

PRISON REFORMS

1A. Title of initiative - Prison Reforms | Naveen Gatividhiyan apnayenge, Banda Jail ko sarvottam banayenge

1B. Ministry / Department / State Govt. / District / Organization where the initiative was implemented - Banda District Administration, U.P

1C. Area of Initiative - Others —> Prison Reforms

1D. Commencement of the initiative - December, 2018

1E. Has the outcome or impact of the initiative been audited or evaluated by any independent agency for reality check of the realized benefits vis-à-vis those envisaged?

Audited & encouraged by:

Sh. U P Singh - Sec. Jal Shakti Ministry, GoI

Sh. Ananda Kumar - IPS, DGP Jail, U.P

Dr. Nitin Singh - Prof., IIM Ranchi; Wrote a research paper based on his evaluation.

Dr. Vartika Nanda, renowned prison-reform journalist.

Shri R. S. Yadav, District Judge Banda.

Impact:

"The prison administration at Banda has effectively explored various measures to positively impact the lives of inmates. I have scrutinized these measures and interventions through a process of management audit. I found the measures to be objective, outcome-driven, effective and within the mandate of law. They are also replicable in other prisons or penitentiaries." - Dr. Nitin Singh, IIM Ranchi.

1F. Was this initiative winner of any other award(s) instituted by any other National / International organization?

Best Jail Award conferred to Banda Jail by Director General of Police, Jail Administration, Uttar Pradesh Police

Tinka Tinka India Award was given to Banda Jail by Tinka Tinka Foundation

2. Please provide Detailed Write-up of the work done under the initiative between 1 st April, 2018 and 31 st March, 2020 covering the following:

A. OBJECTIVE OF INITIATIVE AND HOW THE INITIATIVE ACHIEVED THOSE OBJECTIVES

BACKGROUND

During DM Banda, Sh. Heera Lal Ji's very first visit to Banda Jail, the sad and gloomy faces of inmates deeply moved him. His conscience was forced to think about the compromise of all inmates' human rights, and a reducing probability of them transforming into better human beings. Issues like poor living conditions, absent external activities, lack of engagement etc., added to the frustration of inmates. This made them less likely to think in a positive direction.

Sh. Heera Lal Ji then took it upon himself to fight all odds, and work towards the often neglected aspect of Prison reforms. He made it his mission to try and convert Banda Jail into a Model Prison.

OBJECTIVES

- To increase sensitivity and urgency for Prison reforms in the concerned department.
- To design and implement an initiative, which takes care of inmates' physical, mental & spiritual well-being.
- To design and implement skilling programs for men and women, thereby empowering them to become self-sustained, once they leave the prison.
- To create a platform to solve issues of inmates' families, with an aim of helping them, and eradicating the difficulties they face, thereby positively impacting the society at large.
- To evaluate and work towards improving overall living conditions of Banda Jail.

OBJECTIVE FULFILMENT

What started with an emotional trigger, soon gained momentum and transformed into a full fledged, well planned, sustainable inmate-engagement project. This initiative not only helped improve the overall living conditions of Banda Jail, but various engagement and value-adding programs, helped the inmates become a better version of themselves. Overall, we were successful in achieving our set objectives.

B. INTRODUCING AND IMPLEMENTING AN INNOVATIVE IDEA/ SCHEME/PROJECT TO MEET STAKEHOLDERS' REQUIREMENT

INTRODUCTION

Punishing offenders is the primary function of all civil societies. However, the real purpose of sending criminals to prison, is to transform them into honest and law abiding citizens. This, can be achieved by empowering inmates with values, skills and a platform for mainstream societal-integration, thereby automatically creating a distaste for criminality.

THE SOLUTION | EMPOWERING TRIUMPH OF HUMANITY OVER CRIMINALITY

We designed and implemented an ambitious campaign titled **Aisi Gatividhiyan apnayenge, Jail mein acche maanav banayenge.**

It was an idealistic approach with practical qualifications that guided us through the process of transforming Banda Jail and its inmates.

STRATEGIC RESOURCE ALLOCATION | LOW-OR-NO-COST MODEL

Unavailability or inadequate resources, often are the primary reasons for failure of any such initiative. Therefore, while creating the engagement design, we kept the implementation very resource and fund light. Most of the interventions were voluntary, complimentary or charitable in nature, while maintaining highest output standards.

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

We took following steps to ensure project sustainability:

- We always planned everything with **end-beneficiary** in mind. Therefore, when working backwards, we were always able to come-up with quality ideas which resonated well with the inmates and their families. This ensured widespread campaign acceptance and anticipation for upcoming engagements.
- We constantly **analyzed and aligned** our campaign, derived insights and learnings, and implemented an improved version of our initiative at all times. This ensured growing success rate of the campaign.
- **Collaboration** was key to our initiative. We worked closely with field experts, professionals and organizations who partnered with us in helping us achieve the desired transformation of the prison and its inmates.

IMPLEMENTATION FLOW

- Central committee of senior police officials and subject matter experts was formed under the visionary chairmanship of Sh. Heera Lal Ji.
- Detailed engagement plans were designed keeping in mind all aspects of human development like health, state of mind, spirituality, skill development, entertainment etc.
- Each were implemented like small modules. This helped us extract learnings and continuously improve the program.
- The project design ensured the ownership of the campaign was with the inmates and officials directly in contact with them. This improved direct feedback, personal relations, and overall effectiveness of the program.

KEY INFLUENCER ENGAGEMENT & PEER LEARNING

Introducing a revolutionary mindset change, we symbolically branded the Banda Jail as a large *Happiness Village* and each barrack was treated like a '*Mohollah*'. Representatives from each *Mohollah* were selected, who captained the initiatives. This increased acceptance of each program as '*one of their own*' was leading it.

This format accelerated peer-to-peer learning and slowly, all inmates became willing participants in each of our activity.

C. BRINGING PERCEPTIBLE IMPROVEMENTS IN PROCESSES/ SYSTEMS AND BUILDING INSTITUTIONS

The biggest challenge or aspect to improve in terms of processes, was brining an attitudinal change at all levels. Following were some notable efforts that we undertook:

- We reignited sensitivity, and urgency to look at prison from a transformational point of view.
- Institutionally, lack of personal initiative was a big hindrance. To strengthen the principles of Prison as an institution during actual implementation, personnel were inspired by workshops and motivational meetings.
- A robust procedural mechanism was introduced beyond the traditional chain of command focussing solely on these initiatives. This helped accelerate work and delivered prompt results.

D. APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY ADOPTED TO BRING INNOVATION

APPROACH

New results can not be achieved through old means. Therefore, we were committed to approach Prison reforms in Banda Jail from a fresh, contemporary and humane outlook.

Inmates and the prison environment were not a liability for us. They were, in-fact, forgotten assets, which just needed a push to completely transform into productive, and inspired individuals.

METHODOLOGY

To achieve our ambitious objectives, a sincere, consistent and innovative engagement methodology was needed. Below are some of our such efforts:

- 1. Yoga:** A two-phased, five-day yoga camp was held with a total of 600 inmates by the World Yoga Trust.
- 2. Sports:** Local games were introduced with proper team formation and championship formats. This increased physical and mental fitness of inmates.
- 3. Cultural Activities:** To enliven the environment, and re-introduce value of social life, various cultural activities like music and dance programmes were introduced. 70 inmates were found to be interested in vocal and instrumental music programmes. Accordingly, they were trained in classical, folk music as well as Rai Bundelkhandi and Diwari dance (local forms of dance).
- 4. Arts & Handicrafts:** Inmates were imparted training on handicrafts, painting composition and exhibition. First, painting competitions were held in each barrack. Second, various handicrafts were exhibited at the city center. Many art lovers purchased these pieces of art. The accrued income to the inmates which was deposited in their respective accounts.
- 5. Swachh Banda Jail:** Inspired by the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, importance of cleanliness, hygiene and beautification were explained to the inmates. Almost all 900 interested inmates were involved in this drive. Erstwhile difficult-to-reach and unattainable portions of landscapes and Correctional facility premises were allocated to them for cleaning and beautification. On

the basis of aesthetic, winners were declared and prize was awarded for motivation and keeping the fire-in-the-belly alive to overcome victorious in the competition.

6. Introduction of Bird-Feeding: To bring inmates closer to nature, we made arrangements to create bird habitat in the premises. Nests were put on trees in campus. Food left in kitchen was put as feed. Gradually, many types of birds started coming and living there.

7. Female Prisoner's Skill Development: For empowering women inmates, they were provided training to stitch clothes. District administration made efforts to market these products. Advertisements through various channels viz government notification, newspaper advertisement etc. were given.

Secretary of District Legal Services Authority trained and enlightened the life of female inmates by making them aware of their legal rights.

8. Problem Solving: We deputed three jail officers. Each officer used to visit three to five prisoners daily. The aim was to find solutions to their problems. Separate meetings were organized with family, lawyer and inmate, respectively.

9. Festival Celebration: Festivals were celebrated with full fun and enthusiasm. Jail administration used to arrange all required things. The festive environment on such occasion removed all negativity.

10. Initiation of Dairy in Jail: We started rearing cows, which were received as donation. We started making vermicompost manure to use inside the campus, growing organic vegetables. This made Banda Jail the first one to have its own dairy!

11. Water Conservation: Wells were cleaned. A new pond was developed to store campus rainwater. This was done with the help of Banda development authority.

12. Literacy: We selected volunteers from literate prisoners to teach illiterate inmates. 300 inmates were selected and evaluated.

13. Use of Medicinal Valued Trees: Tulsi leaves and Neem tree was used for health. Tulsi leaves are being used in tea and eating daily. Neem is used as toothbrushes.

14. Farm Management: Jail campus farm was divided into four parts. For each part, one inmate was designated as manager who was interested in farming work voluntarily. We promoted organic farming with the help of District Horticultural Officer and others. Prisoners consumed farm products grown.

E. IMPACTS/BENEFITS RESULTING FROM THE INITIATIVE

- **Touched and transformed** lives of 900 inmates.
- **Customized initiatives** basis interest, choice, competency and need were designed separately for men and women.

- **Physical & mental fitness** was improved through regular practice of Yoga and sports.
- Enhancing individual **spirituality** was achieved through external sessions of Yoga, meditation and counseling sessions.
- Adding **cultural activities** like music and dance not only provided entertainment to the inmates, it also helped stimulate their minds improving memory. It had a tremendously relaxing effect on minds and bodies. It resulted in the emotional development, building positive attitude and creating interest towards classical and folk culture.
- **Arts and handicrafts** related activities became a mode of expression. Many inmates conveyed to us that this helped them relieve stress, feel happier, be creative and make better life choices. At the same time, it leads to development of local handicrafts.
- Activities like **organic farming, bird-feeding, raising an in-house dairy, growing medicinal plants** etc., inculcated a sense of compassion, affection and bond creation.
- **Community learning** (being taught by a fellow inmate) and group **festival celebrations** went a long way in building a desire for a stable social life and developing inter-personal relations with fellow community members and society on the whole.
- Local activities and actions in local style and language made things easy to adopt and practice. Productive use of time brought happiness and wellness in the prison and made all happy and healthy.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CONTEXT

The real purpose of sending criminals to prison, is to transform them into honest and law abiding citizens. To ensure this, we designed and implemented an ambitious campaign titled **Aisi Gatividhiyan apnayenge, Jail mein acche maanav banayenge.**

OBJECTIVES

- Increase sensitivity and urgency for Prison reforms.
- Look after inmates' physical, mental & spiritual well-being.
- Design and implement skill development programs.
- Create a platform to solve issues of inmates' families.
- Improve overall living conditions of Banda Jail.

APPROACH

We started treating inmates not as liabilities but as assets.

METHODOLOGY

Below are some of our such efforts:

- **Yoga** - For mental, physical and spiritual well-being.
- **Sports** - For positive competition and fitness.
- **Cultural activities** - Appreciation of social life and community living.
- **Arts & handicrafts** - Form of expression and stress relief. Encourages folk art as well.
- **Swachh Banda Jail** - Cleanliness is godliness.
- **Bird feeding** - Compassion and affection.
- **Skill development** - Empowering for life after prison.
- **Problem solving** - Taking care of inmates' families and society at large.
- **Festival celebration** - Increased desire for a stable and happy social life.
- **In-house dairy** - Compassion and enterprise.
- **Water conservation** - Sensitivity towards safeguard of water.
- **Literacy** - Empowering the individual towards a better future.
- **Farm management & medical plant growing** - Appreciation of nature's gift to mankind.

IMPACT & BENEFITS

- **Touched and transformed** lives of 900 inmates.
- **Physical, spiritual & mental fitness** was improved through regular practice of Yoga and sports.
- **Cultural activities** like music and dance provided entertainment & emotional development.
- **Arts and handicrafts** related activities became a mode of expression.
- **Organic farming, bird-feeding, raising an in-house dairy, growing medicinal plants** etc., inculcated a sense of compassion.
- **Community learning** (being taught by a fellow inmate) and group **festival celebrations** helped build a desire for stable social life.

AWARD

Best Jail Award

Tinka Tinka Award