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EVALUATING THE TREATMENT OF CONVICTS IN PENAL INSTITUTIONS IN VOJVODINA: DATA ANALYSIS, CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS⁴

ABSTRACT: The position of convicted persons in penal institutions is not only a legal issue. It is also a reflection of the available material and human resources, and the willingness and commitment of society to create efficient and effective modes of treatment and to implement them, in order to achieve the basic function of these institutions, i.e., resocialization. Research efforts in the field have focused on the ways to improve the functioning of penal institutions in order to provide the highest possible quality of life for convicts, in a specific environment and under restrictions. Serving the prison sentence in satisfactory conditions would ensure a better implementation of the treatment that would result in a better resocialization, thereby reducing recidivism. The aim of this research is to define the factors and the possibility of predict-

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ing the resocialization of convicts (dependent variable) in the prisons in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina (AP Vojvodina). The results indicate that the general attitude of convicts towards prison treatment is negative. Of the 27 observed independent variables, the research showed that the greatest statistical significance exists: 1) between the category of educational treatment and satisfaction with conditions and relations in the institution; 2) between the type of crime and the success of resocialization. A lower statistical significance was observed between satisfaction with conditions, justice orientation, degree of self-esteem, emotional competence, and success of resocialization.

KEY WORDS: *penal institutions; convicted persons; treatment; resocialization; recidivism.*

1. Introduction

Successful resocialization and reintegration of convicted persons after serving a prison sentence is one of the main aims of penal systems everywhere. Successful resocialization is an important factor that reduces the possibility of repeating a criminal offense, i.e., recidivism. On the other hand, with the specific nature of the convict population and the many factors that influence the success of resocialization, it is important to identify the influence of individual factors that can contribute to successful resocialization.

Resocialization is the process of reintegration into society of the individuals who have violated legal norms. It involves a set of psychological, educational, legal and organizational measures implemented during the prison sentence and after the sentence has been served – especially in the case of parole and community service. Implementing treatment programs in penal conditions is a complex legal and social challenge. The main issue is to identify, and then implement the mechanisms and processes that will awaken and strengthen the willingness of convicted persons to become useful members of society (Bobić, 2012). Resocialization primarily involves changing the convict's personality: encouraging the acceptance of responsibility for the crime, strengthening of

self-esteem and respect for others. Successful resocialization results in a socially responsible individual who accepts social, moral and ethical norms of behaviour (Timofeeva, 2019).

Research into the basic predictors of successful resocialization, conducted in 2020, showed the most important predictors to be sentence type, convict personality, degree of danger to society after release, motives for the offence and behaviour of convicts while serving their sentence (Kalaur et al., 2020). Participation in organized sports and educational activities has been shown to have a positive impact on the personality of some convicted persons, as an important assumption of future resocialization. Convicts' personality traits, convict-convict relationships, and the quality of the convict-staff relationships also make up important factors in successful resocialization. In Ukraine, for instance, the psychological profile of convicts, i.e., strengthening their self-esteem, was identified as the most important factor of resocialization (Lykhova, 2019). A comprehensive study on the factors that reduce recidivism, carried out in a number of German prisons in 2020, reinforced the importance of the convicts' mental state. The study found that recidivism was reduced by 50% among convicts who were provided structured psychotherapy during their sentence, while the prison staff were given additional individual counselling (Thomas, 2019).

Today the issue that hinders resocialization and presents a challenge for penal institutions and society as a whole is the growing risk of radicalization in prison, i.e., convicts joining radical and terrorist groups after serving the sentence (Suryono, Domai and Wijaya, 2016).

Penological research is increasingly focused on the quality of daily relations between convicts and staff. Research shows that procedural justice (the way of making decisions and communicating procedures) is very important, i.e., that the treatment of prisoners with respect for their dignity and their involvement in the decision-making process has positive effects not only on them, but also on the penal institution (Schmidt, 2015).

Nevertheless, more research should focus on the issue of successful resocialization, because the number of persons who reoffend (once or multiple times) is still very high. This is a complex security, social and legal challenge that must be given due attention.

2. Execution of criminal sanctions in the Republic of Serbia

The criminal sanctions execution system in the Republic of Serbia comprises positive legislation that regulates the manner of their execution, positive legislation that refers to persons deprived of liberty, as well as methods, means and measures for resocialization of criminal offenders (Bošković & Bobić, 2022). The Law on the Execution of Criminal Sanctions of the Republic of Serbia established the Administration for the Execution of Criminal Sanctions as an administrative body within the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Serbia. The Administration organizes, implements and supervises the execution of prison sentences, juvenile prison sentences, community sentences, suspended sentences with protective supervision; security measures of compulsory psychiatric treatment and custody in a health facility, compulsory treatment and custody of persons with alcohol or drug addiction, and educational measures of referral to a correctional facility (Law on Execution of Criminal Sanctions, 2019).

The criminal justice system of the Republic of Serbia has a total of 28 facilities: ten penal and correctional institutions, consisting of a correctional facility for adult females and a correctional facility for minors, sixteen district prisons, a special prison hospital in Belgrade and an educational and correctional facility in Kruševac. In the past few years, new and modern facilities have been built in accordance with European standards for the accommodation of persons deprived of liberty (e.g., Belgrade and Pančevo penitentiaries). The existing facilities have been adapted to accommodate the number of convicts. In the Serbian criminal justice system, the individuals are separated by status (convicts, detainees, misdemeanour), by gender, and by age (adults and minors) as stipulated by European prison guidelines. The Serbian criminal justice system is based on the following principles: legality, humanity, individualization, collective punishment, and post-penal rehabilitation (Marić & Bulatović, 2004). During the imprisonment, both national and international positive legal regulations are consistently applied to individuals, such as the European Convention on Human Rights, the European Prison Rules, the Istanbul Protocol, etc. The functioning of the institution and the treatment of inmates can be reviewed by the Administration

inspection department and representatives of international organizations accredited for this type of supervision (European Committee for the Prevention of Torture, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, or non-governmental organizations). They have the right to visit the facility at any time and without notice. Ombudsmen who regularly visit prisons in Serbia also play a major role in the consistent application of positive legal regulations in the work of penal institutions. This control of penal institutions has contributed to greater transparency and respect for human rights during the serving of a prison sentence.

The Law on the Execution of Criminal Sanctions stipulates that, according to the level of security, prisons can be of open, semi-open, closed, and closed type with special security (Bošković & Radoman, 2002). In open-type institutions, there are no physical and technical obstacles to escape, while in semi-open-type institutions, security employees represent the main obstacle to escape. In closed institutions, in addition to security personnel, there are other physical and technical obstacles to prevent escape, while in closed institutions with special security, there are physical and technical obstacles that achieve the highest level of security (Bobić, 2012).

In the Serbian prison system, there are various departments that directly or indirectly participate in the treatment of convicts: 1) Treatment, 2) Security, 3) Training and employment, 4) Health care, 5) General affairs. The Treatment Department is in charge of the coordination of all departments during the resocialization process (Radoman, 2013).

3. Treatment of Convicts

In penological theory and practice, the term treatment (French: *Traitement*) is often used, which means a way of acting or behaviour in a certain situation. In the prison system, this term refers to the way in which convicted persons are treated. The goal of the treatment is to use educational and corrective methods to influence the convicts so that they do not reoffend after being released. The statistics show that the recidivism rate in the Republic of Serbia is extremely high. Thus, we might ask if an adequate treatment program is applied to convicts in penal institutions. Here, however, it should be borne in mind that the degree of

recidivism is not only influenced by treatment in penal institutions, but also by a number of other factors that exist in society at large.

The preconditions for the success of treatment depend on the desire and willpower of the convicts themselves, as well as on the quality of communication between penitentiary institutions and society. Another prerequisite for the success of the treatment is the consistent implementation of some principles, such as: 1) trust and respect for the dignity of the person; 2) knowing the personality; 3) versatility; 4) unity of educational influences; 5) the convict's active and conscious participation in the treatment (Radoman, 2013).

The classification of convicts according to educational groups (open, semi-open and closed department), plays a major role in the success of treatment in Serbian prisons. This takes place in the reception department, where the personality assessment of the convicted person is carried. Psychologists, pedagogues, special education teachers, a social worker and a representative of the security service participate in this multidisciplinary approach (Bobić, 2012). In the reception department, the process of individualization of treatment begins, which then continues in the educational group with the application of individual treatment.

The penitentiary system of the Republic of Serbia provides that the process of individual treatment during a prison sentence goes through several stages. These are: 1) conducting the first interview; 2) drawing up the contract; 3) individualized treatment; 4) directive and non-directive individual treatment (Bošković, 2002).

In addition to individual treatment, the following are also applied in practice: group treatment, educational treatment, employment as a form of treatment, treatment through leisure activities, treatment through freedom of religion, stimulation treatment and self-initiated form of treatment (Bobić, 2012).

The prisons also focus on the treatment that involves work, because in addition to adopting work habits, the convict also gains an impression of self-worth and a sense of belonging to a group. The convict's work must be purposeful and must not be humiliating.

In order to implement the treatment of convicted persons related to education, penal institutions in Serbia cooperate with institutions for adult education, which are located in the surrounding area. A certificate of completion of primary or secondary school is issued to a convicted person, not stating that it was acquired during a prison sentence.

The pedagogical treatment in prisons very important because convicts feel lost, rejected, and worthless, especially in the beginning. Educational treatment aims primarily to alleviate that feeling, and to restore the convict's confidence in their own strength and their trust in society (Bošković, 2002). In the Serbian prison system, leisure time management is an important aspect. Among other things, it depends on the structure of convicted persons, their interest in using free time, classification group, type of institution where convicted persons are serving their sentence, and so on.

The practice from Serbian prisons has shown that the success of resocialization depends on the treatment applied to convicted persons, as well as on the ability and motivation of educators to consistently implement the prescribed treatments. While working with offenders, new methods and therapeutic techniques should be continually introduced, taking into account the structure of the prison population, personality traits of prisoners, as well as the degree of criminal structure (Bošković & Bobić, 2022).

4. Methodology

The aim of the present research is (1) to examine the attitudes of the convict population towards the treatment they have received, and (2) based on the results, to take the necessary actions to improve the treatment and facilitate the resocialization while serving a prison sentence. The aim of the research can be viewed from a scientific and practical aspect. The scientific aspect is to examine the nature (direction and intensity) of the connection between the observed dependent, independent and intervention variables and to explain it. The practical aspect is to obtain data which can be useful to the authorities and prison management to improve the convicts' treatment, primarily by suggesting prac-

tical procedures for improving certain aspects of the treatment in order to successfully implement the resocialization process.

The research into the convicts' attitudes on the prison treatment was carried out in penal institutions on the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina territory, namely: KPZ Sremska Mitrovica, KPZ Sombor, OZ Novi Sad, OZ Subotica, OZ Zrenjanin and OZ Pančevo. The convicted adults voluntarily participated in an anonymous survey in which they assessed the value of the treatment.

To obtain answers to specific research questions, it was necessary to conduct a preliminary analysis of the data (descriptive statistics), i.e., calculate the descriptive statistical indicators. Descriptive statistical indicators should confirm the reliability and normality of the schedule, and to reveal atypical points, which will affect the possibility of the final choice and application of the proposed statistical methods. The normality of the distribution was tested using the Kolmogorov–Smirnov and Shapiro–Wilkov tests. The reliability of the measurement scale was checked using Cronbach's alpha coefficient. For the strength of correlation between variables, the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin test (KMO) was used, as an indicator of sample adequacy, and Bartlett's sphericity test. The Mann-Whitney U test was used to determine the statistical significance of differences, as a non-parametric alternative to the t-test of independent samples. The Kruskal–Wallis's test was used to compare the results of a continuous variable for three or more groups. Spearman's rank correlation was used for the analysis of variable ranks, as a non-parametric alternative to Pearson's correlation.

The assessment of the statistical significance of the corrected determination coefficient is shown by a one-factor analysis of variance (ANOVA). The statistical software used for data processing was IBM SPSS 21. The survey of respondents was conducted from September 15 to December 24, 2019. The general characteristics of the respondents were defined based on the five criteria shown in Table 1.

Table 1. General Characteristics of Respondents in the Sample (n = 286)

General characteristics of respondents	Number of respondents (n)	Structure (%)	
Age	Below 20	7	2,6
	21–30	84	30,7
	31–40	113	41,2
	41–50	70	25,5
Previous convictions	Yes	180	63,4
	No	104	36,6
Current proceedings	Yes	86	30,6
	No	195	69,4
Marital status	Single	88	31,4
	Cohabitation	90	32,1
	Married	60	21,4
	Divorced	39	13,9
	Widowed	3	1,1
Education	Incomplete primary education	32	11,4
	Primary education	68	24,2
	Incomplete secondary education	46	16,4
	Secondary education	112	39,9
	Higher education	23	8,2

Source: Authors' Calculation

The following parameters were also observed: respondents' work experience before imprisonment, work engagement in the institution, type of offence, prerequisites for criminal behaviour, having children and contact with family, attending church, change of attitude towards the offence, sentence length, the category of educational treatment,

identifying the person who contributes most to the convicts' resocialization, involvement of family members, solitary confinement as part of the treatment of prohibited behaviour, willingness to become involved in the efforts to improve living and working conditions in the institution, willingness to make an effort to obtain a better classification group, willingness to participate in education and professional development activities, and the use of psychoactive substances.

5. Results

5.1. Frequency of responses

Table 2 shows the frequency of respondents' attitudes and assessments of the convicts' treatment.

Table 2. Frequency of respondents' attitudes towards the convicts' treatment.

Statements	Degree (%)				Variance	
	Stronglydisagree	Mostly disagree	Unsure	Mostly agree		Strongly agree
1 The inmates are delighted with how they are treated by the staff.	43,8	9,4	22,5	13,4	10,9	2,040
2 While adapting to the prison life, I had the least help from other convicts.	31,7	16,1	16,1	18,6	17,5	2,259
3 The prison work program is flawed and should be reformed.	19,9	7,7	16,6	14,8	41,0	2,429
4 The wardens treat the inmates fairly.	8,7	8,3	11,2	25,6	46,2	1,686

Aco Bobić, Tatjana Skakavac, Dražen Erkić

EVALUATING THE TREATMENT OF CONVICTS IN PENAL INSTITUTIONS
IN VOJVODINA: DATA ANALYSIS, CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5	The material status of the inmates affects their treatment.	28,2	8,4	27,1	12,5	23,8	2,296
6	The instructors are invested in training the convicts to do different jobs.	22,1	8,5	26,9	15,9	26,6	2,174
7	The people who work with the inmates lack patience.	25,0	14,3	25,4	12,5	22,8	2,184
8	The academic background of convicts has no bearing on their classification.	18,4	8,1	31,6	12,5	29,4	2,055
9	The inmates are guaranteed the freedom of religion.	8,9	3,7	15,1	11,8	60,5	1,694
10	We can discuss our problems openly with our teachers.	17,5	7,3	12,8	15,0	47,4	2,374
11	Recreational activities (sports, courses, etc.) should be more organised.	22,9	6,3	20,3	13,6	36,9	2,474
12	The type of offence affects the treatment of inmates.	25,6	9,6	20,5	10,6	33,7	2,555

13	The inmates' discipline and efforts are not adequately rewarded.	19,4	9,7	19,4	13,1	38,4	2,378
14	The prison management usually supports our valid requests and ideas.	25,6	12,8	27,5	14,3	19,8	2,085
15	The inmates should have more access to educational programs to acquire knowledge/skills.	21,6	7,3	23,8	14,7	32,6	2,311
16	After the treatment in this institution, most inmates are successfully resocialized upon release.	40,4	10,5	28,4	10,2	10,5	1,891

Source: *Authors' Calculation*

Table 3 shows the frequency of respondents' attitudes towards justice.

Table 3. The frequency of respondents' attitudes towards justice orientation

	Statements Strongly disagree	Degree (%)					Variance
		Mostly disagree	Unsure	Mostly agree	Strongly agree		
1	I think the world is essentially fair.	45,2	19,1	16,7	8,7	10,3	1,865
2	I think I generally deserve what I get in life.	25,3	20,5	24,1	14,4	15,7	1,932
3	Most people treat me fairly.	12,7	9,2	23,1	27,9	27,1	1,746
4	I have a just claim to what I own.	6,9	4,4	7,7	25,9	55,1	1,399
5	I believe that the injustice one has suffered will be repaid eventually.	8,4	4,4	24,8	22,0	40,4	1,556
6	I believe that people strive to be just when making important decisions that affect other people.	15,3	14,9	31,8	17,3	20,7	1,750
7	In my own life, injustice has been the exception, rather than the rule.	10,8	11,2	29,9	23,2	24,9	1,616
8	I believe that justice always prevails.	19,9	8,1	21,2	17,5	33,3	2,264
9	Life has treated me fairly.	18,1	17,8	26,2	19,8	18,1	1,834

Source: *Authors' Calculation*

Table 4 shows the frequency of respondents' attitudes towards the prison conditions and relationships.

Table 4. The frequency of respondents' attitudes towards the prison conditions and relationships

Statements	Degree (%)				Variance	
	Satis- fied	Neither satisfied nor unsatis- fied	Unsatis- fied	Very unsatis- fied		
1 Social climate and the state of the judiciary.	8,0	8,1	19,7	19,3	44,9	1,673
2 The conditions and relationships in the institution.	8,8	16,8	27,5	19,1	27,8	1,668
3 Educators.	18,6	21,2	28,5	10,9	20,8	1,901
4 Guards.	24,1	30,7	25,9	8,4	10,9	1,562
5 Instructors.	23,6	27,2	28,9	6,9	13,4	1,663
6 Management.	16,7	23,4	26,8	13,4	19,7	1,830
7 Inmates' conduct.	12,6	18,6	34,6	15,6	18,6	1,589
8 Diet.	11,5	14,1	24,9	21,2	28,3	1,787
9 Recreational activities.	13,0	21,0	27,2	15,6	23,2	1,800
10 Facilities and hygiene.	12,6	21,9	23,0	12,6	29,9	1,987
11 Wages I can earn.	9,7	15,6	23,0	12,7	39,0	1,927

Source: *Authors' Calculation*

5.2. Rating Scales' Reliability

The reliability of the rating scale is checked using Cronbach's alpha coefficient, the value ranging between 0 and 1. The reliability of the scale should not be less than 0.7. Table 5 shows the reliability statistics of individual scales.

Table 5. Reliability of rating scales

Scales	Cronbach's alpha	Cronbach's alpha based on standardised items	Variables No.
Attitudes towards the convicts' treatment	,556	,559	16
Justice orientation	,770	,769	9
Self-esteem	,594	,602	10
Institution conditions and relationships satisfaction	,882	,881	11
Emotional competence	,604	,619	14
Resocialization	,814	,811	14

Source: *Authors' Calculation*

Based on the results of the reliability check, the highest value of Cronbach's coefficient alpha is the scale institutional conditions and relationships satisfaction (0.882), followed by Resocialization (0.814) and Justice orientation (0.770). The scales Emotional competence (0.604), Self-esteem (0.594) and Attitudes towards the convicts' treatment (0.556) have a lower level of reliability but will be accepted due to comparison with similar studies.

Upon determining the reliability of the rating scales for the individual research variables, it can be concluded that the reliability results of the individual variables do not differ significantly from the reliability results of the overall scales.

The attitude towards the value of convicts' treatment and the resocialization show a slight positive correlation ($r = 0.041$), $n = 286$, which is not statistically significant. A relatively weak positive correlation ($r = 0.267$), $n = 286$, $p < 0.01$, exists between satisfaction with the conditions and relationships in the institution and the resocialization of the con-

victs. We can conclude that increased satisfaction with the conditions and relationships in the institution results in a better resocialization of the convicts. In order to evaluate the model, the determination coefficient was identified, which shows how much of the variance of one variable is explained by the variance of another, i.e., how much of the variance the two variables share. Satisfaction with the conditions and relationships in the institution explains 7.13% of the variance of the convict's resocialization, which is a very small percentage of the explained variance. A relatively weak positive correlation ($r = 0.247$), $n = 286$, $p < 0.01$, was calculated between justice orientation and resocialization of convicts. Therefore, increased justice orientation results in better resocialization of convicts.

Justice orientation explains 6.10% of the variance of convict resocialization, which is a very small percentage of the explained variance. Self-esteem and resocialization of convicts show a slight positive correlation ($r = 0.177$), $n = 286$, $p < 0.01$, which implies that increased self-esteem results in better resocialization of convicts. Self-esteem explains only 3.13% of the variance of convict resocialization. Emotional competence and resocialization of convicts show a slight positive correlation ($r = 0.162$), $n = 286$, $p < 0.01$, which implies increased emotional competence results in better resocialization of convicts. Emotional competence explains only 2.62% of the variance of convict resocialization.

Table 6. ANOVA^a

Model		Sum of squared deviations	Freedom of degrees no.	Variance score	Variance ratio (F)	Significance
Resocialization	Regression	17,737	5	3,547	10,639	,000 ^b
	Residual	93,364	280	,333		
	Total	111,101	285			

a. Dependent variable: Convicts' resocialization

b. Predictors: Attitudes towards treatment, conditions and relationships satisfaction, convicts' psychological traits

Source: Authors' Calculations

Table 6 shows the evaluation of the individual variables. Attitudes towards treatment, conditions and relationships satisfaction, convicts' psychological traits (justice orientation, self-esteem, emotional competence) significantly contribute to the prediction of resocialization.

Table 7. Resocialization Coefficient

Model	Standardized beta coefficient	t	Significance Zero correlation	Correlation coefficients			Colinearity	
				Partial correlation	Semi-partial correlation	Unexplained variation	Increase variance factor	
Constant		3,843	,000					
Attitudes towards treatment	-,042	-,741	,459	,026	-,044	-,041	,919	1,088
Institutional conditions and relationships satisfaction	,242	4,363	,000	,272	,252	,239	,977	1,023
Justice orientation	,137	2,362	,019	,183	,140	,129	,894	1,118
Self-esteem	,121	2,022	,044	,214	,120	,111	,834	1,199
Emotional competence	,195	3,422	,001	,225	,200	,187	,920	1,087

Source: *Authors' Calculations*

A standardized beta coefficient was used to compare the contribution of all independent variables. In this case, the beta coefficient for the attitude towards the value of treatment is 0.042, for satisfaction with the conditions and relations in the institution 0.242, for the orientation to justice 0.137, for self-esteem 0.121, and for emotional competence 0.195. Therefore, satisfaction with the conditions and relationships in the insti-

tution contributes the most to explaining the resocialization of convicts when the variance explained by the other variables is subtracted. We can conclude that if the satisfaction with conditions and relationships in the institution increases by one, on average, the resocialization of convicts will increase by 0.242.

Since less than 0.05 is considered statistically significant, it can be concluded that satisfaction with the conditions and relationships in the institution and convicts' psychological traits (justice orientation, self-esteem, emotional competence) contribute uniquely and significantly to the prediction of the dependent variable, i.e. resocialization of convicts, while the attitude towards the value of treatment does not contribute significantly to the prediction of resocialization of convicts.

5.3. Results, Discussion and Recommendations

The study results may serve as a basis for a number of recommendations. First of all, the relationship between the resocialization of convicts and the basic social-status characteristics was defined, and the following are the main results:

- Based on the analysis of the obtained data, the dissatisfaction of the convict population with the treatment they receive is evident.
- The analysis of the data obtained on the association of the general attitude towards the value of treatment and the social-status characteristics of convicts showed that respondents of different ages, marital status, educational level, work experience, and those who were previously convicted have the same general attitude towards the value of treatment of convicted persons as those respondents who have not been previously convicted, whose type of offence and length of sentence is different, and who belong to different categories of educational treatment.
- Determining a statistically significant difference in satisfaction with conditions and relations in the institution according to social-status characteristics showed that inmates of all the above-mentioned categories are equally satisfied with the conditions and relations in the

institution, except in the category of educational treatment of inmates – where satisfaction is most pronounced among inmates who receive open educational treatment.

- Determining a statistically significant difference in the resocialization of convicts according to the social-status characteristics of the respondents showed that convicts perceive the process of resocialization equally; a statistically significant difference was found in respondents with different criminal offenses in relation to differences in resocialization.
- Determining the relationship between the attitude about the value of treatment, satisfaction with conditions and relationships in the institution and the psychological characteristics of convicts with resocialization showed that increased satisfaction with conditions and relationships in the institution results in better resocialization of convicts, that increased orientation to justice results in better resocialization of convicts, and that increased self-esteem results in better resocialization of convicts.
- Regarding the influence of the attitude about the value of treatment, satisfaction with the conditions and relationships in the institution and the psychological characteristics of the inmates on resocialization, it was determined that the variables satisfaction with the conditions and relations in the institution and the psychological characteristics of the prisoners (orientation to justice, self-esteem, emotional competence) make a significant unique contribution prediction of the dependent variable, i.e. resocialization of convicts, while the variable attitude about the value of treatment does not make a significant unique contribution to the prediction of resocialization of convicts.

Improving the conditions of serving a prison sentence certainly implies efforts to provide adequate conditions and mechanisms in the institutions by means of which the treatment would be adequately applied, which would lead to successful resocialization.

The prerequisites for successful resocialization must be built through planned activities, which, within the framework of educational treatment, recognize the need for adequate measures defined in accord-

ance with the sociological and psychological profiles of convicted persons. The results of this research showed that it is necessary to apply an adequate strategy that implies an individualized approach in the process of resocialization of convicts.

Social order in penal conditions, like any order, implies respect for prescribed norms of behaviour and patterns of behaviour, which ensure predictability and thus stability of functioning. Acceptance of the functioning of the order in the penal institution cannot be a direct indicator of the positive course of the process of rehabilitation, resocialization, and the ultimate goal of the reintegration of convicts into society for a simple reason – it was imposed primarily by force (surveillance and control).

The result of the research indicates the need to implement planned measures to improve conditions in penal institutions in the future. The research shows that the establishment and cultivation of good family relationships helps to reduce and prevent recidivism, that the support of family and friends (through the development of emotional and stable relationships) after release is essential for the process of reintegration into the community.

6. Conclusion

The main aim of the present research is to define the basic predictors for the adequate application of the treatment program, which would result in a more successful resocialization of convicts and a reduction in recidivism. The research was carried out by surveying 286 convicted persons, who at that moment were serving prison sentences in penal institutions in the AP Vojvodina area. The results of the research on the basic predictors of the success of resocialization of convicts showed, first of all, the negative attitude of convicts towards the conditions and relations in prison institutions and the treatment applied to them. The above can be interpreted with the assumption that deprivation of liberty is a strong precondition for a high degree of dissatisfaction due to forced isolation by society, the impossibility of desired social communication, a feeling of marginalization, imposed restrictions, a sense of collapsed

dignity, denied the possibility of achieving the desired goals and practicing a certain lifestyle. Another reason can certainly be the quality of stay in penal conditions, due primarily to the limitation of the state's financial resources, regardless of the efforts and projected goals of society, which may include high standards.

It is important to stress that adequate training and periodic professional development of the staff of penal institutions is necessary in relation to the best modes, approaches, and problems of resocialization of convicts.

The research results have both practical (social) and scientific significance. The authors offered some recommendations for the improvement of procedures and ways of working with convicted persons with the aim of successful resocialization into society after serving the prison sentence. Further research is necessary, such as a more detailed analysis of the factors that were shown to be borderline statistically significant in this research, with the aim of understanding their features and defining ways to improve the application of treatment to convicted persons.

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STAV O VREDNOSTI TRETMANA OSUĐENIKA U PENALNIM USTANOVAMA NA PODRUČJU AP VOJVODINE: ANALIZA PODATAKA, IZAZOVI I PREPORUKE

SAŽETAK: Položaj osuđenih lica u penalnim ustanovama nije samo pravno pitanje, već je odraz raspoloživih kapaciteta, materijalnih i ljudskih resursa, ali i spremnosti i opredeljenosti društva da stvori efikasne i efektivne moduse i sprovede adekvatan tretman prema osuđenicima u cilju ostvarivanja osnovne funkcije ovih ustanova, tj. resocijalizacije. Stoga su od nespornog značaja i naučni napori da se utvrde najadekvatniji načini za unapređivanje funkcionisanja penalnih ustanova kako bi se za osuđeničke, u specifičnom okruženju i podrazumevajućim uslovima ograničenja sloboda, omogućio maksimalno moguć kvalitet života. U zadovoljavajućim uslovima izdržavanja zatvorske kazne stvorili bi se preduslovi za bolju implementaciju tretmana koji bi dao očekivane rezultate u procesu resocijalizacije, a time uticao i na smanjenje recidiva. Osnovni cilj ovog istraživanja jeste definisanje faktora i mogućnosti predikcije resocijalizacije osuđenika (zavisna varijabla) u zatvorima na području AP Vojvodine. Rezultati rada pokazuju da je opšti stav osuđenika o tretmanu u zatvoru negativan. Od 27 posmatranih nezavisnih varijabli, istraživanje je pokazalo da najveća statistička značajnost postoji: 1) između kategorije vaspitnog tretmana i zadovoljstva uslovima i odnosima u ustanovi; 2) između vrste krivičnog dela i uspeha resocijalizacije. Niža statistička značajnost je zabeležena između zadovoljstva uslovima, orijentacije na pravednost, stepena samopoštovanja, emocionalne kompetentnosti i uspeha resocijalizacije.