

## **The Concept Paper**

### **Introduction**

The UN has set out some general rules and guidelines in relation to the treatment of prisoners. Whilst these are not law, every Government is to work towards such goals. A prisoner should, therefore, demand and expect such minimum standards of treatment and care.

Basic Principles for the Treatment of prisoners as set by UN:

- Prisoners are to be treated with due respect to their inherent dignity and value as a human being.
- Prisoners are not to be discriminated against for any reason. A prisoner's religion and beliefs are to be respected.
- Prisoners retain all of the human rights and fundamental freedoms voiced in the UN Declaration of Human Rights.
- Prisoners have a right to education and religious instruction.
- Prisoners have the same right to access the medical facilities as any other citizen.

According to the encyclopedia "Wikipedia", in its chapter "prisoners' rights", the movement for prisoners' rights based on the principle that prisoners, even though they are deprived of liberty, are still entitled to basic human rights. Advocates for prisoners' rights argue that they are often deprived of very basic human rights, with the cooperation of the prison authorities. Alleged violations often include:

- Not properly feeding and clothing
- Blockading inmates' rights to legal material and access to the courts.
- Depriving inmates of freedom of religion.
- Taking away prisoners' rights to sue prison officials or government for maltreatment, or to receive compensation for injuries caused by the negligence of prison authorities.
- Refusing freedom of expression, to read materials, and communicate (particularly in case of foreign languages)
- Punishing prisoners who raise complaints about bad conditions.
- Providing insufficient treatment for serious medical conditions
- Prisoner authorities turning a blind eye to assault or rape of prisoners, failing to take sufficient steps to protect prisoners from assaults or rape, or even allegedly arranging for prisoners to be assaulted or raped by other inmates as form of punishment.

If we critically watch, listen and read the news of print and electronic media of the third world countries about prisoners' rights, we may easily conclude that the situation of prisons are worst. All the violations alleged and identified in the encyclopedia named as "Wikipedia" seem true and bitter facts. There are some countries which claimed to address the prisons and prisoners issue yet a lot of reforms need to be done and some long-term policies need to be developed in this regard.

## **Background**

Although a person in prison has lost certain rights to his/her freedom, this does not mean he/she has lost other rights concerning his/her treatment. In addition to the rights the prisoner does have, he/she also has some obligations to the people around him/her. Unfortunately, the evidences are overwhelming that prisoners are forced to spend years in such an environment which is unacceptable by the civilized world. It is not only cruelty but also violation of basic human dignity. As mentioned above that the situation of human rights violation in the prisons or detention centres in the third countries including Pakistan is not satisfactory. On the basis of print media's news on the issues of Central Jail Gilgit (CJG) and the news of a prisoner who flew away from the police custody, AGHE decided to request to the Superintendent of Jail Gilgit to visit the jail. The request of AGHE was entertained and permission was granted to three members of AGHE to visit the jail on May 7, 2007. Actually, visiting the jail and conducting the baseline was a planned activity as AGHE has already tentative plan to start a welfare project for the prisoners in Gilgit District.

So, a team of AGHE visited the central jail Gilgit after seeking due permission from the Deputy Commissioner District Gilgit who also hold the designation of Superintendent of Jail to access to the detention facilities. The objectives of visiting jail were to identify the needs of prisons in the jail and to analyze over all condition of the jail which housing more than one hundred prisoners.

The Central Jail Gilgit was constructed in 1938 and has capacity to accommodate only fifty prisoners whereas there were more than one hundred prisoners kept in the jail. Consequently, the number of prisoners in the jail exceeded twice to the authorized capacity of the jail. Building of the jail is old styled and without proper light and air. Out of more than one hundred, there was only one woman prisoner and she was foreigner. There was not any juvenile in the jail. The most interesting thing regarding the jail is that the prisoners have nothing to do all over the day. All the time they sit idle, chat, sleep, eat and pray. No fatigue, nor extra work neither any labour.

The prisoners have freedom to perform their religious practices since there were two places declared as mosques one for Shias and other was for Sunis. Some rooms outside of the major building were under-construction which was told as extension of the jail's bricks. The hygienic condition of jail was very poor especially the condition of toilets was very unhygienic and even below the ordinary standard. Some of the toilets were completely unusable while others were partially being used by the prisoners. The kitchen system and meal was being managed by the prisoners themselves anyhow the jail administration provides them the food and other basic essentials. The condition of the jail's kitchen was also not at satisfactory level and the prisoners identified some construction work to make the kitchen at least useable. The most panic information was about some prisoners who have seriously mental diseases and were not being shifted to the mental hospital due to certain reasons and legal obligations despite the fact that a murder incident has been occurred in the same jail by a mentally disturbed prisoner.

The team interviewed most of the prisoners informally and asked questions about their needs and problems in the jail. The team also analyzed the over all living condition of the

prisoners. The prisoners identified some areas of improvement and demanded following things during the survey team's visit:

- Sanitary installations were not adequate and there was worst situation of cleanliness and dignity. Therefore majority of the prisoners demanded for construction of toilets and kitchen.
- Some young prisoners were asking for education and computer facilities in the jail. They told to the survey team that though they have been allowed to access to education yet there are different kind of issues which required to be addressed for proper education facility like the issue of getting admission, taking examination, proper coaching and teaching etc.
- Majority of the prisoners highlighted the need of chemical spray in the bricks as they complained that there were paralyzed by biting & stinging of the seasonal insects particularly by mosquitoes. They were frightened of diseases like Malaria etc due this problem.
- Majority of the prisoners highlighted the need of establishing library in the jail and providing newspapers to the prisoners and still some other prisoners were demanding to provide electronic media facilities in the jail for instance permission of keeping radio personally and a television for common use.
- There were not proper arrangements of meeting of prisoners with their relatives or visitors but the jail's officials informed the survey team that some new compartments are being under-construction for this purpose.
- The worse aspect of the jail's condition was the portion of women's prisoners. Although there was one woman prisoner yet there is not proper arrangements for accommodating many prisoners as only one cell of 8X12 feet is allocated for the women prisoners and the survey team was informed that a few days ago, there were eight women prisoners in this small room. While cell is suitable for two persons only. So it is dire need to pay heed to this women issue in the Central Jail of Gilgit.
- The story of one of the prisoner in the jail is terrifying. He has mental health disease and has been declared as mental case without any experts' prescription or certificate. The prisoner is not allowed to come out from his cell because it is supposed he might create law and order situation in the jail. He is provided food form outside the bars. Sometime he accepted the meal and usually hit the meal pots and refused to take his meal. There was unbearable smell near his cell. It was told that he was not used to use the toilet (inside the cell) properly. In other words, we could say that the whole cell is his toilet. We could easily imagine the condition of his clothing, his bed, his utensils and the life he is spending behind the bars. Yet the story is not completed ----- But the question arises, why prisons shouldn't be in mental wards? It is cruel and a violation of basic human dignity to force prisoners with serious mental illness to spend years confined round the clock in the cells, with nothing to do, and no one with whom to have a normal conversation. Isn't?
- Some young prisoners who were recently put in this jail were demanding that their chamber is without proper light and air. They asked for opening the small window which has been closed permanently due to various reasons.

- Some jail's official also shared that they themselves are lacking some basic facilities like toilets, washrooms, retiring rooms etc in the jail so how they can do something for the prisoners who are culprits.

In spite of all misery and distress of prisoners, no prisoners complained against the jails' officials or told that they are mistreating them or nor on any other personal issue. They jail officials also claimed that the prisoners are just like our brothers but unfortunately they haven't any powers or authority to make their detention period worth living.

Keeping in view the above mentioned appalling situation of prisoners in the central jail Gilgit, AGHE requested the concerned authorities to permit the NGO to work on prisoners' rights and initiate a one year project titled as "Prisoners' Welfare & Education Project" in collaboration with the district's administration of Gilgit district. The association shall attain maximum support of the district administration, the Northern Areas Administration, the interior ministry of Pakistan and the philanthropists for the action plan developed by AGHE. (Please see **Appendix A** for more detail about the Action Plan).

### **The Project Description**

Over the last two years, as the Gilgit city has experienced sadistic sectarian incidents, the number of inmates has been increased dramatically. The fastest growing segment is the age factor of prisoners as majority of the prisoners are young people who might be affected negatively by the imprisonment and may the prison become cradle for transforming petty law-breakers into hardened criminals as it has already been assumed by Mr. Hans H Wahl (a French social worker) that "Pakistani prisoners are producing hardened criminals".

Overcoming the prisons' issues require an in-depth understanding of the factors that are creating hurdles to improve the prisons' and the prisoners' condition in Pakistan. Holistic approaches required to be adapted to address and protect the prisoners' rights and to achieve meaningful and long-term results. The prisoners' welfare and education project will offer a range of welfare and educational services aimed at helping the prisoners who are at high risk due to inadequate prison's environment in terms of lack of facilities (such as awareness session, counselling, education etc), poor health & hygiene condition, and deprivation of legal assistance etc. The long term objectives of the project are to assist the prisoners to become full participants in their community life and useful citizens of the society after their imprisonment period over.

### **Duration of the Project**

Initially the project will be undertaken on piloting bases for one year. **(June 2007-June 2008)**

### **Direct Beneficiaries of the project**

The direct beneficiaries of the project will be more than one hundred prisoners of the Central Jail Gilgit (CJG). The project will offer an integrated continuum of services to the beneficiaries which will cover four main areas of need; legal assistance, training, provision of health, hygiene and educational facilities.

## **Objectives of the Project**

As it is mentioned earlier that the Prisoners' Welfare & Education project will assist more than one hundred prisoners of CJG. Objectives of the projects are as mentioned below:

1. To improve health and hygiene condition of the jail by mobilizing the available resource and generating new funds.
2. To provide training opportunities to the prison's staff with relevant information on human and prisoners' rights through seminars, workshops, and reading material.
3. To provide the prisoners with free legal counseling and assistance through volunteer advocates or through Legal Advisory Section of AGHE.
4. To conduct awareness sessions for the prisoners on health and hygiene issue, human rights, human values and ethics, peace, conflict resolution and management etc.
5. To provide educational, coaching and counselling services to the prisoners who want to improve their education, arranging some coaching programmes for those prisoners who will be enrolled in any level of educational programmes as private/external candidate or through distance mode of learning as well as organizing career counselling sessions for such group.
6. Extension and construction of women prisoners' cell

## **Strategies / Activities**

- Advocacy/Partnership with the government & other NGOs
- Peer Education
- Capacity Building of the Jail officials and Staff
- Integration of welfare and development services
- Information, Education and Communication
- Behaviour Change Communication
- Management information System (MIS) and documentation of the Services
- Monitoring and Supervision
- Evaluation and Reporting

## **Activities In Relation to the Objectives**

### ***Description-1 (Activities In Relation to the Objective-1)***

To improve health and hygiene condition of the jail by mobilizing the available resource and generating new funds

- Renovation and reconstruction of six toilets and washrooms which are being used by all the inmates outside their cells.
- Construction of kitchen and purchasing of new kitchen pots.

- undertaking minor construction work inside the cells especially the toilets (restrooms)
- Installations of water cooler and other necessary sanitary.
- Chemical spray inside the cells and toilets on monthly bases against dangerous insects and mosquitoes
- Celebration of cleanliness day once in a month.
- Medical check-up of the prisoners on monthly bases
- Whitewashing inside the cells and toilets on quarterly bases
- Provision of daily need items (like soap, tooth brush, body cream etc) to the needy prisoners

***Description-2(Activities In Relation to the Objective-2)***

To provide training opportunities to the jail staff with relevant information on human and prisoners' rights through seminars, workshops, and reading material

- Four awareness and sanitization sessions will be conducted for the whole jail staff of CJG on quarterly bases.
- Reading material on human values, rights and ethics will disseminated among the jail's staff in Urdu language.

***Description-3 (Activities In Relation to the Objective-3)***

To provide the prisoners with free legal counseling and assistance through volunteer advocates or through Legal Advisory Section of AGHE

- Those prisoners who have detained under the minor offenses and are poor will be provided legal assistance and counselling.
- Any women or juvenile will be provided free legal assistance and counselling on their request or need basis during the project duration.
- The prisoner/s who will be declared as serious mental case/s will be provided free legal and health facilities to shift them into the mental ward or hospital.

***Description-4(Activities In Relation to the Objective-4)***

To conduct awareness sessions for the prisoners on health and hygiene issue, human rights, human values and ethics, peace, conflict resolution and management etc.

- Awareness sessions will be conducted for prisoners on the above mentioned themes on fortnightly bases.
- Distribution and dissemination of reading material on such themes after seeking due approval from the jail authorities.

***Description-5 (Activities In Relation to the Objective-5)***

To provide educational, coaching and counselling services to the prisoners who want to improve their education, arranging some coaching programmes for those prisoners who will be enrolled in any level of educational programmes as private/external candidate or through distance mode of learning as well as organizing career counselling sessions for such group

- The prisoners who already enrolled or will enroll in any educational programme will be provided books, stationeries and other necessary information in relation to their educational programme.
- Introduction and reinforcement of distance learning system to the prisoners and help them to get admission in Allama Iqbal Open University Islamabad (AIOU) in the programme/s of their interest.
- A coaching programme will be organized for the enrolled inmates. The programme will help them for preparation of final examination.
- The prisoners whose imprisonment period might be near to end will be provided counselling services which will be include social, psychological and career counselling. About
- Establishment of mobile library together with the Municipal Library Gilgit

***Description-6(Activities In Relation to the Objective-6)***

Extension and construction of women prisoners' cell

- In the last phase of this pilot project extension and reconstruction work for the women prisoners' cell will be undertaken and its capacity will be doubled as compare to the existing cell.
- The construction of an attached bathroom will be the part this extension programme.
- AGHE will particularly undertake this activity in conjunction with other stakeholder or partner NGOs

**Expected Outcomes of the Project**

Expected outcomes of the project will be:

- About one hundred prisoners will be trained in health, hygiene, peace building, conflict management, human rights and values.
- Positive impact on the young prisoners who will be engaged in the educational & training activities.
- After one year, the prisoners will be able to participate in common activities of the jail more effectively.

- The jail administration and officials will be able to carry out such activities by their own.
- Generally the prisoners will learn about health, hygiene and other issues which will enable them to solve their problems by their own.
- The material produced during the training sessions or the master copy of training manual will help the home department to disseminate this material in other jails or sub-jails of the Northern Areas.
- After successful completion of the project, this project might be replicated in other areas of the region.

### **Indicators for Success**

- Number of inmates successfully participated in the awareness sessions and willing to continue their education or enrolled in the distance learning programmes.
- Number of jail staff successfully trained and sensitized
- Provision of health and hygiene facilities which are mentioned in description-1
- Number of prisoners who get benefit from the legal assistance programme of AGHE.
- Number of referred cases of prisoners with mental diseases to the mental wards or hospitals
- Availability and generation of training and other educational materials for protection of prisoners' rights
- Number of prisoners accessing and reading the books form mobile library.

### **Record keeping**

Premium attention shall be given to record keeping of all the project activities. This shall form an important part of reporting on the project. Though simple record keeping format shall be adopted, forms shall be designed to record the activities and the project implementers shall be trained in their usage during their own capacity building programme. The records shall be routinely collected and checked by the project supervisor. A copy of the same record will be provided to the jail officials and deputy commissioner office for their record and counter check. A detail record of the project team who will work with prisoners inside the jail shall be submitted to the jail authorities and all the activities of project team inside the jail will be recoded and scheduled.

### **Monitoring and Supervision**

The jail staff that has already been trained on the project monitoring and supervision shall weekly supervise and monitor the activities of the prisoners and their facilitators. They shall keep a weekly record of events. All these will be coordinated by deputy commissioner Gilgit or deputy Superintendent of Jail and the NGO representative who will be designated as the project coordinator.

### **Project Sustainability**

Sustainability plans are embedded within the implementation strategies; the trained participants are expected to step down the training to other inmates who may not be opportune to partake in the project's training programme. Policy makers and jail

authorities shall be sufficiently involved so that the project can be replicated in the same jail after the project duration over or in the other parts of the Northern Areas.

### **Project Management**

Most of the activities of this project will be undertaken by the AGHE's volunteers. The jail administration, officials and the AGHE representatives shall be responsible to organize, coordinate and monitor the project activities under the leadership of the Deputy Commissioner Gilgit who will serve as the Project Director (PD). He will oversee all management and coordination of the project. He will provide technical assistance and guidelines on the project. The jail officials will handle the baseline, needs assessment and monitoring component of the project, while the Project Coordinator (PC) will coordinate the activities of the day-to-day implementation of the project. The PD and PC will also participate in the implementation of different components of the project. The NGO will coordinate the accounting system of the project, prepare, and submit financial reports (if necessary), while resource persons from different backgrounds will provide consultancy services in the area of their specialty (e.g. education and health).

To ensure that stakeholders with varied interests are continuously consulted and involved in the project, a Project Advisory Committee (PAC) will be set-up. The Committee members will consist of representatives of the government and the NGO and the jail's officials. This committee will meet quarterly to review and provide guidance to the project and chart the way forward.

### **Evaluation**

On this project, the following types of evaluation will be conducted:

- Baseline Survey/Need Assessment
- Mid-Term Review
- Final Evaluation

Project evaluation is central to the achievement of the project's overall goals and objectives and the project will be monitored and evaluated based on the expected results listed above. Indicators have been chosen which will provide signs of progress. It will form the basis for measuring the prevailing situation of the prison and prisoners. In addition, there will be a project mid term review and evaluation in order to identify areas of weakness and redefine strategies. A final evaluation of the project will be conducted to determine its impact. As a part of final evaluation, all the participants will be asked to respond to a questionnaire asking them what learned during the project. The questionnaire will highlights the lesson learnt, the challenges encountered, and the suggestion for improvement. This information will be used for a broader evaluation of how the project met its overall objectives. A team comprise of three members (one from the NGO, other from the home department and third from jail officials will assist with final evaluation. The benchmark for the final evaluation will be the needs assessment conducted at the project take-off. Report of the project findings and recommendations will be published and disseminated after seeking due consent from all the stakeholders.

**Action Plan (Tentative)**

Duration →  &  Objectives*  ↓	Phase-I  June-Augusts  2007  Activities  ↓	Phase-II  September-November  2007  Activities  ↓	Phase-III  December 2007-February  2008  Activities  ↓	Phase-IV  March-June  2008  Activities  ↓
<p><b>Objectives 1,2 &amp;4</b></p> <p>For more detail about objectives please read the objectives' part of the project proposal.</p> <p><b>Note:</b></p> <p>1-Objective 3 will be achieved on going bases through out the year.</p> <p>2- Provision of daily need items will also be ensured on need bases.</p>	<p>1- Need Assessment for training of the jail staff &amp; prisoners</p> <p>2-Assessment of Construction work &amp; Construction of three toilets</p> <p>3-Chemical Spray inside the cells &amp; toilets once in a month</p> <p>4-One day training programme for the jail officials</p> <p>5-Installation of electric water cooler</p> <p>6-Constrution Work in the Kitchen</p> <p>7-Whitewashing of the cells</p> <p>8- Six Awareness session for the prisoners on various themes</p>	<p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p>	<p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p>	<p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p> <p>XXX</p>
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**Action Plan (Tentative)**

	XXX	7- Coaching classes for the student prisoners	XXX	XXX
	XXX	8- Provision of books & other teaching & learning aids to the student prisoners.	XXX	XXX
	XXX	8- Mid term review of the action plan and activities	XXX	XXX
	XXX	9-Ifatri programmes during the month of Ramzaan	XXX	XXX
	XXX	10- Eid Gifts to the prisoners & Eid Millon Day	XXX	XXX
<p><b>Objectives 1,2,4 &amp;5</b></p> <p>For more detail about objectives please read the objectives' part of the project proposal.</p> <p><b>Note:</b></p> <p>1-Objective 3 will be achieved on going bases through out the year.</p> <p>2- Provision of daily need items will also be ensured on need bases.</p>	XXX	XXX	<p>1- Provision of seasonal cloths and other things to the needy inmates,</p> <p>2-Cleberation of cleanliness week which will include whitewashing, the spry etc</p> <p>3-One day training programme for the jail officials</p> <p>4- Six Awareness session for the prisoners on various themes</p> <p>5- Coaching classes for the Student prisoners</p>	XXX
<p><b>Objectives 1,2,4,5 &amp;6</b></p> <p>For more detail about objectives please read the objectives' part of the concept paper.</p> <p><b>Note:</b></p> <p>1-Objective 3 will be achieved on going bases through out the year.</p> <p>2- Provision of daily need items will also be ensured on need bases.</p>	XXX	XXX	XXX	<p>1-One weeks mentoring training programme for the prisoners &amp; jail officials.</p> <p>2. Construction of the women prisoners' cell</p> <p>3. Developing action plan for 2008-09 and exist strategy</p> <p>4. Final evaluation</p> <p>5. Report Writing</p>

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