

INVISIBLE VICTIMS OF MATERNAL INCARCERATION- A STUDY ON THE CHILDREN OF WOMEN PRISONERS

INTRODUCTION

In India, child rights, protection policies, and programs have started to play a significant role in uplifting the lives of children in all areas, especially underprivileged sessions. It doesn't mean a high impact of interventions, however better in comparison with the 20th century.

The concept for analyzing the need for children of incarcerated mothers in Tihar, Dasna, Gurugram, Faridabad, and Mandoli prisons for influencing the policy level was derived in a monthly review meeting of the program Children of Vulnerable Families.

Accordingly, a discussion with the Director and the Head prison program was conducted. An orientation to the female prison project was done in the month of June 2022 on the MS team interview schedule, the observation to be made and the things to be taken care of at the time of data collection with the imprisoned mothers.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

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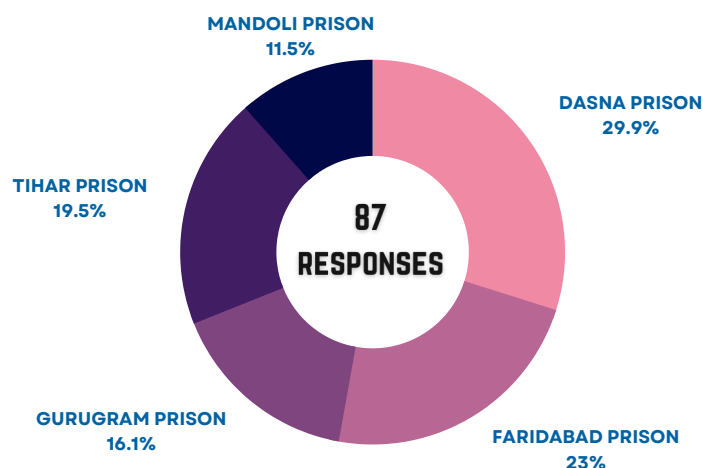
To understand the knowledge of the imprisoned mothers about the **whereabouts of their children and to know their concerns of their children.**

2

To **recommend for policy makers** from the insight of the study for the betterment of the children of incarcerated parents.



RESPONDENTS

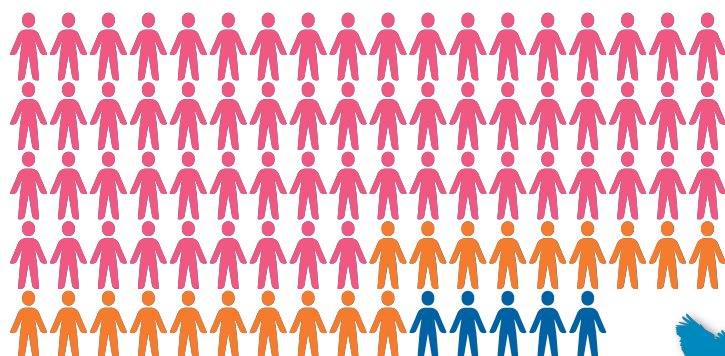


CONNECTIVITY WITH THEIR CHILDREN



In regard to the connectivity with the children and their whereabouts, **84 mothers were aware of their children's status** in the community. Only **3 mothers were unaware of their children's status.**

Amongst the 87 respondents **63** incarcerated mothers confined in prison for **less than 3 years** and **19** mothers between **3-8 years**. Only **five** mothers were reported their confined life for **more than 5 years.**



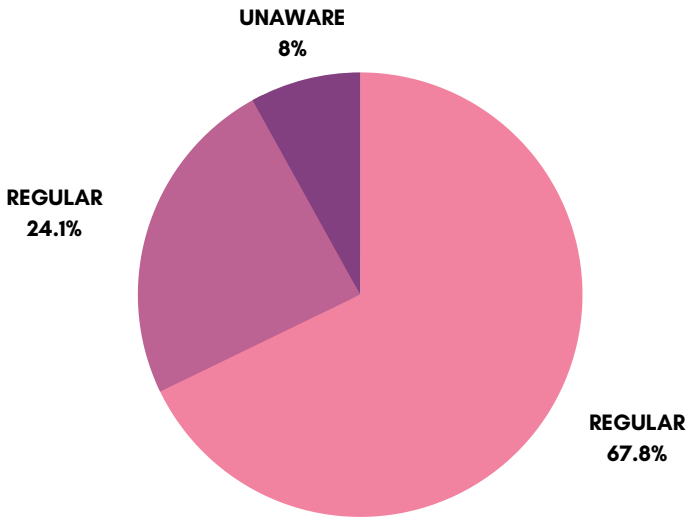
awareness of their children

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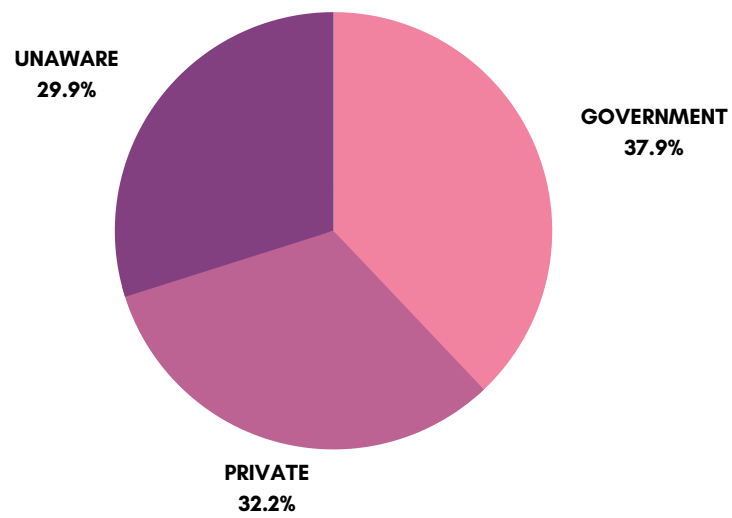
Majority of the mothers' imprisonment happened during the young age of their children, the adolescent and youth category of the offspring of the incarcerated mothers are comparatively less.

SCHOOL RELATED INFORMATION

regularity



TYPE OF SCHOOL



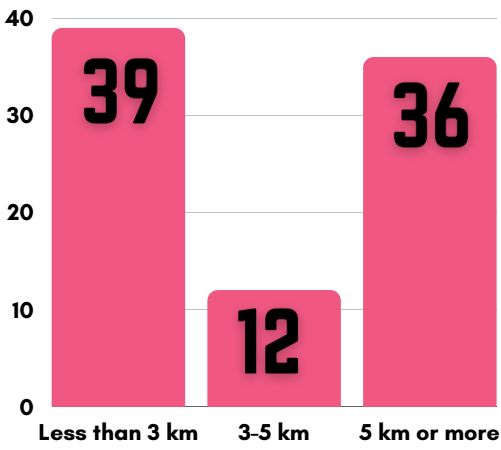
academic grade

68 INCARCERATED MOTHERS HAVING CHILDREN STUDYING IN PRE-PRIMARY (LKG, UKG), PRIMARY (1-4 STD) AND SECONDARY (5-7 STD) SCHOOLS **19 MOTHERS' CHILDREN STUDYING IN 8-12 STD.**

The statistics showing that majority of the incarcerated mothers are away from their children's foundation years of development and couldn't contribute much to their education, values and cultural development along with social and emotional well-being.

There is a high possibility of decaying of the parenting skill of such incarcerated mothers and their less influence on their children during the post-release or reintegration phase of their mothers.

DISTANCE OF SCHOOL FROM HOME



Possibilities of drop out of the children of 36 mothers are high in such cases, due to the far distance of the school, and highly depend on the caregiving arrangements at home.



Primary concerns of the mothers about their children

FINANCE

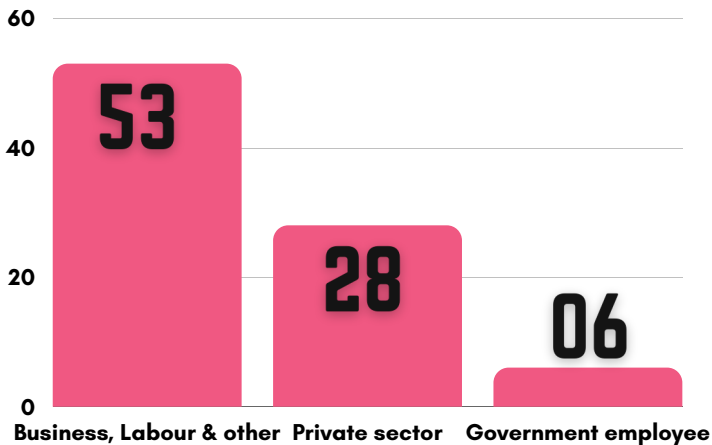
HEALTH

SAFETY

EDUCATION

72 mothers are expecting support to their children's education primarily, followed by taking appropriate measures for assuring their safety, health, financial security and accommodation. Align with the Right to Education and children's rights, the concerns of these incarcerated mothers should be addressed appropriately.

Source of income of the primary caregiver



Even social security schemes exist for protecting the interest and promoting the welfare of children of incarcerated mothers state wise, 85 mothers responded that they are unaware of such support system as none of the prison administrative system approached them for making aware or accessing the same.

74 mothers shared their willingness to share the contact details of their children with India Vision Foundation in a desire for knowing the update of their children, however 13 mothers were hesitant to share the details.

Here the scope of home visits for assuring the well-being and taking appropriate interventions for the children of incarcerated mothers (respondents of the study) are visible.

74/87 WILLING



SCOPE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- The scope of collaboration of India Vision Foundation with **Child Welfare Institutes** for identifying such children in the community via home visits, facilitating their mother-child meet, offering financial support for protecting their interest of education and holistic wellbeing matters are visible here.
- There is a scope of India Vision Foundation spreading awareness on social security schemes of children of incarcerated mothers and facilitating the mothers for applying the same.
- India Vision Foundation can develop a referral service for bridging the gap between child welfare institutes, prison administration and incarcerated mothers. They can encourage the follow up services of the child welfare institutes for the children of incarcerated mothers till the release of the mothers, like in case of foster care system.
- There is a scope of enhancing the parenting skill of the mothers as a part of ready to release program, so that mother-child relationship can be restored and nurtured positively.