

Private Sector Engagement: Prisoner Reformation, Rehabilitation and Reintegration

The notion that business influences the society around them is not new to India. Since time immemorial Indian Industry has been contributing immensely towards nation building by involving closely in social causes. But their contributions were limited to philanthropic donations to charity, service to community, enhancing employee welfare and promoting religious conduct. With globalization and market expectation, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is emerging as a significant concept in the arena of business, which has the potential to address every facet of human development and environment sustainability.

Indian companies are responding positively by addressing the interest of their stakeholders which includes employees, supply chain partners, government, creditors, customers and also socio-economic issues of communities namely poverty alleviation programs, quality education, health etc. But on the hind side there are few relevant issues where corporates can have a greater role to play and Prisoner Reformation, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (3Rs) is one such important issue.

Reformation, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (3Rs) in the prison setting refers to assisting with the spiritual, moral, vocational and educational development of the imprisoned individual via working practices, educational, cultural and recreational activities available in prison.

India has 1, 382 jails, the total capacity is 3, 32, 782 and the total number of jail inmates as on 31.12.2011 is 3, 72, 926 (112% occupied). Hence there is an urgent need to address not only spiritual, moral but economic rehabilitation of prisoners as well. The government is paving the way through various schemes, policies, infrastructure and frameworks and on the other hand civil society organisations are advancing the aim and objectives of the government with various well designed programs.

FICCI- Aditya Birla CSR Centre for Excellence in partnership with Antarkranti organized a Private Sector Engagement on Prisoner Reformation, Rehabilitation and Reintegration. It was held on the 18th of April, 2013 at the FICCI Federation House, New Delhi between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.

The objectives of the engagement was to facilitate an interactive platform for industry to understand the life and contexts of Prisoners in India prisons and awareness among private sector on the opportunities that the industry can create to enable Prison environment in a manner that helps achieve the real goals of sending people to jails- reform, rehabilitate and reintegrate. Also, to understand and explore possible partnerships about an important aspect of society that needs to be addressed.

In her introduction speech, Sadhvi Jaya Bharti from DJJS expressed that the life of a prisoner inside the prison is very different from the life outside the prison. There are many external factors and

stigmas which affect the existence of a prisoner in the society. She urged that discussions about the “human angle” should be undertaken because the prisoners are humans too and their imprisonment has an equal affect on their families. She re-iterated that not all the prisoners are criminals; rather there are plenty who were caught at an incorrect time indulging in an inappropriate action considering the circumstances of that situation. Keeping this in mind she affirmed that the chances of the prisoners to return back to normal life are good and all they require is a dedicated intervention about the same.

Jaya ji concluded by saying that the prisons are in existence for the safety of the society but it is the duty of the society to contribute towards taking corrective and reformative actions for the development of the prisoners.

Further Ms. Vimla Mehra, Director General, Delhi Prisons, Tihar in her address discussed how despite of various challenges inside the prisons the inmates contribute to the entire administration work and other activities as well. Prisoners realise the importance which the presence of these activities have for them. She mentioned that despite of overcrowding (accommodation of 6,500 surpassed to 13, 000) in jails the inmates ensure keeping their surroundings and jail premises neat and clean. She was happy to share that the prisons have facilities for meditating, painting and cooking for the inmates to enjoy and keep busy. With this knowledge sharing, Ms. Mehra emphasized upon the commitment which the prison authorities and the Government of India make in ensuring better facilities and provisions for the inmates. There is an immense scope to develop the potential and talent of the inmates and for this she welcomed the support of the civil society members as well as the industry. She concluded with very hopeful spirits towards the development of the prison sector.

Swami Vishalanand in his address introduced the correctional model of “brahm gyaan” which believes that till the time an individual doesn’t recognize their supreme self and energies, the individual cannot be transformed. So to change the external system every individual has to be transformed. DJJS through their brahm gyaan and Antarkranti are working on individuals. This concept was found by Shri. Ashutosh Maharaj ji. Swami Vishalanand ji enlightened us with the various reformative activities undertaken by DJJS and how the inmates dedicate themselves to this spiritual life. He affirmed that the art of living is learnt and continuous practice ensures change in lifestyle, everyday activities and helps in the cleanliness process and think towards doing and taking the right action.

Mr. R K Lala, NCDC, Mr. Anup Kumar Mittal, CMD, NBCC and Ms. Gauri Gupta, NSDC shared their observations and contributions in the prison sector. Collectively they recognized that the prison sector is one which is a neglected sector. To deal with this they proposed their respective ideas which included allocating adequate funds to this sector, creating various marketing and sustainable models to promote the products made by the inmates and lastly focussing on the scalability of these models.

NCDC, NBCC and NSDC took immense pride in being a part of the engagement at FICCI and about their association with DJJS. Collectively they requested all the concerned stakeholders and interested parties to come forward whole heartedly and do whatever they can in their own small way. The engagement was attended by various corporates which included Arcelor Mittal India

Limited, Tata Consultancy Service, India Skills (P) Ltd., NIIT Foundation, NTPC Limited, UNODC and Partners in Change etc. and they were happy to realize the existence of this issue yet being one of the most neglected one.

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stigmas which affect the existence of a prisoner in the society. She urged that discussions about the “human angle” should be undertaken because the prisoners are humans too and their imprisonment has an equal affect on their families. She re-iterated that not all the prisoners are criminals; rather there are plenty who were caught at an incorrect time indulging in an inappropriate action considering the circumstances of that situation. Keeping this in mind she affirmed that the chances of the prisoners to return back to normal life are good and all they require is a dedicated intervention about the same.

Jaya ji concluded by saying that the prisons are in existence for the safety of the society but it is the duty of the society to contribute towards taking corrective and reformative actions for the development of the prisoners.

Further Ms. Vimla Mehra, Director General, Delhi Prisons, Tihar in her address discussed how despite of various challenges inside the prisons the inmates contribute to the entire administration work and other activities as well. Prisoners realise the importance which the presence of these activities have for them. She mentioned that despite of overcrowding (accommodation of 6,500 surpassed to 13, 000) in jails the inmates ensure keeping their surroundings and jail premises neat and clean. She was happy to share that the prisons have facilities for meditating, painting and cooking for the inmates to enjoy and keep busy. With this knowledge sharing, Ms. Mehra emphasized upon the commitment which the prison authorities and the Government of India make in ensuring better facilities and provisions for the inmates. There is an immense scope to develop the potential and talent of the inmates and for this she welcomed the support of the civil society members as well as the industry. She concluded with very hopeful spirits towards the development of the prison sector.

Swami Vishalanand in his address introduced the correctional model of “brahm gyaan” which believes that till the time an individual doesn’t recognize their supreme self and energies, the individual cannot be transformed. So to change the external system every individual has to be transformed. DJJS through their brahm gyaan and Antarkranti are working on individuals. This concept was found by Shri. Ashutosh Maharaj ji. Swami Vishalanand ji enlightened us with the various reformative activities undertaken by DJJS and how the inmates dedicate themselves to this spiritual life. He affirmed that the art of living is learnt and continuous practice ensures change in lifestyle, everyday activities and helps in the cleanliness process and think towards doing and taking the right action.

Mr. R K Lala, NCDC, Mr. Anup Kumar Mittal, CMD, NBCC and Ms. Gauri Gupta, NSDC shared their observations and contributions in the prison sector. Collectively they recognized that the prison sector is one which is a neglected sector. To deal with this they proposed their respective ideas which included allocating adequate funds to this sector, creating various marketing and sustainable models to promote the products made by the inmates and lastly focussing on the scalability of these models.

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Jaya ji said that the prisons are in existence for the safety of the society but it is the duty of the society to contribute towards taking corrective and reformatory actions for the development of the prisoners.

Further Vimla Mehra, Director General, Delhi Prisons, Tihar, discussed how despite of various challenges inside the prisons the inmates contribute to the entire administration work and other activities as well. Prisoners realise the importance which the presence of these activities have for them. She mentioned that despite of overcrowding (accommodation of 6,500 surpassed to 13,000) in jails the inmates ensure keeping their surroundings and jail premises neat and clean.

She was happy to share that the prisons have facilities for meditating, painting and cooking for the inmates to enjoy and keep busy. With this knowledge sharing, Mehra emphasised upon the commitment which the prison authorities and the Government of India make in ensuring better facilities and provisions for the inmates. There is an immense scope to develop the potential and talent of the inmates and for this she welcomed the support of the civil society members as well as the industry. She concluded with hopeful spirits towards the development of the prison sector.

Swami Vishalanand, Divya Jyoti Jagrati Sansthan (DJJS), introduced the correctional model of 'brahm gyaan' which believes that till the time an individual doesn't recognise

their supreme self and energies, the individual cannot be transformed. So to change the external system every individual has to be transformed. DJJS through their brahm gyaan and Antarkranti are working on individuals. This concept was founded by Shri Ashutosh Maharajji. Swami Vishalanand ji enlightened the audience with the various reformatory activities undertaken by DJJS and how the inmates dedicate themselves to this spiritual life.

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R K Lala, National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), Anup Kumar Mittal, CMD, National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC) and Gauri Gupta, National

Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) shared their observations and contributions in the prison sector. Collectively they recognised that the prison sector is neglected. They proposed ideas such as allocating adequate funds to this sector, creating various marketing and sustainable models to promote the products made by the inmates and lastly focussing on the scalability of these models.

NCDC, NBCC and NSDC requested all the concerned stakeholders and interested parties to come forward and contribute in whichever way they can. The engagement was attended by various corporates including Arcelor Mittal India Limited, Tata Consultancy Service, India Skills (P) Ltd., NIIT Foundation, NTPC Limited, UNODC and Partners in Change etc. ■



L to R: Sadhvi Jaya Bharti, Divya Jyoti Jagrati Sansthan; Dr. K K Upadhyay, Head-CSR, FICCI; Swami Vishalanand, Divya Jyoti Jagrati Sansthan and Vimla Mehra, Director General, Delhi Prisons, Tihar.



R to L: R K Lala, National Cooperative Development Corporation; Anup Kumar Mittal, CMD, National Building Construction Corporation; Dr. K K Upadhyay, Head, FICCI-CSR; Gauri Gupta, National Skill Development Corporation and Sadhvi Jaya Bharti, Divya Jyoti Jagrati Sansthan.



Participants of the roundtable on 'Private Sector Engagement on Prisoner Reformation, Rehabilitation and Reintegration'.

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and also socio-economic issues of communities namely poverty alleviation programmes, quality education, health etc. But there are few relevant issues where corporates can play a greater role and prisoners' reformation, rehabilitation and reintegration (3Rs) is one such area.

Reformation, rehabilitation and reintegration (3Rs) in the prison setting refers to assisting with the spiritual, moral, vocational and educational development of imprisoned individual via working practices, educational, cultural and recreational activities available in prison.

India has 1,382 jails, the total capacity is 332,782 and the number of jail inmates as on December 31, 2011 was 372,926 (112 per cent occupied). Hence there is an urgent

need to address not only spiritual, moral but economic rehabilitation of prisoners. The government is paving the way through various schemes, policies, infrastructure and frameworks and civil society organisations are advancing with numerous well designed programmes.

FICCI- Aditya Birla CSR Centre for Excellence in partnership with Antarkranti organised a roundtable on 'Private Sector Engagement on Prisoner Reformation, Rehabilitation and Reintegration' in New Delhi on April 18, 2013, with the objective to facilitate an interactive platform for industry to understand the life and contexts of prisoners in Indian prisons. The intent was to spread awareness among private sector on the opportunities that industry can

create to enable prison environment in a manner that helps achieve the real goals of sending people to jails - reform, rehabilitate and reintegrate. Also, to understand and explore possible partnerships about an important aspect of society that needs to be addressed.

Sadhvi Jaya Bharti, Divya Jyoti Jagrati Sansthan (DJJS), expressed that a prisoner's life inside a prison is very different from his life outside it. There are many external factors and stigmas which affect the existence of a prisoner in the society. She urged that discussions pertaining to the 'human angle' should be undertaken because prisoners are also humans and their imprisonment has an equal effect on their families.

She reiterated that not all the prisoners are criminals; rather there