

Abstract

The current phenomenological study aims at exploring the different lived experiences of incarcerated individuals regarding prison through interviews. Purpose of the study was to explore diverse lived experiences of the prisoners including both males and females. Through purposive sampling 3 males and 3 females (N=6) in total were selected for the study from Central Jail Kot Lakhpat, Lahore. Interview guide developed by authors of the study was used for in-depth exploration of lived experiences of incarcerated individuals in semi-structured interviews. Four different domains including jail environment, health related issues, prisoner's interpersonal issues and jailors attitude and rehabilitation facilities in jail. Thematic analysis was used to identify the collective themes. Five major themes were derived including dissatisfaction with jail environment, improper medical facilities, bullying, biased attitude of jailors and improper vocational facilities were derived from the data. Additionally, five secondary themes such as lack of basic necessities, crowded barracks, direct bullying, indirect bullying and violation of rights emerged. While, physical and psychological problems was tertiary theme derived from data. Results revealed that prisoner's quality of life inside prison was very poor. They lack basic necessities which are required to live a normal life. Rehabilitation facilities were provided to prisoners but were not up to the mark. Overall findings showed that prisoner's were deprived of their basic rights and facilities inside jail. Rehabilitation facilities need more refinement in order to reduce recidivism and help prisoners to behave as law abiding citizen on release from prison. Findings implicated on the improving conditions of jail environment for reformative role of prison.