12
21 or more	13	20.31
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>100</b>

The frequency and percentage distribution on the status of the case of the respondents as to number of court hearings is presented in Table 9. As gleaned from the table, majority or 34.37 percent of the respondents attended court hearings falling within the bracket of 1 to 5 times and the lowest frequency of 2 or 3.12 percent attended court hearings falling within the bracket of 16 to 20 times. The data imply that most of the PDLs attended court hearings for the cases filed against them in order their sides be heard by the court before the pronouncement of final judgment.

**Table 10. Frequency and Percentage Distribution on the Status of the Case of the Respondents as to Duration of Stay in Jail**

Duration of Stay in Jail	Frequency	Percentage
Below 1 month	1	1.56
1-6 months	9	14.06
6months 1 day-12 months	8	12.5
1 year 1 day to 2 years	15	23.43
2 years 1 day to 3 years	3	4.68
3 years 1 day and more	28	43.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>100</b>

The frequency and percentage distribution on the status of the case of the respondents as to duration of stay in jail is shown in Table 10. A frequency of 28 or 43.75 percent of the respondents has stayed in jail falling within the bracket of 3 years 1 day and more. The lowest frequency of 1 or 1.56 percent stayed in jail for barely a month. The data imply that





most of the respondents have been in jail for quite some time while waiting for the pronouncement of final judgment by the court.

**Table 11. Frequency and Percentage Distribution on the Circumstance that has led to the Commission of the Crime**

Circumstance that has led to the Commission of the Crime	Frequency	Percentage
Revenge	-	-
Alleged Suspect	31	48.43
Jealousy	1	1.56
Poverty	2	3.12
Self-Motivated Interest	2	3.12
Self-defense	4	6.24
No reason	16	25
Others	8	12.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>100</b>

The frequency and percentage distribution on the circumstance that has led to the commission of the crime is presented in Table 11. Majority or 48.43 percent of the respondents claimed that they were “alleged suspects” for the crime charged against them. The lowest frequency of 1 or 1.56 percent is due to “jealousy”. The data imply that the circumstances that led to the commission of the crimes were due to varied reasons.

**Table 12. Test of Relationship on the Crimes Committed and the Profile of Respondents**

Profile	r' value	Decision
Age	.199	Reject
Sex	.077	Reject
Civil Status	.019	Reject
Religion	-.073	Reject
Highest Educational Attainment	.297	Accept
Occupation before Detention	.010	Reject

± . 246 critical value .05



Table 12 presents the test of relationship between the crimes committed and the profile of the respondents at Tuao District Jail. As shown on the result, that there is a significant relationship between the crimes committed and the highest educational attainment of the respondents. This implies that the null hypothesis is accepted whereas all other profile variables have nothing to do with the commission which implies that the null hypothesis is rejected. The data imply that educated individuals are less prone to commit crimes.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based from the findings of the study it can be concluded that PDLs came from all walks of life as seen in the profile of respondents especially on the highest educational attainment is something look into as a factor in the commission of the crime.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

In the light of the foregoing findings, the researcher has the following recommendations to offer:

1. People in the community must be well – informed of the different functions of the pillars of the Criminal Justice in order for them to get enlightened on what are the things to do and not to do.
2. Provision of more job opportunities in order to minimize the possibility of committing crimes.
3. Decongestion measures in jails shall be undertaken.
4. Speedy disposition of cases shall be one of the priorities of the CJS.
5. Strengthen rehabilitation programs of the different jails.

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