



MEALS AND HYGIENE: PERCEPTION OF PRISONERS

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Dr. Tejpal Singh Gill

Assistant Professor, Department of Police Administration,
Govind National College, Narangwal,
Ludhiana, Punjab



Abstract

The prisoners are detained in isolation, away from the society, for a fixed span of time and their freedom is curtailed during this period. Though there are various types of prisons found in the country yet these all serve the same purpose. But can we treat the person behind the bars as non-person. Food is the major requirement for all living beings and its quality too matters. It must be made sure that all the grains should be properly cleaned before using or grinding, the flour and rice are properly sieved and stored. All the items meant for diet and even cooking like fuel will be weighed daily at the time of issuance by a responsible officer. The present paper deals with examining the cleanliness and hygiene that needs to be maintained during meal times in two modern jails of Punjab.

Keywords: Prisons, Hygiene, Cleanliness, Food, Storage and Serving

Introduction

In the earlier times, the communities were close-knit and people were scared of getting bad name by committing even the smallest of the crime as the entire family of the criminal was boycotted and the weight of stigma was too heavy to carry. The emergence of workhouses and jails are the result of non-payment of fines by the offenders and as a result keeping them incarcerated became the punishment in itself. In some part of the World,

like UK and Scotland, there was practice to use ducking stools to punish the offenders by plunging them into water. Banishment was also used as a way of punishment. The prisoners are detained in isolation, away from the society, for a fixed span of time and their freedom is curtailed during this period. Though there are different types of Prisons yet these all have the same purpose. In order to improve conditions of prisoners the concept of MODERN JAILS came into being towards the end of 20th century. Of late, several developments in India ushered in changes to bring modernization in the Prisons: Directions of the Supreme Court to improve the prevailing sub-human conditions in the jails. Growing Advocacy for the protection of human rights of the prisoners. Media and Social activists, often, highlighted the weaknesses and inadequacies of the prison administration. Food is necessity for every prisoner to survive and therefore adequate provisions have been made in Model Prison Manual (2003) and Punjab Prison Manual (1996). It is required that all the grains should be properly cleaned before using or grinding. The flour and rice are properly sieved and stored. All the items meant for diet and even cooking like fuel will be weighed daily at the time of issuance by a responsible officer who is not below the rank of Assistant Superintendent. The quality of the ration will be checked by the Medical officer.



Utmost care has to be taken by Superintendent and the Medical officer to keep vigil on the food supplies and food items. The steel utensil to be used for cooking should be properly scalded and cleaned with boiling water. There will be properly designed kitchen with enough space and provisions for cooking the food. The food is to be served on timings fixed by the IG Prisons and the food is to be served hot and sufficient time (not less than 20 minutes) to be given to the prisoners to eat the food.

The cooked food will be inspected to ensure quantity, quality and proper cooking of the food. A prisoner will have the right to complain about any aspect of the food; quantity and quality and the complaint must be looked into by the appropriate authority and be resolved and will also be recorded in the report book.

Methodology

The main aim of the paper is to study the organization, hygiene and cleanliness maintained in kitchens Modern jails (FARIDKOT and KAPURTHALA Jail) of Punjab State in light of guidelines of Model Jail Manual (2003). The total sample of 300 prisoners were selected i.e. 150 from each modern jail- Kapurthala and Faridkot jail and a well-structured questionnaire was used for obtaining the data. Statistical tools like mean, median, standard deviation, chi- square and p-value were used to analyse the data and obtain results.

Results and Discussion

TABLE 1
IS THE KITCHEN DINING AREA IN THE PRISON IS
HYGIENICALLY MAINTAINED? (Question no. 12)

	Q12			Total	Chi-Square	p-value
	Yes	No	Don't Know			
Kapurthala	67	70	3	150	4.456	.108
	44.7%	46.7%	3.7%	100.0%		
Faridkot	78	67	5	150	4.456	.108
	52.0%	44.7%	3.3%	100.0%		
Total	145	137	8	300	4.456	.108
	48.3%	45.7%	3.0%	100.0%		

Source: Culled from Primary Data p-value ≤ 0.05 is significant denoted as*, p-value ≤ 0.01 is significant denoted as**, p-value > 0.05 is not significant denoted as ns.

The overall analysis of the Table 1 is indicating no clear trend of responses as 48.3 % of the respondents opined that the dining area in the prison was hygienically maintained, whereas 45.7 % of the respondents opined that the kitchen dining area in the prison was not hygienically maintained. However, 52.0 % of the respondents of Faridkot jail and 44.7 % of the respondents of Kapurthala jail stated that the dining area in the prison was hygienically maintained. The difference of opinion was 7.3 % between the responses of two jails. Nonetheless, 46.7 % of the respondents of Kapurthala jail and 44.7 % respondents Faridkot jail opined that the dining area in the prison was not hygienically maintained. Statistically non-significant difference in the responses of two Jails was seen however no clear trend of the responses was available.



TABLE 2
ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH CONDITION OF CONTAINERS
USED IN STORING THE FOOD BEFORE IT IS
SERVED TO THE PRISONERS?
(Question no. 16)

	Q16			Total	Chi-Square	p-value
	Yes	No	Don't Know			
Kapurthala	66	80	4	150	5.58	.061
	44.0 %	53.3 %	2.7 %	100.0 %		
Faridkot	86	62	2	150		
	57.3 %	41.3 %	1.3 %	100.0 %		
Total	152	142	6	300		
	50.7 %	47.3 %	2.0 %	100.0 %		

Source: Culled from Primary Data p-value ≤ 0.05 is significant denoted as*, p-value ≤ 0.01 is significant denoted as**, p-value > 0.05 is not significant denoted as ns.

The overall analysis of the Table 2 is indicating that 50.7% of the respondents were satisfied with containers used in storing the food before it was served to the prisoners, whereas 47.3 % of the respondents were not satisfied with containers used in storing the food before it was served to the prisoners. However, 57.3 % of the respondents of Faridkot jail and 44.0 % of the respondents of Kapurthala jail were satisfied with containers used in storing the food before it was served to the prisoners. The difference of opinion was 13.3 % between the responses of two jails. Nonetheless, 53.3 % of the respondents of Kapurthala jail and 41.3 % respondents of Faridkot jail were not satisfied with containers used in storing the food before it was served to the prisoners.

Statistically non-significant difference in the responses of two Jails was seen however, majority of respondents of Faridkot jail were satisfied with utensils used in storing the food before it was served to the prisoners whereas majority of the respondents of Kapurthala jail were not satisfied with containers used in storing the food.

Variable wise effects:

TABLE 3
ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE ARRANGEMENT
TO WASH UTENSILS
(Question no. 18)

	Q18			Total	Chi-Square	p-value
	Yes	No	Don't Know			
Kapurthala	71	76	3	150	3.053	.217
	47.3%	50.7%	2.0%	100.0%		
Faridkot	86	62	2	150		
	57.3%	41.3%	1.3%	100.0%		
Total	157	138	5	300		
	52.3%	46.0%	1.7%	100.0%		

Source: Culled from Primary Data p-value ≤ 0.05 is significant denoted as*, p-value ≤ 0.01 is significant denoted as**, p-value > 0.05 is not significant denoted as ns.

The overall analysis of the Table 3 is indicating that 52.3 % of the respondents were satisfied with the arrangement to wash the utensils, whereas 46.0 % of the respondents were not satisfied with the arrangement to wash the utensils. However, 57.3 % of the respondents of Faridkot jail and 47.3 % of the respondents of Kapurthala jail were satisfied with the arrangement to wash the utensils. The difference of opinion was 10.0 % between the responses of two jails. Nonetheless, 50.7 % of the respondents of Kapurthala jail and 41.3 % respondents of Faridkot jail were not satisfied with the arrangement to wash the utensils.

Statistically non-significant difference in the responses of two Jails was seen however, majority of respondents of Faridkot jail were satisfied with the arrangement to wash the utensils, whereas majority of the respondents of Kapurthala jail were not satisfied with the arrangement to wash the utensils.



Conclusion

Prison is a place where commitment to actions is at its possible low. The necessary cleaning is done by the staff and the volunteers amongst the prisoners. Otherwise it free for all in the prison, least expected is observance of norms by the prisoners. Therefore, hygienic conditions or cleanliness remain far cry.

Food for the prisoners is cooked in large size utensils and often is retained in those utensils before being served. These containers are washed properly before put to use another time but with passage of time these get marks or burns of fire as a result give poor look.

There are proper arrangements in both the jails to wash utensils. Prisoners clean their own plate and bowl and retain with themselves. Proper hose is provided to clean the utensils.

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