



IJSRM

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF SCIENCE AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

An Official Publication of Human Journals



Human Journals

Research Article

October 2017 Vol.:7, Issue:4

© All rights are reserved by Leila Salomão de La Plata Cury Tardivo et al.

Assessment and Intervention with Brazilian Inmates in Penitentiary System: The Use of Drawing House-Tree-Person Test (HTP)



Leila Salomão de La Plata Cury Tardivo*, Aicil Franco; Claudia R. Vaz Torres; Geisa Copello Thomaz; Liv Costa Lobo

Psychology Institute of University of São Paulo

Rua Professor Mello Moares, 1721. Bloco F

São Paulo - SP

Brazil

CEP: 04611070

Submission: 19 September 2017

Accepted: 29 September 2017

Published: 30 October 2017



HUMAN JOURNALS

www.ijssrm.humanjournals.com

Keywords: Brazilian Inmates, Penitentiary System, Drawing House-Tree-Person Test (HTP)

ABSTRACT

This paper refers to data from a larger research carried out with men and women in the penitentiary system, for various crimes. It is known that in comparison with the mental health data of the general population, the penitentiary population presents mental disorders rates three to four times higher than the general population. The prison population is thus very vulnerable to the development of mental health problems. Objectives: The objectives of this study were to discuss the understanding and intervention aspects in psychodiagnostic of people in conflict with the law. The HTP showed relevant signs of the characteristics of these women and evidenced the need for listening and insertion, especially in those who actively participated in the groups and in the individual interview.

INTRODUCTION:

This paper refers to data from a larger research carried out with men and women in the penitentiary system, for various crimes. It is known that in comparison with the mental health data of the general population, the penitentiary population presents mental disorders rates three to four times higher than the general population. The prison population is thus very vulnerable to the development of mental health problems. Canazaro and Argimon in 2010 and other authors discuss the high levels of violence and crime in our society and the increase of prisoners. There are several models to describe the causes of these phenomena, highlighting individual and social factors. Studies point to criminality as a complex phenomenon that encompasses biological, genetic, psychological, economic, cultural factors etc. Thus, it is essential to carry out studies with the prison population and to provide reflections that may support proposals for interventions in the prison system and in the elaboration of public health policies, especially mental health. The psychological assessment seeks a globalized understanding of the person, aiming to perform a dynamic and structural synthesis, considering intrapsychic, interfamilial and sociocultural aspects. In this way of performing the psychological assessment are also emphasized the nodal aspects, producing clinical judgment and the prevalence of the use of multiple evaluation techniques. Psychological assessment can be performed with people in the most different conditions, including those who feel intense mental suffering. This concept refers to the presence of morbid phenomena, which identify or seek to identify causal factors, present a relatively homogeneous course, with characteristic psychological and psychopathological mechanisms, including genetic and familial ones (Dagalarrondo, 2009).

Objectives: The objectives of this study were to discuss the understanding and intervention aspects in psychodiagnostic of people in conflict with the law.

In men who meet Security Measures in Custody and Treatment Hospital and also with women inside the prison system. It aimed to analyze the psychological aspects of the use of the graphic projective technique in the context of assessment, and as mediators and facilitators of social contact.

EXPERIMENTAL

The study was based on a qualitative and exploratory method. The planned activities had the purpose of enhancing spaces for assessment and health care, articulating multidisciplinary

knowledge and practices in the perspective of dialogue with the subjects the formation of social bonds and new constructions of meaning about themselves and reality. Twenty subjects are participated, ten women with 22 to 46 years old in penitentiary system for homicide, attempted murder, robbery and drug trafficking, of these ten, four live in separate cells in high security. They are women who have committed heinous crimes related to the homicide of children, crimes of great repercussion or that are being threatened by the other inmates. These women have many restrictions, such as sunbathing for less time, besides being prevented from participating in activities with other inmates.

The other women participate in a support group for pregnant women and postpartum women from the penitentiary unit, who seek support in the relationship with the professionals who attended them, with possibilities for social reintegration.

And 10 internal men who comply with the security measure at the Custody and Treatment Hospital, with the majority in conditions of social reintegration.

As procedures and instruments were used, observations, semi-structured interviews, and the House-Tree-Person drawing Test in individual applications (HTP). The observations were made of the groups performed with the men and women, and their production carried out in these meetings, the life story data reported in the individual interviews were noted for comparison with the other results. The HTP is a graphic projective technique that allows the analysis of structural elements of personality, body image, the way of the relationship with people, how to position oneself in the environment, with possible feelings and attitudes expressed in the drawings. (Buck, 1971; Hammer, 1971). The present research is part of a broad project that aims at the validation of HTP in Brazil, supported by FAPESP, (an important development agency that supports research projects).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

Among the women in the high-security cells, are observed large figures that reveal restrictive environment and tension, located in the left quadrant that indicates withdrawal, fixation in the past, impulsivity, besides rigidity, signs of disproportion and other signs of anxiety, aggression, immaturity, and dependence. Among the internal women who participated in the support groups, there was consistency between the HTP data and their characteristics, observed during group follow-ups and individual interviews. The characteristics found among these women were, predominance of left localization (lower or higher); presence of

sharp shading, absence of soil line, use of paper edge as a base; the sizes varied, but among these six, small drawings, regressed figures, lack of parts, lack of clothes in human figures, and in some drawings, transparencies (in houses and people) and disproportion at the elements. These data point to the presence of impulsivity, personal insecurity, withdrawal, dependence and immaturity, compatible with the observations obtained in psychological care for women deprived of their liberty.

Among the men, the main characteristics of the drawings showed, disproportion, great difficulties in the integration of parts of human figures and problems in the Gestalt of the drawings. These characteristics are compatible with the diagnosis they present. It was observed that the use of the techniques provided an interest at the men in the penitentiary on participate and to continue drawing. There were frequent associations about their childhood and other situations and they showed much suffering. Such associations have brought elements that favored the understanding of the pain they feel and the search for relationships with the professionals who attend them. From the use of HTP, expressive, thematic and informative workshops were carried out for the men in the penitentiary unit, basically aimed at the social relationship.



CONCLUSION:

In general, the women agreed to participate and asked for feedback interviews, very interested in the results. The HTP showed relevant signs of the characteristics of these women and evidenced the need for listening and insertion, especially in those who actively participated in the groups and in the individual interview. The men the activities deployed in other actions, as from the completion of the study was proposed intervention in the psychosocial care of the unit, increasing the number of group activities. In general, it can be concluded that the graphics technique has confirmed diagnostic data and have also taken on the interventional character.

REFERENCES

1. Buck, J. N. (1971). *The house-tree-person (HTP) manual supplement: Administration and interpretation of the HTP test*. Western Psychological Services.
2. Dalgalarondo, P. (2009). *Psicopatologia e semiologia dos transtornos mentais*. Artmed Editora. Hammer, E. F. (1968). Projective drawings. In *Projective techniques in personality assessment* (pp. 366-393). Springer Berlin Heidelberg.