

**THE INSTITUTIONALISATION OF
EFFECTIVE REHABILITATION
PROGRAMMES AT GROENPUNT
MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON**

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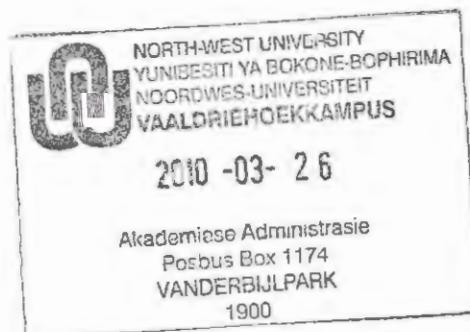
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DEDICATION

This study is affectionately dedicated to my late mother Josephine Seapei Thinane who made me who I am today; and

Mom you taught me that “Great achievement is usually born of great sacrifice, and is never the result of selfishness”.

Thank you for that.

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ABSTRACT

One of the biggest challenges facing the South African prison system today is the phenomenon of recidivism (repeat offences). In ninety four percent of all cases offenders re-engage in criminal activities after they have been released from prison. This means that the majority of prisons in South Africa are ineffective in terms of rehabilitating offenders during their time in prison.

The contribution of this research revolves around an analysis of the rehabilitation arrangements that are prescribed by the DCS to all Government correctional institutions (prisons). The Groenpunt maximum security prison is used as a case study to establish why rehabilitation is ineffective and to identify ways and means to reduce recidivism. In this regard the rehabilitation arrangements at Groenpunt maximum security prison is measured against the prescribed governmental rehabilitation arrangements. The following main findings (problem areas) emerged out of this research:

- At Groenpunt maximum security prison the prescribed governmental prescriptions for rehabilitation are not being adhered to; and
- Participation in rehabilitation programmes is not compulsory for offenders at Groenpunt maximum security prison.

The above trends render rehabilitation ineffective and stimulate recidivism upon release. In order to rectify the above situation the research highlights specific shortcomings in the rehabilitation arrangements of Groenpunt maximum security prison, that needs to be rectified in order to reduce recidivism. This boils down to the development of an individual needs based approach to rehabilitation and making participation in rehabilitation programmes compulsory for all offenders. It is further envisaged that the recommendations relating to Groenpunt maximum security prison can also be applied to other prisons in order to reduce the rate of recidivism in all South African prisons.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DEDICATION.....	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	iii
ABSTRACT	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS	v
LIST OF TABLES.....	xiii
LIST OF FIGURES	xiv
CHAPTER ONE.....	1
INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 ORIENTATION AND PROBLEM STATEMENT	1
1.2 HYPOTHESIS	2
1.3 RESEARCH QUESTIONS	2
1.4 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES.....	3
1.5 RESEARCH METHODS.....	3
1.5.1 Literature study	4
1.5.2 Database consulted	4
1.5.3 Empirical study	4
1.6 CONCLUSION	5
CHAPTER TWO	6
GOVERNMENTAL POLICY GUIDELINES AND LEGISLATIVE PRESCRIPTIONS FOR THE REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS IN SOUTH AFRICAN PRISONS	6
2.1 INTRODUCTION	6

2.2	THE ENVISAGED REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS AS CONTEXTUAL BACKGROUND.....	6
2.3	DEFINING REHABILITATION WITHIN A PRISON CONTEXT: A BRIEF INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE.....	7
2.4	THE REDUCTION OF RECIDIVISM AS A KEY OBJECTIVE OF REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES.....	8
2.5	THE REDUCTION OF RECIDIVISM AS A KEY CHALLENGE FOR SOUTH AFRICAN PRISONS: A HOLISTIC OVERVIEW.....	8
2.5.1	Measuring the effectiveness of rehabilitation in South African prisons.....	10
2.6	ESTABLISHING A CULTURE OF EFFECTIVE REHABILITATION IN SOUTH AFRICAN PRISONS: POLICY STATEMENTS AND LEGISLATION.....	10
2.6.1	Developing effective rehabilitation programmes: Reducing the recidivism rate of offenders	11
2.7	ESTABLISHING A CULTURE OF EFFECTIVE REHABILITATION IN SOUTH AFRICAN PRISONS: LEGISLATIVE GUIDELINES FOR REDUCING THE RECIDIVISM RATE.....	13
2.7.1	The Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP): Emphasising human Rights	13
2.7.2	The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996): Emphasising human Rights	13
2.7.3	The Green Paper on Corrections in South Africa: Towards a needs based approach.....	14
2.7.4	The White Paper on Corrections in South Africa (2005): A needs based approach	15
2.7.5	The essence of the Correctional Services Act (Act 111 of 1998).....	16

2.7.6	The National Crime Prevention Strategy (1996): Linking crime prevention and reducing recidivism	17
2.7.6.1	The relation between crime prevention and the reduction of recidivism	20
2.7.7	The Department of Correctional Services' strategic plan for 2008/2009	20
2.8	ESTABLISHING A CULTURE OF EFFECTIVE REHABILITATION: GOVERNMENTAL GUIDELINES FOR REDUCING THE RECIDIVISM RATE.....	21
2.8.1	Establishing needs-based rehabilitation processes in prisons	22
2.8.2	Identify specific rehabilitation needs	22
2.8.3	Identify key service areas for rehabilitation	23
2.8.4	Ensure that corrective education takes place	23
2.8.5	Create personal development opportunities for offenders	24
2.8.6	Ensure a secure environment within which rehabilitation can take place	24
2.8.7	Rehabilitation facilities must be well equipped.....	25
2.8.8	Establish an effective support foundation upon release of prisoners	25
2.9	ESTABLISHING A CULTURE OF EFFECTIVE REHABILITATION: THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN REDUCING THE RECIDIVISM RATE	26
2.9.1	Community participation and the re-integration of offenders into the society	26
2.9.2	Community participation in the strengthening and enhancement of rehabilitation	27
2.10	CONCLUSION	27

CHAPTER THREE	29
THE CONTEMPORARY STRUCTURE, OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES OF REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES AT GROENPUNT MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON.....	29
3.1 INTRODUCTION	29
3.2 THE PROFILE OF THE GROENPUNT MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON.....	29
3.3 THE EXISTING REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES AT GROENPUNT MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON	32
3.3.1 Treatment programmes	33
3.3.2 Incarceration programmes.....	34
3.3.2.1 The privilege system programme	34
3.3.2.2 The disciplinary programme	35
3.3.2.3 The gratuity and financial standby programme.....	36
3.3.2.4 The labour programme.....	36
3.3.3 Development programmes	36
3.3.3.1 Social work programmes	37
3.3.3.2 Education programmes	37
3.3.3.3 Sports and recreational programmes	38
3.3.3.4 Religious programmes.....	38
3.4 THE INABILITY TO ESTABLISH A CULTURE OF EFFECTIVE REHABILITATION AT GROENPUNT MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON.....	39
3.4.1 Inadequate needs-based rehabilitation programmes at Groenpunt maximum security prison	39
3.4.2 Ineffective identification of specific rehabilitation needs at Groenpunt maximum security prison	40

3.4.3	Inadequate corrective education at Groenpunt maximum security prison	41
3.4.4	Inadequate development opportunities for offenders at Groenpunt maximum security prison	41
3.4.5	No secure environment for rehabilitation at Groenpunt maximum security prison.....	42
3.4.5.1	Overcrowded conditions.....	42
3.4.5.2	Prison gangs	42
3.4.6	A shortage of specialist personnel and inadequate rehabilitation equipment	43
3.5	ESTABLISHING A CULTURE OF EFFECTIVE REHABILITATION THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION: INHERENT SHORTCOMINGS AT GROENPUNT MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON	43
3.5.1	DCS objective 1: Community participation in the strengthening and enhancement of rehabilitation.....	44
3.5.1.1	Community participation at Groenpunt maximum security prison.....	44
3.5.2	DCS objective 2: Social reintegration through community participation	45
3.5.2.1	The state of social re-integration and community participation at Groenpunt maximum security prison.....	45
3.5.3	DCS objective 3: Restorative justice as a means of rehabilitation	46
3.5.3.1	Facilitating restorative justice at Groenpunt maximum security prison	46
3.5.4	DCS objective 4: The concept of unit management to improve the prospects of rehabilitation.....	46

3.5.4.1	Facilitating the implementation of a unit management system at Groenpunt maximum security prison.....	47
3.5.5	DCS objective 5: Service delivery by case management committee to effect rehabilitation of offenders.	47
3.5.5.1	Facilitating rehabilitation the case management committee at Groenpunt maximum security prison.....	48
3.6	CONCLUSION	49
CHAPTER FOUR		50
EMPIRICAL STUDY AND FINDINGS: STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESS OF REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES AT GROENPUNT MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON		50
4.1	INTRODUCTION	50
4.2	THE CONTENT AND CONTEXT OF THE PRISON SURVEY.....	51
4.2.1	Sentenced offenders.....	51
4.2.2	Correctional officers	52
4.2.3	Head of the prison.....	52
4.3	ANALYSIS OF DATA.....	52
4.3.1	Perceptions regarding the culture of rehabilitation in South African prisons.....	54
4.3.2	The effectiveness of rehabilitation in reducing recidivism at Groenpunt maximum security prison	54
4.3.3	The role of community participation in strengthening and enhancing rehabilitation of offenders with the view of reducing recidivism	54
4.3.4	The state of social reintegration of the released offenders into the society	55

4.3.5	The role of restorative justice in healing and bringing together the victims and the perpetrators with the intention of ensuring effective rehabilitation of offenders	55
4.3.6	Perception regarding the functioning of unit management system at Groenpunt maximum security prison	55
4.3.7	The effective functioning of the case management committee (CMC) affects positively the rehabilitation of offender and thus reducing recidivism	55
4.3.8	Conducive and secure environment at Groenpunt maximum security prison have an impact on effective rehabilitation of offenders	56
4.3.9	Perception regarding the attitude of offenders towards rehabilitation programmes	56
4.3.10	Recommendations on the establishment of the culture of rehabilitation at Groenpunt maximum security prison	56
4.3.11	Recommendations on the reduction of the current high rate of recidivism in South African prison and Groenpunt maximum security prison	57
4.4	A HOLISTIC PERSPECTIVE ON THE SHORTCOMINGS IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CULTURE OF EFFECTIVE REHABILITATION AT GROENPUNT MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON.....	57
4.4.1	Multidimensionality and the complexity of rehabilitation programmes	57
4.4.2	The failure to implement effective rehabilitation in order to reduce recidivism at Groenpunt maximum security prison	58
4.4.3	Inadequate community participation to strengthen rehabilitation and motivate offenders not to re-offend upon release from prison	58

4.4.4	Ineffectiveness of re-integration of offenders into the society upon release from prison.....	59
4.4.5	Failure to create the environment that is conducive to offender rehabilitation purposes and reducing recidivism	59
4.4.6	The attitude of offenders towards rehabilitation programmes at Groenpunt maximum security prison.....	59
4.5	CONCLUSION	60
 CHAPTER FIVE.....		62
RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION.....		62
5.1	INTRODUCTION	62
5.2	REALISATION OF THE OBJECTIVES OF RESEARCH.....	62
5.2.1	Achieving the objectives of research.....	62
5.3	RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES CAN BE ACHIEVED	64
5.4	CONCLUSION	64
 BIBLIOGRAPHY		66
INTERVIEWS.....		76

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1:	Programmes (services) available to all sentenced offenders	12
Table 3.1:	Rehabilitation programmes at Groenpunt maximum security prison.....	33
Table 3.2:	Privileges of offenders at Groenpunt maximum security prison	35

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2.1:	The four pillar approach to crime prevention	19
Figure 3.1:	Organisational chart of Groenpunt maximum security prison	31

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 ORIENTATION AND PROBLEM STATEMENT

It is widely known that South Africa has one of the highest crime and recidivism rates in the world. Serious offences such as murder, rape, assault, robbery, theft, dealing with illegal substances, illegal possession of fire-arms and ammunition are repeatedly committed. According to Dissel and Kollapen (2002:92) this high recidivism rate is on one hand caused by criminal behaviour whilst on the other it is fuelled by socio-political circumstances of individuals such as poverty and unemployment. There is also an established link between repeated offences and ineffective rehabilitation programmes inside the majority of South African prisons.

The negative impact of the high crime rate leads to the primary emphasis by the South African authorities to successfully convict and imprison offenders. Inadequate attention thus far has been paid to establishing ways and means for the effective and sustainable rehabilitation of offenders (Dissel & Kollapen, 2002:93). Ineffective rehabilitation programmes are largely responsible for recidivism (Ntuli, 2000:162). In many instances offenders are re-arrested, re-convicted and re-imprisoned for a crime they have previously committed. This counter productive cycle of recidivism occurs in the majority of South African prisons.

This means that the rehabilitation initiatives taking place in South African prisons are ineffective and are, according to May and Pitts (2000:24) not considered as being a fundamental cause of repeated offences. Section 41(1) of the Correctional Services Act (Act 111 of 1998) stipulates that all prisons that operate under the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) must provide programmes and activities that meet the educational and training (rehabilitation) needs of sentenced offenders. In essence these programmes must ensure that sentenced offenders do not again resort to criminal activities upon their release.

It is furthermore important that former prisoners are empowered through rehabilitation to successfully re-integrate and become accepted and productive members of society after a sentence has been served.

At Groenpunt maximum security prison twelve percent of the current 2035 inmates are repeat offenders. Some are imprisoned for up to a fourth time in succession for a repeated offence. The reality is that a substantial number of offenders are not effectively rehabilitated and are unwilling or unable to successfully re-integrate into society upon their release. It is assumed in this research that the rehabilitation programmes at Groenpunt maximum security prison is ineffective in reducing repeat offences, a situation that needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency. The focus of this research therefore fell on exploring ways and means to enhancing the reduction of repeat offences through the institutionalization of effective rehabilitation programmes in South African prisons, with specific reference to Groenpunt maximum security prison.

1.2 HYPOTHESIS

The high recidivism rate at Groenpunt maximum security prison is caused by non-compliance to prescribed Government policies, processes and procedures in terms of implementing and managing sustainable rehabilitation programmes.

1.3 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The following research questions were applicable:

- What were the prescribed governmental policy and legislative guidelines for the rehabilitation of offenders in South African prisons?
- What was the essence and content of the rehabilitation initiatives taken at the Groenpunt maximum security prison?
- What were the existing shortcomings of offender rehabilitation programmes at Groenpunt maximum security prison?
- What recommendations regarding the implementation and institutionalization of more effective offender rehabilitation programmes could be made at Groenpunt maximum security prison?

1.4 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this research were as follows:

- To identify the prison rehabilitation guidelines as prescribed by the central government;
- To describe and analyse the success of rehabilitation, and rehabilitation programmes at Groenpunt maximum security prison;
- To investigate, through research the existing strong points and weaknesses of offender rehabilitation programmes at Groenpunt maximum security prison; and
- To make recommendations regarding the effective implementation and institutionalization of offender rehabilitations programmes at Groenpunt maximum security prison.

The above research objectives were achieved through specific research methods. These methods are discussed in details below:-

1.5 RESEARCH METHODS

This research utilized a number of techniques classified under qualitative and quantitative research methods to gather information, which included literature study and empirical research. It was therefore important to define these two concepts. According to Leedy and Ormrod (2001:147-148) qualitative methodology focuses on the following two aspects:

- Studying phenomena that occur in natural settings or in the so-called "real world"; and
- Studying phenomena in all their complexity.

The qualitative nature of this particular research entailed a literature study and the consultation of databases that recognizes the complexity and dimensions of the research objective. It also attempted to portray the multi-faceted nature of recidivism and its complexities.

Quantitative methodology as used in this study yielded information that can be summarized through statistical analyses. It therefore attempted to verify and strengthen the findings of a literature study.

This was a form of conclusive research involving large representative samples and fairly structured data collection procedures. It required that collected data be expressed in numbers that can be quantified (Struwig & Stead, 2001:7).

1.5.1 Literature study

Relevant books, articles and journals on training were used for this research. The complexity and dimensions of rehabilitation was analyzed through the utilization of literature such as *Building violence: How America's rush to incarcerate creates more violence* (2002) and *Racism and discrimination in the South African penal system* (2002). Legislation and governmental publications such as the *White Paper on Corrections in South Africa* (2005) and the *Correctional Services Act (Act 111 of 1998)* were consulted in order to establish and explain the dynamics involved in the implementation of rehabilitation programmes in South African prisons. Other important sources which were consulted were a variety of relevant departmental reports and circulars relating to the implementation of rehabilitation initiatives.

1.5.2 Database consulted

After consulting the catalogue of Dissertations and Thesis of South African Universities (NEXUS) and other databases such as SAcat, SA ePublication, ISAP by National Library of South Africa, it was established that significant international research has been conducted on rehabilitation measures of prisoners. There was therefore adequate information available to conduct research of this nature. It was also established that no similar theme on the same topic was ever registered.

1.5.3 Empirical study

Semi-structured interviews with open-ended questions were conducted with the following representative sub-populations:

- The Head of Groenpunt maximum security prison.
- Nine correctional officials who are responsible for rehabilitation at Groenpunt maximum security prison; and
- Ten repeat offenders who have been involved in rehabilitation programmes.

The reason for the utilization of questionnaires as a research technique was twofold. Firstly, opinions and perceptions regarding the efficiency of rehabilitation programmes was obtained. Secondly, the outcomes of the completed literature study was verified and strengthened. Specific trends and shortcomings in the rehabilitation programmes of Groenpunt maximum security prison was therefore highlighted.

1.6 CONCLUSION

This chapter introduced the reader to the topic "The institutionalization of effective rehabilitation programmes at Groenpunt maximum security prison". The chapter dealt with the orientation and problem statement and the objectives of the research. The methods, techniques and structure of dissertation were also presented.

In chapter two a detailed overview of governmental policy guidelines and legislative prescriptions for rehabilitation of offenders in South African prisons will be discussed.

CHAPTER TWO

GOVERNMENTAL POLICY GUIDELINES AND LEGISLATIVE PRESCRIPTIONS FOR THE REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS IN SOUTH AFRICAN PRISONS

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this chapter is to provide a detailed overview of the most important governmental policy guidelines and legislative prescriptions for the rehabilitation of offenders in South African prisons. In addition the envisaged role of the community in the rehabilitation of offenders is highlighted and the process of offender reintegration to the society is analysed.

In essence this chapter provides a framework of concrete benchmarks against which performance can be measured. This chapter therefore serves as a foundation for the next chapter (chapter three) where the rehabilitation arrangements at Groenpunt maximum security prison will be compared to governmental prescriptions. Against this background it would be possible to establish how effective Groenpunt maximum prison has been in reducing the recidivism rate.

2.2 THE ENVISAGED REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS AS CONTEXTUAL BACKGROUND

Prior to 1994 the trend in South African prisons was primarily to remove offenders from society and to imprison them for the duration of their sentence. Services offered by the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) were not responsive to the actual corrections and developmental needs of offenders. This resulted in offenders remaining unrepentant and returning to a life of crime after their release.

The current objective of the DCS is to create a balance between safe custody and rehabilitation of offenders (South Africa, 2005:88). According to Coetzee (2003: 2-3) prisons have five major purposes to fulfil, namely:

- Rehabilitation;

- Retribution;
- Deterrence;
- Incapacitation; and
- Restoration.

What has not been agreed upon by all role players in the rehabilitation process is whether these objectives can be achieved by mere imprisonment (Mubangizi, 2001:120). It is assumed in this research that, as a rehabilitative measure, imprisonment should only be a point of departure for the rehabilitation of offenders with the aim of preparing them to return to society (Luyt, 2001: 31; Ramafoko, 1998:8). Imprisonment is therefore much more than mere punishment. It is a departure point towards ongoing development with the aim of rehabilitation and reduction of recidivism.

2.3 DEFINING REHABILITATION WITHIN A PRISON CONTEXT: A BRIEF INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Glick and Goldstein (1995:463) define rehabilitation as “providing psychological and educational assistance or career training to prisoners to make them less likely to engage in future criminal activities”.

Falshaw, Travis and Nugent (2004) state that rehabilitation is, in its simplest form the process of dealing with convicted offenders following sentence, and through various processes of training capacity building and psycho-social support, re-introducing offenders back into communities after the completion of their sentences.

Trester (1981:169) is of the opinion that the concept “rehabilitative” derives from the word “habilitate”. Habilitate refers to the Latin word “habilitatus”, meaning the “ability” or “tendency” of someone to achieve something. Rehabilitate is furthermore defined by Trester (1981:169) as the process of teaching the skills needed for successful living.

From the abovementioned definitions, it is clear that the objective of rehabilitation is to address the offending behaviour of an offender thus reducing recidivism. Against this background the functional role of

rehabilitation programmes in the reduction of recidivism can be deliberated on.

2.4 THE REDUCTION OF RECIDIVISM AS A KEY OBJECTIVE OF REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES

Enhancing community safety is a primary goal in the rehabilitation of offenders (Faugeron, 1996:126). An effective way of achieving this goal is to implement strategies which reduce offender recidivism. During the 1970s and 1980s there were widespread disillusionments with the effectiveness of rehabilitation programmes to reduce recidivism. The programmes approach during that time did not clearly indicate "what" was supposed to be done, and "who" should do it. Based on the above statement, no specific role players to offender rehabilitation were identified and also rehabilitation programmes were not needs-based. Today however, research demonstrates that integrated rehabilitation initiatives such as psychological, social work, education and training programmes can reduce the likelihood of offenders returning to crime after their release (Bonta, 1997:11).

2.5 THE REDUCTION OF RECIDIVISM AS A KEY CHALLENGE FOR SOUTH AFRICAN PRISONS: A HOLISTIC OVERVIEW

Recidivism is derived from the Latin word "recidere" translated as "fall back", meaning relapsing into crime (Maltz, 2001: 54). According to Maltz (2001: 56) recidivism can be described as the "accumulation of failures", in other words an offender has failed to live up to society's expectations. Furthermore an offender gets arrested and convicted and fail to make use of the rehabilitation programmes during the incarceration period. According to Champion (1994:87) and Siegel (2005:417) the most common translations of recidivism are reoffending, re-arrests, reconvictions, violation of parole or probation arrangements and re-incarcerations. Von Hirsch (1976:11) points out that:-

"In the literature of rehabilitation, there is often considerable ambiguity whether the aim is to reduce recidivism (a form of crime prevention) or to help the offender with own problems (a paternalistic goal). But treatment programmes have generally been tested by measuring their effects on

recidivism-suggesting that the goal of reducing recidivism is actually the primary one”.

Available statistics on recidivism in South African prisons suggest that ninety four percent of offenders in South Africa re-offend after their release (Hammond, 2006: 1). The aim of rehabilitation is firstly to provide treatment and development programmes to offenders in partnership with communities. Secondly to enhance personal and social functioning, and to prepare offenders for reintegration into the community as productive well-adapted and law-abiding citizens (South Africa, 2003:3). Thirdly the aim of rehabilitation is to reduce the rate of recidivism upon release.

It is argued by Hesselink-Louw and Schoeman (2003:158) and Hollin (2001: 123) that the most effective environment to rehabilitate offenders is one where different therapy techniques are utilised. These types of therapy techniques are as follows:-

- Psychosocial therapy which revolves around the counselling of individual offenders, groups of offenders and the families of offenders; and
- Pharmacotherapy where medication is used to cure therapeutic problems such as mental illness and substance abuse such as drugs.

A multi-disciplinary approach should therefore ultimately render inter-related services to prisoners and should be representative of all the different disciplines and available expertise relevant to offender treatment to reduce recidivism (Neser, 1989:319).

According to an International workshop on crime science held on November 2003 at Jill Dando Institute of Crime Science in London, delegates proposed a so called “burden sharing” approach to effectively prevent recidivism (Siegel, 2004:2-3). Burden sharing refers to the cooperation among all stakeholders such as criminologists, social workers and psychologists towards prevention of recidivism (a multi-disciplinary approach).

2.5.1 Measuring the effectiveness of rehabilitation in South African prisons

The effectiveness of prisons in rehabilitating inmates can be measured in many other ways than recidivism rates, for example, reductions in substance abuse among released inmates and increases in their employment rates upon release as well as education levels (Findlay, 2000:56). Statistics however on recidivism offers a more reliable reflection of a prison's success in rehabilitating inmates (Farabee, 2005:21).

During the South African National Assembly Budget Vote in the Cabinet of 2001, the then minister of Correctional Services (B. Skosana) indicated that the DCS identified effective rehabilitation as one of its key objectives (Skosana, 2001:11). The programme to reduce recidivism involves amongst others strengthening partnerships with civil society and offender family ties. Specific objectives include, amongst others (South Africa, 2001:33):-

- The development of individualised need-based rehabilitation programmes;
- Promoting a restorative justice approach;
- Combating illiteracy; and
- Improving the capacity of training facilities.

The abovementioned specific objectives are aimed at addressing inadequacies in the recidivist's social functioning and by so doing contribute in reducing recidivism rate.

2.6 ESTABLISHING A CULTURE OF EFFECTIVE REHABILITATION IN SOUTH AFRICAN PRISONS: POLICY STATEMENTS AND LEGISLATION

The 1996 Constitution of South Africa embodied the fundamental rights of the country's citizens, including those of prisoners. The results of this approach was the introduction of a human rights culture into the correctional system in South Africa and the strategic direction of the DCS was to ensure custody in human conditions whilst simultaneously attempting to reduce the recidivism rate of offenders in prisons (South Africa, 2003:7).

2.6.1 Developing effective rehabilitation programmes: Reducing the recidivism rate of offenders

The critical role played by the DCS in crime prevention is the reduction of recidivism through the provisioning of effective rehabilitation services to offenders (Skosana, 2001:9). The DCS has therefore developed rehabilitation programmes as a key point of departure in contributing towards a crime free society. In line with the stipulations of the White Paper on Corrections in South Africa (South Africa, 2005:127), the DCS had to adopt an offender needs based approach in order to deliver effectively on its core business of rehabilitation. South Africa (2005:127) defines offender needs based approach as the rendering of rehabilitation programmes according to the identified needs of offenders. Rehabilitation programmes must also be specifically aimed at eliminating offending behaviour upon release.

According to Section 41 of the Correctional Services Act, Act 111 of 1998 (South Africa, 1998:26) the DCS is obliged according to law to provide access to a full range of programmes and activities as is practicable to meet the educational and training needs of sentenced offenders. Table 2.1 identifies and outlines the offender programmes and services that are currently recognised by the DCS in South Africa:-

Table 2.1: Programmes (services) available to all sentenced offenders

Psychological services	Social work services	Religious care	Education and training	Generic programmes
Individual therapy	Individual therapy	Religious and church services	Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET)	Life skills
Group therapy	Group therapy	Group session	Mainstream education	HIV / AIDS
Family therapy	Family therapy	Personal interviews	Correspondence studies	Investment in excellerice
	Pre-release preparation	Personal religious needs	Technical studies	Behaviour awareness programme
		New life behaviour	Vocational training	Drug and substance abuse
		Crime free-lessons and honest living.	Occupational skills training	Sexual behaviour
			Entrepreneurial skills training	
			Recreational and library education	
			Computer based training	

Source: South Africa, 2005:11

All programmes indicated in table 2.1 are currently available in all South African prisons. These programmes are ineffective because of the high offender population that is currently prevailing in South African prisons.

2.7 ESTABLISHING A CULTURE OF EFFECTIVE REHABILITATION IN SOUTH AFRICAN PRISONS: LEGISLATIVE GUIDELINES FOR REDUCING THE RECIDIVISM RATE

Recidivism in South African prisons is estimated to be in the region of ninety four percent (Hammond, 2006:1).

The DCS therefore views rehabilitation as a key mechanism to reduce recidivism (Siegel, 2005:417). The following policy guidelines and legislative prescriptions serve as motivation behind the rehabilitation approach at South African prisons:

2.7.1 The Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP): Emphasising human Rights

The Reconstruction and Development Programmes (RDP) introduced in 1994, was the policy on which transformation in South Africa would be based (Kalinich & Clack, 1998:67). Apart from the fact that the RDP is highlighting the need for the implementation of non-racial and non-sexist principles, the document also focused on a human rights approach which in turn can be related to the humane rehabilitation of offenders approach as emphasised by the DCS (South Africa, 1994:29).

2.7.2 The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996): Emphasising human Rights

The 1996 Constitution provided the framework for governance in a democratic South Africa (Oliver & Mcquoid-Mason, 1998:25; Morodi, 2003:4). The Constitution enshrined the Bill of Rights, and all government departments had to align their modus operandi with the framework of democratic governance. The Constitution embodies fundamental rights of citizens including those of prisoners (Oliver & McQuoid-Mason, 1998:25). The Constitution therefore serves as guideline for the way in which rehabilitation must take place

2.7.3 The Green Paper on Corrections in South Africa: Towards a needs based approach

In this Green Paper, the rendering of needs directed rehabilitation services was highlighted. The Green Paper stated that (South Africa, 2003:26):

"Rehabilitation should be viewed not merely as a strategy to prevent crime, rather as a holistic phenomenon incorporating and encouraging social responsibility, social justice, active participation in democratic activities, empowerment with life and other skills, and contributing to make South Africa a better place to live in".

The following key areas were identified in order to establish effective rehabilitation services (South Africa, 2003:18):-

- The development of individualised need-based programmes such as anger management programmes, sexual offender programmes and drug abuse programmes;
- The marketing of rehabilitation services to other Government departments and non-Governmental organizations;
- Establishing formal partnerships with the community to strengthen rehabilitation programmes and to create a common understanding;
- Promoting the restorative justice approach which encourage offender responsibility for repairing the harm done and become acceptable to the community as a better person;
- Combating illiteracy in prisons; and
- To increase training facilities for the development of skills.

Howes (1996:37) identifies the following role players as key participants in a rehabilitation process:-

- Social workers;
- Educators;
- Psychologists; and
- Religious care workers.

The abovementioned would imply that the prevention and management of recidivism is the responsibility of a variety of role players in society. In this process, formal and informal community structures such as churches, schools ward committees as well as relevant governmental systems should also take co-responsibility for preventing and managing the escalation in the crime rate and ultimately reducing recidivism (Howes, 1996:37).

2.7.4 The White Paper on Corrections in South Africa (2005): A needs based approach

The White Paper on Corrections in South Africa (2005) arose out of a need for a long-term strategic policy and operational framework that recognizes correctional activities in prisons as all inclusive societal responsibility. The fundamentals of this White Paper are also derived from the 1996 Constitution of South Africa, the Correctional Services Act (Act 111 of 1998) and the integrated justice system. The aim of the integrated justice system was to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the entire criminal justice process by increasing the probability of successful investigation, prosecution, punishment for priority crimes and ultimately rehabilitation of offenders (Hassen, 2003:33). The White Paper presents a vision and mission for the DCS in which the centrality of rehabilitation, as a commitment for the DCS features (South Africa, 2005:73). The DCS vision and mission read as follows:-

Vision

To be one of the best service providers in the world by delivering correctional services with integrity and commitment to excellence (South Africa, 2005:73).

Mission

Placing rehabilitation at the centre of all departmental activities in partnerships with external stakeholders through (South Africa, 2005:73):

- The integrated application and direction of all Departmental resources to focus on the correction of offending behaviour, the promotion of social responsibility and the overall development of the person under correction;

- The cost-effective provision of correctional facilities that will promote efficient security, correction, care and development services within an enabling human rights environment; and
- Progressive and ethical management and staff practices within which every correctional official performs an effective correcting and supportive role.

This White Paper therefore promotes an approach to correctional administration and management that is based on the objective of providing a safe, secure and dignified correctional environment for offenders. Within such an environment offenders can be assisted by role players concerned in correcting offending behaviour, developing societal friendly values and become a valuable member of the society again (Balfour, 2003:46).

Advancing the DCS aim of rehabilitation and correction will require working together effectively within the framework of integrated governance (South Africa, 2005:16). Integrated governance therefore entails cooperation between the National Council on Correctional Services (NCCS) and the Judicial Inspectorate of Prisons (JIP) in ensuring that the objectives of the DCS are achieved.

Both the JIP and NCCS have been mandated by the South Africa Government to inspect prisons and report on the treatment of prisoners as well as about the conditions in prison.

2.7.5 The essence of the Correctional Services Act (Act 111 of 1998)

The Correctional Services Act, Act 111 of 1998 presupposes a modern, internationally acceptable prison system, designed within the framework of the 1996 Constitution (South Africa, 2003:21). One of the most important features of this Act is the provision of a framework for the treatment, development and support services to enhance the rehabilitation of offenders (Coetzee, 2003:8-9; South Africa, 2003:21).

The abovementioned Correctional Service Act is an enabling mechanism, which formally aims to facilitate offender development and rehabilitation (Coetzee, 2003:8-9; Luyt, 1999:6). Sections 41 of the Act addresses, for

example, the rendering of treatment of drug abuse with the aim of rehabilitating offenders and prepare them for the successful return to society and avoid recidivism.

Furthermore, section 38(2) of the Act stipulates that offender specific assessment measures need to be developed to ensure the most effective utilisation of rehabilitation programmes, to pro-actively address individual offender behaviour (Du Preez, 2003:190; Mbete *et al.*, 2001:81). Rehabilitation must therefore be aimed at the individual with unique needs. Section 2 of the Act also states that the purpose of the correctional system is to contribute to maintaining and protecting a just, peaceful and safe society by amongst others, promoting responsibility and human development of all offenders.

2.7.6 The National Crime Prevention Strategy (1996): Linking crime prevention and reducing recidivism

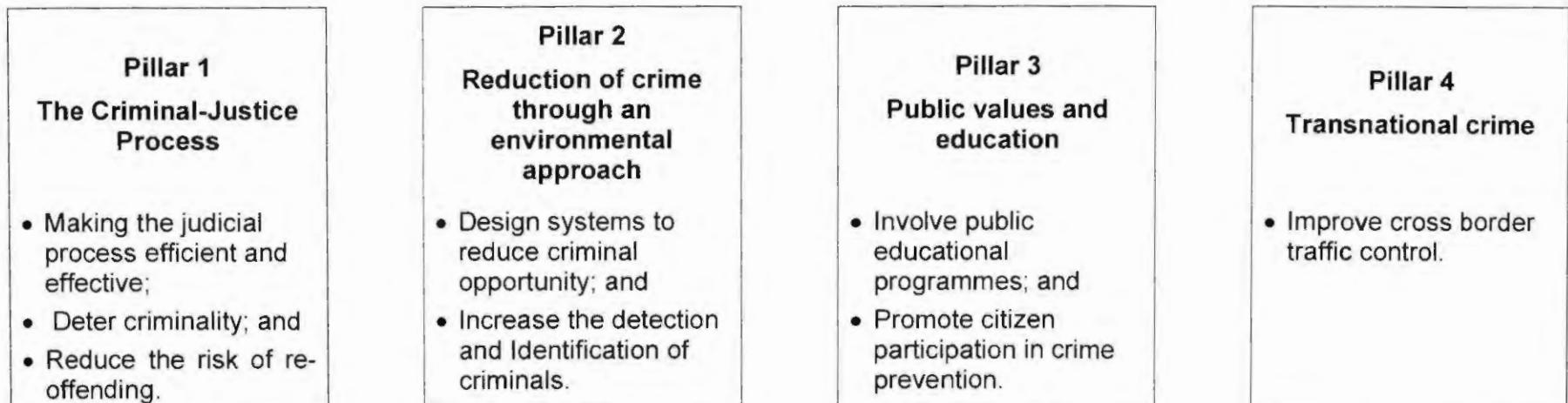
The National Crime Prevention Strategy of 1996 aims to prevent crime through a strategy whereby a four-pillar (element) approach is used (see figure 2.1). These four pillars (elements) represent the areas on which crime prevention and rehabilitation should be focused (Howes, 1996:37).

Addressing crime pro-actively is the ideal but in reality crime prevention and rehabilitation can only be effective through participation. The emphasis must be on addressing crime holistically. According to South Africa (1996:1) the following are the role players that should participate in the crime prevention and rehabilitation process:-

- DCS;
- Social welfare;
- Law enforcement agencies;
- The judicial system; and
- Socialising agencies that are responsible for the teaching of values and norms, such as families as well as community members.

This approach implies that the prevention and management of crime and rehabilitation is the responsibility of various role players in society. During the prevention and management of the crime process, formal and informal community structures as well as government systems should therefore take co-responsibility for preventing and managing the escalation in the crime rate (Howes, 1996:37).

Figure 2.1: The four pillar approach to crime prevention



(South Africa, 1996:5)

2.7.6.1 The relation between crime prevention and the reduction of recidivism

In the discussion document towards a Green Paper on Correction (South Africa, 2003:26) the rendering of needs directed rehabilitation services is highlighted. It is stated that:

"Rehabilitation should be viewed not merely as strategy to preventing crime, rather as a holistic phenomenon incorporating and encouraging social responsibility, social justice, active participation in democratic activities, empowerment with life and other skills, and contributing to make South Africa a better place to live in".

There is an interrelated link between the management of crime and recidivism. It can also be assumed that any action to prevent and manage crime must have a positive effect on the reduction of the recidivism rate. In turn actions aimed at the prevention and management of recidivism must inevitably have a positive impact on reducing the crime rate in South Africa.

2.7.7 The Department of Correctional Services' strategic plan for 2008/2009

The vision and mission of the DCS is to render services that contribute to community protection and the rehabilitation of offenders (Burger 2004:19; South Africa, 2004:30; Smith, 2005:12). The rehabilitation of offenders is a key objective, and one of the eleven focus points identified by the DCS (Coetzee, 2003:06; SA, DCS Strategic plan, 2008/2009). The strategic plan was adopted under the following slogan:

"From every official becoming a rehabilitator to every prison becoming a correctional centre – a place of new beginnings to every offender becoming a nation server through corrections".

The main thrust of this strategic plan is therefore to put in place policies and functional implementation plans to operationalise the four activity areas (pillars) contained in the Service Delivery Range as stipulated in the National Crime Prevention Strategy (see figure 2.1 on page 19).

2.8 ESTABLISHING A CULTURE OF EFFECTIVE REHABILITATION: GOVERNMENTAL GUIDELINES FOR REDUCING THE RECIDIVISM RATE

The functional stages in the South African criminal justice system are (South Africa, 1996:32):

- A crime is committed and reported;
- Investigation commences;
- An arrest is made and accused is detained or released on bail;
- Prosecution/adjudication takes place;
- Rehabilitation during incarceration; and
- Re-integration into society.

According to Coetzee *et al.* (1995:101) and Luyt (1999:26), attempts to control crime must be the strongest in the South African criminal justice system and is conducted by the DCS. This means that the DCS can fully contribute to a permanent reduction in reducing the recidivism rate through the correct implementation of the principles on available resources based on the needs of offenders (South Africa, 2004:32). These principles and resources can be summarised as follows:

- The development of individual need-based programmes;
- To increase training facilities for the development of skills;
- Establishing partnerships with the community to strengthen rehabilitation programmes and to create a common understanding of offender rehabilitation;
- Combating illiteracy in prisons; and
- Promoting a restorative judicial approach.

If the abovementioned principles and resources can be implemented and utilised correctly in South African prisons, the rate of recidivism can be controlled and reduced (Siegel, 2005:435). Rehabilitation in order to reduce

recidivism must therefore become an established culture in all South African prisons. The following guidelines apply:

2.8.1 Establishing needs-based rehabilitation processes in prisons

The Correctional Services Act (Act 111 of 1998) confirms that there is no uniform generic development programme for offenders and that there cannot be one programme designed for one offender that would fit all prisoners. The reason being that offenders have committed different types of crimes and they need to be grouped according to the crimes they have committed for the purpose of rehabilitation. In order to effectively deliver on its objective, namely, the rehabilitation of offenders, the DCS has adopted a so-called needs- based approach to rehabilitation. It is the DCS's belief that the needs based approach can make a significant contribution towards the rehabilitation of offenders through the provision of the following services (South Africa, 2003:65):-

- Basic education (Reading and writing skills);
- Vocational training;
- Social education/orientation;
- Psychological treatment;
- Diagnosis and treatment of problems such as substance abuse; and
- The restoration of family ties.

It is important that all factors associated with offending behaviour must be targeted through needs-based rehabilitation programmes in all prisons. Full participation of offenders in rehabilitation programmes is significant because specific rehabilitation needs for every offender will also be identified.

2.8.2 Identify specific rehabilitation needs

As indicated, rehabilitation is a process that has to address the specific background and needs of the offender in order to be successful (Peat, 1997:1-2). It also requires the positive commitment and voluntary participation of the offending individual. In order to contribute to the reduction of recidivism

and crime prevention, the aim of needs based rehabilitation is therefore to influence the offender towards the following goals (South Africa, 2004:65):

- Adopting a positive and appropriate norms and value system;
- Identify alternative social interaction options;
- To develop life skills; and
- Improvement of social entry and increase opportunities for employment in order to assist the person not to return to crime.

The identification of specific rehabilitation needs is important because it leads to the development of specific rehabilitation programmes and policies.

2.8.3 Identify key service areas for rehabilitation

This guideline involves the responsibility of the DCS to take care of the incarcerated persons, maintaining and protecting a just, peaceful and safe society by detaining all offenders in safe custody which is supported by well maintained facilities and an effective physical infrastructure (South Africa, 2007/2008:54).

Furthermore, the DCS must ensure appropriate corrections through the provision of a needs-based personal development programme to offenders while making sure of the successful social reintegration into their communities (South Africa, 2006: 58).

2.8.4 Ensure that corrective education takes place

Corrective education means that the type of education given to an offender has to counteract the offending behaviour and encourage an offender to be a productive person when reintegrated back into the society (South Africa, 2001:18).

All offenders have a right to basic education and training. The Correctional Service Act, Act 111 of 1998, stipulates in section 41(1) that the DCS has a mandate to provide rehabilitation programmes and to meet the basic educational and training needs of offenders. The aim is to enhance the education level of offenders and improve skills such as library, computer,

entrepreneurial, occupational and life skills to empower them to be reintegrated into society.

Treatment programmes offered by social workers and psychologists are also important to the development and education of offenders. Education and services such as the effect of substance abuse (drugs and alcohol) offered by nursing staff can also improve the life skills of offenders and encourage them not to repeat their offences (Coetzee, 2003:18).

2.8.5 Create personal development opportunities for offenders

Prior to 1994 the correctional system focused primarily on secure custody of offenders (Coetzee & Gericke, 1997:14). As a result, services in the system were not responsive to the actual developmental needs of offenders such as social work, psychological, educational, spiritual and criminological services (Du Preez, 2003:263). This outlines the post-1994 strategic direction of the DCS, where rehabilitation should be the centre of all its correctional activities (South Africa, 2005:136). The White Paper on Corrections in South Africa (2005) also provides the mandate to the DCS to develop a system to promote the personal development and well-being of all offenders (South Africa, 2005: 136-137). Opportunities for personal development of offenders can be provided through the provisioning of, for example, formal and informal education, skills development, sports and recreation opportunities, arts and culture programmes (Jordaan, 1997:27).

Specialist services such as psychological care, social workers, vocational counsellors, educationists and chaplains should also be accessible (Sheley, 2000:2).

2.8.6 Ensure a secure environment within which rehabilitation can take place

The South African Constitution (1996) as well as international arrangements such as the Arusha Declaration (1999) on good prison practice stipulates compliance with basic human rights (Luyt, 2000:385). The Arusha Declaration was signed by Central, Eastern and South African Heads of Correctional Services at Arusha, Tanzania, in February 1999. A human right culture also means that correctional centres should be safe environments, where the well

being of offenders, staff and visitors are prioritised (Luyt, 2000:386). A secure environment within which rehabilitation can take place is an environment where all rehabilitation services can take place without any disruptions such as overcrowded prisons, gangs, riots and inadequate facilities (Mnguni, 2002: 27).

Rehabilitation cannot be effective in an environment where offenders, correctional officials, and other service providers are not safe and the security risk is not managed effectively. It is acknowledged by rehabilitation role players that secure (Robert & Fischer, 1998:3), and safe human custody are prerequisites for the rendering of effective corrections and rehabilitation service.

2.8.7 Rehabilitation facilities must be well equipped

The current conditions of rehabilitation facilities in most South African maximum security prisons are inadequate. Coetze and Gericke (1997:133) state the following:

"Inadequate facilities refer in essence to a lack of adequate recreation and leisure time facilities, sleeping facilities, training opportunities and accommodation".

Overcrowding in maximum security prisons also increases the lack of adequate facilities, which in turn leads to increased tension between staff and offenders. This increased tension can result in resistance which can easily lead to unrest and riots.

2.8.8 Establish an effective support foundation upon release of prisoners

An effective support foundation for released prisoners can be approached by an integrated support system which is a means whereby various services could be attained for the rehabilitation of individuals through the involvement of other role-players. The aim of this approach is to prepare the offender to deal effectively with those problems which may be encountered upon release, such as employment and accommodation arrangements and adjustment to family members and society (Skosana, 2002:1).

For long term offenders, it is important to facilitate a gradual, monitored adaptation to life outside prison. A suggestion by community reintegration officials is that long term offenders should be given the opportunity to leave prison in the company of staff on one or two occasions during the last month or two of their sentence (Nxumalo 1997:56). It is vital to help offenders identify and reconnect with their family and other social networks in order to facilitate a successful reintegration.

2.9 ESTABLISHING A CULTURE OF EFFECTIVE REHABILITATION: THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN REDUCING THE RECIDIVISM RATE

Community participation refers to the participation of the community in efforts to rehabilitate offenders (Bailey & Ekiyor, 2006:27). In order to address recidivism in a holistic manner, there is a need to build networks and partnerships to promote and improve community participation (Tshiwula, 1998:122).

2.9.1 Community participation and the re-integration of offenders into the society

Re-integration is a concept that has gained much popularity within the correctional system. The offender, after having paid his/her so-called dues through exclusion from the rest of the community, is expected to assume his/her responsibilities as a productive member of society.

According to Muntingh (2002:21), successful offender re-integration as a crime reduction strategy, should be the overall purpose of the criminal justice system. Neser (1993:350) emphasises the role of community participation in the re-integration of offenders as well as the timeous preparation of offenders for resumption of roles, commitments and social participation in the community. It goes without saying that community re-integration is expected to start as soon as the offender is admitted to the correctional system

2.9.2 Community participation in the strengthening and enhancement of rehabilitation

According to Smith (1995:93) community is a term “overlaid with alluring connotations and resonances evoking images of neighbourliness, mutual aid and a feeling of belonging”.

A stable community is therefore thought to offer an attractive means of (re)creating cohesion between society and released offenders. It can therefore have a positive influence on crime prevention (Crawford, 1998:120). The format of community participation policy can be guided by the following principles as stipulated in White Paper on corrections (South Africa, 2005: 180):

- Offenders must have the freedom to participate voluntarily in processes and services offered by the community-based providers;
- An offender may not be forced to participate in processes or deprived of his/her rights and privileges because of non-participation; and
- This principle shall be subject to stipulations of court, which may require such participation to be compulsory.

A good relationship between the DCS and community-based organisations such as NGOs, faith-based organisations, community police forums, schools, business institutions and volunteers are inherent to the successful achievement of the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders into society (South Africa, 2004:88).

2.10 CONCLUSION

This chapter provided a holistic framework of guidelines for the effective rehabilitation of offenders in South African prisons.

The main objective of rehabilitation is to ensure that released offenders do not re-engage in criminal activities. The chapter had three focus points namely:

- Policy guidelines;
- Legislative prescriptions; and
- Guidelines for possible rehabilitation mechanisms.

The above holistic framework serves as benchmark against which the success of rehabilitation and the reduction of recidivism at Groenpunt maximum prison will be measured in the following chapter three.

CHAPTER THREE

THE CONTEMPORARY STRUCTURE, OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES OF REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES AT GROENPUNT MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter is conducted against the background of the governmental objectives as well as policy and legislative guidelines for rehabilitation at South African prisons. There is a specific focus on the rehabilitation arrangements at Groenpunt maximum security prison. The chapter specifically aims to establish whether Groenpunt maximum security prison is effective in establishing and maintaining a culture of rehabilitation in its structures, thus reducing the risk of recidivism among its prisoners after their release. In relation to the rehabilitative capacity of Groenpunt maximum security prison the following three main aspects are scrutinised in this chapter:

- A holistic profile of the prison;
- An analysis of the current rehabilitation programmes available at the prison; and
- The ability to establish and maintain a culture of rehabilitation at the prison.

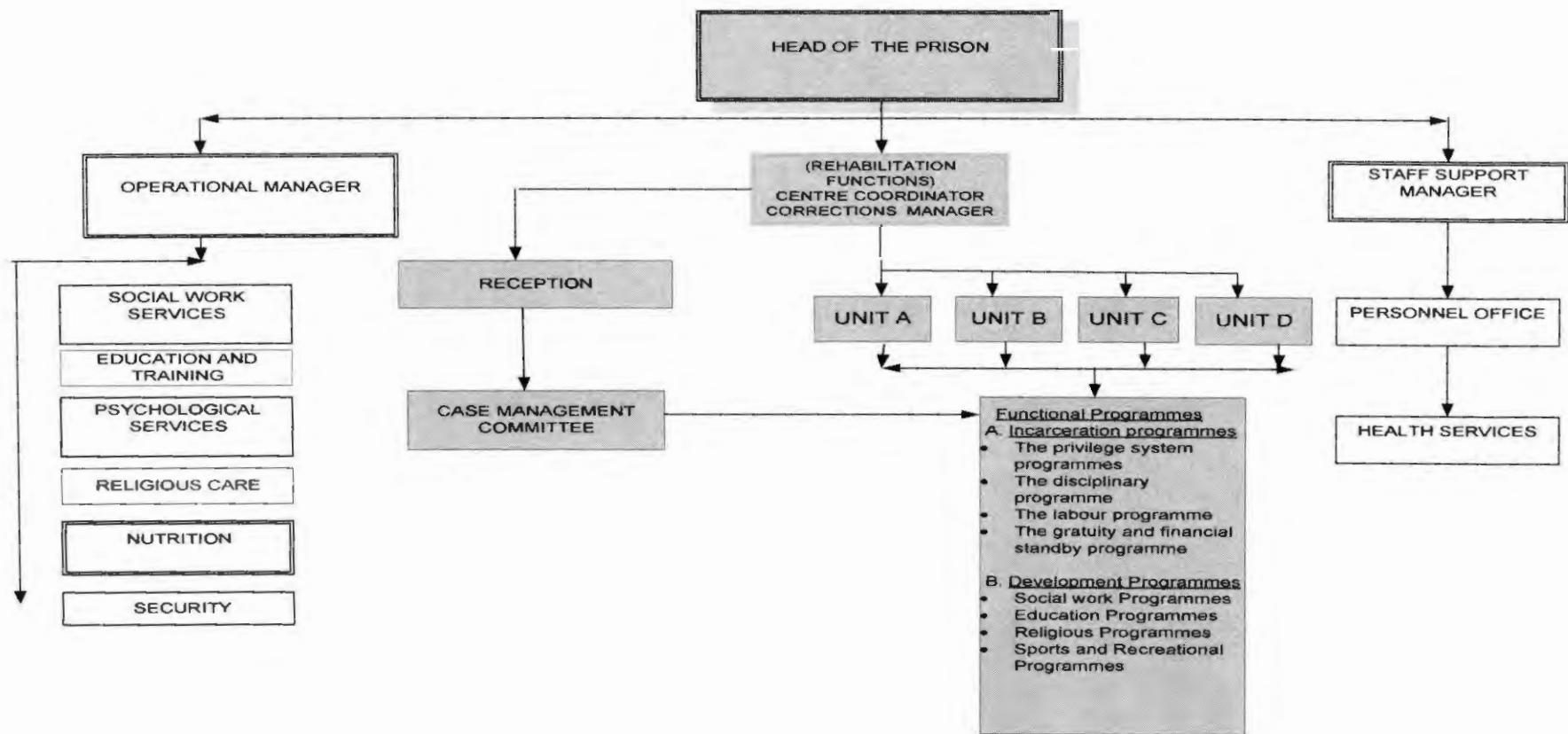
By scrutinizing the above aspects it will be possible to identify the strong points of the programme but most importantly the weaknesses. This will make it possible to make specific recommendations in order to improve the effectiveness of rehabilitation at Groenpunt maximum security prison.

3.2 THE PROFILE OF THE GROENPUNT MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON

Groenpunt maximum security prison is the sole prison in the Free State province accommodating maximum security offenders. Maximum security prisoners are offenders who require a high degree of physical security (Clear & Cole, 2000:320). The prison is situated between Deneysville and Vereeniging. It has 278 personnel divided amongst three main components such as corrections, operational support and staff support (See figure 3.1).

The lockup total of offenders as on 22nd May 2008 is 2035. Groenpunt maximum security prison is currently fifty eight percent over crowded. There is a variety of sporting codes such as soccer, boxing, cricket and weightlifting taking place at this prison. Regarding education and training, Groenpunt maximum prison is presenting Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET) as well as the main stream education. There is also a library facility available (South Africa, 2004: 11).

Figure 3.1: Organisational chart of Groenpunt maximum security prison



South Africa 2008:11

Figure 3.1 indicates the place of the Centre Coordinator Corrections, the unit management in the organisational structure in the prison and a lay-out of the multi-disciplinary teams. The focus is on the Centre Coordinator Corrections as office responsible for the implementation and rendering of rehabilitation services to offenders as well as on the following units namely: A, B, C and D where unit management is implemented to facilitate rehabilitation services.

As indicated in figure 3.1, rehabilitation of offenders is managed from the Centre Coordinator Corrections and implemented by its functional links. The core business of rehabilitation is mostly conducted in the units where offenders spend most of their prison lives. In the unit management system, the prison is broken down into defined units, each of which may contain a number of prisoner accommodation sections and static posts (Bayens et. al. 1997:32). Each unit is staffed by a multi-disciplinary team.

Coetzee and Gericke (1997:285) describe a multi-disciplinary team as a team which consists of officials from various work areas who have different experiences and possess different knowledge and skills. Individual team members have responsibilities for both security and offender development outcomes. The following section will discuss the existing rehabilitation programmes as well as the shortcomings found at Groenpunt maximum prison.

3.3 THE EXISTING REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES AT GROENPUNT MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON

Groenpunt maximum security prison like other South African prisons that resort under the DCS, is using the programme approach adopted on 6 May 1996 for the treatment of offenders (Jordaan, 1997: 27). The essence of this approach was to involve different role players in the rehabilitation of offenders. According to Milkman and Wanberg (2007:12) the rehabilitation programmes that are currently conducted at Groenpunt maximum prison are aimed at:

- Addressing the fundamental problems of attitudes, thinking, and behaviour that may lead an offender back into crime after release from prison;
- Focus on changing participants' thoughts and attitudes, either through moral development or problem solving; and

- Emphasise the importance of socially acceptable behaviour such as role playing, and cognitive responses that assist offenders in developing good problem-solving and self control mechanisms.

Against the background of the above outputs the existing rehabilitation programmes available at Groenpunt maximum security prison can be analysed:

3.3.1 Treatment programmes

Treatment programmes can be defined as any activity that is planned and monitored with the primary goal of rehabilitating the offender in order to avoid criminal activity in the future (Kratcoski, 1994:4). Treatment of convicted persons to imprisonment implies that prisoners must develop the will to become self sufficient and law-abiding citizen after their release (Palmer, 1991:55-65). These programmes are therefore aimed at addressing specific needs in individual cases in order to prevent continual criminal behaviour. For example, to improve family responsibilities or relationships and to acquire social skills such as logical reasoning and problem solving (Ntuli, 2000:162). It is imperative that offenders play an active role and participate in this treatment. The treatment programmes differ in time frame and in the number of participants. The end result of treatment programmes are measured by the number of repeat offences committed by released prisoners which were subjected to treatment (McLaughlin & Muncie, 2003:341). Under the umbrella of treatment programmes, the following two categories of rehabilitation are currently offered at Groenpunt maximum prison: (See Table 3.1).

Table 3.1: Rehabilitation programmes at Groenpunt maximum security prison

Category A	Category B
Incarceration programmes	Development programmes
The privilege system programmes	Social work programmes
The disciplinary programme	Education programmes

Category A	Category B
The gratuity and financial standby programme	Sports and recreational programmes
The labour programme	Religious programmes

South Africa 2004:10

3.3.2 Incarceration programmes

Incarceration refers to the admission or imprisonment and detention of the convicted person until his/her sentence expires (Du Toit, 1981:149). Incarceration programmes provide the offender with the opportunity to improve his/her behavioural skills in order not to resort back to crime. Ariessohn (1981:60) emphasised that:

"Recidivists have been incarcerated previously for an offence and is subsequently imprisoned for another offence".

The focus is therefore on re-incarceration and rehabilitation as an outcome. Each rehabilitation mechanism resorting under incarceration programmes offered at Groenpunt maximum prison will be discussed in detail hereunder (See Table 3.1).

3.3.2.1 The privilege system programme

According to Coetzee, Kruger and Loubser (1995:158) the main aim of the privilege system is to motivate offenders to have good conduct, to create a sense of responsibility and to motivate offenders to get involved in the treatment programmes.

The privilege system consists of primary (individual) and secondary (group) privileges. Primary or individual privileges are aimed at the retention, maintenance or furthering of family ties to, amongst other things, facilitate reintegration into the community. These privileges are again sub-divided into three groups (See Table 3.2).

Table 3.2: Privileges of offenders at Groenpunt maximum security prison

A – group privilege	B – group privilege	C – group privilege
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact visits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-contact visits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-contact visits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forty five visits per annum of sixty minutes each 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thirty six visits per annum of forty five minutes each 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twenty four visits per annum of thirty minutes each
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five visits per month by two visitors per occasion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four visits per month by two visitors per occasion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two visits per month by one visitor per occasion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One telephone call on weekend 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One telephone call on weekend 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One telephone call on weekend
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letters, no restriction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letters, no restriction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letters, no restriction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buying groceries to the value of R200 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buying groceries to the value of R150 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buying groceries to the value of R100
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in choirs and recreational activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No participation in choirs, recreational activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No participation in choirs, recreational activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radio with five cassettes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No radio 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No radio

South Africa 2005:2

Secondary or group privileges refer to activities such as playing musical instruments, participating in sport, recreational events and involvement in choirs and concerts (South Africa, 2005:2).

3.3.2.2 The disciplinary programme

Imprisonment entails the restriction of personal freedom within a close and unnatural environment. An unnatural environment differs from normal environmental conditions. It often contributes to increased emotional tensions and frustration, a sense of helplessness and injustice, boredom, fear, the absence of empathy, and anxiety (Coetzee & Gericke, 1997:132). According to Coetzee (1995:159) a policy of "strict but fair" must however be followed by

prison authorities in respect of inmates detained at maximum security prisons. The execution of sound discipline such as refraining from committing disciplinary offences like fighting, belonging to prison gangs and smuggling is also the foundation on which order is maintained at Groenpunt maximum security prison.

3.3.2.3 The gratuity and financial standby programme

The gratuity and financial standby programme make provision for the payment of a monetary reward to working offenders. This is done in order to motivate them to maintain positive behaviour (Cilliers, 1998:21). It also aims to improve the inmates' sense of financial responsibility and to help them develop their own sense of self worth. Gratuity is not a salary wherein an offender will earn a specific amount of money for the work done, it is rather a reward for good behaviour.

3.3.2.4 The labour programme

Prison labour can be applied differently in different places. The present tendency is the provision of training facilities to equip offenders for productive labour after their release (Cilliers, 1998: 19). Various labour practices are being performed by offenders at Groenpunt maximum security prison. This includes terrain spans, cleaners, cooks, welding, maintenance, building, carpentry, plumbing, leather works, tailoring as well as shopkeepers. It is believed that the creation of work ethic will change behaviour and affect positively the offenders' tendency towards recidivism practices (Culp, 2005:4; Saylor & Gaes, 1997:32-43).

3.3.3 Development programmes

The aim of development programmes is to provide the opportunity to all offenders to improve their quality of life (South Africa, 2003:10). Development programmes at Groenpunt maximum security prison include amongst others social work, religious activities, library services and education programmes. Each of these programmes will be briefly discussed below:

3.3.3.1 Social work programmes

Social work programmes aim to provide professional services to help offenders deal effectively with problems relating to social functioning, and to prepare them for reintegration into the society. According to DuBois and Mileys (1999:322) social workers in the DCS provide two types of services namely supportive services within the institution and connections to resources in the community. Social work services therefore provide structured programmes on issues such as life skills, family care, alcohol and drug abuse, anger management, sexual offence and HIV/ AIDS.

For social work and correctional interventions to be effective, it is imperative to locate rehabilitation efforts within the community into which an offender is going to be released. Initiatives such as community services, parole, correctional supervision and the conversion of normal imprisonment sentences to community- based ones are all explored to minimise re-offending or recidivism (DuBois & Mileys, 1999:322). The social work programme at Groenpunt maximum prison normally takes three to four weeks depending on the needs of individual offenders.

3.3.3.2 Education programmes

Education programmes have always been, and will always be the major part of any correctional rehabilitation process (Brewster, 2002:30). All offenders have a right to basic education and training. The aim is to enhance education levels and to improve the skills of offenders in order to facilitate their reintegration into society. Offenders that have participated in education are better behaved, less likely to engage in violence and more likely to have positive effect on the general prison population (Taylor, 1993:88). Education and training programmes at Groenpunt maximum prison include:

- Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET);
- Mainstream education (grades 10-12);
- Correspondence studies and
- Vocational training.

As indicated an important purpose of imprisonment is to prepare an offender to become a valuable citizen once released. The provision of scholastic, as well as practical training facilities in prison is aimed at reducing recidivism because offenders with a basic education and other skills will most likely be empowered to be a productive member of society (Gowdy, Travis and Sutton, 2003:14). The duration of the mainstream as well as the ABET programmes is between three months to one year.

3.3.3.3 Sports and recreational programmes

Recreational programmes have an advantage over other programmes because to participate in them, offenders do not need to be able to read or write (Voorhis, Braswell & Lester, 2004:14).

All sentenced offenders have access to sports and recreational facilities at Groenpunt maximum security prison. The following sporting and recreational activities are available (South Africa, 2009: 16):

- Sports: Soccer and weightlifting; and
- Recreation: Pool, darts, chess, board games, monopoly and playing cards.

Physically disabled offenders can also participate in activities such as arts and crafts, music, table games and to recreational activities mentioned above.

Sports and recreation relieve tension from incarceration and can encourage offenders to develop skills and interests related to a specific sport (Stinchcomb & Fox, 1999:429). Sports and recreational activities can be instrumental to prevent offenders from returning to crime by making their reintegration into society easier and successful.

3.3.3.4 Religious programmes

According to Bartollas (1985:146) religious workers are agents who provide religious activities as rehabilitation initiatives in prisons.

Religious programmes in correctional services play an important part in bringing about behavioural change in offenders. Skosana (2000:2) is of the opinion that religion forms an important part of people's existence and may therefore play a crucial part in the rehabilitation of offenders.

According to Mpuang (2000:7) offenders find themselves in an environment (prison) characterised by general degeneration of moral values and standards.

Morality provides the basic guidelines according to which people can live. It refers to that area of human behaviour that influences judgement between right and wrong, good or bad, what to do and what to avoid (Iheoma, 1986:142).

Acceptance of good moral and values can empower offenders to make judgement of what is right and what is wrong after their release. This in turn can reduce the recidivism rate. The DCS employs full time chaplains and part-time spiritual workers from various religious backgrounds. The religious programmes at Groenpunt maximum security prison should ensure that every religious group is accommodated and visited by a religious worker on a frequent basis.

The next section deliberates on the incapability of bringing about a culture of effective rehabilitation at Groenpunt maximum security prison.

3.4 THE INABILITY TO ESTABLISH A CULTURE OF EFFECTIVE REHABILITATION AT GROENPUNT MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON

Groenpunt maximum security prison is facing critical challenges such as overcrowding, gangsterism, inadequate control of communicable diseases and viruses, particularly HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis (TB) (Achmat & Heywood, 1996:12-13). These challenges have severe effects on offenders (Marques, 2002:11). The harshness of the prison environment, which sometimes coincides with violence, assaults, riots, aggressiveness of gang leaders, rapes, intimidation and loss of heterosexual relationships affects many offenders physically and emotionally (Mnguni, 2002:27; Neser, 1993:190). These circumstances complicate and impact on the rehabilitation processes at Groenpunt maximum prison that are discussed in the section.

3.4.1 Inadequate needs-based rehabilitation programmes at Groenpunt maximum security prison

Rehabilitation programmes offered at Groenpunt maximum security prison are not offender-needs based. Needs based programmes mean that programmes

must be rendered according to the identified needs of specific offenders (South Africa, 2005:127). Rehabilitation programmes are not compulsory and in many instances offenders attended programmes which are not applicable to them, for example, an offender that committed murder while under the influence of drugs will choose to attend an anger management programme and not a drug abuse programme. In addition rehabilitation programmes focus on those offenders who are about to be released on parole (Erasmus, 2007:21-22).

3.4.2 Ineffective identification of specific rehabilitation needs at Groenpunt maximum security prison

Needs assessment is a process of profiling all needs of offenders in order to compile their sentence plans (South Africa, 2003:22). Without having established offenders' needs, it is difficult to accurately assign offenders to appropriate programmes. During the assessment of offenders the following priority areas should be studied in order to establish rehabilitation needs (Coetzee, 2003:38):

- Security classification for the purpose of custody;
- Health needs;
- Social and psychological needs;
- Religious needs;
- Specific development programme needs;
- Work allocation; and
- Needs regarding reintegration into the community.

During the admission of offenders, no needs assessment is done to establish the offenders' specific rehabilitation needs. A greater emphasis is placed on imprisonment arrangements at the expense of rehabilitation.

If the mentioned needs are not met during the term of imprisonment, it is likely that the offender can re-offend. The assessment of offenders is not effectively conducted at Groenpunt maximum security prison as a result, offenders may be released unrepentant and are most likely to resort back to crime.

3.4.3 Inadequate corrective education at Groenpunt maximum security prison

Corrective education relates to education given to offenders to counteract offending behaviour in order to be reintegrated into society (South Africa, 2001:18). According to Harer (1994:4), there is an inverse relationship between recidivism rates and levels of education. The more education received, the less likely an offender is to be rearrested or incarcerated. Inadequate corrective education can also jeopardised an individuals' employment opportunities after release. According to Taylor (1993:88) individuals who received higher education while incarcerated have a significantly better chance of employment (60-75%) than those who did not participate in prison education programmes. The DCS 2001/2002 annual report indicates that limited skills and a lack of appropriate training of the DCS staff also remain blockages to effective rehabilitation (South Africa, 2002:12).

For example, as a result of a shortage of psychologists and social workers, treatment programmes are only focused on offenders who are considered for parole. The tendency is also that offenders only attend rehabilitation programmes if they know it will favour their parole application (Erasmus, 2007:21-22).

3.4.4 Inadequate development opportunities for offenders at Groenpunt maximum security prison

At Groenpunt maximum security prison opportunities for offender development are not sufficient. According to Naude (2009) this is caused by the following trends:

- An inability to "sell" rehabilitation ideas to offenders;
- A shortage of professionals; and
- Overcrowded facilities.

A lack of human resources result in limited services to offenders, and enhances idleness and boredom amongst offenders that in turn contribute to high levels of frustration and aggression in prison (Dissel & Kollapen, 2002:9). Inadequate development opportunities for offenders can result in an increase

in recidivism (Landman, 2004:19). Another complicating factor is the involvement of offenders in gangs which makes it difficult for them to recognise the value of development programmes.

At Groenpunt maximum security prison focus remains primarily on security. As a result development opportunities to offenders are neglected.

3.4.5 No secure environment for rehabilitation at Groenpunt maximum security prison

Even the best-intended and most sophisticated rehabilitation programmes cannot accomplish its objectives in an environment that is not conducive for that purpose. This state of affairs effectively hampers the rehabilitation of offenders. The following existing environmental factors can have a negative impact on the rehabilitation of offenders at Groenpunt maximum security prison.

3.4.5.1 Overcrowded conditions

As indicated Groenpunt maximum security prison has an offender population of 2035 instead of 1200 which is its officially approved inmate capacity. This condition of overcrowding perpetuates the following problems within the prison system (Luyt, 1999:7):

- Gang activities;
- A decrease in correctional official supervision and control;
- A lower standard of living for all offenders;
- Assaults; and
- Disciplinary violations amongst offenders.

Overcrowding at Groenpunt maximum security prison is a crucial and pressing problem which has multi-dimensional manifestations and ultimately hampers effective rehabilitation.

3.4.5.2 Prison gangs

Gangsterism is a problem in most prisons and is especially so in maximum security prisons. A gang refers to a social group, distinguished from other social groups on the basis of two characteristics, namely, antisocial behaviour

and engagement in conflict (Ndabandaba, 1990:335). The situation at Groenpunt maximum prison is described by Neser (1993:190) as follows:-

"Imprisonment involves much more than merely a period of isolation from the community during which a prisoner is deprived of freedom. The deprivation of freedom creates a feeling of separation in the prisoner. Prisoners are also isolated from all their families, friends and people who are dear to them".

Due to imprisonment some prisoners lose touch with their families and friends and they start to establish new relationships inside prison. In many instances these gang relationships prevent prisoners from taking part in prison activities such as rehabilitation. Along with the presence of gangs, is always a level of prison violence that threatens the safety of other offenders. It is evident in many ways such as gang related violence, assault and murder; forced sexual activity, intimidation and coerced favours. (South Africa, 2003:67). Prison gangs also tend to polarize the prison population along racial, ethnic, and religious lines (Stinchcomb & Fox, 1999:399).

3.4.6 A shortage of specialist personnel and inadequate rehabilitation equipment

Groenpunt maximum security prison suffers from a shortage of specialist staff needed to make rehabilitation a success. There is no psychologist in this prison and many psychological related matters and programmes needed by offenders are not readily available. As a result of the high offender population in this prison, developed infrastructure remains a problem in facilitating and in promoting the holistic development of an individual. For example access control over the library facilities is lacking and as such very few offenders enjoy the use of such a facility (Erasmus, 2007:21-22).

3.5 ESTABLISHING A CULTURE OF EFFECTIVE REHABILITATION THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION: INHERENT SHORTCOMINGS AT GROENPUNT MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON

The DCS aims to equip offenders with skills required for effective rehabilitation and reintegration to society. Specialists from the community as well as the community at large are also involved in the presentation of the rehabilitation programmes of the offenders while offenders are still in prison. Despite the

community's participation in rehabilitation programmes, there are still shortcomings in the whole process. The various objectives of the DCS relating to community participation, and the shortcomings at Groenpunt maximum security prison are listed hereunder as follows:-

3.5.1 DCS objective 1: Community participation in the strengthening and enhancement of rehabilitation

There is a need to build social networks and partnerships to promote and improve community participation both before, and after incarceration to begin to address recidivism in a holistic manner (Tshiwula, 1998:122). The rehabilitation of offenders can only be successful and their reintegration into the society meaningful, if stakeholders such as NGOs, CBOs, FBOs business and volunteers are allowed to participate and assist in rehabilitating offenders. To this effect, the participation of the community in strengthening and enhancing rehabilitation is crucial.

3.5.1.1 Community participation at Groenpunt maximum security prison

There are a variety of shortcomings related to the community participation at Groenpunt maximum prison, namely:

- Religious workers who provide spiritual care and religious programmes as part of rehabilitation are not monitored. No prescriptions are set to ensure a rehabilitative influence from the religious programmes. Therefore the potential positive influence of religious programmes on offender behaviour is not guaranteed. Based on uncertainty of offender productive lifestyles after release, recidivism may occur (Letsoso, 2009);
- The noticeable shortcoming at Groenpunt maximum prison as far as sports and recreation are concern, is that only soccer is encouraged by the officials in charge. Testimony to this assertion is the invitation of the community soccer clubs to come and play with offenders. No participation in other recreational activities by the community is sought in an effort to rehabilitate offenders (Maphale, 2009);
- As far as offender education is concerned, community participation is not met. Only free education is focused upon, no efforts are made to assist

offenders who wanted to further their education in tertiary levels with bursaries from business people around (Molefe, 2009); and

- As a result of a high offender population and a shortage of social workers experienced at Groenpunt maximum security prison, many needs are left unmet. At times these needs are related to family ties, community involvement and also problems manifested by the offenders in prison (Maphalala, 2009).

As far as incarceration programmes are concerned, no community participation is allowed at this stage as these programmes are designed by the DCS, to facilitate the internal rehabilitation process.

3.5.2 DCS objective 2: Social reintegration through community participation

Social re-integration is an essential component of rehabilitation and success cannot be achieved in isolation by the DCS. Involvement of the community at large is crucial for the reduction of the recidivism rate (Cilliers, 1998:27).

3.5.2.1 The state of social re-integration and community participation at Groenpunt maximum security prison

Reintegration of offenders into society should begin with the re-establishment and maintenance of family ties to facilitate smooth re-entry into the community of origin (Short, 1979:119). This is not the case at Groenpunt maximum prison. Not all offenders have relationships, contacts or maintain ties with their families. The reason for this state of affairs is that Groenpunt maximum prison accommodated offenders from all provinces of South African and some of these offenders lost contacts with their families when they come to prison. The DCS officials as well as social workers are of no help to offenders' broken family ties. The DCS prescribes that every prison initiates a so-called pre-release programme.

The objective of the pre-release programmes is to prepare offenders for a successful reintegration into society. It should provide skills and information to enable released offenders to deal with challenges they may encounter in

society (Nxumalo, 1997:58). No pre-release programmes are conducted at Groenpunt maximum prison.

3.5.3 DCS objective 3: Restorative justice as a means of rehabilitation

According to Giffard (2002:1) restorative can be defined "as a systematic response to wrongdoing that emphasises healing the wounds of victims, offenders and community generated by crime". The approach of the DCS in South Africa towards rehabilitation is informed by a commitment to a restorative justice system which outlines an approach requiring correctional services to devote attention to (South Africa, 2003:33-34):

- Enabling offenders to make amends to their victims and the community;
- Increasing offender competencies; and
- Protecting the public through processes in which individual victims, the community, and offenders are all active participants.

Therefore, those directly affected by crime should be given active roles in restoring peace between individuals and within communities.

3.5.3.1 Facilitating restorative justice at Groenpunt maximum security prison

Restorative justice brings victims and offenders together in an attempt to promote community reintegration of the offender, rather than the exclusion resulting from punitive prison sentences (Giffard, 2002:1). Giffard (2002:3) maintains that a restorative justice approach in South African prisons can assist prison authorities to help develop the offender's sense of responsibility. In the light of the above stated information, it is appropriate to indicate that the management of Groenpunt maximum security prison is hesitant to put more efforts to the facilitation of restorative justice and is also not doing enough to market the concept of restorative justice to offenders, the reason is therefore a lack of commitment from management in this regard.

3.5.4 DCS objective 4: The concept of unit management to improve the prospects of rehabilitation

Unit management refers to an approach to offenders and correctional centres (prisons) designed to improve control and relationships between offenders

and role players (Luyt, 2001:30). The larger correctional centre population is divided into smaller, more manageable groups in order to improve the delivery of correctional service, pertaining specifically to care, corrections, development, security and social reintegration (Neser *et al.*, 2001:167).

The aim of this initiative is to improve rehabilitation through a multi-disciplinary approach. Functional teams consist of social, religious and spiritual workers, psychologists, educationists, correctional service officials and external community stakeholders in order to ensure appropriate placement, care, and development of all offenders in prisons (Cilliers, 1998:30).

3.5.4.1 Facilitating the implementation of a unit management system at Groenpunt maximum security prison

In essence, the concept of unit management focuses on more efficient programme delivery to offender populations, better utilisation of staff resources and the effective utilisation of the institutional environment. It also provides guidelines to offenders and prison staff for the development of, and increased participation in rehabilitation programmes (Coetzee, 2003:07; Luyt, 2001).

At Groenpunt maximum security prison a unit management system is not functioning effectively. This is caused by factors such as shortage of professionals, lack of participation by external stakeholders such as spiritual workers, NGOs, CBOs, as well as by the negative attitude of correctional officials towards the unit management system.

3.5.5 DCS objective 5: Service delivery by case management committee to effect rehabilitation of offenders.

It is important to define case management before attempting to define case management committee which is the mainstay of the correctional centre.

Luyt (1999:127) defines case management as a manner of organising the progress of each individual offender through the correctional system. Case management is furthermore described as a continuous process of involvement by personnel with specific skills and knowledge to guide offenders towards a positive change of behaviour, to reduce recidivism and to

improve security (Luyt, 1999:128). Du Preez (2003:34) states that case management is:

"the act of investigating and controlling something or a subject successfully by a professional person".

Case management is then defined as a form of service delivery by correctional officials through reaching out to an offender with a variety of specific needs and complex problems. According to Du Preez (2003:170) the case management committee is the central body responsible for the management of offenders. The case management committee consists of officials representing practitioners of various disciplines such as social workers, educationists, psychologists and permanent correctional officials. It is primarily responsible for coordinating the management of all offenders in the prison from admission to release. Offenders must appear before the case management at least once every six months for evaluation and assessment (Du Preez, 2003:170).

The following are reasons why this committee must communicate with offenders individually on a six monthly basis:

- Regulating the behaviour of offenders in terms of their privilege classification;
- Awarding/upgrading and forfeiture of gratuity;
- Scheduling and rescheduling rehabilitation programmes; and
- Monitoring sentence plans and evaluating progress to ensure the successful reintegration of the offender into the community (Correctional services Order B, 2005:78).

In the light of the above, the case management committee ensures effective rehabilitation processes.

3.5.5.1 Facilitating rehabilitation the case management committee at Groenpunt maximum security prison

Groenpunt maximum security prison has only one case management committee servicing 2035 offenders. The ratio of case management

committee to prisoners is 1:720. This implies that the case management committee at Groenpunt maximum prison cannot function effectively especially when it has to evaluate all prisoners once every six months. One committee does not have the capacity to provide the necessary rehabilitation services that will reintegrate offenders successfully into their communities upon their release taking into an account the huge offender population that it has to deal with (South Africa, 2005:18).

3.6 CONCLUSION

It was the purpose of this chapter to provide a descriptive analysis of the current rehabilitation arrangements at Groenpunt maximum security prison. Research was conducted against the background of the governmental guidelines and prescriptions for rehabilitation by all South African Government departments. By using these guidelines as benchmark it was possible to highlight specific weaknesses in the rehabilitation arrangements at Groenpunt maximum security prison. These shortcomings specifically relate to the inability of management at Groenpunt maximum security prison to establish and maintain a culture of rehabilitation at this correctional facility. In the next chapter these findings will be strengthened and verified.

CHAPTER FOUR

EMPIRICAL STUDY AND FINDINGS: STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESS OF REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES AT GROENPUNT MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON

4.1 INTRODUCTION

Chapters one to three were mainly compiled through a literature research of relevant books, legislation and official government publications. This was done in order to theoretically analyse and describe the importance of the institutionalisation of effective rehabilitation programmes in South Africa and specifically at Groenpunt maximum security prison. These literature findings most importantly substantiated the hypothesis of this research which assumed that Groenpunt maximum security prison, was up to now unable to institutionalise a culture of effective rehabilitation. There is therefore an absence of effective offender rehabilitation programmes at the Groenpunt correctional facility, and an inability to comply to governmental prescriptions.

In this regard it was established that the effective implementation of rehabilitation programmes was not as effective as was anticipated by the DCS. This statement was substantiated by the high rate of offender recidivism at Groenpunt maximum security prison.

The main objective of chapter four is to empirically strengthen and to verify the findings of chapters one to three. The focus specifically falls on the weaknesses in the rehabilitation programmes as well as identifying ways and means to establish a culture of effective rehabilitation at Groenpunt maximum security prison.

The empirical findings were mainly achieved through semi-structured interviews with nine officials, the head of the prison and ten sentenced offenders, totalling twenty participants at Groenpunt maximum security prison. The findings of the empirical research provided a foundation for the recommendations in chapter five. These recommendations boiled down to what could and should be done to comply to the prescribed government

policies, processes and procedures in terms of implementing and maintaining effective rehabilitation programmes.

4.2 THE CONTENT AND CONTEXT OF THE PRISON SURVEY

Between April 2009 and June 2009 semi-structured interviews were conducted with twenty participants at Groenpunt maximum security prison. The participants were as indicated divided into three sub-populations, namely, the head of the prison, correctional officials and offenders. These three sub-populations were chosen because they have an important role to play within the day-to-day operations of the prison in their respective fields. The interviews mainly involved establishing perceptions on processes, procedures and systems put in place to ensure implementation of effective rehabilitation programmes.

4.2.1 Sentenced offenders

The offender participants are allocated into two groups of five each based on the types of offences committed. These groups are made up of the combination of two types of crimes which are:

Group 1: Property and public order crimes; and

Group 2: Violent crimes.

All members of these two groups were recidivists meaning that they were repeat offenders. They all participated in rehabilitation programmes in their previous sentences at Groenpunt maximum security prison. Rehabilitation can only be possible if the offender is willing to change his or her behaviour and attitudes. This is mainly because rehabilitation is aimed at addressing the specific history of the individual and as a result full commitment as well as voluntary participation are required (South Africa, 2005:128). Offenders must realise that they are responsible for their own lives and it is up to them to change. Bartollas (1985:33) asserts that unless offenders make a definite decision to abstain from a criminal life and associate themselves with support systems that will help achieve their goals, they are likely to spend a large portion of their lives incarcerated.

4.2.2 Correctional officers

The researcher chose correctional officials as participants in the research because of their responsibilities on the day-to-day operation of the prison. Their responsibilities are as follows:

- Compiling the sentence plan of offenders;
- Conducting rehabilitation programmes of offenders;
- Safe custody of offenders;
- Facilitating social re-integration of offenders; and
- Promoting community participation with the intention of strengthening and enhancing rehabilitation of offenders (South Africa, 2005: 179).

Seiter (2002:383) indicates that officials have the following roles to play with regards to the rehabilitation of offenders, and that these roles are based on the manner in which the officials conduct themselves, irrespective of whether they are counsellors or treatment specialists:-

- Contributing to an environment of control without threats and tension;
- Communicating with offenders on a professional basis; and
- Focusing on providing human services.

Correctional officials are therefore responsible for grassroots rehabilitation efforts and implementation.

4.2.3 Head of the prison

The role of the head of the prison in relation to rehabilitation is to ensure that the environment is secure and conducive for the implementation of rehabilitation programmes. This can be achieved by controlling overcrowding and ensuring that the necessary resources are available for rehabilitation purposes.

4.3 ANALYSIS OF DATA

The following open-ended questions were asked to the participants (respondents) at Groenpunt maximum security prison.

- What is your opinion on the culture of rehabilitation in South African prisons?
- Is rehabilitation at Groenpunt maximum security prison effective in reducing recidivism, if not, why?
- Is there adequate community participation to strengthen and enhance rehabilitation of offenders and in reducing recidivism?
- Why, in your opinion, is social re-integration into the society ineffective upon the release of many offenders at Groenpunt maximum security prison?
- Is restorative justice effective in bringing victims and offenders together in terms of ensuring reconciliation and effectively rehabilitation offenders?
- Why, in your opinion, is the unit management system at Groenpunt maximum security prison ineffective?
- Does the effective functioning of case management committees influence the rehabilitation of offenders thus reducing recidivism?
- Is the environment at Groenpunt maximum security prison conducive and secure for effective rehabilitation of offenders?
- In your opinion what is the attitude of offenders towards rehabilitation programmes?
- What recommendations can be made to establish the culture of rehabilitation at Groenpunt maximum security prison?
- What other recommendations can be made to reduce the current high rate of recidivism in South African prisons and Groenpunt maximum security prison?

The participants' perceptions regarding the above questions were the following:

4.3.1 Perceptions regarding the culture of rehabilitation in South African prisons

- Seventeen of the respondents (eighty five percent) were of the view that the culture of rehabilitation of offenders in South African prisons is heading in the right direction; and
- Three of the respondents (fifteen percent) indicated that the culture of rehabilitation of offenders in South African prisons is not doing well because of overcrowding and incompetent staff.

4.3.2 The effectiveness of rehabilitation in reducing recidivism at Groenpunt maximum security prison

- Nineteen of the respondents (ninety five percent) indicated that rehabilitation of offenders at Groenpunt maximum security prison is not effective because of the high rate of recidivism, overcrowding, shortage of professionals and attitude of offenders towards rehabilitation programmes conducted at this prison; and
- One respondent (five percent) believed that rehabilitation of offenders is effective in reducing recidivism at Groenpunt maximum security prison although it occurs at a very low rate.

4.3.3 The role of community participation in strengthening and enhancing rehabilitation of offenders with the view of reducing recidivism

- Fourteen of the respondents (seventy percent) are of the opinion that community participation is not adequate at Groenpunt maximum security prison as a result, recidivism is not reduced effectively; and
- Six of the respondents (thirty percent) believe that community participation at Groenpunt maximum security prison is strengthening and enhancing rehabilitation of offenders and that it is also reducing the recidivism rate.

4.3.4 The state of social reintegration of the released offenders into the society

- Twelve of respondents (sixty percent) indicated that social reintegration into the society of released offenders is ineffective because of broken family ties and the absence of pre-release programmes which can reunite offenders with their families; and
- Eight of respondents (forty percent) believe that the social reintegration of released offenders is effective and successful.

4.3.5 The role of restorative justice in healing and bringing together the victims and the perpetrators with the intention of ensuring effective rehabilitation of offenders

- Eight (forty percent) of the respondents are not in favour of restorative justice because they don't want to recall what they did to their victims; and
- Twelve of respondents (sixty percent) believe that restorative justice is not effective. More information with regard to restorative justice should be facilitated and disseminated to offenders.

4.3.6 Perception regarding the functioning of unit management system at Groenpunt maximum security prison

- Sixteen (eighty percent) of respondents believe that the unit management system at Groenpunt maximum security prison is ineffective because of the shortage of professionals, lack of commitment by staff and attitude of offenders towards unit management system itself; and
- Four of respondents (twenty percent) believe that the unit management system is effective, no reasons were given.

4.3.7 The effective functioning of the case management committee (CMC) affects positively the rehabilitation of offender and thus reducing recidivism

- Eight of respondents (forty percent) indicated that good work by CMC positively affects rehabilitation of offenders despite its work burden; and

- Twelve (sixty percent) of respondents believe that the CMC is not doing well in facilitating the rehabilitation of offenders. Respondents said that one CMC is not enough to take care of all offenders at this prison.

4.3.8 Conducive and secure environment at Groenpunt maximum security prison have an impact on effective rehabilitation of offenders

- Eighteen (ninety percent) of respondents indicated that the environment is not conducive for rehabilitation of offenders because of high offender population, gangsters, infrastructure and inadequate rehabilitation equipments; and
- Two (ten percent) of respondents believe that rehabilitation can take place despite the environmental conditions.

4.3.9 Perception regarding the attitude of offenders towards rehabilitation programmes

- Eight of respondents (forty percent) believe that rehabilitation programmes can correct the offending behaviour of offenders;
- Six of the respondents (thirty percent) believe that rehabilitation programmes are a waste of time and that they are not working; and
- Six of the respondents (thirty percent) indicated that offenders only attend rehabilitation programmes when they are due to appear before the parole board.

4.3.10 Recommendations on the establishment of the culture of rehabilitation at Groenpunt maximum security prison

- Twenty of the respondents (hundred percent) recommended that the culture of rehabilitation at Groenpunt maximum security prison be established through adherence to policy descriptions, creation of an environment that is secure and conducive to rehabilitation, offering needs based rehabilitation programmes, creating opportunities for rehabilitation, facilitation of unit management system, having clear guidelines on community participation, increasing the number of the case management

committees, facilitating restorative justice and through finding mechanisms to facilitate social reintegration of offenders upon their release.

4.3.11 Recommendations on the reduction of the current high rate of recidivism in South African prison and Groenpunt maximum security prison

- Twenty of respondents (hundred percent) recommended that compulsory participation to rehabilitation programmes be encouraged, rehabilitation programmes be needs-based, creation of effective re-integration plan be introduced, proper control over overcrowding of offenders for effective rehabilitation process be maintained and that a policy for community participation be established.

These are the findings of the open-ended questions. Open-ended questions are susceptible to solicit open-ended responses. The focus of the following topic is intended to reflect the relationship between the literature review, observations of the previous chapter and the empirical findings of the current chapter (chapter four).

4.4 A HOLISTIC PERSPECTIVE ON THE SHORTCOMINGS IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CULTURE OF EFFECTIVE REHABILITATION AT GROENPUNT MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON

Through the analysis of the literature study and empirical findings it was possible to identify specific trends in terms of perspectives regarding the culture of effective rehabilitation at Groenpunt maximum security prison. The following trends also strengthens the observations, findings and conclusion of chapter three:-

4.4.1 Multidimensionality and the complexity of rehabilitation programmes

The majority of the respondents share a common view that there are inherent shortcomings in the implementation of effective rehabilitation programmes at Groenpunt maximum prison. These shortcomings are:-

- The failure to implement effective rehabilitation in order to reduce recidivism;

- Inadequate community participation to strengthen and enhance rehabilitation of offenders to reduce recidivism;
- Ineffectiveness of social reintegration of offenders into the society upon release from prison;
- Lack of a secure and conducive environment for rehabilitation of offenders; and
- The negative attitude of offenders towards rehabilitation programmes.

The above tendencies need to be taken into consideration during the implementation of rehabilitation programmes by the management of Groenpunt maximum security prison. It is against this background that the concrete weaknesses of rehabilitation programmes at Groenpunt maximum security prison can be summarised.

4.4.2 The failure to implement effective rehabilitation in order to reduce recidivism at Groenpunt maximum security prison

Nineteen of the respondents (ninety five percent) indicated that rehabilitation of offenders at Groenpunt maximum security prison is not effective because of the high rate of recidivism, overcrowding, shortage of professionals and attitude of offenders towards rehabilitation programmes conducted at this prison. One respondent (five percent) believed that rehabilitation of offenders is effective in reducing recidivism at Groenpunt maximum security prison although it occurs at a very low rate.

4.4.3 Inadequate community participation to strengthen rehabilitation and motivate offenders not to re-offend upon release from prison

Fourteen of the respondents (seventy percent) are of the opinion that community participation is not adequate at Groenpunt maximum security prison as a result, recidivism is not effectively reduced. Only six of the respondents (thirty percent) believe that community participation at Groenpunt maximum security prison is strengthening and enhancing rehabilitation of offenders and is also reducing recidivism rate.

4.4.4 Ineffectiveness of re-integration of offenders into the society upon release from prison

Twelve of respondents (sixty percent) indicated that re-integration into the society of released offenders is ineffective because of broken family ties and the absence of pre-release programmes which can contribute in reuniting offenders with their families. Eight of respondents (forty percent) believe that the social reintegration of released offenders is effective and successful.

4.4.5 Failure to create the environment that is conducive to offender rehabilitation purposes and reducing recidivism

Overcrowding and gangsterism are main obstacles that prevent the effective implementation of rehabilitation programmes at this prison (Coetze & Gericke, 1997:133). Gang rule impacts negatively on all attempts to rehabilitate offenders, and consequently also on the community to which offenders return when released (Nair, 2002:1). On the other hand, prison overcrowding not only leads to the violation of the rights of offenders but also over stretches the limited staff resource at the prison's disposal and makes it difficult to effectively deliver on rehabilitation. Eighteen (ninety percent) of respondents indicated that the environment is not conducive for rehabilitation of offenders because of high offender population, gangsters and poor infrastructure. Two (ten percent) of respondents believe that the environment is secure and conducive for rehabilitation process to can take place, it is up to offenders to participate.

4.4.6 The attitude of offenders towards rehabilitation programmes at Groenpunt maximum security prison

Eight of respondents (forty percent) believe that rehabilitation programmes can correct the offending behaviour of offenders. Six of the respondents (thirty percent) believe that rehabilitation programmes are a waste of time and that they are not working. Six of the respondents (thirty percent) indicated that offenders only attend rehabilitation programmes when they are due to appear before the parole board.

4.5 CONCLUSION

The basic assumption in this research was that Groenpunt maximum security prison was mainly ineffective in implementation of effective rehabilitation programmes. It was then determined that a need existed for the institutionalisation of effective rehabilitation programmes at Groenpunt maximum security prison. Through the literature study aspects that should be adhered to in order to achieve a successful implementation of effective rehabilitation programmes were identified. It seems evident that rehabilitation programmes have not been successfully implemented and as such did not get the needed support from the management of Groenpunt maximum security prison. The main shortcomings in terms of programmes implementation have been identified as being the following:-

- Rehabilitation programmes were not successfully and effectively implemented;
- Non compliance to guidelines and procedures for the effective implementation of rehabilitation programmes;
- Conducive and secure environment was not created for the successful implementation of rehabilitation programmes;
- No mechanisms were put in place to encourage community participation with the view of strengthening and enhancing offender rehabilitation and reducing recidivism; and
- Negative attitude of offenders towards rehabilitation programme.

Against the above background it can be concluded that there were shortcomings in the way the rehabilitation programme was implemented at Groenpunt maximum security prison. This resulted in a high recidivism rate at this prison. In this study it is assumed that rehabilitation programmes can be institutionalised and managed correctly at Groenpunt maximum security prison.

The findings of the empirical research provide guidelines on how these shortcomings can be overcome. The main purpose of the next chapter would therefore be to provide recommendations on what can be done to strengthen

the effective implementation of rehabilitation programmes at Groenpunt maximum security prison.

CHAPTER FIVE

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

5.1 INTRODUCTION

Adler and Detzner (1995:890) state that at the end of any empirical work there are three questions that one needs to ask. These are: "Has something new been learned by this research and what its significance is? Does it contribute to knowledge accumulation? Will it inspire further research?" The researcher is of the opinion that all these questions were answered. Any new study will have an impact on one's perceptions and thereby create new learning. A new learning is a new way of viewing something- something that one will either put into practice or internalize as part of a new belief system. The researcher furthermore believes that this study does in fact contribute to knowledge accumulation in that it either reinforces past research and established ideas or brings to light new ideas and concepts. Finally, this study should inspire further investigation, in that there are new concepts that came to light that could be researched further in an attempt to facilitate the effectiveness of rehabilitation programmes rendered for offenders at Groenpunt maximum security prison.

5.2 REALISATION OF THE OBJECTIVES OF RESEARCH

It was the objective of this research to identify ways and means to reduce high rates of recidivism through the implementation of effective rehabilitation programmes. Based on the findings specific recommendations can be made towards achieving the objectives of research which are discussed in the next section.

5.2.1 Achieving the objectives of research

The following objectives were stipulated in chapter one:

- To identify the prison rehabilitation guidelines as prescribed by the national government;

- To describe and analyse the success of rehabilitation, and rehabilitation programmes at Groenpunt maximum security prison;
- To investigate through research the existing strong points and weaknesses of offender rehabilitation programmes at Groenpunt maximum security prison; and
- To make recommendations regarding the effective implementation and institutionalization of offender rehabilitations programmes at Groenpunt maximum security prison.

These objectives were achieved in the following ways:

Chapter two provided a theoretical foundation for research and described the way in which rehabilitation programmes should be implemented within all prisons in South Africa. Through the dissertation the findings of chapter two were used as framework and measure instrument in order to establish implementation progress and to make specific assumptions and eventual recommendations.

Chapter three narrowed research down to an analytical description of the progress made by the Groenpunt maximum security prison in terms of the dynamics and implementation of rehabilitation programmes

Chapter four was mainly conducted through semi-structured interviews. In this chapter the perceptions of offenders and experiences of senior managers such as the head of prison and also of correctional services' officials regarding the implementation of effective rehabilitation programmes, were highlighted. Through this chapter it was possible to identify specific shortcomings in the implementation of rehabilitation programmes at Groenpunt maximum security prison.

Chapter five is the concluding chapter and provides an overview of research conducted in chapters one to four. The important contribution of this chapter is that based on the recommendations on how the rehabilitation process at Groenpunt maximum security prison can be improved.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES CAN BE ACHIEVED

From the study the following main recommendations arose:

- (a) Ensure that needs based rehabilitation takes place;
- (b) Ensure effective community participation;
- (c) Ensure that social reintegration takes place;
- (d) Create a secure and conducive environment for rehabilitation; and
- (e) Ensure that offenders develop a positive attitude towards rehabilitation.

It is believed that the successful implementation of the above issues would contribute to more effective rehabilitation at Groenpunt maximum security prison, thus reducing recidivism.

5.4 CONCLUSION

This study indicated that rehabilitation at Groenpunt maximum security prison is not effective. This finding was substantiated by the current high rate of recidivism at this prison. It is estimated that ninety four percent of offenders re-engage in criminal activities after their release. It has however been established that there are definite governmental guidelines on how to structure and conduct rehabilitation programmes at South African prisons. It is clear that these guidelines are not compulsory and are not always adhered to at Groenpunt maximum security prison, thus rendering rehabilitation ineffective in most cases. The reality is that there is no clear framework for rehabilitation at Groenpunt maximum security prison. There is a greater focus on imprisonment and lesser focus on rehabilitation, a situation that needs to be rectified. In essence it is recommended that Groenpunt maximum security prison places, together with imprisonment, a larger emphasis on rehabilitation as an outcome. From a holistic perspective a framework for effective rehabilitation should aim to achieve the following key outcomes:

- The creation of a stable and effective rehabilitation environment;
- Stimulate positive attitudes towards rehabilitation amongst offenders and prison officials;

- Ensure community participation; and
- Work towards the successful reintegration of offenders into society.

It is envisaged that the above outcomes could be achieved and recidivism can be reduced, if management adheres to the prescribed governmental guidelines for rehabilitation at Groenpunt maximum security prison.

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