

Prisoner Rehabilitation Programmes and Social Reintegration in Algeria

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Abstract: This article examines the various rehabilitation programmes designed for prisoners and the mechanisms for their social reintegration following their release from correctional institutions. Particular emphasis is placed on the reforms implemented within the prison sector, as it constitutes the primary body responsible for the custody and rehabilitation of inmates. The study highlights the reforms initiated and implemented by the Algerian State to enhance the prison system, as well as the strategies and programmes adopted by the Ministry of Justice to rehabilitate inmates and facilitate their effective reintegration into society. The ultimate objective of these initiatives is to transform inmates into responsible and productive citizens capable of contributing positively to their families and to national development. Accordingly, the article outlines the fundamental pillars and measures adopted by the Algerian State to reform the prison sector and rehabilitate inmates, together with the programmes developed to ensure the success of these efforts.

The study adopts an integrated approach that combines an examination of reforms affecting prison administration—on the grounds that the success of institutional reforms and the development of prison management contribute significantly to inmate rehabilitation—with an analysis of reforms directly targeting inmates. Particular attention is given to the programmes established by the Ministry of Justice to promote prisoners' social reintegration and rehabilitation through education, vocational training, psychological, social, health, and religious guidance and counselling. These measures aim to reform inmates, improve their behaviour, facilitate their social reintegration within correctional institutions, and ensure the continuity of rehabilitation programmes following their release.

Keywords: Prisoner Rehabilitation; Prison Sector Reform; Rehabilitation Programmes; Social Reintegration.

Résumé : Cet article examine les différents programmes de réinsertion destinés aux détenus et les mécanismes de leur réintégration sociale après leur libération. L'accent est mis sur les réformes mises en œuvre au sein du secteur pénitentiaire, principal organe responsable de la garde et de la réinsertion des détenus. L'étude met en lumière les réformes initiées et mises en œuvre par l'État algérien pour améliorer le système pénitentiaire, ainsi que les stratégies et programmes adoptés par le ministère de la Justice pour réinsérer les détenus et faciliter leur réintégration effective dans la société. L'objectif ultime de ces initiatives est de faire des détenus des citoyens responsables et productifs, capables de contribuer positivement à leur famille et au développement national. En conséquence, l'article présente les piliers et mesures fondamentaux adoptés par l'État algérien pour réformer le secteur pénitentiaire et réinsérer les détenus, ainsi que les programmes développés pour garantir le succès de ces efforts.

L'étude adopte une approche intégrée qui combine l'examen des réformes affectant l'administration pénitentiaire – partant du principe que le succès des réformes institutionnelles et le développement de la gestion pénitentiaire contribuent significativement à la réinsertion des détenus – avec une analyse des réformes ciblant directement les détenus. Une attention

particulière est portée aux programmes mis en place par le ministère de la Justice pour favoriser la réinsertion sociale et la réhabilitation des détenus par le biais de l'éducation, de la formation professionnelle, d'un accompagnement psychologique, social, sanitaire et religieux. Ces mesures visent à réformer les détenus, à améliorer leur comportement, à faciliter leur réinsertion sociale au sein des établissements pénitentiaires et à assurer la continuité des programmes de réhabilitation après leur libération.

Mots-clés : Réhabilitation des détenus ; Réforme du secteur pénitentiaire ; Programmes de réhabilitation ; Réinsertion sociale.

Introduction

The traditional concept of punishment viewed it primarily as a means of retribution, without addressing the offender's deviant behaviour or the factors contributing to recidivism. Consequently, punishment functioned as a deterrent rather than a corrective mechanism aimed at eradicating criminal tendencies from the offender's character. Over time, the concepts of punishment and imprisonment have undergone significant transformation, leading to the evolution and improvement of prison institutions. Prisons have progressively developed from punitive establishments responsible for enforcing criminal sanctions into rehabilitative institutions dedicated to the reform and social reintegration of prisoners. This transformation seeks to prevent inmates from reoffending after serving their sentences and to enable them to become productive, educated, and socially responsible individuals who contribute positively to both themselves and their communities.

However, the evolution of prison administration from a punitive institution to one focused on rehabilitation, treatment, and productivity has required considerable efforts at both the international and national levels. Internationally, this development has been supported through conventions, treaties, and various human rights instruments, while nationally it has been promoted through governmental bodies and agencies responsible for prison administration and management. Algeria is among the countries that have sought to strengthen the role of prison administration and achieve advanced levels of prisoner rehabilitation and social reintegration.

This reform programme is founded upon six principal pillars that combine the development of the legislative framework, international cooperation, the expansion of inmate rehabilitation programmes, and the modernisation of the prison sector. It also incorporates the humanisation of prisons as a fundamental principle underpinning the justice reform system. These measures aim to ensure dignified, healthy, and sustainable living conditions for hundreds of thousands of prisoners and to facilitate their smooth reintegration into social and professional life following release. The strategy of prisoner reintegration constitutes a fundamental mechanism for both treatment and prevention, as inmates require various forms of care and support within a rehabilitation and reintegration framework. Such an approach enables former prisoners to regain social respect and recognition, reintegrate into the broader social structure, adapt to life with renewed prospects after release, and reduce the likelihood of returning to prison. This article explores Algeria's practical experience in reforming prison administration, promoting the social reintegration of inmates, and enhancing rehabilitation programmes.

Against this background, the central research question of the study may be formulated as follows:

What strategic policy has the Ministry of Justice adopted to reform the prison sector and promote the social reintegration and rehabilitation of inmates through its various programmes and policy frameworks in Algeria?

To address this question, the study employs a descriptive-analytical approach. It provides an analytical description of the fundamental pillars of prison sector reform and inmate rehabilitation as implemented in practice, while also examining relevant data, statistics, and practical examples of programmes developed in Algeria to facilitate prisoner rehabilitation and social reintegration. The study is organised according to the following structure:

1. Reforms in the Prison Sector to Support Prisoner Rehabilitation

The penal system has undergone a significant transformation through a series of reforms affecting the legislative framework governing the implementation of penal policy. These reforms have strengthened prisoners' rights, promoted the humanisation of detention conditions, embodied the fundamental principles of social reintegration policies for inmates, improved the functioning of correctional institutions in accordance with international standards, enhanced institutional security, and upgraded human resources within the prison sector (Ministry of Justice of Algeria, 2024).

1.1. Definition of the Concepts Related to the Study

Before examining the reforms undertaken by the State in the prison sector, it is necessary to define the key concepts relevant to the subject of this article.

1.1.1. Prison Administration and Related Concepts Definition of Prisons

Prisons are institutions specifically designed to accommodate individuals sentenced to custodial penalties involving the restriction or deprivation of liberty. In this respect, they are similar to other forms of custodial punishment, such as imprisonment with hard labour and detention. Persons sentenced to such penalties are deprived of the freedom to leave the institution or to pursue a normal life in an unrestricted environment, and their activities are subject to various limitations. Prisons are often associated with different terms and designations, including correctional centres, reform institutions, rehabilitation centres, re-education establishments, and similar institutions dedicated to correction and rehabilitation (Mansour, 1989, p. 163).

1.1.2. Definition of a Prisoner or Inmate

A prisoner or inmate is any person against whom an enforceable judicial sentence involving imprisonment has been issued. Accordingly, an individual who has not yet received a final and enforceable custodial sentence is not legally considered a prisoner, even if he or she has been placed in detention.

1.1.3. Definition of Inmate Rehabilitation

Inmate rehabilitation refers to the process of developing the prisoner's personality by enhancing cognitive abilities, strengthening self-confidence, and instilling social and moral values, with the aim of bringing about positive behavioural and personal change. Rehabilitation encompasses several dimensions, including social, psychological, health-related, vocational, and educational aspects (Boukhalfa, 2012, p. 64). It enables inmates to achieve social adjustment by identifying criminogenic factors and levels of criminal risk

associated with the offender, addressing these factors through treatment, rehabilitation, and ultimately reform (Aqil, Barqawi, & Ismail, 2012, p. 57).

1.1.4. Definition of Prisoner Reintegration Definition of Reintegration

Reintegration refers to the process through which a former prisoner is able to live safely and securely within society, regardless of location, while maintaining a sense of self-worth and belonging as a valued member of his or her family and community. Reintegration seeks to prevent feelings of isolation and social alienation (Belmiloud & Belarabi, 2016, p. 108). To this end, various social reintegration programmes are developed to facilitate the transition of inmates from the status of offenders to active and productive members of their families and society.

1.2. Forms of Integration

1.2.1. Integration from the Perspective of Social Psychology

From the perspective of social psychology, integration involves viewing the individual as an indivisible psycho-physical entity whose psychological and physical dimensions function as a unified whole.

1.2.2. Physiological Integration

Physiological integration refers to organic coordination, whereby the activities of various organs work harmoniously together to perform specific functions.

1.2.3. Psychological Integration

In social psychology, psychological integration refers to the attractions, interactions, and affinities existing among members of a particular group. Through these interactions, the group appears as a coherent psycho-physical unit characterised by harmony and cohesion.

1.2.4. Social Integration

Social integration occurs when members of a group complement one another through the functions and roles they perform for the collective benefit of the group, much like the coordinated functioning of the organs of a healthy body.

1.2.5. Definition of Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation is the process of readjusting or preparing an individual for life by restoring or enhancing the capacities necessary for effective functioning. When an individual's impairment is primarily medical in nature, rehabilitation takes the form of medical rehabilitation aimed at restoring, to the greatest extent possible, physical abilities, such as in cases involving limb amputation (Beshar, n.d, p. 12). Where the individual requires psychological adjustment, psychological rehabilitation becomes necessary. In such cases, treatment is typically provided by a psychologist in cooperation with a social worker or rehabilitation specialist, as part of a comprehensive rehabilitative approach (Belmiloud & Belarabi, 2016, p. 108).

1.3. Improving Conditions of Detention and Strengthening Prisoners' Rights

Efforts to improve detention conditions and strengthen the rights of prisoners have been implemented through a range of measures and initiatives, as outlined below.

1.3.1 Improving Conditions for Prisoners

In order to improve living conditions within correctional institutions, prison authorities have adopted numerous measures aimed at providing inmates with an environment conducive to rehabilitation and well-being. These measures include (Ministry of Justice of Algeria, 2024):

- **The commissioning of fifty-nine (59) new and modern correctional institutions**, designed in accordance with contemporary international standards.
- **The expansion of the categories of persons authorised to visit inmates**, extending visitation rights to relatives up to the fourth degree of kinship among ascendants and descendants, and to relatives by marriage up to the third degree, thereby strengthening prisoners' ties with their families and the wider community.
- **The reorganisation of disciplinary measures imposed on prisoners**, ensuring that sanctions correspond to the seriousness of the offences committed, while guaranteeing the right to appeal and upholding the principle of proportionality between the disciplinary measure and the gravity of the misconduct.
- **The enhancement of services enabling inmates to access radio and television programmes, newspapers, and magazines**, together with the promotion of recreational and sporting activities aimed at encouraging the constructive use of leisure time.
- **The implementation of appropriate plans to manage the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases within correctional institutions**. This forms an essential component of the State's commitment to safeguarding the health of incarcerated persons. Various legal mechanisms have been utilised to facilitate the implementation of preventive measures designed to limit the spread of disease in enclosed environments and to protect the health of inmates, staff, visitors, and other individuals interacting with correctional institutions.
- **The launch of awareness campaigns among inmates concerning vaccination**, with priority given to elderly prisoners and those suffering from chronic illnesses, subject to their consent and willingness to be vaccinated.
- **The introduction of remote court proceedings through the use of modern technological means**, thereby reducing the need for frequent transfers and movements of detainees.
- **The provision of informational brochures, posters, and digital displays in visitors' waiting areas**, informing families of inmates about visitation procedures, applicable regulations, and the rights associated with visits and communication with prisoners.
- **The improvement of facilities for receiving visitors**, including the refurbishment of visiting rooms and the enhancement of related services, with the aim of facilitating family visits under conditions that preserve human dignity. These measures seek to restore family cohesion and maintain inmates' family and social ties, thereby facilitating their reintegration into society upon release.

1.3.2. Strengthening Prisoners' Rights

Upon admission to a correctional institution, inmates acquire a range of rights whose implementation is overseen by the General Directorate of Prison Administration. These rights may be summarised as follows:

1.3.2.1 Right to Adequate Nutrition

The prison dietary system consists of three meals per day. Additional food rations may be provided to inmates engaged in strenuous work, as well as to prisoners whose medical condition requires enhanced nutrition, a specialised diet, or specific dietary restrictions as prescribed by the institution's physician. Particular attention is given to prisoners with chronic illnesses, juveniles, pregnant women, and nursing mothers. Female inmates are entitled to keep their newborn children with them in the correctional institution until the child reaches twenty-four months of age (Mhadid, 2012, p. 131).

1.3.2.2. Right to Health Care

The relationship between health care and rehabilitation is based on scientific findings indicating a correlation between illness and criminal behaviour. Poor physical health is often associated with impaired judgement and behavioural disorders, which may contribute to unlawful conduct. Consequently, the provision of health care constitutes an essential component of inmate rehabilitation (Najib, 1973, p. 409).

1.3.2.3. Right to Visits

The Algerian legislature has recognised visitation as an important right for prisoners, enabling them to maintain relationships with their social and family environment. Such visits contribute to the rehabilitation process by supporting inmates' emotional well-being, strengthening their social capacities, and encouraging the development of socially acceptable patterns of behaviour, all of which facilitate successful reintegration into society (Ben Ammar & Ben Ennoui, 2020, p. 64).

1.3.2.4. Right to Financial Assistance

The weekly spending allowance available to prisoners has been increased to 4,500 Algerian dinars, taking into account rising living costs and inmates' purchasing needs within prison canteens. Furthermore, indigent prisoners may benefit from social and financial assistance upon release. Such assistance may include the provision of suitable clothing and a financial allowance intended to cover transportation expenses to their families or places of residence.

1.3.2.5. Right to Correspondence, Communication, and the Submission of Complaints

Every inmate has the right to send and receive correspondence unless this right has been suspended as part of a disciplinary sanction. Correspondence is generally subject to monitoring, except for communications exchanged between the prisoner and his or her legal counsel or judicial authorities (Mhadid, 2012, p. 132).

1.3.2.6. Right to Receive Parcels and Valuables

Prisoners may receive food parcels from close family members, provided that the weight of each parcel does not exceed five kilograms. During the month of Ramadan, inmates may receive daily parcels, each with a maximum weight of three kilograms. All

parcels are opened and inspected by authorised staff in the presence of the inmate concerned (Mhadid, 2012, p. 132).

1.3.2.7. Religious Assistance

Inmates have the right to practise their religious beliefs and enjoy freedom of religion. They may receive visits from religious representatives, provided that such activities do not compromise institutional security or internal order. Prisoners may also make use of religious texts available in prison libraries and are entitled to participate in Friday prayers and religious celebrations associated with Islamic festivals.

1.3.2.8. Right to Family Conjugal Visits

In recognition of humanitarian and social considerations, and as a means of preventing deviant behaviour and sexual misconduct within correctional institutions, eligible inmates may submit requests for family conjugal visits with their spouses. Algeria introduced a system of conjugal visits even before the enactment of Law No. 05-04 (Mhadid, 2012, p. 148).

1.3.2.9. Care for Juvenile and Elderly Prisoners

Special attention is devoted to juvenile detainees through educational and training programmes designed to prepare them for successful social reintegration. The Algerian Muslim Scouts contributes to the reintegration of juvenile inmates in specialised centres and prison wings by organising a variety of annual activities, including summer camps and educational programmes tailored to this category of prisoners.

1.3.2.10. Care for Pregnant Women

Pregnant inmates have specific health-care needs and are entitled to adequate prenatal and postnatal care. Such care must be provided either within correctional institutions by qualified personnel or, where necessary, in appropriate hospital facilities (Bousahia, 2016, pp. 48-49).

2. Penal Classification and Its Role in the Rehabilitation of Prisoners

Penal classification of prison inmates constitutes a preliminary mechanism for their rehabilitation and reform. Contemporary penal policy is founded upon the principle of individualising penal treatment, which requires a thorough assessment of the inmate's personality, the seriousness of the offence committed, and other relevant factors. Such an assessment facilitates the development of appropriate correctional programmes and treatment plans in accordance with international standards for the protection of prisoners' rights. Penal classification is therefore no longer merely an organisational tool within correctional institutions; rather, it serves as a rehabilitative instrument aimed at reforming inmates, reducing criminogenic factors, and transforming them into law-abiding and socially responsible citizens capable of leading productive lives both within and outside prison (Qaddache, 2023, p. 145). It also seeks to prevent first-time offenders from being negatively influenced by habitual criminals (Bourni, 2012, p. 91).

2.1. Definition of Penal Classification

Penal classification refers to the placement of a convicted offender in the correctional institution most suitable for his or her rehabilitation and reform. Classification may be (Guittoni, 2016, p. 140):

- **vertical classification:** whereby inmates are distributed according to objective classification criteria, taking into account personal circumstances, personality traits, the nature of the offence, and the sentence imposed.
- **horizontal classification:** whereby inmates are allocated among different correctional institutions according to the specific functions, specialisations, and categories of prisoners accommodated within each institution.

2.2. Definition of Penal Assessment

Penal assessment is the stage that precedes penal classification. It consists of a comprehensive study of the offender's personality and criminogenic characteristics in order to ensure that the execution of the criminal sanction achieves its intended objectives. The assessment relevant to this context is conducted after the sentence has become enforceable. It is carried out by a multidisciplinary team of specialists, each examining a particular aspect of the inmate's personality. Its principal purpose is to facilitate the individualisation of penal treatment by determining the most appropriate method for implementing the sentence.

2.3. Components of Penal Assessment

Penal assessment focuses on the aspects of an offender's personality that may have contributed to the commission of the crime. By its nature, it is a specialised professional activity conducted by experts, although administrative staff within correctional institutions also contribute through continuous observation of inmates' behaviour (Boufateh, p. 82).

2.3.1. Biological Assessment

Biological assessment involves subjecting the inmate to a general medical examination and any additional medical tests required by his or her condition. The purpose is to identify illnesses or health conditions requiring treatment, including contagious diseases. In some cases, it may be necessary to transfer the inmate to a specialised medical correctional facility. Biological assessment also plays a significant role in designing an appropriate treatment and rehabilitation programme.

2.3.2. Mental Assessment

Mental assessment seeks to determine the inmate's intellectual, neurological, and psychiatric condition in order to ensure compatibility between the offender's mental state and the correctional treatment to which he or she will be subjected. In certain cases, inmates may require placement in specialised institutions providing care for individuals with mental or behavioural disorders. Mental assessment helps predict potential behavioural patterns during the execution of correctional programmes, thereby enabling authorities to respond appropriately. This form of assessment is particularly important for offenders convicted of sexual offences and for individuals suspected of suffering from psychiatric or neurological disorders, as such cases often require specialised treatment and supervision (Boufateh, p. 82).

2.3.3. Psychological Assessment

Psychological assessment consists of a detailed psychological evaluation conducted by qualified psychologists. It includes measuring intelligence, memory, and cognitive functioning, and may involve psychoanalytic methods and psychological

testing. The objective is to identify any psychological disorders or emotional difficulties affecting the inmate.

2.3.4. Social Assessment

Social assessment focuses on examining the inmate's social environment, particularly family relationships, workplace interactions, and social networks. It aims to identify social factors that may have contributed to criminal behaviour and to provide a basis for promoting psychological and social stability during imprisonment, while preparing the inmate for successful rehabilitation and reintegration.

2.3.5. Behavioural Observation Assessment

Behavioural observation assessment involves monitoring the conduct of inmates during their period of incarceration. This task is generally performed by correctional staff through direct interaction with prisoners, discussions with them, and observation of their behaviour. Information may also be obtained from individuals who maintain contact with the inmate. This type of assessment complements the previous forms of evaluation and provides additional insights that contribute to the development of appropriate correctional treatment programmes (Boufateh, p. 84).

2.4. Objectives of Penal Classification

The adoption of penal classification within correctional institutions serves several objectives that are fundamentally linked to the protection of human rights in general and prisoners' rights in particular. More specifically, it aims to facilitate inmate rehabilitation, reform, social inclusion, and successful reintegration into society.

2.4.1. Making Prisons Safer Environments

The categorisation of inmates within correctional institutions contributes to the maintenance of internal security and assists prison personnel in adopting appropriate approaches to inmate management. The security benefits of classification extend beyond institutional safety to encompass the protection of prisoners' physical, cultural, educational, and social well-being, in accordance with the broader concept of human security within correctional settings (Aouachria & et al, 2017, p. 119).

2.4.2. Protecting Prisoners' Rights

International human rights law contains numerous provisions prohibiting cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment during the execution of criminal sentences. It also establishes safeguards designed to protect prisoners' dignity, fundamental rights, and personal freedoms, ensuring that they are treated humanely throughout their period of incarceration (Hussam, 2010, p. 34).

2.4.3. Facilitating the Implementation of Rehabilitation and Reform Programmes

For correctional institutions to fulfil their rehabilitative function, sentences must be implemented through programmes tailored to the biological, psychological, and social characteristics of each inmate. Classification enables prisoners with similar profiles and needs to be grouped together, thereby allowing prison authorities to design and implement specialised correctional treatment programmes appropriate to each category (Aouachria & et al, 2017, p. 67).

2.4.4. Scientific Criteria for Penal Classification

International conventions and standards concerning the treatment of prisoners establish several criteria for inmate classification in order to facilitate the implementation of rehabilitation and reintegration programmes.

2.4.4.1. Criteria Related to the Offender

Inmates are classified according to several personal characteristics:

- **Age:** Juveniles must be separated from adults, and younger adults should be distinguished from elderly prisoners. Each age group possesses distinct biological and psychological characteristics and responds differently to rehabilitation and reintegration programmes (Qaddache, 2023, p. 148).
- **Sex:** Male and female prisoners must be housed separately, with dedicated facilities or wings for female inmates. Staff assigned to women's sections are generally female in order to avoid inappropriate contact and ensure privacy and security (Qaddache, 2023, p. 148).
- **Legal Status:** This criterion requires the separation of repeat offenders from first-time offenders, as the latter are generally considered more receptive to rehabilitation and reform. It also requires the separation of convicted prisoners from pre-trial detainees, since the latter continue to benefit from the presumption of innocence and the rights associated with that status (Khouri, 2010, p. 297).
- **Health Status:** Prisoners suffering from illnesses must be separated from healthy inmates to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Similarly, inmates undergoing specialised treatment programmes, such as those relating to substance dependence or mental and psychological disorders, should be accommodated separately (Khouri, 2010, p. 297).

2.4.4.2. Criteria Related to the Sentence Imposed

Prisoners serving sufficiently long sentences are generally the primary beneficiaries of rehabilitation and reform programmes, as the duration of their incarceration allows adequate time for the implementation of such programmes. In contrast, inmates serving short sentences may have limited opportunities to benefit fully from comprehensive rehabilitation measures.

2.4.4.3. Criteria Related to the Nature of the Offence

Certain categories of offenders are classified and separated from other inmates in order to prevent the transmission of criminal skills and the reinforcement of criminal subcultures within correctional institutions. This may include offenders convicted of terrorism-related crimes or drug offences (Qaddache, 2023, p. 149). In other cases, classification serves administrative and security purposes, particularly when determining transfers between institutions. Such measures take into account the degree of criminal risk posed by inmates and are intended to protect prisoners, ensure institutional security, and reduce the risk of escape.

3. Strengthening Re-education and Social Reintegration Programmes for Prisoners

The revision of the Prison Organisation Law was undertaken with the objective of establishing a new penal policy consistent with international standards governing prison management and the treatment of prisoners. This policy is based on the promotion and protection of human rights and seeks to direct prisoner rehabilitation programmes towards developing inmates' intellectual and cognitive capacities, strengthening their sense of responsibility, and fostering their willingness to live within society while respecting the rule of law (Article 88 of the Law on Prison Organisation and the Social Reintegration of Prisoners).

3.1. Education and Training for Prisoners

Education plays a crucial role within the penal system, as it contributes to eliminating many of the factors associated with criminal behaviour among inmates. By doing so, it reduces the likelihood of recidivism and weakens the inmate's inclination to return to criminal activities after release. Education also fulfils an important corrective and moral function in the rehabilitation process. Numerous studies in modern criminology have demonstrated that illiteracy constitutes a significant contributing factor to delinquency and criminal behaviour (Othmania, 2012, p. 194). Consequently, prison administrations employ various educational methods, including lectures, seminars, the distribution of newspapers, magazines, and books, as well as opportunities for inmates to continue their formal education within correctional institutions.

Education may be defined as the process of providing inmates with new and meaningful knowledge. There is little doubt that education exerts a substantial influence on prisoner rehabilitation. Contemporary studies indicate that illiterate inmates constitute a significant proportion of the prison population, while illiteracy itself is regarded as one of the factors contributing to criminal conduct. Education is therefore considered an effective means of addressing one of the principal causes of criminality—namely, ignorance (Mhadid, 2012, p. 140).

Article 94 of the Law on Prison Organisation emphasises the importance of education and training as integral components of prisoner rehabilitation and reform. It stipulates that inmates should be provided with programmes in general education, technical education, vocational training, apprenticeship schemes, and physical education in accordance with officially approved curricula and supported by the necessary resources and facilities.

In 2016, more than 32,000 inmates sat for educational proficiency examinations within correctional institutions, compared with approximately 31,000 inmates registered during the preceding year. This increase may be attributed to the sustained efforts of the competent authorities to ensure the success of rehabilitation policies directed towards prisoners in Algeria (Sadrati, 2018, p. 198).

Educational programmes within correctional institutions play a significant role in inmate development through literacy programmes, remedial education, continuing general education, and access to higher education. Authorities responsible for these programmes endeavour to provide qualified teachers capable of delivering knowledge effectively, while equipping educational facilities with the resources and infrastructure necessary to support learning. The same principle applies to vocational training, which

plays a particularly important role in enabling inmates to acquire practical skills and professions that may facilitate gainful employment following release. Statistical indicators relating to prison reform and inmate rehabilitation demonstrate the scale of efforts undertaken to promote educational and rehabilitative activities within Algerian correctional institutions.

3.2. Rehabilitation, Reintegration, and Education of Juvenile Offenders

Juvenile offenders are defined as convicted individuals who have not yet reached the age of criminal majority, namely eighteen years of age. The Algerian State has devoted considerable attention to the rehabilitation of juvenile offenders, treating them primarily as individuals in need of care and guidance rather than as criminals deserving punishment. Consequently, emphasis is placed on ensuring adequate health care, psychological support, and social assistance, while addressing the factors that contributed to delinquent behaviour and fostering values such as cooperation, empathy, and emotional stability.

The underlying assumption is that children are naturally inclined towards innocence and moral integrity, and that juvenile delinquency generally results from adverse influences originating either within the family environment or in the broader social context (Sadrati, 2018, pp. 141-142).

Statistical evidence has shown that family instability, particularly divorce, can contribute to juvenile delinquency. Accordingly, increased attention has been devoted to this category through educational, social, and rehabilitative programmes. Juvenile inmates benefit from balanced and nutritionally adequate meals that support their physical and cognitive development, as well as appropriate clothing and continuous medical, psychological, and health care services.

With regard to specialised facilities for juvenile offenders, Algeria currently operates two dedicated centres for the care of incarcerated juveniles: the Juvenile Rehabilitation and Reintegration Centre in Gdyl (Oran Province) and the Juvenile Rehabilitation and Reintegration Centre in Sétif Province. Additional centres for juvenile detainees have been planned in Saïda, Biskra, and Boumerdès. Furthermore, there are 63 juvenile wings within correctional institutions that accommodate juvenile offenders. At the judicial level, 191 juvenile judges are serving throughout the national territory (Mhadid, 2012, p. 142).

3.3. Educational Activity Programmes

The role of correctional institutions extends beyond providing psychological, social, and educational support and encouraging inmates to acquire practical skills, trades, and artistic abilities. These institutions also seek to improve prisoners' educational attainment and intellectual capacities through structured educational programmes.

Educational activity may be understood as the process of imparting new knowledge to individuals or groups. Within correctional institutions, education constitutes one of the principal components of rehabilitation policy due to its numerous benefits. Ignorance is widely recognised as a contributing factor to criminal behaviour; therefore, educating inmates helps eliminate this factor, broadens their horizons, develops their intellectual capacities, and promotes rational decision-making and sound judgement. Education also strengthens moral values and ethical principles, enhances awareness of

rights and obligations within society, and improves employment prospects after release (Daham, 2004, p. 29).

3.4. Vocational Rehabilitation Programmes

The educational programmes implemented within correctional institutions are not confined to general education but also encompass technical and vocational education. These programmes aim to provide inmates with professional skills where such qualifications are lacking, while taking into consideration their interests, aptitudes, and abilities (Sadrati, 2018, p. 199).

The Committee for the Application of Sentences is responsible for organising vocational training programmes according to the needs and resources of each institution, in coordination with vocational training services affiliated with the relevant government ministries. To facilitate this process, branches of vocational training centres may be established within correctional institutions. Vocational training may cover industrial, commercial, agricultural, or artisanal activities.

With regard to professional qualification, Article 95 of Law No. 05-04 regulates the methods and locations of vocational training for prisoners. It provides that vocational training may take place within correctional institutions, in prison workshops, in external workshops, or in vocational training centres. Such training should correspond to realistic employment opportunities available to inmates following their release, thereby enhancing their prospects for successful social and economic reintegration (Ben Ammar & Ben Ennoui, 2020, p. 67).

3.4.1. Measures Adopted to Ensure Effective Rehabilitation and Social Reintegration of Prisoners in Algeria:

In order to ensure that rehabilitation programmes achieve their intended objectives, Algerian legislation has established a number of measures designed to maximise the effectiveness of inmate rehabilitation and facilitate their reintegration into society as responsible and law-abiding individuals. These measures may be summarised as follows (Cherik, 2011, p. 145):

3.4.1.1. Internal Dimension:

The internal dimension of prisoner rehabilitation and reintegration includes the following measures:

- Adopting incentive-based measures and procedures to encourage inmates to read, participate in examinations, and enrol in vocational training programmes;
- Equipping correctional institutions with additional vocational training workshops;
- Continuously increasing the number of positions allocated to specialists in education, vocational training, physical education, and psychology until the staffing needs of correctional institutions are fully met;
- Enhancing prison libraries through the provision of audio-visual resources for educational and cultural purposes;
- Establishing twelve open-environment correctional institutions during the period from 2005 to 2009;

- Creating external workshops dedicated to agricultural land development, while seeking to benefit from state incentives relating to land ownership and agricultural investment;
- Establishing external services affiliated with the prison administration to monitor released prisoners and individuals placed under semi-liberty and parole systems.

3.4.1.2. External Dimension:

The external dimension consists of mobilising all sectors associated with social reintegration and crime prevention to contribute to reducing recidivism. This is achieved by strengthening cooperation with public sectors concerned with education, vocational training, sports, health, religious affairs, social services, and national solidarity.

A. Social Care for Inmates:

Social services within the Algerian prison administration constitute one of the fundamental pillars of inmate care in correctional institutions. The role of the social worker is of particular importance, beginning with the reception of the convicted individual and the assessment of his or her social circumstances, continuing through periodic counselling sessions and follow-up during incarceration, and extending until release.

This has necessitated the establishment of specialised social service units, as provided by law, to facilitate and manage prisoners' social reintegration. The presence of qualified social workers is considered essential in light of the social and psychological challenges faced by inmates, enabling them to adapt more effectively to their new circumstances and prepare for reintegration into society.

B. Psychological Care for Inmates:

Psychological care refers to the provision of specialised psychological services within correctional institutions. Since criminal acts and deviant behaviour are often associated with psychological factors, Algerian legislation requires the presence of qualified psychologists within prisons (Cherik, 2011, p. 150).

Article 91 of the Law on Prison Organisation and Social Reintegration of Prisoners provides that:

“Psychologists and educational specialists working in correctional institutions shall be responsible for identifying the inmate's personality traits, enhancing his general level of education, assisting him in resolving personal and family problems, and organising his cultural, educational, and sporting activities”.

This provision reflects the importance attributed to psychological support as a component of rehabilitation and social reintegration.

C. Visits and Personal Interviews:

One of the measures authorised by Algerian law to support prisoner rehabilitation is the right to maintain and strengthen relationships with both the social and family environment. Under the current legal framework, prisoners are entitled to receive visits from ascendants and descendants up to the fourth degree of kinship, their spouses, individuals under their legal care, and relatives by marriage up to the third degree (Cherik, 2011, p. 150).

Exceptionally, authorisation may also be granted for visits by other individuals or by humanitarian and charitable organisations where such visits are deemed beneficial to the prisoner's social reintegration.

To ensure that prisoners remain informed about and connected to the outside world, the legislator has granted the judge responsible for the execution of sentences the authority to issue visitation permits to guardians managing the inmate's affairs or property, legal representatives, lawyers, and certain public officials.

Prisoners are generally permitted to converse with visitors without physical barriers separating them. This measure aims to strengthen family relationships and facilitate both social and educational reintegration, particularly when visits concern the inmate's health or personal circumstances. Algerian law therefore guarantees incarcerated persons the right to meet visitors, especially family members, to remain informed about developments affecting their families, exchange opinions and advice, and maintain meaningful participation in everyday life. Such encounters serve as an important bridge between prison life and the outside world, helping to alleviate feelings of isolation and separation from freedom.

D. Remote Communication and Telephone Contact:

Pursuant to Article 72 of the Law on Prison Organisation and Social Reintegration of Prisoners, inmates are authorised to engage in remote communication through means made available by correctional institutions.

To regulate the implementation of this provision, Executive Decree No. 05-430 was adopted, specifying the means of remote communication and the conditions governing their use by prisoners. The decree identifies the telephone as the principal means of remote communication.

Subject to written authorisation, the director of a correctional institution may permit convicted prisoners and inmates whose cases are pending before the Court of Cassation to make telephone calls to the persons specified under the relevant legal provisions. In granting such authorisation, the director must take into account several considerations, including (Sadrati, 2018, p. 204):

- the absence or infrequency of family visits;
- the geographical distance between the inmate and his or her family;
- the length of the sentence; The inmate's conduct within the institution;
- the occurrence of a serious incident affecting the inmate or family;
- the seriousness of the offence committed;
- the inmate's previous criminal record;
- the inmate's psychological and physical condition.

E. Correspondence

Algerian legislation grants inmates the right to correspond with relatives and other individuals, subject to certain conditions:

- the correspondence must not jeopardise institutional security or public order within the correctional facility, nor hinder the inmate's rehabilitation and social reintegration;
- correspondence is subject to supervision by the director of the correctional institution.

However, correspondence exchanged between inmates and their lawyers is exempt from such supervision. Prison authorities are not permitted to examine the content of these communications under any circumstances, provided that the correspondence clearly appears to originate from or be addressed to a legal

representative. The same protection applies to correspondence exchanged between inmates and judicial, administrative, or national authorities (Sadrati, 2018, p. 205).

3.5. Sporting, Cultural, Educational and Scientific Activities

The General Directorate of Prison Administration places particular emphasis on diversifying educational, cultural, and sporting activities for inmates by providing various material resources, including recreational and sports equipment. In addition, it ensures the availability of qualified human resources, such as personnel from educational cadres, senior sports technicians, and specialised youth educators. The practice of physical education is also recognised under Article 94 of the Law on Prison Organisation, which authorises the administration of correctional institutions to organise physical education activities in accordance with officially approved programmes, while ensuring the provision of the necessary means and resources.

3.5.1. Sporting Activities

The Algerian legislator has acknowledged the importance of sporting activities and considers them an effective means of inmate rehabilitation. Accordingly, prisoners are encouraged to engage in sports activities under the supervision of qualified specialists, in accordance with Article 91 of Law No. 05-04, which assigns psychologists and educators the responsibility of organising cultural and sporting programmes for inmates.

In this context, the Ministry of Justice has concluded several agreements aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of such programmes, including an agreement signed between the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Youth and Sports on 3 March 1989 (Griz & Haddad, 2024, p. 42).

3.5.2. Recreational Activities

The provision of audio and audio-visual programmes is considered one of the most important tools used in modern penal policy to influence inmate behaviour and improve conduct, given its capacity to deliver messages in an accessible and engaging format. Article 92 of Law No. 05-04 obliges correctional institutions, under supervision and control, to enable inmates to access targeted audio and audio-visual programmes aimed at rehabilitation, following consultation with the Sentence Implementation Committee or the Juvenile Rehabilitation Committee, depending on each case (Griz & Haddad, 2024, p. 43).

3.5.2.1. Cultural and Educational

Cultural and educational activities comprise a set of programmes designed to enhance inmates' cultural awareness while also providing psychological relief from the pressures of incarceration. These activities are an essential component of prisoner rehabilitation, facilitating adaptation to social life after release.

3.5.2.2. Musical Activities

The prison administration works to develop inmates' talents in the field of music by providing musical instruments and specialised instruction delivered by qualified teachers. Inmates are trained to use various musical instruments and may form musical groups. These activities are implemented in approximately 65 correctional institutions.

3.5.2.3. Artistic Activities

The prison administration encourages inmates who wish to participate in artistic activities such as theatre, poetry, and painting. Competitions are also organised to commemorate various international, national, and religious events. These activities are available across all correctional institutions.

3.5.2.4. Religious Activities

Religious programmes constitute an essential component of psychological, social, and moral rehabilitation. These programmes are supervised by religious affairs personnel who provide sermons, guidance sessions, lectures, religious courses, Qur'anic memorisation competitions, and activities related to Islamic culture. They also include faith-based, recreational, psychological, and social development programmes. The objective of these activities is to strengthen inmates' self-confidence, support their moral reform, and assist them in overcoming the challenges of imprisonment (Cherik, 2011, p. 299).

3.5.2.5. Religious Supervision

A total of 517 religious supervisors appointed by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Endowments operate across 147 correctional institutions, distributed as follows:

- 271 Imams
- 177 Qur'an teachers
- 69 female religious counsellors

In addition, Qur'an and Hadith memorisation classes have been established in 134 correctional institutions, with approximately 7,705 inmates enrolled in Qur'anic memorisation programmes.

3.5.2.6. Libraries, Periodicals, and Scientific Research:

Libraries represent one of the most important educational tools within correctional institutions. They provide instructors with academic resources and encourage inmates to engage in daily reading, thereby helping to reduce boredom and negative psychological states. Reading is considered a fundamental means of acquiring knowledge and intellectual development, serving as a constant companion for inmates.

Prison libraries must be equipped with a wide range of books, including religious, ethical, cultural, legal, and penal materials, in addition to journals, publications, newspapers, and magazines. These resources play a crucial role in fostering intellectual development and supporting the educational and rehabilitative objectives of correctional institutions (Aïchaoui & Farah, 2020, p. 98).

4. Employment of Prisoners Outside Correctional Institutions

The State, represented by the prison administration, is committed to making every possible effort to rehabilitate inmates through constructive work. In return for their productive labour and services within correctional institutions, inmates are provided with opportunities for external employment. Work is not conceived as a criminal sanction in itself; rather, it is regarded as a means of rehabilitation and reintegration. Indeed, remuneration for work enables inmates to recognise the value of labour and strengthens their self-confidence (Isalmeh, 2021, p. 1350).

The number of prisoners benefiting from employment in open-environment institutions, agricultural workshops, and external work sites increased significantly, rising from 674 inmates in 2005 to 29,429 inmates by 2022.

4.1. Open-Environment Institutions

Open-environment institutions are located within agricultural zones and are dedicated to the employment of inmates in agricultural work, as well as their vocational training. These institutions include, among others:

- Masraghin (Oran)
- Medjebara (Djelfa)
- El-Bayadh (Aïn Sefra)
- Tilialen (Adrar)
- Laghouat
- Oum El Bouaghi
- Boukaâben (Tazoult)
- Matarfa and Ouled Mansour (M'sila)
- Slattana and Sidi Abdelmoumen (Mascara)
- El Ouataya (Biskra)

4.2. Agricultural Workshops

Agricultural workshops are located adjacent to several correctional institutions, including those in Berrouaghia, Biskra, Bab El Oued, Annaba, Mostaganem, Tazoult, Ksar Chellala, El Bouni, Jijel, Tajnant, Aïn M'lila, Relizane, Hassi Ben Abdallah (Ouargla), Ben Souana, and Sidi Laâroussi (Chlef). In these workshops, inmates are engaged in various agricultural activities such as planting, irrigation, plant treatment, beekeeping, poultry farming, and fish farming.

4.3. External Workshops

Law No. 05-04 on Prison Organisation and the Social Reintegration of Prisoners defines external work in Article 100 as the engagement of convicted prisoners in work teams operating outside correctional institutions under the supervision of prison administration staff, on behalf of public bodies and institutions.

Work in these workshops is carried out under conditions that are relatively similar to those of ordinary employment. One example is the open-environment institution located in El Bayadh municipality (Naâma Province), situated approximately 60 kilometres from the provincial capital. Established in 1986, it was closed in 1994 due to the security situation at the time, before being reopened in July 2003. The facility covers an area of approximately 18 hectares, of which 11 hectares are cultivated with olive trees. It includes three accommodation halls with a capacity of 120 inmates. The institution has also benefited from agricultural support projects, including the construction of two water reservoirs, the restoration of two wells, and their equipping with electric water pumps (Mhadid, 2012, p. 144).

External workshops are established upon request from the employing entity under a framework agreement with the National Office of Educational and Apprenticeship Works, allowing the use of prison labour in maintenance, cleaning, green space management, afforestation, environmental upkeep, and cemetery maintenance. During the period 2015–2016, such workshops included those of the National Railway Transport Company, the dairy company in El Bouni (Annaba), the National Office of Educational

Works (Rehabilitation Centre of El Harrach), the municipalities of Tazoult and Aïn Aris, the railway transport institution in Annaba, the Council of the Judiciary of Algiers, the construction enterprise “El Hammamat”, the construction company in Berrouaghia, the inter-enterprise company in Aïn Aris, and a company in Adrar.

Overall, 7,976 inmates were employed between 2003 and August 2017.

4.3.1. Organisation of Prison Labour

Prison labour is organised according to different operational systems (Madani, 2023, p. 202):

4.3.2. Contracting System

Under this system, the prison administration contracts a private-sector operator to manage inmate labour. The contractor is responsible for providing machinery and raw materials, organising production, and marketing the output. Inmates receive wages paid directly by the contractor, who alone bears the financial risks. However, this system is criticised as it may conflict with Rule 37 of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, which prohibits the exploitation of prison labour under harsh conditions for profit.

4.3.3. Supply System

Under this system, the prison administration exercises full supervision over inmates, while the employer provides tools and raw materials and receives the final product. The correctional institution receives financial compensation in return for this arrangement.

4.3.4. Direct Exploitation System

Under this model, the correctional institution itself purchases equipment and raw materials and assigns work to inmates. It may also appoint technicians, trainers, and supervisors to oversee implementation. The institution is responsible for marketing and selling the products in local markets and bears any resulting financial losses (Madani, 2023, p. 202).

4.3.5. Workshops of the National Office for Educational Works and Apprenticeship

4.3.5.1. Legal Framework of the Office

The National Office for Educational Works and Apprenticeship was established as a public institution with legal personality and financial autonomy pursuant to Executive Decree No. 13-259 of 7 July 2013, which defines the missions, organisation, and functioning of the public institution responsible for managing prison labour and its organisation.

4.3.5.2. Functions of the Office

The Office is responsible, in particular, for (DGPPA, 2024):

- Implementing all works and services performed through prison labour within the framework of a reintegration policy based on training and employment, even when provided free of charge or with a financial allowance paid to inmates. This remuneration is calculated at 20% for unqualified inmate workers and 60% for qualified inmate workers

of the guaranteed minimum wage in the public sector. The works are carried out on behalf of State services, public institutions, and projects of public utility.

- Establishing workshops and marketing industrial and traditional craft products produced by prison labour.
- Exploiting agricultural land belonging to the prison sector in open-environment institutions and agricultural workshops adjacent to correctional facilities, and selling their output. Providing services to legal entities, public institutions, and public-interest projects.
- Carrying out all operations related to movable and immovable property, as well as financial, industrial, and commercial transactions connected to its activities.
- Concluding contractual agreements for the execution of works, without prejudice to the conditions governing the use of prison labour set out in the Joint Ministerial Order of 15 Ramadan 1403 (26 June 1983), which regulates the use of prison labour by the National Office for Educational Works and Apprenticeship.

4.3.5.3. Workshops of the Office

The Office operates seven (7) workshops at its headquarters, in addition to workshops distributed across the national territory within closed and open environments (agricultural farms and external workshops under the Directorate General of Prison Administration and Reintegration). Between 2009 and August 2017, a total of 2,823 inmates were employed.

The Office employs a significant number of inmates in various production units, including (DGPR, 2024):

A. Printing workshops

The main workshop is located at the Office's headquarters, with two additional workshops in the penitentiary institutions of Kolea and El Harrach. These workshops specialise in artistic binding and assembly. They employ 5–10 inmates permanently and are responsible for printing legal books, registers, and administrative documents used by judicial and local administrative bodies.

B. Sewing workshops

There are 17 workshops distributed across multiple locations (headquarters, Chlef, Laghouat, Babaar, Tazoult, Hammam Dalaa, Bir El Ater, Remchi, Tizi Ouzou, Aïn Oussera, Sétif, Aïn El Hadjar, Sidi Bel Abbès, El Bouni, Mostaganem, Aïn Témouchent, and Tadjénanet). They employ 10–20 inmates and train 15–20 others. Their production includes aprons, clothing, curtains, and similar textile items.

C. Textile unit

Employs 20 inmates and produces non-flammable blankets for prisoners as well as bedding for prison staff.

D. Carpentry workshops

There are 13 workshops distributed across several institutions (Chlef, Babaar, Tazoult, Kolea, Blida, Aïn Oussera, Sétif, Sidi Bel Abbès, El Bouni, Mostaganem, Bou Saâda, and Aïn Témouchent). They produce general carpentry works, office and household furniture, employing 5–10 inmates per workshop, and 20–30 inmates at the headquarters workshop. Each workshop can also accommodate 10–15 trainees.

E. Upholstery workshops

Located at the headquarters, Kolea, and Boukaâben, these workshops specialise in covering.

F. Metalworking workshops

There are 13 workshops distributed across Chlef, Laghouat, Babaar, Tazoult, Oued Righ, Blida, Aïn El Hadjar, Hammadi Kromma, Sidi Bel Abbès, El Bouni, Berrouaghia, and Mostaganem. Each workshop employs 2–4 permanent inmates and 5–10 trainees. Their products include windows, doors, metal beds, and chairs.

G. Leather industries workshops

Two workshops operate in Kolea and El Bouni, specialising in footwear, belts, and wallets. They employ 1–8 permanent inmates and 10–20 trainees.

H. Traditional crafts workshops

These include carpet weaving in Babaar, rug production in Biskra, pottery in Chlef, Tenes, and Kolea, aluminium engraving in Laghouat, Bouira, and Tizi Ouzou, copper engraving in Boussaâda, and jewellery manufacturing in Tazoult, Tizi Ouzou, and Aïn Témouchent. They employ 2–5 permanent inmates and are currently being expanded and developed.

4.3.5.4. Marketing of Prison Labour Products

The Office coordinates with correctional institutions to market products manufactured by inmate labour and to exploit agricultural outputs from open-environment institutions.

This reflects a qualitative shift in Algerian correctional institutions from purely punitive establishments to productive institutions that develop human capital capable of acquiring skills, training, and knowledge, thereby contributing to national production and socio-economic development.

A. Afforestation Activities

Inmate labour has also been involved in afforestation and pastoral planting programmes through framework agreements between the Office and the Forest Conservation Authority, the High Commission for Steppe Development, and the Algerian Rural Engineering Company. The areas covered include (DGPR, 2024):

- 2009/2010: 237.85 hectares (249 inmates)
- 2010/2011: 578 hectares (247 inmates)
- 2011/2012: 704.2 hectares (286 inmates)
- 2012/2013: 1,029.267 hectares and 4,210 m² (426 inmates)
- 2013/2014: 485.712 hectares (145 inmates)
- 2014/2015: 253.6 hectares (204 inmates)
- 2015/2016: 126 hectares (34 inmates)
- 2016/2017: 363.125 hectares (82 inmates)

These programmes covered several provinces including Oum El Bouaghi, Biskra (Ouled Djellal), Djelfa, Naâma (Aïn Sefra), El Bayadh, Souk Ahras (Sedrata), Batna (Brekah), Khenchela (Babaar), Tiaret, Tissemsilt, Tlemcen (Sebdou), Oran, Tebessa, Sidi Bel Abbès, M'sila, Laghouat (Aflou), and El Oued, among others. In total, more than 3,900 hectares were afforested with the participation of over 900 inmates since 2008.

The estimated cost of afforesting one hectare is based on a daily cost per inmate of 311.77 DZD, with an average deployment of 10 inmates per day.

B. Environmental Maintenance Workshop

Seventeen bilateral agreements were concluded between requesting bodies and the National Office for Educational Works and Apprenticeship concerning cleaning, environmental maintenance, and landscaping of green spaces.

These activities began in 2013 across eight judicial councils (Bouira, Blida, Saïda, El Oued, Guelma, Oum El Bouaghi, Skikda, and Jijel) and twenty-two correctional institutions, employing 1,273 inmates until July 2016, when activities ceased due to the expiry of contractual agreements. The implementation results included (DGPR, 2024):

- Execution in 25 institutions in 2014
- 8 institutions in 2015
- 45 institutions in 2016
- Coverage of 16 provinces in 2014 and 22 provinces in 2016.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing presentation, the following findings can be drawn:

- The Algerian legislator has demonstrated strong commitment, through the legal framework it has enacted, to protecting the rights of inmates within correctional institutions by enshrining fundamental safeguards and ensuring their practical implementation.
- Algerian legislation has established monitoring and oversight mechanisms for the protection of inmates' rights, in line with international human rights monitoring standards, including national governmental mechanisms, particularly judicial oversight mechanisms.
- The penitentiary classification system has produced positive outcomes in the rehabilitation and social reintegration of inmates, as it contributes to the precise and effective implementation of rehabilitation programmes and policies.
- The system of suspended sentences and community service has yielded positive results in addressing the drawbacks of short-term imprisonment, as both contribute to rehabilitation and moral reform in a non-custodial environment, avoiding exposure to the negative effects of prison life, such as association with dangerous offenders, while also reducing overcrowding and financial costs.
- The modernisation of the prison sector through information and communication technologies has contributed to the implementation of rehabilitation programmes by facilitating the monitoring of inmates and the follow-up of the execution of rehabilitation measures set by the Ministry of Justice.
- Prison libraries play an important role in the rehabilitation and social reintegration of inmates, as they contribute to inmates' adaptation to prison life and support their reform through the development of intellectual, cultural, moral, and religious capacities.
- Preventive and curative healthcare plays a crucial role in protecting inmates from physical and psychological illnesses, as well as addressing several health conditions that may have contributed to criminal behaviour, such as psychological and social disorders.

- Post-release care for former inmates constitutes one of the most important strategic mechanisms and reform programmes for rehabilitation and reintegration, as it extends the efforts undertaken within correctional institutions during sentence execution. Follow-up after release enhances successful social reintegration and reduces recidivism.
- The use of electronic monitoring through the ankle bracelet system has contributed to rehabilitation by offering offenders an opportunity to correct mistakes, improve behaviour, and develop a sense of responsibility.
- The diversification of correctional treatment methods through rehabilitation programmes during sentence execution represents an effective tool for reform, as it creates opportunities for inmates to acquire skills and professions that facilitate their post-release integration.
- Algerian legislation encourages educational programmes for inmates to improve their intellectual and academic level, allowing them to continue education within institutions or externally for those who have obtained the baccalaureate, thereby helping eliminate ignorance as a contributing factor to crime.
- Emphasis on moral and religious rehabilitation during sentence execution plays a significant role in restoring self-confidence and helping inmates overcome personal difficulties, thus transforming them into constructive members of society.
- Vocational training within correctional institutions is considered a successful and effective experience, producing positive outcomes such as reducing recidivism, preparing inmates for employment, and facilitating their reintegration into society without barriers.

Recommendations

- At the legislative level, it is necessary to move beyond traditional terminology such as “prisons,” “inmates,” or “convicts,” in favour of the term “resident,” which better reflects the rehabilitative philosophy of correctional institutions and marks the beginning of the reintegration process.
- It is recommended to transform inmates from passive beneficiaries of state-funded care into productive trainees engaged in work activities that contribute to covering part of their maintenance costs, while also providing them with financial compensation, thereby discouraging intentional recidivism motivated by comfort within detention.
- Enact legislation that ensures rapid reintegration of former inmates into society, particularly high-risk offenders, including measures such as removing the first criminal record barrier and obliging public and private institutions to employ a proportion of released inmates.
- Continuous updating of rehabilitation and correction legislation is necessary to meet institutional needs and strengthen vocational training structures, alongside comprehensive training plans aligned with labour market demands, ensuring diversity in professions compatible with inmates’ abilities and talents.
- Increase the establishment of industrial, agricultural, and vocational complexes within or near correctional institutions to accommodate rehabilitation programmes, equipped

with modern tools and qualified personnel, thereby transforming prisons from punitive spaces into productive and developmental institutions.

- Abolish the criminal record certificate requirement from employment application files, as it negatively affects the employment opportunities of former inmates.
- Encourage the creation of civil society organisations specialised in inmate welfare to provide adequate support mechanisms and strengthen the relationship between prisons and society.
- Strengthen both formal and informal efforts aimed at facilitating assistance to released inmates, and establish specific legislation dedicated to post-release care, ensuring successful reintegration and reducing recidivism.
- Enhance incentives for prison staff through improved salaries and benefits, given the demanding nature of their work and their direct engagement with high-risk individuals, thereby improving performance and ensuring effective implementation of rehabilitation programmes.
- Direct media efforts toward crime prevention and public awareness, promoting social acceptance of former inmates and discouraging discriminatory attitudes that hinder reintegration.
- Strengthen cooperation between prison administration and universities to exchange expertise, allowing academic institutions to benefit from field research while enabling correctional institutions to benefit from academic evaluation and policy studies.
- Ensure continuous updating of legal texts to keep pace with social changes and evolving forms of criminal behaviour, while ensuring effective implementation of laws in practice.

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