

Architectural attributes which affect the rehabilitation and reintegration of juvenile correctional facilities

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Abstract: The process of reintegrating juvenile delinquents to society from correctional facilities is as important as the process of rehabilitation. If the rehabilitation process is not conducted properly it would rather be difficult to control the reconvicted /recidivism rates. Hence the correctional methods must adhere to certain attributes relating to the rehabilitation process, one key aspect being the built environment of the correctional facilities. Humans by nature have an undeniable connection with their environment through physical, mental, emotional and spiritual means. This connection is what helps keep a balance within ourselves. Most of the time, unlike adults' juvenile delinquents commit crimes without their consent. It is paramount that this is understood and they are attended with the required special attention in rehabilitation process. At stage of admission to the correctional facilities, these youngsters are more likely to be in a very weak state of mind, with the need of protection, self-value, freedom and to obtain the sense of belongingness in the society as they are reintroduced. This requires improvement of interpersonal and intrapersonal skills before leaving the correctional facility to avoid the reconviction /recidivism. The rehabilitation process influenced via architectural attributes followed at this research would be to understand level of lighting, usage of colours, enclosure of the space, outdoor-indoor relationships, level of privacy, architectural character of space and semiotics would lead to proper reintegration to the society.

KeyWords: Juvenile Delinquents, Rehabilitation, Architectural Attributes

Introduction

The term delinquency refers to a large variety of disapproved or, antisocial behaviour of children and adolescents, which the society does not approve of, and, for which the punishment or corrective measures are justified in the public interest. (Jain, 1995) The term juvenile in common dialect could be defined as a child or young person. It also can be defined as a child or an adolescent between childhood and man/womanhood. Therefore, juvenile delinquency means a special category of offences created for children and adolescent persons.(Niriella) In the correction institutions there are juvenile delinquents for causing large variety of offences. The type of correction method and the correctional institute for the offender decide according to the committed offence. In Sri Lanka juvenile delinquency variety of offences, petty offences to serious crimes such as, begging, vagrancy, sale of tobacco, prostitution, petty stealing, assault and simple hurt, criminal force, selling and possessing of excisable articles/narcotic drugs, robbery, grievous hurt, murder, offence against state, terrorism. Most of the time these children became juvenile delinquents without their willingness, in Sri Lanka they became juvenile delinquents because of following facts. Disintegration of the family and laxity in parental control over children, motherless home environment, the rapid changing patterns in modern living, the associational impact, modern technology, failure in the school life/truancy, poverty, cultural conflicts, biological factors. Besides the following causes, illiteracy, child labour, squalor and disobedience can also be

considered as the other contributing factors aggravating juvenile delinquency.

The vision of Juvenile Correctional Centres is to provide spiritual guidance to the juvenile delinquents incarcerated and to make sure that those incarcerated do not feel like they are all alone in this world. If juvenile offenders don't heal, they are probable worse burdens dropped into the society. Hence it is certainly a concern to look into without ignoring them and it is very essential to heal through rehabilitation. The result of healing can be a cure to a health challenge, but one can heal without being cured.

At present in Sri Lanka, there is an increment in the number of juvenile delinquents and Juvenile Correctional Centres have become only a temporary lodge. It has become unfavourable or some other word as prisoners who re-enter to the society, commit a minor fault to re-enter to the prison. That fact shows that Juvenile Correctional Institutes are not able to achieve the main goal at the present situation.

There are facts which related to healing of juvenile delinquents such as development of both physical and mental health, relationship between others, and the context of the institution.

There for architectural attributes of those correctional institutes can effect for the rehabilitation and healing process of the juvenile delinquents. Aim of the research is to identify those architectural attributions which relate with rehabilitation process in correctional institutions.

The research will comprise a study of healing environment and its effect on juvenile offenders' behaviour at the correctional institutes. Therefore it will pave the way to achieve rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents physically through architecture and how it will contribute psychologically for their rehabilitation. Research will aid in

addressing what is the social responsibility of architects in juvenile correctional centre design and the long-term contribution of this research will be having proper rehabilitation system which reduce re-offending juveniles as prisoners and it will contribute to the development of the country.

Objectives

- To identify the psychological characteristics of juvenile delinquents
- To identify the relation between architecture and psychological behavior
- To identify architectural attributes which effect the correctional and rehabilitation process at the correctional institutes

Research Methodology

This research has done in main two phases. In the first phase, it has been done for identify the psychological characteristics of juvenile offenders. What are the physical and psychological aspects that they need to improve. The first phase can be done by the literature review and interviews.

The second phase has been done for identify the architectural aspects which affect the rehabilitation process within correctional institutes. And study the role of following architectural attributions on rehabilitation process. Four selective case studies were studied under this phase to identify architectural aspects that has been used in those cases.

Foreign case studies has been studied to identify the architectural attributes. These case studies were designed following specific architectural concepts which can improve the considering psychological aspects of the inmates. Therefore the reasons to select these specific case studies were those architectural concepts which try to improve the psychological characteristics of the inmates.

a. the Yargas inmates at correctional centre Orlando, Florida

Orange County commissioned Architects Design Group of Florida to master plan and design the 33rd Correctional Centre in Orlando, and their concept was to create a correctional facility aimed to satisfy the needs and wants of the criminals, by using their own participation in the determination of the design. Therefore the firm interviewed prison inmates in small groups, without officer present. Then they gathered data on colour preferences and the psychological effects of colour, became convinced of its impact, and designed the Orlando jail with chromatic emphasis.

Therefore this case study help to collect data on impact of colours to rehabilitation process.

b. Juvenile Services Centre at San Luis Obispo, California

Merriam, Deasy and Whisenant Inc., San Luis Obispo, California Designed a juvenile shelter and detention services facility located on a 15 acres site. It consists of 39 beds, kitchen, classrooms, courtroom, and probation offices. The area of the building is 20,000 square feet having a space per occupant of 500 square feet. The main objective was to create a "homey" atmosphere by the creation of open spaces, free circulation and non-obstructive circulation within the facility.

c. South Central Correctional Institution at Anchorage, Alaska

A medium security detention located on 207 acres of land at Anchorage, Alaska. The area of the building is 72,000 square feet. The capacity of the building is for 100-180 inmates. The designer's main goal was to achieve a thoroughly residential character, both inside and out, without compromising security requirements.

Both b and c case studies project is help to identify impact the architectural (Homey)

atmosphere of the building for the rehabilitation process.

d. Metro Toronto West Regional Detention Centre at Etobicoke, Ontario, Canada

A detention centre for the Ontario ministry of government services. The facility is on a 17 acres lot. The area of the building is 152,300 square feet, with a capacity for 216 inmates. Concept of the design is to create a secure but aesthetic environment, maximizing privacy without excluding communal spaces.

These case study help to identify the architectural attributes which can enhance the privacy levels of the inmates and the connection and relation between other inmates in communal spaces.

Data Analysis

Understanding the mental health difficulties of juvenile offenders are important to avoid the later offending behaviour and delinquency. Therefore those mental issues need to be controlled and cured at the correctional institutes. These juvenile delinquents are more likely to display anger, irritability and hostility and mood disorders, mostly depression. The irritable mood that often accompanies depressive disorders increases youths' probability of inciting angry responses from others, thereby increasing their risk of engaging in more physically aggressive acts that get them arrested. At the custody because of adolescent's mood disorder cause altercations with others or increase the risk of anger at oneself, resulting in self-injurious behaviours. Typically, anxiety disorders in youth result in less aggressive behaviours with the exception of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Children and adolescents with PTSD are liable to respond to perceived threats aggressively and unexpectedly. There is a multitude of evidence for the benefits of treating youth in acute distress due to mental illness. According to Grisso (2008), the most

common and effective treatments include professional clinical care, psychopharmacology as needed, and the structuring of an environment to protect youth as well as reduce stress while in crisis. Therefore they need to feel sensation of wellbeing, sense of belongingness, Freedom of movement, Sense of security and sense of freedom within the correctional institutes.

According to the Yargas inmates at correctional centre Orlando, Florida they disliked steel intensity because it sapped their strength, and they hated colours that applied to the spaces such as cream and institutional colours. Therefore they gathered data on colour preferences and the psychological effects of colour, became convinced of its impact, and designed the Orlando jail with chromatic emphasis. Blue, believed to have a calming effect, is used in inmate day rooms. Red, which increases brain wave activity and prolongs the perception of time, is used in visitation spaces. Various shades of orange, tending toward peach, salmon, and brown, are found in dining areas because they seem to enhance appetite. And yellow, which makes building elements seem less massive, tints heavy window mullions.

The whole building of Juvenile Services Centre at San Luis Obispo, California was created as a big house by having a huge living area right next to the sleeping areas. High ceilings give a sense of openness to the place. An open courtyard is adjacent to the main living area, and access to it is not restricted. Circulation flow between these three areas (dormitory, living and courtyard) is not restricted. Security devices like cameras are totally out of sight and an open control room is strategically located to have a complete view of the three areas. The building relates to the site with its forms. Creating a homely look even from the exterior.

South Central Correctional Institution at Anchorage, Alaska was design to achieve a

thoroughly residential character, both inside and out, without compromising security requirements.

Provision of a variety of levels of living spaces, Programs and activities to achieve as a comfortable environment as possible. The natural site is handled to maximize its use within security. They achieved this by maximizing the use of open courtyards and also by providing for openings in the walls and ceilings for viewing and for natural lighting.

Residential units are linked to the rest of the facility by enclosed hallways. These hallways though, expose the surroundings through windows along them. This provides for an open and comfortable transition between living units and the rest of the facility.

Metro Toronto West Regional Detention Centre at Etobicoke, Ontario, Canada designed the concept with, to create a secure but aesthetic environment, maximizing privacy without excluding communal spaces.

The living units maximize privacy by providing small groupings of 10 rooms with a day room, restrooms and lounge area. These small areas were created for privacy. Dining, educational and recreational activities are separated from the dormitory areas. This separation is very noticeable differentiating the private spaces from the communal ones.

Conclusion

According to the data the children in correctional institutes are not like the other ordinary children there for they need special curing and rehabilitation process rather than punishment. Not like the adult offenders they need rehabilitation and reintegration process, rather than having period of punishment in a correctional institute. Beside professional clinical care, and psychopharmacology needs and the

structuring of an environment to protect youth as well as reduce stress while in crisis.

There are many architectural attributes that can follow to structuring of an environment to cure and rehabilitate the juvenile delinquents.

The security and the protection has to be ensued and enhanced by the structure and the inmates should not feel that they are admitted into a jail or enclosed area therefore the architectural character is very important to improve their mental condition. Homely building character can maintain to avoid enclosure feeling of the inmates.

The connection between indoor and outdoor spaces are also important, the openings and uses of view in each space can enhance the quality of the space. Privacy of the inmates need to ensure in the facility. Therefore maintain hierarchy of the spaces according to the privacy level is important.

Light condition and the views from the spaces are also important. Natural lighting conditions need to improve and the level of ventilation is also important. There should not be dark areas or corners inside the building. And the long monolithic corridors and the huge clean facades can also can be avoided.

And the usage of colours is also important. Using colours with the data on colour preferences and the psychological effects of colour is important. Blue colour can used for day rooms for get calming effects. Red colour increases brain wave activity and prolongs the perception of time and can used for visitation spaces. Dining areas can be coloured with using various shades of orange, tending toward peach, salmon, and brown to enhance appetite. Yellow colour can be used for tints heavy window mullions to makes building elements seem less massive.

And the use of materials to the spaces are also important, use of metals for the spaces can be deduce and rustic and pointy textures can be reduce from the spaces.

Through the research, the objectives have been overcome and the attributes which can affect on juvenile rehabilitation process within juvenile correctional facility have been identified.

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